

# Frogwatch news



ACT & Region FROGWATCH program, <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogs/frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au>, phone 6278 3309

## Hi everyone

Census is here!! Yeah!!

### CENSUS MONTH OCTOBER

Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October is the official start of this year's FrogCensus, and this year the Census lasts the entire month!!!

The expanded timeframe will give everyone more opportunities to do frogwatching under the best possible conditions.



### WHAT ARE BEST POSSIBLE CONDITIONS??

*Mild, still nights are best, especially after a rain event during the previous 48 hours. With 31 days to choose from we might get lucky and all be able to do some of our surveys after rain. But we might have to settle for second best, since rain is pretty scarce these days.*

If there is no rain, we simply stick to nights that are *NOT windy*, nor in the middle of a cold snap.

*If a pond is bone dry* and has NO water whatsoever, then a day visit is sufficient – the data can be entered as if it was a survey, no recording needed.

However, if we should get substantial rain later in the month, the site then needs to be revisited at night to check for frogs.

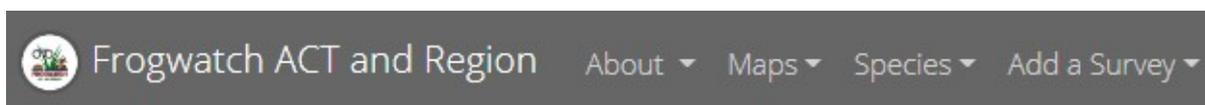
*This means:* if your chosen site(s) are empty when you do the day visit, please complete the field data sheet and enter the data; you will not need to do a night visit at this site UNLESS THERE IS RAIN LATER IN THE MONTH.

You might want to choose a substitute site(s) to do instead.

### WHICH SITES TO MONITOR??

Sites are listed at the Frogwatch portal <https://frogwatch-act.naturemapr.org/> on the Canberra Nature Map site. (Alternatively you can go to Canberra Nature Map (<https://naturemapr.org>) and scroll down to the Frogwatch logo in the list of independent data portals at that website.) First-time visitors will have to create their personal log on, which only takes a few seconds.

Inside the Frogwatch portal you will see the following options



After choosing MAPS, choose FROGWATCH SITES, where there is a Google-type map of all the sites. Below the map is a list of all sites in alphabetical order.

If you click on the **icons on the map** or on the **site name in the list**, you will then go to that site-page, which will show you the survey history of this site. Currently, there is no specific site information available, so if you are unsure about a site, send me an email or give me a ring, and I will give you all the details I can.

Clicking a few times on the stubborn map next to the survey list will eventually get you to a map of the site location- keep clicking!!

**Please BOOK your site(s) so that we can ensure that most of our sites get monitored**

In an attempt to create a kind of booking system I have set up an [online booking sheet](#). The sheet is sorted into the regions/suburbs in which the sites are located. I hope that helps you find your favourite spot(s). Once you know which site(s) you are planning to monitor, please enter your name or initials in the column next to the site code(s) of your choice. Your name/initial next to a site code will indicate to every other Frogwatch volunteer that this site is looked after. You can sort the list but best is to download it first and do it in your own version, to avoid the loss of data.

Each site needs to be **monitored at least twice** during the month.

### TRAINING EVENTS



If you want to do Frogwatching *for the first time you will have to attend a training session, which is plenty of fun!! (There is a lot you need to know so as to gather the necessary data to fill in the datasheets.)*

As well as the widely advertised **session on Friday 18 October**, there is now an **extra session on Thursday 10 October**.

All **Canberra sessions** are at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands office, 2 Dairy Road, Fyshwick, starting at 6 pm and ending after the walk (practical session) at **8.30 pm or possibly later**.

Each seminar has a presentation, followed by a walk around the wetlands to practise newly learned skills. You will receive a free Census Kit, which includes everything you need so as to take part in this year's FrogCensus. You only need to attend **one** seminar. Wear sturdy shoes, a torch and warm clothing, and wet-weather gear if necessary (for the walk).

**Booking is essential:** <https://jerrabomberrawetlands.org.au/events-and-activities/> .

We provide hot drinks, nibbles and a soup dinner, included in the cost: \$15 per person + booking fee (children free).

We also run a **Training event in Cooma**, on the *Wednesday 16 October, 6 pm to 8.30 pm*. This is a free event without any catering. Please rsvp to [coomawaterwatch@gmail.com](mailto:coomawaterwatch@gmail.com).

Please print off the list of Health and Safety matters, at the end of this newsletter, *and be sure to meet all the requirements when you are Frogwatching*.

I am looking forward to another successful and action-packed spring, with plenty of surveys submitted via our online portal. **The person submitting the highest number of surveys will win a dinner cooked by me** – it's my way of giving back to you!!



### FROG TASKFORCE – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Another great happening is the formation of a **Frog Taskforce** planning to do more remote frog surveys with a focus on rarer frog species. If you are a keen frog-chaser in reasonably good health and with some free nights in late summer, please let me know and I will put you on my taskforce list.

### OTHER THINGS HAPPENING

Spring is always extremely busy – I can definitely not complain about being bored!!

A main source of excitement is the **2019 Tadpole Kits for Schools** program, during which 120 tadpole kits will go out at the start of Term 4, for 10 weeks at a local school (Pre- to High).

Here are two other [monitoring programs](#) that you can get involved in – but PLEASE keep the **nights for frogs** 😊.

[Carp love 20](#) or join a [Waterwatch Bug Blitz](#)

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That is it from me for now. Feel free to get in touch, by email to [frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au), or phone 62783309 during business hours.

Anke Maria

Frogwatch ACT and Region is run by the Ginninderra Catchment Group through funding provided by the ACT Government.



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## 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> )

Anke Maria

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