



Tamborine Mountain is home to a diverse range of wildlife, with over 23 species of frogs and many species of rainforest insects. Stop by Frog Hollow to visit our invertebrates and tree frogs and learn more about the rainforest species that can be found on our mountain. Tamborine Mountain is home to giant snails, scorpions that glow in the dark, and frogs that can change colour! As you walk around our exhibits, you can learn about the unique characteristics of these animals from the signs next to their tanks, but this guide provides even more information about our local critters.

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[www.glowwormcavetamborinemountain.com.au](http://www.glowwormcavetamborinemountain.com.au)  
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## HERE'S A LITTLE ABOUT OUR FROGS.

Frogs are amphibians, which mean they rely heavily on water to survive and reproduce. Frogs are found in many different habitats, from permanently wet rainforests to very dry deserts. They are remarkable creatures which have developed a variety of adaptations to survive in these conditions. Frogs are ecologically important as they indicate the health of the environment and represent the majority of existing animal species. The more frogs living in the area, the healthier the environment!

## FROGS OF FROG HOLLOW

**Red-Eyed Tree Frogs** (*Litoria chloris*) have a very distinct red eye but also false eye-lids which make it appear to be awake when it sleeps. This helps to protect them against predators. They can grow up to 7cm in size and have adhesive toe discs like the green tree frog. They are green in colour with a white to yellow belly and coloured thighs, which can vary from reddish brown to purple-blue!

**Emerald Spotted Tree Frogs** (*Litoria peronii*) are another tree frog which is brown in colour. They get their name from the distinct emerald coloured spots on their back. However, it is also known as the 'holy-cross' frog because the eye slits appear vertically and horizontally making a cross shape. These frogs are found in forests, grasslands and open areas in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland.

The **Great Barred Frog** (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*) is a brown ground dwelling frog and therefore do not have sticky discs like our tree frogs because they are a burrowing species that spend a lot of time underground. They get their name from the black stripes ("bars") down the back legs. These frogs range in size from 8cm to 12cm and their tadpoles are some of the largest in Australia. Unfortunately, they have a very toad-like appearance and are commonly mistaken for cane toads.

**Stony Creek Frogs** (*Litoria wilcoxi*) are endemic to Australia and are only found along the coast between Ingham, Queensland, and Sydney, New South Wales. The female can reach a size of 7cm while the male is much smaller at 4.5cm. They are brown in colour except during mating season when the males will change to a bright yellow colour to attract a female.

The **Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog** (*Litoria fallax*) is also called the Eastern Sedge-frog and one of the smallest tree frogs reaching only 20-30mm. Usually found on the Eastern Coast of Queensland and northern New South Wales, individuals have been found in other areas when they have hitched a ride in fruit boxes. They are able to change their skin colour from green to brown depending on their environment and temperature.

## FUN FROGS FACTS

- A group of frogs is called an Army.
- All frogs swallow food with the help of their eye muscles! All frogs lack an oesophagus, so to swallow, their eyes retract down towards their throat to push down their food.
- Some frogs can change colour for mating season to signal their mates instead of using calls

The **Spotted Marsh Frog** (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) is a smaller and quieter version of the striped marsh frog. It has a central stripe down its back surrounded by dark spots. It will only grow to 4.5cm and has a diet consisting of insects and even smaller frogs! These frogs love water so much the male will call to the female while floating in water.

The **Striped Marsh Frog** (*Limnodynastes peronii*) is another ground dwelling frog who loves to spend a lot of time in the water. Growing to a maximum size of 6.5cm, this frog has a grey-brown body with dark stripes. They usually have a central stripe running down the middle of their back, which helps them to blend in with leaves and break up its body outline. The Striped Marsh frog has a popping call, which sounds like a ping pong game. It's so loud people have moved to a new house to get away from them!

**Bleating Tree Frogs** (*Litoria dentata*) are quite small, reaching a mature size of 4.5cm. They are brown in colour however are still tree frogs, proving not all tree frogs are green! The males have a very high pitched call, sounding like a car alarm or a cicada.

The **Dainty Tree Frog** (*Litoria gracilentia*), also known as the **Graceful Tree Frog**, range from north-east Queensland down into New South Wales. They are a green frog with a bright yellow underside. These frogs are master hitchhikers and are known for catching a lift among bananas or other fruit and vegetables.



## HERE'S A LITTLE ABOUT OUR CRITTERS.

Rainforests are known for their biodiversity, and Tamborine Mountain is no different! Our rainforest is home to a wide variety of invertebrates unique to this region of the world, from slugs to stick insects! Invertebrate is a term used to describe any animal without a backbone or spinal column. More than 90 percent of all living animal species are invertebrates. There are many diverse groups, or *Phyla* of invertebrates, including Mollusca (slugs, snails, squid) and Arthropods (insects, arachnids, millipedes). Arthropods are the largest phylum of animals: about 80% of living animal species are classified as arthropods!

Meet some of our **Arthropods**:

**Rainforest Scorpion** (*Hormurus waigiensis*) The Australian environment is incredibly varied and may be home to more than 100 species of scorpions! Our local species has a flat body specially designed to hide away under rock and log crevices away from predators, and dark colouring to help it blend in. However, like all scorpions, they fluoresce under Ultraviolet light and glow blue due to special pigments in their exoskeleton.

**Spiny Leaf Insects** (*Extatosoma tiaratum*) These insects have some pretty amazing camouflage! Australia is home to many species of Stick and Leaf Insects, ranging in size from a few centimetres long to the longest species; the Titan Stick Insect, which can grow up to 250mm from head to tail!

**Giant Black Millipede** (*Diplopoda rhinocricidae*) Australia has around 2000 species of millipedes, with most being nocturnal and feeding within the leaf litter. Giant Black Millipedes are one of the largest species in Australia and can grow to 20cm at full length!

Meet some of our **Molluscs**:

**Red Triangle Slug** (*Triboniophorus graeffei*) This is the largest native land slug in Australia, and the red triangle on its back actually contains a breathing pore! Slugs can only 'see' light and dark, and the eyes are not able to focus on any shapes.

**Frasers Banded Snail** (*Sphaerospira fraseri*) Frasers Banded Snails, (also called Giant Rainforest Snails) are herbivores and feed on plant material, however, they will occasionally scavenge on dead animals if they can.

**Giant Panda Snail** (*Hedleyella falconeri*) This species is Australia's largest land snail, and their shell can get to the size of a tennis ball! This species was discovered in 1834 and may be the first land snail in Australia known to science. Scientists think that the "Panda" part of their name was the result of a typo somewhere in the 1800's, and it just stuck