

AMPHIBIANS AROUND LILLIFIELD



BUFO MARINUS -THE CANE TOAD

Unfortunately this fellow has made its appearance here, not in great numbers yet, but surely building up. People are keeping an eye on the Red Bellied Black snakes here as unfortunately these snakes eat amphibians, including toads. We prefer these snakes, rather than the Browns which compete with Reds for territories - no blacks, in come the browns!

Toads are distinctive: warty looking skin, webbed toes at the back, UNwebbed feet at the front, a large gland behind the ear drum and a real bony ridge above the eyes. Some native frogs are often mistaken for

toads, but they don't have any of these characteristic makings of the cane toad. Listen for that distinctive purring sound like a small engine or generator - calling is especially during summer in breeding time. Check still waters, like dams, for those tell tale black eggs strung together like "strings of black beads" -easily lifted out of the water . Try to limit egg laying activity by not clearing right around dams - some barrier of vegetation is pretty effective as toads don't like the effort of forcing their way through thick vegetation and they don't like climbing either. Plenty of information on the latest findings, etc on good websites like <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/CaneToadOrNativeFrogTakeATestToFindOut.htm>

LITORIA PERONII (Peron's Tree Frog)

A native species, medium sized, and the whitish, grey or brown rough skin (don't confuse with cane toads!) has iridescent green spots scattered over its back. Found along waterways & dams.

Call-long series of 29-50 explosive notes , like laughter, some saying it sounds like "maniacal cackles".

Check out the website <http://frogsaustralia.net.au/> for all things frog.



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LITORIA FALLAX -Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog

One of many “green tree frogs” in Australia, this is the smallest one at only about 2cm. Not always green, it can be also uniform brown, or green with a pale brown or golden back. There is always a whitish stripe along the jaw and it is always small. Found around water, like creeks, dams and ponds or sheltering amongst wet vegetation like veggie gardens or other damp spots. Wherever you find it, it is often in very large numbers.



Listen to the call from about October to April (after rain is good) - high pitched, rasping, upwards “wreeek-pip-pip” , the first bit drawn out, the rest short and staccato. It is repeated many times.