

Frogwatch news – November 2019



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

Lots has been happening in the office and in the field!

ANNUAL FROG CENSUS

STOP PRESS: With the wonderful rain last night (3 November) the frog activity is bound to increase over the next few days – *so if anyone is free and happy to do another survey at their site(s), that would be wonderful!!*

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This year our Frog Census ran for the entire month of October – which has proved to be very successful and effective!!

Five training events attracted around 120 NEW volunteers signing up to do frogwatching this year, and to support the efforts of so many long-term frogwatchers around town. A grand total of 300 people have helped out with this year's Census, which is a fantastic outcome!!

Another huge achievement is that all 250 active Frogwatch sites were booked for monitoring at least twice during October – unless they were bone dry (and many were) in which case one visit was deemed sufficient.

Enter your surveys before 15.11.2019

Now is the time for entering the survey data (if you have not yet done so) and submit it with your recordings online at our data portal at the CNM <https://frogwatch-act.naturemapr.org/>

Feel free to contact me if you have trouble uploading your surveys/recordings. Find the solutions to the most common issues in the box here in this newsletter.

Remember, the **person that enters the most surveys** for the 2019 FrogCensus month **will win a dinner with me, made by me!!**

Request for help describing how to find sites

If you can provide me with a good description on how to access your chosen site(s) please do so, because many sites lack clear instructions on how to get to the right spot. Simply email a short instruction with the site code, to me at

frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au. Very much appreciated!!

TROUBLE SHOOTING 1-0-1

Where to enter your data

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

Create your personal log on, and 'off you go'. To enter a survey, go to ADD A SURVEY and follow instructions from there.

How to get your Voice memo/recordings off your phone

1. Open recording (as if to play it, but don't play).
2. Bottom left corner: tap the 3 blue dots, which are hiding more options.
3. Choose Share.
4. Choose your preferred email carrier, e.g. Outlook.
5. Write an email to yourself with attached recording.
6. Open the email and download the recording to your computer.
7. Enter your survey data and attach the recording; it has to be in m4a format (the most common format on mobile phones).

Trouble with entering time and date

The format of the date and time is dictated by YOUR computer. Check in your display, usually at the bottom right of your screen. Is it a 24-hour clock, or a 12-hour clock with added pm or am?? Is the date in dd/mm/yyyy, mm/dd/yyyy or yyyy/mm/dd? Whatever it is, you will have to use the same style when entering our survey. If you want to change your date/time setting, right-mouse-click on your time/date, go to ADJUST date/time, and then CHANGE the date and time, to change it to a format that best suits you.

Cannot upload a recording

Check if your recording is in the right format and not larger than the allocated size.

Still not working?

Send an email to Anke Maria frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au and I will sort it out!!

DON'T WANT TO STOP MONITORING??

Yes, I know ... frogwatching is heaps of fun and somewhat addictive. The good news is that *you do not have to stop doing it*. Feel free to keep monitoring your favourite site(s) once a month or as often as you like to collect more data about our local frogs. Surveys can be done and submitted at any time of the year. As in October, surveys will be best done on still nights after rain.

FROG CENSUS ON THE ABC LOCAL AND 24 NEWS

All this huffing and puffing about the FrogCensus attracted some media attention – to say the least. Just in case you missed the beautiful coverage – featuring young Darcy and his dad Nat at a pond in Duffy – check out the link below!! It was in the 7 pm ABC News on Wednesday 23 October and the next day on the ABC 24 News (Australia wide).

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=qlt7VnXC-kY>

TADPOLE KITS FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM ALSO IN THE NEWS

The first two days of the latest school term were 'mad as', with almost 140 Tadpole Kits, funded by Icon Water, going out through the door. It was a mammoth task to get all the equipment ready-set-go! We had tadpoles, tanks and buckets everywhere...!

Weekly group emails keep all teachers and students up to date. Students of all ages are very engaged in the program, and love the tadpoles. Teachers value the hands-on learning experience so much that the program was booked out less than 48 hours after opening.

Students around town are investigating, drawing, observing and enjoying the tadpoles and some of their amazing artwork and observations can be seen at the wonderful Icon Water blog,

<https://www.iconwater.com.au/frogwatch>,

which has weekly updates on the wonderful learning of the students.



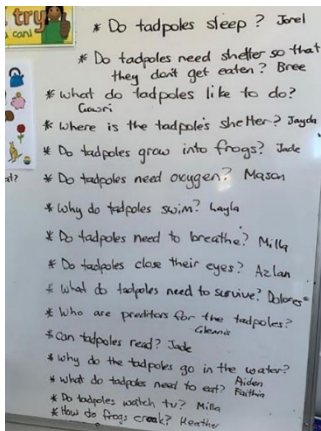
Tadpole Kits Program on the local WIN News

The "tadpole kit madness" also attracted media attention and WIN News aired a great coverage of the program on 17 October, which you can watch at:

<https://www.facebook.com/154161871315519/posts/2508006112597738/>

AMAROO SCHOOL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Keeping 320 year-3/4 students squeezed into a school hall engaged and focused is very tricky – unless one can tell them all about frogs and their crazy adaptations!! What a wonderful activity, organised by Liz van Papenrecht from the Actsmart Schools program.



FROG HABITAT WORKSHOPS AT BUNNINGS FYSHWICK

How to create frog-friendly habitats in your garden was a great way to engage plenty of Bunnings customers on a Saturday. Lots of interesting questions came up and many Frogwatch volunteers came up to say hello. There is definitely room for improvement in order to reach a much wider audience, but it was a good start into what might turn into a workshop series on frog-friendly habitat around town.

OUR LATEST FROGWATCH PUBLICATION ACCEPTED

Yeahhh! Finally, our dream has come through. Our paper, **The FrogPhone: A novel device for real-time frog call monitoring**, was accepted and will go to the press very soon in the journal **Methods in Ecology and Evolution**!! It was a real team effort and many thanks go to the research team Adrian Garrido Sanchis, Lorenzo Bertolelli, Marta Yebra Alvarez and Kumudu Munasinghe. Appreciation also goes to the University of Canberra, along with the ACT Government for funding this work.

SEND ME YOUR PHOTOS!

Reminder: Please do send your funny or serious frogwatching action shots to me. I am always in need of great photos of volunteers in action, so please help me out and let me share with others some photos of your amazing support!!

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO SO MANY PEOPLE

A special thank you to all the **wonderful volunteers** in the field- monitoring, talking to the press, spreading the word, supporting the program, **June Hornby** for helping out in the office, **Lola-Lee-Lou Hoefer-Dunne** for assisting with the tadpole kit set up, **SACT Catchment Group** for their support for the Tadpole kit dispatch - south side, the **ACT Government** and **Icon Water** for much needed funding, the lovely **GCG team** for helping out in so many ways, and to **my family** for supporting my enthusiasm for the Frogwatch program. Could not do it without any of you!!!



AND NOW ... AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM FROG WEEK 8 ~ 17 NOVEMBER!

'Our frogs are under threat from habitat loss, disease and climate change. Taking part in FrogID Week will help provide our scientists with valuable data for the protection and conservation of frogs.' [That's the Australian Museum speaking.]

The museum has an app ... which you can use to report frogs from anywhere, at any time. Visit <https://www.frogid.net.au/> to **download the free app** and **register now**. Remember, every call counts! <http://www.frogid.net.au/>

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

Bye for now.

Anke Maria, Frogwatch Coordinator

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