

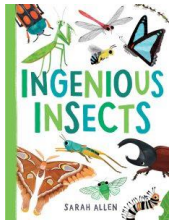
A Bibliography Celebrating the Theme  
**'Decoding the Universe'**  
National Science Week 2025



When we think of the universe we generally think of stars, planets, and the vast infinity of space but a universe can come in many shapes and sizes. To a newborn baby their mother is their entire universe or to a frog their pond. A hollow log, a termite mound, a rainforest, or a coral reef all constitute a universe to the creatures who live there.

This bibliography lists books that look at different universes, from the vastness of space to the wonders of a termite mound.

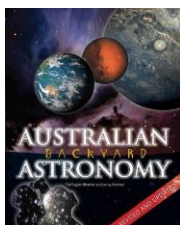
Where available a link is provided to the relevant entry in one of NCACL's databases.



ALLEN, Sarah

*Ingenious Insects*. Affirm Press, 2024. ISBN: 9781923022003

Introduces some of Australia's most interesting insects, their behaviour and habitat. The verse style text highlights twenty-three unique insects, and their life cycles set against Australian flora.



BHATHAL, Ragbir and Bhathal, Jenny

*Australian Backyard Astronomy*. 2nd ed. NAL Publishing, 2018. ISBN: 9780642279439

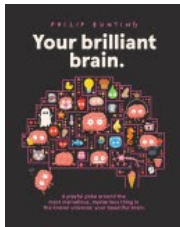
Takes a thematic approach in guiding readers through the discovery and exploration of the skies, from early celestial charts, the big bang, planets in our solar system and the universe beyond.



BUNTING, Philip

*The Marvellous Manner of Water*. Omnibus Books, 2022. ISBN: 9781760975180

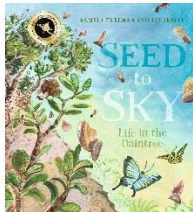
Water is the stuff of life, without it none of us would be here. It may look pretty ho-hum but all life on Earth depends upon it. So, what is so marvellous about water and why is it so important?



BUNTING, Philip

***Your Brilliant Brain.*** Bright Light, 2024. ISBN: 9781761212789

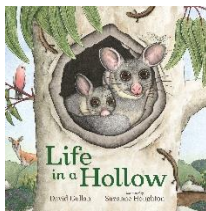
It is easy to argue that the human brain is the most extraordinary thing in the known universe. But there is so much we don't know about the thing behind our eyes. Where do thoughts come from? Why do we dream? But there is much to learn and much fun to be had by taking a quick poke around the human brain. Have a look at the most fascinating part of the human body, the bit that makes you, you, your brain!



FREEMAN, Pamela Illustrated by Liz Anelli

***Seed to Sky. Life in the Daintree.*** Walker Books, 2024. ISBN: 9781760653750

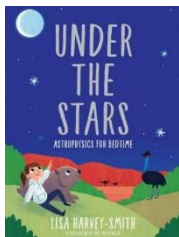
The Daintree is the oldest rainforest on Earth, on the Earth's oldest continent. Through hundreds of years a seed that has fallen to the forest floor will grow reaching for the sunlight to become a tree towering above the forest canopy. And generations of insects, butterflies, birds, lizards, and an abundance of wildlife will bear witness to its growth.



GULLAN, David. Illustrated by Suzanne Houghton

***Life in a Hollow.*** CSIRO, 2023. ISBN: 9781486316342

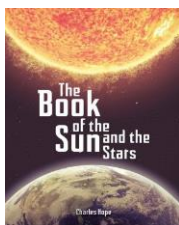
Tree hollows are very special places that provide animals, both big and small, with a space to nest and feel safe. . . . This book explores life in a tree hollow in the Australian bush and introduces the native creatures who call a hollow a home. You'll be surprised just how many choose to move in. Discover the important role tree hollows play in the environment and how we can help protect them.



HARVEY-SMITH, Lisa. Illustrated by Mel Matthews

***Under the Stars; Astrophysics for Bedtime.*** Melbourne University Press, 2019. ISBN: 9780522876086

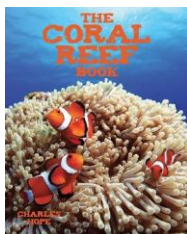
Be taken on a journey through the night sky. Explore our solar system, peer inside a black hole, learn why Jupiter has stripes and Saturn has rings and how distance is measured in space – remember the universe is a very big place.



HOPE, Charles

***The Book of the Sun and the Stars.*** Wild Dog, 2015. ISBN: 9781742033563

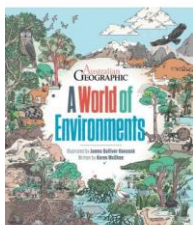
The Sun is the most significant object in our Solar System. It is the centre around which all the celestial bodies of the Solar System revolve. The heat, light and energy it provides are responsible for life on Earth. The Sun is a star, and this book examines our Sun and how it compares to other stars in the universe.



HOPE, Charles

*The Coral Reef Book*. Wild Dog, 2016. ISBN: 9781742034140

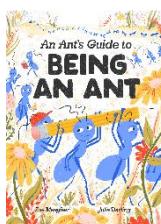
Coral reefs are one of the most extraordinary and important ecosystems on Earth that provide numerous ecological, economic, and social benefits. They have existed for millions of years and are home to a diverse range of animals and plants. They play a vital role in carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling, making them essential for a healthy planet.



McGHEE, Karen. Illustrated by James Gulliver Hancock

*A World of Environments*. Australian Geographic, 2018. ISBN: 9781925694925

Explores many of the planet's remarkable habitats to learn how living things adapt to their environments. It covers environments as diverse as the Amazon rainforest, the Sahara Desert, the Great Barrier Reef, the skyscrapers of New York and many more.



MEAGHER, Zoe. Illustrated by Julia Darling

*An ant's guide to being an ant*. Museums Victoria Publishing, 2024.

ISBN: 9781921833700

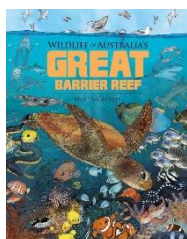
This book is for ants. If you are not an ant, DO NOT READ this book. Ants achieve incredible things by working together, looking after each other and - most importantly - following the 11 Ant Rules. If you haven't memorised the ant rules yet, don't worry! This book is here to help



MITCHELL, Abbie. Illustrated by Astrid Hicks

*A Hollow is a Home*. CSIRO, 2019. ISBN: 9781486308057

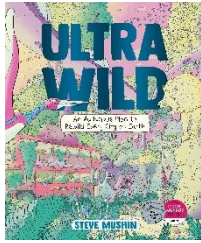
A tree hollow is an amazing place, to humans it is just a hole in a trunk or branch but to an animal it can be a hiding place, a nursery or a shelter, protection from the weather or predators. Meet more than 340 different species of Australian animals that call tree hollows home and use them for resting, nesting, or hiding. Learn how hollows are created and why these important places are threatened and meet the scientists who spend their time hollow hunting.



MOLLARD, Myke

*Wildlife of Australia's Great Barrier Reef*. Woodslane Press, 2023. ISBN: 9781922800367

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest living ecosystem, a universe in its own right. The reef supports a rich biodiversity of corals, molluscs, turtles, dugongs, whales and much more plus an incredible array of colourful tropical fish. Sadly, there are many threats to the reef most coming from human activities, tourism, pollution, and the biggest threat climate change. This book displays the wonders of Australia's World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef.



MUSCHIN, Steve

*Ultrawild: An Audacious Plan to Rewild Every City on Earth.* Allen & Unwin, 2023. ISBN: 9781760292812

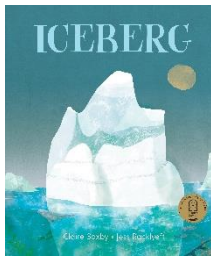
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/ultrawild-an-audacious-plan-to-rewild-every-city-on-earth/>



O'NEILL, Luke. Illustrated by Linda Fährlin

*The Great Australian Science Book.* CSIRO, 2024. ISBN: 9781486316595

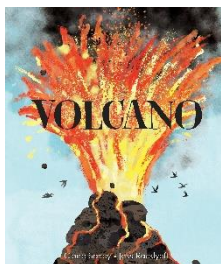
An introduction to science that takes you on an incredible journey across many diverse topics from the large such as the Cosmos and the Big Bang to our home the planet Earth to the small the human body and to the tiny such as atoms and fascinating subjects like magnetism, force and motion and light. It introduces scientists both historic and current who have made significant contributions to the advancement of scientific study.



SAXBY, Claire. Illustrated by Jess Racklyeft

*Iceberg.* Allen & Unwin, 2021. ISBN: 9781760526047

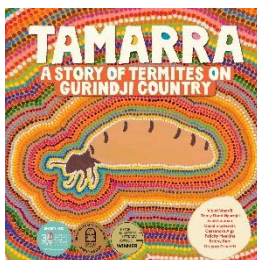
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/iceberg/>



SAXBY, Claire. Illustrated by Jess Racklyeft.

*Volcano.* Allen & Unwin, 2025. ISBN: 9781761180644

Deep in the ocean, far beyond the reach of even the brightest sun, the earthquakes. Hagfish scatter and snailfish flutter. Lava pillows flash and fade, rumpling the seabed as a new volcano births a mountain. Where hot meets cold, a chimney forms. Here begins a colony of unexpected creatures. Explore the wondrous universe that is an underwater volcano.



*TAMARRA : A Story of Termites on Gurindji Country.* Hardie Grant Explore, 2023. ISBN: 9781741178302.

[https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi\\_resource/tamarra-a-story-of-termites-on-gurindji-country/](https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/tamarra-a-story-of-termites-on-gurindji-country/)