

# Blighty! JUMPING WITH FROGS

## SOUTHERN BELL FROG

*Litoria raniformis*



### APPEARANCE

Southern bell frogs grow up to 10.4cm long. They are olive to bright emerald green in colour with black, brown, bronze or gold spots and a light green stripe down the centre of their back. During breeding season the males become yellow or dark grey or black under the throat. The groin and thighs are turquoise blue.

### DIET

These frogs eat a variety of flying and crawling insects. They are even known to eat mice and small tiger snakes.

### HABITAT

Southern bell frogs are typically found in or around swamps or billabongs along floodplains and river valleys. They have been identified in the Coleambally Irrigation Area, the Lowbidgee floodplain, parts of Lake Victoria and in irrigated rice crops.

### THREATS

Threats include changes to natural water flows, draining wetlands, Chytrid fungus, pollution, removal of habitat and introduced feral animals such as European carp, Gambusia, foxes and pigs.

### REPRODUCTION

Southern bell frogs breed from September to April and this is prompted by flooding or a rise in water levels. Males have a growling, engine-like "waaa waaa waaa" call.

## PERON'S TREE FROG

*Litoria peronii*



### APPEARANCE

The Peron's tree frog is usually pale green or grey with emerald flecks. They can change colour depending on the temperature. It has a thin black line above its ear that forms a cross shape in the eye. The Peron's tree frog also has distinguishing yellow and black mottling on the armpits, groin, and backs of thighs.

### DIET

They will eat any bug that moves - even bugs in the water. They catch their prey by using their sticky tongue.

### HABITAT

Although they are excellent swimmers, Peron's tree frogs can be found a long distance from open water. They remain hidden during the day and come out to feed and breed on warm nights.

### THREATS

Natural predators include snakes, lizards and birds. Other threats include loss of natural habitat.

### REPRODUCTION

Male Peron's tree frogs attract females with a call similar to a rattly machine gun. They are also called the maniacal cackling frog. They lay their eggs, up to 30,000, in moist areas.

## SPOTTED MARSH FROG

*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*



### APPEARANCE

Spotted marsh frogs reach an adult size of 4-5 centimetres. Adults have round green spots and dark brown spots on their back. They also have a white, yellow or red stripe down their back. Their belly is white and they have a white stripe under their eyes. The male's call sounds like "Kuk, kuk, kuk, kuk, kuk, kuk, kuk."

### DIET

They eat any kind of insects and also spiders.

### HABITAT

Spotted marsh frogs are found throughout New South Wales, Victoria, eastern South Australia, most of Queensland and eastern Tasmania. They can be found in swamps, lagoons and creeks in wet coastal areas and dry inland areas.

### THREATS

The spotted marsh frog's predators are birds, lizards, snakes, turtles and water rats.

### REPRODUCTION

The males make a floating foam or bubble raft in which the eggs are placed. When the tadpoles hatch out, they drop into the water.