

Using iNaturalist at Ngeringa Winery in the Adelaide Hills October 21 2022

iNaturalist is a global data gathering website for scientists (citizen and professional) to capture and record data about living creatures on the planet. The data is stored in the USA and is widely used for scientific study across the globe. The main access point to the data base is through the iNaturalist smartphone app

The expedition was timed to coincide with the increase of insect, plant and bird activity predicted for October.

Expeditioners arrived at the beautiful Ngeringa Winery near the Mt Barker Summit. This winery is run on organic principles, has a reasonable level of biodiversity within its bounds, and is a ten-minute drive to the Mt Barker Summit Reserve.

The expedition was based at the winery cellar door, and the staff had cleared enough of the casks to make a presentation space. It was a very pleasant place to gather.

After morning tea Erin (name), part of owner of the winery, gave an interesting talk about the history, philosophy and farming methods of the Ngeringa Winery. This was followed by a tutorial by Ralph Foster, Collection Manager, Ichthyology Section of the South Australian Museum. He talked to a PowerPoint about the app, with additional information provided by Rose Dow and Steve Donnellan.



A practical session followed, with expeditioners using the app to record plants and other organisms near the cellar door. There was a great deal of peer to peer learning and conversation as people became more confident with the program.



Ngeringa put on a superb lunch, made almost entirely from produce grown on the property, as well supplying their own red and white wine. It was a unique and delicious approach to a buffet.

Following lunch we convoyed to the Mt Barker Summit Reserve where the expeditioners dispersed in three groups to explore and record on and around the Summit, before departing.

Rose Dow. Expedition Leader