

Melville Council Cat Strategy

A personal perspective

Gary Colley March 2022

Wildlife friendly gardens



We put out bird seed, have a bee hotel and have bird baths that are used by birds and insects. We have planted a native garden and this attracted wildlife such as this frog.

Wildlife friendly gardens



And this one. We have watched as cats with collars come to our gardens where the frogs have been living, later finding the frogs have disappeared. In total we've had seven. We have none now. We don't know where they came from, but enjoyed watching them as part of our environment.

Wildlife friendly gardens



Galahs are daily visitors to our home, as well as many other birds. We've been privileged to see black cockatoos, singing honeyeaters, New Holland Honeyeaters, Fairy Martins, Spinebills and others. I've counted over a dozen species over the years.

Wildlife friendly gardens



We love these birds, the Black Cockatoo, which we understand are a threatened species. People have different views, we know. We have heard someone say they wished cats would kill all these birds “because they’re make such a mess”, meaning dropping pine cones and other tree nuts etc. That’s not a view to which we subscribe. It’s just nature in action.

John Smith Park Winthrop January 2022



We saw the remains of this bird walking through John Smith Park in Winthrop.
Was this killed by a cat?

Our back garden November 2021



Even in our back garden, birds are not safe. This was found one afternoon. I'm not sure what it is the remains of, but there seem to be some pink feathers, so maybe a galah.

It is one thing for cats to be out and about in the neighbourhood, but when they come into our property we become upset, knowing that a bird may be killed and there's nothing we can do to prevent it. We have tried to prevent them from coming in - using coffee grounds, citrus, commercial cat deterrents from Bunnings: things we've read about that may work. Sadly everything has failed.

To conclude, we believe any measures to protect wildlife is a positive one and we support the Cat Management Plan.

Thank you.