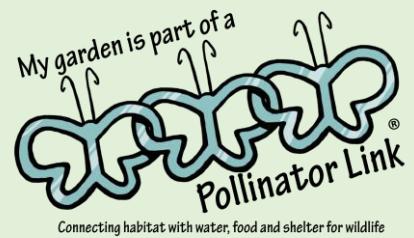


# Three Easy Steps to vibrant backyards

## Invite pollinators into your garden

Pollinator Links® are urban wildlife corridors that use backyards like yours to save threatened wildlife species while adding colour and fun to your life as birds, butterflies and bees visit your home.



### Step 1 – Provide a source of water

[Return to display please](#)

All animals, including birds, butterflies and native bees, need water to survive in our hot, dry summers.

#### Bird Path

Who said bath time must be serious?

Install a bird bath and sit back to watch the fun. In our hot summers a backyard pool attracts family and friends. A bird bath brings feathered friends to your backyard. You can provide a low-cost water container for birds or an elaborate fountain.

*Magpie and Rainbow Lorikeet taking turns at the water.*



#### Puddling Place

Create a safe place for butterflies or bees to land and drink by placing islands of stones in your bird bath. Bees can drown when accessing water so damp stones allow bees to land and suck up moisture.

Male butterflies access water to take in extra salts and minerals to incorporate into their sperm. When transferred to a female these salts and minerals improve the viability of her eggs.

*Blue Banded Bee drinking at Puddling Place.*



#### Frog Pond – Water Feature

A frog pond provides water for birds, butterflies and bees. Water Snowflakes attract native bees for nectar and native fish eat mosquito larva.

Attract Green Tree *Litoria caerulea* and Eastern Dwarf Tree *Litoria fallax* frogs. Control toads by making a high set frog pond: toads cannot climb like tree frogs.

*Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog Litoria fallax*  
*Water Snowflake Nymphoides indica*



## Step 2 – Create different food sources

Plants provide nectar, pollen, seed or fruit for birds, butterflies and bees and attract insects as food for birds.

### Birds

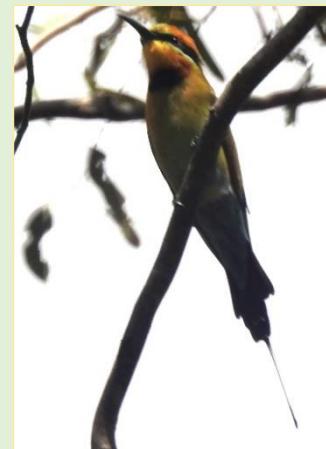
Rainbow Bee Eater *Merops ornatus*

**Nectar** - Colourful species like Scaly-breasted Lorikeets *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus* will feed on nectar and pollinate grevilleas and eucalypts.

**Fruit** - Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*ating birds are often found in urban parks and gardens with fruit-producing trees.

**Seed** – Pale-headed Rosellas *Platycercus adscitus* are often seen feeding on grass seed and King Parrots *Alisterus scapularis* visit wattles to eat the seed.

**Insects** – The beautiful Rainbow Bee Eater *Merops ornatus* feeds on the wing catching flying insects like wasps, dragonflies, beetles, butterflies and moths.



### Butterflies

Invite butterflies into your garden by growing their caterpillar food plants.

Orchard Swallowtail *Papilio aegeus* caterpillars will feed on backyard citrus trees however many other butterfly species have disappeared as native host plants are lost with urban development.

Orchard Swallowtail *Papilio aegeus*



### Bees

Australia has over 2,000 native bee species providing valuable pollination services for your backyard vegie patch that cannot be provided by the better known European Honey Bees.

Stingless Native Bees *Tetragonula sp.* love basil and other herbs providing pollination services and a small amount of distinctive honey each year.



Solitary Blue Banded Bees' *Amegilla cingulata* "buzz pollination" is particularly valuable for improving tomato, kiwi fruit and eggplant crops.

Stingless Bee on Basil *Ocimum Sp.*

## Step 3 – Provide shelter for safety and breeding

### Birds

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, owls and Kookaburras nest in tree hollows typically found in 150 years old trees. We can re-create breeding hollows in our novel urban ecosystems by installing nesting boxes.



### Bees

Female Blue Banded and Teddy Bear Bees *Amegilla Sp.* nest in holes in the ground, typically burrowing in banks. A Backyard Bee Home can be an old concrete block or PVC pipe filled with mud. *Kids + Mud = Fun.*



Leaf Cutter Bees *Megachile sp.* love holes in timber/bamboo. Recycle some old hardwood fence posts, drilling holes of sizes ranging from 6 to 12mm then plant the post as a garden feature. Alternatively cut lengths of bamboo allowing about 150mm deep holes and stuff into some PVC pipe to hang in a tree.