

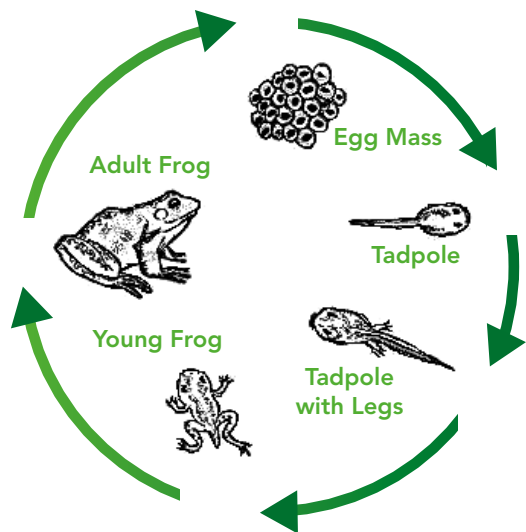
## Frogs

Frogs are amphibians (animals that spend part of their life in water and part on land). The three main groups of amphibians are newts/salamanders, frogs/toads and caecilians.

Amphibians are the most threatened class of animals in the world. The number and distribution of species is declining in almost every country in the world. In New Zealand the only living amphibians are frogs: four native and three introduced species.

Frogs are easily recognisable by their long legs, short backbone, interesting calls and body changing life cycle.

### Life cycle of frogs



## Acknowledgements

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Text by: **Nathan Hills & Carolyn Brough**

Photos and editing by: **Nathan Hills  
Phil Bishop (New Zealand  
Frog Research Group,  
University of Otago)**

Graphic design and Printing:



Find lots more information at  
[www.nzfrogs.org](http://www.nzfrogs.org)



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## New Zealand's Introduced Frogs



Photo: Nathan Hills

### Brown Tree frog (*Litoria ewingii*)

These are small brown frogs often seen or heard on low growing vegetation nearby waterways. They can breed throughout the year and make a high pitched call similar to a cricket. They are often heard just after dark.

### Southern Bell frog (*Litoria raniformis*)

These bell frogs are the largest of the introduced frogs and vary from a brown to green colour. They can be identified by looking at their back, which is usually covered in warts and has a green stripe down the middle. They breed during the summer months in larger bodies of water such as ponds and lakes and make a distinctive "cawcawcawcaw" sound. In Australia they are often called the Growling Grass frog.



Photo: Nathan Hills



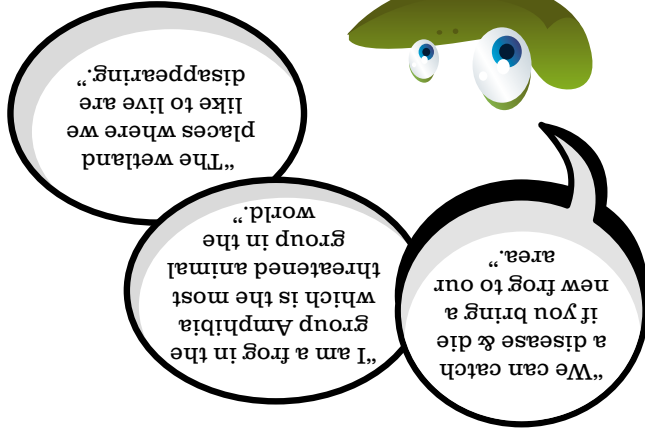
Photo: Nathan Hills

### Green & Golden Bell frog (*Litoria aurea*)

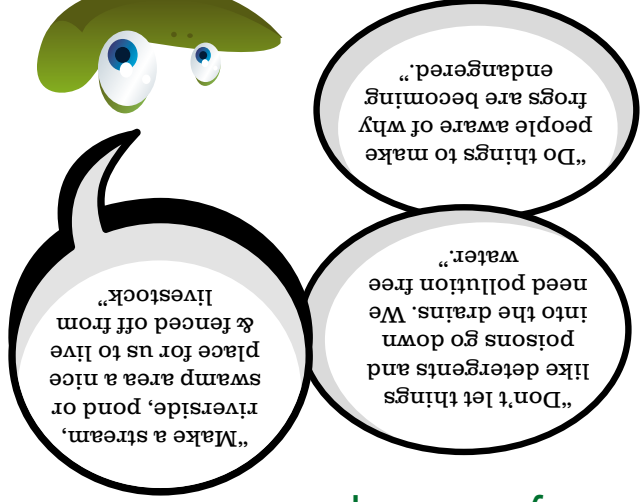
Green and Golden Bell frogs occupy and breed in the same habitats as Southern Bell frogs. They can be distinguished by their greener colour, smooth back which lacks warts, no stripe down the middle and a more drawn out call. They also have proportionally larger toe pads and greater webbing on their feet.

## Conservation Measures for Frogs

### Amphibians are in big trouble!



### How you can help us?



## New Zealand's Native Frogs

### Hochstetter's frog (*Leiopelma hochstetteri*)



Photo: Phil Bishop

### Hamilton's frog (*Leiopelma hamiltoni*)



Photo: Phil Bishop

### Maud Island frog (*Leiopelma pakeka*)



Photo: Phil Bishop

### Archey's frog (*Leiopelma archeyi*)



Photo: Phil Bishop

New Zealand's four living native frogs are unique in the world. They have an ancient body design similar to fossilised frogs 70 million years old. They are poor jumpers and so rely on excellent camouflage to avoid being seen. Unlike most other frogs they lack external ear drums and do not communicate by calling. All of the native frogs are either threatened or endangered. Many of them are restricted to predator free offshore islands. Some frogs however can be seen by the public in certain zoos in New Zealand. In New Zealand some of the biggest threats to frogs are loss of habitat and disease.