

Keeping pools frog-free

WET WEATHER HAS SEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FROGS FINDING THEIR WAY INTO BACKYARD SWIMMING POOLS.

IN light of the increased incidence of frogs in pools, Bill Mansfield from BioGuard has offered a few suggestions. He says frogs do not like pool water and would stay out of a clean, sanitised pool, but they are unaware of the chemicals in the water until they get into the pool.

Unfortunately, there is no easy chemical treatment to stop frogs getting into a pool. The only way is to create a barrier between them and the water or a boundary around the pool that frogs will not like to cross.

Mansfield says that barriers such as a pool blanket or a raised section around the pool (about 20cm high) will deter frogs, but make sure they cannot climb the barrier.

Another way to prevent frogs getting into the pool is to make a salt barrier deterrent. Dilute salt into a bucket of water (about 1kg of table salt per 10L bucket) and pour this salty water around the edge of the pool. When the water evaporates there will be a light coverage of salt



Tree frog photo by LiquidGhoul

over the area. The salt is uncomfortable to the frogs' feet and will deter them without harming them. Be aware, if you have grass or plants near the edge of your pool, this salt water mixture could kill nearby plants if spilt on them.

Other ways to deter frogs is to make the surrounding areas undesirable to frogs. Fill in any holes in the garden and pull up any large clumps of weeds

where frogs may like to hide. If you are a keen gardener you could purchase a fertiliser with ammonia sulphate in it which will also deter frogs in a similar way to the salt.

Finally, you could provide something for the frogs to climb out of the pool. A paddle-board left half in the pool may help the frogs get out of the pool before they drown.

New digital resource for small business

THE Federal Government has launched a new free computer-based information tool for small businesses. The Small Business Resource Kit brings together essential information and valuable tips.

According to the Minister for Small Business, Senator Nick Sherry, small business operators are generally time-poor – they are focused on develop-

ing their businesses and need access to resources in a way that suits their busy schedules.

"This kit gives small business operators instant access to resources in a variety of formats, including video files, audio recordings, as well as traditional handbooks," he says.

It includes information on obtain-

ing grants, government assistance and other useful advice to help grow a small business.

The kit is available online or on a USB pendrive. You can obtain a Small Business Resource Kit by calling 1800 77 7275, going to www.business.gov.au/resourcekit or by clicking on the Quick-Link tab at www.splashmagazine.com.au.

Waterco wins at Spatex

WATERCO has won the Best Product Award at the British water leisure expo, Spatex, for the MultiCyclone Plus pre-filtration and filtration system. It impressed judges with its water saving capabilities, its energy efficiency and streamlined sizing.

"The MultiCyclone Plus is an extremely well designed product that very much lives up to its environmental credentials," says Tony Fisher, managing director, Waterco UK. "We are delighted with this award win."

Waterco first introduced the MultiCy-

clone pre-filter in 2007, offering a major industry innovation. The MultiCyclone Plus combines the pre-filter with a built-in cartridge filter – and the streamlined design means the entire pool filtration system can be installed vertically, atop a standard pool pump.