

GREEN AND GOLD FROG

LITORIA RANIFORMIS

As a means of getting the wider community involved in activities to determine the state of biodiversity within the Tamar region, the Launceston Environment Centre devised a project to map the extent of the Green and Gold Bell frog, *Litoria raniformis*.



The green and gold frog is the largest, most robust and brightly coloured and threatened frog in Tasmania. It can grow 80 to 100mm in body length and weigh up to 40g. Although the colour is variable it is usually green and brown on the back with scattered brown or golden blotches. The groin and back of the thighs are often a turquoise blue to green. The male has a distinctive low growling call which is made from Sept to Jan.

It was envisaged that this species would be used as an indicator of the health of the biodiversity of the region, as it was once a widespread species which has suffered a population collapse. They have shown some ability to adapt to man-made structures such as dams and ponds for their survival.

An 1800 telephone number was set up in October 2001, and through newspaper advertisements, flyers and talk back radio, the community was encouraged to call in with information about the species.

The recordings have been mapped on 1:2500 Land Survey maps and this information will be passed onto the Threatened Species Unit of DPIWE to assist in the management of the species.

The information has also been logged as a resource for the Backyard Biodiversity Project as it gives a good idea of the interest and enthusiasm there is in the region for the Green and Gold Frog and its habitat.

It's worth noting that fifty percent (50%) of calls were from the West Tamar area, stretching from Clarence Point to Eccelstone Road, and twenty percent (20%) of calls were from the East Tamar area, stretching from Low Head to Dilston. Calls were also recorded from Breadlbane, St. Leonards, Relbia, Hagley, Longford and Evandale.

The furthest sighting west was Hawley; the furthest sighting east was Ringarooma. A surprise call from Bicheno on the Central East Coast was the most distant location.



The survey has been continued in 2002 to build up a picture of the increase or further decline of the species, and to involve and educate the community in its management.

If you spot a Green and Gold Frog please call the Launceston Environment Centre on Freecall **1800 880 133**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

LEC -Launceston Environment Centre

34 Cameron Street

Launceston TAS 7250

p: 03 6331 8558

f: 03 6352 6509

e: info@lec.org.au

PO Box 392

Launceston TAS 7250.

