

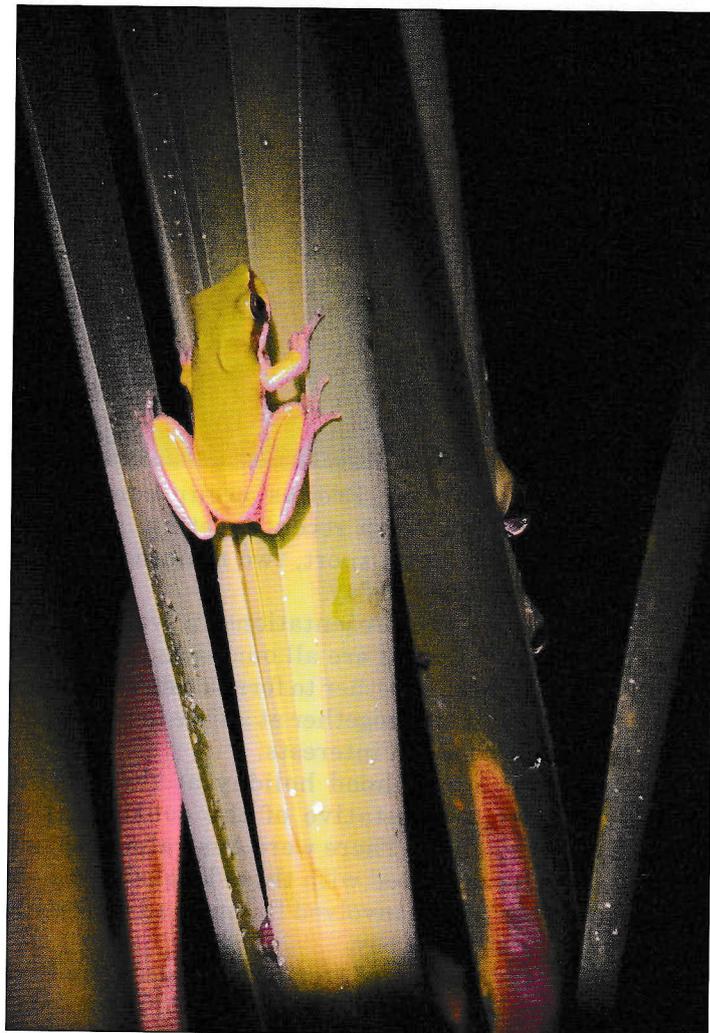


What frogs exist in Spring Lake?

The Springfield Lakes Nature Care Group has conducted several cane toad catching nights at Spring Lake parklands. Whilst conducting the Cane Toad searches, the group have found two native frog species: the Striped Marsh Frog and the Eastern Sedge Frog.

The Striped Marsh Frog is between 45 and 75mm in size. They can be light or dark shades of brown with distinct darker stripes running down the frogs back. The Striped Marsh Frog is found throughout eastern Australia and is predominantly a pond-dweller but can survive in nearly any kind of water including, fish ponds and polluted ditches. It is an adaptable frog and is often encountered in urban environments. During spawning, the female Striped Marsh Frog makes a floating foam or bubble raft in which the fertilised eggs are suspended. The tadpoles hatch after a few days and drop into the water as the nest-raft disintegrates. The male Striped Marsh Frog's call is a loud 'tok' or 'whuck', which sounds very much like a tennis ball being struck. It can be heard all year round, calling while floating in water or from close to the water's edge.

The Eastern Sedge Frog is a small species no bigger than 30mm. It is green to pale brown and has a white jaw stripe and a dark band between the nostril and eye. The back of the thigh is bright orange. It's found along the coast from north Queensland to southern New South Wales. It prefers a wide range of habitats but not rainforest and is generally found on vegetation around water bodies. Commonly found in suburban gardens and often observed 'hunched' on foliage or vertical plant stems during the day. Eggs are laid in small clumps on the surface of the water and attached to aquatic vegetation. You may hear it calling in the rain gardens beside Spring Lake with a long 'wreeek' followed by two pips.



The Eastern Sedge Frog (Photo by Judith Vink)



The Stripped Marsh Frog (Photo by Judith Vink)

The impact of Cane Toads on local frogs
In 2005, the biological effects, including lethal toxic ingestion, caused by cane toads was listed as a Key Threatening Process under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Cane Toads are a superior competitor and threat to frogs at every stage of their lifecycle by; consuming approximately 200 food items, including smaller native frogs; competing with native frogs for shelter; being toxic to almost every predator at every stage of their lifecycle.

Monthly cane toad catching with the Springfield Lakes Nature Care Group is a chance to make a difference in your local area. The toads are humanely put to sleep and the toxin glands are donated to the University of Queensland to make Bufo Tab, a product used in cane toad tadpoles traps.

Next event is March 9th at 7pm Spring Lake Park meet at BBQ tables next to the pontoon. Contact info@springfieldlakesnaturecare.org.au if you wish to become a member.