

# Frogs of the Hamilton Region

Rod Bird  
November 2011

This article is a brief summary of the most likely species of frogs that may be encountered in our region. An excellent CD is available from the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA) and the description, life cycle, distribution and calls of the 13 listed species are given.

Photographs of these frogs may be seen in *News from the far South West* – a supplement to the land For Wildlife News (May 2003) and in *Wild Animals of Victoria* CD ROM (Viridans Biological Databases) (2000). The *Field Guide to the Frogs of Australia* (2009) by MJ Tyler and F Knight (CSIRO Publishing) is a relatively new, up-to-date publication and excellent reference. This guide has all 227 known species in Australia and high quality drawings rather than photographs of each species

An older, tape format, is *Calls of Victorian Frogs* by Murray Littlejohn (Department of Zoology, University of Melbourne) and that deals with 35 species in Victoria. It indicates the region where the frogs occur (Region 4 is SW Vic) and main season of calling (note – some species have recently had name changes).

The 13 species given by the GHCMA for this region of SW Victoria are:

- Ewing's Tree Frog (*Litoria ewingii*) – widespread in all habitats
- Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) – an endangered species, once widespread
- Plains Froglet (*Crinia parinsignifera*) – NE area, mostly in damp habitat
- Common Froglet (*Crinia signifera*) – widespread, mostly in damp habitat
- Southern Smooth Froglet (*Geocrinia laevis*) – flooded areas, central north and lower south
- Victorian Smooth Froglet (*Geocrinia victoriana*) – NE area, mostly in damp habitat
- Pobblebonk or Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) – widespread in all habitats
- Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*) – widespread except in far north, favour damp habitats
- Spotted Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) – widespread in damp habitats, including farm dams
- Mallee Spadefoot Toad (*Neobatrachus pictus*) – northern drier areas
- Common Spadefoot Toad (*Neobatrachus sudelii*) – widespread, especially in drier sites
- Bibron's Toadlet (*Pseudophryne bibronii*) – Grampians and northern areas, in moist habitat.
- Southern Toadlet (*Pseudophryne semimarmorata*) – central north and southern fringe, moist sites

The introduced *Chytrid* fungus has proved to be deadly to frogs and there has been a dramatic decline in frog numbers. If you plan to visit wetlands please clean and disinfect footwear with bleach (1 part to 4 of water), "PhytoClean" (1 part to 10 of water) or a thorough spray of methylated spirits, before entering each area.

Other agents that destroy frogs and crustaceans (e.g. Yabbies and Glenelg Spiny Freshwater Crayfish) include herbicides (the wetting agents aggravate the problem) and insecticides and run-off or spray drift over wetlands must be avoided. All frogs are protected in Victoria and their collection or transfer is prohibited.



Striped Marsh Frog at Tabor Swamp RB (Dec. 2008)



Ewings Tree Frog in a garden RB (July 2009)



Growling Grass Frog, Bullawin Rd, Vic Valley DL (Aug. 2006)