

FrogWatch Newsletter

Spring 2022

A quick update on

- September frog fun events
- FrogTober census plans
- Froggy stuff from Oz
- Term 4 Tadpole madness
- Happenings in Canberra



Hi everyone

welcome to the spring FrogWatch newsletter, including a Census update!
There is so much happening! September will be jam packed with events:

Frog Lessons for Wellbeing

Come along and attune your sensory perception, identify calls of different frog species and learn some interesting facts about our local amphibian friends. Events run from 6.30pm - 8pm. Please choose the one that best fits you and click on the link to secure your spot:

[Froggy Facts After Dark For Bright Young Things \(16-26yrs\)](#) @ Gungahlin Valley Ponds - Wednesday 7th September

[Froggy Fun After Dark For All](#) @ The Link – Ginninderry Community and Information centre – Wednesday 14th September

[Frogs Up Late For Grown-ups \(25yrs+\)](#) @ Mt Majura Dams - Friday 16th September

[Froggy Fun After Dark For All](#) @ Farrer Ponds - Wednesday 21st September

FrogWatch Census Training

Thursday 22nd September or

Monday 26th September

October is FrogCensus month and FrogWatch needs trained volunteers to help with the survey efforts. Come along and learn how, where and when to monitor frogs and be part of this long-term citizen science program. Children (<16yrs) free, adults (17+) \$5; **5.30pm - 8.30pm**



[Find out more and register](#). If booked out please write an email to frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au – We will run additional training if required.

Annual FrogCensus is only one month away!

WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

230 FrogWatch sites need to be monitored during the FrogTober frenzy. Many trained volunteers have already signed up to help out again- but there are still lots and lots of empty spots on the [online booking sheet](#).

Booking your site(s) helps us to ensure that ALL FrogWatch sites are monitored, so please put your name next to your favourite spot(s)! Here are a few important hints:

1. The booking sheet has several tabs to help you finding your perfect site(s)

TAB 1 *FW sites in alphabetical order*—please enter your and your buddy(s) name into this list by clicking on OPEN IN GOOGLE SHEETS (ON TOP OF SHEET - only works if you are signed in to your google account). Alternatively, email your name and your chosen site code(s) to frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au

The **Sites Nearby** column lists FW sites that you can easily monitor together, in case you want to visit several sites in a night.

TAB 2 *FW sites sorted by suburbs/park* – to locate sites near your suburb/ area of interest

TAB 3 *FW sites sorted by area* – to locate sites in your region (e.g., West Belconnen, Woden)

TAB 4, 5, 6 are for COOMA, REMOTE and PRIVATE sites

2. Site codes are hyperlinked to the site page on the Canberra Nature Map - find site and survey and information by using the tabs [field guide | sightings | surveys]

3. Private sites can only be accessed by permission

4. Remote sites are generally done by the FrogWatch team as they require late night driving or even overnight camping. If you are interested in assisting with remote surveys, send us an email and we will try to make it possible.

In case you have signed up to monitor a site and can no longer do the required minimum of two surveys during October, you need to inform the FrogWatch team immediately, so that alternative arrangements can be put into place.

Tuning into frogs? There has never been a better time to get started! Since the last FW newsletter, the number of calling frog species has doubled.



To get feedback on your frog ID practise when being out and about, submit short audio recordings (frogs, birds etc) to the Canberra Nature Map, using the NatureMapr app. **Please note: this app can only be used for incidental frog call observations, not for FrogCensus surveys!!**

Who is currently croaking:



Common Eastern Froglets or [Crinia signifera](#)

Whistling Tree Frog or [Litoria verreauxii](#)

Plains Toadlet or [Crinia parinsignifera](#)

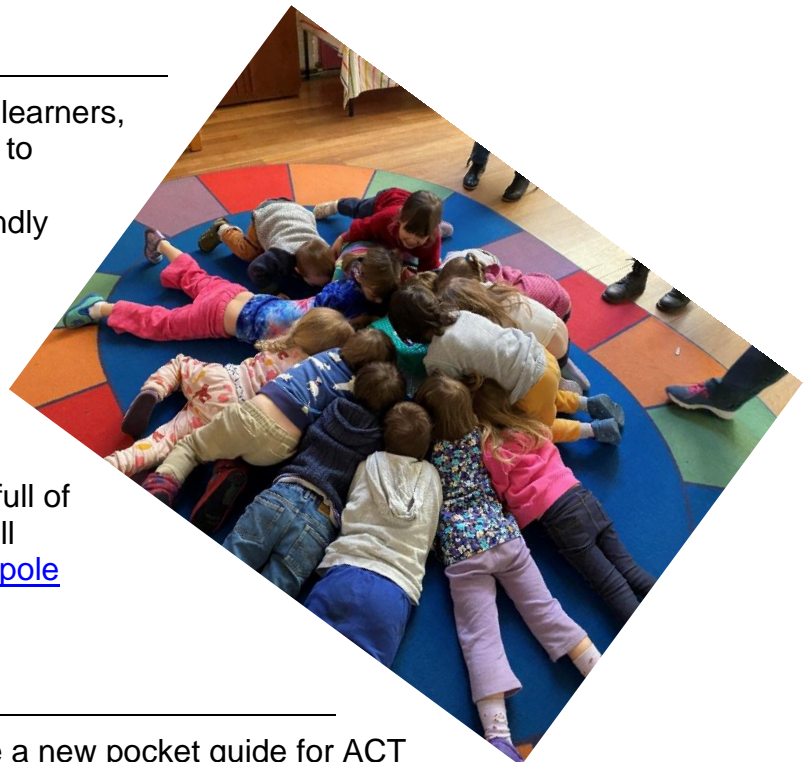
Spotted Grass Frog or [Limnodynastes tasmaniensis](#)

Click on the links to hear their calls, which are much-much more exciting when listened to in the wild on a starry night!! So, what are you waiting for? Off you go...

Education

FrogWatch has been busy linking up with learners, teachers and the wider school community to discuss all kinds of frog related topics, including how and where to build frog friendly habitat.

These interactive and student-led talks are a great segway into the annual Tadpole Kits for Schools Program, funded by Icon Water. As in previous years, 120 classrooms across the capital region will be adorned with a tank full of tadpoles during term 4. Bookings are in full swing and can be done via the online [Tadpole Booking Form](#)



ACT frogs pocket guide

FrogWatch has received funding to create a new pocket guide for ACT frogs (ACT Environmental Grant). The guide will be a great tool for all FrogWatchers, as well as for anyone else interested in our local environment. Over the next few months, we will be working on the design to make it a user-friendly and fun educational tool. Stay tuned!

Interesting readings:

How many dwellings can you fit on an urban block? Plenty- according to ecologists from the East Gippsland region. We are talking about a different real-estate here: frog hotels, and they might be exactly what is needed to give hard hit frog species a helping hand. But Canberrans be aware- these hotels work only for the climbers among the frogs, which are not very common in the ACT. So, before you run off to your local hardware store, maybe think twice. Tips on how to attract frogs to your garden can be found in our [frog-friendly habitat brochure](#).



Important request from the Conservation Council!!!!!!!!!!!!



Defence Housing Australia, a Commonwealth Government agency, has put forward a proposal to develop the Lawson Grasslands for housing which will lead to the loss of approximately 15.8 hectares of critically endangered ecological communities under Commonwealth environment laws, and likely the degradation of much more. The proposal has just been referred for assessment by DHA under federal environmental laws despite the clear environmental damage that will occur and in defiance of strong community opposition.

The community now has just under 8 days to write to the federal environment minister explaining why this proposed action is clearly unacceptable.

Given the Federal Government's shared concerns about the recently released 2021 State of the Environment Report, which showed most of Australia's environmental indicators are in decline, it is disappointing that DHA, as a Federal agency, are even proceeding with this project that reaches into areas previously considered most suitable for conservation.

The State of the Environment report 2021 has shown us that the time to fight for nature has arrived and making a submission against the proposed development at Lawson Grasslands is the first action.

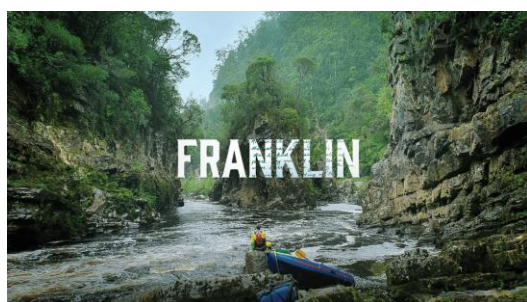
Click [here](#) to find the referral, and for [the submission guide](#).

Interesting film: Where the water starts, ANU 01.09. 19:30

Many of you will be familiar with the film, but it explores the environmental and cultural value of the Snowy Mountains region through an Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspective - in light of the quest to protect the area from invasive species. Here is the link to register with the details:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/where-the-water-starts-screening-and-panel-discussion-tickets-402204343017>

Another interesting film: Franklin- one day only! 04.09. 14:00



Featuring former Greens leader Bob Brown, historian Aunty Patsy Cameron and entrepreneur Dick Smith, and narrated by Hugo Weaving, the documentary includes breathtaking shots of the waterway and its surrounds, enriched by never-before-seen 16mm footage. This film is about advocacy, conservation, history, legacy and the longing

to freely flow. It will be shown at Palace Electric, New Acton.

Interesting talk: Amphibian Biodiversity in Colombia

Fenner Seminar 09.09 9:30

This seminar is presented in conjunction with the Embassy of Colombia in Canberra. Join online via Zoom. [Register with this link](#)

There are 78 species of glass frog species that live in Colombia—more than half of the total number of glass frogs in the world. New ones that live in the tropical Andes region are still being discovered, with researchers finding new information about their incredible biology.

Physicists and optics experts have theories about what makes their belly skin as transparent as glass and how their bones almost disappear while other research focuses on the behaviours of bachelor males to attract females.

This seminar will be presented with photos that serve as a window into the threatened world of these amazing amphibians, a living treasure trove of biodiversity in Colombia.

Know your wattles: The Black Mountain Wattle Walk 10.09, 9:30

Let's celebrate green and gold by enjoying a ramble and learning more about the different Acacia (Wattles) on Black Mountain after wetter years with local plant ecologist, Dr Michael Doherty. The ramble will be on rough uneven ground with some steep sections.

Meet: Frith Road, near the electricity sub-station. Look for banner(s).

Bring: Friends and family. Water. Snacks if you wish. Gold Coins Donation

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL: Send your name and phone number to

friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com, or phone Linda (0437 298 711) or Libby (6296 1936) to secure your spot

CBR360 Circular Economy Symposium 15.09.

Hosted by the Conservation Council ACT Region in partnership with the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, this Symposium will showcase local sustainability leaders, share latest research, examine policy directions and shine a spotlight on the grassroots of Canberra's sharing economy. [Click here to register and find out more](#)



This is it for now- hope you enjoyed the read. Make sure to say **Hi** when you spot me at one of the above events! Looking forward to another exciting and busy FrogTober, which will only be possible thanks to your amazing support and extraordinary contributions! Keep in touch!

Yours the crazy Frog Lady Anke Maria

*you
are
awesome*



*FrogWatch and the Ginninderra Catchment Group would like to acknowledge the **ACT Government** and **Icon Water** for their kind financial support and ongoing engagement. Some photos in this newsletter were sourced from the world-wide-web, and are not intended for commercial use. Thank you to the photographers and Dr. Google*