

6. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The ACT and Region National Water Week Community Frogwatch Census involved over 200 volunteers monitoring at 144 sites across the ACT and Upper Murrumbidgee region. During the month or so prior to the Frogwatch Census, conditions across the region were very wet, with a September rainfall of nearly double the long term average. This was the first time since February 2002 when monthly rainfall exceeded 100 millimetres.

Frog Species Detected

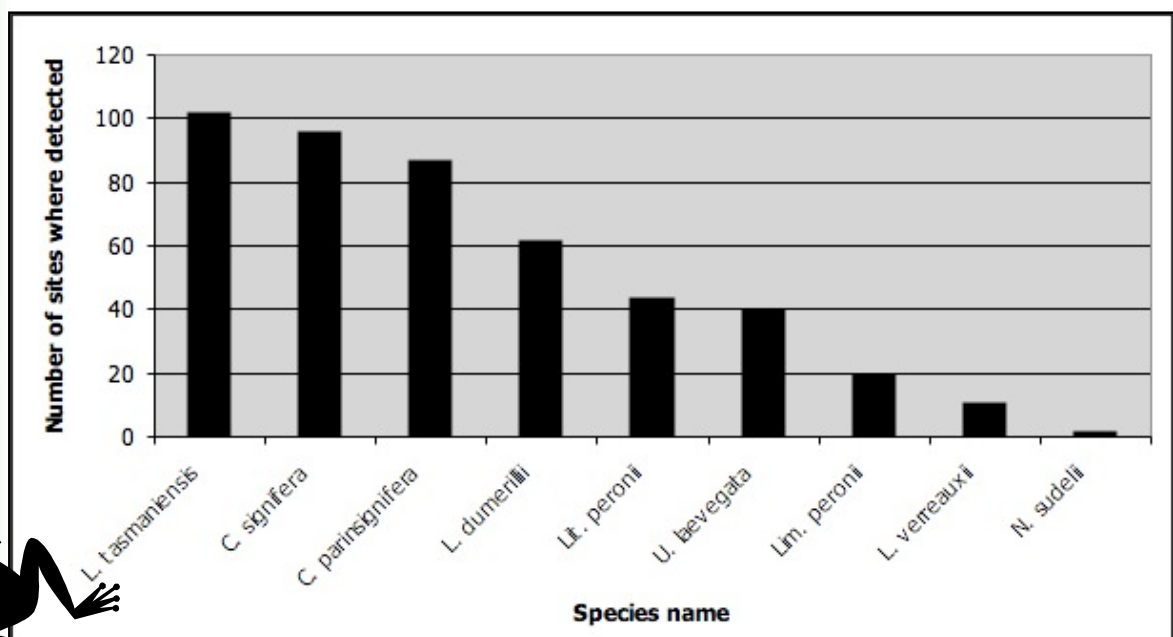
A total of 9 species were observed during the 2005 Frogwatch Census. They are listed here in order of greatest distribution:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Number of Sites (out of 144 monitored) Where Detected
<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	Spotted Grass Frog	102
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Common Eastern Froglet	96
<i>Crinia parinsignifera</i>	Plains Froglet	87
<i>Limnodynastes dumerillii</i>	Eastern Banjo Frog	62
<i>Litoria peronii</i>	Peron's Tree Frog	44
<i>Uperoleia laevigata</i>	Smooth Toadlet	40
<i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>	Brown-striped Frog	20
<i>Litoria verreauxii</i>	Whistling Tree Frog	11
<i>Neobatrachus sudelli</i>	Spotted Burrowing Frog	2

As in previous years, *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*, *Crinia signifera* and *Crinia parinsignifera* were the most widely distributed species, being detected at over 50% of all sites surveyed. This can be seen in Figure 7. *Limnodynastes dumerillii* was detected at many more sites this year, compared to 2004 results. This may reflect a return to a more usual distribution for this species, being closer to results for 2002 and 2003.

Other species including *Limnodynastes peronii*, *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis* and *Litoria peronii* were also found at relatively more sites this year, compared to last year. Other species showed a very similar or slightly smaller relative distribution, while *Litoria verreauxii* dropped from 24% of sites in 2004 to 8% of sites in 2005.

Figure 7. Occurrence of each frog species detected. Frogwatch Census October 2005.



Frog Species Diversity and Abundance

The Dunlop Grasslands dam site DGP001 had the greatest number of species observed at any one site, over the four years of the Frogwatch Census. Eight species were found here. Previously the greatest number of species found at a Frogwatch site was seven. This year, only one site had seven species detected, at the Hodgman Property (CFR200).

Sites with six species present included:

- Ginninderra Creek, Macgregor (FGC090)
- Bogong Creek, Namadgi National Park (FTB010)
- Rippers Pond, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (FTD010)
- Jerrabomberra Creek at Barrett Property (JER100)
- Mulligans Flat Site 2 (MFL002)
- Mulligans Flat Site 3 (MFL003)
- Mulligans Flat Site 5 (MFL005)
- Mulligans Flat Site 7 (MFL007)
- Mulligans Flat Site 9 (MFL009)
- Mulligans Flat Site 11 (MFL011)
- Mulligans Flat Site 13 (MFL013)
- Mulligans Flat Site 15 (MFL015)
- Mulligans Flat Site 17 (MFL017)
- Pinnacle Dam, Hawker (PIN100)
- Rose Cottage Dam (RCD001)



Dunlop Grasslands Pond. Eight frog species were detected at this site.

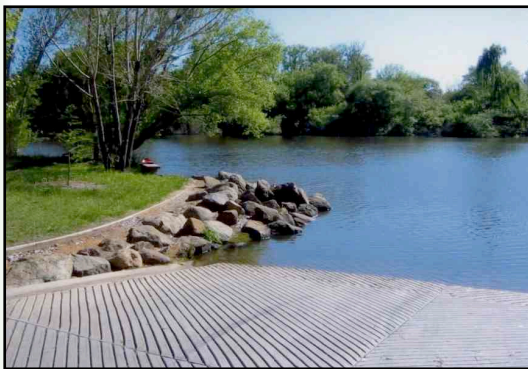
Photo: S.Colville



Rose Cottage dam. Six frog species were detected at this site.

Photo: N. Webb

There were eleven sites where no frogs were heard calling.



Molonglo River at Monaro Highway. No frog species were detected at this site.

Photo: P. Doyle



Chinaman's Creek, Yass. No frog species were detected at this site.

Photo: H. Sheppard

Overall, the most common abundance rating (i.e. the number of each species at a particular site) was "1 to 5", with the exception of *Crinia parinsignifera* and *Uperoleia laevigata*. For these two species the most common abundance rating was "5 to 20". There were only nine observations of populations greater than 50 individuals.



7. LIST OF FROGWATCH PARTICIPANTS

Thank you for your participation!

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J. Batt	V. Glyde	C. MacCormaic	L. Schweickle
J. Batt	J. Goodrum	L. Macoustre	A. Seagrave
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L. Bell	A. Green	T. Magarey	P. Seymour
B. Bennett	O. Green	P. Magarey	S. Shelley
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D. Claridge	L. Ishiyama	A. Morrison	P. Varga
H. Clarke	H. Jaireth	J. Morton	D. Watkins
J. Clarke	P. Jaminon	J. Morton	P. Watters
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S. Colville	T. Keen	G. Moseley	M. Welsh
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