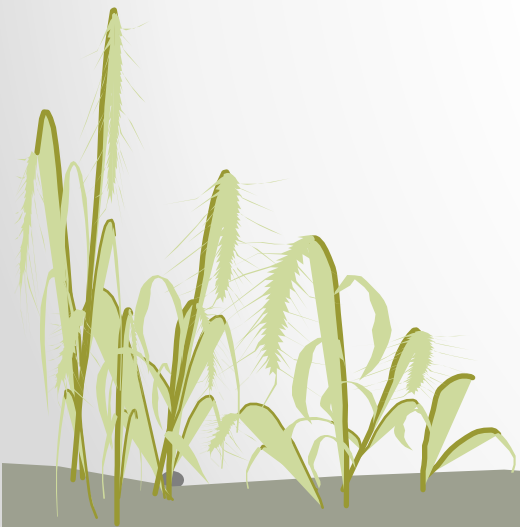


Frogs of the Mount Alexander region



Frogs of the Mount Alexander region

- There are 240 species of frogs in Australia. We are going to learn about 6 species that you are likely to see and hear near your school, park or home in the Mount Alexander area. Keep in mind that there are other frogs you might find in the region – about 11 in total.
- The frogs in our area can be divided into four different groups, based where they like to hang out, how they move around and what their legs and toes look like. These are:
- Climbing tree frogs, hopping ground frogs, walking frogs and digging frogs and we're going to look at the characteristics of each.
- Although they do all look different to the trained eye – it is far easier to tell frogs apart from their calls rather than what they look like so we're going to listen to their calls too.



Climbing Tree Frogs

- These have round big sticky toe pads that help them grip which means they are very good at climbing. We have two different species locally, called the 'Brown Tree Frog' (*Litoria ewingii*) and 'Peron's Tree Frog' (*Litoria peronii*).
- The Brown Tree frog is... you guessed it, Brown, with a lighter patch on the upper lip.
- Peron's Tree frog is mottled grey to light brown, and has yellow and black mottled patches on its legs. It often has tiny emerald green spots on its back. Both species also have toe webbing to help them swim as adults – like tiny flippers!
- You will see these frogs on windows looking for bugs attracted to your house lights, calling from your gutters and drainpipes on warm wet nights, and climbing in shrubs and trees beside waterways like ponds, creeks and rivers after dark.
- Climbing tree frogs are the types of frogs that enjoy living in 'frog hotels' made from pipes they can climb into.



Climbing Tree Frogs



Photo: Stephen Mahony

Brown tree frog (*Litoria ewingii*)

[More info and call: Litoria ewingii | Australian Museum FrogID Project](#)



Photo: Dane Tiembath

Peron's tree frog (*Litoria peronii*)

[Litoria peronii | Australian Museum FrogID Project](#)

Hopping Ground Frogs

- These frogs aren't very good climbers because they don't have sticky toe pads for gripping.
- You are more likely to find them hopping away from you on the ground in the garden next to your dam or pond, or sitting in leaf litter and waterside vegetation like reeds and grass, or sheltering under rocks and logs during the day.
- The Mount Alexander region has two kinds of hopping ground frog, one is a very small frog called the 'Common Eastern Froglet' (*Crinia signifera*), and the other is a lot bigger, called the 'Spotted Marsh Frog' or (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*).
- The Common Eastern Froglet can be hard to spot as it is very small, only 3cm or smaller, but you are likely to hear it more than any other frog in the area. They call night and day. If you are lucky enough to find one, they can be brown, grey, cream, beige, reddish or mustard yellow, sometimes with stripes, spots or bigger patches.
- The Spotted Marsh frog can grow up to 5cm long and has a grey-brown or olive-green back with darker olive-green or brown patches.



Hopping Ground Frogs



Photo: Stephen Mahony

Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*)

[Crinia signifera](#) | Australian Museum FrogID Project



Photo: Hal Cogger

Spotted Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*)

[Limnodynastes tasmaniensis](#) | Australian Museum FrogID Project

Walking Frogs

- In Mount Alexander we only have one species of frog that walks. They don't tend to climb or hop but instead they walk or scramble along the ground. They have short little legs and no toe pads. They are called *Pseudophryne bibronii* ('Soo-dof-rin-ee bib-ron-ee ih') or Bibron's Toadlet.
- Bibron's Toadlet is quite small, reaching only 3cm in body length. They have bumpy skin which can be dark grey, blue-grey or brown back, often with small black spots or patches. They also have lovely orange shoulder patches.
- Bibron's Toadlet is a threatened species – this means it is not very common and is in danger of going extinct. It is a very special thing to have it living in our area.
- This frog is interesting because it looks after its babies in a unique way. Instead of water, this frog lays its eggs on land in a nest made in moist vegetation. Once the female frog has laid the eggs, she leaves, and the male frog guards the nest, until rains come and wash the eggs into the nearest waterway where they will hatch and turn into tadpoles.
- Bibron's Toadlet are not a toad, but because they are a little bumpy and warty looking, they were called toadlets (or 'little toads'). We don't actually have any toads in Australia, except the introduced Cane Toad which eats our native frogs in the tropical areas of Australia.



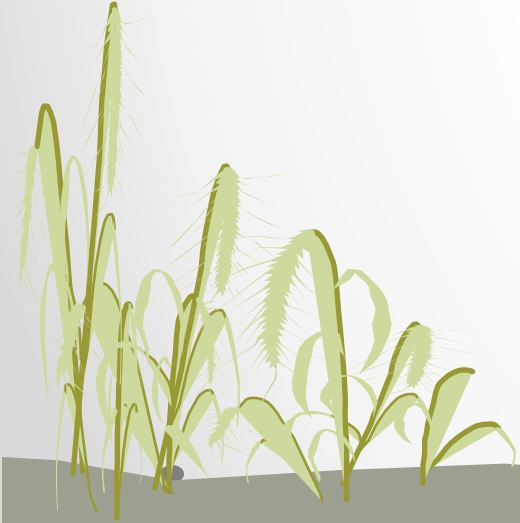
Walking Frogs



Photo: Jodi Rowley

Bibron's Toadlet (*Pseudophryne bibronii*)

[Pseudophryne bibronii](#) | [Australian Museum FrogID Project](#)



Digging Frogs

- These frogs like to dig themselves into the soil and shelter during the day, and also during very hot or very cold weather. They have strong muscley looking arms and legs for this purpose, with pointy fingers and toes and no pads.
- You have to be careful when digging in the garden or a sandpit as people have accidentally dug them up with a shovel.
- Locally we only have one frog that likes to dig like this, called *Limnodynastes dumerilii* ('Lim-no-dine-Ast-ees dum-eril-ee-ih' or the 'Eastern Banjo Frog', but in other parts of Australia there are many different kinds of digging frogs. You find other digging frogs in hot and dry places like the desert where they live completely underground until heavy rains send them above to find mates.



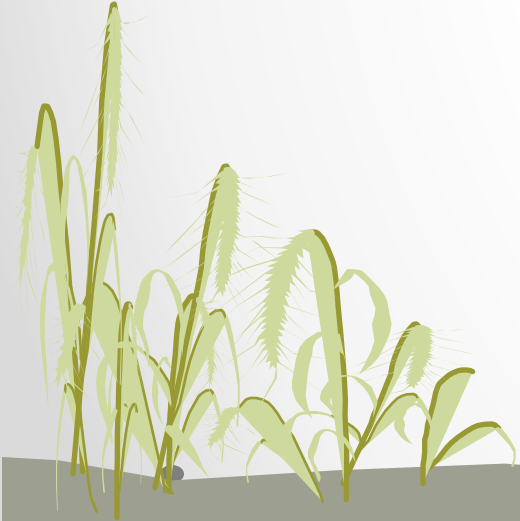
Digging Frogs



Photo: Thomas Parkin

Eastern Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*)

[More info and call: Limnodynastes dumerilii | Australian Museum FrogID Project](#)



More resources



[‘Frog ID’ website or app on phone or tablet.](#) [Home](#) | [Australian Museum FrogID Project](#)

