

State-wide Frog Census Month

April 2025

Frog Month Victoria – April 2025

Summary Report

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Bibron's Toadlet *Pseudophryne bibronii* (Credit P Robertson for Melbourne Water)

Executive Summary

The frog project which ran during April 2025 was a continuation of the Statewide collaboration between Melbourne Water and Catchment Management Authorities across Victoria to use the Frog Census Application (App for smart phones) to gather Citizen Science data. The first Statewide effort ran in October 2024 and a total of 638 reports were submitted. The objective of this second round conducted during April has been to test the level of interest across the regions for ongoing use of the App and the appetite for investment in its ongoing use across all of Victoria.

A total of 164 reports were gathered during April 2025, which is approximately a quarter of the number gathered during the previous October.

During April, the feature species was Bibron's Toadlet *Pseudophryne bibronii* which is listed as Endangered under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act of Victoria (1988). Bibron's Toadlet is an Autumn

breeding species and the objective was to gain some understanding of its distribution across the State with the assistance of Citizen Scientists. There were 70 participants who contributed 154 frog reports during April which yielded a total of 164 frog records. There were 9 reports of Bibron's Toadlet amongst the reports which captured a total of thirteen different frog species.

For successful engagement with the Frog Census in future, targeted communication and training is required across the State to encourage a greater level of participation. This requires communication from each CMA about species which are of particular concern in their region. Without a significant level of participation, meaningful data cannot be derived.

Statewide Findings

During April 2025, 70 people participated in Frog Month collecting data using the Frog Census App, submitting 154 call recordings that yielded a total of 164 frog records. Thirteen different species of frogs were detected with 21 reports of endangered species (Table 1, Figure 1). The most common species detected was the Eastern Common Froglet followed by the Victorian Smooth Froglet.

Engagement was greatest in the Melbourne Water region in part due to the greater population in the region but also because there is an established group of Citizen Scientists who are committed and experienced in recording frog activity. The highest number of species detected was in the Melbourne Region (Table 2). The second highest number of species detected during April, was in Corangamite and West Gippsland CMA's.

Species	Common Name	Number of Records
<i>Pseudophryne semimarmorata</i>	Southern Toadlet	12
<i>Pseudophryne bibronii</i>	Bibron's toadlet	9
<i>Geocrinia victoriana</i>	Victorian Smooth Froglet	32
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Eastern Common Froglet	67
<i>Litoria ewingii</i>	Southern Brown Tree Frog	20
<i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>	Striped Marsh Frog	7
<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	Spotted Marsh Frog	4
<i>Litoria peronii</i>	Peron's Tree Frog	2
<i>Limnodynastes dumerilii</i>	Eastern Banjo Frog	2
<i>Crinia parinsignifera</i>	Eastern Sign Bearing Froglet	2
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Grass Frog	1
<i>Neobatrachus sudellae</i>	Common Spadefoot Toad	1
<i>Litoria verreauxii</i>	Whistling Tree Frog	1
	Unknown species	4
Grand Total		164

Table 1. Frog records submitted across Victoria during Frog Month Autumn, April 2025.

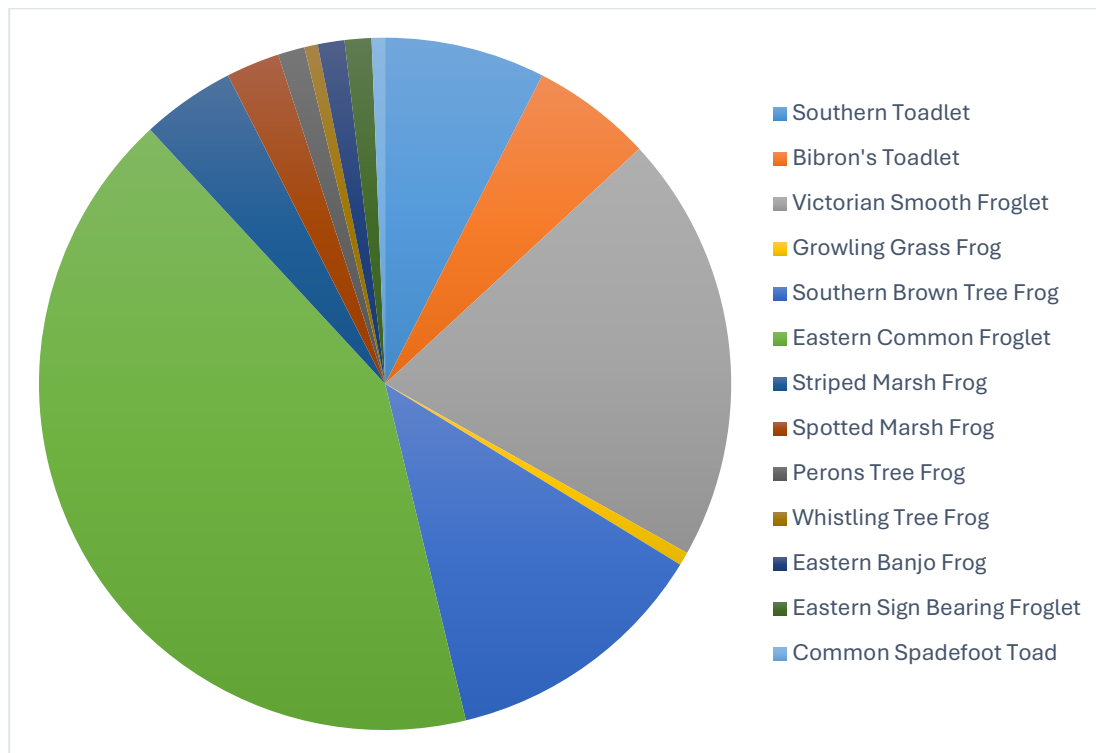


Figure 1: Graphical representation of the frog records submitted across Victoria during Frog Month Autumn, April 2025.

CMA	Species Detected
Corangamite	7
East Gippsland	2
Goulburn Broken	2
Melbourne Water	10
North Central	5
West Gippsland	4
Wimmera	3

Table 2: Number of frog species detected in each Victorian CMA during Frog Month Autumn, April 2025.

Feature Species

Our featured species during April was Bibron's Toadlet which is listed as Endangered (FFG Act 1988) in Victoria. *Pseudophryne bibronii*, Bibron's toadlet, is a small brownish coloured toadlet only 2 - 3 cm long. It is endemic to south-eastern Australia including Tasmania and is found in a variety of habitats not necessarily associated with permanent water.

There were 9 reports of the species in total, six from NCCMA, two in GBCMA and one from the Wimmera.

The Southern Toadlet is also an Autumn breeding species closely related to Bibron's Toadlet and is listed as Endangered. There were 12 records for this species; 7 within Melbourne Water's area of operation, 2 in West Gippsland, 2 in North Central and 1 in Corangamite CMA.

The Victorian Smooth Froglet is also an Autumn breeding species which is thought to be common across its range but no surveys have been conducted for this species. There were 32 recordings of this species half within the Melbourne region.

There was one report of a Common Spadefoot Toad near the Grampians and despite the name this frog is rarely heard because it spends most of its life underground only emerging during significant rainfall events, to breed. Interestingly, there was one report of a Growling Grass Frog from CCMA which is outside of the normal calling season for this species.

Engagement

During April, 2025 there were 154 reports submitted across the State (Table 3). This compares with 247 Frog Census reports in April 2024. State-wide engagement with the program was not as significant when compared with October 2024 with 638 reports submitted.

Summary Data – April 2025	
Number of people who participated	70
Number of Surveys	154
Number of frog records	164
Number of species detected	13
Number of threatened species	3

Table 3. Summary data for participation in Frog Month – Autumn 2025.

Findings by Region

Corangamite CMA

There were 10 frog reporters in CCMA who submitted a total of 24 reports which included 7 different frog species.

Species	Common Name	Number of Records
<i>Pseudophryne semimarmorata</i>	Southern Toadlet	1
<i>Geocrinia victoriana</i>	Victorian Smooth Toadlet	6
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Grass Frog	1
<i>Litoria ewingii</i>	Southern Brown Tree Frog	6
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Eastern Common Froglet	8
<i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>	Striped Marsh Frog	1
<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	Spotted Marsh Frog	2
	Unknown Species*	1
Total		26

Table 4 Frog records submitted from the Corangamite CMA during frog month April 2025.

*The unknown species report only included a photo which was of insufficient quality to provide an accurate identification.

East Gippsland CMA

Two reports were submitted from East Gippsland CMA by two separate reporters.

Species	Common Name	Number of Records
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Eastern Common Froglet	1
<i>Litoria peronii</i>	Perons Tree Frog	1
Total		2

Table 5 Frog records submitted from the East Gippsland CMA during frog month April 2025.

Goulburn Broken CMA

One reporter contributed 3 reports during April in the Goulburn Broken CMA.

Species	Common Name	Number of Records
<i>Pseudophryne bibronii</i>	Bibron's toadlet	2
<i>Geocrinia victoriana</i>	Victorian Smooth Froglet	1
Total		3

Table 6 Frog records submitted from the Goulburn Broken CMA during frog month April 2025.

Melbourne Water

A total of 41 reporters submitted 97 reports in the Melbourne Water region with the calls of 12 species of frogs captured during those recordings.

Species	Common Name	Number of Records
<i>Pseudophryne semimarmorata</i>	Southern Toadlet	7
<i>Geocrinia victoriana</i>	Victorian Smooth Froglet	15
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Eastern Common Froglet	53
<i>Litoria ewingii</i>	Southern Brown Tree Frog	11
<i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>	Striped Marsh Frog	6
<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	Spotted Marsh Frog	2
<i>Litoria peronii</i>	Peron's Tree Frog	1
<i>Limnodynastes dumerilii</i>	Eastern Banjo Frog	2
<i>Crinia parinsignifera</i>	Eastern Sign Bearing Froglet	1
<i>Litoria verreauxii</i>	Whistling Tree Frog	1
	Unknown species	3
Grand Total		102

Table 7 Frog records submitted from Melbourne Water's region during frog month April 2025.

North Central CMA

There were 10 reporters in NCCMA who contributed a total of 15 reports which included the call of 5 species of frogs. NC CMA had the highest reporting of Bibron's Toadlet across the State.

Species	Common Name	Number of Records
<i>Pseudophryne semimarmorata</i>	Southern Toadlet	2
<i>Pseudophryne bibronii</i>	Bibron's toadlet	6
<i>Geocrinia victoriana</i>	Victorian Smooth Froglet	3
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Eastern Common Froglet	4
<i>Litoria ewingii</i>	Southern Brown Tree Frog	2
Grand Total		17

Table 8 Frog records submitted from North Central CMA during frog month April 2025.

West Gippsland CMA

In West Gippsland 6 people submitted a total of 11 reports using the Frog Census App during April. These reports included recordings of 4 frog species.

Species	Common Name	Number of Records
<i>Pseudophryne semimarmorata</i>	Southern Toadlet	2
<i>Geocrinia victoriana</i>	Victorian Smooth Froglet	7
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Eastern Common Froglet	1
<i>Litoria ewingii</i>	Southern Brown Tree Frog	1
Grand Total		11

Table 9 Frog records submitted from West Gippsland CMA during frog month April 2025.

Wimmera CMA

Two reporters in the Wimmera CMA captured recordings of 3 species including the Common Spadefoot Toad which is rarely heard.

Species	Common Name	Number of Records
<i>Pseudophryne bibronii</i>	Bibron's toadlet	1
<i>Crinia parinsignifera</i>	Eastern Sign Bearing Froglet	1
<i>Neobatrachus sudellae</i>	Common Spadefoot Toad	1
Grand Total		3

Table 10 Frog records submitted from Wimmera CMA during frog month April 2025.

