



national science week 2018

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In love with insects

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“All children have a bug phase; I never grew out of mine.” E.O.Wilson.

Edward Wilson discovered the way that ants communicate using pheromones; Terry Erwin discovers new species of beetles from the Amazonian Rainforest; Lisa Bird collects caterpillars eggs from crops and tests them for pesticide resilience; Geoff Allen uses insects for forensics to help solve crimes. I study the ways insects are involved with the environment; what they eat, where they live, how they affect and help humans – we are entomologists; insect scientists!



I absolutely love insects, and I always have. So much so that I get a bit confused when people ask what I like about them, ‘Doesn’t everyone love insects too?’

I love them because they are beautiful, with their shiny carapaces and bright wing patterns. I love them because they are tiny but complete, working organisms – it’s like holding a galaxy the size of a marble in your hand.

I love them because each different shape and colour has a different role and use in the environment; including our environment. Insects are involved in our everyday lives in many ways. They return nutrients to the soil and they pollinate plants which account for 1/3 of our food. They can also be manipulated to help us control pest organisms, dispose of organic waste products or form the back bone of drones and droids.



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