

AGE Working Together with EEE

Summary

Environmental Equilibrium for Earth (EEE) is an environmental monitoring group that has, for the last decade, conducted research into the frog populations of the South East region. The results of the census enable an assessment to be made of the water quality in the region and repeated surveys provide a means of monitoring the ongoing health of the waterways in the region. The census is due to be conducted in September.

The frog census takes place over the period of a week and relies on the voluntary assistance of approximately 1500 people. Recordings are made of frog calls in over 1200 aquatic locations, including natural and man-made sources. From these audio collections, experienced herpetologists identify the species recorded. Volunteers are also responsible for collecting visual data and recording and photographing any frogs or tadpoles that exist in the body of water they are assessing.

The collected data is analysed and compared to previous years to determine the condition of the environment and, in particular, the quality of the bodies of water. This information assists EEE to lobby local government agencies for their support in programmes to maintain or achieve good health in local waterways and reservoirs.

Geographical Regions Surveyed

The volunteers and members of EEE will assess approximately 1200 different water sources within the South East region. This region is divided into 15 geographical regions:

Southern Peninsula

Woden Valley

Flint Island

North East

South East

South West

North West

Bennetts Peninsula

Felton Ranges

Smithson Range

Central Plains

Northern Plains

Southcombe Valley

Fleet Range

Habitats Surveyed

The aquatic habitats examined in the South East region will include:

Quarry

Pond

Sheep Dip

Billabong

River

Creek

Dam

Drain

Toilet

Stream

Swimming Pool

Marsh

Garden Pond

Turf/Grass

Trees/Plants

Census Summary

The last five years has seen a marked increase in the levels of participation in, and hence success of, the frog census. Partly this is due to improved marketing and advertising strategies, but one can not overlook the incredible effectiveness of word of mouth.

Below is a chart summarising each census over the previous five years:

