

## PHONE TOWER RADIATION AND WILDLIFE HEALTH

On 18/2/2007 a new phone tower was erected outside the Herdsman Wildlife Centre and WWF's Panda House on the south-east side of Herdsman Lake. There has been much discussion as to the effect of radiation from these towers on human health, particularly child health. It is estimated that maximum radiation occurs between 150 and 350 metres from the tower, peaking at approximately 0.58 microwatts / sq cm at 170m. Although there has been no consensus as to the effect of this radiation, there have been reported clusters of ill-health in children living around such towers.

Perhaps this could be a good opportunity to monitor the effect of this radiation on the abundant bird and frog life at Herdsman Lake. The frogs are sedentary and the water birds both sedentary and locally nomadic. A study over three breeding seasons might help to elucidate the medical worries.

*Mary Bremner*

*Dr Mary Bremner is a distinguished specialist in children's health. The issue she has raised here is of concern to everyone. Tadpole development is relatively easy to study, and the northern side of the lake could be used as a control site – perhaps there is someone in an academic institution that could take on this call?*