

Pest Free Kaipatiki - Citizen Scientist Volunteers - iNaturalist User Guide

PFK iNaturalist user guide for exploring biodiversity



Learning to love and protect New Zealand's wildlife

To help protect our plants, insects, birds, geckos, freshwater fish and other native biodiversity, Pest Free Kaipatiki is encouraging people to use the iNaturalist phone app or desktop system to explore their local surroundings and photograph living things.

Note: iNaturalist used to be called NatureWatch for the desktop version. All versions now have the same name iNaturalist

What is iNaturalist?

iNaturalistNZ is the NZ version of a system developed in the US and adapted for NZ.


It allows citizen scientists to report plants, birds and other items in nature by taking a photo and recording details of the item. The system has special software that can try to identify the item from the photo for you. In addition, there are many experts who are passionate about certain creatures, use the system and who may look at the photo to confirm your identification.

Using iNaturalist

Signing up via a web browser

To sign up as a new **iNaturalist user**, go to <https://www.inaturalist.org/> and click on "Sign up"

Either sign in with your Google, Facebook, etc login OR enter a Login/Username, email address and password and select your timezone as shown below.
Click on "I'm Not a Robot" and "Sign up".



Join iNaturalist.org!

Login / username

Email


Password

Password confirmation

Your default time zone
All your observations will default to this time zone unless you specify otherwise.


☒ Yes, license my photos, sounds & observations so scientists can use my data!
Check this box if you want to apply a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial license](#) to your photos. You can choose a different license or remove the license later, but this is the best license for sharing with researchers.

☒ I'm not a robot


reCAPTCHA
[Privacy](#) · [Terms](#)

Or you can...

Or if you are already an iNaturalist member simply login:



Username or email

Password

☐ Remember me

[Sign in!](#) or [Start a new account >](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)

Or you can...

[Sign in with Facebook](#)

[Sign in with Twitter](#)

[Sign in with Flickr](#)

[Sign in with Google](#)

[Sign in with Yahoo](#)

[Sign in with SoundCloud](#)

[If you already have an iNat account...](#)

Adding observations to iNaturalist from your mobile device

If you don't already have the app, take the following steps to download it:

- Go to www.iNaturalist.org and scroll to the bottom of the page.
- Click on the **Google Play** or the **Apple App Store** button to initiate the download.
- When the iNaturalist option comes up, click on the **INSTALL** button and follow the instructions to complete installation.

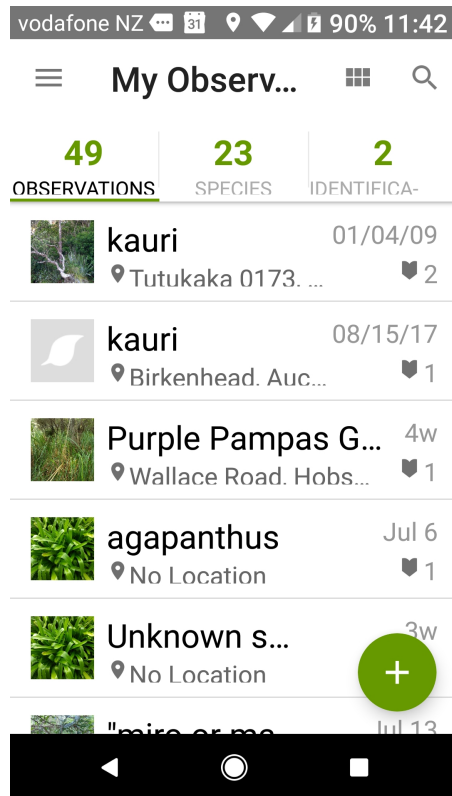


Open the iNaturalist app

If you are not already registered you can do so via the app by selecting the Sign Up button.

If you are not already logged in, select the login button and enter your details.

If you have already recorded some observations, these will be displayed (although they may take a few minutes to load)



To add an observation, select the green plus “+” sign button and select one of the following options:

- **Take Photo** (you can add several photos)
- **Choose Image** (if you have already taken the photo)
- **Choose sound** (if you have recorded a clear sound of an animal)
- **Record Sound** (to start recording the clear sound of an animal)
- **No Photo** (not recommended unless you are 100% certain of the identification and it is a common species)

If you choose “Take Photo”, it will access your camera to take a photo (you may need to allow the app to open the camera).

Once you have taken a good photo, select the tick “✓” button (or retake it).

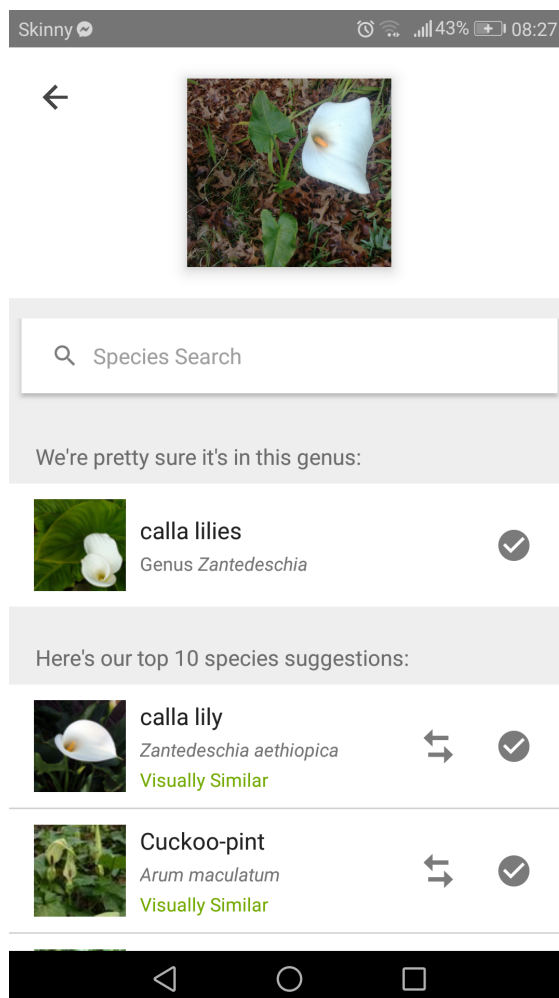
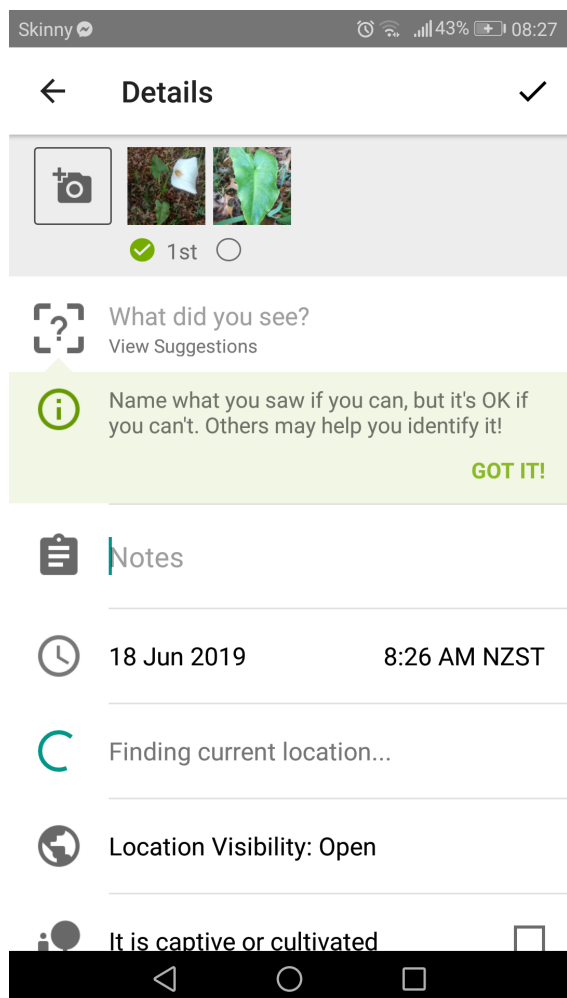
After you’ve added the first photos, you can take and add more - photos from different angles are best for identification.

After taking or adding a photo, the **Details** screen will appear.

NOTE:

- The examples below were written to record climbing asparagus, but this could be an insect, fungi, plant or animal.

Enter the data fields as shown in this screenshot and described below.



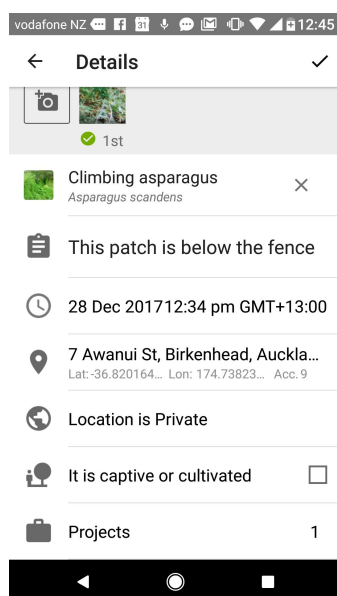
- **"What did you see?"** If you know what the species is, write it down. If not, select the ? question mark "What did you see?" button and so long as you have internet connection, iNaturalist will provide you with suggestions based on the main photo selected (you can try the suggestion on each of your photos). The photo recognition has recently been upgraded and is very powerful, but do your best to get a photo that shows the specimen clearly. If it is a plant, try to have entire leaves, part of the stem and best of all flowers.
- In the **"Notes"** field, enter information that you think may be interesting or useful about the living thing you have seen, such as it's estimated size, the environment it was found (e.g. garden, roadside, bush), or what it was 'doing' (e.g. in flower, eating, flying, swimming). You can also say how confident of your identification or if you used the photo recognition.
- **Check the date and time are correct** - amend if not
- **Check that the coordinates (location) are correct** - If you tap the coordinates, a map will appear showing you the location. Adjust if needed.
 - If you are having issues with the GPS locating where you are, you may need to make sure you give the app permission to use your location for this to work, or make sure your location setting is ON before opening the app.
- By default, the Location Visibility will be **'Open'**. Change this to **'Obscured'** if you want

the exact location of the organism to be hidden from other users, yet will show up somewhere within a wide radius of the true location. Select '**Private**' if you want it hidden from everyone but you.

Note: For certain rare species, such as Gecko, we suggest you never select 'Open' visibility' - instead use 'Obscured'.

You can add the observation to any Projects you have joined, plus some Collections and Umbrella Projects will add your observation automatically.

Check all details are correct on the "Details" screen, then tap the tick "✓" button.



The system will then start saving your report and will upload it to the iNaturalist database when it has access to the internet.

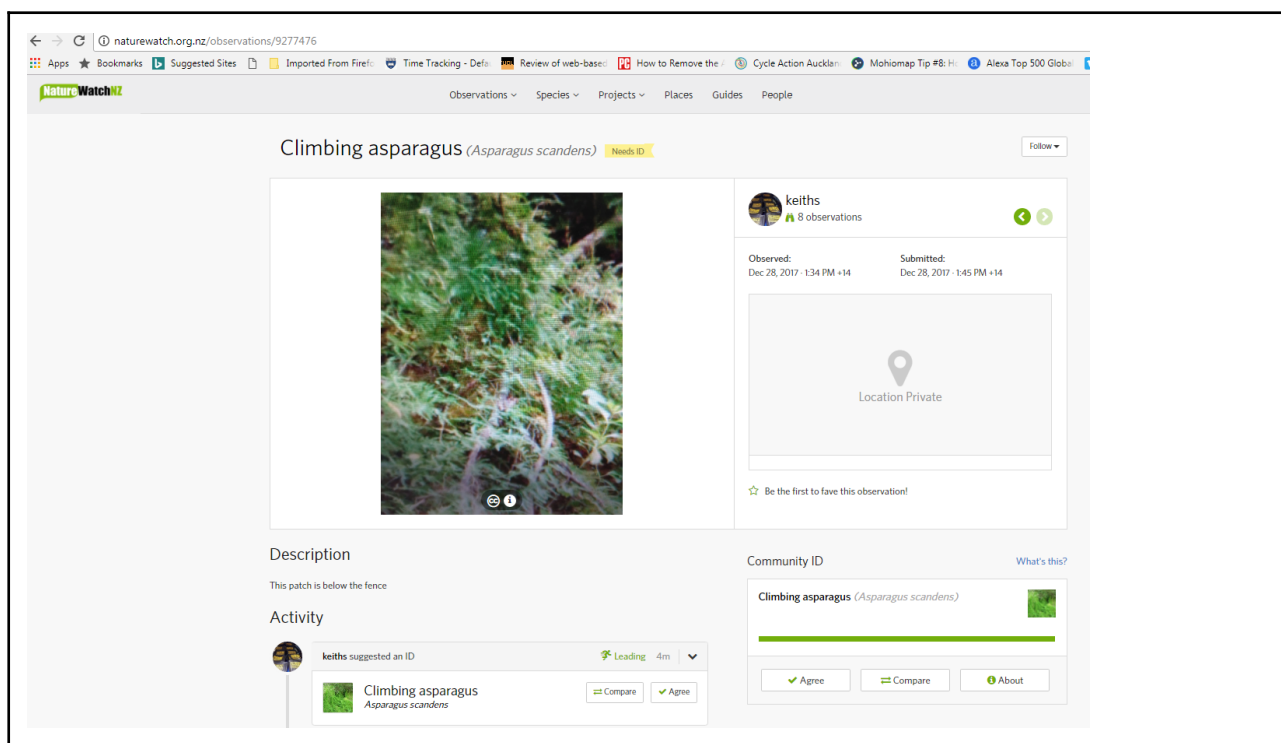
You can now click on the plus "+" sign button to add another observation.

You can edit an existing observation by selecting it, then the pencil icon top right. You can remove an observation, by selecting the pencil icon to edit, then the rubbish bin icon bottom left.

Checking observations and identifications

As you add more observations they will appear in the list and on the map. Overtime, the community of users will confirm, add or amend identifications for your observations. By selecting the menu icon, top left, and then the "Activity" option you can see any changes since you last checked.

You can check this via a web browser on your computer or in the app. Note in the example below, the weed instance has been viewed from another account, so the address and GPS details are hidden as the instance was recorded as private.



- **For Pest Free Kaipātiki Events** - If your GPS is active when you take your observation, then the observation will automatically be added to our running projects. If you want to make sure your observations are being counted, you can join the project on i-Naturalist. To do this, on the computer hover over the community tab, then click "Projects".
- **Search for "Pest Free Kaipātiki" and all of our running projects will show up. Join the project you wish to follow.**
- **Projects that are currently running -**
 - Pest Free Kaipātiki Ecological Monitoring (Run all year, every year)
 - Pest Free Kaipātiki Weed Control Campaign

More information

A comprehensive user guide created by NZBRN Trust is available online here:

http://static.inaturalist.org/wiki_page_attachments/418-original.pdf