



BDTNRM Media Release

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Make your back yard frog friendly

To find out how to build a frog pond in your own backyard visit North Queensland Conservation Council's (NQCC) Townsville Frog Club display at the Cultural Festival this weekend. Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management (BDTNRM) is one of the many sponsors for the workshops being held at 1.30 and 4.30 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. With frog numbers in decline around the world, building a frog pond seems a good way to help these delightful creatures hang in there.

North Queensland Conservation Council president, Blanche Danastas said, "backyard frog ponds provide vital habitat for local frogs, and they are really easy to make!" According to Blanche, an ideal frog pond is about a meter in diameter and should not be more than 40cm deep. It must have a grate over the top make sure it is child safe.

Frogs like their ponds to have gentle, sloping sides to enable young frogs to climb out easily. Lots of plants growing at and near the waters edge also allow them to jump out and hide in their favorite shrub. Always use frog friendly, native plants and avoid deciduous plants because the leaves fall into the pond and unbalance the ecosystem. Your local nursery and Conservation Volunteers Australia are happy to help you choose the right plants for your pond.

Ponds should be "cane toad proofed". There are several ways to do this: since cane toads can jump up to 40 cm above the ground, you can create a wall 40cm high for a ground level pond, or sit your pond about 40cm above the ground.

"Although you may be excluding some types of burrowing frogs that can't climb, deterring toads is very important", said Blanche. "There are ways to allow burrowing frogs in, while keeping most toads out, but this can get tricky and requires some extra advice and extra pond watching. People can come along to the Cultural Festival and learn about this at our workshops," she said.

Like most kids, Blanche played with frogs and tadpoles as a child and she has been fascinated by these fantastic creatures ever since. "Frogs are great for mosquito control and they are an important part of our ecosystems, it would be sad if they went away", she said.

While you are talking to Blanche at the Cultural Festival you can also find out how to join the Frog Club.

Sponsors for the frog display include BDTNRM, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Pet HQ, Bunnings Warehouse, Townsville Graded Sands and Gough Plastics.

For more information please contact:

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