

## MAKING YOUR GARDEN FROG-FRIENDLY

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by Evans Pickett

Cover image: Peta's Tree Frog



Inside front cover:  
Tadpole



# WELCOME! TO THE FROGS

Whilst all due care has been taken to ensure the contents are accurate to any areas of omission,  
contributors and readers are accountable for this brochure.



## SOME FACTS ABOUT FROGS!



### CREATING A FROG FRIENDLY YARD

Providing refuge for frogs, particularly in areas where natural settings have been degraded, is an important action that will help ensure common frog species don't become threatened.

Here are some tips to creating a frog friendly habitat in your yard:

#### LOCATION

- A north facing sunny location with partial shade provided by trees or small plants in or near the pond is ideal
- Place the pond away from large trees that drop a lot of leaves
- Frogs can be noisy so locate the pond away from bedrooms and neighbours
- Keep your compost heap in the same area to attract insects for the frogs to eat

### COLLECTING FROGS AND TADPOLES

Frogs are often on the move on rainy nights and within a short period of time they'll find a new frog pond and may even use it to spawn in. So please wait for the frogs to find your ponds, and do not take frogs or tadpoles from other places and move them to your yard. A disease caused by Chytrid fungus which is fatal to frogs, is now a major problem in NSW, and moving frogs may help spread this disease.

- DESIGN
  - Consider the safety of small children - make sure the depth does not exceed 30cm. Wire grills (available from building suppliers) can also be used for additional safety
  - Provide gently sloping sides for frogs to easily get in and out
  - Provide shelter with native plants and scattered rocks and branches



Example frog pond

- OTHER TIPS
  - Many fish species will happily feed on frog's eggs and tadpoles so it's best not to introduce fish into your frog pond
  - Avoid using chemicals as frogs are very sensitive to chemicals



Image: Evan Pickett

The colour of a frog's skin can vary widely between individuals of a certain species. A number of frogs can even change their colour depending on the temperature, time of day or just how they're feeling!

One of the most accurate ways to correctly identify a frog is by its call.



Green & Golden Bell Frog

Tadpole

Image: Evan Pickett

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## HYLIDAE (TREE FROGS)

Hylids have adhesive finger and toe pads and webbing between their fingers and toes. This allows them to grip onto vegetation and be tree dwellers. Australian Hylids are opportunistic feeders, eating a wide variety of insects. Breeding times are determined by the weather and all species of this family lay their eggs in water.

### Bleeding Tree Frog



*Litoria dentata* - A small to medium (30–60mm) brown tree frog with a broad darker brown band down the back. The backs of the legs, armpits and groin are usually lemon yellow. The upper part of the iris of the eye is red. Mainly found near farmland or bushland.

Image: Evan Pickett

### Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog



*Litoria fallax* - A very small (less than 30mm) green tree frog with a white strip along the side of its head. Frequently changes colour to brown. It is often found camouflaged on tall reeds near suburban ponds, farm dams or even plant nurseries with ponds.

Image: Alison Mallor

### Eastern Froglet



*Cnuta signifera* - A small (20–30mm) ground dwelling frog. The colour patterns vary between black through shades of brown to grey. The belly is blotched black and white. This species is very widespread and found in almost all habitats. It is always associated with water.

Image: James Wood

### Bribon's Toadlet



*Pseudophryne bibroni* - A small (20–25mm) mid to dark brown ground dwelling frog with a coarsely marbled underside of black and white. On the base of each arm there is a yellow or orange patch. Prefers to walk rather than hop and is found in forests and grasslands. It lays eggs under leaf litter near water in areas that will be flooded.

Image: Evan Pickett

### Giant Burrowing Frog



*Heleiaporus australicus* - A large (60–100mm) burrowing frog. Colouring is usually dark with yellow warts on the sides. Breeding males often have black spines on the backs of their fingers. Mainly found around sandy creek beds and yabby burrows.

Image: Evan Pickett

### Eastern Banjo Frog / Pobblebonk Bullfrog



*Limnodactylus dumetalli* - A large (50–85mm) burrowing frog. Colour ranges from grey, olive-green, dark brown to black on its back with dark marbling, blotches or flecks. The smooth belly of the frog is white or lightly mottled. Commonly seen after rain near dams, ponds and other still or slow moving water.

Image: Evan Pickett

### Peron's Tree Frog



*Litoria peronii* - A medium (60mm) brown tree frog with a dark stripe on the side of its head. The backs of the thighs and armpits are all red - orange. Likes large bodies of permanent water with tall thick reeds.

Image: Evan Pickett

### Jervis Bay Tree Frog



*Litoria peronii* - Quite a large (up to 75mm) grey brown tree frog usually with some darker mottling and tiny emerald green specks. The groin and armpits have strong black and yellow mottling. It can change colour from very pale to dark grey-brown and has large silvery eyes with diamond shaped pupils. Likes permanent water bodies.

Image: Rod Keen

### Green and Golden Bell Frog



*Litoria aurea* - A large (55–100mm) tree frog with colour ranging from brown, dull olive to bright emerald green on the back with large brown or golden blotches. A dark streak runs from the snout over the eye. The backs of the thighs are bright blue or blue-green. Surprisingly this frog is often found in industrial areas and likes to bask in the sun.

Image: Doug MacLean

### Green Tree Frog



*Litoria caerulea* - A well known favourite but unfortunately now rare in this area. Large (80–110mm) green frog with big toe pads and sometimes a few white spots. Males like to inhabit places where their call will acoustically echo, e.g. pipes.

Image: Evan Pickett

### Whistling Tree Frog



*Litoria verreauxii* - A small (30mm) frog with varying colour patterns ranging from fawn, brown to red brown on the back with darker flecks. A dark broad band starts between the eyes, running down the back and divided by a pale stripe. A clumsy climber but a strong swimmer. Happy around coastal swamps and lagoons.

Image: Evan Pickett

## MYOBATRACHIDAE (GROUND FROGS)

The family of frogs known as Myobatrachids include ground dwelling and aquatic frogs that vary greatly in both form and behaviour and lack the adhesive toe discs found in the tree frog family. If they fall into your in-ground pool they won't be able to climb out. Included in this family are larger burrowing frogs, swamp dwellers and frogs that lay eggs on dry land.

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Image: James Wood

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Image: Evan Pickett

### Striped Marsh Frog / Brown Striped Frog



*Limnodactylus peronii* - A large (45–75mm) frog. Colour ranges from pale fawn to golden brown with dark brown or black stripes along the back. Found in reeds and marshes around wetlands and other permanent water sources. Often seen hopping across the road at high speed on a wet night. Its call is "Tock...tock".

Image: Evan Pickett

### Smooth Toadlet



*Uperoleia laevigata* - A small (25–30mm) frog with olive - brown colouring on the back with darker blotches. Has a yellowish or light triangular patch on the head. The skin on the back has many small lumps. Lives in dry forests and grasslands that flood after heavy rain.

Image: Evan Pickett

### Southern Barred Frog / Stuttering Frog



*Mixophyes balbus* - This large (60–85mm) frog with yellow grey colour with darker blotches. The arms and legs have narrow dark bars and the upper part of the eye is pale blue. Restricted to very wet forests and rainforests. Hides under leaf litter beside fast flowing streams.

Image: Evan Pickett

### Leaf Green Tree Frog



*Litoria rufofusca* - A small (25–40mm) frog with colour ranging from bright emerald green to dark green or dull brown with a broad mottled gold and black streak across both sides. Inhabits rocky rivers and streams. It is an excellent jumper and swimmer but is seldom found near still water.

Image: Alan Couch

### Common in the Backyard

### Uncommon in the Backyard

### Threatened Species