

Year of the Frog celebration on World Environment Day

To celebrate the International Year of the Frog and World Environment Day, 5 June 2008, South East residents are invited to attend one of two special community presentations on the frogs of the Limestone Coast.

There will be live frogs on display, and self-confessed 'frog fanatic' Professor Mike Tyler from the University of Adelaide will be talking about all things frogs – where they live, what they eat and what the local community can do to help conserve them.

The first presentation will be held in City Hall, Commercial Street East, Mount Gambier, on Wednesday 4 June, from 7 pm.

The second presentation will be held in the Naracoorte Town Hall on Thursday 5 June, from 7 pm.

Each family to attend will receive a free 'Frogs of the South East' CD, courtesy of Waterwatch South East.

The presentations are a joint initiative of the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), the South East Natural Resources Management Board, and the Southern and Central Natural Resources Management Groups.

DEH Regional Waterwatch Co-ordinator Natasha Dawson said the frogs of the Limestone Coast presentations are the final talks in a series of presentations held during autumn and winter 2008 to give the South East community an opportunity to learn about local wildlife.

"People identify strongly with frogs," Natasha said. "They often feature in fairy stories and kid's shows, and a lot of people went 'tadpoling' as a kid.

"I expect there'll be a great turnout for the presentations, particularly seeing as it's World Environment Day on Thursday 5 June.

"I'm really looking forward to hearing some of Professor Tyler's stories about frogs, like his suggestion to the Guinness Book of Records to include a new category, the largest number of frogs in a toilet, which believe it or not is 29!"

For more information about the frogs of the Limestone Coast presentations, please call Natasha Dawson on 8735 1145.

The International Year of the Frog campaign is an initiative of Amphibian Ark, and is being supported by zoos from around the world.

The aim of the campaign is to highlight the decline of amphibians around the world, the important roles that frogs play in the environment, and what individuals and communities can do to help protect frogs in the wild.

For more information about the Year of the Frog, go to www.amphibianark.org.

Media contacts

Randall Johnson

Regional Ecologist
South East

Phone 08 8735 1122
Mobile 0428 110 167

Stephen Cox

Media and PR Officer
Corporate Communications

Phone 08 8204 9109
Mobile 0423 822 992

www.environment.sa.gov.au

Frog facts

- Frogs belong to the class Amphibia. The word amphibian means 'double life', a reference to their larval stage (tadpoles) which typically live in water and breath through gills, and to the adults which typically live on land and use their lungs to breath air.
- 12 species of frogs from two families live in the South East, including three species found nowhere else in South Australia.
- The Southern Bell Frog is a threatened species that lives in the Limestone Coast, and which is sometimes also known as the 'Growling Grass Frog' because of its distinctive call.
- Some frogs can burrow into the soil and remain there for a long time while waiting for the next rains.
- Some frogs in the South East don't lay their eggs in water. In fact, they lay their eggs in depressions or in moist leaf litter, and develop to a stage where they can hatch to free swimming tadpoles when water covers breeding sites or embryos are washed into water.

