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

- Adult Frog
- Egg Mass
- Tadpole
- Young Frog
- Tadpole with Legs
- Young Frog
- Adult Frog

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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)

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Find lots more information at www.nzfrogs.org

Find out more about us and join us at www.forestandbird.org.nz or for children www.kcc.org.nz
Do things to make people aware of why frogs are becoming endangered.

Don’t let things like detergents and poisons go down into the drains. We need pollution free water.

In New Zealand some of the biggest threats to frogs are loss of habitat and disease.

They are poor jumpers and so rely on excellent camouflage to avoid being eaten. They are also more sensitive to froggy killers than most other frogs. They have an ancient body design similar to fossilised frogs 70 million years old.

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.

Amphibians are in big trouble!

New Zealand’s Introduced Frogs

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 green in winter and brown in summer. They can be identified by their call, which is similar to a cricket. They are also excellent at avoiding detection and move quickly through water and mud. They can be found in large bodies of water and can be heard from a distance.

Brown 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 their high pitched call, which is similar to a cricket. They are also excellent at avoiding detection and move quickly through water and mud. They can be found in large bodies of water and can be heard from a distance.

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 green colour, larger size, and more drawn out call. They also have proportionally larger toe pads and greater webbing on their feet.

New Zealand’s Native Frogs

Hochstetter’s frog (Leiopelma hochstetteri)

Hamilton’s frog (Leiopelma hamiltoni)

Archey’s frog (Leiopelma archeyi)

Maud Island frog (Leiopelma pakeka)

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How you can help us?

Make a stream, riverside, pond or swamp area a nice place for us to live and fenced off from livestock.