



## Creating a frog-friendly garden - Notes and Slides within the Photos by AB Bishop

**THREATS** - There has been a decline in species numbers since the 1980s. Some of the main threats are habitat loss, wetland areas being developed, deer, natural ponds converted into dams for livestock and being trampled through. Chemicals such as insecticides— in the garden and home - kill their food source. Snail pellets, pyrethrum, fly spray, etc. Herbicides & fungicides (weeds, roses, etc), where frogs absorb contaminants through their skin. Night lighting around ponds disrupts moth lifecycles and attracts them away from the wetland, cats eat frogs and dogs trample habitat which potentially allows predators to see frogs more easily

### ENVIRONMENTAL & GARDEN

**BENEFITS:** Predator and prey!

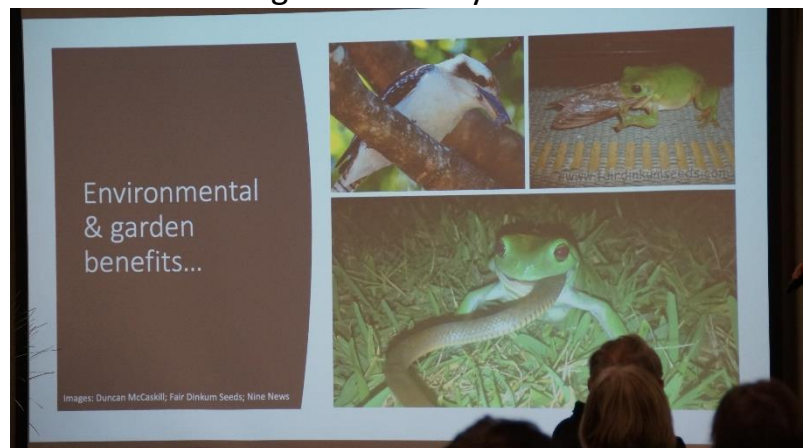
**PREY**

Snakes, kookaburras, turtles, goannas, egrets, ducks, bitterns, quolls, antechinus, dingoes.

**PREDATOR**

Anything that fits into mouth

Catch with tongue, swallows with eyeballs!



### FROG FOOD & HAPPY PLACE -

- Earthworms – moist soil, leaf litter
- Decomposers, slaters, spiders etc. (leaf litter, sticks and logs)
- Nectar feeders (groundcovers)  
Diurnal
- Slugs & snails
- Moths nocturnal – Moth's host plants: -  
Silver Wattle, Black Wattle, Blackwood, Drooping Sheoak, Sweet Bursaria, Clustered Everlasting, Eucalypts, Hop Goodenia, Bushy Needlewood, Hardenbergia, Indigofera, Prickly Tea-tree, Swamp paperbark, Olearia lirata  
Snowy Daisy Bush, Carex, Weeping Grass, Tussock Grasses Poa, Themeda



## TADPOLE FOOD

- Vegans! Algae, leaves, moss, lettuce
- Mosquito larvae, tiny insects (overhanging leptospermum etc.)



## WHAT ABOUT MOZZIES?

- 300 species of Australian mozzies
- Females suck blood
- Valuable ecologically!
- Dragonflies and damselflies eat mozzies and larvae
- Install a pump to move water
- Keep 2-3 Pacific Blue-eye fish – correct Identification
- Gambusia – mosquito fish – eats tadpoles!

**SHELTER & REFUGE** – the area needs to remain moist, be sheltered from daylight, a refuge during drought and have - Rocks, Logs, Leaf litter, SOIL, plant pots, frog hotels

**FROG BOG** - Mimics ephemeral water in nature; Dig a shallow depression and lay out a section of pond liner; Replace the soil; Hold down edges with logs and rocks; Or make a large shallow, thin concrete birdbath, and plant around it but avoid planting into it or the plants will suck up all the water



**HYDRATION STATION** - Deepish bowl either ½ buried or placed on ground; Near shrubs; Add scoria; Plant into scoria; Keep topped up

**PONDS** - Near compost; Away from poisonous plants; Not under a tree...leaves.... or bedrooms – yours and neighbours; Preferably 70% shade 30% sun; 1-1.5m diameter; 70cm deep, Shallow zones, warmer water, tadpole hangout or a preformed mold ie; children's clamshells or bathtubs.

**CONCRETE PONDS / LINED PONDS** - Dig hole; Remove roots, rocks etc.; Wet the soil in the hole before spreading sand 1cm thick across entire area.; Keep for easy sand damp spreading; Liner – heavy duty UV resistant liner is more expensive but saves money and time in the long run. Be sure it doesn't contain chemicals toxic to frogs. Position the liner so it overlaps all edges and shape it to the pond contours Start filling with water, flattening out creases in the liner

When it starts overflowing, notice where – this will be your overflow point  
Anchor the entire edge with rocks, apart from the overflow point.

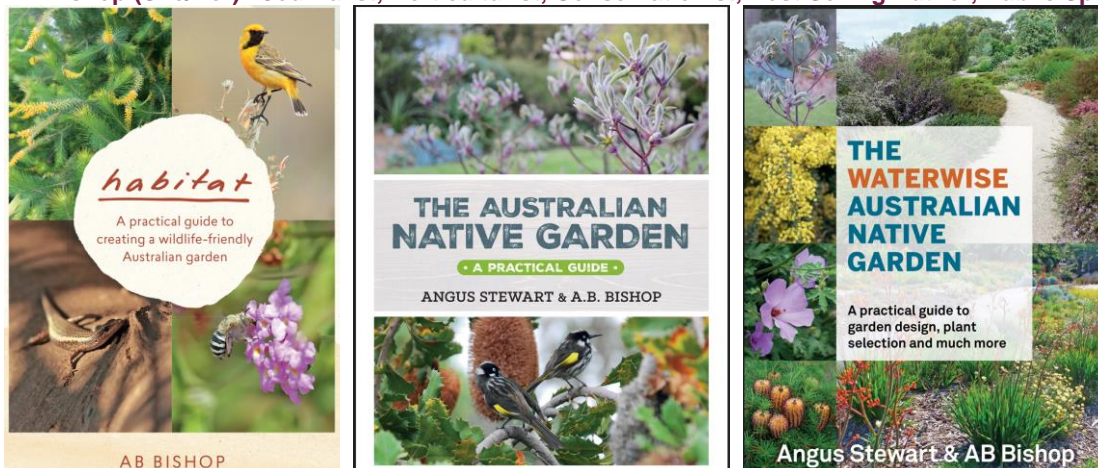


**PLANTS and advantages** - Climbing out: Filtration of water – no pump required;  
Somewhere for frogs to attach eggs; Host plants for moth larvae  
Beauty; Nectar source for butterflies; Seeds for birds; Nesting material or habitat for birds



**PLANTS to plant** - Strappy Dianella tas, Lomandra, Patersonia occidentalis, Rushes & Sedges, Climbers for tree frogs Hardenbergia, Pandorea, Clematis, Groundcovers Kennedia prostrata, Dichondra repens, Viola hederaceae, Pelargonium australis

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**AB's new book, Habitat, was Australian Best-Selling Gardening Book 2018.**  
**The Australian Native Garden won the HMAA Book Laurel 2016/17 and has been reprinted and rebranded as The Waterwise Australian Native Garden.**  
**Both books available from most bookstores and online.**