WHAT LIVES IN MY TREE?

As part of the City Nature Challenge between the 24th to 27th April - Shake your tree and see!

how to explore the tiny animals in your backyard

iNaturalist

City Nature Challenge 2020

YOU WILL NEED:

- A white bed sheet, or an umbrella that turns 'inside-out'. This will catch tiny creatures as they fall.
- A tree branch or bush in your backyard to shake
- A container to put your bugs in
- A camera to take their photo!
- If you have one, a magnifying glass or microscope would be great.

POSITION, POSITION, POSITION.

Get ready! Put the sheet or inside-out umbrella under a likely looking branch. Spread it on the ground or hold on tight!
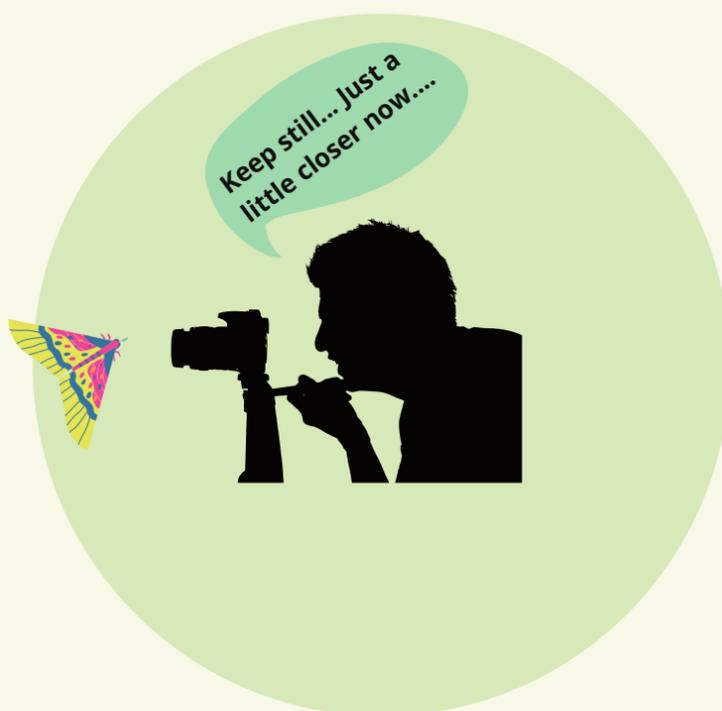
SHAKE THAT BRANCH!

Now shake the branch, hard! Lots of things will fall onto your sheet, leaves, twigs, bark, and tiny living animals! Be patient, sometimes animals will take a minute to start moving again after getting so rudely shaken about! Bend down and get in for a close look. Use your magnifying glass.

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR TINY ANIMALS

Taking photos of teeny tiny creatures is really tricky! A good tip is to get as close as possible but keep focus. Wait for the tiny animal to stop moving. Give it your best shot and upload them to iNaturalist for identification!

Keep still... Just a little closer now....

THE VERY BEST TREE SHAKERS...

- Are careful to look after themselves! Don't shake a branch so hard it breaks. Take a moment to be aware of your backyard, so you don't shake a branch with a bees nest in it!
- Know that some tiny animals can defend themselves when scared. While almost all animals encountered will be completely harmless some may have a stinging abdomen or fangs to bite
- Keep handling to a minimum and be cautious of bright warning colours or black ants, wasps & spiders

- Always try to treat the little animals with care
- Always release their animals back into or under the tree after their portrait is taken
- Understand that tiny little animals aren't scary even if they have 8 legs
- Understand that even tiny animals have an important part to play in our world
- If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again!

Links

Getting Started with iNaturalist
What is a BioBlitz?
For contacts and more info:
City Nature Challenge Australia