

Frogs of the Lachlan

Thirty-two frog species have been recorded in the Lachlan catchment. Frogs can be terrestrial, spending most of their time underground, or tree dwelling. Like many native species, frog numbers are in decline across NSW. Factors including introduced species, and decreases in water quality and habitat availability all contribute to this decline.



Eastern Sign-bearing Froglet
(*Crinia parinsignifera*)

Eastern Sign-bearing Froglet
© Mal Carnegie (LCS)

A small species (3cm); the colour can range from shades of light brown to grey to almost black with varied patterning on back and sides. The belly is granular and grey with darker flecks. The fingers and toes are unwebbed. Found in flooded woodland, paddocks, small dams and vegetated creeks. It shelters under logs and leaf litter and calls (drawn-out “eeeeeeek” repeated every few seconds) from among grasses near water.



Barking Marsh Frog
(*Limnodynastes fletcheri*)

Barking Marsh Frog
© Carmen Amos

A medium frog (5cm); it is light grey or brown with irregular, scattered darker blotches and spots, the belly is smooth and white and the feet are webbed near the base of the toes. Found in flooded grassy areas and along the banks of streams, lagoons and dams. It shelters under rocks and logs or in cracked mud or

yabby burrows. Males call (like a single dog bark “rok” or “whuck”) while floating in water, usually among vegetation near the waters edge and particularly after rain.



Giant Banjo Frog
(*Limnodynastes interioris*)

Giant Banjo Frog
© Mal Carnegie (LCS)

A large (9cm) burrowing frog; colour ranges from pale yellow, fawn, or reddish brown, with uneven dark flecks and spots. It has a broad orange band along its side and a black stripe that runs through each eye. Found mainly in dry, sandy woodland, shrubland, and open and disturbed areas. The males call (a deep “thump” or “thud”) from along the margins of waterways during spring and autumn, usually after periods of heavy rain.



Spotted Marsh Frog
(*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*)

Spotted Marsh Frog
© Mal Carnegie (LCS)

A medium frog (4.5cm); colour varies from light brown to olive green on its back with a series of irregular darker spots, often with a yellow, pinkish or white stripe running down its back. It is highly adaptable and can be found in a variety of habitats. Calling (machine gunlike “uk-uk uk-uk-uk”) occurs while males are floating or sitting in shallow water, usually among vegetation.



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To listen to the distinctive calls of these species and more, visit www.lachlan.cma.nsw.gov.au



Green Tree Frog
© Mal Carnegie (LCS)

Green Tree Frog (*Litoria caerulea*)

A large frog (10cm); varies from dark olive to bright green and has the ability to change its colour. The back is smooth but its belly is granular and white. The finger and toe pads are large with the fingers a third webbed and the toes three-quarters webbed. Often found around buildings. Breeding habitat consists of shallow, temporary pools, ponds, swamps and flooded areas. Call is a repeated “Crawk”.



Broad Palmed Frog
© Dr. Skye Wassens (CSU)

Broad Palmed Frog (*Litoria latopalmata*)

Medium frog (4cm); colour ranges from pale to dark brown, sometimes with dark blotches. It has a dark stripe running from the snout, through the eye. The back of the thighs are patterned yellow and dark brown, and the belly is white. Found in woodland, forest and grazing land near water bodies. Calling (a rapid “quacking” or “yapping”) occurs on the ground at the edges of water during spring and summer, particularly after heavy rain.



Peron's Tree Frog
© Carmen Amos

Peron's Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*)

A medium frog (5cm), it varies from grey to dark brown or cream, with bright green or dark flecks on its back, but can change colour rapidly at any time of the day. The pupil is distinctively cross-shaped. Commonly associated with permanent water, it can be found in forests, woodland and cleared land. Calling (a long, drawn out “cackle”) takes place during early spring to summer from trees and fallen timber within and around water.



Southern Bell Frog
© Dr. Skye Wassens (CSU)

Southern Bell Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) **Endangered**

A large frog (8.5cm), it is olive to bright emerald green on its back with large gold, brown, black or bronze spots. It has a pale green stripe running down the middle of the back, and a pale stripe running from the side of the head and down the flanks. Mostly associated with permanent lakes, lagoons, ponds and dams that have a high percentage of vegetation. Males call (a growling “waaah...waaah”) from spring to autumn while floating in water among vegetation.

References:

- Anstis, M. (2002). *Tadpoles of South-eastern Australia: a guide with keys*, Sydney, Reed New Holland.
- Cogger, H. G. (2000). *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*, 5th edition, Sydney, Reed New Holland.
- Robinson, M. (2005). *A field guide to frogs of Australia*, Sydney, Reed New Holland.
- *Frog calls: University of Melbourne, Department of Zoology.*
- *Recordist/narrator: Murray Littlejohn. Compiler/mixer: Duncan Smith.*

