

**FLORA AND  
FAUNA IN OUR  
BUSHLAND**

**BUSHLAND  
PHOTOGRAPHY**

# BUSH WALKING

## WHEN GOING FOR A BUSH WALK PLEASE:

- Wear covered shoes. If you are going off the concrete path onto uneven ground then you will need to protect your feet. So wear covered shoes not thongs or sandals.
- Wear a hat and sunscreen for protection
- You should always aim to walk on paths where available, but don't be afraid to explore.
- Always take a reusable drink bottle with water in it with you
- Be aware of your environment. Remember if it is a hot day then you will see more reptiles out sunning themselves.
- Become aware of the environment. Look at what is around you what do you see? Birds; insects; mammals; frogs and reptiles.
- Listen to the sound of the environment. What do you hear? Can you hear Birds; frogs, wind in the leaves, or can you hear something moving in the ground covers?



## REMEMBER:

It is not a race, you won't see or hear anything if you don't stop look and listen. And most of all enjoy nature.

# RECYCLED MATERIALS AROUND THE HOME

Tick off each one that you find

- Eucalyptus tree



- Fungi or mushroom



- Lizard



- Hollow in a tree



- Spider in a web



- Bird flying



- Bird resting in a tree



- Small tree



- Leaf with a smooth edge



- Leaf with a toothed edge



- Bee in some flowers



- Fern



- Flower  
What colour is it?



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- Birds nest



- Butterfly



**If you are near the creek**

- Running water



- Fish



- Plants growing in the water



- Duck



- If you are lucky you might see an eel



# FLORA AND FAUNA

Next time you go for a bush walk in your local area, keep an eye out for these beauties!

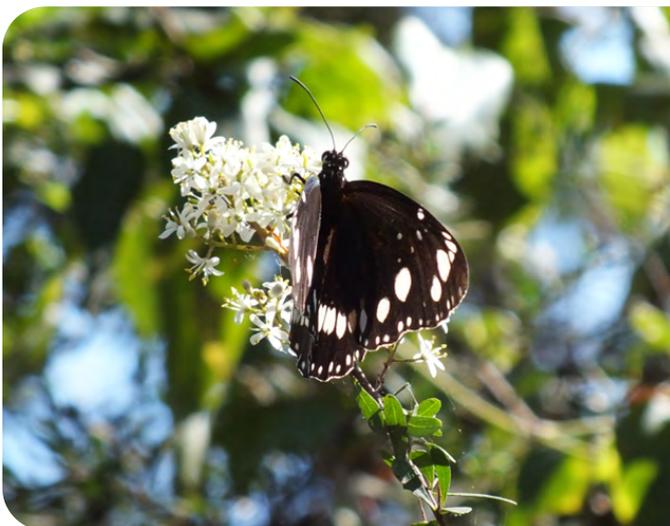


## Acacia pubescens

- Large shrub that grows to 4m
- Found on drier clay and rocky soils
- Leaves are divided into stems like fingers
- The stems are covered in fine hairs
- Flowers are little yellow balls
- Seed pods look like beans

## Eucalyptus longifolia

- Tree up to 20m tall
- Bark is a grey colour that flakes off
- The bark goes most of the way up with the ends of the branches bare
- Leaves up to 25cm long and 3.5cm wide
- Large gum nuts that are cup shaped



## Butterflies

- Have 3 life forms in their life cycle
- Start as eggs laid on the leaves of a host tree
- When I hatch I am a caterpillar
- Once I become fat and juicy I build a cocoon for myself to transform in
- When I emerge from my cocoon I have become a beautiful butterfly

It's amazing what you can find when you look around you!

### **Fungi**

- Found on dead and decaying logs
- Comes in many different shapes and colours
- Dries up when there has been no rain
- When it rains the colour comes back into the fungi



### **Lomandra multiflora**

- Is found in the ground layer
- Can grow up to 90cm tall, however most commonly found to 50cm tall
- Leaf colour is green to grey green
- Flowers from winter through to summer

### **Mistletoe**

- Grows on other plants so it is known as a parasite
- The seeds are spread by the mistletoe bird
- Each species of mistletoe grows on a particular tree species





### Eastern Water Dragon

- Found in and around water, along all the creeks in Fairfield
- Are omnivorous, that is they eat anything bugs and plants
- Can live up to 20 years
- Male water dragons have a red chest and can grow up to 1m in length.

### Tawny frogmouth

- Feathers are grayish-brown with dark streaks
- Are very well disguised in trees as they roost during the day, they can look like a branch
- Have the one partner all their life and live for around 5–10 years
- They eat insects, moths, fish and other amphibians

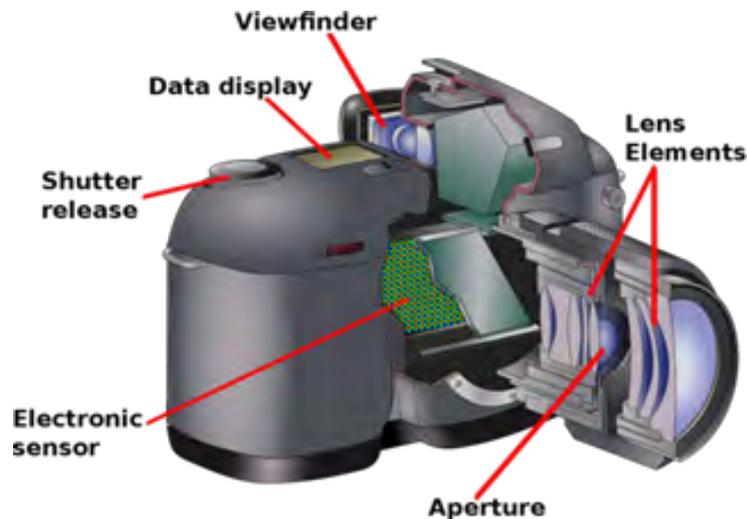


### Cicada

- Live from 2-7 years underground
- Emerge from the soil in Summer
- Female lays 100's of eggs in the bark of trees
- There are around 220 species of cicada found in Australia
- List in summer for the loud songs of the cicada

# NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Learning how to take a good nature photo is something that comes with practice and can open up a whole new world! It's also a great way to get kids out into the great outdoors.



## Let's get to know your camera first

1. Viewfinder - This is what you look through to take your photo
2. Lens - This is used to focus your photo subject. Make sure you take the lens cap off!
3. Shutter release - This is the button you press to take your photo
4. Aperture - This can be adjusted to control the amount of light passing through the lens
5. Data display - This is where you can view your photos

## How to hold your camera correctly

1. Put the camera strap around your neck to prevent you from accidentally dropping it
2. Use your right hand to grip around the body of the camera
3. Place your left hand underneath the lens to hold the camera steady
4. Keep your elbows close to your chest
5. Keep your legs open to stay balanced

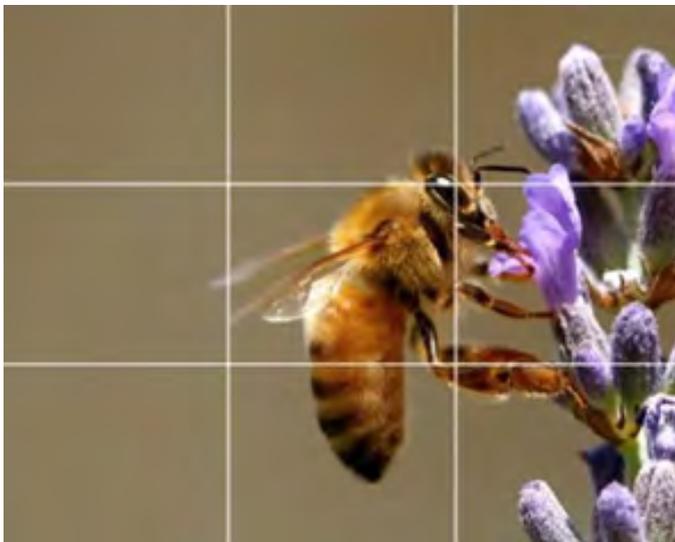


# NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

## Important things to consider when taking photos

**Light:** The most important factor in photography is light as without light there is no photograph! Make sure you position yourself in a place that captures the best light.

**Viewpoint:** Before photographing your subject, take time to think about where you will shoot it from. Rather than just shooting from eye level, consider photographing from high above, down at ground level, from the side from the back, from a long way away, or from very close up.



**Rule of Thirds:** Imagine breaking your image down into thirds both horizontally and vertically so that you have 9 parts. If you place your points of interest along these lines your photos will become more balanced.

**Leading Lines:** When we look at a photo our eye is naturally drawn along lines. When you're setting up a shot, look around your scene for things such as a river, road, or row of trees that will pull the viewer into the picture, towards the subject, or on a journey through the scene.

**Balancing Elements:** Placing your main subject off-centre creates a more interesting photo but it can leave a void in the scene which can make it feel empty. You should balance the weight of your subject by including another object of lesser importance to fill the space.

**Depth:** You can create depth in a photo by including objects in the foreground, middle ground, and background. Look for a background that does not distract from the main subject.



**Happy  
snapping!**

# SMART PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Smartphone photography is taking pictures with your phone. It could be an iPhone or Android, old or new. If you have a smartphone, you are more than halfway there. You might need an app or two, an extra set of lenses and a power bank.

- Composition – this does not really change from DSLR or phone.
- Include a clear subject for a powerful smartphone photography composition.
- Find the perfect background to enhance your subject.
- Use the rule of thirds gridlines to perfectly position your subject.
- Find leading lines to draw the viewer in.
- Use a post-processing app to bring out the main subject.



## Smartphone photography tips

- Take portraits and photos of interesting features such as flowers in shade. Shooting in the shade produces more flattering light
- Tap the screen to meter. Tell your smartphone where to meter the light from so you end up with a clear shot.
- Know your camera shortcut.
- Use portrait mode or macro if available to shoot smaller objects
- Shoot in Raw.
- ALWAYS Clean the lens.

# NATURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

## Go for a walk with a responsible adult

You will need a camera or smart phone and take photos of:

- Interesting bark on trees
- Different leaf shapes and textures
- Leaves against the sky
- Photos of birds from afar and close up
- Different flowers
- See if you can find bugs to take photos of.



You can send in your best photos to the [environment@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:environment@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au)