

CONNECT WITH NATURE

BIRD BATH

Native birds are lovely visitors to our gardens and play an important role in our ecosystem. Birds consume pest insects, pollinate flowers and spread native plant seeds.

All birds need access to clean drinking water and a reliable source of water is especially important during the hot summers we experience here in the Camden local government area.

An easy way to attract birds to your garden is by installing a bird bath in a protected area away from pets, especially cats. Once the birds find your bird bath, they will stop by your garden to rest, drink and bathe.

You can create a budget-friendly bird bath by up-cycling old materials lying around your home or visiting a local op-shop.



Photo by Owen Sinden



How do I create a bird bath using up-cycled material?

Step 1

Visit a local op-shop and purchase quirky pieces to use or gather old crockery you may already have at home.

We used the following:

- Teapot;
- Cups and saucers;
- Large bowl (for the base of the bird bath);
- Shallow bowl or dish (for the top of the bird bath which will hold the water);
- Ceramic glue;
- Undercoat spray paint (white); and
- Topcoat spray paint (any colour you choose).

The options are endless – you are only bound by your imagination, and the materials you have to use!



Step 2

Glue the bowl (to be used as the base) and cup and saucer together to make one section, and the teapot, the other cup and saucer as a separate section.

Weigh down each section with a heavy book and leave to dry for at least four hours.

2



Step 3

Once the two sections have dried, glue these sections together and weigh it down using a heavy book while you leave it to dry for another four hours.

Glue the shallow bowl (that will hold the water for the bath) on top once the two sections are dry and securely together.

3



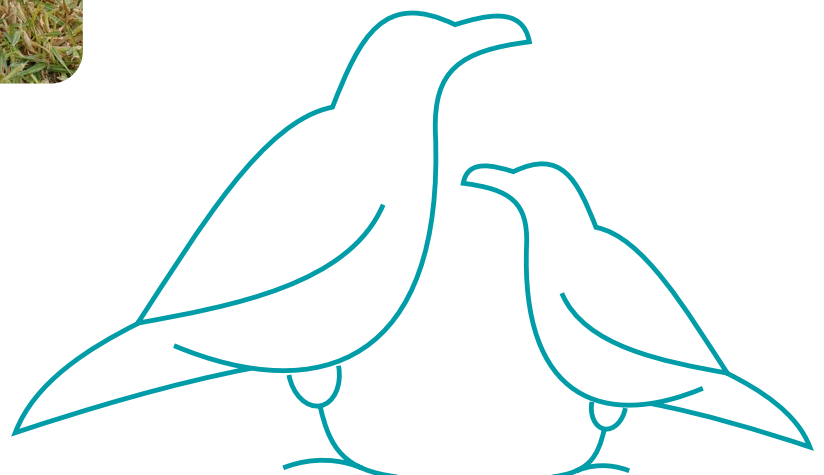
Step 4

Once all sections are glued together and dry, set up a spray paint station outside. We placed an old flattened cardboard box on the grass to paint the bird bath on.

Apply two coats of white undercoat paint to the bird bath. Be sure not to paint the inside of the shallow bowl that will hold the water as it could leach paint and contaminate the water.

Leave the bird bath to dry for at least one hour between coats of undercoat paint.

4



Step 5

Once the undercoat is dry, apply the topcoat of paint to the bird bath.

You can select any colour you like. We went for a 'eucalyptus green' to blend in with the surrounding garden.

You may need to apply at least two topcoats of the coloured paint of your choice.



Step 6

Once the paint is dry, find a protected space in your garden to place the bird bath.

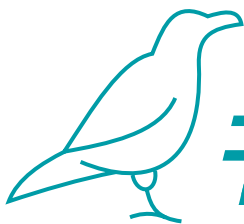
Fill the bird bath with water, wait for the birds to find it and enjoy your new habitat garden feature.

Remember to place this somewhere in the garden that receives dappled shade and that is beyond the reach of cats.



Please remember to clean your bird bath and replace the water regularly.

Feeding wildlife does more harm than good. It can cause them to become dependent on being fed by humans and lead them to forget how to forage for themselves. Feeding birds can also make them sick or lead to malnourishment.



Share your creations with us by posting a photo to social media with

#camdenconnectwithnature

Here's some tips!

Want to attract birds to your backyard? Camden's Native Garden Guide has appropriate local plant species that could plant to attract birds to your garden; bit.ly/nativegardenguide.

More information and other ways to **connect with wildlife** can be found on Council's website; bit.ly/feeding-wildlife.

Check out the **Backyard Birds of NSW** poster to help you identify the birds visiting your garden and enjoying your bird bath; bit.ly/3y20VUu.