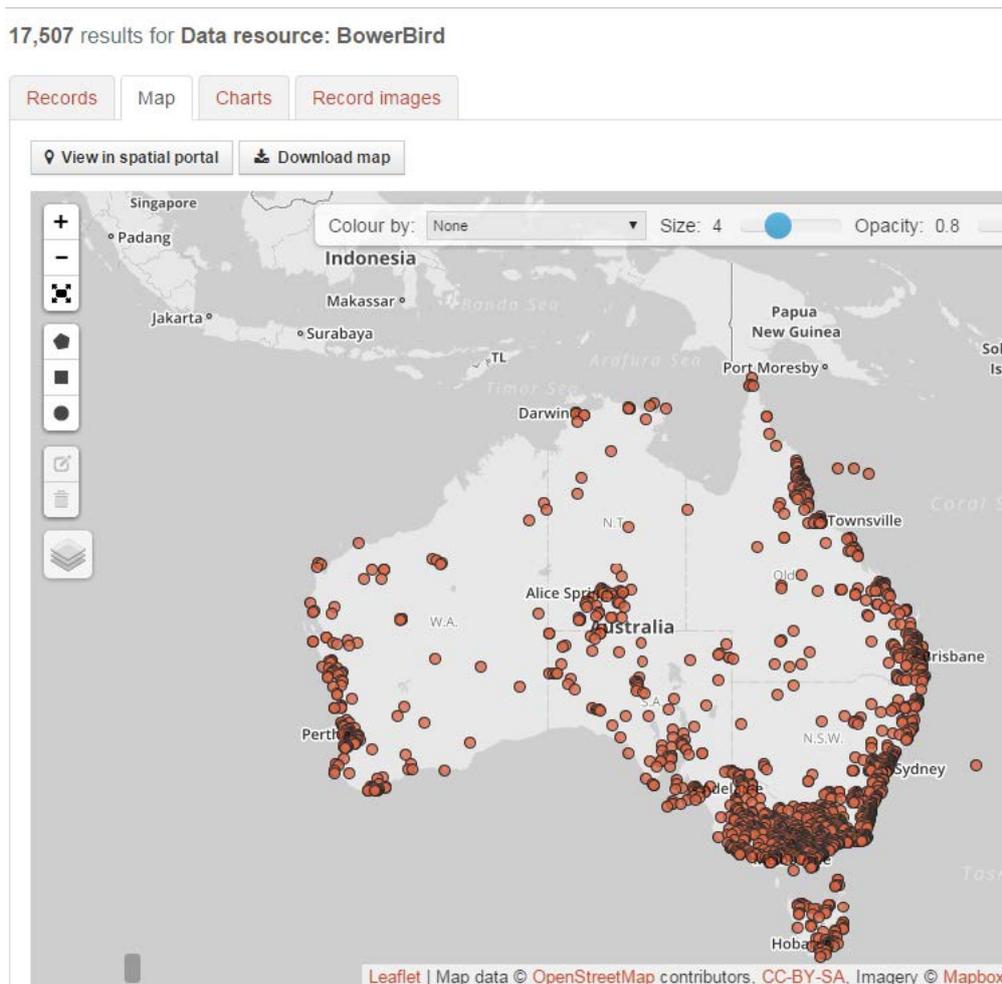


How to use BowerBird. March 2015

BowerBird is a socially interactive scientific website. Most scientific websites are not interactive – the user cannot ask a question. BowerBird allow someone to post an image and ask a question and for someone else to answer that question. These interactions form a community of people willing to share their finds, for others to appreciate the shared knowledge and some to contribute to the finds of others by providing an identification or a comment.

BowerBird is dedicated to citizen science – a new wave of “observational science” rarely practiced now by professional scientists.

BowerBird’s development was funded by the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) – Australia’s National Biodiversity Legacy dataset. ALA’s datasets comes mainly from Museums and Herbaria; however, biodiversity tracks species in time and space and Museum and Herbaria have substantially reduced their collecting efforts now so ALA was missing “current” data on animals and plants. Citizen science is now filling this gap. All identified BowerBird data is uploaded to ALA. Here is the BowerBird dataset on ALA as of 26 March 2015 – 17, 507 records:



Here in a nutshell is **How to use BowerBird**:

- Register and Join BowerBird
- Login
- If this is your first login to BowerBird, you must either Join Projects or Follow People to see or do anything.
- What you personally see on BowerBird is completely determined by yourself – you only see records from the Projects you have joined or the People you are following.
- On BowerBird, you can simply watch shared records appear on your screen or you can interact with any record you can see - such as make a comment or a tag or an identification. Of course, you can upload your own new records to share and you can even create your own Project where you can store your own records.
- The “Power” of BowerBird is sharing. The smallest Project on BowerBird is called “My Quarter Acre Block” which has 3 members and 6 records while the largest Project is called “Insects and Inverts” with over 300 members and over 10,000 records. If a person adds a new record to just the “My Quarter Acre Block” then only 3 people will see that record. Whereas, if the “My Quarter Acre Block” record is added to both the “My Quarter Acre Block” and the “Insects and Inverts” projects, then over 300 people will see the record and be able to help. Even the smallest BowerBird project can be successful if the records are shared with other projects – **this is the secret to a successful BowerBird.**

The BowerBird website URL is:

www.bowerbird.org.au

For BowerBird, we recommend you use a modern web browser such as Chrome or FireFox. Microsoft recently announced they will discontinue producing their web browser Microsoft IE (Internet Explorer). I recommend that you do not use Microsoft IE for BowerBird. Chrome and FireFox are free downloads:

Chrome: <https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/95346?hl=en>

FireFox: <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>

Joining BowerBird:

Put the BowerBird URL into your web browser and click the “Join” button in the top, right corner.



Login Join

 **BowerBird**

A place to share and discuss Australia's biodiversity.

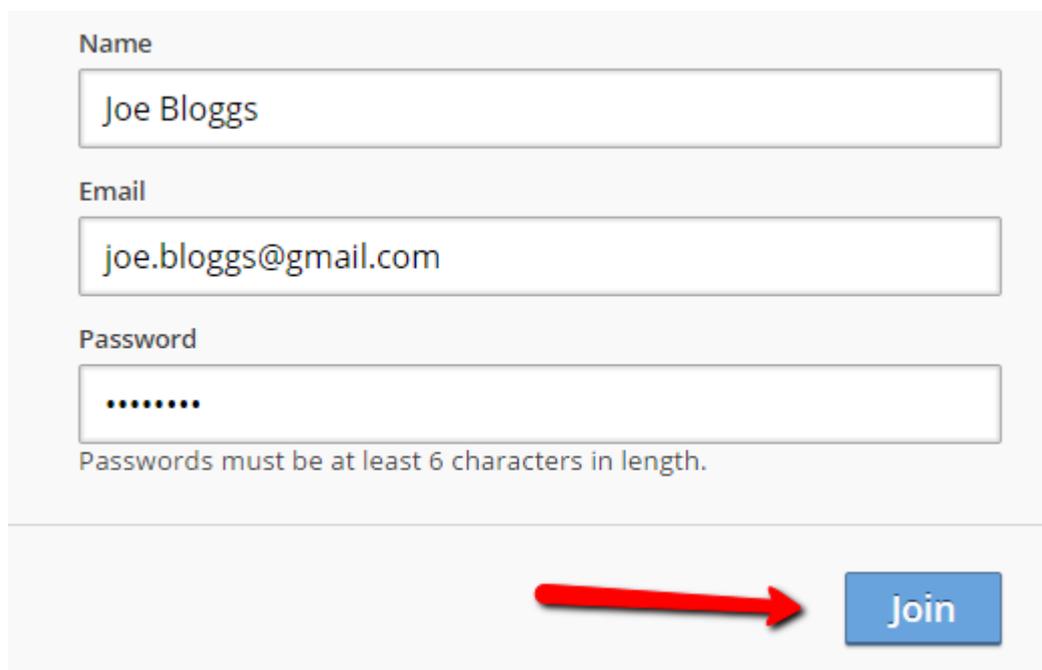
[Join BowerBird](#)

[Sightings](#) [Projects](#) [People](#) [Organisations](#)

Search

You then provide a name (real or false), an email address (real or false) and a password and click JOIN.

This is how BowerBird will recognise you when you login and return.



Name

Email

Password

Passwords must be at least 6 characters in length.

[Join](#)

How to Login to BowerBird:

Having Joined BowerBird, you then click the “Login” button to open BowerBird

 [Login](#) [Join](#)

 **BowerBird**
A place to share and discuss Australia's biodiversity.
[Join BowerBird](#)



Sightings Projects People Organisations

You provide an email address and your password then click LOGIN.

Email

Password

[I've forgotten my password](#)

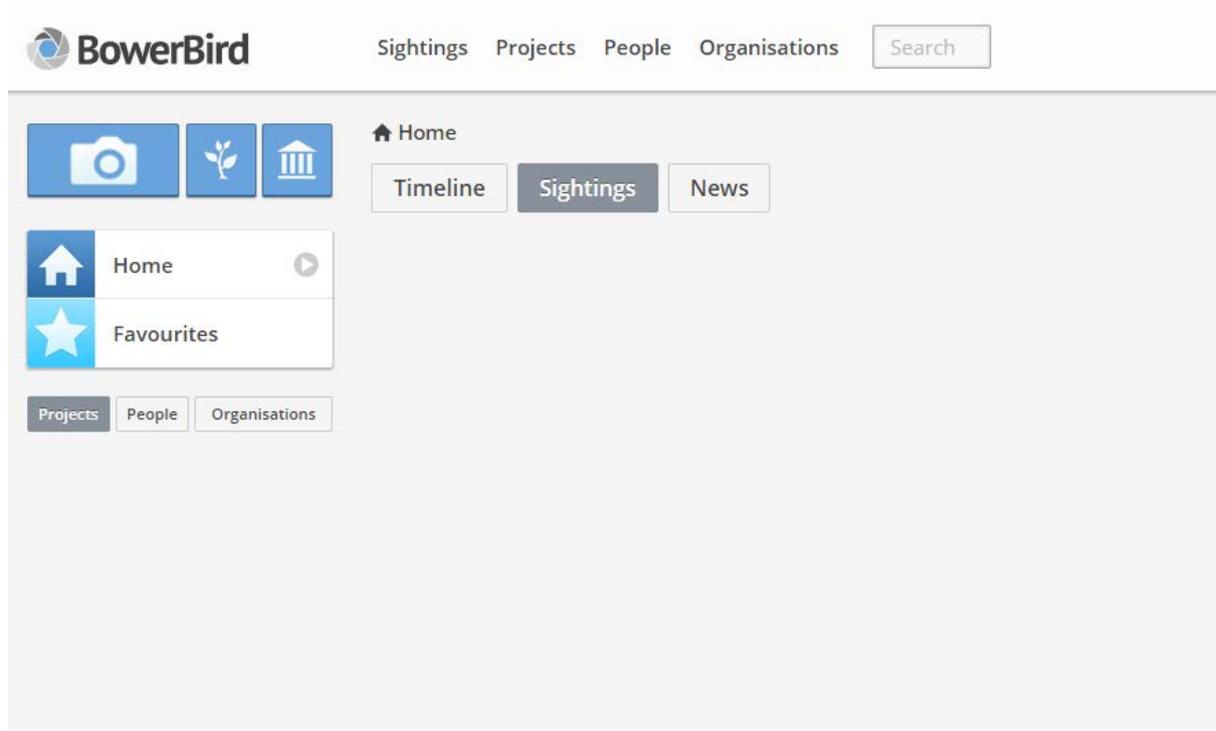
Keep Me Logged In

 [Login](#)

What to do then:

When you first join and open BowerBird – **YOU SEE NOTHING !!**

That's because you have not Joined and Projects or Followed and People.



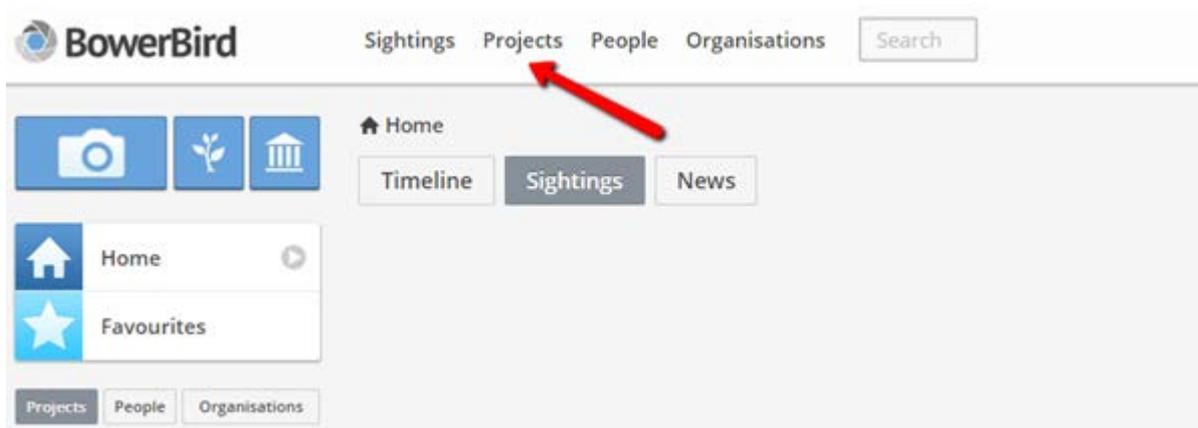
Let's start Joining some Projects.

Let's say that I am interested in helping the survey of the recently arrived exotic African Carder Bee.

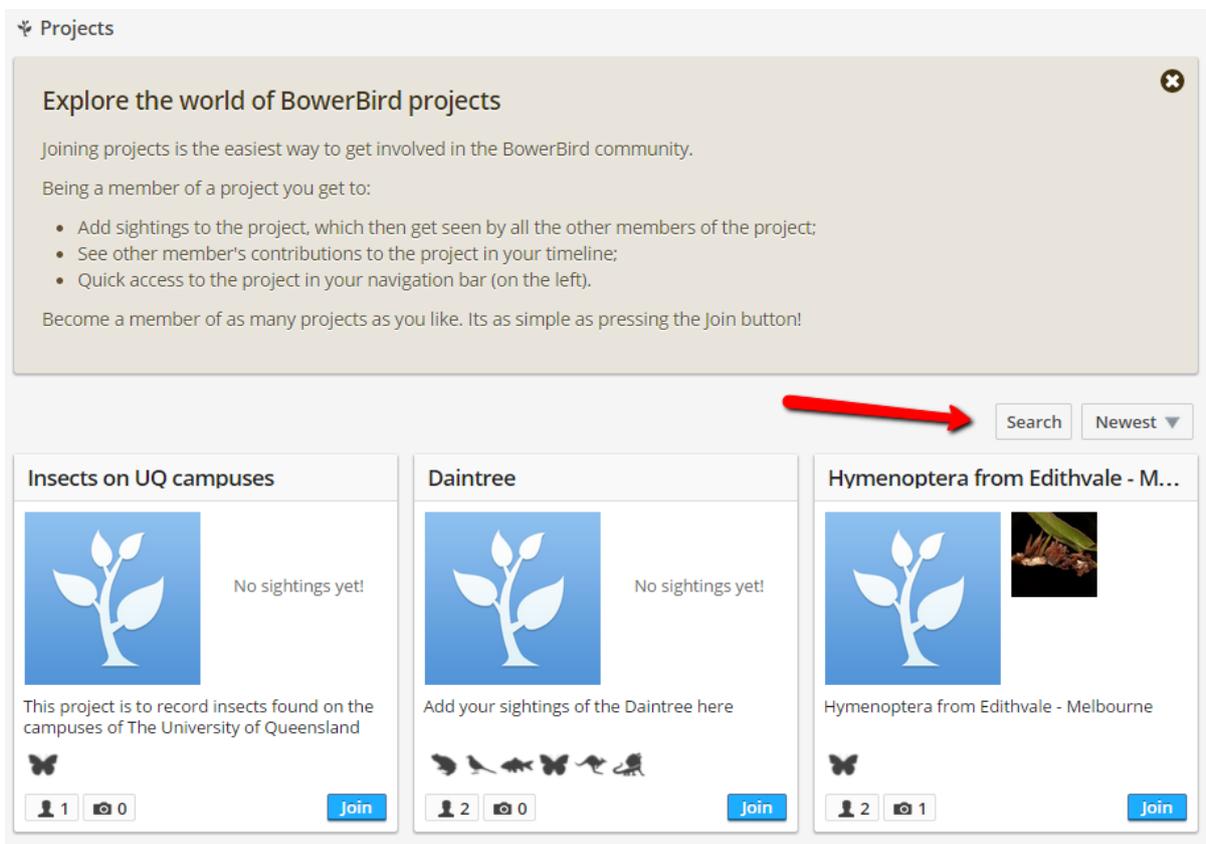
There are now over 3,000 different BowerBird projects so you are best to SEARCH for project names.

Let's find and join the South African Carder bee project.

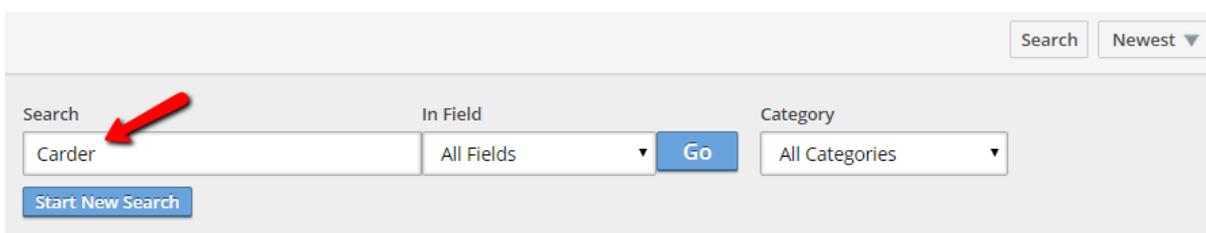
You begin by clicking the “Projects” button on the top line:



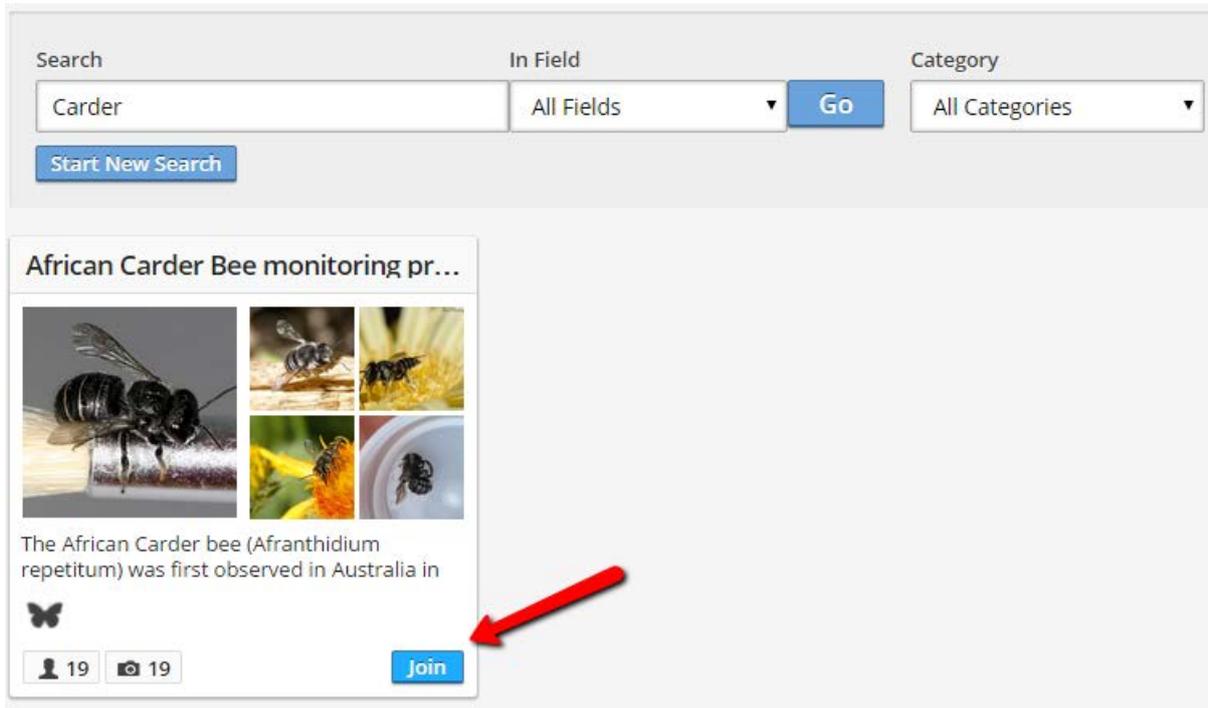
Then you click the SEARCH button:



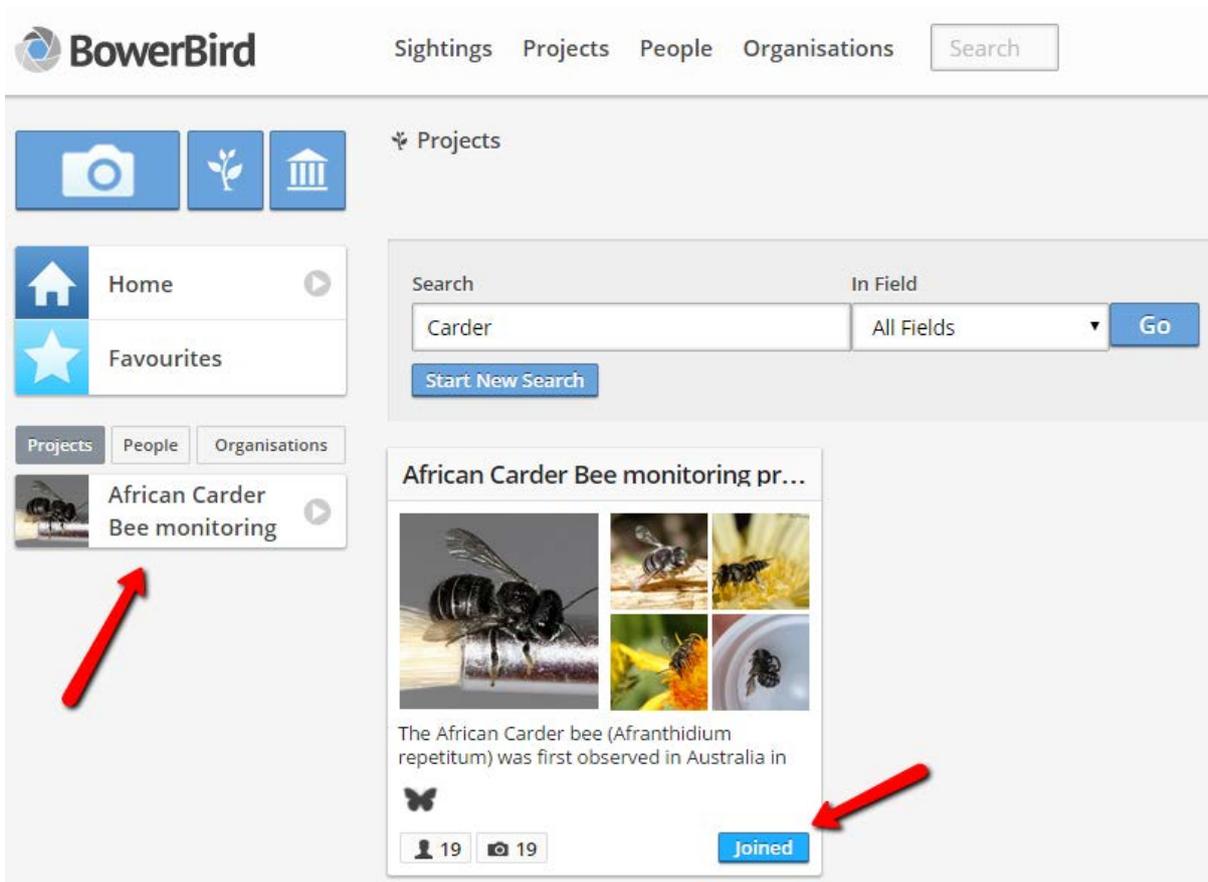
Then you type in the word “Carder” and click “GO”



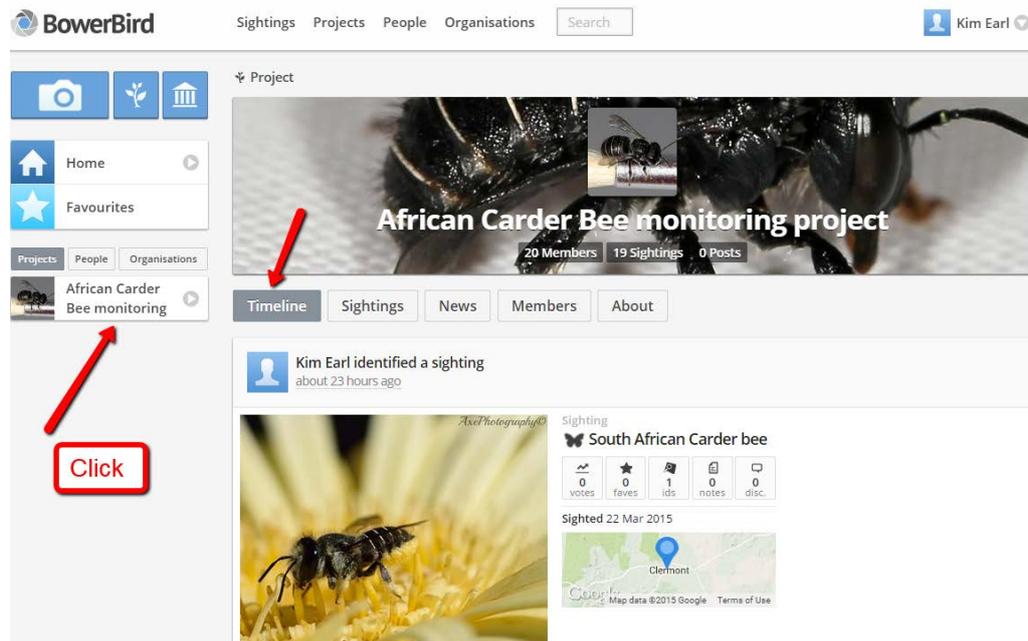
The African Carder Bee monitoring project will appear and to Join it you simply click the Join button.



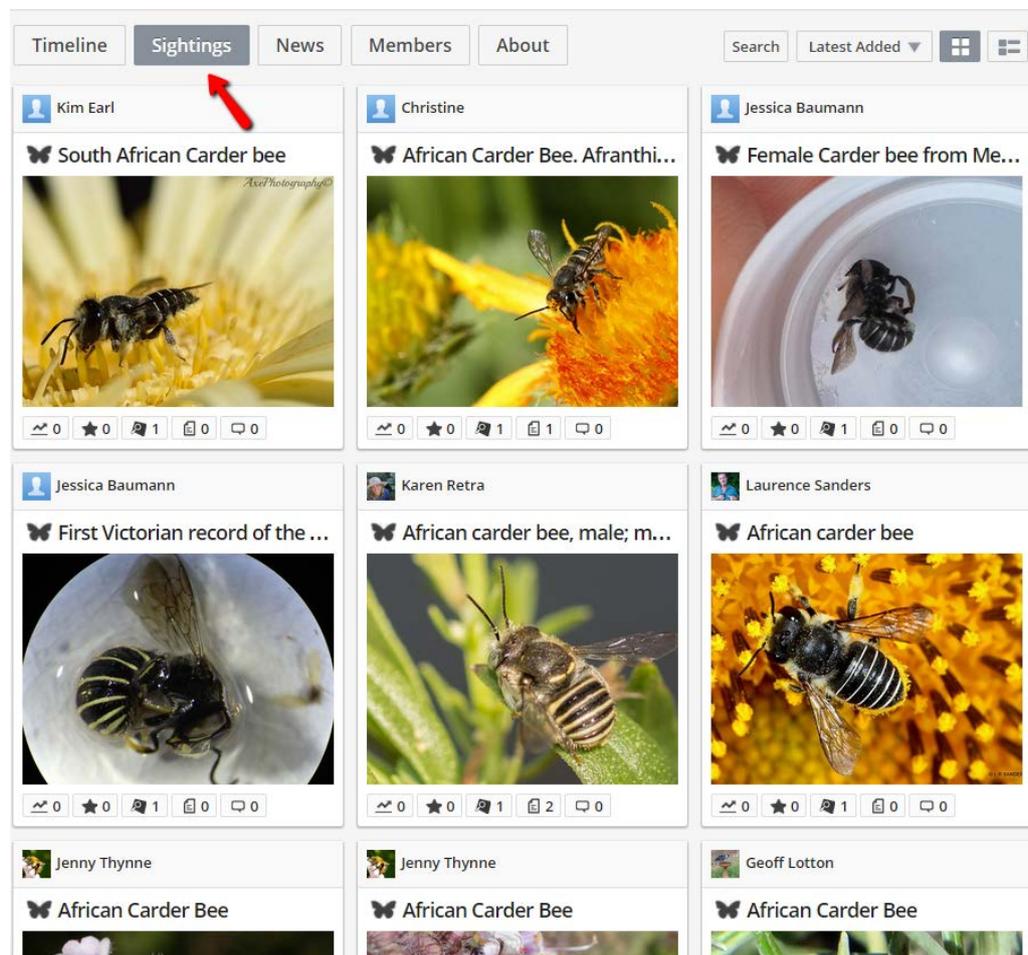
When you click the join button, the project will appear in your left column Project List and the "Join" button under the Project has changed to "Joined".



Click the left column “African Carder Bee monitoring Project” and you will see all of the uploaded records for this Project. The first view is called the “Timeline” view (arrowed). This view shows you one record per screen.



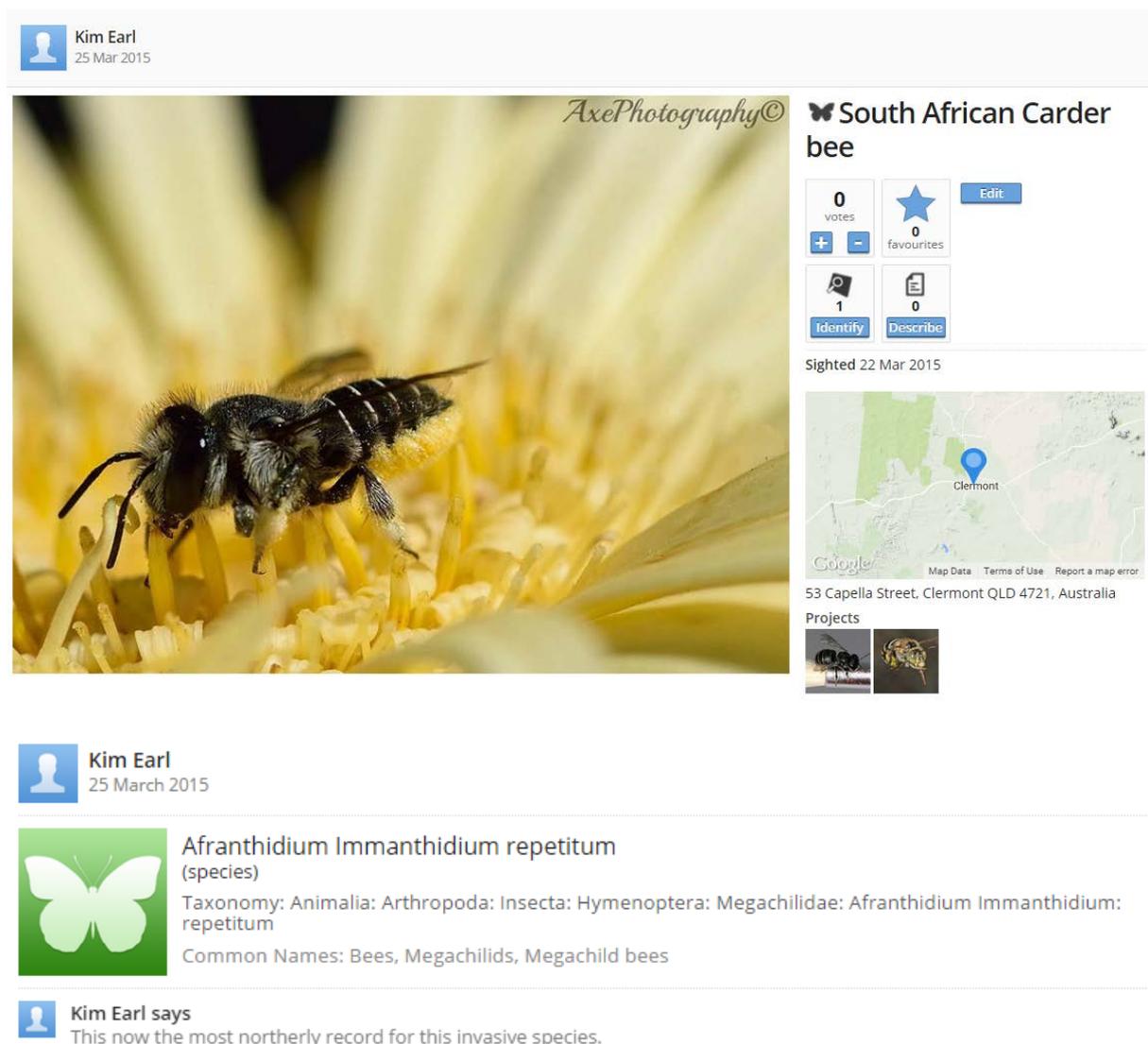
Click the “Sightings” mode and you will see about 9 records per screen.



In the Sightings view mode, you can see that 3 different authors have uploaded 3 different records: Kim Earl, Christine and Jessica Baumann



If you click on the TITLE name for any record, then you will open and see the entire record:

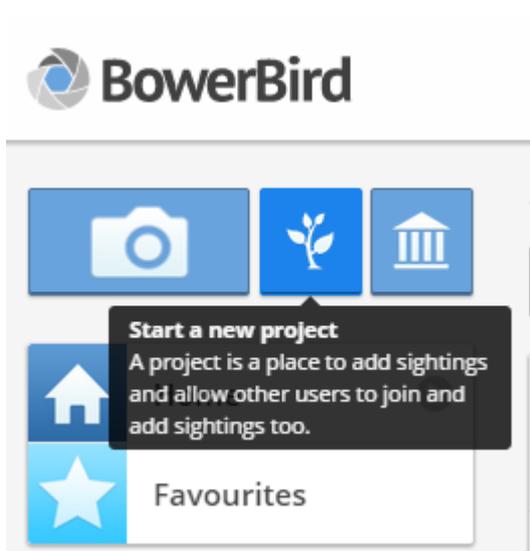


I went back and joined a few more Projects – some big and some small.

The Australian Bees, Mammals, Plants, Insects and Reptiles are all big projects while the Montmorency Sugar Glider project is small. Now, I will see any records uploaded to any of the below Projects I have joined.



You can create your own project by Click the “leaf” like button on the top left corner.



Below is all the information you need to add to create a new Project. (This is just a fake one!)

Add a project by filling in the details below.

Avatar



Change

Name Required

Categories Required

Select the categories of sightings your project will contain

Website

Add a link to your project's existing website

Description

Describe your project so that others can easily find it and (hopefully) join.

Heading Background Image



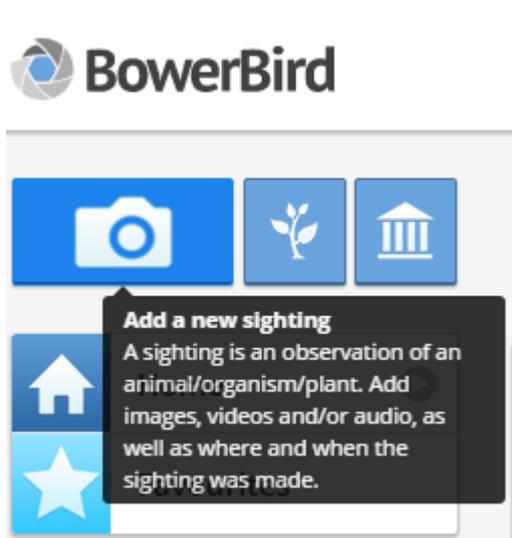
Change

Give your project some character by customising the heading background image.

Cancel **Save**

Adding a new record.

To add a new record, click the camera button in the top left corner:



This will open the below template in which there are 6 items to fill.

Add a sighting by filling in the details below. Additionally, you can identify the sighting and add descriptions and tags.

Media Required

Upload your media files, or import from other websites.

1. Add Images, Videos and Audio

2. Title Required

3. Locality/Address

4. Category Required

5. Date Sighted Required

6. Projects

Expand Map Centre Pin Map Satellite

Coordinates None Edit Coordinates

Here is the first image I was to upload. It is a caterpillar that was photographed at Pie Creek, Queensland on 10 March 2015.

This is all the information I need to add a new record to BowerBird.

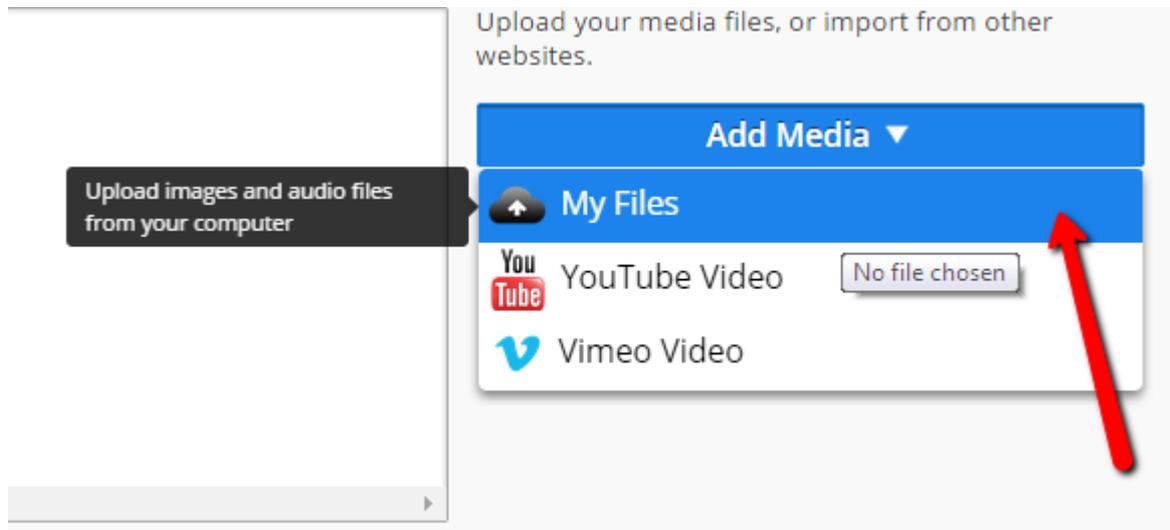
The name of the image file is: Olene.jpg



Step 1. Find the image file I was to upload.

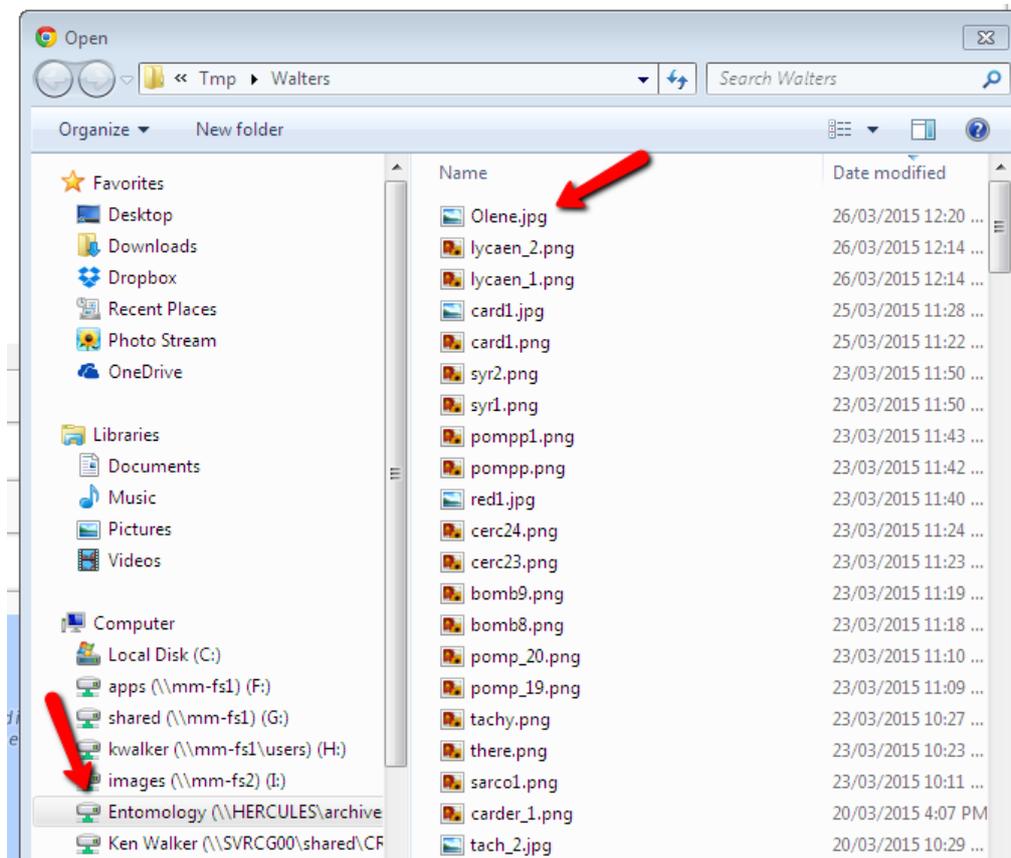
Click the “Add Media” line and

Click “My Files”



The file occurs in my “Entomology” folder and arrowed is the file name: Olene.jpg.

You can highlight it and click Open or simply double click the file.

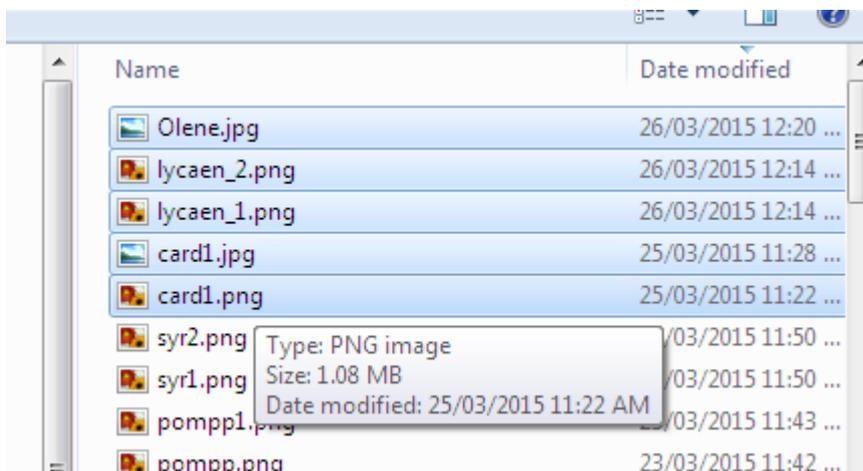


The image file gets uploaded into BowerBird:

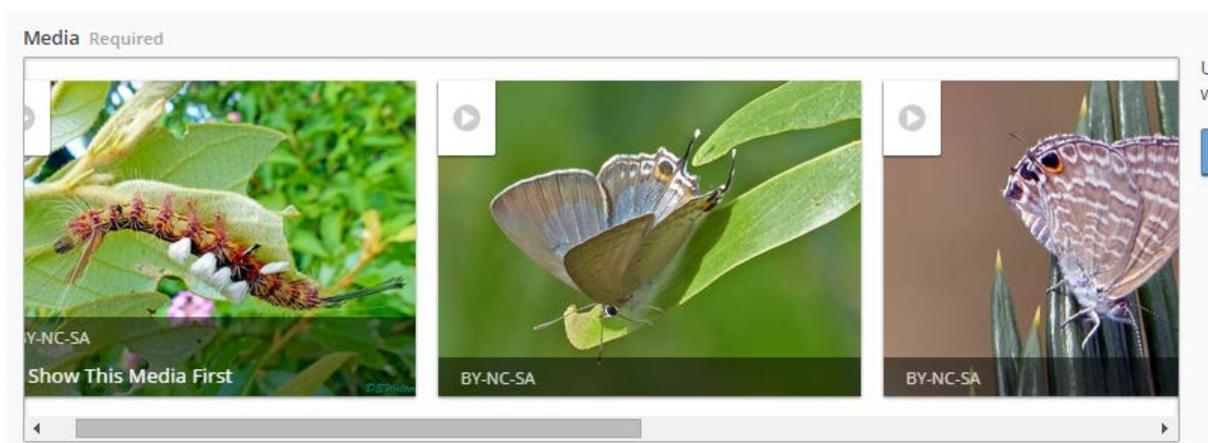


TIP:

You can upload multiple images at the same time by highlighting the images you want to upload. BowerBird will allow you to upload 20 images per single record

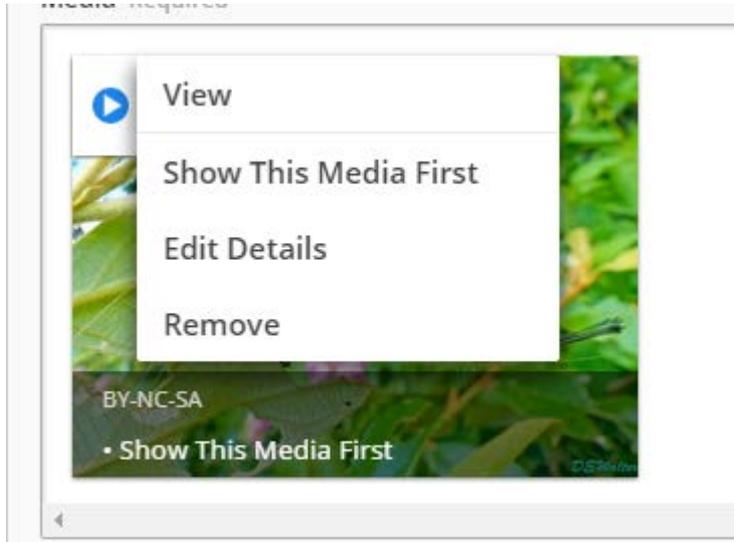


Here are some of the above highlighted images now loaded into BowerBird

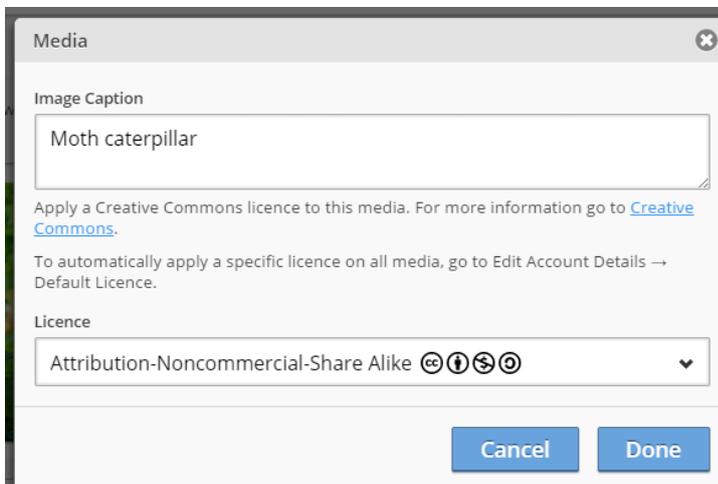


If you click the blue arrow button on each image, you can:

- If you have uploaded multiple images, you can select which single image you want to show as the main image. Click the blue arrow on the image and click the “Show This Media first” button
- Add text to the file – see below where I have add “Moth caterpillar” text
- Remove image

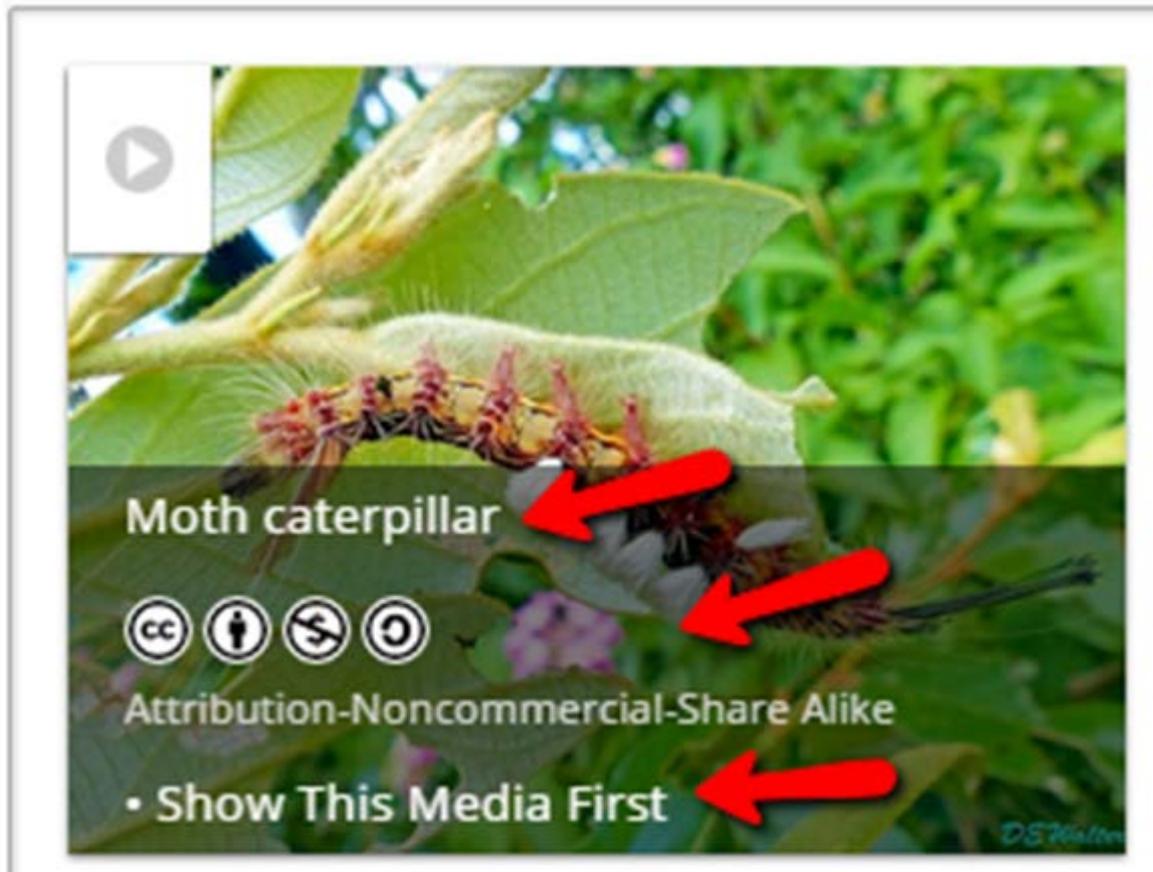


Here is some text I have added to the image file



The uploaded image now shows-

- Added text – Moth caterpillar
- Copyright statement – default is the Creative Commons 3.0 license
- This image will be shown as the main record image



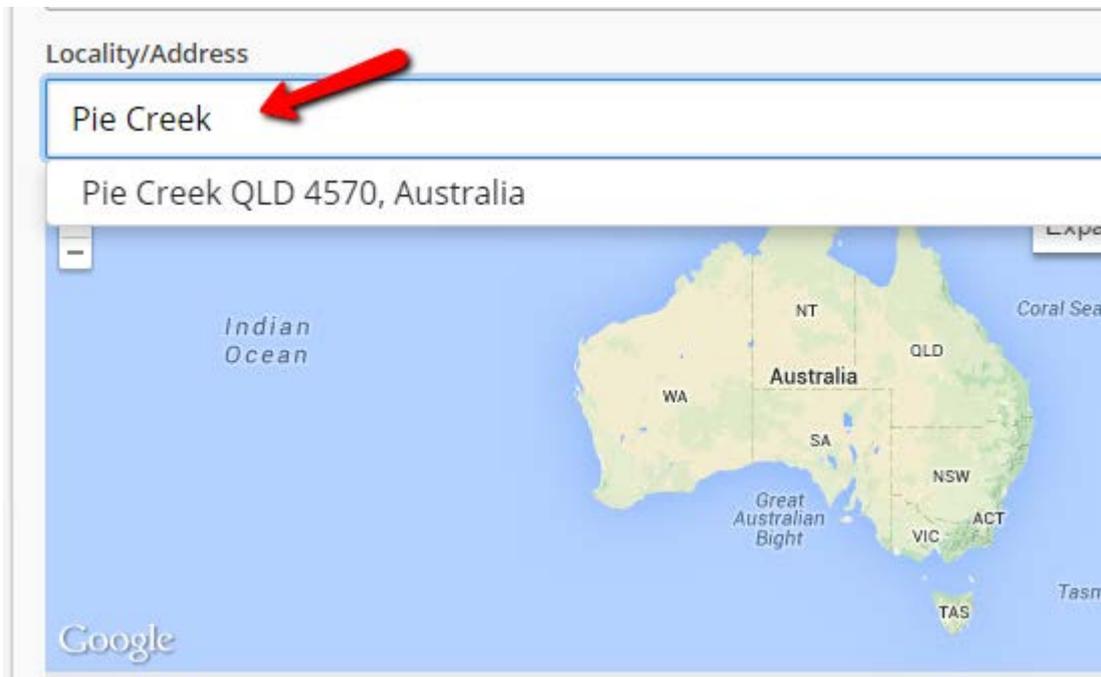
Step 2. Add a title

Title Required

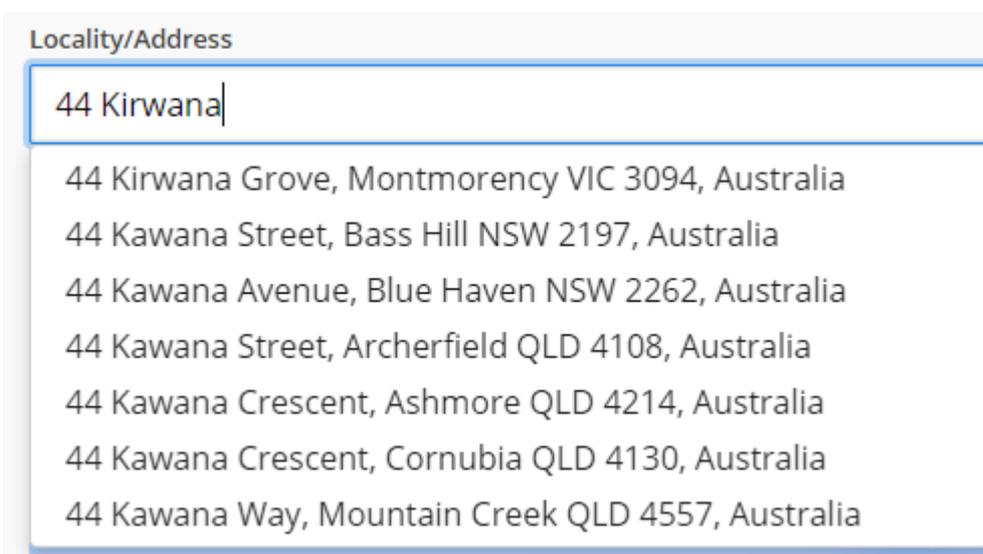
Moth caterpillar

Step 3. Add a GPS. There are several ways you can do this:

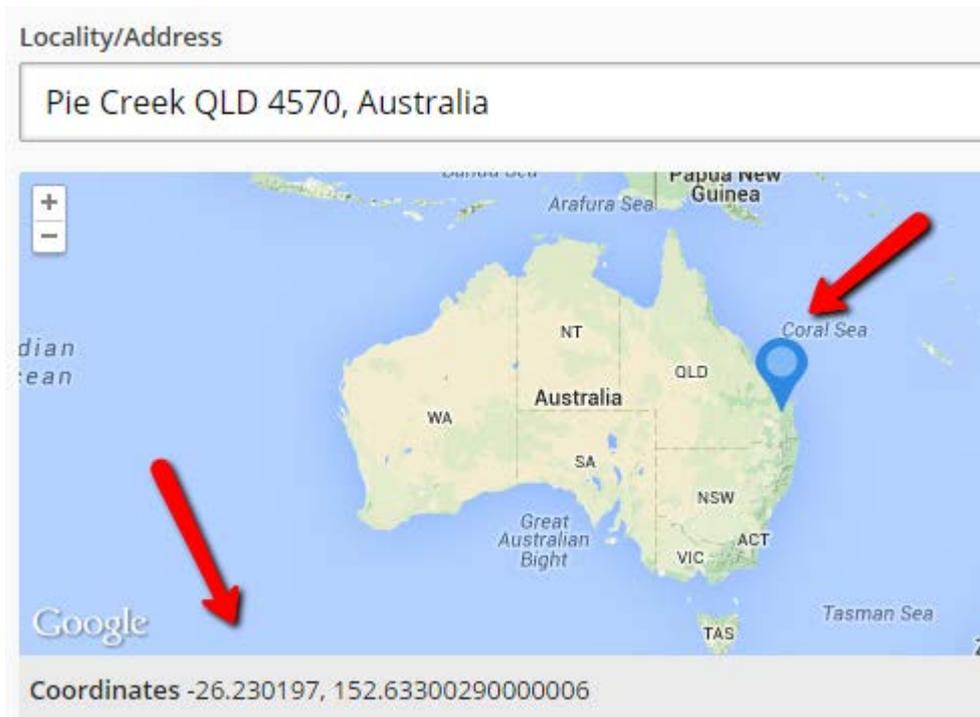
- A. Search for an address. Type in the address and you will be offered options. Select the option that best suits your address



Here is an example of me searching for my home address at 44 Kirwana Grove Montmorency 3094. I have only typed in "44 Kirwana" and I was offered the below options to select from.



After I select the “Pie Creek QLD 4570, Australia” option, a blue marker is added to the map and the GPS coordinates are shown below the map.



If I click the “Edit Coordinates” blue button, then I can add the GPS manually



I could have typed in the decimal degree coordinates

Lat/Long (Decimal Degrees) Lat/Long (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds) UTM

Latitude and longitude in decimals

Enter the latitude and longitude in decimal degrees and click check to ensure they are valid.

Latitude Longitude

-26.230197 152.63300290000006

Check

Or typed in the Degrees, Minutes and Seconds

Location Coordinates ✕



Coordinates -26.230197, 152.63300290000006

Latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds
Enter the latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds and click check to ensure they are valid.

Latitude Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Direction
<input type="text" value="26"/>	<input type="text" value="13"/>	<input type="text" value="48.71"/>	<input type="text" value="S"/>

Longitude Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Direction
<input type="text" value="152"/>	<input type="text" value="37"/>	<input type="text" value="58.81"/>	<input type="text" value="E"/>

Or, I could have typed in the UTM coordinates.

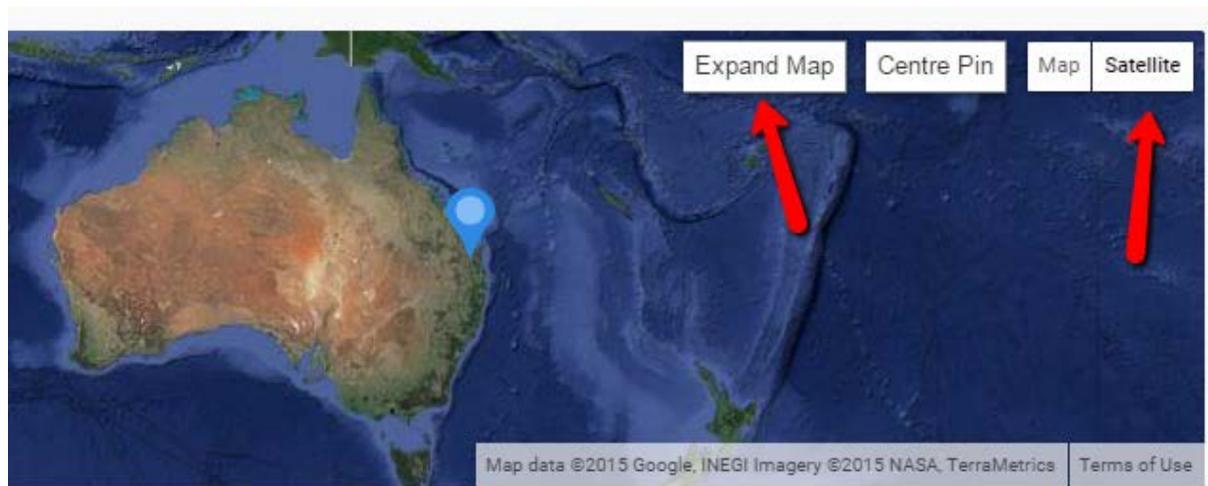
UTM coordinates
Enter all the UTM coordinates below and click check to ensure they are valid.

Easting	Northing	Zone	Hemisphere
<input type="text" value="463343.5096294"/>	<input type="text" value="7098771.004624"/>	<input type="text" value="56"/>	<input type="text" value="South"/>

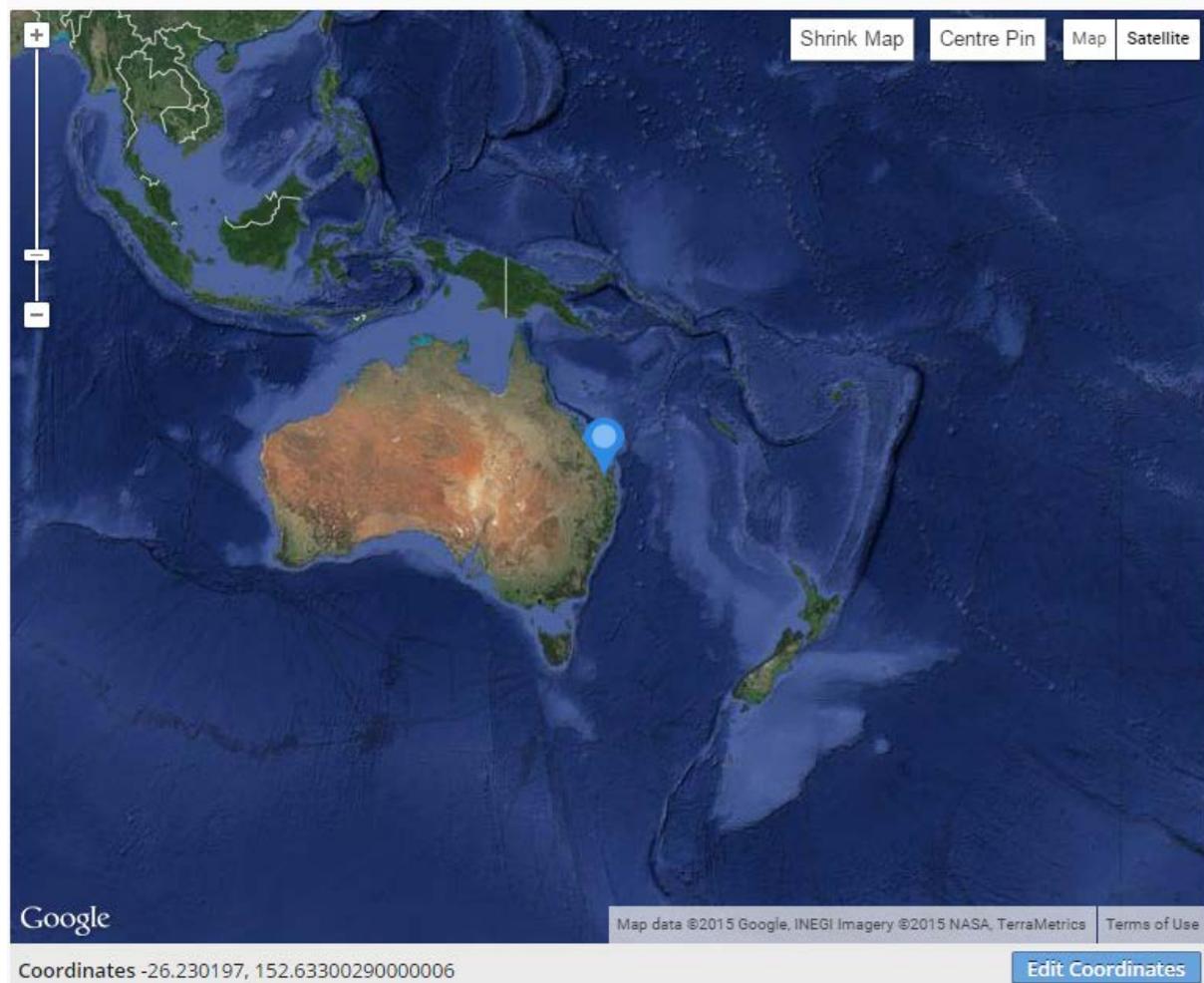
Any of these options will work.

On the map itself, you can manually move the marker pin.

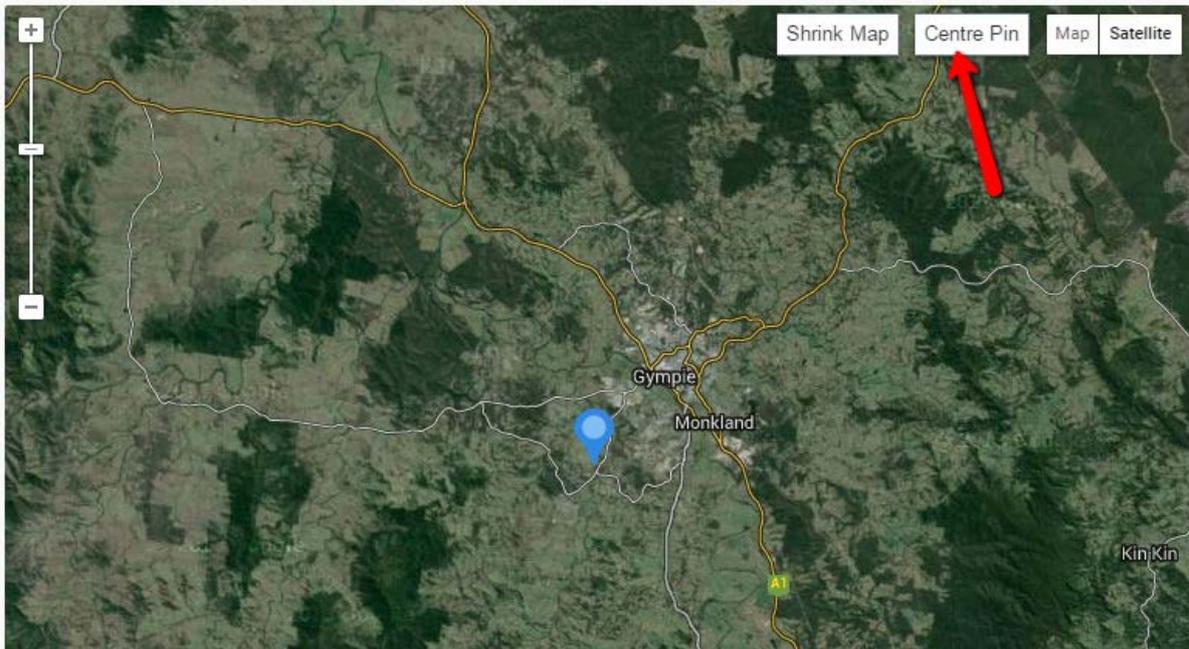
Click the “Satellite” option and “Expand Map” option:



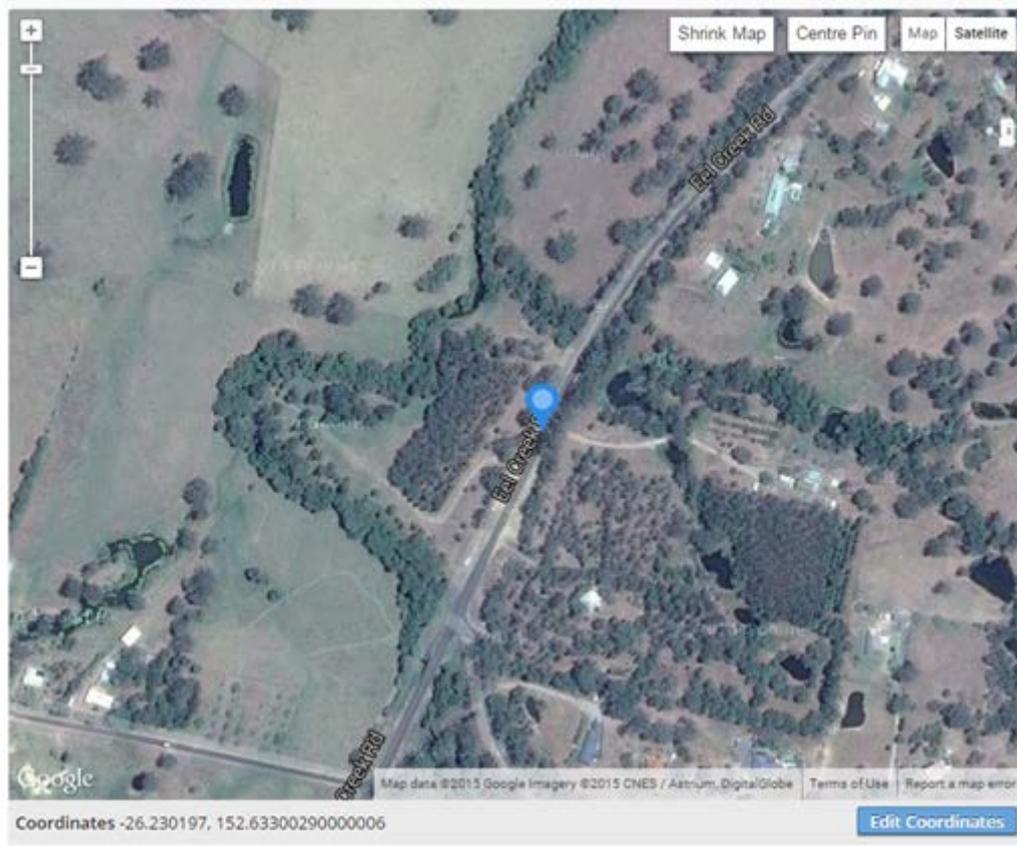
Which open the map up like this. You can then increase the scale of the map by using the slide bar in the top left corner of the map or using your mouse scroll wheel.



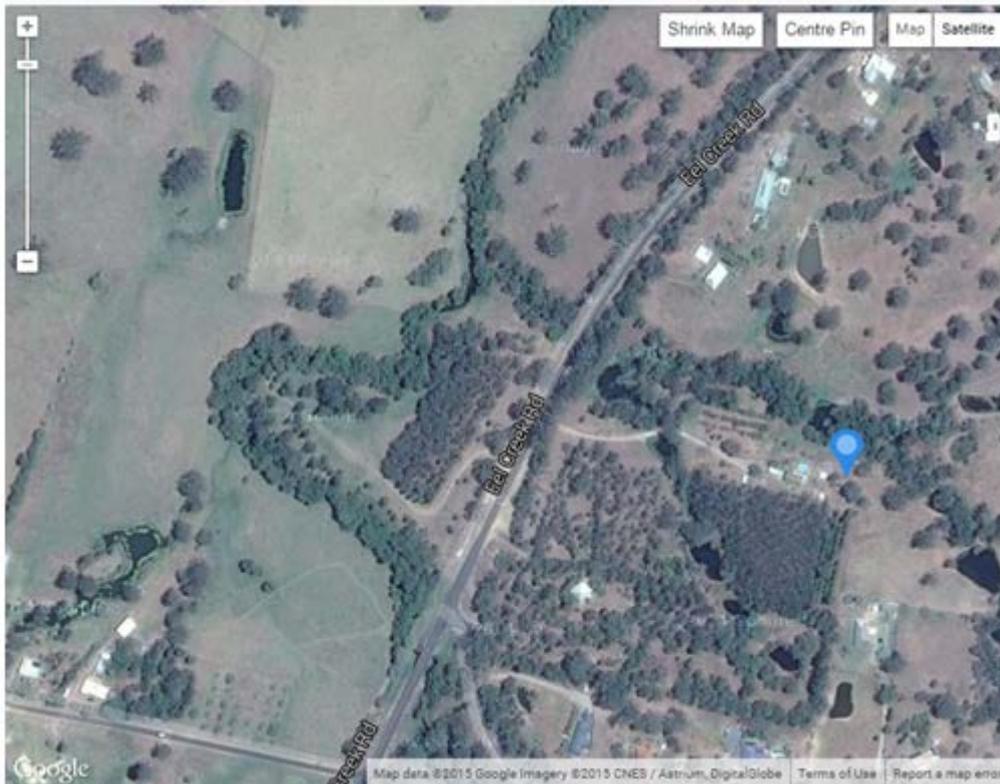
When increasing the scale of the map, the blue pin marker will disappear. However, you can re-centre the map at any time by clicking the “Centre Pin” option.



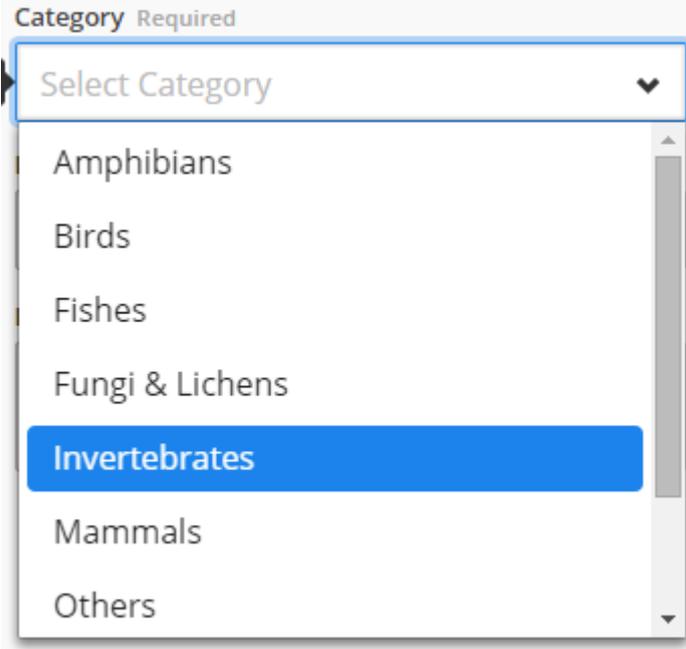
This scaled up map now shows where the blue marker has been placed



You can put your mouse on the blue marker, click and hold down the mouse button and drag the blue marker to anywhere on the map then release the mouse button.

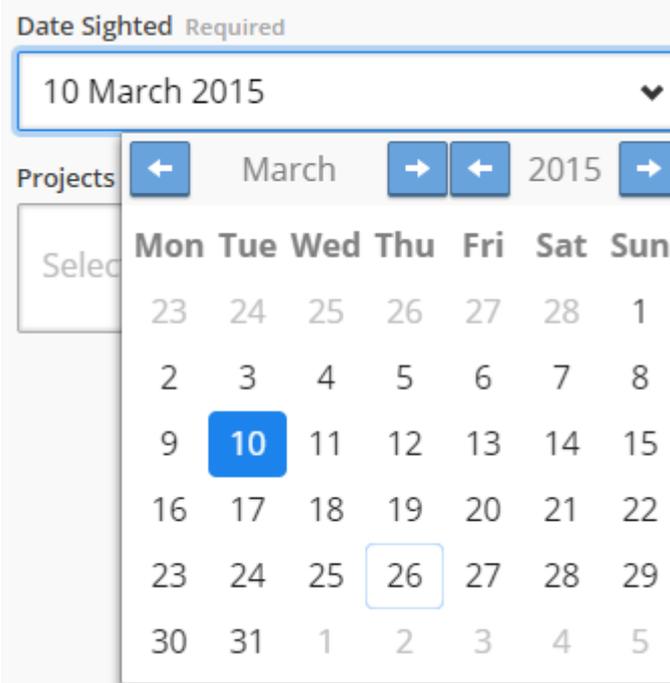


Step 4. Add a Category. Select the appropriate animal or plant category. In this case, the moth is an “Invertebrate”



A screenshot of a web form field labeled "Category Required". The field is a dropdown menu with a blue border. The text "Select Category" is visible at the top of the dropdown, followed by a downward arrow. Below the dropdown, a list of categories is displayed: Amphibians, Birds, Fishes, Fungi & Lichens, Invertebrates, Mammals, and Others. The "Invertebrates" option is highlighted with a blue background.

Step 5. Add a date: You can change the day, month or year.

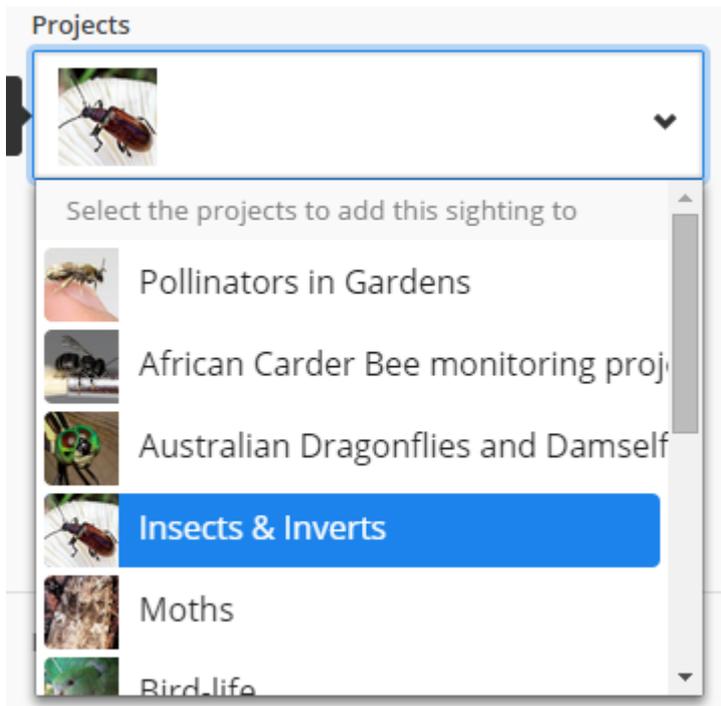


A screenshot of a web form field labeled "Date Sighted Required". The field is a date picker showing "10 March 2015" with a downward arrow. Below the date picker, a calendar is displayed. The calendar shows the month of March 2015. The days of the week are listed as Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun. The date 10 is highlighted in blue. The date 26 is also highlighted with a blue border. The calendar grid shows the following dates:

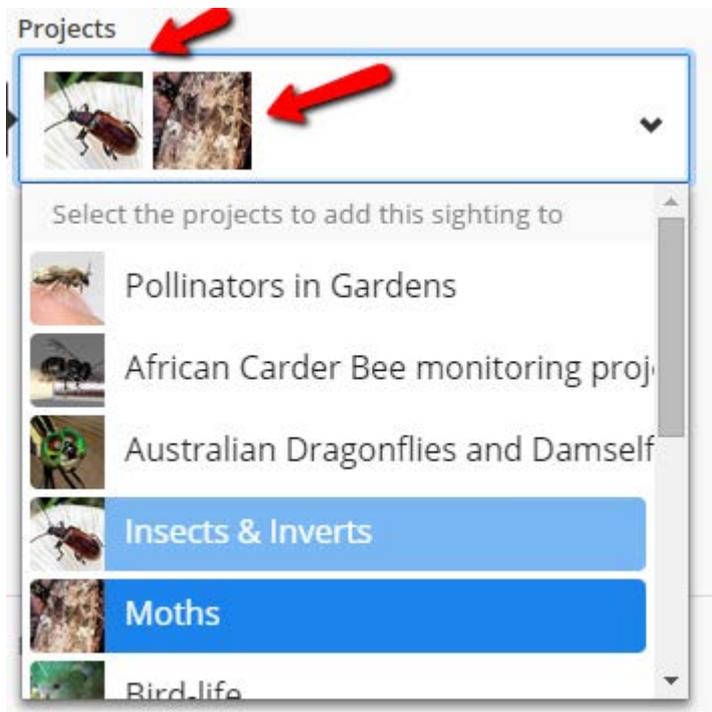
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Step 6. I want to add this record to two BowerBird projects: Insects and Moths.

Added to Insects & Inverts Project



Then added to Moths Project



Before Clicking the Save button, just recheck all 6 items have been completed.

Add a sighting by filling in the details below. Additionally, you can identify the sighting and add descriptions and tags.

Media Required

Upload your media files, or import from other websites.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Expand Map Centre Pin Map Satellite

Coordinates -26.23058196096767, 152.63555636298224

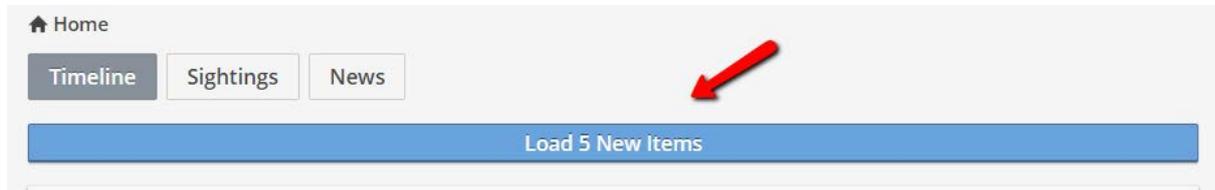
Edit Coordinates

Then click the Save button:

Is there something more you'd like to add? Add a detailed description or some tags.

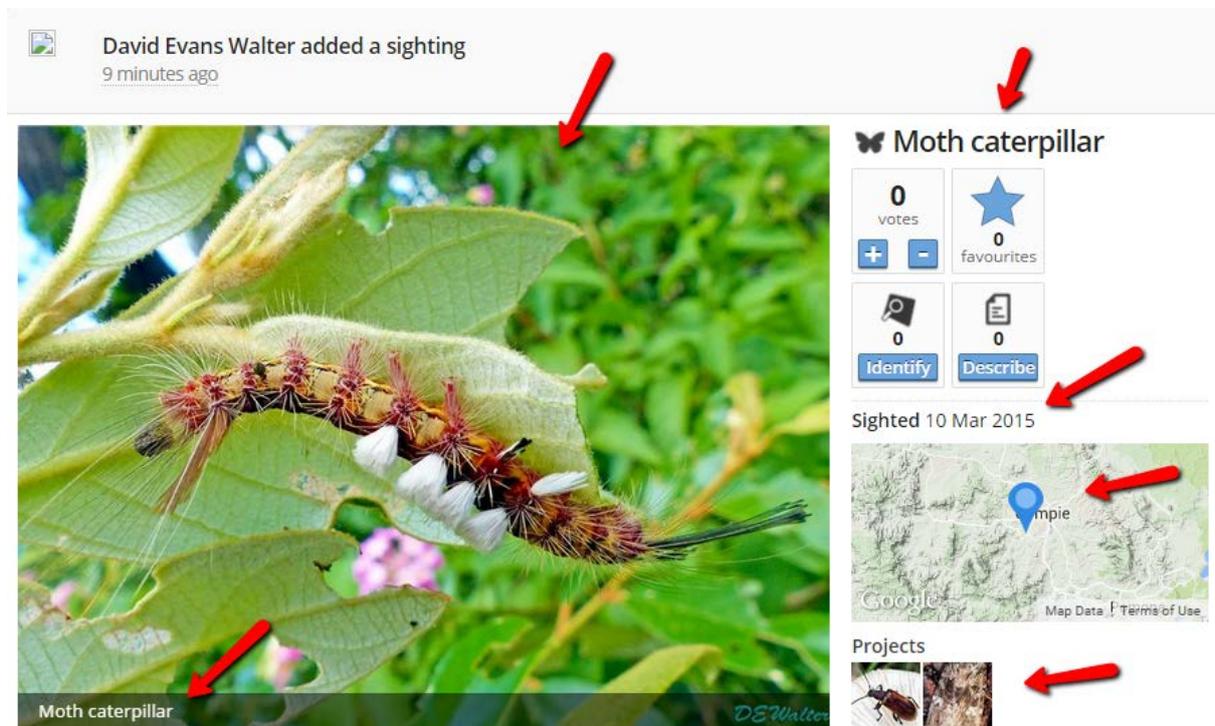
Save

Initially, the record is added to any new items that have been added to your project list while you were adding your new record. When you click this blue bar, all 5 new records will be shown:



Here is the new record. Note it has:

- An image
- The image has the text "Moth caterpillar"
- A title
- A date
- A location
- Added to two projects



Congratulations !! You have added a new record.

In the Sightings view mode, you can see that some of the additional 4 records added while we were adding our moth record included a Red-rumped parrot record (added because we joined the “Bird” project) and a Labdia moth record (added because we joined the “Moth” project) had also been added about the same time as the moth caterpillar. Notice all three records have different authors.

The screenshot shows a web interface for a sightings log. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Timeline', 'Sightings' (selected), and 'News'. On the right, there are search and sorting options: 'Search', 'Latest Added', and two grid icons. Below the navigation, three sighting records are displayed in a grid. Each record includes the author's name, a red arrow pointing to it, the species name, a photograph, and a set of interaction icons (likes, stars, reports, shares, comments).

- Record 1:** Author: Anna Lanigan (indicated by a red arrow). Species: Red-rumped parrot. Image: A photograph of a green and red parrot. Interaction icons: 1 like, 0 stars, 1 report, 0 shares, 0 comments.
- Record 2:** Author: David Evans Walter (indicated by a red arrow). Species: Moth caterpillar. Image: A photograph of a caterpillar on a leaf. Interaction icons: 0 likes, 0 stars, 0 reports, 0 shares, 0 comments.
- Record 3:** Author: Graeme Cocks (indicated by a red arrow). Species: Labdia sp. GC11. Image: A photograph of a moth. Interaction icons: 0 likes, 0 stars, 1 report, 0 shares, 0 comments.

To identity your record or anyone else's record just click the "Identify" blue button.

David Evans Walter
26 Mar 2015



Moth caterpillar

Moth caterpillar

0 votes
+ -

0 favourites
★

0
Identify

0
Describe

Edit

Sighted 10 Mar 2015



LOT 15 Eel Creek Road, 295 Eel Creek Road, Pie Creek QLD 4570, Australia

Projects



And then click the "Identify the Sighting blue bar"

2 Identify 0 Describe

Sighted 10 Mar 2015



Projects

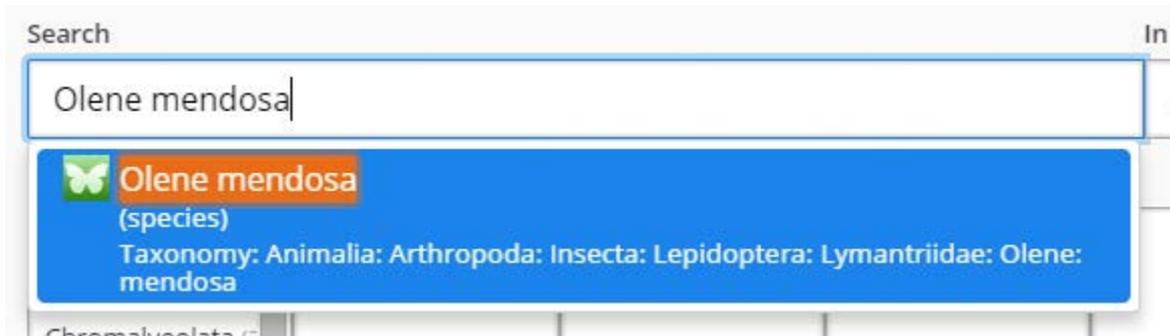


Identify the sighting by searching for the species, or entering the details.

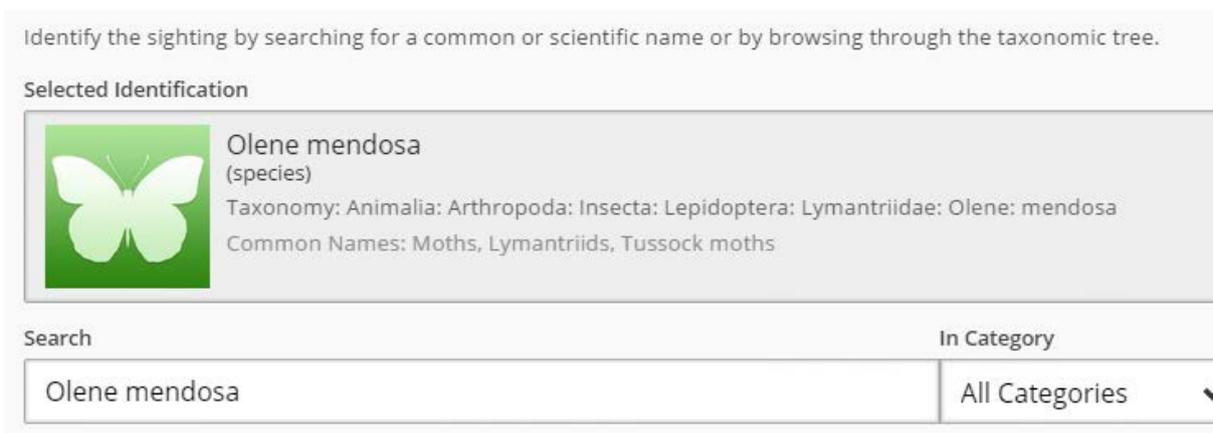
Identify the Sighting

The moth's scientific name is *Olene mendosa*. There are two ways to identify this moth.

Method 1. Simply type in the scientific name. If the name appears in the box below, then click it



The name will then appear in the box above the name typed in but now it has its full classification and common names.



If you just type in the genus name, you will be offered a selection of all species names associated with the generic name. If you want to identify to species, then select the appropriate species:

Search

Olene

-  **Olene**
(genus)
Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae:
Olene
-  **Olene** cookiensis
(species)
Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae:
Olene: cookiensis
-  **Olene** dryina
(species)
Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae:
Olene: dryina
-  **Olene mendosa**
(species)
Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae:
Olene: mendosa
-  **Olene** camptus
(genus)
Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Coleoptera: Cerambycidae:
Olene camptus

Method 2. Using the classification system provided:

I selected:

- Animalia then
- Arthropoda then
- Insecta then
- Lepidoptera then
- Lymantriidae then
- Olene then
- mendosa finally!

I could have stopped at any one of those stages such as “Lepidoptera”, if I was not sure of the Family or Genus or Species. Someone else may come along and add the remainder of the identification.

Identification

Identify the sighting by searching for a common or scientific name or by browsing through the taxonomic tree.

Selected Identification

 **Olene mendosa**
(species)
Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae: Olene: mendosa
Common Names: Moths, Lymantriids, Tussock moths

Search In Category: All Categories ▼ In Field: All Names ▼

Browse

Animalia (120826)	Acanthocephala (2)	Arachnida (7752)	Ephemeroptera (1)	Limacodidae (70)	Lymantriidae (83)	Olene (3)	cookiensis
Bacteria (551)	Annelida (2363)	Branchiopoda (305)	Hemiptera (5868)	Lophocoronidae (1)	Lycaenidae (304)	Leptocneria (2)	dryina
Chromalveolata (2)	Arthropoda (86094)	Chilopoda (167)	Hymenoptera (121)	Lycaenidae (304)	Lymantria (11)	Lymantria (11)	mendosa
Chromista (4742)	Brachiopoda (61)	Diplopoda (475)	Isoptera (273)	Lyonetiidae (42)	Macropiridae (1)	Oligeria (1)	
Fungi (8037)	Bryozoa (931)	Entognatha (462)	Lepidoptera (1093)	Macropiridae (1)	Micropterigidae (3)	Orgyia (3)	
Plantae (72002)	Cephalorhyncha (4)	Insecta (68890)	Mantodea (114)	Micropterigidae (3)			
Protozoa (1328)	Chaetognatha (19)	Malacostraca (626)	Mecoptera (32)				

Cancel Done

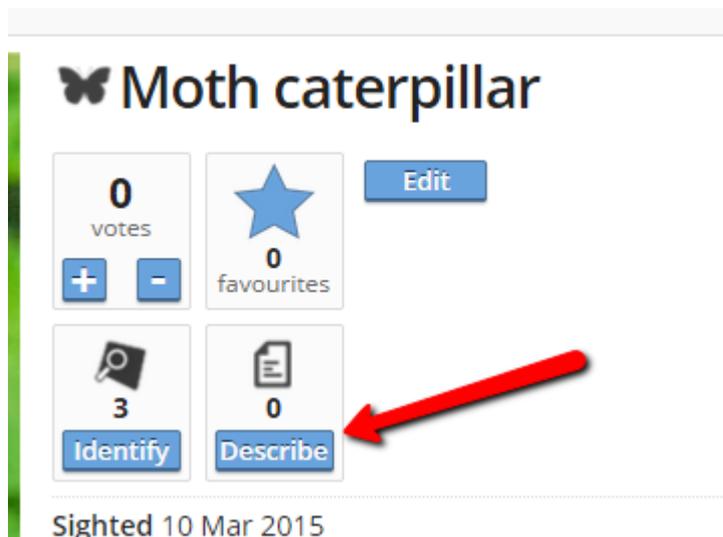
This identification is then added to the record as:

 **Olene mendosa**
(species)
Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae: Olene: mendosa
Common Names: Moths, Lymantriids, Tussock moths

I now also want to add this “Comment” to the record:

This rather large and attractive tussock moth caterpillar was eating one of the local Red Ash (*Alphitonia excelsa*). It seems to be a larva of the Brown Tussock Moth *Olene mendosa* Hubner, 1823. Pie Creek, Qld, 10 March 2015.

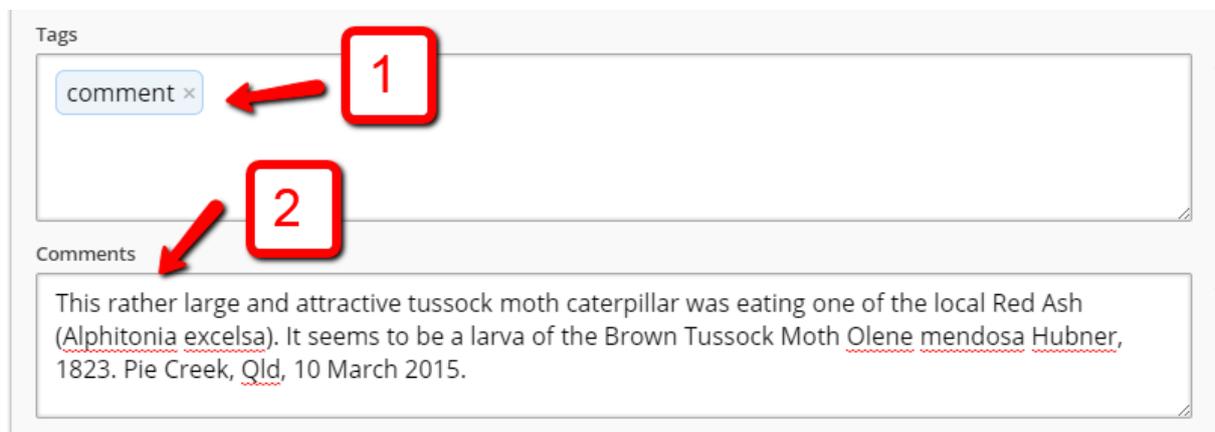
To add a comment, you click the “Describe” button:



After you click the “Describe” button, below the image will appear two new boxes:

- Tags
- Comments

You add a tag (eg. comment) and you add a Comment. NOTE: You must add a Tag to save your comment.



This is then added to the record.

Tagged With

comment



David Evans Walter says

This rather large and attractive tussock moth caterpillar was eating one of the local Red Ash (*Alphitonia excelsa*). It seems to be a larva of the Brown Tussock Moth *Olene mendosa* Hubner, 1823. Pie Creek, Qld, 10 March 2015.

So, the record now contains:

- An image
- A title
- A date
- A category
- A GPS
- Is assigned to two projects
- Is identified
- Has a tag and a comment

What a rich and informative image !!

Here is a TIP:

No matter where you are in BowerBird, you can always “start again” or return to the “Home page” by clicking the BowerBird button in the top left corner of every page:

The screenshot displays the BowerBird website interface. At the top left, the BowerBird logo is visible, with a red arrow pointing to it. The navigation menu includes 'Sightings', 'Projects', 'People', and 'Organisations', along with a search box. The user profile 'David Evans Walter' is shown in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Sighting'. The main content area features a sighting entry by David Evans Walter, dated 26 Mar 2015. The entry includes a large photograph of a moth caterpillar on a leaf. To the right of the photo, the title 'Moth caterpillar' is displayed, along with statistics: 0 votes, 0 favourites, 3 identify actions, and 2 describe actions. An 'Edit' button is also present. Below the statistics, the sighting date is 'Sighted 10 Mar 2015'. A map shows the location in Pomona, Australia, with a blue pin. The address is 'LOT 15 Eel Creek Road, 295 Eel Creek Road, Pie Creek QLD 4570, Australia'. A 'Projects' section at the bottom right shows two small thumbnail images of insects.

Searching on BowerBird

Only when in the “Sightings” view mode, can you do a search of BowerBird records.

If you are on the “Home” page, then the search will be across ALL BowerBird records.

If you are within a Project, then the search will be only across that Project’s records.

When in the Sightings view mode, click the “Search” button and Type in a Common or Scientific name. You can also use the Classification method or ask for a scientific name:

Below, I have asked across all BowerBird records for the genus *Olene* which returned 3 records.

The screenshot displays the BowerBird search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Olene" entered. A red arrow points to the search bar. To the right of the search bar are dropdown menus for "In Field" (set to "All Fields") and "Category" (set to "All Categories"). A "Go" button is located to the right of the "In Field" dropdown. Below the search bar is a "Browse" section with a list of taxonomic categories: Animalia (18387), Bacteria (2), Chromalveolata, Chromista (5), Fungi (845), Plantae (1268), and Protozoa (4). A "Start New Search" button is located below the "Browse" section. Below the search interface are three record cards. The first card is titled "Moth caterpillar" and features a photograph of a caterpillar on a leaf. The second card is titled "Olene cookiensis" and features a photograph of a moth. The third card is titled "Olene mendosa" and features a photograph of a moth. Each card includes a user profile picture and name, a butterfly icon, and a set of interaction icons (wave, star, speech bubble, document, comment) with associated counts.

Here I asked for any common name that has the word "Red" anywhere in the name. Many records were returned.

Search In Field

Red All Fields Go

Browse

<p>Red-rumped parrot</p>  <p>1 0 1 0 0</p>	<p>Red Wattlebird</p>  <p>0 0 1 0 0</p>	<p>Leaf Beetle, walking backwa...</p>  <p>0 0 1 1 0</p>
<p>Daniel Heald</p> <p>Xanthagrion erythroneuru...</p>  <p>0 0 2 1 0</p>	<p>Daniel Heald</p> <p>Macrodiplax cora - Wanderi...</p>  <p>0 0 3 2 0</p>	<p>Gippsland Lakes - Mountains to the Sea</p> <p>Heart Morass- Red and Blac...</p>  <p>0 0 1 1 0</p>
<p>Gippsland Lakes - Mountains to the Sea</p> <p>Heart Morass - Red and Blac...</p> 	<p>Anna Lanigan</p> <p>Red-rumped Parrots</p> 	<p>Reiner Richter</p> <p>Red Beetle in Wet Gully</p> 

Finally, Voting on BowerBird.

Anyone can Vote for any record. The BowerBird records with the top 20 number of Votes are the images shown on the homepage. The snake image remain the top most voted record.

Moth caterpillar



1 votes	 0 favourites	Edit
 		
 3	 2	
Identify	Describe	

 BowerBird A place to share and discuss Australia's biodiversity. Join BowerBird	
--	---

Soon after I uploaded the hairy caterpillar record, Ken Harris identified it as the Painted Apple Moth.

The Painted Apple Moth is close but as you can see, it is missing the white tuft of hair near the front of the body so it is a different species.



I added (under the name of David Evans Walter) the correct name. Note: Another person added the correct family name Lymantriidae.

You cannot remove an identification but you can Vote up or down for an identification.

When ALA uploads this record, it will take the identification with the most number of votes.

 Ken Harris 26 March 2015		-1 votes <input type="button" value="+"/> <input type="button" value="-"/>
 Teia anartoides (species) Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae: Teia: anartoides Common Names: Moths, Lymantriids, painted apple moth, Painted Apple Moth		
 Graeme Cocks 26 March 2015		0 votes <input type="button" value="+"/> <input type="button" value="-"/>
 Lymantriidae (family) Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae		
 David Evans Walter 26 March 2015		1 votes <input type="button" value="+"/> <input type="button" value="-"/>
 Olene mendosa (species) Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae: Olene: mendosa Common Names: Moths, Lymantriids, Tussock moths		

Hopefully, this introduction to BowerBird will provide you with enough information to get you using BowerBird and adding records from your local area and from your travels.

Don't be afraid to add an image that you have no idea what it is.

Here is an example of a black and white pupal case.



🦋 Egg sac of this unknown (to me) beetle?

0 votes
+ -

0 favourites
★

1 Identify

2 Describe

Sighted 19 Mar 2015



30-64 Paula Road, South Maclean QLD 4280, Australia

Projects

I later identified it as an ichneumonid wasp pupal case and everyone learnt something new.:

 **Ken Walker**
24 March 2015

 **Hyposoter**
(genus)
Taxonomy: Animalia: Arthropoda: Insecta: Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae: Hyposoter

If you have any questions or problems or suggestion, please email me at:

kwalker@museum.vic.gov.au

Good luck and Happy BowerBirding

Ken Walker

26 March 2015