

Frog Friendly Gardening

Before using chemicals in the garden, always check that chemicals you are using are suitable for use around frogs. Frogs are an indication of a healthy environment.

By all means, create a water source in your garden - frogs love these. If doing so though, ensure that an escape route for other wildlife is created. This can be done by putting a few stones into the pond that creatures can climb onto if they are in trouble. *Antechinus* (Mardo's) and other small marsupials have been known to drown in ponds and buckets which they can not escape from.

Not only are chemicals harmful to frogs but also to the creatures that eat them such as tiger snakes. Native predators are important for keeping a balance in any ecosystem and it is important that we consider their needs also.



Motorbike Frog (*Litoria moorei*)

Photo: John Pate

Nest Boxes for Wildlife

Why Build Nest Boxes?

In areas where hollow logs or trees have been removed, nesting boxes can provide a predator proof, safe house for nesting creatures. They have been used successfully to increase the breeding capacity for a range of creatures.



Brush-tail Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*) Photo: Tina Smith

Which creatures can benefit?

Both native birds and marsupials can use the nesting boxes. Each box needs to be specifically designed to suit the target creature as, introduced pests like rainbow lorikeets have been known to take over the box.

Nest Box Designs

Nest box designs for a range of different marsupials and birds can be found in the Land for Wildlife publication 'Wildlife Notes, No. 3 January 2007, Nest Boxes for Wildlife'

For further information contact Shire of Denmark NRM Officer (08) 9848 0300 / nrm@denmark.wa.gov.au or the Denmark Environment Centre (08) 9848 1644.

Produced By:



Printed on 100% wheat pulp paper.

Caring for Wildlife on Private Properties

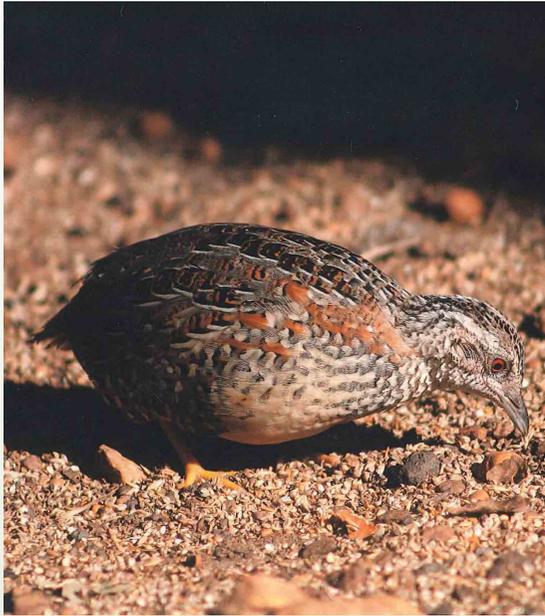


Western Pygmy Possum
(*Cercartetus concinnus*)

Photo: Tina Smith

International Year of Forests 2011 - It Starts At Home

- Denmark's Unique Wildlife
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Painted Button Quail
(*Turnix varia*)

Photo: John Pate

Many private properties, both large and small, located within the Shire of Denmark, are home to native wildlife. By being aware of wildlife on our own properties, we can ensure these animals have places to feed, shelter and nest.

Denmark's Unique Wildlife

Denmark and its surrounding bushland is home to some of Western Australia's most unique wildlife. From shy marsupials and reptiles to birds and frogs that have the most enchanting calls, Denmark is a special place for wildlife.

Threats to Wildlife on Private Properties

Introduced Predators

Introduced predators such as domestic and feral cats, along with foxes, pose a threat to native marsupials and frogs. By keeping introduced animals under control on your property, you can protect native wildlife.

Inappropriate Fire Regimes

Private land owners should take care to ensure native wildlife are not threatened by burning off practises. For example: A mosaic burn pattern, so that the forest is burnt in sections with several years between successive burnings, can provide refuge areas for wildlife. Hand removal of fuel may be a better option on smaller properties. An escape for wildlife should always be left when burning off. This can be achieved through burning off in mild conditions, ensuring a low intensity burn.

Loss of Habitat for Feeding and Nesting

Removal of habitat such as trees, logs, hollows, bushes and rushes on private properties has led to fewer opportunities for nesting and feeding for wildlife.

Food for Thought:

It is best if wildlife forage for their own food. Feeding of wildlife may lead to health problems and reliance on humans.

Chemical Use

Chemicals, like oxygen, are absorbed through frogs skins. As frogs breathe through their skin, they can be severely impacted by chemical use in the garden. Using chemical free alternatives or physical removal of pests and weeds may be a better option. Check product labels carefully to ensure that they are frog friendly.

Providing a Suitable Habitat

Retaining and caring for natural bushland is the best option for attracting wildlife to your property. If no natural bushland exists on your property then be sure to establish a range of native plants that flower at different times to attract a variety of insects.

If you are using non-native plants as food for wildlife, then be sure not to use potentially invasive plant species as they can spread into native bushland and outcompete native plants.

Consider using nest boxes for wildlife in your garden. Remember - wildlife will only use the boxes if there is adequate food available in your garden .



Pygmy Possum Nest Box
(*Cercartetus concinnus*)

Photo: Tina Smith