

respecting wildlife

WHY DO WE FIND WILDLIFE HERE?

This area was once eucalypt woodland. Although it was probably cleared for cropping at the turn of the last century, the land was gradually sold for other uses including roads and housing developments. As it lay fallow, the seed bank in the soil, aided by seed-spreading species like birds started to regenerate the native forest. Once trees and shrubs started to grow, their shade enabled other plants like the grasses and small perennials and flowering plants to establish.

WHAT MAKES GOOD HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE?

SHELTER Vegetation provides shade, but it also provides places to roost, nest and hide from predators. Dead trees also provide nesting hollows and encourage insect life as they start to decay.

FOOD Vegetation provides a variety of food resources such as seed, berries, fruit, nuts, leaves and roots. Insects feeding on the plants also provide additional food.

CONNECTIVITY A wildlife corridor is a 'patch' of vegetation that connects two or more areas of undeveloped habitat enabling wildlife to move between areas.

HOW CAN I HELP ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE IN MY BACKYARD?

By planting native vegetation and providing a water source like a bird bath or pond, you will start to encourage wildlife into your garden. Keeping a 'wild spot' will also help retain wildlife in your garden.

You can help local wildlife by not planting non-native plants and keeping weeds from spreading into the nearby bush and parklands.

Hundreds of native wildlife species rely on hollows for nesting and shelter. These range from mammals (gliders, possums, bats), birds (cockatoos, kingfishers, owls), reptiles (pythons, tree snakes, monitors) and frogs (green tree frog) to many insects. So keep trees with hollows, or a nesting box makes a great substitute.

! MANAGE YOUR PETS Make sure that cats and dogs are not left out at night when wildlife is active. Share what you've learned with your neighbours. People new to the area may need some advice about what's found locally and what's not.

PASS ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND HELP YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE.

WHAT TYPES OF WILDLIFE CAN I FIND?

If you look closely, you'll find a number of species are using the parklands and bushland as their homes.

From insects like beetles, butterflies and native bees, amphibians like frogs, reptiles such as lizards, snakes and goannas, mammals like kangaroos, wallabies and the egg-laying echidna, to a rich assortment of birds including the ground cuckooshrike, brown honeyeater, bush stone curlew and barn owl.

Most of Australia's native wildlife are nocturnal meaning that they are active by night and sleep during the day. These include the possums, gliders, owls, bats, moths, frogs and especially the mammals. This enables them to avoid predators and the heat of the day.

