

Melton Environment Group

Membership details

Single/Concession: \$10
Family \$20
Corporate: \$50

Melton Environment Group Inc.

PO Box 481, Melton, 3337

No. AOO4OO49F A.B.N 47 411575097

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Vice President: Doug Godsil

Meetings on 3rd Wednesday of the month at Don Nardella's office, Alexandra Street at 7.30



Spotted Marsh Frog tadpoles in Bush's Paddock.

These tadpoles often have to develop quickly as many wetlands are filled with water for a short time after rains.

Spotted Marsh Frog photo by Lyn Holdsworth, Growling Grass Frog photo by Sandra Lilywhite, remainder by Richard Akers.

Frogs of Melton

Melton has an enviable diversity of frogs. MEG participates in the Melbourne Water Frog Census each year to monitor the diversity of the frogs of Melton. Census details on:

<http://frogs.melbournewater.com.au/>

Some frogs are widespread around the area while others are restricted to only a very few sites. Frogs are an important part of the natural environment.

They eat a large quantity of insects & in turn are an important food source for larger animals. They are also indicators of water quality. Frogs are highly susceptible to pollutants. When the frogs disappear

it is an indication that something is wrong in the waterways. A silent wetland is an unhealthy wetland.

Frogs are also important to us if only for the reason that most people enjoy the sound of frogs calling from our wetlands. Their calls are a reminder that wildlife still remains in our local wetlands, even if we don't see them!

These different calls can be heard on:

<http://frogs.org.au/frogs>.

Other frog species in Melton

The **Southern Brown Treefrog** (*Litoria brownii*) is about 2cm long. It has a similar call to a Whistling Treefrog but less loud & shrill. They are commonly heard in Little Blind Creek & also in Toolern Vale & sometimes in McPherson Park.

The large **Striped Marsh Frog** (*Limnodynastes* *****) has been heard near Navan Park & Riverina in Melton South. This frog has a 'toc' call, somewhat similar to that of a Pobblebonk.

Spotted Marsh Frog photo by Lyn Holdsworth, Growling Grass Frog by Sandra Lilywhite, remainder by Richard Akers.



FROGS OF MELTON



The **Spadefoot Toads** (*Neobatrachus sudelli*) are recorded in only three places in the greater Melbourne area. They avoid drought conditions by lying buried beneath the ground (up to a metre deep in harsh conditions). It is a frog (not a toad)!. They are found in Rees Rd wetland, Botanica Springs Creek & Pinkerton Forest. Their soft purring calls can be heard after heavy rains. Their vertical eye pupils are a distinctive feature.



The large **Growling Grass Frog** (*Litoria raniformis*) is bright green with darker stripes & its distinctive loud growling call can be heard in only a few places in Melton South & Strathulloh. It is listed as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).



The **Pobblebonk** (*Limnodynastes dumerilli*) (also called Banjo Frog) is our most unmistakable frog with its resonant “bonk” call. Its call is heard in most of our creeks, in the warmer months. As the weather grows warmer their musical calls became more widespread. They are often dug up in gardens, as they burrow in the ground to avoid dry conditions.



Common Froglets (*Crinia signifera*) are our commonest frogs. Its cricket-like “creek creek creek” is heard all year round & almost anywhere there is water, with vegetation cover. Despite their small size (2 cm) their call is quite loud.



The distinctive “tic” of the **Spotted Marsh Frog** (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) is heard in many wetlands around Melton. These are heard in open, grassy or rocky ponds, often new, manmade & muddy, with little or no vegetation cover, including isolated lignum swamps. They are often heard where no other frog species are heard.



The **Whistling Treefrog** (*Litoria verreauxi*) is about 2cm long but makes up for its small size by its extraordinarily loud whistling call that can easily be mistaken for a bird call. At close quarters their combined calls can be deafening. They live in a few wetlands in Melton South (Botanica Springs Creek, Riverina & nearby wetlands)



Perons Treefrog (*Litoria peroni*) is about 7 cm long. It has a ‘laughing’ call. To date it has been heard calling in Melton Valley Golf Course only. It is more commonly found in Northern Victoria.