

## Why do we have a frog census?

### Classroom activity: The Frog Bog Story

#### **The idea:**

The Frog Census increases community awareness about the health of their local rivers, creeks and wetlands. This activity is designed to raise students' awareness about the impact that humans have on their local rivers, creeks and wetlands and how these activities effect the frog populations living in these areas.

#### **Pre-activity preparation:**

- Collect film canisters from your local photography shop – you will need enough so that each student in your class has one each.
  - Label and fill the canisters as per the below list. You may double or triple up on some items.
1. **JAMES** Litter (freddo frog wrappers)
  2. **MR PATON** Paint (water coloured with blue food dye)
  3. **DAMIEN** Wee (lemon cordial)
  4. **MRS SMITH** Fertiliser (rock salts)
  5. **WASHED AWAY** Garden rubbish (sand, leaves, rocks etc)
  6. **REX THE DOG** Dog poo (soil and water mix)
  7. **MR THOMAS** Car oil (cooking oil)
  8. **CLEANED** Detergent
  9. **BARREL** Industrial pollution (desiccated coconut)
  10. **MR LEWIS** Pesticides (100's&1000's)
  11. **HUFF & PUFF** Cigarette butts
  12. **HABITAT LOSS** (grass clippings)
  13. **MOWED TOO CLOSE** (freddo frog bits)
  14. **FEELING A BIT FLAT** (cardboard cut-outs of frog limbs)
  15. **UNWELCOME VISITORS** (lolly snake)

#### **Student activity:**

- Assign each student a character and corresponding film canister as outlined above
- Ask students to stand/sit in a circle and place a large bucket/fish tank (preferable seethrough)
- in centre of circle.
- Read 'The Frog Bog Story' or assign students different sections to read aloud to the class. When each student hears the name of their character mentioned in the story,
- he/she must empty the contents of their film canister into the container in the centre.
- The stormwater mixture should be quite dirty by the end of the story!

#### • **Discussion questions:**

- What is a frog bog / wetland environment?
- Why are frogs important (to the environment and Melbourne Water)?
- Why do we have a Frog Census

#### • **Post Activity Suggestions:**

- Students write their own stormwater story
- Make a class list of the things that effect a frog bog and investigate the pollutants – i.e. Grass clippings would cause excess nutrients in the water. How does excess nutrients affect water quality?

- Make a poster to put up at school to educate other students about stormwater impacts on creeks and rivers.