

# Wimmera Community Waterwatch Program



## August to September 2009 Report to YCAC



By the end of September, enough rain had fallen to take the year's rainfall to just over the average level for this time of the year, adding to the depth of the pools at Kellalac, Warracknabeal, Lah and Beulah. With the Wimmera River running, some water is coming into the southern end of the Creek, meanwhile, at the northern end, pipeline savings have enabled water to be run into Lake Lascelles.

Most Creek sites, except Beulah's, have very low salinity (<200 EC's), neutral pH and soft water. Turbidity is mostly moderate, and the level of phosphate (nutrient) is often high.

### **Frogwatch** (frog photos next page)

Frogwatch surveys took place in August, and were extended into September with the continuing rain.



At Kellalac (top photo), a small pool had reformed at the Highway Crossing. There, well hidden in lots of long grass, was the greatest variety of frogs with 5 species being heard. As they remain quiet with each passing vehicle, they were difficult to detect.

With the Creek at Warracknabeal with water along its full length, frogsong was found all along it, except between the Jamouneau and Lions Park Bridges (middle photo) where there were no aquatic bank plants for shelter, though grass was growing.



At Hopetoun, David Robinson, after training, conducted his first Frogwatch survey. The small stormwater fed stream on the bed of Lake Lascelles (bottom photo) has been a refuge for frogs over the Long Time Dry. About the centre of the Lake, the pooled water has supported an area of the native water plant Nardoo. David reported that there were too many frogs to count at this site one early evening in September. These Common Eastern Froglets had also been calling back in December 2008, one day after a summer storm dumped water to refresh this pool. At the small stormwater catchment dam, which for many years been a place of great biodiversity for small water life, David also reported Pobblebonk Frogs and Plains Froglets.