

## Frogs of the Coastal Heath and Wetlands ... John Lenagan



### **Brown Tree Frog, *Litoria ewingii***

This Tree Frog can be found in various habitat types from forest to coastal heath, and is even common in gardens in suburban areas. When breeding they can often be found calling long distances from water. Eggs and tadpoles can be found in still water in ponds, dams, lakes, streamside ponds and flooded roadside ditches, with egg clusters of 50–60 fixed to vegetation approx 150mm below the water's surface. Males usually call from the ground or in low vegetation, at the water's edge or in water, floating amongst the vegetation. The call is a series of rapid harsh, whirring pulsing notes repeated 5-15 times: 'creeeeeeee creee creee creee creee'. The first note is usually the longest. The

adults have pale fawn, cream, orange, or light brown sides. Breeding males have a light brown vocal sac. Occasionally green individuals, or partially green individuals, are found in western Victoria and South Australia. Main diet is insects.



### **Common Eastern Froglet, *Crinia signifera***

A small ground dwelling frog, the Common Froglet is one of eastern Australia's most widespread species. Its cricket-like chirping can be heard all day and all year round. Males call from among vegetation at the water's edge, or floating in open water supported by vegetation. The call is a series of three to five pulsed calls, with a chirping quality, rapidly repeated in a long series: 'crick crick crick crick crick'. One hundred to 150 pigmented eggs are usually found individually or in loose clumps, scattered around the bottom of ponds. Tadpoles are light grey or brown all over with scattered dark flecks.

Adults have a granular belly which is white or muddy white, heavily mottled with black or dark brown. The patterning on the back is variable but three patterns (morphs) are recognised. The pattern shown is the most striking and was found in Harvey Street. Main diet is insects.



### **Spotted Marsh Frog, *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis***

Also called the Spotted Grass Frog this frog is associated with wet areas, flood plains, and semi-permanent water in habitats ranging from open forests and woodlands through to scrublands and grasslands, including open and disturbed areas. Often found on farms and in farm dams. Eggs and tadpoles can be found in still water in dams, streamside ponds, lakes, swamps, and flooded grasslands. Males call while floating in water, most often concealed in floating vegetation. There are two call races for this species. The southern call race (western and south-eastern Victoria) has a single sharp call: 'click' or 'plock'—similar to the sound made when two stones are struck together. Adults usually have

large regularly-shaped olive green blotches on the back and sometimes have a yellow, red, or orange mid-dorsal stripe. Main diet is insects.



### **Eastern Banjo Frog, *Limnodynastes dumerili***

Also called Pobblebonks, this common and widespread burrowing frog may often be found in large numbers at night, particularly after rain. They can be found in most habitats. Eggs and tadpoles found in still water in swamps, streams, dams, and lakes. Males usually call concealed in floating vegetation or less commonly from land at the water's edge. The call is a short musical, explosive note producing a resonant 'bonk'. The call is usually repeated every few seconds. Some individuals from eastern populations can produce a rapid series of 'bonk bonk bonk bonk' lasting about one second. The eggs are enclosed in large white frothy floating foam rafts usually concealed in aquatic vegetation. Tadpoles are

large, dark brown or black and the fins are dark grey/brown. The fins, and sometimes the body, are flecked with darker spots or flecks. Adults have a prominent tibial gland, a fleshy metatarsal tubercle and a smooth white or mottled belly. Diet is mainly insects (Reference - *Frogs of Australia* - <https://frogs.org.au>).