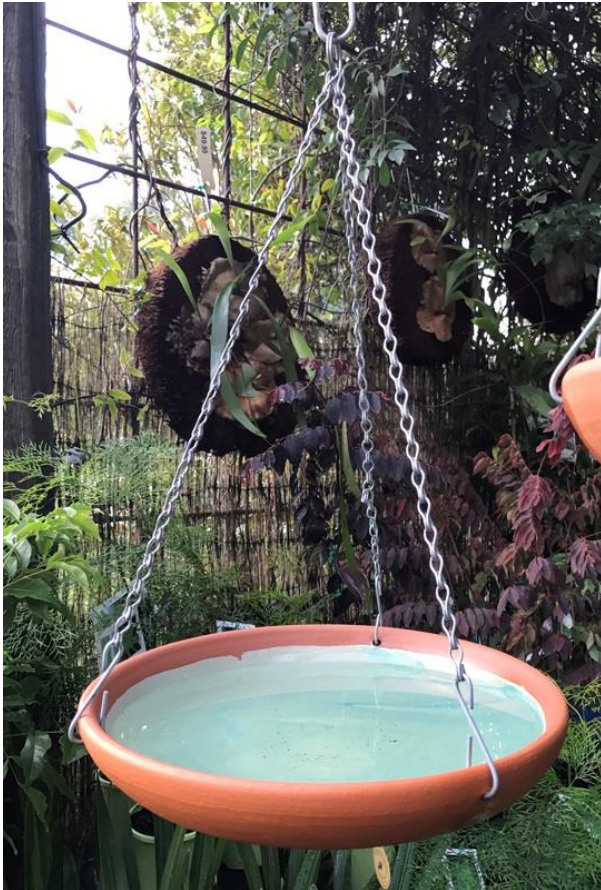# Gardens for wildlife

Bird bath

Birds that eat seed need to drink twice daily, you can help them by creating a cat proof bird bath.

Birdbaths should have:

- Clean and shallow water.
- Non slip surfaces.
- An overhanging perch (branch).
- Protection from cats.
- Shade from midday and afternoon sun to keep both water and birds cool.
- Provide a dense, prickly bush near the birdbath where birds can quickly hide from cats or hawks.

Pet cats kill on average 16 mammals, 8 birds and 8 retiles per year so providing a safe refuge for native wildlife is very important

Cat safe bird bath

Cats very quickly become aware of bird-feeding and drinking times and lay in wait. Hosing cats with water can be very effective in discouraging wandering cats from visiting your garden.

1. **Pipe and bowl** (or something similar)
- A second-hand terrecota pipe (or something similar) about 1.5-2 metres tall with a flange at one end.
- Star picket(s).
- Shallow bowl large enough to sit comfortably at the flange end.

Dig a circular hole wide enough and deep enough to accommodate the opposite end of the pipe from the flange.

Hammer a star picket (or several if necessary) into the hole to ensure the terracotta pipe cannot topple over. Place the pipe over the star picket(s) with the flange clear at the top of the star pickets. Finish off by placing a terracotta dish on top of a size that the flange can support comfortably.

2. **Wooden post and bowl**
- wooden post 1.5-2 metres tall, wide enough for a water bowl to sit on
- water bowl at least 20cm wide
- Araldite

Dig a hole deep enough to accommodate the post and ensure stability. Glue the bowl to the top of the post.

3. **Hanging bowl (pictured left)**
- A small, shallow bowl about 3cm deep with rope or wire attached to allow for hanging.

Suspend the water bowl within the foliage of the prickly thicket. This provides security to small birds whilst they drink and bathe.

Hang the small bowl within foliage of a prickly thicket to provide security to small birds whilst they drink and bathe.

Thank you to Knox City Council for their assistance in compiling this factsheet