

November 2019

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Green turtles are heading for the coast. These turtles spend their whole lives at sea except for the females who return to the same spot in which they were born to lay around 100 eggs into the high rises of the beach. I wonder where they go afterwards?

Nature Study Australia

Early Summer

Nature Science for Aussie Families

Summer Awakens Nature

Slithering snakes embark on a mating frenzy and lizards scuttle through the brush while freshwater crocodiles hatch and estuarine crocodiles begin nesting. Green turtles come ashore to lay eggs.

Humidity in the North steadily increases while storms build and tides tower beaches as the wet season draws near. Swallow-tail butterflies and swift moths emerge as brown awl butterflies migrate north. Termites feverishly build nests and fruit bats dine on mangroves as barramundi return to spawn. Barracudas leave for the deep.

As the koels begin to call, galahs hatch and black butcherbirds leave the nest. Watch pelicans ride winds as fantails build nests and ducks move into swamps.

Summer arrives in the south while birds build nests, feed and protect their young. Magpies and butcherbirds are swooping while many birds are moulting. Moths and beetles attack night lights as craneflies emerge near waterholes.

Echidnas and bandicoots mine ants and termites fly. Common brown butterflies appear, wasps feed, breed and hunt.

Rockpools shelter sea-hares as they lay eggs and red jellyfish visit bays. Octopus eggs float to the coast. Visit beaches after storms to gather ocean treasures.

Delight in early morning sunrises and amazing sunsets, stargaze and enjoy fresh evenings in the outdoors. Listen to the owl hoot and the possums scamper. Step into the night as the days become warmer.

Pollination Links:

[Pollination Facts for Kids | Kiddle](#)

[Pollinators | Kids Growing Strong](#)

[Parts of a Flower | DK Find Out](#)

[How a Plant is Pollinated | DK Find Out](#)

Show & Tell



I took the kids out for a walk this arvo to the bush at the end of our street. There's a section you need to cross before you get to much, it's pretty much sand and dry grass but we got a wonderful surprise once we looked closer.

Anne Ward



We have a perfect viewing at our kitchen window of this mama paper wasp with her nest.

Alex Mamiya



We explored our backyard today through the lenses of art and photography.

Rebeka Sullivan

We discovered this poor Kooka in our pool this morning!

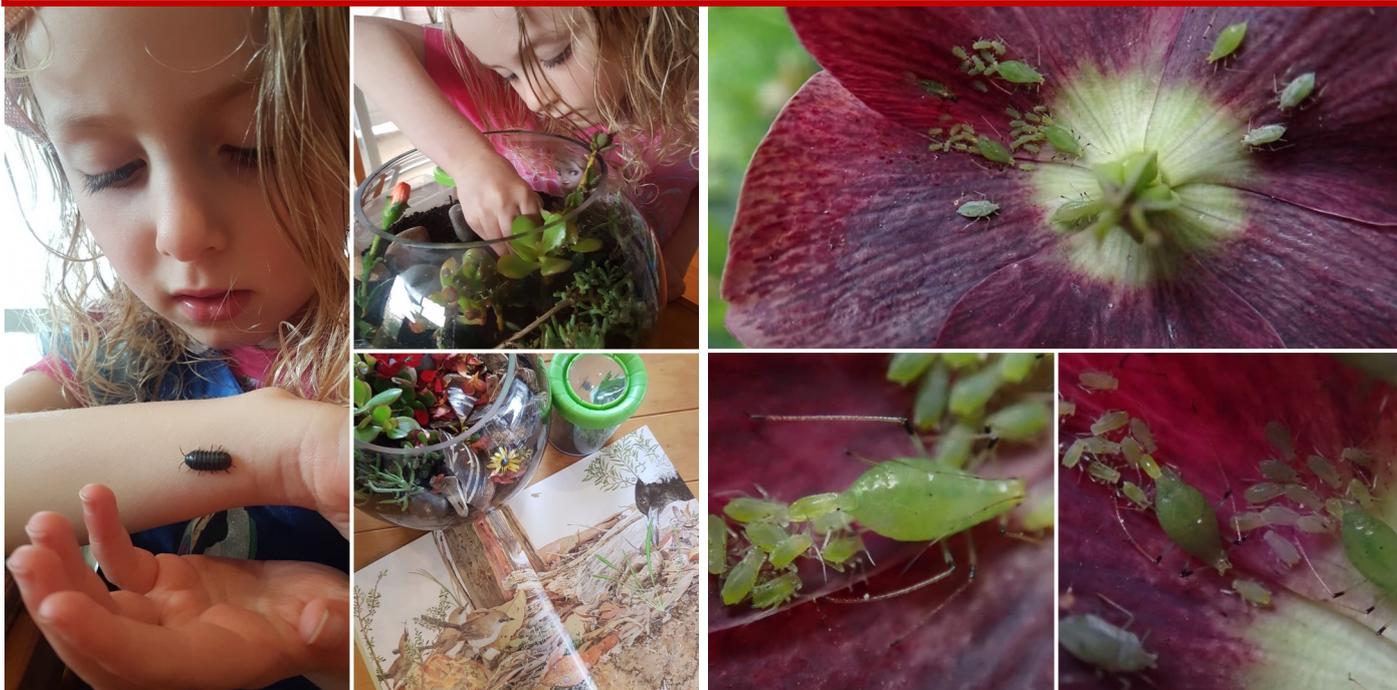
And as a result we've learned lots; what are normal behaviours for kookaburras and what are not, how to initially respond to injured wildlife in a way that is safe for you and for the animal, and WIRES' process of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and return to the wild.

As it turned out, the WIRES volly was an ex HSC student of mine from TAFE days; she's now a qualified vet nurse and part-time volunteer! The girls and I are looking forward to hearing from Erin as to how this little fella is doing!

P.S. I feel so privileged to have held this one; a one in a lifetime experience I imagine!

Rebecca Wells

Show & Tell



A bit of a spontaneous nature science today featuring the infamous roly-poly bug (isopod). We've found out some really cool and weird facts about these little critters. Such as they can drink with their bottom! A real giggle for the primary aged child , Miss Indigo 5.5. We didn't find many in our garden to dry? So we are going to make some potato traps to see if we can attract more, and once we have a few more, we will conduct some of the interesting online science experiments we found.

Sarah Rimmer

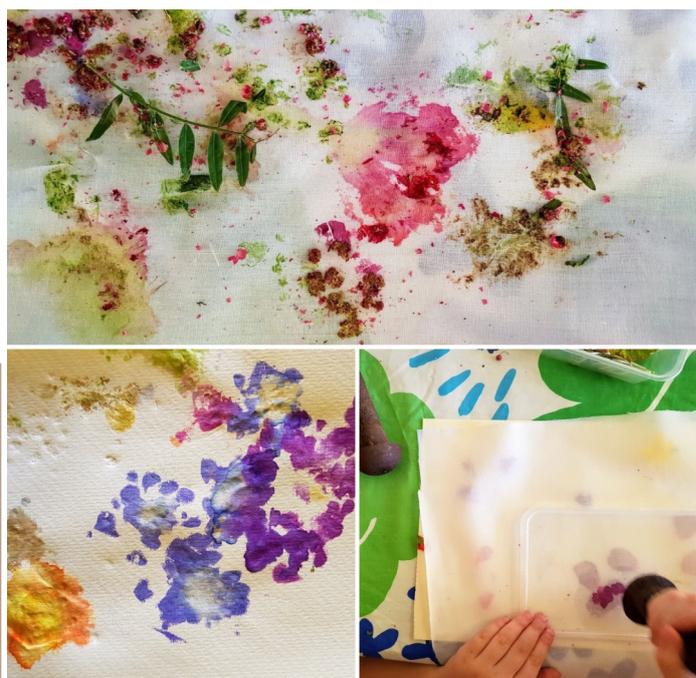
*The world is a great treasure~
a house full of things to be seen, and
each new thing one sees is a new
delight."*

Charlotte Mason

Ourselves

I know aphids are not everyone's friend but I saw these on my Hellebores and realised they were multiplying. Two were in the process of giving birth to live young. Aphids also lay eggs.

Sharon Dodd



Spring flower Hapa Zome today with our [#natureplaytuesday](#) group . I figured out (as we went) that rolling the peg over the flower was better than pounding.

Rebecca Wells



Inspired to Journal



We wrapped up our spring tree study yesterday with a couple of hours observation and drawing in our backyard.

We were earlier disheartened when we went for a nature ramble and discovered all the spring blossoms had dried up from this drought, but, over the last week we have witnessed our Grevillia come to life during the day, with butterflies, honeyeaters, bees, bugs, dragonflies, willies, then in the evenings, with the moths. Truly a beautiful sight to marvel.

Anna Miles



No power today had me whipping out the nature journal and phenology wheels. This has been such a great way to record the seasons and the natural response to them in our landscape. I consider myself quite observant, but I definitely lack memory, so I love that I've committed my observations to my journal when I see them and can look back at these with a bit more reliability than my memory. Miss five has been working along side me with her wheel too. I think they are really coming together nicely. **Courtney @courtinmytribe on Inst**



"A love of Nature, implanted so early that it will seem to them hereafter to have been born in them, will enrich their lives with pure interests, absorbing pursuits, health, and good humour" Charlotte Mason.

(Dandelion Nature Journal Entries). **Rebecca @marigoldschoolhouse on Inst.**

Summer Detective Hunt



Rose



Daisy



Beetle



Fly



Lizard



Galah



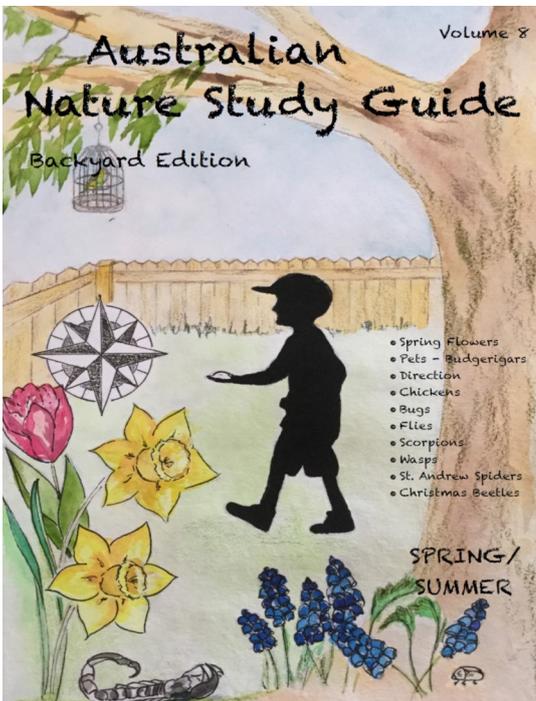
Nest



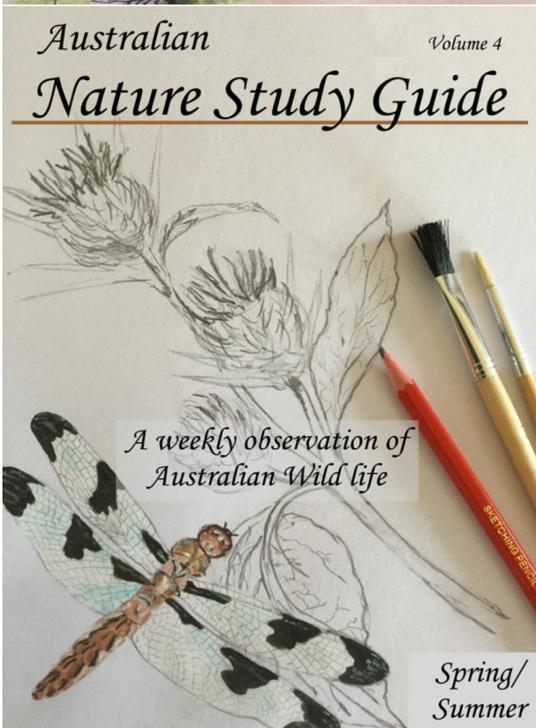
Moth



Ant



You'd like to incorporate nature study into daily life, but you're not sure how to begin? Consider the Australian Nature Study Guides which are a Charlotte Mason based program designed to encourage nature exploration through the seasons. The guide includes poems, picture studies, activities and read aloud story suggestions. They will inspire children to OBSERVE, EXPLORE, DRAW, PAINT, RESEARCH, WRITE, READ, CREATE, ADVENTURE, DISCOVER, COMPARE, DISCUSS, EXPLAIN and take NOTES. So, walk with me.



Australian Nature Cards

Our selection of nature cards is growing. The latest edition is the Australian Plant Pattern cards which you can download for FREE [HERE](#). Other cards in the Australian series include:

- Animal Track and Scat Cards.
- Bird Identification Cards.
- Native Bee Identification Cards.
- Fungi/Moss/ Lichen Cards.

These have been made possible with the help of Steph Buijs and we're very appreciative of her dedication and time which go into creating these fun cards.

You're a gem, Steph!

Take a Squiz at NSA Articles:

Nature Study with Teenage Boys.

Read it [here](#).

[Download](#) November 2018's

Nature Journal:

Insect Watch is the topic of the month.

BE INSPIRED!



POLLINATION

We love to admire the beauty captured in flowers through their blushing shades of colour and captivating scents, but flowers don't display their splendour just for us. Have you wondered why flowers release such an attractive fragrance?

Flowers need their charming colours, shapes and scents to invite insects to visit them. Insects are always in search of nectar which is a sugary syrup created by plants within special cells in their receptacle.

Insects dine on nectar and pollen so they need flowers to create nutritious nectar meals, while flowers need insects to pollinate them. It's a beautiful connection created by God that encourages both insect and plant to work together for their survival.

The process of seed formation begins with the transfer of pollen grains from one flower's anther (male part) to the stigma (female part) of another flower of the same kind. This transfer is known as pollination.

As the insect passes by the anther of one plant, pollen grains stick to its body, and as it continues searching for another flower's nectaries, it will brush past the flower's stigma where pollen grains are caught.

Once the pollen grain has settled on the stigma, it will grow a thin tube down through the flower's style and into the ovule. The male cell carried by the pollen grain merges with an egg within the ovule and fertilization of a seed takes place.

Pollination is a very important part of a plant's lifecycle as it is unable to create seeds or fruit without pollen transference which occurs naturally as pollinators search for nectar.

Bees are one of the most valuable pollinators as they energetically search for nectar and pollen amongst flowers to eat and make honey. Bees will dine on pollen, which is a form of protein, and nectar during the summer months, while collecting an excess amount to create honey for winter. Bees mix pollen and honey to 'bake bee bread.' Yum!

Fun Activities:

- Join the [Wild Pollinator Count](#) starting 10th-17th November and count pollinators in your backyard. You can join in by watching any flowering plant for 10 minutes sometime within the count week.
- Find out how to count pollinators [here](#).
- Organise your own Wild Pollinator Count event by inviting your friends along to join in the fun. Obtain your own Count Event Kit [here](#).

Read Aloud Story:

[Flower Power: The Story of How Plants are Pollinated](#) by Judith Heneghan

[Flowers](#) by Gail Gibbons

[From Seed to Plant](#) by Gail Gibbons

[The World of Bees](#) by Cristina Banfi

Sing a Song:

[Pollination](#)

Picture Study:

[Cross Pollination by Mindi Oaten](#)

Enjoy a Walkabout:

As you search for pollinators in the backyard, see if you can spot any native bees buzzing amongst your flowers.

Let's Discuss:

- What does the word 'pollination' mean?
- What are other ways flowers are pollinated?
- Who are the 'pollinators?' Name a few species of animals that eat nectar too like bats, pygmy possums and birds.
- How are bees and other insects threatened in our world today?
- What about plants that don't have flowers?

Watch This:

[Like Fruit? Thank a Bee](#)

[Look Inside a Flower](#)

[Busy Bees](#)

Jacob's Outdoor Adventures

In August this year, my family and I had another big adventure. This time we travelled through Outback South Australia and the Northern Territory. There were some incredible photo opportunities and I took just over 2000 photos. One of my favourites was of the Flinders Ranges. I took one of the Moralana Scenic Drive.

The birding highlight of the trip was a visit to the Alice Springs Desert Park, where I saw the Birds Of Prey show. It was amazing to see these magnificent birds up close and observe their many beauties.

One of the best experiences I had was flying over Lake Eyre. It was my first time in a light aircraft and I was amazed at how smooth the flight was. I was lucky to see some birds, as they had just arrived in the last couple of days. The birds come down to Lake Eyre until the salt level decreases, as they're freshwater birds.

Of all the towns in Australia, Marree would have to be my favourite, which we visited for the second time on this trip. The photography opportunities are amazing and I think it is a treasure town waiting to be discovered. I have included a photo of one of the mail trucks which Tom Kruse drove on during his outback mail run, which is on display in Marree. You can also read further information about this truck [here](#). I've been asked to put together a book about Marree from the photos I took.

The Flinders Ranges was the most spectacular place we visited, with so much diverse scenery and places to visit and travel to.

I hope you enjoy my photos!



Jacob is an inspiring young man. He's taken his passion for photography and birds to create a Bird Field Guide for his local Bushland, [Cussen Park](#).

Visit his [website](#) and [Facebook Page](#), [Digital Journey Photography](#).



Eastern Barn Owl at the Alice Springs Desert Park

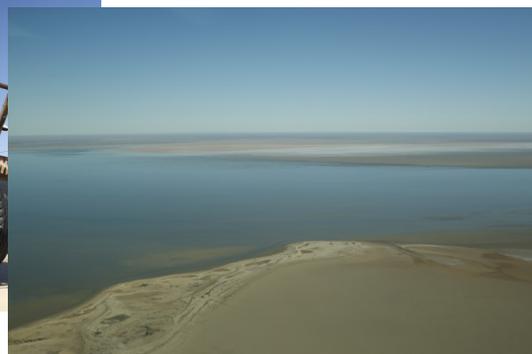
Below: Flinders Ranges on the Moralana Scenic Drive



Nature Journal November 2019 © Marie Viljoen



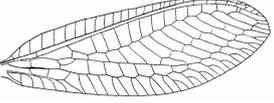
Above: Tom Kruse, Royal Mail truck at Marree, SA



Lake Eyre from the air

November Nature Watch Chart

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

<p>Notice gum trees shed bark.</p> 	<p>What time is the sun rising and setting this month? Work out the difference from last month. How much longer are the days now?</p>	<p>Spot a fledgling about to leave the nest.</p> 	 <p>Flying duck orchids rise above the earth.</p>
 <p>Search for beetles around night lights.</p>	<p>Birds are moulting. Collect their pretty feathers.</p> 	 <p>Lacewing insects emerge. Can you find one?</p>	<p>Flying termites take to the sky. Do you notice any in your area?</p> 
 <p>Leaf-hoppers are springing about on fruit trees. Spot one.</p>	<p>Wasps are actively building, breeding and hunting. Take heed.</p> 	<p>Be alert when outdoors as snakes are out and about.</p> 	 <p>Measure the rain and count the thunder claps.</p>
<p>Stop to smell the flowers.</p> 	<p>Listen to the music of the bush by day. What do you hear? Listen to nature's melodies played at night. How are they different?</p>	<p>Jump in mud puddles. Bake mud pies. Paint with mud paint.</p> 	<p>Tickle your toes on tree bark. Discuss how the textures of bark are different from tree to tree.</p>

Watch for:

- Frilled Lizards
- Winged ants
- Red gum flowers
- Imperial white butterflies
- Plantain flowering
- Bandicoots
- Echidnas

Investigate:

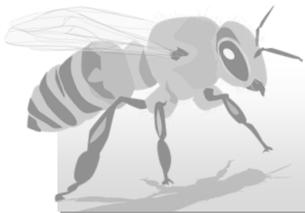
- Plant anatomy.
- Seed germination.
- Bees.
- Butterflies.
- Insecticides.
- Self-pollination.
- Wind pollination.

A Nature Journal Idea:

Now is the time to create timelines for insects, flowers and their pollinators. Moths and butterflies have a large family so they'll need a timeline each.

A Challenge:

Follow the cycle of the pollinators in your backyard. Notice each new stage. Note times, dates and draw the event in a nature journal.



Pollinators

Flower	Pollinator 1	Weather: Season: Flower Species: Colours: Shape: Scent: Position: Sunny/ Shade/Part Shade Pollinator 1: Pollinator 2: Pollinator 3:
	Pollinator 2	
	Pollinator 3	
Date:	Time	Place:
Notes: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		



Pollinators

Pollinator 1		Pollinator 2	
Flower		Pollinator 3	
Weather:	Season:	Habitat:	
Pollinator 1:	Pollinator 2:	Pollinator 3:	
Flower:	Colours:	Scent:	
Date:	Time:	Place:	