



## The animals of Moreland's creeks

# Wetlands Habitat

### Who lives there?

#### Rakali/water rat

This water rat is common across the country, mostly in the Eastern parts of Australia. It can occur in similar areas to the platypus, however, is less effective at staying warm, and cannot maintain its body temperature for long periods in water under 20°C. It lives in wetlands and creeks, sheltering in burrows and hollows in logs. The Rakali can be more common in urban and degraded creeks than the platypus and can eat introduced and on-land species.

#### Growling grass frog

This bright green frog growls a loud "Waaark! Ah! Ah! Ah! Wa!" It is nationally endangered and vulnerable in Victoria, and the Merri Creek catchment is an important area for its conservation. The growling grass frog needs water pools and dams especially in early summer for breeding. Its eggs are laid in a jelly raft. It is threatened by habitat destruction and predation by introduced fish species such as Carp and Redfin. It needs logs, boulders and other protected areas to shelter.

#### Sacred Kingfisher

The Sacred Kingfisher is blue and green in colour with a large bill. It requires woodland habitats and hollows for nesting. It can be seen near wetlands and creeks which can provide it a food source. Tree hollows are essential for its survival; Eucalypts trees are best for this, however locally they are known to use palm tree trunks or old willow tree limbs. The Sacred Kingfisher migrates into the Merri Creek catchment around October and leaves around March, flying into Northern Australia and Indonesia for winter.

#### How to help these animals:

Promote the protection of old trees with hollows and ensure there are new trees coming up so that there are future hollows.

If you own property, ensure you protect wetlands or creek lines on your property. Don't clear rocks and logs surrounding wetlands.

Participate in local creek management groups, such as Friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek

#### Information gathered from

Merri Creek Management Committee <http://bit.ly/grassfrog>

Australian Platypus Conservancy <http://bit.ly/rakali>

For more information, visit the [Moreland Libraries Catalogue](#),

Try reading '[Creek Life: Flora and Fauna of the Merri Creek Valley](#)' by Brett Marshall and Brian Bainbridge

