

The growling grass frog (*Litoria raniformis*) was once common throughout south-east Australia but is now an endangered species.



To successfully breed, growling grass frogs need permanent water in which to lay their eggs and for the tadpoles to swim in, and a range of plants such as reeds and pondweed, to provide protection from predators such as fish and birds.



They breed from November – March.

When you hear a frog croaking, it is the male calling for a female.



© Murray Littlejohn

The female lays up to 4,000 eggs in a jelly mass that floats amongst the vegetation. The mass soon sinks.



The eggs of the Green and Golden Bell Frog, left, are similar to those of the Growling Grass Frog  
© Lance Jurd

It is under threat due to habitat loss, habitat degradation, introduced fish, disease, drought and pollution.

The female growling grass frog can grow to 10 cm in length, with males growing to about 6.5 cm.



The adult frog has a bumpy or 'warty' back, ranging in colour from bright emerald green to dull olive or brown, usually with brown, bronze or gold blotches.





Growling Grass Frog tadpole in latter stages of metamorphosis  
© Geoff Heard

The frogs mature within one year however most only survive in the wild for a couple of years.




Growling Grass Frog tadpole  
© Geoff Heard



After 2-4 days tadpoles emerge from the eggs. The tadpoles are generally grey in colour with a yellowish tinge.

The tadpoles can be huge, growing up to 11 cm.

The tadpoles rapidly metamorphose into frogs – growing legs and losing their tail – in 3-4 months.



1. Fold along dotted line.  
2. Glue ① to ②.

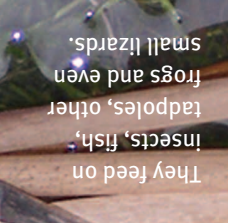
Double-sided tape can be used instead of glue.



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1. Fold along dotted line.  
2. Glue ③ to ④.

Double-sided tape can be used instead of glue.



They feed on insects, fish, tadpoles, other frogs and even small lizards.



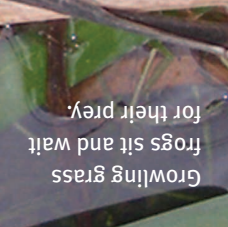
1. Fold along dotted line.  
2. Glue ⑤ to ⑥.

Double-sided tape can be used instead of glue.



1. Fold along dotted line.  
2. Glue ⑦ to ⑧.

Double-sided tape can be used instead of glue.



Growling grass frogs sit and wait for their prey.