



SIMPLE STEPS TO INCREASE AND ENJOY NATIVE WILDLIFE

INTRODUCTION

It looks like any other typical urban backyard in St Ives but if you take a closer look it is teeming with a variety of wildlife.

SUCCESS STORY

It all started with Nicky, a resident, whose pond and garden had exotic and native plants. In her words, *“I didn’t have a grand garden plan nor was I a professional gardener”*. What she did find is that by modifying a few things she did and didn’t do around the garden the wildlife started to arrive.

“Over the years I planted: trees and shrubs to create 3 tier levels of plants for greatest protection; shrubs that had flowers for bees and butterflies; left areas free of vegetation but protected and secluded for wildlife to forage; provided water in the form of ponds and water baths; put up nesting boxes for possums and created rocky hideaways for lizards did not remove a dead gum tree so the insects could make their homes and hopefully in the future it would provide hollows for birds and animals”.

It all happened gradually but before she knew it she had a water dragon, skinks and blue tongues, a variety of birds including a bower bird, dragonflies, butterflies, native bees and owls all visiting and some staying.

BENEFITS FOR YOU

Change one or more things you do in the garden, provide shelter and water for wildlife and sit back. It really is that simple – see the *“Simple steps”* to create your own success.



Simple steps to encourage wildlife to your backyard

- Create secluded and sheltered areas within the garden so wildlife can forage.
- Plant shrubs that have berries for the birds, flowers for the bees, foliage that will provide protection.
- Create rocky ‘hideaways’ for lizards and skinks.
- Leave lawns longer as this will allow small animals to travel between areas in your backyard in relative safety.
- Create a pond and/or regular water bath. The pond doesn’t have to be large but it must be at least more than 30cm deep.
- Keep cats inside or at least at night.
- Encourage the insects. Some insects make their homes in dead trees which can also provide hollows for birds and possums.
- Restrict your use of pesticides and poisons.

For further information on this and other initiatives, please contact WildThings NSW on wildthingsnsw1@gmail.com or telephone 0294240811