

Frogwatch news



Hello, lovely frog-friendly people. I hope everyone is well after this summer of challenges!! Many of you were involved in fighting the fires and are still busy with cleaning up the mess afterwards – you are all amazing!!

Our local flora and fauna have been hit hard this summer, and frogs have been left "in the dry". When sweet rain did come in late January, some frog species took the chance (for many maybe the only chance this season) as far as reproduction goes. Especially the *Limnodynastes* group went mad; the Spotted Grass frogs in my mini garden pond managed to produce 12 egg masses in 2 nights (white blobs in my photo) and to keep the entire neighbourhood awake!!

Many volunteers have reported Spotted Grass frogs and Poppelbonks calling at local wetlands. Even some Spotted Burrowing frogs (*Neobatrachus sudelli*) have been reported on Canberra Nature Map!! Feel free to do frog surveys and submit your data/recordings to help capture these events.

There is so much you can do to **create a frog-friendly corner in your garden**- even without having a pond. Frogs only need water for reproduction and the rest of the year live in moist areas away from ponds, dams and creeks. You can make your garden an important stepping-stone for frogs on the move – between wetlands that might be suburbs away from each other. Simply avoid using chemicals in your garden; leave an area with longer grass or coarse debris – this will provide much needed frog refuge between now and the next breeding season; keep your cats in, especially at night; and make sure your fences have a few cracks and open spaces so that frogs can easily move between backyards when foraging and dispersing. Check out [frog-friendly-habitat brochure](#) or email me if you would like more information on how to create a frog-friendly habitat in your backyard, school or neighbourhood!

The Downer Community Group, led by Fiona Dickson, undertook a huge frog rescue last year, saving tadpoles from an imminent building development, and providing them with a new habitat just over the fence!! A party to celebrate the new space and the community's efforts will be held at the Downer shops on the **28th of March, from 10am**. There will be frog displays, workshops, a frog cake/treats competition and a frog pond opening ceremony. Check out the group's [Facebook posts](#) for more details.

Turtles are also on the move after the much-needed rain (we do need much more) as they are searching for new foraging areas and the perfect homes for the approaching winter- please keep your eyes out for these wonderful creatures. Score plenty of Brownie Points by helping them over busy roads and by logging sightings of them on the [Canberra Nature Map](#) or [the turtle sat](#).

The latest Frogwatch Project is kicking off right now and is a joint effort of Frogwatch and Waterwatch (through Bruno, Turtle Specialist). The project is funded through the *Communities Environment Program* and will investigate Turtle and Frog Habitat Relationships across town.

Frogwatch data from the 2019 October Census month is being crunched up and wrested into meaningful numbers. Maps are getting populated with lots of dots, thanks to the amazing efforts of so many active frog-watchers!! The final report will be published soon and officially launched as part of the 2019 [CHIP report](#) on **22 March at the World Wetlands Day event at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands**. More details later.

One last request – I need **photos of FW volunteers in action**. Please do send me your 'photographic evidence' via email or link. Photos can be taken at any time of the day/night. Photos will be used to spruce up otherwise dry reports!! Your help is much appreciated!

Anke Maria Hoefer, Frogwatch Coordinator