
















AMBPHIBIANS OF MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN

FROGS	
<p>Barking marsh frog <i>Limnodynastes fletcheri</i></p> <p>5 cm. Light grey or brown back with scattered, large dark brown or black blotches and often a red or orange patch on the upper eyelid. First finger (thumb) longer than the second. During the day shelters under logs, piles of debris or in crevices in woodlands and river floodplains. Adults are voracious hunters and may eat other smaller frogs. Approximately 300 pigmented eggs are contained within a floating foam mass. Eggs and tadpoles can be found in slow moving or still water, in isolated ponds, dams, lakes, and occasionally rivers. Like many species, aggregate in dry conditions to conserve moisture. Call – similar to the sound of a distant barking dog and is repeated every few seconds - "poc".</p>	
<p>Broad palmed rocket frog <i>Litoria latopalmata</i></p> <p>4 cm. Dorsal colour ranges from browns and greys to fawnish, black stripe on head, vertical white bar just in front of the eye. Found throughout E Australia and occupies most habitats. Ground dwelling, usually found under cover during the day such as rocks, logs, debris. Breeds during wet weather in summer around watercourses, ranging from man made dams to floodplains of fast flowing rivers. Eggs small, pigmented, in loose clumps laid among vegetation in shallow water. Tadpoles medium sized, light to dark brown with high crested tail fins. Call – series of slow irregular "yaps", building up to rapid, duck like quacking.</p>	
<p>Desert tree frog, naked tree frog <i>Litoria rubella</i></p> <p>3.5 cm. Varies in colour from grey, brown or fawn with broad darker stripe and dark flecks, black eye stripe. Found throughout mainland Australia, except for the far south. Occurs in all types of habitat associated with permanent water bodies, man-made dams, or human habitation. A summer breeder, active after summer rains, either breeding or feeding on small insects. Lives in trees (and houses) away from water and forages on humid nights. Eggs small, golden coloured, laid in a thin film on water surface. Tadpoles uniformly brown, life varies with temperature, may be as short as 14 days. Call - loud high-pitched distinctly pulsed note.</p>	
<p>Emerald spotted frog, Peron's tree frog <i>Litoria peronii</i></p> <p>5 cm. Colour changes according to light exposure, temperature, moisture and other factors. Green flecks may be present or absent, and dorsal colour ranges from dark grey to almost white. Found in all types of habitat, often a long distance from water. Often found under cover during the day, in hollow trees, under bark, human habitations including water systems. Breeds in semi-permanent water after rain in summer. Tadpoles are iridescent green with a high crested tail. Call - very distinctive chuckle of between fifteen and twenty rapid descending notes. Breeding sites can be heard up to 1 km away.</p>	
<p>Flat headed water holding frog <i>Cyclorana platycephala</i></p> <p>7 cm. Round-bodied with dull grey, brown or green back. Strong and muscular with rare ability to catch insects and small fish underwater by lunging at prey and stuffing it in their mouths. Has the ability to undergo an amazing process called aestivation - during hot, dry conditions buries itself in sandy ground and becomes inactive, maintaining a reduced metabolic rate. Skin secretes mucous which lines the underground chamber, hardens around the frog's body and holds large amounts of water. This impervious outer "cocoon" prevents desiccation and is torn open and eaten when frog emerges from deep underground after rains to breed. Lays large amounts of spawn in still water after floods. Some eggs may be attached to vegetation, or spread in a thin film on the surface, ensuring adequate oxygen in warm waters suffering from oxygen depletion. Tadpoles can reach a maximum length of 60mm. Call - a long drawn out "mawwww, mawwww" (cf motor bike.)</p>	
<p>Giant water holding frog <i>Cyclorana novaehollandiae</i></p> <p>10 cm. Very stout build, broad head, hind side of thighs usually immaculate, grey or bluish. Occurs throughout almost all of Queensland, except far western areas, and into NE corner of NSW. Varied habitat. Eggs are deposited in clumps of about 1,000 in shallow, static or slowly-flowing water. Call -repeated clear, tenor wahp wahp.</p>	
<p>Ornate burrowing frog <i>Limnodynastes ornatus</i></p> <p>4.5 cm. Small, round terrestrial and burrowing frogs. Dark grey, brown or dark olive with a mottled pattern. Legs usually have rounded stripes that are a darker brown than the background skin. Eyes golden, relatively large and round. Found throughout the top end, and down the east coast to Sydney. Well adapted to burrowing when there is little water, and is often found far from the coast and in arid environments. Eggs deposited in foam which breaks down within 24 hrs. Call - a fast "unk" of hitting a tennis ball.</p>	
<p>Painted burrowing frog <i>Neobatrachus sudelli</i></p> <p>4 cm. Dark coloured - grey, brown, yellow or reddish-brown back with large dark brown or olive patches or marbling. Vertical pupil. Groin skin is loose giving a 'baggy-pants' look. An inhabitant of dry regions. Found in woodlands, open grassland and disturbed areas. Becomes active after rains and is buried in soft loam or clay soils much of the time. Emerges on flooded claypans or roadside puddles after summer rain to breed. Males call whilst floating in open, shallow and still water. Eggs occur from April till July and are contained within long jelly strings wrapped around submerged vegetation in ponds, dams, ditches and flooded claypans. Tadpoles are aquatic and may take 4- 7 months to develop. Call duration is 1 to 2 seconds, a slowly pulsed musical trill - craa-aw-aw-aw-aw-aw-aw-awk" - heard all year round except Dec - Jan.</p>	
<p>Red groined pobblebonk <i>Limnodynastes terraereginae</i></p> <p>7.5 cm. Grey to brown on back, with occasional darker flecks and blotches, sometimes with a faint stripe down the middle, irregular red or reddish yellow along sides and upper arm, bright red groin and hind surface of thigh, swollen gland on upper surface of lower leg, thick yellow fold of skin from below eye to arm, underside white or yellow. Fingers unwebbed and toes with traces only. Found in forest, woodland and cleared areas on edges of dams, swamps and permanently marshy areas. E Qld and n NSW. Breeds Oct – May. Eggs laid in white foamy mass on surface of still water, usually attached to vegetation. Tadpoles dark with mottled tails reaching 65 mm. Approx tadpole life 70-90 days. Call – short resonant "bonk".</p>	

<p>Salmon striped frog <i>Limnodynastes salmini</i></p> <p>7 cm. Brown to grey brown with scattered dark brown spots and blotches on back and usually 3 red, pink or salmon coloured stripes on back. Often a light patch behind the head, dark patch below eye. Reddish fold from below eye to arm. Iris golden. Sides, groin, front and hind surfaces of thighs mottled black and white. Underneath white, throat spotted with brown. Fingers unwebbed, toes with traces of webbing. Spends much of the year buried underground, emerges to breed after heavy rain where it can be found under logs, loose bark or stones close to alluvial flats and swamps. Eggs – white foamy mass on surface of water. Tadpoles pale, mottled. Call -resonant musical “whuck”.</p>	
<p>Short footed water holding frog <i>Cyclorana brevipes</i></p> <p>4.5 cm. Back dark brown with silver-brown blotches and usually a central silver-brown stripe. Belly white. A robust, burrowing frog with short feet. Toes show only a trace of webbing. From Townsville in mid-eastern Qld and into central Qld and south into NE NSW. Found in open grassland and lightly forested areas. Active during and after rain. Spends drier times buried near temporary pools encased in a 'plastic bag' made from their skin. Once water reaches their bag (sending the signal that conditions above are good for breeding), they climb back to the surface, swallow the bag and breed quickly before the waters dry up again. Eggs are laid in the pools and tadpoles are free-swimming and quick to develop. Call – long moaning growl.</p>	
<p>Southern Cross frog, Holy Cross toad, Crucifix frog <i>Notaden bennettii</i></p> <p>5 cm. Olive, green or yellow above with cross-shaped pattern of red, black and yellow spots on back. Skin warty and exudes thick white chemical substance when disturbed. Central inland NSW and interior of S Qld, west of Great Dividing Range. Inhabits the black soil slopes and flood plains of the large river systems in its range. Found in savanna, woodland and mallee areas. Spends most of its life underground and only emerges after heavy rains to breed in temporary pools. Small eggs are deposited in water. Little is known about tadpole development except that it is rapid to avoid the temporary ponds drying up. Males call whilst floating in pools – an echoing, extended owl-like “woo-p” rising slightly at the end.</p>	
<p>Spotted marsh frog, <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i></p> <p>4.5 cm. Light brown to rich olive-green back with large, regular dark-brown blotches and often a narrow white, yellow or russet vertebral stripe from snout to vent. Very common in Victoria. Found on grassy borders of temporary swamps and creeks and shelters under logs and stones. Eggs - from August to January the female creates a foam nest 5-8cm across holding up to 1,100. Tadpoles - dark brown to black with semi-transparent or light grey fins. In south-eastern Australia, they take 3 to 5 months to complete their development. Call: a very rapid “uk-uk-uk-uk” similar to the sound of two stones being struck together, heard all year except June.</p>	
<p>Striped burrowing frog, green-striped frog <i>Litoria albaguttata</i></p> <p>8 cm. Olive brown to pale green with brown patches and prominent pale yellow/green stripe down middle of back. Back warty with distinctive longitudinal skin folds from shoulder to groin, dark streak from snout through eye. Backs of thighs dark with large white or yellow spots, underneath white, often with flecks of brown on throat and chest. Slender build, head narrow with pointed snout. Fingers unwebbed, toes about half webbed. This is the only burrowing species of Litoria. Lowland alluvial flats, woodland and cleared areas. Usually only seen around temporary pools and water filled claypans. N eastern and Central eastern Australia. Eggs – loose clump or mat laid on surface among vegetation. Tadpole - uniformly brown. Call – short, loud, rapid quacking.</p>	
<p>Warty water holding frog <i>Cyclorana verrucosa</i></p> <p>4.5 cm. Grey-brown to olive-brown back with irregular dark patches and pale stripe. Rare & little known, confined to inland south-eastern Qld and into central NSW. Seems to prefer open grassland. Breeds in flooded depressions and billabongs after spring and summer rains. Breeding biology unknown. Call - long rattling growl.</p>	
<p>White's green tree frog, green tree frog <i>Litoria caerulea</i></p> <p>7 to 11.5 cm. Light bluish green to emerald green back, scattered white or gold spots. As with many tree frogs, capable of some colour change. Underneath milky white, rough in texture. Fingers partially webbed, toes almost completely webbed. Widespread species. Found commonly near streams and swamps on rocks, trees or in rock crevices and hollow tree trunks. Also found in domestic environment, including letterboxes, toilet bowls and cisterns, bathrooms, down pipes, meter boxes. Breeds Nov - Feb, usually after rain. Eggs - clumps of 200 – 2000 deposited on surface of still water, sink within 24 hours. Tadpoles – large, 45-100mm, mottled dark green or dark gray, mature in 6 weeks. Call - deep, repeated “crawk ...crawkcrawk”.</p>	