



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Helping our backyard habitats

Most of us take a comfortable home for granted - yet some of the really helpful creatures that share our habitat are often made to feel very uncomfortable and unwelcome through unsustainable gardening practices.

There are however some quite simple things all homeowners can do, to provide a welcoming environment for native animals, insects and birds that share our space.

Environmental organisations such as Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) and the **Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife** (<http://fnpw.org.au/>) are encouraging every household in 2016 to look for ways they can offer suitable accommodation for our native wildlife. Look to make this your goal for 2016!!

Things like frog ponds and nest boxes can be simple projects that can engage young family members in good environmental practices as well as providing comfortable accommodation for creatures that provide some benefits to our gardens.

Ladybirds and native birds help keep garden pests at bay; while butterflies and bees help pollination. So, keep these friendly characters on side by using only natural pesticides when absolutely necessary.

Marigold, parsley, coriander, dill, fennel, alfalfa, zucchini, melons and cucumbers are favoured attractions for ladybirds and are very useful culinary items as well.

HOPE President Frank Ondrus said these are just some of the many simple ways every householder can share their homes with friendly native wildlife.

Visit www.fnpw.org.au/resources/habitats-for-australian-animals for more information on creating friendly habitats for native animals.

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(Written by Stewart Mulligan, HOPE media officer)