Say hello to the locals

Look carefully as you explore reserves in the network. Animals large and small are busy caring for families, finding food and water, and making sure they have shelter.

Maybe you’ll see a kangaroo bounding by or an echidna waddling through leaf litter in search of ants. Squirrel Gliders might be making a nest. Skinks dart about near fallen branches.

You might hear a range of frogs or even catch a glimpse of bats at dusk.

Precious and protected

It is unusual in Australian urban areas to have a chain of reserves like the Wodonga Retained Environment Network. Reserves in the network have been chosen for ongoing conservation because they are protecting precious ecosystems, animals and plants that are at risk of disappearing for good.

Many threatened species are depending on the reserves for their survival. They include the rare Tuan or Brush-tailed Phascogale, and the Lace Monitor, a lizard that grows up to two metres and can climb trees.
The best way to watch wildlife is to stay at a distance. If they move away, you are too close. Be patient and keep the noise down.

They are more likely to appear if you are moving gently and quietly or standing still. Binoculars can be a big help.

Listen carefully. Crackling twigs might mean there is a creature on the move, while bird and frog calls may tell you where there is some action. The time of day can make a difference and so can the seasons. A hot day may not be the best time to go looking.

Highway to hope

These conservation areas form a wildlife corridor that can mean the difference between life and death for the creatures that live there. Animals use wildlife corridors like people use highways to move about. It means they can travel to survive droughts, floods, fire or changes in environmental conditions. It is also important for maintaining the health of populations by enabling the gene flow.

Give them a hand

It’s a delight to see wildlife in the wild. So it makes sense to play our part in making sure they will be there in the future.

Manage your pets responsibly and don’t let them roam. Research indicates that one domestic cat alone can kill more than 50 small native animals a year. Uncontrolled dogs also kill and maim wildlife.

Leave the bush as it is. Fallen branches and dead trees provide shelter and a food source. The loss of old trees with hollows is a threat. That’s why you will occasionally see nesting boxes that have been installed in established trees to provide homes for squirrel gliders, ringtail possums and other animals that need them.

For more information see wodonga.vic.gov.au/local-reserves or phone (02) 6022 9300.