



# Jumping for Joy

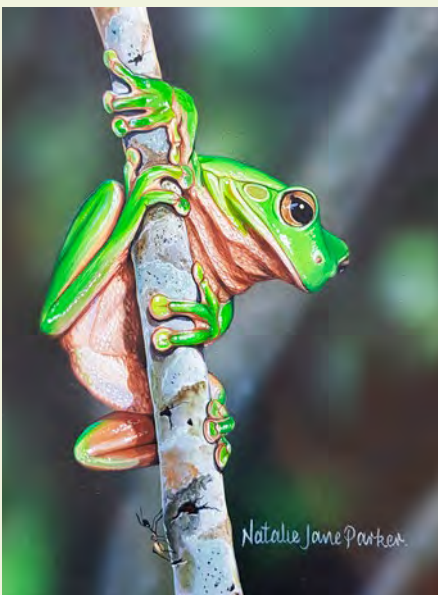
## Australian Frogs Natalie Jane Parker

As a wildlife artist, my focus is on all of Australia's unique wildlife, including our fabulous frog species, of which 245 species are found only in Australia. Australia's amphibians are one of my most favourite animals to paint. As a child, I loved finding large green frogs on summer nights, and as

a young artist, green tree frogs were always an enjoyable subject to hone my skills.

My home is nestled on fifty acres of land in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales, and over the past seventeen years, along with my

husband, we have planted hundreds of native trees and shrubs to encourage wildlife to return to our area. We have noticed over the years an array of fauna, including frogs moving in to share our home. While mowing one day, I came across tadpoles in a water trough, and I scooped a few out in a



Green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*) vantage point.



Banksia seed pod and frog.



Unique introductions: featuring a willie wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) and green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*).

container and brought them up to my house for my children to see. We fed the tadpoles boiled lettuce and watched them slowly morph into green tree frogs (*Litoria caerulea*) over the next month or so before releasing them on a rainy night.

When painting, I use my own reference photos as I have an extensive library of images featuring different frogs that I have come across over the years. Another really important factor to my artwork is to be able to get up close and personal with the animal I want to paint so I can capture the finer details. My paintings start with airbrushing the background and sketching the image. I then 'block in' the base colour of the frogs, and once that is dry, I paint the finer details of the frogs in acrylic paints. The finishing touch to nearly all my artworks is an ant.

Australia has such an amazing variety of frog species, many of which are not very well known. I must admit that I love tree frogs, with red-eyed tree frogs (*Litoria chloris*) being at the top of the list. I love to create interaction between one species and another in my art, and frogs are a great little addition to a large painting. In the future, I am very keen to paint more of the lesser-known species of frogs, like the little crucifix frog (*Notaden bennettii*) and the great barred frog (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*).

We all have a responsibility to take care of Australia's frogs, and through my artwork, I hope to highlight the diversity, uniqueness, and plight of these amazing animals. For further information and to see more paintings, please visit [www.natalieparkerprints.com.au](http://www.natalieparkerprints.com.au) or follow me on Facebook at [njpwildlifeart](https://www.facebook.com/njpwildlifeart) or Instagram at: [natalie\\_jane\\_parker](https://www.instagram.com/natalie_jane_parker).



Natalie Jane Parker in her art studio. Image: Robert Virtue, ABC Newcastle.



Two brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) admiring a green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*).



A resident green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*) that lives in the downpipe of our water tank.



Green tree frogs (*Litoria caerulea*).