

# **New Zealand's Introduced Frogs**

**There are three Australian frog species that live in New Zealand. They are all tree frogs belonging to the super-diverse family *Hylidae*.**

**Introduced frogs are fairly easy to tell apart from the native frog species because they are all much larger and produce loud calls.**

# Did you know?

**At least eight species of frogs were released into New Zealand in the mid to late 1800s.**

# Green and Golden Bell frog

**These frogs have an overall green appearance with gold or bronze-coloured patches. They have a golden iris and their pupils are horizontal. There is a cream fold of skin from the eye along the side to the back leg. They have a copper-coloured eardrum. The skin is very smooth, and they only have webbing on their back feet. They have suckers for climbing on all toes and fingers.**

**Introduced from Australia in the late 1860's**



**Image by ©Mathias Michael**

# Did you know?

**As the weather starts to cool down in New Zealand you may come across some darker coloured bell frogs as they start becoming less active!**



Image by ©Bill Torpey



# Brown Tree frog

**These frogs are generally a light brown colour. Most frogs have a lighter patch on the top of their head. Their bellies and throats are usually white or cream and the undersides of the thighs are bright orange. The eardrum is quite distinct and easily visible. The fingers and toes have suckers that are used for climbing.**

**Introduced from Australia in  
1875**



**Image by ©Uwe Schneeagen**

**©NZFrogs [www.nzfrogs.org](http://www.nzfrogs.org)**

# **Did you know?**

**These frogs can survive being frozen!**

**Phil Bishop, NZFrogs founder, once found one frozen at the bowling green in Naseby!**

# Southern Bell frog

**These frogs are similar in colour to the green and golden bell frog but have more dark brown or black blotches on the back. The eardrum is easily visible. Southern bell frogs often have a warty back and there is a pale green stripe down the middle of their back. Only the back feet are webbed and they have no suckers on the ends of their toes.**

**Introduced from Australia in the late 1860's**



**Image by ©Scott Baker**

**©NZFrogs [www.nzfrogs.org](http://www.nzfrogs.org)**

**Did you know?**

**These frogs are sometimes called the  
Growling Grass frog because of the  
sound of its loud call!**

# Fire-bellied newt

**Fire-bellied newts are easy to identify with a bright red tummy and dark brown to black back. They grow to about 10cm length.**

**They are sometimes kept as pets in New Zealand, but would be very harmful to native species if released into the wild.**



Image by Hollywood fishfarm

©NZFrogs [www.nzfrogs.org](http://www.nzfrogs.org)

# Axolotl

**Axolotls are a type of salamander that are paedomorphic, meaning adult animals retain juvenile traits.**

**Axolotls are ferocious predators that would be a serious threat to native invertebrates and fish if they were to escape from captivity as they are sometimes kept as pets.**



Image by Global IP

©NZFrogs [www.nzfrogs.org](http://www.nzfrogs.org)

**[www.nzfrogs.org](http://www.nzfrogs.org)**

Or access using the QR code



# Spot the frog

Can you find the native frogs  
in these photos?



Images by ©Samuel Purdie

©NZFrogs [www.nzfrogs.org](http://www.nzfrogs.org)



# **Frog Resources**

**There are plenty more resources  
available at [www.nzfrogs.org/resources/](http://www.nzfrogs.org/resources/)**



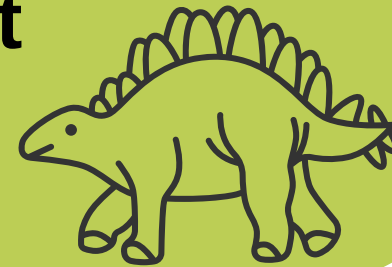
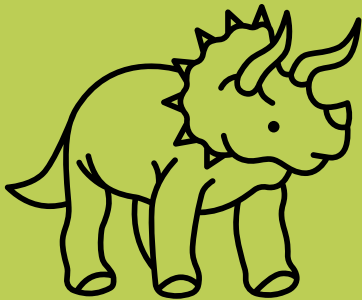
# **New Zealand's Native *Leiopelma* Frogs**

**New Zealand has three different native frogs. They have many special features that separate them from most other frogs; they have *no external eardrums, no vocal sac and have round pupils*. Native frogs are threatened by habitat loss and introduced predators, especially rats and pigs. Native frogs currently live in Central and Northern North Island and a few islands in the Marlborough sounds.**

# Did you know?

**New Zealand's native *Leiopelma* frogs have been around for over *70 million years* and are found no where else in the world!**

**They once were hopping  
around the feet  
of dinosaurs!**



# Archey's frog

Archey's frog is the smallest of the three native frogs found in New Zealand. They vary in shades of green and brown, with unique patterning and dark bands visible on their legs. These patterns help them blend in with the native forest. Archey's frogs have a dark ridge line pattern which extends from their nose and up over their eye to part way down their back. As a terrestrial species, they lack webbing on both the front and back feet.

2017 NZ Conservation Status:  
At Risk – Declining



Image by ©Samuel Purdie

# Did you know?

**Archey's frog is the world's most *Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered* (EDGE) amphibian species.**

# Hamilton's frog

Hamilton's frog is the largest of the three native species. They vary in shades of light to dark brown, with darker blotches and/or speckle patterning. They have a ridge line pattern which extends from their nose and up over their eye to part way down their back.

As a terrestrial species, they lack webbing on both the front and back feet.

**2017 NZ Conservation Status:  
Threatened – Nationally  
vulnerable**



Image by ©Samuel Purdie

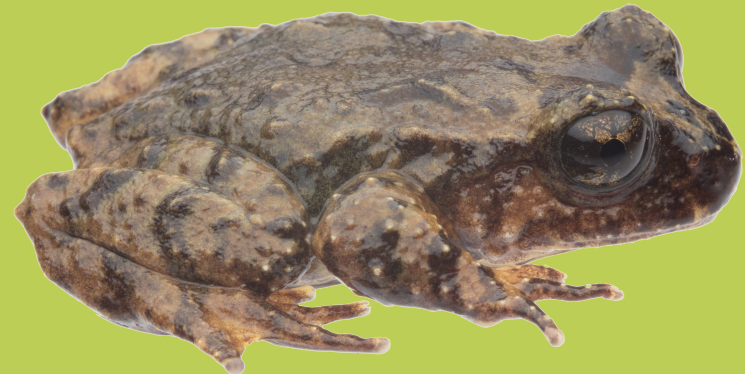
**Did you know?**

**Scientists have studied wild  
Hamilton's frogs that have lived  
for *45 years!***

# Hochstetter's frog

**Hochstetter's frogs are different from the two other terrestrial native frogs. They have partial webbing between their toes because they are semi-aquatic. Hochstetter's frogs have white fingertips. They are wartier than the other two native species and are much slipperier!**

**2017 NZ Conservation Status: At Risk – Declining**



**Image by ©Samuel Purdie**



# Did you know?

**Hochstetter's frog was the  
*first native frog species*  
discovered in New Zealand,  
during the gold rush in the  
Coromandel.**

