

## FROGWATCH – September 2018 news

Frogwatch is based at the Ginninderra Catchment Group office in Kippax Health Centre at Kippax shopping centre (in Holt). Phone: 02 6783309.

To contact Anke Maria Hoefer, the Frogwatch Coordinator, email [frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au).

Be aware that Anke Maria works part-time on Frogwatch.



### THIS YEAR'S CENSUS (supported through funds made available by the ACT Government)

Frogwatch is running a **Census seminar at Jerrabomberra Wetlands** to get every keen Frogwatcher geared up for this year's spring census. The seminar will be held on **Thursday 4 October, starting at 6 pm** at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands education centre. A PowerPoint presentation will take you through the ins and outs of frogwatching and introduce you to our local frogs and their amazing calls. We then will fill our bellies with hot soup before heading out in the cold night to practise our newly learned skills, right then and there at the beautiful wetlands!!



We have a list of 'orphaned' **Frogwatch sites that need** to be taken into the care of by a **frogwatcher** who can do **2 site surveys during Census week (21–27 October)**. (See also below under 'OUR NEW FROGWATCH PORTAL...' .)

To book your spot in the **4 October seminar** simply go to the *Jerrabomberra Wetlands events page* by clicking on the link <https://jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au/events/list/> and follow the prompts.

**ALSO**, Frogwatch will run a training seminar at **Cooma on Thursday 18 October**, just before the Census week. If you are interested in coming along please **contact Antia** from Cooma Region Waterwatch, on phone 0429778633 or email [coomawaterwatch@gmail.com](mailto:coomawaterwatch@gmail.com).

These two events are made possible by *Lori Gould*, Program Manager at Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Woodlands and Wetlands Trust; and by *Antia Brademan*, Cooma Region Waterwatch Coordinator, respectively.

*Please read the last item in this newsletter to see how to use the **Frogwatch online portal** to find a site and record your observations.*

### CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT (funded through the ACT Government)

Despite the acute lack of rain frogs can be heard around town. Our amazing Climate Change volunteers have detected up to 4 species so far- *Crinia signifera*, *Crinia parinsignifera*, *Litoria verreauxii* and *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*. Go climies go!!

### BIO-INDICATOR STUDY (funded through the ACT Government)

All is geared up for this year's extended repeat of the 2015 frog habitat study at 45 wetlands across town. CIT students will be doing the in-depth habitat assessments, all of which will be done in the first week of October. ANU and CIT students will then join forces for the weekly monitoring of the sites involved, throughout October!!

Preparations are currently being finalised and it will all be 'go-go-go' from Monday 1 October onwards!!

Special thanks to *Aftab Jalal* (MJ) for taking on the crucial job of preparing the right databases and running the data analysis in early November, and to *Danial Stratford* for covering some harder-to-get-to sites in Mulligans Flat.

And, on Saturday night I trained a bunch of lovely ANU students!! They will be instrumental in monitoring for frogs @ 11 sites in the Inner north, the ANBG, ANU, the Arboretum and in the Aranda Bushland throughout October. These site surveys will contribute important data to the Bio-indicator study as well as to the annual Census!!

## FROGS AT BUSH BLITZ, NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

Bush Blitz is Australia's largest nature discovery program and the next Bush Blitz will take place in the ACT from 26 November to 6 December 2018. There will be a community day at the Australian National Botanic Gardens on Sunday 2 December from 10 am to 3 pm. This event will give visitors a chance to learn about taxonomy, interact with Bush Blitz scientists, and find out how they can get involved with local community groups to contribute to our knowledge of Australian biodiversity.

*To all frog-keen people:* Jodi Rowley from the Australian Museum will be one of the Bush Blitz scientists on site on 2 December – a great opportunity to pick her Froggie brain!!

If you would like to be involved in the activity or need more detail please contact: Paula Banks, Bush Blitz Reporting Officer, phone 02 6250 9467, email [paula.banks@environment.gov.au](mailto:paula.banks@environment.gov.au)

## OUR NEW FROGWATCH PORTAL on Canberra Nature Map – and how to use it

After a mammoth effort – hours of work with Aaron Clausen – the Frogwatch data portal finally went live last weekend on Canberra Nature Map (CNM). What a milestone! So much work! From here on, there will be fine-tuning forever, but at least the data are now saved there and usable.

To use the portal, simply follow this link –

<https://frogwatch-act.naturemapr.org/>

Create your own log in and start entering surveys.

You can also find this link on (GCG's) Frogwatch census webpage

<https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch/frogwatch-census/>

If all else fails, go to the CNM start page, <https://canberra.naturemapr.org/>, scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page, and click on the Frogwatch (FW) icon there!! This will also get you to the FW portal.



Find active FW sites by searching the overview map or by scrolling through the POINTS OF INTEREST.

I will (in time) work on simplifying the site codes so that they better reflect in which area the sites are and that neighbouring sites have the same site letters; however, that might have to wait till after the census!!

If you want to add a SURVEY, go to 'add a survey', and then to the FW survey form.

Please remember: from this year onwards we are collecting some new descriptors of habitat quality and wetland features, such as min/max length exposed soil and the vertical drop.

The updated Field data sheet is attached again to this email (and run in as images), and it is also on our webpage <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch/frogwatch-census/> as well. (The frogs are in alphabetical order on this version; otherwise, no change.)

As a number of popular FW sites are already well covered by volunteers, through the Climate change and bio-indicator studies, I have created a list of **orphaned sites** in need of some attention during this year's Census week (**21 – 27 October**). I will leave a link to the list on the FW Census webpage (<https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch/frogwatch-census/>) (which is still under construction and looks very uninspired!! sorry about that!!).

If you see a site, or even several sites, on the list that you could survey during Census week (best to do it twice) please just send me an email at [frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au), or phone me on 62783309 (**Tuesdays or Wednesdays**), and I will then take that site(s) off the list to avoid double ups!!

**AN IMPORTANT REQUEST!!!!** **If you have already submitted data into the Canberra Nature Map Frogwatch portal** could you please let me know how many surveys in total, or the sites and the dates?? I would like to double check that they are fully shown in the list!!

Anke Maria Hoefer,

Frogwatch Coordinator, [frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au)



# Frogwatch Field Data Sheet Sept 2018

Please complete Field Data Sheet for each survey, for instructions, refer to the back of this page			
Site Code:		Date:	
Observers:			
<b>WEATHER</b> (Please tick the appropriate box that best describes the current conditions)			
SKY CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear or a few clouds	<input type="checkbox"/> Partly cloudy or variable	<input type="checkbox"/> Cloudy (broken) or overcast
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fog	<input type="checkbox"/> Drizzle	<input type="checkbox"/> Showers
WIND	<input type="checkbox"/> Still= smoke rises vertically		<input type="checkbox"/> Light breeze= wind direction shown by smoke drift
	<input type="checkbox"/> Light wind= wind felt on face, leaves rustle		<input type="checkbox"/> Windy= leaves and branches in constant motion
AIR TEMP:		°C	WATER TEMP: °C
<b>HABITAT-</b>			
WATER DEPTH:	<input type="checkbox"/> < 30 cm <input type="checkbox"/> > 30 cm <input type="checkbox"/> unknown <input type="checkbox"/> dry		
POND IS:	<input type="checkbox"/> FULL <input type="checkbox"/> NEARLY FULL <input type="checkbox"/> Bank VERY EXPOSED <input type="checkbox"/> NEARLY DRY <input type="checkbox"/> DRY		
WATER FLOW:	<input type="checkbox"/> Still <input type="checkbox"/> Slow <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Fast		
VERTICAL WATER LEVEL DROP to nearest 25 cm		_____ cm	
AREA OF EXPOSED SOIL (High water mark (HWM) to water's edge)		Min: _____ meter	Max: _____ meter
<b>VEGETATION</b>			
EMERGENT AQUATIC VEGETATION COVER OF POND	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> just localized <input type="checkbox"/> <25% <input type="checkbox"/> <50% <input type="checkbox"/> <75% <input type="checkbox"/> <100% <input type="checkbox"/> entire pond		
FRINGE/EDGE VEGETATION COVER (along the highwater mark)	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> just localized <input type="checkbox"/> <10% of edge <input type="checkbox"/> <25% of edge <input type="checkbox"/> <50% of edge <input type="checkbox"/> <75% of edge <input type="checkbox"/> <100% of edge <input type="checkbox"/> entire edge		
POND AREA SHADED BY TREES (AT LEAST PART OF THE DAY)	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> <10% <input type="checkbox"/> <25% <input type="checkbox"/> <50% <input type="checkbox"/> <75% <input type="checkbox"/> <100%		
EVIDENCE OF MOWING:		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
WIDTH OF UNMOWN BUFFER FROM HWM AROUND POND:		<input type="checkbox"/> <1m <input type="checkbox"/> 1-5m <input type="checkbox"/> >5m	
<b>INVENTORY OF SPECIES:</b> Estimates of numbers:    1 – 5    6 – 20    21 – 50    51 – 99    >100			
Species Detected	Number	Comment	
<i>Crinia parinsignifera</i> (Plains froglet)			
<i>Crinia signifera</i> (Common eastern froglet)			
<i>Limnodynastes dumerilii</i> (Eastern banjo frog)			
<i>Limnodynastes peronii</i> (Brown-striped frog)			
<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i> (Spotted grass frog)			
<i>Litoria peronii</i> (Peron's treefrog)			
<i>Litoria verreauxii</i> (Whistling treefrog)			
<i>Neobatrachus sudelli</i> (Spotted burrowing frog)			
<i>Uperoleia laevis</i> (Smooth toadlet)			
Other species??			
<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>			
Please take this sheet with you and fill in all the survey details. Submit the data and recording online. Contact us for assistance: P: 6278 3309, 0429066046, frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au, PO Box 446, Holt, ACT 2615			



To do a survey at your chosen Frogwatch site(s) you need a

- During a survey you need to collect all requested parameters AND a 3min recording (even if no frogs are calling). State all observations, the time, date and site code at the beginning of the recording- then start the 3mins.

**POND DRY** = dry cracked clay, no water

Cast your eye along the edge of the water, all the way around the pond. Find the spot with the largest and with the shortest distance between the highwater mark and the water's edge. Measure the distance and enter your results onto the field data sheet. If a pond has fringe vegetation that covers the distance between edge of the pond and the highwater mark your measurement will for the shortest distance will be 0m. All measurements should be in meters.

1: Full; 2: 1 to 25 cm down; 3: 26-50 cm down; 4: 50 - 75 cm down; 5: 76-100 cm down; 6: greater than 1 metre down).

**No** or **yes**. If yes then go into a bit more detail about the width of unmown buffer around the pond? Is it

<1m	1-5m	>5m?
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NONE	JUST LOCALIZED COVERS <75% of pond	COVERS <25% of pond COVERS <100% of pond	COVERS <50% of pond COVERS the entire pond
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NONE COVERS <50% of edge	JUST LOCALIZED COVERS <75% of edge	COVERS <10% of edge COVERS <100% of edge	COVERS <25% of edge ENTIRE edge vegetated
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Give it a go!! Try to identify the species you might have heard, and their abundance.