

Wildlife Matters

MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

FROGGING AROUND

MARCH 20th is World Frog Day. A number of frog species call the Moggill Creek Catchment home.

Frogs are found in and around creeks, dams and ponds. They use these areas as refuges, to forage for food or to reproduce. Frogs will breed in either permanent water (creeks and dams) or temporary (ephemeral)

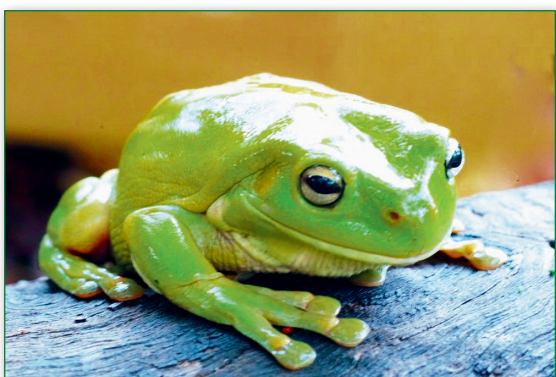
water bodies. This depends on the length of time to develop into frogs. Changes in rainfall and resulting lack of or loss of habitat have a huge impact on frogs. During the dry they can survive by a number of strategies and can live for several years, so we may continue to see and hear frogs calling. When the rains come, they will bounce back due to boom and bust cycles. However, if there is loss of the breeding site the frogs are severely impacted and are in danger of becoming locally extinct. Although we continue to hear and see them, they will not breed. For frogs to be present in our environment, we need to protect the breeding sites. None are more important than ephemeral pools and drain lines that form after rain in our local parks.

Graceful frogs and green tree frogs breed in these ephemeral ponds by spreading eggs on the surface of the water. Within 24 hours, they hatch and in 4-6 weeks develop into young juvenile frogs. Other frogs require more time to develop to maturity and therefore require permanent water to breed. Some of the frogs, such as stony creek frogs, breed in flowing creeks, attaching eggs to rocks. Tusks frogs hide under vegetation in both creeks and dams, blowing foam nests. Sedge frogs breed in our dams, sitting on lily pads calling. Striped march frogs breed in dams, slow moving creeks and are heard calling most of the year. Therefore, celebrate World Frog Day, go out and listen for frogs. Identify them by checking the MCCG webpage (<https://www.moggillcreek.org.au/catchment-field-guides/>) or download the frog ID app (<https://www.frogid.net.au/>) to record their calls.

Happy frogging!

Phil Bird

VIST MCCG: www.moggillcreek.org.au



Green Tree Frog (*Litoria caerulea*) - Photo Ed Frazer