



# CMA updates Wimmera Frog Guide to include new frog

Russell Peucker, dog  
Tiger and Wimmera  
CMA's Greg Fletcher  
look through advance  
copies of the new  
Wimmera frog guides,  
which will be  
launched in August.

A new frog that Burnt Creek and Horsham locals discovered is thriving thanks to environmental water and timely rain events. **The Peron's Tree Frog**, also known as the **Maniacal Cackle Frog** due to its distinctive call, was discovered in 2013 living and breeding happily in Burnt Creek. The frog has spread its reach all the way to Horsham, where Burnt Creek flows into the Wimmera River.



*Thanks to the efforts of keen-eared locals Russell Peucker and Kevin and Jenny Bolwell, the frog is now listed as the fourteenth frog of the region in a reprint of Wimmera CMA's popular Glovebox Guide to Wimmera Frogs... Rivers, Creeks & Wetlands. The guide has an accompanying CD of frog sounds. **Wimmera CMA will launch the new guides in August.***

*Peron's tree frog. Photo by Tim Minter.*

## Citizen science

Russell Peucker, whose family has lived alongside Burnt Creek for more than 100 years, made the discovery. "I've been listening to frogs by the creek all my life. You get used to the different sounds like the Pobblebonk, 'knee deeps' and the Growling Grass Frog. But when we got an environmental water release into Burnt Creek I heard a sound I'd never heard before. After a bit of research on the computer, I realised it was a Peron's Tree Frog."

Reading that the frog was not known to live in the area, Russell spoke to friends Kevin and Jenny Bolwell who borrowed Wimmera CMA's frog monitoring audio equipment. During night-time roams up and down the creek, they tracked the frogs all the way to their home in Stockton Drive, Horsham. Their recordings confirmed that the Peron's Tree Frog has well and truly made the Wimmera its home.

## Population expands

Wimmera CMA chief executive David Brennan says thanks to the observations and work of people like Jenny, Kevin, Russell the CMA now knows the population has expanded right along the Burnt Creek system. Others have also heard their distinctive call around the catchment, particularly after big summer storms.

## Water for the environment

Russell is a long-time advocate for environmental water and says the creek is enjoying the benefits of an ongoing supply. "The creek is not flowing at the moment but it's looking quite good. It's had a little trickle down it for months which has been outstanding. The vegetation has lifted."

Russell says environmental water has completely changed the landscape. "Before we had environmental water and when it was dry for so long, the trees were like skeletons. Now, there's quite a bit of regeneration that we haven't seen for years and years and they've created a thick canopy, it's good to see. The water means we're also seeing the return of birds, like honeyeaters and water birds."



For further information on environmental flows **subscribe to 0427 871 565 for SMS updates** or check out Wimmera CMA's website or follow and tag us on social media.



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## Winter Flows

Planned environmental water releases are dependent on rainfall. For example, if the region experiences significant rainfall events, Wimmera CMA will reduce or stop planned releases as required.

### Periodic low flows & freshes:

- Wimmera River
- Lower Mt William Creek

### Ongoing low flows & freshes:

- Lower MacKenzie River

### Wetlands – timing TBC

- Carapugna - Watchem/Warmur
- Challambra Swamp - Warracknabeal (Private land)
- Crow Swamp - Tarranyurk
- Sawpit Swamp - Murtoa
- Tarkedia - Sheep Hills
- Wal Wal Swamp - Wal Wal

