Frogwatch Newsletter Mai 2016

Wow- almost June!!

Hope this Frogwatch Update finds you all well and in good spirits!!

Lots has been happening in the office- here just a quick summary, including

- the Frogwatch Data Portal
- Help needed with Climate Change surveys
- This year's Census
- Last year's Projects

Frogwatch Data Portal

Thanks everyone for putting the new portal to the test and entering (and re-entering) plenty of surveys!! We are now well past the teething problems and the data entry is running smoothly. A humongous thank you to June Hornby for entering countless surveys and keeping me sane!!

Feel free to enter ANY survey that is still sitting somewhere on your desktop- better late than never!!

Every week can be Census week-

you can monitor during any season!!

The ACT and Region Frogwatch is kindly supported by:

Do you remember last year's Climate Change Project??

It included weekly surveys to monitor changes in the onset of frog calls in a warming climate. Ironically, 2015 had the coldest winter months in 20 years!! Therefore we would like to repeat the experiment this year, starting NOW!!

Below the list of involved sites- 5 discreet groups, all linked to historic data about frog calling behaviour in the ACT. We still need volunteers for three of the clusters!!!

Can you help out?? Occasional monitoring, adopting a site/cluster for a month, 2 months or the entire period – **just let me know!**

Need to be partnered up??? Let me know and I might be able to help!!

CLUSTER 1 West Belconnen
DGP001 Dunlop Grassland, accessible via Shakespeare Drive, -35.185, 149.0332
FRA201 Halls Creek, Fraser -35.1875, 149.0401

CLUSTER 2 Weston Creek
DUF200, northern dam on Narrabundah Hill, -35.344363, 149.0229
COO100 Cooleman Ridge N-dam off Karthner Street, -35.3501, 149.0226

CLUSTER 3 Mulligans Flat
MFL002, MFL003, MFL005 3 ponds surrounding the shearing shed,

CLUSTER 4 Mt Majura (partly booked till October, but free for additional monitoring)
***FMC220** - Mt Majura Dam, lower, via Jukes St, -35.2412, 149.1688 BOOKED*
FMC200 - Mt Majura Dam, bottom, via McKenzie St. -35.251, 149.1745
FMC210 - Mt Majura Dam, top, via McKenzie St, -35.2506, 149.1769

CLUSTER 5 Weston Park- BOOKED

If you are available to help out please enter your availabilities in the appropriate survey calendar:

For Duffy Sites: http://doodle.com/poll/nqy7hityxgimtbv3
For Mt Majura Sites: http://doodle.com/poll/63y6hbq4a5uvsp34
For Fraser/Dunlop Sites: http://doodle.com/poll/sxhfi7afrew976q5 and http://doodle.com/poll/rwcwyqyftz5k337n

Doing the weekly monitoring is THE best way to learn the different frog calls! Starting with one or two species over the next two months gradually more species - generally one by one- will join the ever growing chorus, which peaks in spring with up to 8 species calling simultaniously.

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2016 FrogCensus 16.10. - 22.10.

Like last year, we are planning to run trainings events at the Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands, plus at an additional venue (suggestions??) in late September. For the first time, we are going to run the Introduction seminar and the Field Trip in a single night at each venue. The new set up will still allow volunteers to attend only either the Introduction Seminar or the Field Trip. In addition to that, it will make life a little easier for people with keen interest in both training events but with limited time. All events can be booked using the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust's online booking system. A link to the appropriate site will be published on the Frogwatch website as well as in our newsletter

Last year's projects in a nutshell:

Climate change: In 2015 weekly monitoring was done at 5 clusters with a total of 17 sites during a colder than average winter. Our efforts were kindly funded by the ACT Environment and Planning Directorate, Climate Change. This year we want to repeat the weekly monitoring at 12 sites, starting NOW. Are you happy to help out??

Bio-indicator project: This project examined frog-habitat relationships in 33 urban and peri-urban wetlands to establish the specific habitat requirements of frogs in Canberra. We found that species richness was positively influenced by the presence of fallen timber in the riparian zone of the wetland and negatively influenced by mowing around urban wetlands. *Uperoleia leavigata* turned out to be the "bellwether species", being particularly responsive to habitat connectivity, the presence of *Gambusia holbrooki*, riparian condition and water quality. Findings are published in a Project Report to the Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch and are currently reviewed by a range of Government agencies.

This is it for now!! Looking forward to hearing your feedback!

Thanks again for all your great support and enthusiasm!!

Enjoy your journey into winter!!

Big smiles

Anke Maria

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