

# What can I do?

**Remember wildlife is wild, even when visiting backyards and homes.**

If wildlife are at immediate risk of harm or trapped contact a wildlife rescuer for advice



SCAN ME

**To keep wildlife safe, you can:**

- Install nest boxes to provide habitat away from buildings
- Seal access points to prevent wildlife taking up residence
- Plant a wildlife-friendly garden using native plants of all shapes and sizes. This will attract birds and insects
- Replace existing plants gradually. Wildlife that already lives in your garden will still need somewhere to live
- Use wildlife friendly fruit netting on your veggie patch
- Keep pets away from wildlife. Dispose of pet food from outside to keep wildlife and pets safely apart
- Secure household waste, chicken feed and compost
- Feeding wildlife can be harmful. Consider other ways you can enjoy your backyard visitors

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Wildlife artwork by Nadia Rose (Gunditjmara) of Namaro Creative

Need more help or not what you were looking for? call 136 186



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## Living with Wildlife In our Backyards



**Many native wildlife species have adapted to live alongside people, in our gardens, homes and veggie patches**

### **Benefits of a wildlife-friendly backyard:**

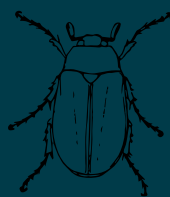
- Improved quality and health of your garden
- Improved soil in your garden
- Healthy local ecosystems
- Climate change adaptation —every plant makes a difference
- Conservation of our native species and ecosystems, right in your backyard!
- Spending time in nature improves well-being and health
- Educates children and brings joy from animals and the outdoors.
- It's fun



### **Did you know?**

**A group of scientists recently counted how many species they could find in their backyard. They found 1168 species in a year! This shows just how diverse our backyards can be.**

Rogers, A., Yong, R.Q. and Holden, M.H. 2023, 'The house of a thousand species: The untapped potential of comprehensive biodiversity consensus of urban properties', The Scientific Naturalist, vol. e4225.



### **Want to know more?**

- Find out who is already visiting your garden. Local councils and environmental groups often have great information about what might live in your area
- Bonus points if you upload your sightings into the [Victorian Biodiversity Atlas](#) or other citizen science platform! This helps us know what species are where and informs conservation projects
- Join citizen science challenges like [Aussie Bird Count](#) and [City Nature Challenge](#)
- Do your research! There's many ways to attract wildlife to your backyard.
- Don't forget about animals like frogs, lizards and insects
- Good luck and have fun!

