

# FROGWATCH 2013



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

## ACT and Region Frogwatch

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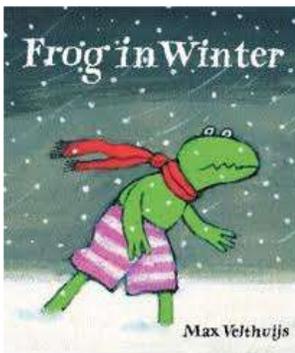
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Hello lovely people!! Here comes our winter warming update on all things Frogwatch. Happy reading!!

Your Frogwatch coordinator,  
Anke Maria Hoefler.

revegetating areas surrounding targeted ponds and dams on public land throughout the ACT.

For the **NSW Environmental Education Grants**, Frogwatch has put in 2 bids. The first one has been for an extension of our ever so popular Tadpole Kits for ACT Schools Program to schools in the NSW area surrounding the ACT. Extra funding will allow us to provide students from rural and semi-rural areas with access to a range of extracurricular resources. In our second bid we have applied for financial assistance to extend the Frogwatch Census training and support. This would allow Frogwatch to work with rural landholders and owners from NSW communities neighbouring the ACT, such as Cooma, Bungendore, Captains Flat, and Sutton.

Both these funding applications are tailored to provide a regional service to small communities whose activities have local impact but also contribute to a wider catchment health.

## Frogwatch Census Reports

Can you believe it- the reports are finally done. Gestation periods in elephants are nothing compared to the time it took to get these reports popped out. However, lots of streamlining and data storage changes have happened on the way and it is all good!! Reports are available online from our webpage shortly- after reporting and all things associated with the end of the financial year has been dealt with!! yeahhh

## Frogwatch Funding situation

The last few months have been a mammoth task of grant application writing to secure the survival of one of the best community science programs ever- the ACT and Region Frogwatch Program. After a lot of blood, sweat and tears (so to speak) we are hopeful that the ACT and Region Frogwatch Program will continue to receive funding through the **Caring for our Country Initiative**. The Natural Resource Management Council has put forward its recommendations to the Commonwealth to fund the Frogwatch Program for another 18 months, after which we would rely on corporate funding for survival. Frogwatch is awaiting news as soon as the decision making process is finalized.

### Other pending grant applications:

Frogwatch has applied for an **ACT Environmental Grant** to improve wetland health through

## Who is calling??

If you have done a walk through the beautifully crisp night air lately, you might have heard a few frog calls!!



Photo courtesy of J.Wombey

*Crinia signifera*- the **Common Eastern Froglet** is calling, seemingly unaffected by the chilly temperatures. This small ground dwelling

species is one of Eastern Australia's most common and widespread species. Its cricket-like chirping can be heard all day and all year round.

For more information on this species, including a recording of its call check out <http://frogs.org.au/frogs/species/Crinia/signifera/>

In addition, calls from *Litoria verauxii*, the **Whistling Tree Frog** have been reported from several locations.

A largish BoyBand of this species is "on stage" on most nights after 6pm at the Gooromon Park Horse Riding School, Hall - where I enjoy them very much during my daughters horse riding lessons!!!



Photo courtesy of J.Wombey

For more information on this species, including a recording of its call check out <http://frogs.org.au/frogs/species/Litoria/verreauxii/>

**If you are out and about and you do happen to hear frog calls please consider entering them into our system!! Every data entry counts!!!**

Other projects with Frogwatch involvement: Beatrice Kelly-Loane is currently doing a Diploma of Ecology and Environmental Management at the CIT in Bruce. As part of her studies Bea is undertaking a year-long environmental project on frog abundance and diversity at a pond in the Mt. Majura Region.

Molonglo River Park, core feature of the huge Molonglo Development plan, has a permanent full time Ranger, Joel Patterson!! Lots is happening with plenty weed removal, surveys and other land management strategies. An initial frog survey was conducted in May, and will be repeated on a regular basis. So far 8 FW sites have been set up within the Park (including 3 pre-existing ones), which will surely attract a lot of attention from Frogwatchers.

Frogwatch ACT has been forming strong relationships with different schools in the Region, especially with **Waniassa Hills Primary School (Deb Shawn)** and **Lake Tuggeranong College (Nikey Mylordi)**. Both schools have enjoyed our programs as much as we have enjoyed delivering them to their awesome students! And what's more: the College students have risen to the task of mentoring the Primary students in their quest towards a sustainable school. In a joint effort they have created a frog friendly habitat in the Sustainability Centre of Waniassa Hills PS, and the College will soon call a set of frog ponds its own- thanks to the students of the Sustainability Unit. A heartfelt: **well done** to the students and their very committed teachers!!

This is it for today! I wish you all a very very cosy corner and warm feet



with lots of  
big smiles  
Yours  
Anke Maria

The ACT and Region Frogwatch Program is coordinated by the Ginninderra Catchment Group with the assistance of funds made available through the Caring for our Country Initiative with the support of the ACT Natural Resource Management Council.