

FROGWATCH NEWS – NOVEMBER 2018

CHRISTMAS PARTY ON THE 10TH DECEMBER!! ****

Please come and join the fun and help celebrate our achievements thanks to your generous contributions in 2018!! Hope to see you all then and there!!

It is in the courtyard by the **Ginninderra Catchment Group office, behind Kippax Shops (Old Kippax Health Centre), from 6.45 pm,** following the GCG AGM which is scheduled to end at 6.30 pm.



LOOKING BACK ON 2018

So much has happened!! Many lovely and amazingly generous people have contributed to Frogwatch in a wide range of activities. Where shall I start??

First, a big Thank You to the ACT Government for their generous support of the program and its various projects (see below). We are looking forward to a productive and ongoing partnership well into the future.

In 2018, Frogwatch had our “toe pads” in many different pies and we presented to many different audiences. I would like to say a very big Thank You to **June Hornby**: she comes in every week to do jobs in the office and keep me company. She does so much every week – things that would never get done without her input, and for that I am very grateful!!

Now, here are a few highlights from our main projects.

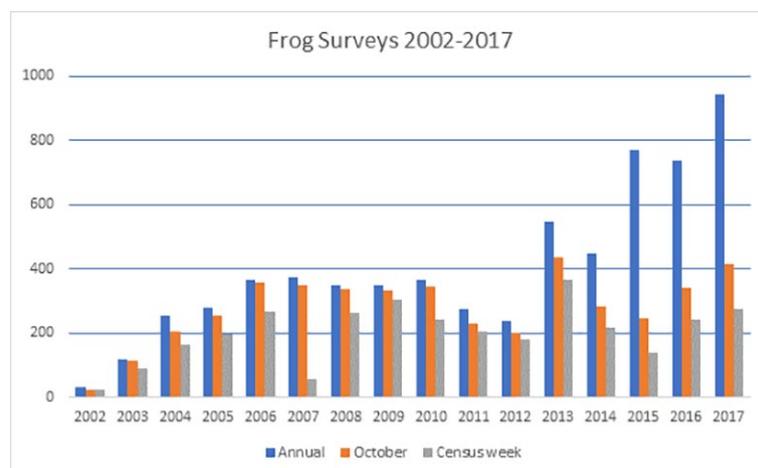
2018 FW Census, funded by ACT Government

Thanks to everyone for contributing to this year’s FrogCensus. We had two packed training seminars: one at Jerrabomberra Wetlands and one in Cooma. Awesome to see so many people are interested in frogs!!

When entering your data into the new Frogwatch portal – please be patient. We are working on improvements but it all takes time. Once you have submitted your surveys you cannot see them until I have verified the data entries. **If it all gets too complicated, simply mail or email your data sheets and your recording to me and I will verify and enter the lot!!** Soon the portal will allow me to see your submissions and I will be growing my annual ‘cauliflower ears’ from listening to all the wonderful recordings.

Let’s hope that we will have an FWCensus app by next year!!

The chart here shows a few stats from past years, to help visualise how many surveys we do every year. In 2017 we were very close to a 1000! Please keep sending in your survey results for 2018.



Bio-indicator study, funded by ACT Government

Data collection for habitat features and frog occurrence has been finished. A very big Thank You to the CIT Diploma students: **Liz, Chandra, Shannon, Blaine, Portia, Tashi** and **Passang** for their sterling efforts.

In addition, a big Thank You to the ANU students **Milou, Sarah, Renee S, Ira, Ebony, Rye, Albert, Michael, Renee G** and **Hannah** (hope I got you all!!) for their sterling efforts while monitoring many sites throughout the inner north/Arboretum/ANBG/ANU and Aranda Bushland.

Last but not least, another special Thank You to **Danial Stratford** for searching high and low for frogs at Mulligans Flat throughout October, and to **Abhijeet Swami** for helping out at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands.

Now that most of the data has been collected, we are looking into the number crunching. This would all not be possible without **Aftab Jalal (aka MJ)**. Big thumbs up for his brainy technical support, creating Google doc for the data entry, preparing the data verification and analysis, and providing lots of super feedback and suggestions.

Once the data is ready for analysis I will be cheering, big time. In the meantime I will do a bit more sorting and verifying, as well as some visual *Gambusia* searches. Wish me luck (which means not to find *Gambusia*).

Climate Change study, funded by ACT Government

Our 4th and final field season has come to an end. I have no idea yet what will replace those weekly after-hours excursions in icy weather! Once all surveys are entered – just a few over 300 in total – I will verify the recordings and punch in the numbers. Then I'll hand over the data to our clever stats team, **Martin Westgate, Danswell Starrs** and **Will Osborne**, to see what they can squeeze out of the data. Stay tuned!

I would like to say a big Thank You to all the people involved in this four-year study: **Amanda Norton, Bryan Lessard, Cameron Whitnall, Danswell Starrs, Ingrid Singh, Mark Smith; Peljo, Nerida and family; Rocky Simachila; Saskia Beudel and daughter; Sharon Koh; Tanya Rough and family; Will Osborne, David Wyatt, Anne Hasting, Surya and Ella Rose.**

Frogphone development- funded by ACT Government

This very fruitful partnership with the University of Canberra, namely **Adrian Garrido-Sanchez** and **Kumudu Munasinghe**, is drawing to its end. We have been preparing a report about the invention of the world's first 'frogphone' and hope to submit our paper for publication before the end of the year.

Tadpole Kits to Schools Program, funded by Icon Water

Currently we have 135 tadpole kits out and about at schools in the ACT and surrounding NSW region. People have called from Victoria and Sydney to get their hands on a tadpole kit, but unfortunately we do not even have enough resources to help out all schools in our local region that are interested.

Lots and lots of great feedback is coming in from the partaking schools/teachers/students. Great to see that learners as young as 3 can successfully engage with nature and learn to look after the environment!!

Building of the new Frogwatch Portal- in the CNM, funded by ACT Government

As you all know, Frogwatch data has been moved to a new web portal, the Canberra Nature Map platform: very exciting! This has lots of benefits, such as ongoing maintenance, permanent improvements and updates to make the portal even better for all the users.

The Frogwatch portal is half-way completed. It definitely did **not** speed things up when our webpage **was hacked** and it looked like we had lost ALL FROGWATCH DATA FOR GOOD. **Aaron Clausen** is doing an amazing job in keeping it all going. There is hardly enough money in Canberra (for the non-

for-profit sector) to properly pay him for all his hard work!! Frogwatch will keep trying to raise funds for the further development of the online portal.

WHAT ELSE HAS HAPPENED??

In a nutshell:

- We attended the Australian Citizen Science Conference in Adelaide in January.
- FW presented at the Black Mountain Symposium.
- FW presented at schools and scout groups and other organisations.
- We imitated frog calls for a range of audiences, live and on radio.
- We lost our GCG webpage and are slowly recovering from this.
- Frogwatch made it into the news, online, the radio and the papers.
- Frogwatch Climate Change project was topic of a Friday Essay in *The Conversation* at <https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-frogwatching-charting-climate-changes-impact-in-the-here-and-now-98161>
- Rotary Club of Canberra dedicated part of their trivia night to kindly raise funds for Frogwatch.
- Rotary Belconnen supported our educational activities.
- ACT Herpetological Association contributed money towards frog-friendly habitat workshops in our fastest growing areas: Molonglo valley and Gungahlin (to be held in 2019).
- Frogwatch was part of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority 'water education week' at Questacon.
- Frogwatch worked with so many students from CIT, ANU and UC and provided them with a wide range of opportunities to gain workplace experience and to be involved in environmental monitoring. See Phoebe's report about her involvement in the Tadpole Kits for Schools program: <https://biodiversityconservationblog.wordpress.com/>

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS FOR 2019??

My top 5 milestones are:

- Secure ongoing core-funding for Frogwatch.
- Finish the bio-indicator study data analysis and publish the results.
- Finish the Climate Change study data analysis and publish the results.
- Further develop the new FW portal and extend it to include a phone app.
- Develop and publish a fully updated version of the Tadpole Kits for Schools booklet.

And get some sleep sometime!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas party, even if just for a short time. It is always great to catch up and share some stories!!!!

FINALLY ...

Along with with my big **Thank-You**s to all Frogwatch volunteers, wherever you are, here is a little froggy Christmas song to get you in the right swing for the 2018–19 festive season:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ6dbf3_aWU

All the best to you all.

Anke Maria Hoefler (The Frog Lady), Frogwatch Coordinator