



# Fabulous frogs

## Amphibian

Amphibian means 'on land and in water.' Frogs start their life in fresh water as tadpoles and use gills to breathe. As they grow larger, they develop lungs and must breathe air. Amphibians are vertebrates too, meaning that they have a skeleton. Frogs are Australia's only native amphibian.

## Endangered

Many Australian frog species are in decline. Some of the threats to their survival are:

- fewer available wetlands,
- cats, dogs and introduced animals,
- fertilisers, pesticides, and other chemicals
- less native vegetation to provide them with homes.

## Finding mates

Male frogs call (mostly at night) to attract females. It's like an audition because the females choose the best singers!

## Food

Frogs eat insects, small invertebrates (mini-beasts) and sometimes even tiny lizards.

## From vegetarian to carnivore

Tadpoles eat plants and algae in the water, so they are vegetarian. Frogs are carnivores – that means they eat meat, such as insects and other animals.

## Drinking

Frogs can absorb water (drink) through their skin! Because they have thin skin, they can also be easily harmed by chemicals and pesticides in the environment.

## Water

Frogs need water to breed. Shallow ponds can be good places to lay their eggs, and for the tadpoles to grow.

## Shelter

Frogs need shady, cool and damp places to hide. Native garden mulch, grasses, plants, logs, rocks and branches can help them find good homes.

## Meet the locals

There are eight frog species found in Cardinia Shire. Find out more about each species at [www.frogs.org.au/frogs](http://www.frogs.org.au/frogs)

- [Growling Grass Frog](#) (*Litoria raniformis*)
- [Southern Toadlet](#) (*Pseudophryne semimarmorata*)
- [Striped Marsh Frog](#) (*Limnodynastes peroni*)
- [Spotted Marsh Frog](#) (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*)
- [Southern Brown Tree Frog](#) (*Litoria ewingi*)
- [Common Froglet](#) (*Crinia signifera*)
- [Whistling Tree Frog](#) (*Litoria verreauxi*)
- [Pobblebonk or Eastern Bango Frog](#) (*Limnodynastes dumerilli*)



Photo: Southern Brown tree frog by David Francis, natureshare

## Citizen science

You can be a 'citizen scientist' and record frogs you see at <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au> You can do this from your own back yard with your family members, or at school with your teacher or other students.

