

The Great Matuku-hurepo Muster



5 key tasks for your Group Coordinator

Program Context:

- [The Great Matuku-Hurepo Muster](#) is a nationwide synchronised count of male Australasian bittern booming.
- Individuals are encouraged to join local or regional groups to listen and record bittern booming at a wetland near them.
- The muster uses [DOC methodology for active listening \(referenced as triangulation section 5.3\)](#)
- This years Muster dates are **5,6,7 Sep | 3,4,5 Oct, | 7,8,9 Nov 2025.**
- Groups are encouraged to carry out 3 nights of monitoring if they can over 1, 2 or 3 months
- Each group is encouraged to coordinate the dates of their counts with other groups in their region.
- Wendy / the Love Bittern Project is the National Coordinator.

The Love Bittern Project Context:

[The Love Bittern Project](#) galvanises community-led action on the ground to save Australasian Bittern | Matuku-hurepo from extinction across New Zealand. The Great Matuku Muster is one of four [programs](#) that helps to achieve this. The Great Matuku-hurepo Muster is most closely aligned with one of the projects key objectives which is to support citizen science by building tools, capacity and growing capability in our communities to deliver consistent science-based results which can help inform regional and national conservation for the species.

5 key tasks for your Group Coordinator

1.Raise awareness in your community or group.

Newsletter, email, local advertising, social media advertising

Action/outcome> get more people to join the muster; which may mean you need to decide as a team which dates/nights the majority of people will be out (give remit to be out for one or all of the nights across Sept, Oct, Nov for the keen beans)

Resources > community flyers, social media tiles, 'join us' campaign reel - all focussed on communicating dates and inviting people to join then muster.

2. Clearly communicate what participation looks like, confirm and train participants

Meet, email

Action/outcome> communicate what is involved, confirm your participants (list, in the app, both), establish best tool for each participant (app, paper based forms), train your participants to record information in their choice of tools (app, paper based forms)

Resources> [active monitoring workbook](#) to lead your discussion, [you tube tutorials](#) to use the app or complete the [manual form](#)

3. Set/record listening stations

Meet, email, plan

Action/outcome> Record 'Bittern Monitoring Stations' (list, in the app, both)

Resources> [active monitoring workbook](#) for context, [you tube tutorials](#)

4. Send reminders for the Muster event (and postponement plan)

Meet, email

Action/outcome> send reminders and key health & safety messages

Support> [active monitoring workbook](#)

5. Gather records and qualify information

Meet, email, phone

Action> review individual data (in the app, paper based forms) and contact participant to fill in any missing information, review and summarise information at a site/group level,

Outcome > provide measures for your group to the National Coordinator>
lovebittern@gmail.com and feedback to your participants

- Number of participants
- Number of sites listened at
- Estimated number of (individual) male bittern booming

Support> [you tube tutorials](#) phone/email support from the National Coordinator>
lovebittern@gmail.com