

Where are the Waterbugs?

EVERY SPECIES HAS A ROLE TO PLAY

BUG BREATHING TRICKS

Waterbugs live in different parts of a waterway depending on how they breathe. Different structural features allow waterbugs to live in different habitats.

Some absorb oxygen through their skin and live near the bottom. Others use gills to take in oxygen from fast-flowing water. Some must reach the surface to breathe air.

DIVERSE HABITAT = DIVERSE ECOSYSTEM

Waterways aren't just one big pool, they're layered habitats.

Each habitat zone is home to different waterbugs that have adapted to live within this unique environment.

Some waterbugs need clean, oxygen-rich water. Others can survive in murk.

The more types of habitat there are, the more bugs you'll find (and the more food for frogs, fish, and platypus).

Waterbugs help us understand waterway health

HABITAT VARIETY

Keep an eye out for waterbugs in these key habitats: rocks, sticks, mud, leaf litter, water plants, sand, open water, on the surface.

KEY

1. Dragonfly nymph
2. Damselfly larva
3. Freshwater Snail
4. Water Slater
5. Mosquito larva
6. Dragonfly adult
7. Diving Beetle adult
8. Waterstrider
9. Common Yabby
10. Segmented Worm
11. Freshwater Shrimp
12. Stonefly nymph
13. Stick Caddisfly larva
14. Mayfly larva

Join a waterbug survey and discover what's living in your local creek. Every bug you find helps tell the story of waterway health.

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