



## Our frog census this year is for the whole month of October!!

Hi everyone.

The annual FrogCensus is near and requires your action!! Please be aware that this year it is a '**Census month**' (October) rather than just a Census week as in previous years.

Here a few important bits and pieces for this year's monitoring activities, including information about the *Training events in September and October*. Training is essential for all new Frogwatchers taking part in the census.

### **TIMING OF SURVEYS**

When monitoring, it is important to look out for the right weather conditions and plan accordingly. Surveys on days after rain are the best, with little wind and mild conditions. However, rain has been rather hard to come by this year, so the best approach now is to:

1. keep your hopes up,
2. spread survey nights across the month to increase your chance of detecting calling frogs,
3. choose still, mild nights, preferably after rain,
4. do regular rain dances!

**Where to survey:** This year I have started to drastically reduce the number of survey sites to ensure that most of our sites are getting monitored every year.

*If I have inactivated one of your favourite sites, please let me know and I will re-activate the site again!!*

I am gradually setting up an ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM, with a list of all ACTIVE sites. There will be a few columns next to each site code, to put your name and approximate date of survey in. When it is *completed, in late September*, the booking sheet will be on our webpage, <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogs/>, under the Census tab.

I (Anke Maria) would like you to please enter your survey intentions into that list. Your initials should be enough. This will give me and all other keen volunteers a good understanding of which sites will be covered.

This will be a great visual tool for everyone that is looking for a site that needs a few more visits!! It will also help to avoid double-booking at very popular sites.

**In case your survey site is dry:** A site that is dry does not need more than a single survey. However, it is important to pay one visit to document the water level and other parameters – and the absence of frogs.

On the good side: empty ponds will allow you to target a few new sites that you have never visited before.

**In case no frog is calling:** Whether a frog is calling or not, *please still take a three-minute sound-recording at the pond*. No survey is complete without this!! (What sounds like a cricket might be a whistling tree frog!!)

### **SAFETY**

Please make sure that you follow **all** of our safety rules. Here is a quick reminder.

1. Attend one of our training events **prior** to becoming a Frogwatch volunteer. This is compulsory for all volunteers and can be used as a refresher if you have fallen out of practice.
2. Undertake a site visit to all your chosen sites during the daytime **before** you visit them at night, to map access routes, and familiarise yourself with the safest parking options, access routes and the terrain. Take note of any potential hazards, such as low-hanging branches, trip hazards or undercut edges of the waterbody. Fill in the habitat description section of your field data sheet for each site.
3. Always team up with another person to do frog monitoring. Never go out frogwatching on your own!!
4. Preferably monitor with another trained Frogwatch volunteer, or ensure that at least 1 person in your survey team has received adequate training prior to commencing survey activities.
5. Inform a 3rd person about your survey plan – including the location(s) of the site(s) and your estimated returning time.
6. Carry a First Aid Kit with you, and ensure you know what material is in the kit and how to use it in the case of an injury.
7. Carry a good torch and have a set of spare batteries handy.
8. Ensure your mobile phone is fully charged.
9. Have your field data sheets, a waterproof pen, and your thermometer ready.
10. Park your car in a safe spot and a safe distance away from any moving traffic.
11. Do not obstruct any access routes.
12. Follow the monitoring procedures as described in the Frogwatch Census Kit, including taking a 3-mins sound-recording, **even if no frogs appear to call**.
13. Use our latest field data sheet ([at this LINK](#)), and check for additional information on its back page.
14. Measure the water temperature at the safest possible spot, by holding the thermometer at an arm's length, and immersing it approximately 10 cm deep into the water.
15. Have fun.
16. Inform your "3rd person" once you are safely home.
17. Enter your data and upload your recording(s) as soon as possible [into the FW portal](#) (part of Canberra Nature Map).

(If the link at no.13 doesn't work, it's <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Frogwatch-Field-Data-Sheet-version-6-horizontal-lines.pdf> )

## TRAINING EVENTS

This year's training events are again at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Education Centre. At the moment there are 2 seminars, both on a Friday night:

**27 September** and **18 October**.

Seminar is from 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm.

Practical session is from 7.15 pm to 8.30 pm.

**Seminar and practical session:** The Introduction seminar is *essential for all new Frogwatch volunteers* or can be used as a refresher for those who have participated in previous years. It covers all you need to know about the *When, Why, Where* and *How* of frogwatching.

Each seminar is followed by a practical session in the form of an easy walk around the Wetlands to put newly learned theory into practice. Key components of frog habitat and behaviour can be investigated while walking as a group.

**Bring** sturdy shoes, a torch and warm clothing, and wet-weather gear if necessary.

**Please note:** All seminars cover the same information. You need only attend ONE of them. Hot drinks, nibbles and soup will be provided.

**RSVPs are essential.** To book your place for a Seminar please go to <https://jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au/events-and-activities/>

**Cost: \$15 per adult** (children under 16, free). **Numbers** per seminar are **limited to 30**.

Please help by spreading the word. Get your colleagues, your book club, your mothers' group, your family, your friends involved!

Cheerio!

Anke Maria

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**EXTRA NOTE**

Frogwatch would like to establish a special task force to undertake frog surveys in small groups in more remote areas.

Survey activities will be prompted by specific weather conditions, most likely during late summer and early autumn.

A good level of fitness is required, as well as being available at relatively short notice (a few days in advance).

If this sounds just made for you, please email your expression of interest to me at [frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au)

Anke Maria

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