

Frogwatch Newsletter Spring Edition 2017



Hello everyone!

Spring has finally arrived and with it comes a flurry of activities, including the world-famous annual Frog Census!!

Lots has been happening in the office since the July newsletter, here just a quick overview:

The upcoming Census
Our exciting projects, including
FW Education
Grant applications

**Every
week
can be
Census
week-**

**you can
monitor
during
any
season!!**



The ACT and Region Frogwatch is kindly supported by:



The Riverview Group



2017 FrogCensus 15.10. - 21.10.

Need to refresh your memory on how to spy on frogs??
Know someone that would like to join the ever-increasing club of frogwatchers??
Like to meet other likeminded people??

Come along to one of our training events

[27.09.2017](#) @ Jerrabomberra Wetlands

[29.09.2017](#) @ Jerrabomberra Wetlands

[10.10.2017](#) @ Jerrabomberra Wetlands,

book your spot by ctrl + click on the chosen date or on this link [Jerrabomberra Wetlands Booking site](#)

[12.10.2017](#) in Cooma

book your spot via email to frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au, or
coomawaterwatch@gmail.com.

Due to popular demand, we are going to repeat last year's training schedule – with the Introduction Seminar and the Field Trip on the same night. All events will run from 6pm to 8pm.

Bring warm clothes, a torch, sturdy shoes. We will provide a warm soup dinner (Jerrabomberra Wetlands) and light refreshments (Cooma).



Are you a member of a Landcare or Parkcare group??

**Frogwatch heavily relies on the support from your group to ensure existing
Frogwatch sites in your priority area will get monitored during Census
week. I will be emailing out site lists/maps to groups listed with
Frogwatch over the next few weeks.**

**Please let me know if you have any difficulties with running a few
monitoring nights during Census week!!**



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Current Frogwatch Projects:

1. Frogwatch Climate Change Project

Currently in its third and last year, this ACT Government funded project is investigating possible changes in the timing of frog mating calls over the past 30 years. Findings from weekly monitoring at designated sites across the ACT between June and November each year will be compared to frog call data from the 1980s and 90s. Interestingly, the last three years have been very variable:

2015 was very cold,

2016 very wet, and

2017 so far has been very dry.

So, it will be very interesting when we finally get to analyse the data!! A very big thank you to all the amazing Climate Change volunteers collecting the data week after week after week. Well done!!



2. Ginninderry weekly monitoring

The Riverview Group- developer for the new Ginninderry area in West Belconnen - engaged Frogwatch in 2016 to run weekly monitoring of three ponds surrounding the Strathnairn Arts Association between the pre- and post- construction phase of the Ginninderry Link building.

This project has been tracking frog numbers since Spring 2016 to investigate the effects of building activities on frog populations!

I am currently looking for a dedicated volunteer for this site as Valentina, who has done the monitoring for the past few months, has moved on to other enticing projects!!

Doing the regular monitoring is THE best way to learn the different frog calls! Currently only 3-4 species are calling- and soon they will be joined by others- generally one species at the time!! This gives you the opportunity to get your ears tuned into each species – one at the time!!

So, if you live in the local area and are interested in monitoring this site weekly or fortnightly **please please please** let me know!!

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3. Frog phone

This joint venture with Engineers from the University of Canberra has been right in the middle of plenty media attention. We have currently 1 frog phone deployed at the Strathnairn Arts Association and it works a treat.



4. Tadpole Kits for Schools Program

This year's Tadpole Kits for Schools Program has kicked off and bookings can be made via our webpage (<http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/node/640>). This year we have also included home-schooling families, which have fully embraced the opportunity.

Only a few more days to go before school holidays, so if you know a teacher that would like to use this awesome hands-on learning experience in their class- talk to them asap!!

Please help promoting the program by spreading the news to everyone that might be interested (teachers, child carers, home schooling parents etc.)

5. Free frog-talks for (Belconnen) schools

Here at Frogwatch we have been very lucky with great support for our education program. The ACT Herpetological Association (ACTHA) and Rotary Belconnen have both injected some funds into our Frog Talk program for schools. The ACTHA support will ensure that 10 schools around town will have a visit from the "frog lady" while six school in the Belconnen area will enjoy a visit thanks to Rotary Belconnen.

6. Digital Communities Grants

Frogwatch has received funding for a much needed data portal update. This will include using the tried and tested Canberra Nature Map scaffolding of data entry and analysis, ongoing maintenance and updating of the portal!! This is great news for everyone that has been struggling with the current portal!! Happy to hear any suggestions for improvement/changes!! Just send me an email

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Grant applications

Frogwatch has currently only one pending grant application; for the test phase of the frog phone, which will include comparing the new method with traditional methods, such as visiting a site in person and call recording using a tape/mp3 recorder. The application was handed in under the ACT Environment Grant Scheme.

Census reports!!! Finally- all completed!!

Thanks to the help of Sarah Chaplin we have finally closed the gap and published all Frogwatch Census reports right in time for the 2017 Census!!

You can find them on our webpage

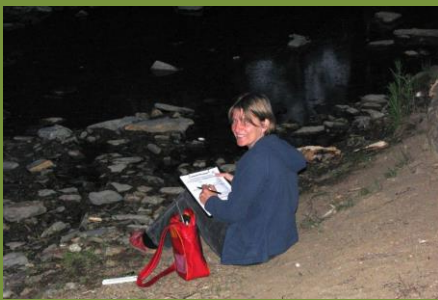
<http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch/frogwatch-report-files>

Have a look at a great movie about the Melbourne FrogCensus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQBSdsYU7bc>

I would not mind doing something like this as well- plus having a phone app!!!

This is it for now!! Looking forward to yet another amazing



Frogwatch Census!!

Thanks for all your great support and enthusiasm!!

Big smiles- Anke Maria

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