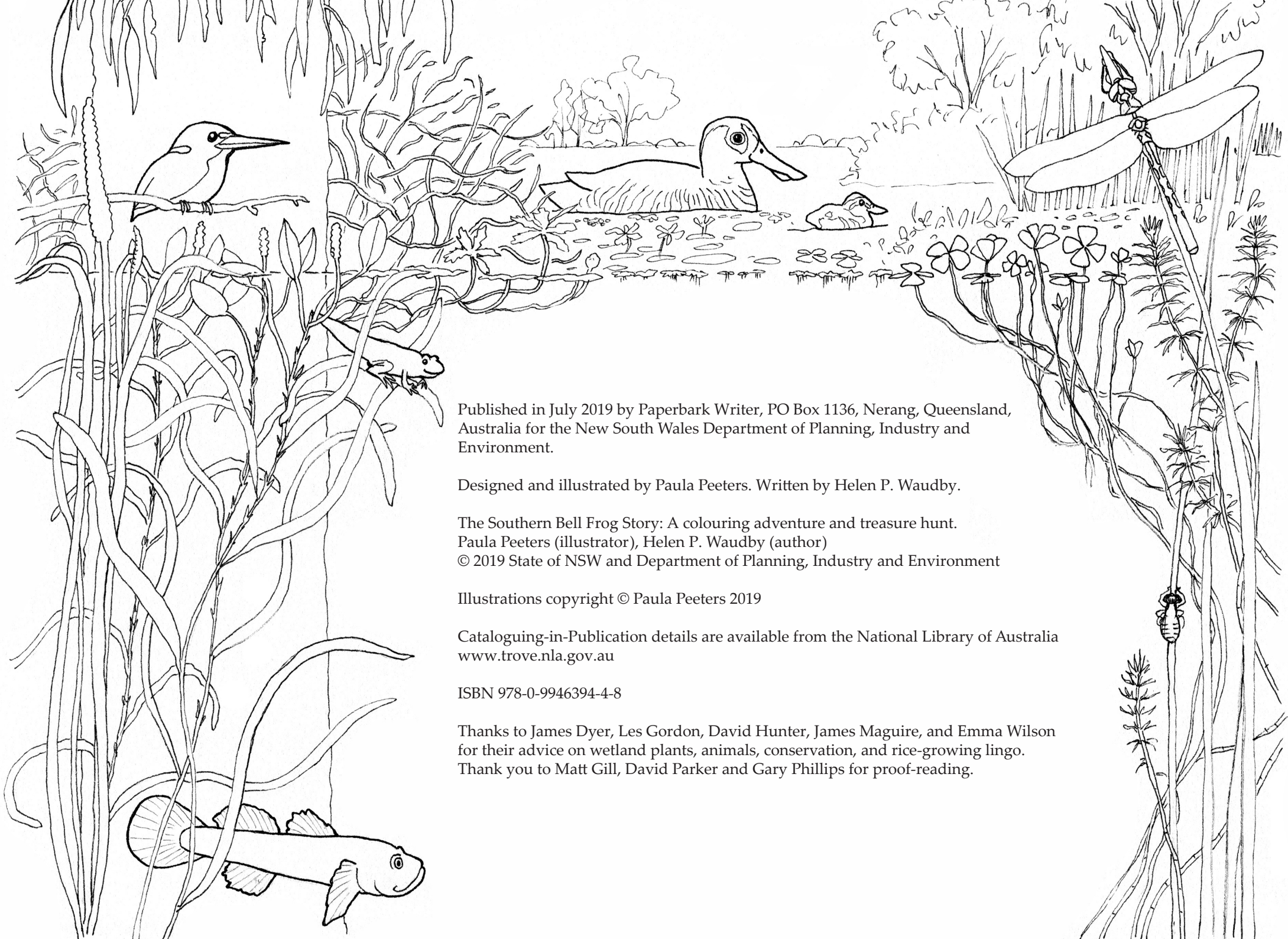


The Southern Bell Frog Story

A colouring adventure
& treasure hunt

Paula Peeters & Helen P. Waudby



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Designed and illustrated by Paula Peeters. Written by Helen P. Waudby.

The Southern Bell Frog Story: A colouring adventure and treasure hunt.

Paula Peeters (illustrator), Helen P. Waudby (author)

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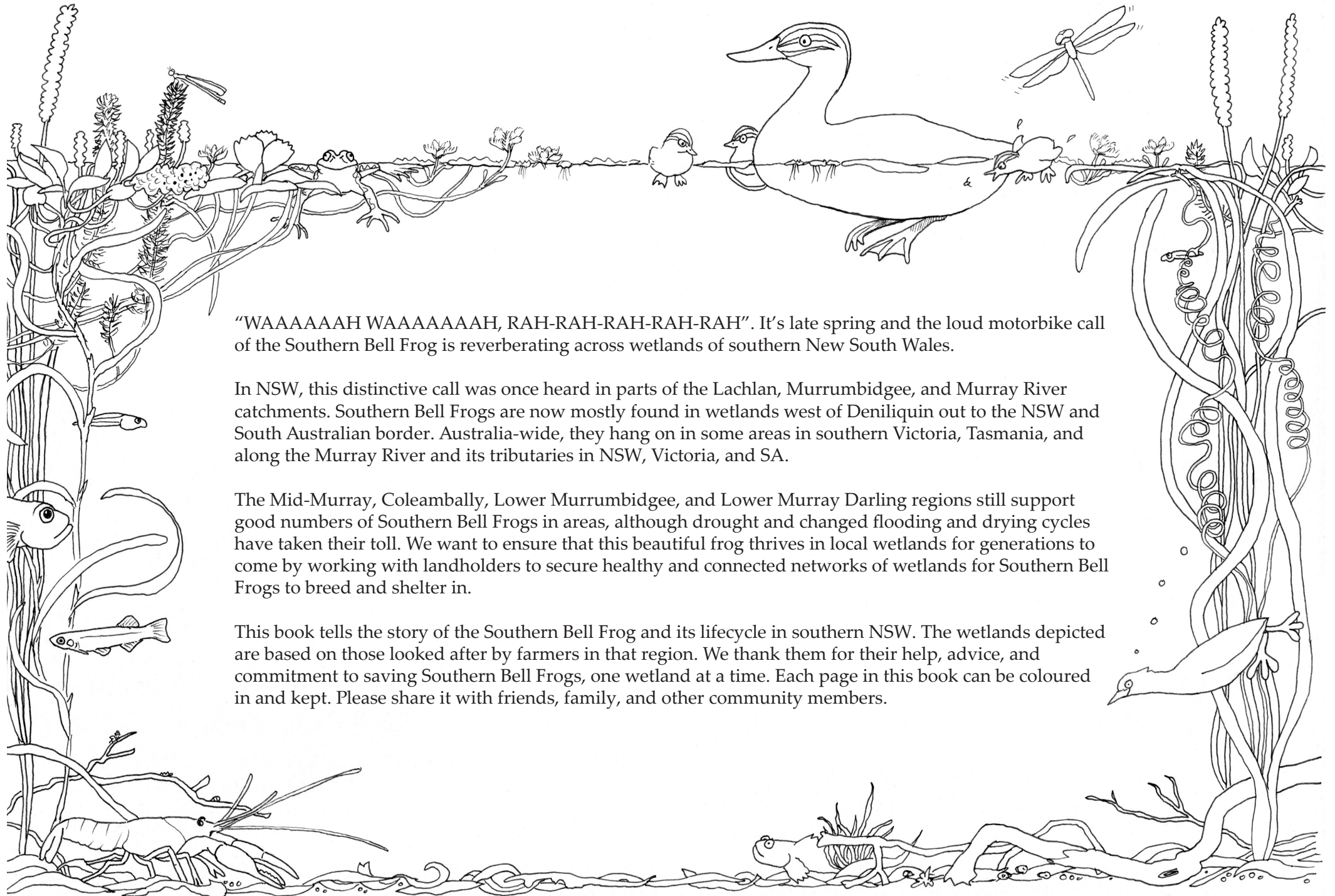
Thanks to James Dyer, Les Gordon, David Hunter, James Maguire, and Emma Wilson for their advice on wetland plants, animals, conservation, and rice-growing lingo. Thank you to Matt Gill, David Parker and Gary Phillips for proof-reading.



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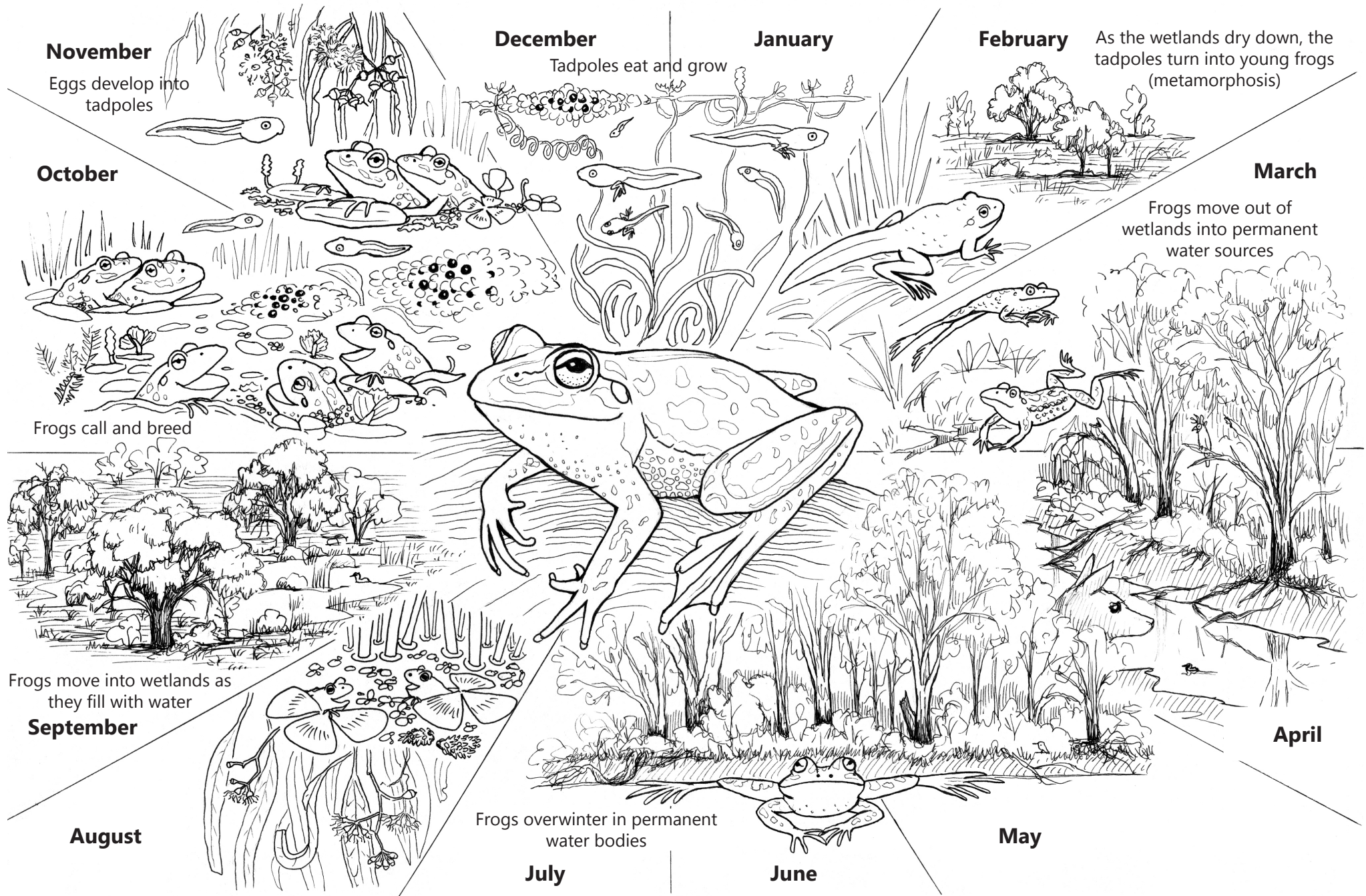


“WAAAAAAH WAAAAAAH, RAH-RAH-RAH-RAH-RAH”. It’s late spring and the loud motorbike call of the Southern Bell Frog is reverberating across wetlands of southern New South Wales.

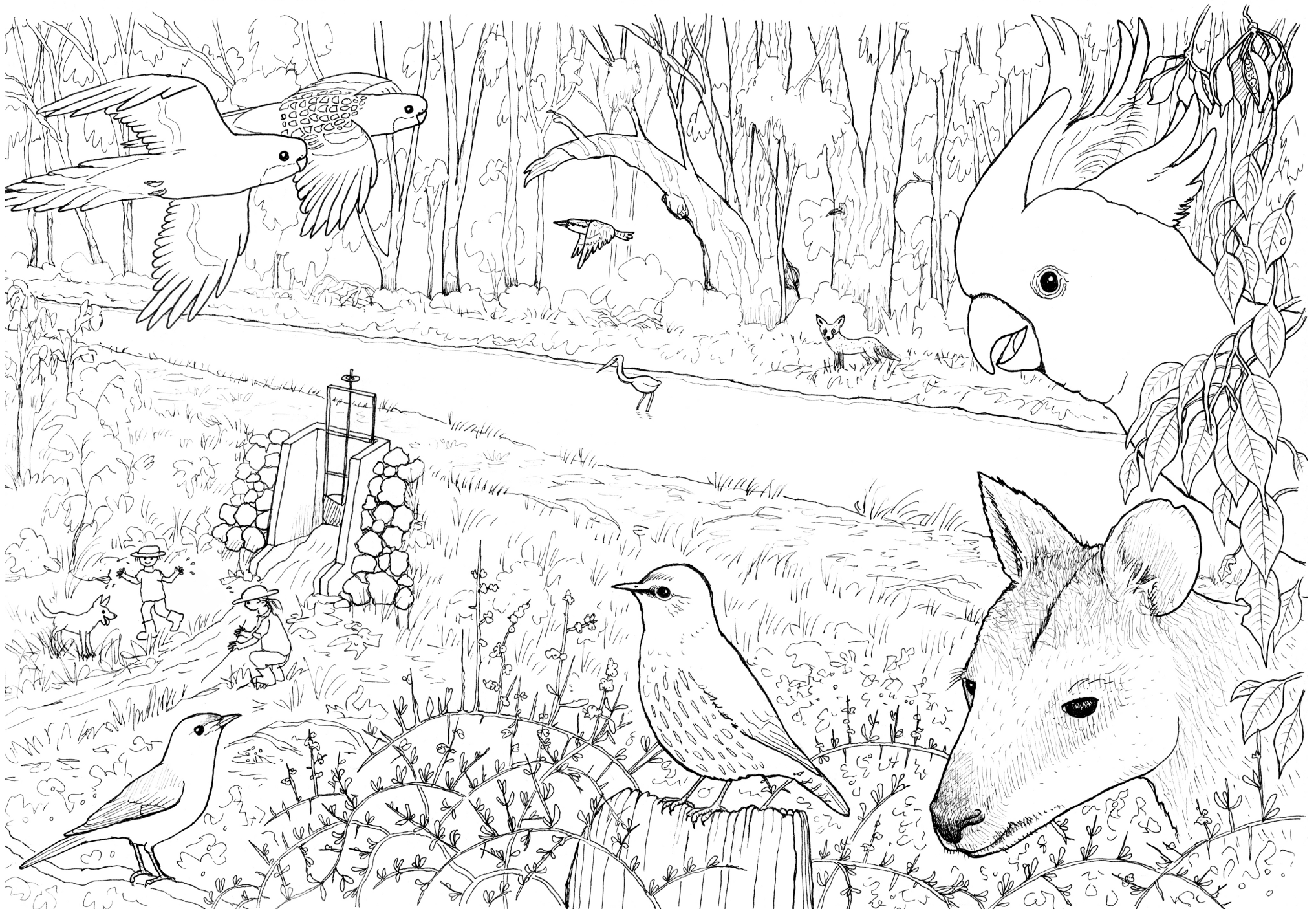
In NSW, this distinctive call was once heard in parts of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, and Murray River catchments. Southern Bell Frogs are now mostly found in wetlands west of Deniliquin out to the NSW and South Australian border. Australia-wide, they hang on in some areas in southern Victoria, Tasmania, and along the Murray River and its tributaries in NSW, Victoria, and SA.

The Mid-Murray, Coleambally, Lower Murrumbidgee, and Lower Murray Darling regions still support good numbers of Southern Bell Frogs in areas, although drought and changed flooding and drying cycles have taken their toll. We want to ensure that this beautiful frog thrives in local wetlands for generations to come by working with landholders to secure healthy and connected networks of wetlands for Southern Bell Frogs to breed and shelter in.

This book tells the story of the Southern Bell Frog and its lifecycle in southern NSW. The wetlands depicted are based on those looked after by farmers in that region. We thank them for their help, advice, and commitment to saving Southern Bell Frogs, one wetland at a time. Each page in this book can be coloured in and kept. Please share it with friends, family, and other community members.



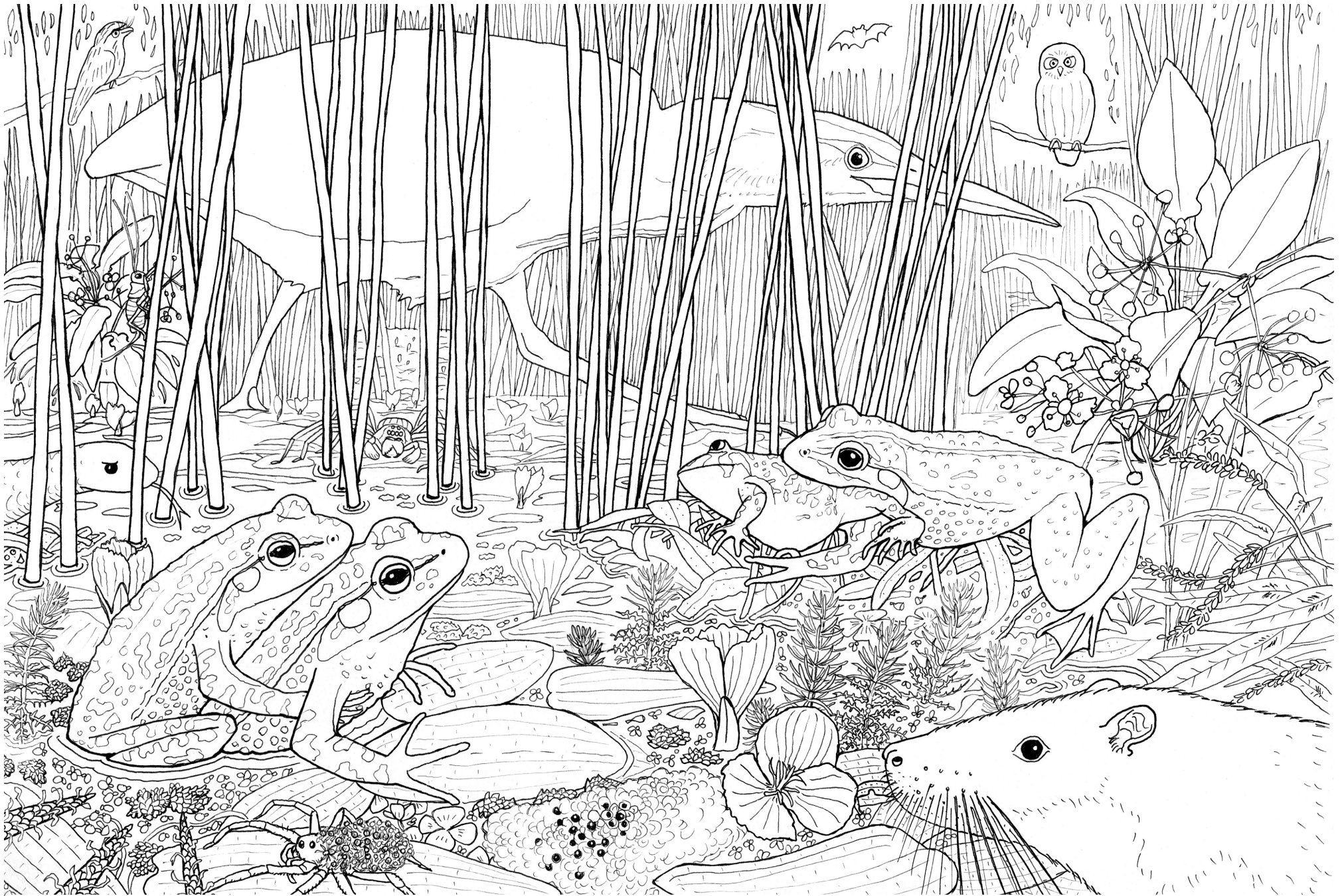
The Southern Bell Frog's lifecycle follows the seasons. Each part of the calendar shows a different part of this lifecycle, from living in permanent water bodies, like rivers during cooler months, to moving into shallow wetlands in the breeding season during spring and summer, and moving back to rivers as wetlands dry in late summer and autumn. Are you ready to follow the Southern Bell Frog's journey?



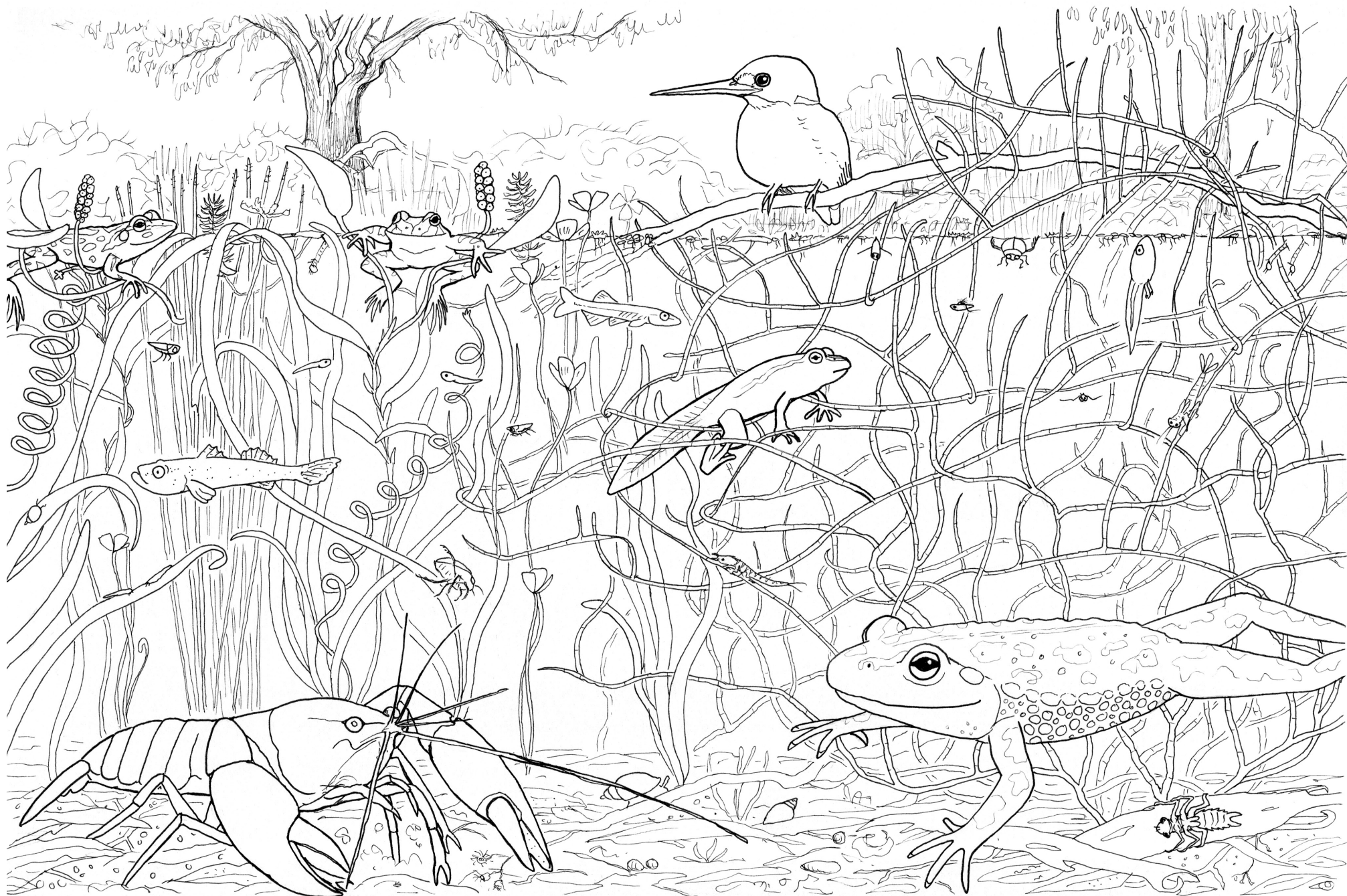
It's spring and a local farmer is letting water for the environment from a channel into their River Red Gum wetland. Everyone is excited – even the kids!



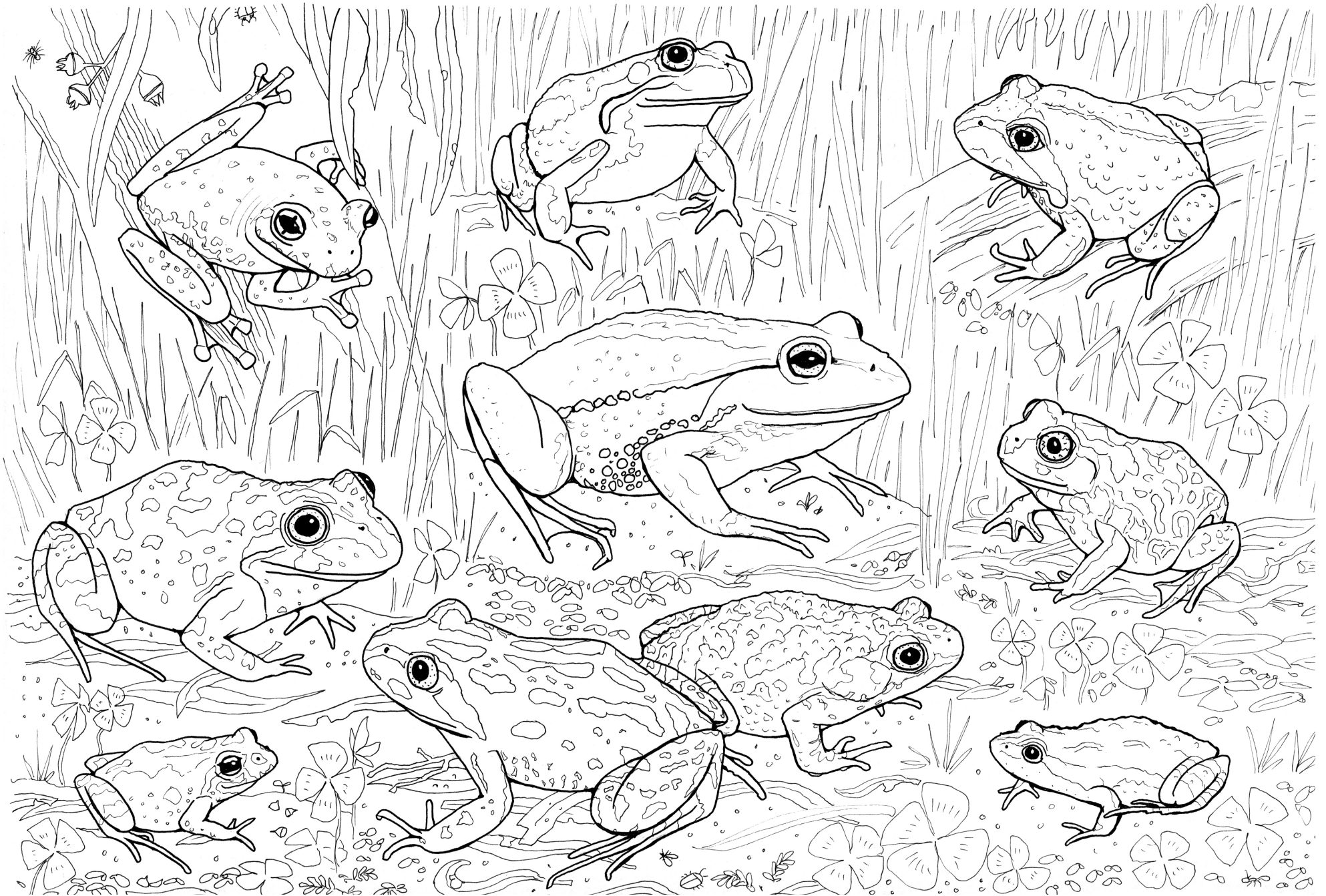
The wetland is full of water. Wetland plants that support local wildlife are lush and green, and Southern Bell Frogs are hiding among them. It's daytime so they are mostly quiet. Their big golden eyes watch for predators who might eat them.



It's night and male frogs are calling "WAAAAAAH WAAAAAAH, RAH-RAH-RAH-RAH-RAH". Females swim to the loudest males. The males hold onto them (called "amplexus") and fertilise eggs as they are laid. Other native animals, like Rakali (Water Rats) and Australasian Bitterns, peer from the spikerush. A Southern Bell Frog catches and eats a smaller frog!



Tiny tadpoles hatch from the eggs. Over the following weeks, they swim, eat, and grow. Arms and legs appear, and their tail slowly disappears (called "metamorphosis"). They try to avoid bigger Southern Bell Frogs and other predators. Lots of animals like to eat tadpoles and young frogs! How many Southern Bell Frogs can you see in this wetland?



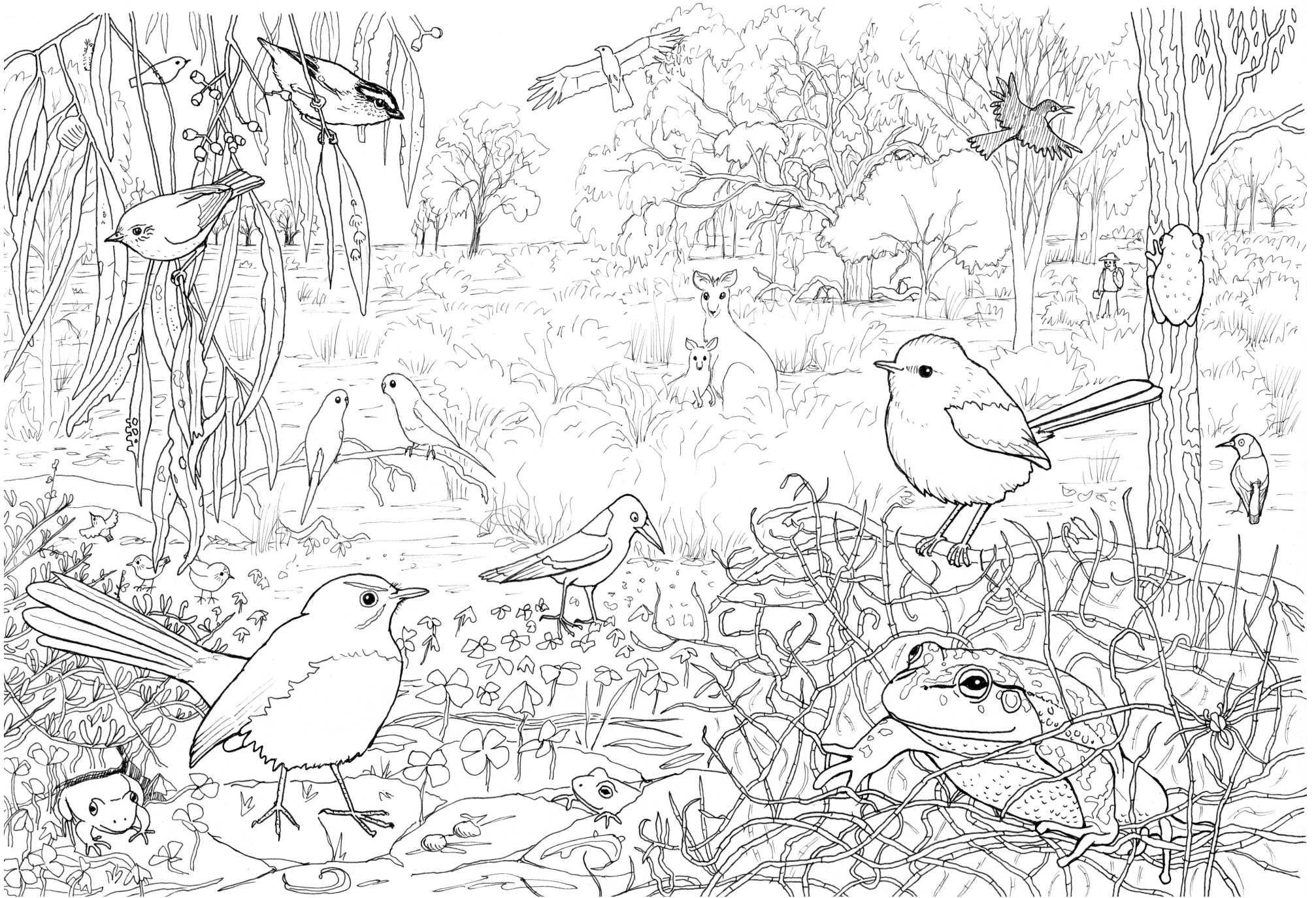
Wetlands support many types of frogs (called “species”). Different species often use wetlands at different times of the year. These ones are common in wetlands during spring and summer. How many different species can you see?



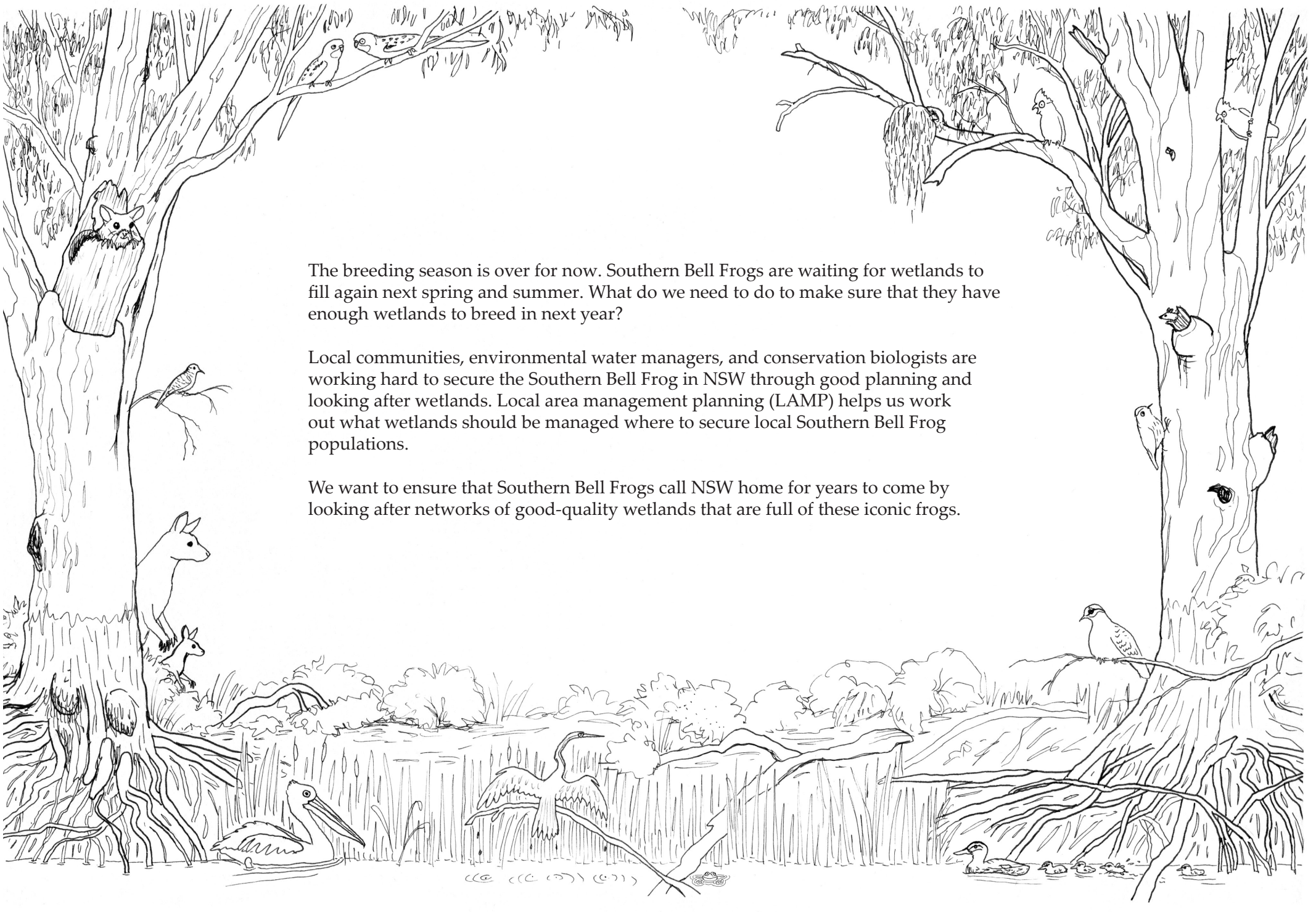
Southern Bell Frogs can use many types of wetlands to breed in, including swamps, small shallow creeks, rice fields, and even dams! They prefer wetlands that hold water through spring and summer, and have lots of aquatic plants. When frogs move around this network of wetlands to find mates, they spread their genes, which will help local Southern Bell Frog populations survive into the future.



It's late summer and the wetland is drying. Young Southern Bell Frogs and their parents are preparing to move on.



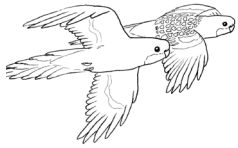
Southern Bell Frogs move back to permanent water in rivers, creeks, lakes, dams, and channels. Some move overland, helped along by rain, while others follow channels or receding water to rivers.



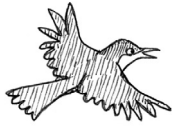
The breeding season is over for now. Southern Bell Frogs are waiting for wetlands to fill again next spring and summer. What do we need to do to make sure that they have enough wetlands to breed in next year?

Local communities, environmental water managers, and conservation biologists are working hard to secure the Southern Bell Frog in NSW through good planning and looking after wetlands. Local area management planning (LAMP) helps us work out what wetlands should be managed where to secure local Southern Bell Frog populations.

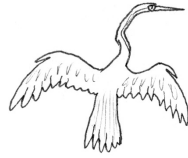
We want to ensure that Southern Bell Frogs call NSW home for years to come by looking after networks of good-quality wetlands that are full of these iconic frogs.



Crimson Rosella
Platycercus elegans
Find 4



Restless Flycatcher
Myiagra inquieta
Find 1



Australasian Darter
Anhinga novaehollandiae
Find 1



Whistling Kite
Haliastur spheurnus
Find 1



Laughing Kookaburra
Dacelo novaeguinae
Find 1



Australasian Grebe
Tachybaptus novaehollandiae
Find 2



Welcome Swallow
Hirundo neoxena
Find 5



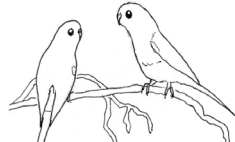
White-winged Chough
Corcorax melanorhamphos
Find 3



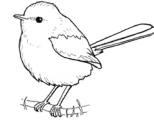
Grey Shrike-thrush
Colluricincla harmonica
Find 1



Peaceful Dove
Geopelia placida
Find 1



Red-rumped Parrot
Psephotus haematonotus
Find 2



White-winged Fairy-wren
Malurus leucopterus
Find 1



Galah
Eolophus roseicapilla
Find 4



White-plumed Honeyeater
Ptilotula penicillata
Find 1



Azure Kingfisher
Ceyx azureus
Find 3



Common Bronzewing
Phaps chalcoptera
Find 3



Tawny Frogmouth
Podargus strigoides
Find 1



Southern Boobook
Ninox boobook
Find 1



Blue-faced Honeyeater
Entomyzon cyanotis
Find 1



Striated Pardalote
Pardalotus striatus
Find 1



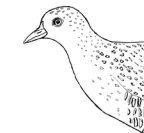
Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Acanthiza chrysorrhoa
Find 3



Yellow Thornbill
Acanthiza nana
Find 1



Brown Treecreeper
Climacteris picumnus
Find 2



Australian Spotted Crake
Porzana fluminea
Find 1



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Cacatua galerita
Find 2



Australasian Bittern
Botaurus poiciloptilus
Find 3



Eurasian Coot
Fulica atra
Find 3



Australian Pelican
Pelicanus conspicillatus
Find 1



Freckled Duck
Stictonetta naevosa
Find 2



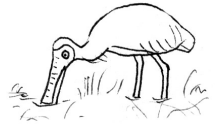
Pacific Black Duck
Anas superciliosa
Find 8



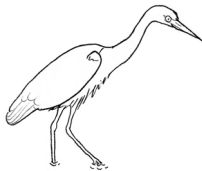
Pink-eared Duck
Malacorhynchus membranaceus
Find lots



Australian Raven
Corvus coronoides
Find 1



Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Platalea flavipes
Find 3



White-necked Heron
Ardea pacifica
Find 3



Australian Magpie
Cracticus tibicen
Find 2



Magpie-lark
Grallina cyanoleuca
Find 2



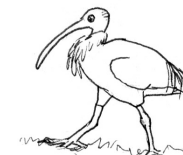
Willie Wagtail
Rhipidura leucophrys
Find 2



Black-tailed Native-hen
Tribonyx ventralis
Find 2



Australian Wood Duck
Chenonetta jubata
Find 4



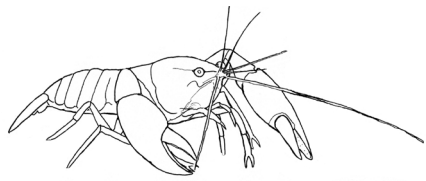
Australian White Ibis
Threskiornis molucca
Find 1



Intermediate Egret
Egretta intermedia
Find 2



White-faced Heron
Egretta novaehollandiae
Find 1



Common Yabby
Cherax destructor
Find 2



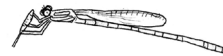
Freshwater snails
Class Gastropoda
Find 3



Backswimmers
Family Notonectidae
Find 5



Wandering Ringtail
Damselfly
Austrolestes leda
Find 2



Huntsman spider
Isopeda sp.
Find 1



Wolf Spider
Family Lycosidae
Find 2 adults and
lots of babies!



Cricket
Find 1½



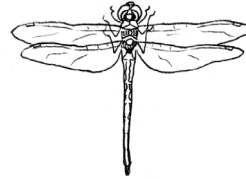
Diving Beetle adults
Family Dytiscidae
Find 2



Diving Beetle larva
Family Dytiscidae
Find 1



Damselfly larva
Suborder Zygoptera
Find 1



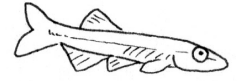
Tau Emerald Dragonfly
Hemicordulia tau
Find 4



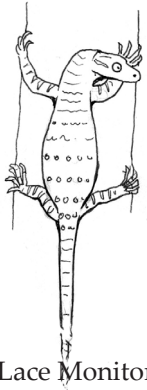
Dragonfly larva
Suborder Epiproctophora
Find 3



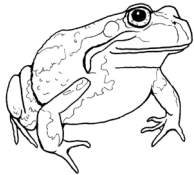
Mosquito larvae
Family Culicidae
Find 3



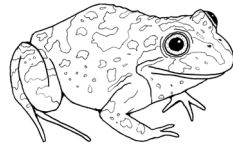
Australian Smelt
Retropinna semoni
Find 4



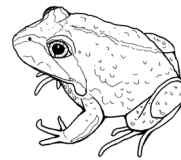
Lace Monitor
Varanus varius
Find 1



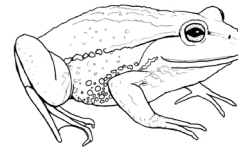
Giant Banjo Frog
Limnodynastes interioris
Find 1



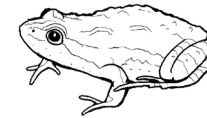
Barking Marsh Frog
Limnodynastes fletcheri
Find 1



Eastern Banjo Frog
Limnodynastes dumerilii
Find 1



Southern Bell Frog
Litoria raniformis
Find lots



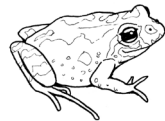
Plains Froglet
Crinia parinsignifera
Find 1



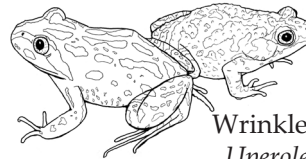
Flathead Gudgeon
Phlypnodon grandiceps
Find 5



Red-bellied Black Snake
Pseudechis porphyriacus
Find 1



Common Eastern
Froglet *Crinia signifera*
Find lots



Spotted Grass Frog
Limnodynastes tasmaniensis
Find lots

Wrinkled Toadlet
Uperoleia rugosa
Find 1



Microbat
species uncertain
Find 1



Emerald-spotted
Treefrog
Litoria peroni
Find 2



Common Spadefoot Frog
Neobatrachus sudelli
Find 1



Eastern Grey Kangaroo
Macropus giganteus
Find 4



Common Brushtail
Possum
Trichosurus vulpecula
Find 1



Yellow-footed
Antechinus
Antechinus flavipes
Find 1



Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*
(Introduced)
Find 1



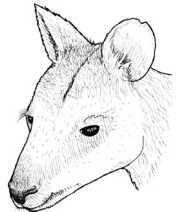
Dog *Canis familiaris*
(Introduced)
Find 1



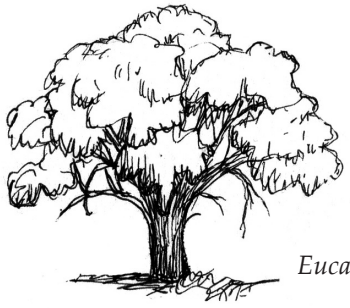
Human *Homo sapiens*
(Introduced)
Find 5



Rakali (Water Rat)
Hydromys chrysogaster
Find 2



Swamp Wallaby
Wallabia bicolor
Find 1



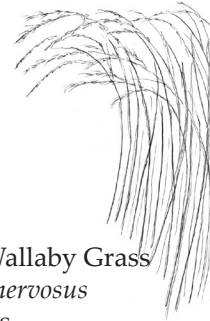
Black Box
Eucalyptus largiflorens
Find lots



Mistletoe
Amyema sp.
Find 1



Ringed
Wallaby Grass
Rytidosperma caespitosum
Find lots



River Red Gum
Eucalyptus camaldulensis
Find lots



Common Sneezeweed
Centipeda cunninghamii
Find lots



River Bluebell
Wahlenbergia fluminalis
Find lots



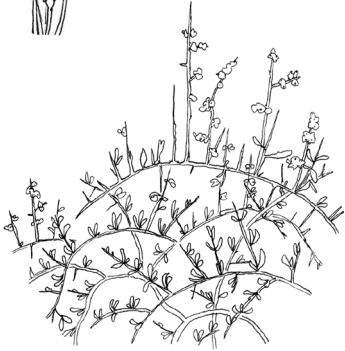
Kurrajong
Brachychiton populneus
Find on one page



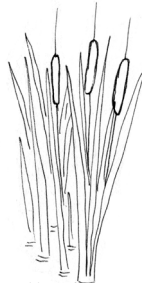
Moirra Grass
Pseudoraphis spinescens
Find on one page



Water Plantain
Alisma plantago-aquatica
Find lots



Nitre Goosefoot
Chenopodium nitrariaceum
Find lots



Broadleaf Cumbungi
Typha orientalis
Find lots



Spiny Saltbush
Rhagodia spinescens
Find lots



Lignum
Duma florulenta
Find lots

Slender Knotweed
Persicaria decipiens
Find lots



Water Primrose
Ludwigia peploides
Find lots



Duckweed
Lemna sp.
Find lots



Common Spikerush
Eleocharis acuta
Find lots



Tall Spikerush
Eleocharis sphacelata
Find lots



Upright Water-milfoil
Myriophyllum crispatum
Find lots



Pondweed
Potamogeton sulcatus
Find lots



Azolla
Azolla sp.
Find lots



Swamp Lily
Ottelia ovalifolia
Find lots



Common Nardoo
Marsilea drummondii
Find 2

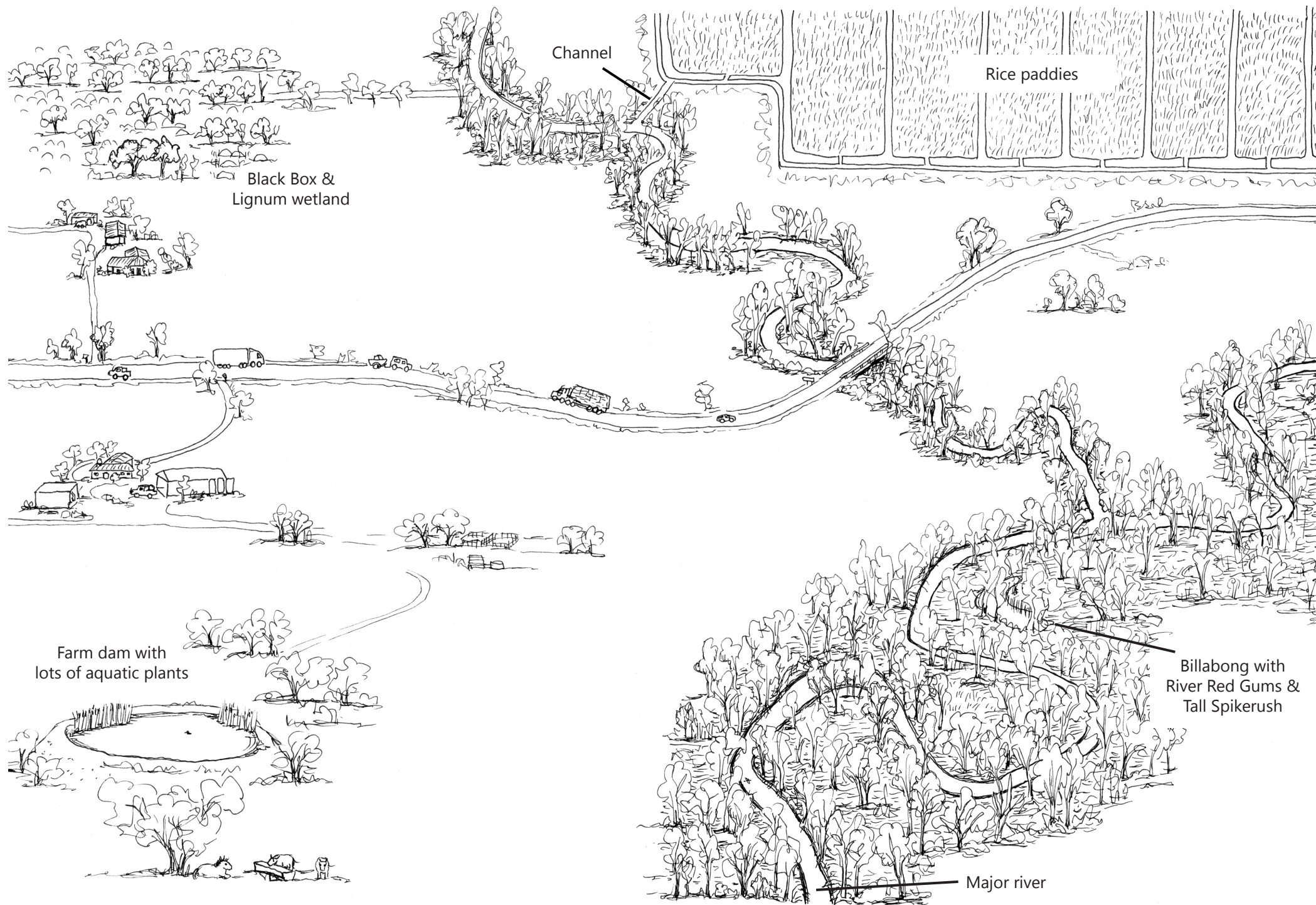


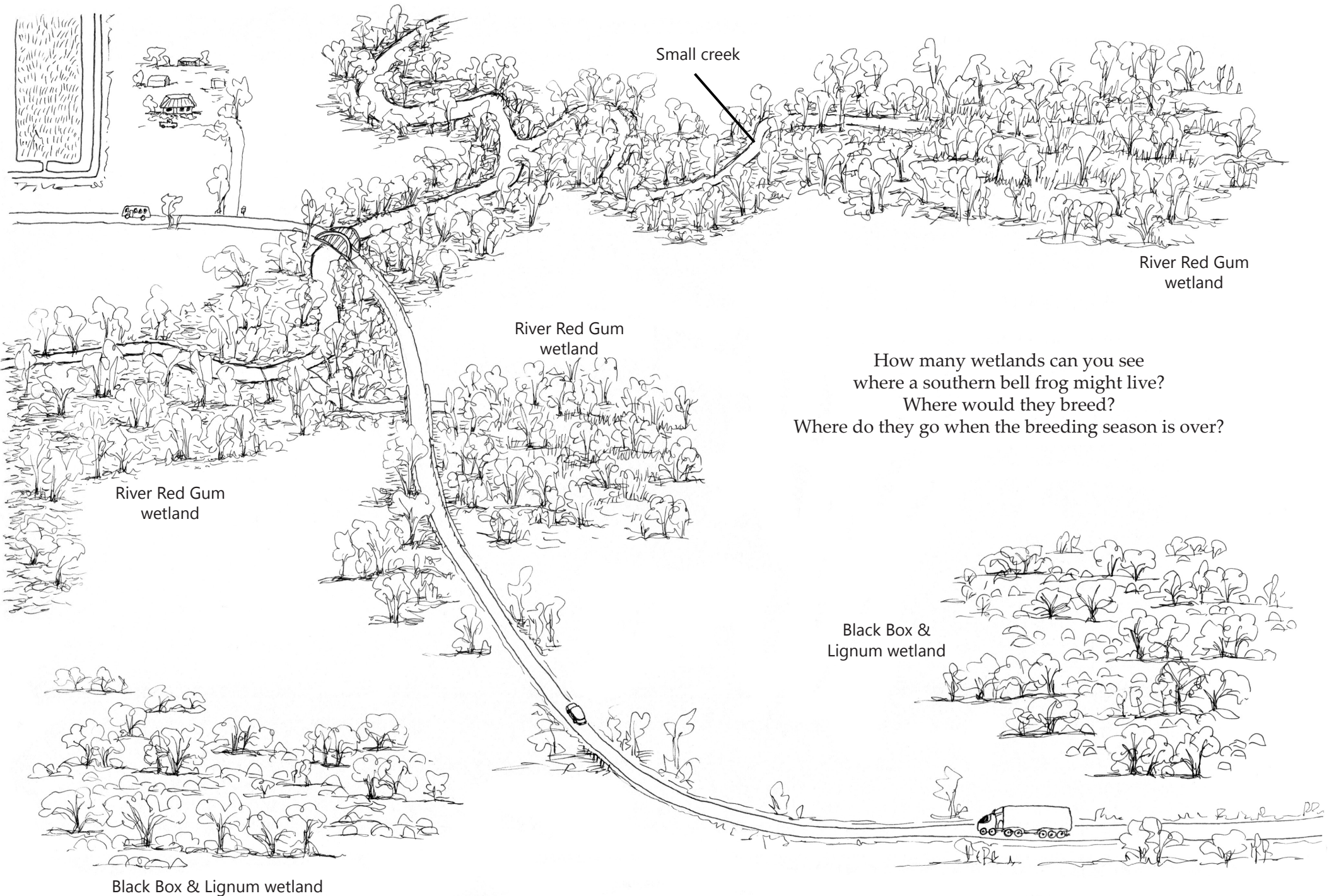
Wavy Marshwort
Nymphoides crenata
Find lots



Ribbonweed
Vallisneria australis
Find lots

Water Ribbons
Cynnogeton procerum
Find lots





Small creek

River Red Gum
wetland

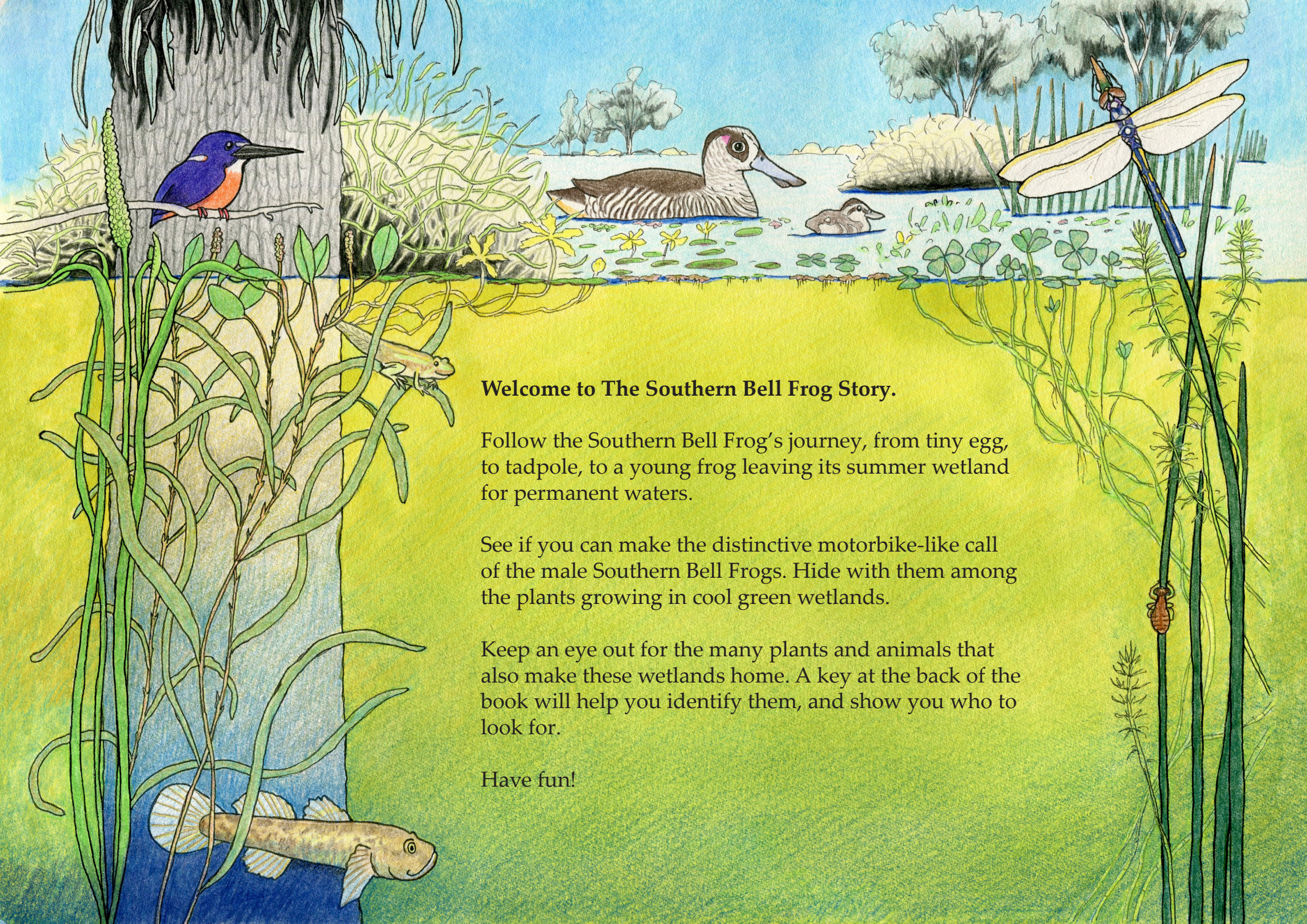
River Red Gum
wetland

River Red Gum
wetland

How many wetlands can you see
where a southern bell frog might live?
Where would they breed?
Where do they go when the breeding season is over?

Black Box &
Lignum wetland

Black Box & Lignum wetland



Welcome to The Southern Bell Frog Story.

Follow the Southern Bell Frog's journey, from tiny egg, to tadpole, to a young frog leaving its summer wetland for permanent waters.

See if you can make the distinctive motorbike-like call of the male Southern Bell Frogs. Hide with them among the plants growing in cool green wetlands.

Keep an eye out for the many plants and animals that also make these wetlands home. A key at the back of the book will help you identify them, and show you who to look for.

Have fun!