

WPSQ Membership

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Your special interests / skills:

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Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ)

Level 1, 30 Gladstone Rd, Highgate Hill QLD 4101

You can also subscribe online at www.wildlife.org.au

What is the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland?



The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Wildlife Queensland or WPSQ) is a community environmental group with a wonderfully diverse membership drawn together by a common interest in wildlife. It was started in 1962 by naturalist David Fleay, poet Judith Wright, artist Kathleen MacArthur and publisher Brian Clouston who decided to act on their concerns about Australia's precious and vanishing natural environment. The society aims to protect all Australian wildlife, through education, consultation and legislation.

Our society is made up of a head office located in Brisbane while branches are spread throughout Queensland. Our head office largely focuses on matters on a regional or state level while branches are mainly focused on activities in their local area. They combine their efforts on issues of importance to all. Projects aim to involve other likeminded groups and individuals throughout the state.

What can a community group do?

Plenty. As individuals, we have unique talents and experiences. As a community group we can learn from each other, pool our talents and be more effective and influential. Working together we can ensure wildlife interests are represented in planning. Just being a member lends your weight to our efforts. Members of our society are drawn from all around Australia as well as from overseas.

Bayside Branch

Bayside Branch hosts monthly meetings with expert guest presenters, conducts workshops, arranges family outings such as spotlighting, bushwalks and bird watching. Each year we participate in fauna surveys and run projects many involving the community. Publishing our monthly newsletter and diary plus the bi-monthly koala news keep members informed on issues and coming events as well as providing information on specific wildlife.

VOLUNTEERS: *As we are a community-based non-profit organisation your help would be welcome in a number of areas. Please contact us to find out more.*

Email: bayside@wildlife.org.au
<http://branches.wildlife.org.au/bayside>

Wildlife in your Suburban Garden



 **Wildlife** Qld
Preservation Society of
Bayside

Wildlife in gardens

Wildlife tend to be mobile, so they rarely stay in one place. There are, however, a number of things you can do to make your garden 'fauna friendly' and attract wildlife to your home garden, while at the same time, saving you money.

The easiest way is to provide food, water and a suitable habitat. Food and habitat can be provided by simply planting native trees, shrubs and ground cover. By leaving a small area of lawn unmown, your yard will not only become more attractive to wildlife, but you will also save time and money.

Bird watching is one of the world's most popular pastimes. A bird bath and flowering plants, such as callistemon, melaleucas, banksias and grevilleas will all attract nectar and pollen eating birds. Native grasses, lomandras, casuarinas and native figs may attract parrots, finches and other fruit and seed eating species.

Birds also need somewhere to roost and make their homes — eucalypts can fill this role. Lorikeets, rosellas and various parrots, owls, dollar birds and even some ducks are just a few of the birds that need tree hollows for homes; but if your tree isn't old enough to have hollows, you might like to install a nest box. Small birds, like finches and wrens, need dense bushes to shelter in to avoid predators such as kookaburras and butcherbirds.



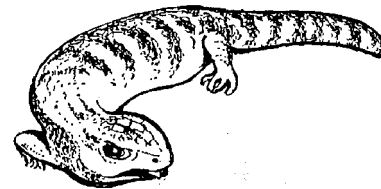
Frogs can be provided for by simply installing a pond. Please don't import frogs, just be patient. They will come. The pond should be shaded with native plants, but you must watch that you are not also catering for the introduced cane toad. Cane toad eggs in your pond are easily identified: they are in long strings of jelly. On the other hand, frog eggs are generally in frothy clumps. Once the eggs hatch, it can be difficult to tell the tadpoles apart, so expert help may be required to identify them.



Frogs and native toads come in many sizes and colours, so look carefully before you decide to dispatch that 'cane toad'. If you are unsure, it is better to let a cane toad live than to kill a frog.

Reptiles such as lizards will happily feed on insects in your garden. They will also eat many of the pests we don't like. In fact, the blue tongue lizard will gladly eat all those annoying snails. So forget the snail bait or you will kill those lovely lizards.

Lizards also need a place to hide from predators. Leaf litter, rocks and logs are all places for them to shelter and escape from birds and family pets. Take care turning over the compost heap, as blue tongue lizards seem to like living in there.



Insects are often neglected, but there are many beautiful and interesting insects — such as butterflies and dragonflies. And remember that many insects are beneficial to the garden and will also provide a ready food source for other creatures for example lizards and birds.

There are plants that will attract insects, such as acacias, alphitonias and lomandras. And don't forget the *Aristolochia praevenosa* vine to provide for the now rare Richmond birdwing butterfly. (Make sure you don't get the poisonous Dutchmen's pipe, which is very similar in appearance).

Mammals can often be found sheltering or feeding in native trees. Eucalypts, in particular, are of importance to many animals. For koalas and greater gliders eucalyptus leaves are their sole food source. Other animals who feed in these trees and on the blossoms of other trees like melaleucas are ringtail possums, sugar gliders and flying foxes.

You may not see all of these animals in a suburban garden, but koalas and possums could possibly be there. Possums have been known to feed on garden flowers and in compost heaps. If you are lucky enough to live nearby to bush land, you may also be visited by wallabies and bandicoots..

Illustrations by Rosemary Opala and L Saunders