



Wake up your inner scientist, learn more about what’s around us, and win prizes for spotting species in the first Chatham Islands BioBlitz.

It’s easy. Just record as many species as you can anywhere in the Chatham Islands during the Festival of Science week and submit your observations on iNaturalist.

**Prize categories:**

- Expert Naturalist – the highest number of different species identified
- Rarest Species – the rarest species found in a surprising place
- Unexpected Weed – identifying an invasive species somewhere we didn’t know about
- Most Interesting Discovery

Prizes will include books, CILRT merch, native plants, and – perhaps most coveted of all - Brenda Tuanui’s home baking.

More info: [www.chathamrestorationtrust.org.nz/resources/blog-and-news/bioblitz-2025/](http://www.chathamrestorationtrust.org.nz/resources/blog-and-news/bioblitz-2025/)



**What’s a BioBlitz?**

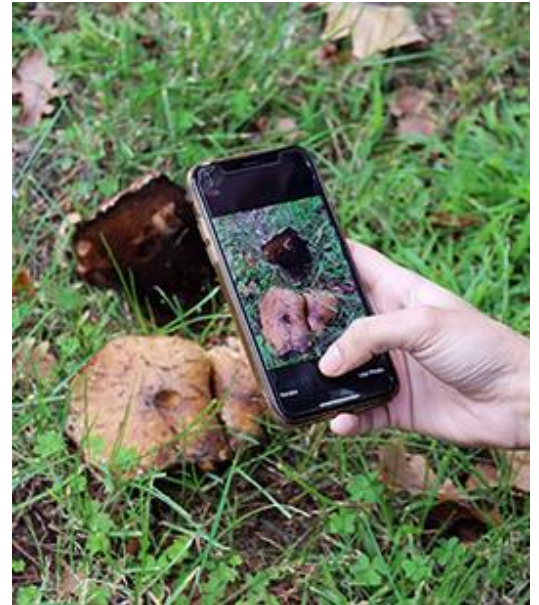
A BioBlitz is timebound citizen science event where people document as many species as possible within a designated geographic area. We’re doing this one using the online iNaturalist platform, which connects users to a global community of nature enthusiasts and experts.

Week of 4 August	BioBlitz practice walk – a guided walk to practice using iNaturalist and learn a little bit about one area.
11-17 August	BioBlitz is ON! Take photos to record as many species as you can anywhere in the Chatham Islands, and upload them onto iNaturalist
17 August	Presenting BioBlitz highlights and awarding spot prizes in the Festival closing event. Upload as many of your observations as you can before then.
20 August	Make sure you’ve loaded all your observations to be sure they’re included in the final results.
24 August	Findings of the BioBlitz - and winners - announced! Will be posted on the website, Facebook, and the following week in Community Focus.



## How to take part

1. Set up a FREE iNaturalist account, either through your phone or on a web browser. You can download their app or check out their website [www.inaturalist.org/](http://www.inaturalist.org/)  
  
Check out their guide to getting started:  
[www.inaturalist.freshdesk.com/en/support/solutions/folders/151000552105](http://www.inaturalist.freshdesk.com/en/support/solutions/folders/151000552105)
2. Join the Chatham Islands BioBlitz project on iNaturalist (screenshot below). You can join it now by searching for "Chatham Islands Festival of Science" in the app or on the website, or by following this link:  
[www.inaturalist.org/projects/chathams-islands-festival-of-science-2025-bioblitz](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/chathams-islands-festival-of-science-2025-bioblitz)
3. Get familiar with iNaturalist. Practice taking photos of species and uploading your observations. Check out this short video for a run down:  
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/NxN40erUi4E>
4. Come along to the guided walk on Rēkohu/Wharekauri, where you can practice using iNaturalist with Hamish and Jess. This will be the week before the BioBlitz - details to be shared in Community Focus, and on our Facebook and website.
5. During the week of the BioBlitz, take as many photos as you can of as many different species. You can either upload these observations on the iNaturalist app as you go, or upload them later on at home. Make sure to include the location you found them and what you think it is (even if it's as vague as "bird") so other experts can find it and help ID it.
6. Upload as many observations as you can before Sunday 17 in preparation for spot prizes and sharing highlights at Kopinga Marae.



You can keep uploading your observations made during the week afterwards, but all observations need to be uploaded and identified on iNaturalist by Wednesday 20 to ensure they're included for the final summary and prizes.



*Examples of Chatham Island species recorded on iNaturalist: CI red admiral, Magnus Persmark; lumpfish, Dave Holland; CI oystercatcher, Eamon Riordan-Short; parea, Sophie Futter; Dracophyllum scoparium, campbellnotjames; sun orchid, Reiner Richter.*

## Got questions, or want some help?

The Chatham Islands Landscape Restoration Trust can help you get set up. Email [info@chathamrestorationtrust.org.nz](mailto:info@chathamrestorationtrust.org.nz) or send us a Facebook message.

Get more info on our website:  
[www.chathamrestorationtrust.org.nz/resources/blog-and-news/bioblitz-2025/](http://www.chathamrestorationtrust.org.nz/resources/blog-and-news/bioblitz-2025/)

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