

June 2018

Volume 1, Issue 5

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Items for Mushroom Hunting:

- Field Journal
- Pencil & Pen
- Camera
- Gloves
- Basket
- Plastic Knife
- Magnifying glass
- Fungi Field Guide



Winter Watch

Winter has so much to offer in the little surprises we find while walking along the way like fungi, mosses and lichen. Fungi is so fascinating to observe as there are so many species, colours and shapes. Lichens will form delicate patterns along side the lush mosses as they thrive together on trees and rocks.

Fresh winter mornings will find us marveling over the delicate frost formed overnight or perhaps we'll wake up to mornings where the sunrise peeks out through the thick fog. Raining days will see us jumping in mud puddles and catching rain drops with our tongues; we'll squeal and laugh when someone's icy toes or fingers touch us.

Orchids will astonish us with intricate blooms while wattles paint our world gold. Wildflowers brighten the winter gloom as Early Nancy, Billy Buttons and Box Mistletoe blossom. The Hardenbergia and Jonquils will join the Artists masterpiece in our gardens.

Beaches will be littered with ocean treasure as storms come and go. Squids and egg cases will be hiding amongst the seaweed playing hide and seek.

Ponds flourish with water creatures like Damselfly, Dragonfly Nymphs and Cyclops.

So seek out the wonders of winter this season. You'll be astonished at the beauty it holds if you rug up tight, pack the thermos and get outdoors.

Winter Journaling Links:

[How to Draw Mushrooms by John Muir Laws.](#)

[How to Draw Trees in Winter by John Muir Laws.](#)

[How to Draw Coniferous Forests by John Muir Laws.](#)

[Drawing Fog, Rain, Snow and Dew by John Muir Laws.](#)

"He must be accustomed to ask why—Why does the wind blow? Why does the river flow? Why is a leaf-bud sticky? And do not hurry to answer his questions for him; let him think his difficulties out so far as his small experience will carry him." ~ Charlotte Mason.

Picture of the Week Challenge



Laminated autumn leaves hanging bunting style by Jo.



A Cuttlebone was found by Shelley's little lad who loves to investigate the beach for ocean treasures.



Amanita muscaria, a classic storybook mushroom found by Allie.



A girl and her Poppa enjoying the autumn leaves by Alyssa.



Allie discovered slime mould ; a soil dwelling amoeba.



Kylie visited Mt Gambiers forest at night to see the Ghost Mushroom glowing green. It's best seen in total darkness.



Agaric Fungi found by Nini while exploring.



Can you spot the spider? Image by Kylie.



A fungi walk was enjoyed by Cindy and her boy spending quality time together.



A Grandfather Tree Frog was found by Joy in a garden. His healthy body and good looks were admired before being returned to his sanctuary.



Tadpoles grew into Sedge frogs and were released into the garden at Minnie's place.

[Nature Science for Aussie families](#) is a F.B. Group where outdoor mamas share their adventures, explorations and activities to motivate, encourage and support one another. We'd love to have you [come along side us](#) and share in our joy or [#naturestudyaustralia](#) on Instagram.

Show & Tell



Sally's children are journaling mushrooms.



This is Jacobs feather collection. He likes to identify them. His favourite feathers are from the Tawny Frogmouth.



Lu grew mushrooms inside with a mushroom kit.



Kylie and children enjoying a bush walk.



A pregnant female praying mantis was rescued from a car bonnet by Shelley's and her lad. She was lovingly placed inside a vivarium where she later produced her egg sac.



A Brown Honeyeater was observed by Anitra and children as the bird made the nest, laid eggs and then hatched them.



Mushroom spore prints by Kylie.



Mushroom spore prints by Jo.



Mud play after a nature ramble for Jamie and her little one.



Sarah harvested and enjoyed the bounty of fruit foraged in her neighborhood; Pomegranates, apples and feijoa.



Jacob designed and created his own flag for the Autumnal Equinox study. It represents all things that are important to him.

Hunting and Studying Mushrooms

We were so excited to jump into the mushroom hunting season which we'd eagerly anticipated. Imagine our joy when my husband mentioned he'd seen mushrooms near the haybales when he'd been collecting hay to feed the cattle. We found the *Volvopluteus gloiocephalus* pressing up



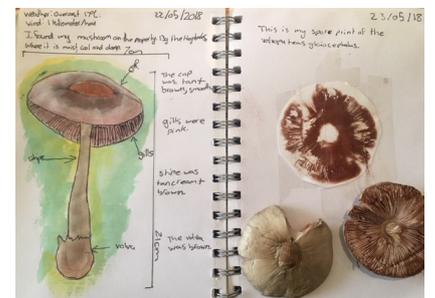
against the bales where it was still cool and moist from a little rain we had a week ago. The cap is white with a tan shading on the top, it felt a bit greasy as it was damp, otherwise the texture was smooth.



We measured the mushroom at 22cm in height with a 7cm diameter cap. We studied the stem which was solid and noticed it was a creamy white to tan colour too. The volva was quite small and seemed to be breaking down already. It didn't have a strong or unpleasant smell. In fact it smelt edible, and as we researched the mushroom, we found that it is edible but not so tasty. We didn't try it.



We researched the *Volvopluteus gloiocephalus* and found that it grows in sandy soils which have little soil structure or nutrition. This describes our soil along the Coorong where it looks like we're living alongside the beach. It appears after the autumn rain and into winter. It did not take much rain to encourage these shrooms to emerge.



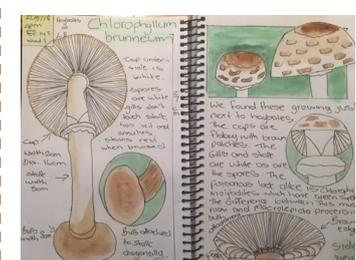
We picked a few mushrooms to collect spore prints. We simply removed the stem and placed the mushroom cap face down overnight. We were amazed with the results the next morning. We cut out the spore prints and pasted it into our nature journals.



We also found *Chlorophyllum brunneum* growing in between the rows of haybales on another property. These were impressive in size and measured 27cm in height and 16cm in diameter. The cap had a width of 2cm and it had a rough texture.



This was a great mushroom to dissect. We found the bulb was attached to the stem diagonally which set them apart from the edible (and delicious) *Macrolepiota procera*. They also look very similar to the poisonous *Chlorophyllum molybdites*, so we did a spore print and found it to be white not green, so not poisonous. I sketched the mushrooms into my field journal from different view points and I



magnified my points of interest such as the diagonally attached bulb and the veil on the stem. I like to add a little box to show how we found the mushrooms before we picked them.

We'll continue to hunt mushrooms as long as the season lasts. Will you join us?



Jacob's Adventures



AUTUMN LEAVES



Meet Jacob! He enjoys exploring outdoors, travelling, playing card games and photographing birds. He cares for the environment, and with the help of his dad, he made a trailer to pull behind his bike to collect rubbish along his riding trail. Jacob will be sharing his adventures and activities with us each month. I'm sure you'll find him to be an inspiring young man.

Every day Mum and I go for a walk with our dog Wade, in the morning. Each time we find something new and beautiful in nature. The red colour of the autumn leaves in this photo, drew me to pick them fresh from the tree. I like their shape, their colour and their uniqueness. When I hold it up to the light I can see its veins, gaps and damage that has happened during its growth. I like to twirl autumn leaves, by holding onto the stem and rolling them in between my finger and thumb. It makes me feel calm.

Do you have an adventure, activity or something to share? We'd love to hear from you. Together, we can encourage, support and inspire one another. Send your articles and photos to marie@naturestudyaustralia.com.au

My favourite place to see autumn leaves is in Bright and surrounding areas in the high country of Victoria. I like riding my bike through the forests of trees of both deciduous and evergreens.

I thought I would like to share a poem that I found about Autumn.

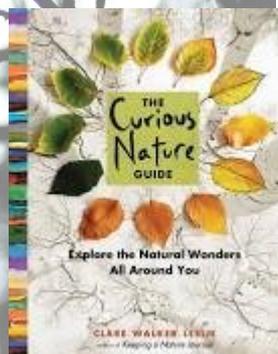
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A 10 Day Winter Challenge

20th—30th June 2018

Join me for a **10 Day Winter Challenge** in the *Nature Science for Aussie Families FB Group* or #naturestudyaustralia on Instagram. It'll motivate us to get out into the fresh air and appreciate winters hidden gems.

Come on! It'll be **fun!** Simply post a recent *daily* winter image for 10 days and you could be a winner of **The Curious Nature Guide** by Clare Walker Leslie.



Build a Cubby!

Building a cubby is a terrific outdoor activity which provides hours of enjoyment. It gives such a great sense of accomplishment once it's completed as no two cubbies are alike. If your yard does not provide the material to build one, visit a conservation park and only use the material laying on the ground. **Go on! Build one!**



Ode to Autumn

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimmed their clammy cell.*

*Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reaped furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spare the next swath and all its twined flowers;
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours.*

*Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,---
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir, the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.*

Ode To Autumn

John Keats

Prepared by Jacob

Can't go Out? Bring Nature Inside!

- Grow mushrooms inside.
- Create a worm farm.
- Get some silk worms.
- Sprout microgreens.
- Adopt a bird!
- Add rabbits to your family.
- Invest in chickens and sell the eggs.
- Give a home to an orphan dog.
- Bring a reptile home.
(with mums permission)!

Create a Forrest

Twigs! Twigs! Everywhere! Go on a twig hunt and search for a variety of shapes and sizes to create a winter forest scene.

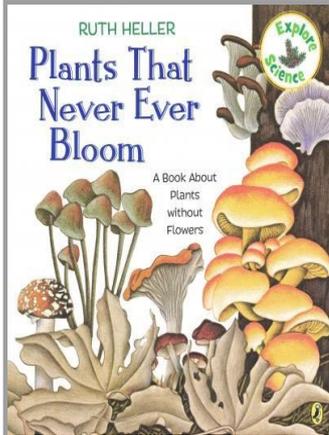
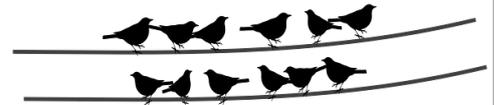
Design a forest of bare branches on thick paper and glue the twigs in place. Decide on whether you'd like a wintry day or nighttime scene. Perhaps, you'd like to paint the twigs white and paste them on black paper.

Once the forest has dried, draw in details of birds, animals such as possums or the moon. **Have Fun!**

Look for Nature in Unexpected Places

Not everyone is blessed with open spaces or backyards. If that's you, nature can be found if you search in these surprising places:

- * Cafés
- * Roadsides
- * Parking lots
- * Powerlines
- * Malls



Plants that Never Ever Bloom by Ruth Heller introduces us to mushrooms, ferns moss, lichens and seaweed. It's full of beautiful illustrations which are a feast for the eyes.

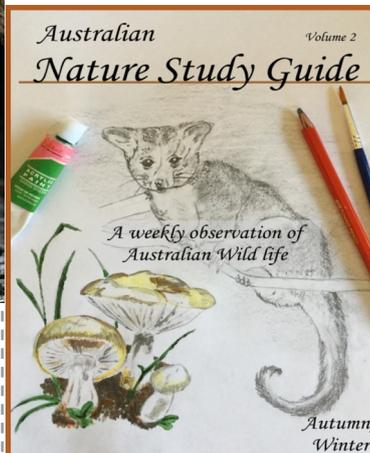


Identification Challenge

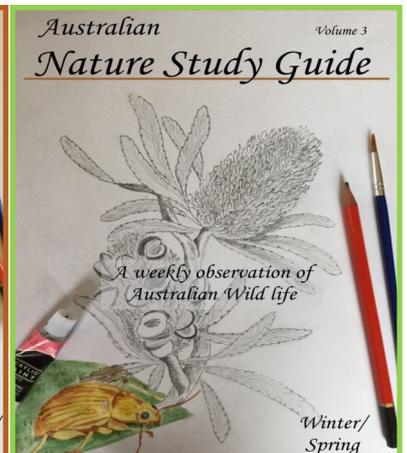
Do you know the identity of this creature?
Let me know by email at:
marie@naturestudyaustralia.com.au.
Who will be the first to guess and receive a nature guide by **Steve Parish?**

Autumn/Winter Nature Guide

Lyrebirds create theatres and perform for an audience of one,
Giant earthworms can be heard squelching underground in Gippsland and diapers were made from moss. Really? Yip!



Download V2
Nature Watch Lesson



Winter/Spring Nature Guide

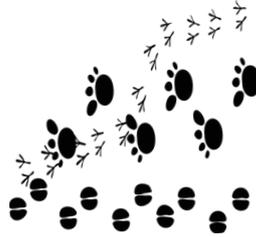
Coming July 2018!

A Winter Scavenger Hunt

Can you find these things?



Twig



Animal Tracks

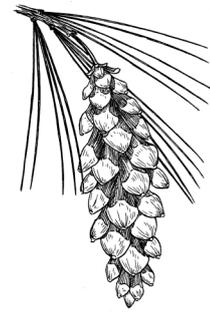


Moss

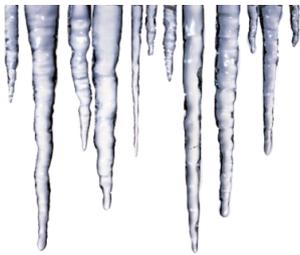


Lichen

Something
Rough!



Pinecone and
needles

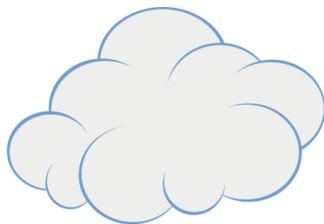


Icicle



Wattle sprig

Something
Blue!



Clouds

Something
beautiful!



Mushroom



Magpie

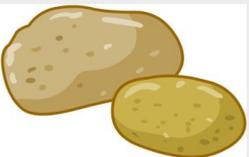


Boot Tracks

Find Litter.
Bin It!

June Nature Watch Chart

Use the simple ideas in this chart to encourage outdoor explorations.

<p>Go fungi hunting and take pictures.</p> 	<p>How many kinds of moss can you find?</p> 	<p>Are there icicles today?</p> 	<p>Take note of the shapes, patterns and colours of lichen.</p> 
<p>Make mud pies.</p> 	<p>Roast marshmallows.</p> 	<p>Cook damper or roast potatoes outside.</p> 	<p>Which birds are nesting?</p> 
<p>Visit a pond and look for pond creatures.</p> 	<p>Go on a nest hunt. How many nests can you find?</p> 	<p>Play Freeze! Put on some music and when it stops you have to freeze in an animal position.</p>	<p>Plan a treasure hunt for friends.</p> 
<p>Notice which trees are flowering.</p> 	<p>Search for woolly bear caterpillars in the grass.</p> 	<p>Can you smell smoke?</p> 	 <p>Can you spot a butterfly?</p>

Keep an eye out for:

- Albatrosses in the South.
- Nodding Greenhood Orchid
 - Earth Star Fungus.
- Cootamundra Wattle and Grevilleas flower.
- Possums have Young in Pouch.
- Jacky Winters Return to Nesting Sites.
- Magpies Collect Nesting Materials.

Journal Topics to Explore:

- Mushrooms, mosses, lichens and ferns.
- Seaweed.
- Thriving winter pond creatures.
- Orchids, Wattles and Wildflowers.
- Sea birds & Albatrosses.
- Winter Nesting Birds.

WINTER NATURE TABLE IDEAS:

Mushroom spore prints | Fungi Photos | Twigs with lichen | Create a moss jar terrarium | Coniferous foliage | Winter Buds | Candles | Rocks | Winter related nature books.

WINTER PHOTO IDEAS:

Empty Nests | Icicles | Foggy Valleys | Pinecones & Needles | Tree Bark | Wattles | Fungi | Water Birds | Green | Tree Buds | Orchids | Wildflowers | Coniferous Trees | Snails | Patterns | Silver-eyes | Magpies |



Mushrooms



Large empty rectangular area for drawing or sketching a mushroom.

Sketch: Life Size | Magnified | Zoom Out | X-ray

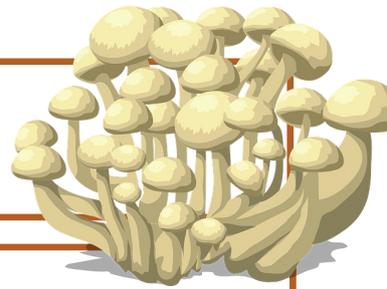
Date:	Time:	Place:
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Research/Questions:-

- Identification:
- Temperature:
- Wind Speed and Direction:
- North is:
- The texture is:
- It's growing on/in:
- My count is:
- Measurements are:
- The pattern is:
- The colours are:
- The shape is:
- It smells like:
- My comparisons are:



Mushrooms



Large empty rectangular box for drawing and writing observations.

Identification:	Draw your field sketches and write your observations here.
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Weather:

The texture is: Rough, slimy, wet, velvety?

Where and on what is it growing?

The measurements are:

My count is:

Patterns: Stripes, spots, plain?

The colours I see are:

Shape: Bell, flat, bracket, round?

Compare the top and bottom of cap:

Date:	Time:	Place:
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Nonvascular Plants

Identification:

Draw your field sketches and write your observations here.

Weather:

The texture is:

The measurements are:

The colour is:

It is growing on:

It is facing: North/South?

Compare dry plants to wet plants:

The plant soaked up liters of water:

Time how fast the plant soaked up water:

Date:

Time:

Place:



Winter Nature Walk

Date:

Time:

Temp:

Weather:

Place:

I notice:

I hear:

I smell:

I feel:

I wonder:

Draw a nature treasure you found:

A Cool, Dry Season Walk



Date:	Time:	Temp:	Weather:	Place:
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I notice:

I hear:

I smell:

I feel:

I wonder:

Draw a nature treasure you found:

Flowering Trees in a Cool, Dry North

Date:

Time:

Temp:

Weather:

Place:

My tree is a:

This is a leaf.

This is a flower.

This is a seed.

This is the bark pattern.

These creatures visit the tree.

This is the shape of the tree.