

July 2011 in Our Catchment

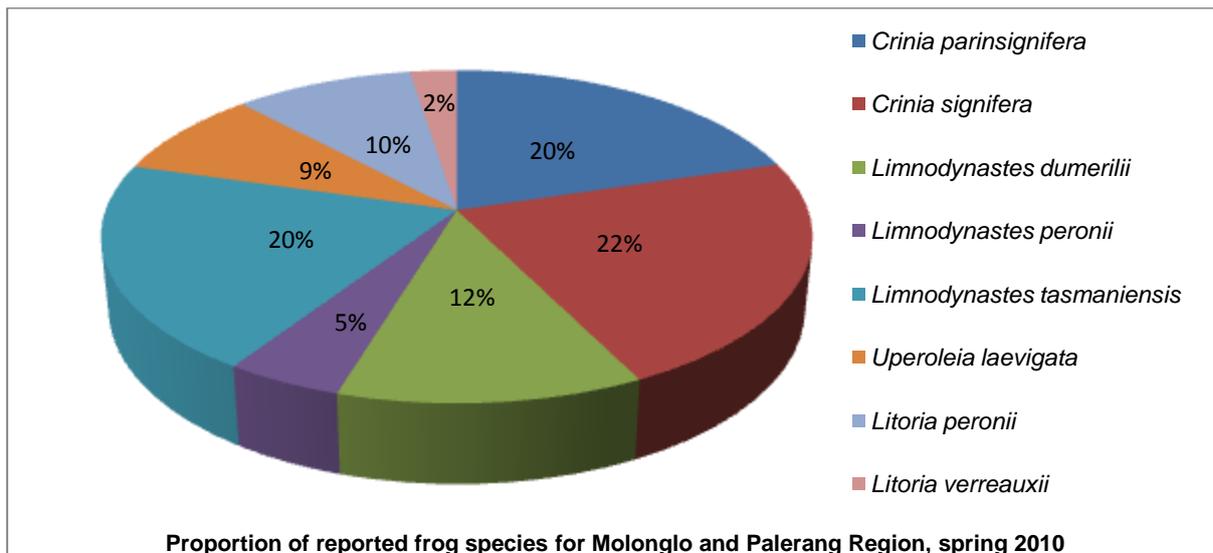
Well into winter and no real rain yet! And spring is just around the corner. The Mountain Hickory is out in places, and a few more things should show up soon.

Your Results

Sometimes results come in that really back up why we do this. The upper end of Sullivans Ck is an area of development, so the material coming into the creek above Flemington Pond can sometimes be less than high quality so long as that passing out is back towards regulation standard. This month that is just what has been reported...the incoming water was murky, loaded with phosphates and highly mineralised, while the water leaving Flemington Pond had much less phosphate and had dramatically dropped in mineral content, and was only slightly cloudy. It is good to know that not only do the in-line ponds work on water quality but our reports keep an eye on things. The first ACT sampling of the Pond for 2011–2012 won't be till next month. Apart from the elevated phosphates in Sullivans Ck, and they persisted down to the University, and the usual set of sites with high mineral content, the general catchment condition appears good this month.

Those Frogs out there

You may have wondered if last year was a great year for frogs. Well it was and it wasn't like so much in the biological world. The glamour frogs (Green and Golden Bell Frogs and Spotted Burrowing Frogs) didn't appear during the survey, and some of the others stayed out of the rain. In general terms both numbers and diversity were a little down on 2009, but I am led to believe that too wet a spring is as difficult as too dry, as the frogs can take their time to do things ... the urge to merge is not so great!



A quick look at the pie chart will show that the two Froglets (*Crinia signifera* and *C. parinsignifera*) are the most commonly encountered species, and the Pobblebonk and the Spotted Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii* and *L. tasmaniensis*) will also live most

anywhere. The only city slicker appears to be *Limnodynastes peronii* while the tree frogs (*Litoria* spp) are very much bushies. The Smooth Toadlet (*Uperoleia laevis*) likes tussock grasses and rocks, so they are a bit picky.

We would very much like you and your friends to contribute to Frogwatch this year. The training evenings, twilight meetings as that's the best time for frogs, are fun and friendly – two in Queanbeyan as well as the Canberra ones we hope – and the data collection also pleasant, and can involve the whole family! If you would like to know more go to ACT Frogwatch at www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/category.php?id=19 and follow the prompts.

There will be an information and refresher evening at Queanbeyan TAFE at 6:00 pm on Tuesday 2nd August. For those of you who want to refresh their frog calls and may have trouble getting to events, they are all there on www.molonglocatchment.org.au/frog_calls_PlaceStories.htm on the Molonglo Website. Part 2 has the calls!

Make 2011 the year we have Frogwatchers from the Tinderries to Tongs Hole!

Calendar

August 2 nd	Frog Calls Refresher Evening	Queanbeyan TAFE, Buttle St, Qbn.
August 20/21	Sampling weekend	Molonglo Catchment
August 28 th	Macroinvertebrate Course	Murrays Corner, Tidbinbilla Rd

Stephen Skinner

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