



Frog advice: Students Jessica Webster, Patrick Sandall, Tim Barnes and Patrick Hogarth with Gerry Marantelli.

On the watch for frogs

VICTORIAN Frog Group president Gerry Marantelli visited Latrobe Valley students last week teaching them about frogs and ways to identify different species.

Students from Yinnar Primary, Commercial Road Morwell, Crinigan Road Morwell and the Kode school as well as parents and teachers participated in the session by Mr Marantelli who is one of Australia's leading experts in captive breeding of frogs.

He is also co author of The Frogwatch Field Guide to Victorian Frogs and has worked extensively with Melbourne Water, Waterwatch and the Amphibian Research Centre.

Science in Schools coordinator Max Sargent said the session was a great opportunity for students to work with real scientists and to be trained for a community based frog monitoring program.

"This program will increase community knowledge of frogs found in the Morwell River Wetlands and Crinigan Road Re-



Up close: Shae Heeremans with a Growling Grass Frog,' an endangered species in Morwell.

serve and improve our understanding of the distribution of frogs throughout the Latrobe Valley," Mr Sargent said.

"It also provides an extra Waterwatch activity that is both enjoyable and educational for everyone involved."

Mr Marantelli taught the students how to record frog calls and to identify different types of frogs.

The trainees will continue to hone their skills by sending future tapes and identifications to Mr Marantelli.

Mr Sargent said the group would eventually be able to train other members of the community to ensure quarterly frog census's would be conducted at both the wetlands and reserve.