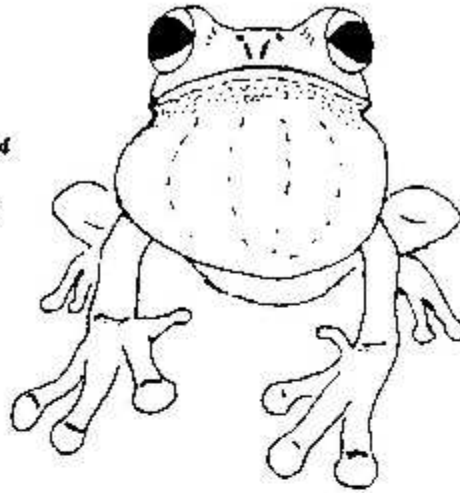


# FROG CALL No. 11

Membership, The Editorial and Everything  
P O Box E405, St James 2000 until May '94  
P.O.Box A2405, South Sydney 2000 after May '94

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## NEXT MEETING

Friday 6th May 1994

7:00 for 7:30 pm

Hallstrom Theatre, Australian Museum  
(cnr. College & William Streets, East Sydney)  
William Street entrance and follow the sign.

## Speakers

Gunther Schmida will talk on "Frog Photography"

Various: On their favourite frog only 5 slides per person please

(Include yourself if you would like to show 5 slides-we want to see them)

*We also promise to have all the nice things on at the beginning of the meeting for anyone not interested in the political stuff (who is?). Last time we had some new young people who could not stay on forever listening to the other rubbish. (I noticed a few older ones nodding off too) We urge them to come again 'cause you'll get to see much more froggy stuff this time.*

As always

Visitors welcome

Refreshments provided

Updates on rumours, news and projects

(After everything else) **Special General Meeting**

(short and sweet) to vote on the incorporation/rules of the association

**Annual General Meeting and Election of New Committee**-if necessary

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday August 5th F.A.T.S. Group Meeting

Friday October 7th F.A.T.S. Group Meeting

Monday 31.10. 94 to Sunday 6.11.94 FROGWEEK

Friday December 2nd F.A.T.S. Group Meeting

Friday February 3rd 1995 F.A.T.S. Group Meeting



## THE LAST MEETING

\*Harald showed his slides of Narama- Many species were represented and the exhibitions were good. The live (reptile) shows were extremely popular, especially with the children. (At one stage they lay several children side by side on the stage and stretched a python across them!)

\*Harald outlined his resolution about the contribution of amateur herpetologists, which was carried at the meeting of the Congress. It was designed to encourage amateur involvement and to urge review of conservation legislation and administration without erecting barriers against amateurs.

\*Glen Shea gave a concise run-down on the proposed legislation changes within NP&WS.

Glen with input from the AHS, F A T S Group and institutional professionals, has been spearheading changes to the NP&WS Act on regulations to allow a reasonable exempt list for both collecting and keeping of reptiles and frogs. Most reptiles and frogs could then be collected by amateurs and kept with an over-the-counter routine licence.

Five categories of reptiles and frogs are being proposed to NP&WS, the lowest (1&2) holding the majority of the species. The other categories deal with animals that are:

3) rare or hard to keep

4) that are endangered or otherwise unsuitable for keeping without a scientific reason

5) dangerous elapids.

More on this when it all comes together.

*\*Nobody appears to have noticed (except Harald and Lothar) but our two mascot frogs disappeared from the Frogcall 10 newsletter. The newsletter slave apologises for any emotional distress caused by this unfortunate oversight and assures the powers that be, that the problem will not re occur (other things will probably be wrong instead) I also apologise to Harald for calling him a rude name at the last meeting.*

\*Michael Mahony found some interesting frogs-( *Litoria piperata*?) he went to the type locality to find that the creeks are now silted and the frogs couldn't be found. He then visited some creeks further north and found what could be *L. piperata* but they hadn't been recorded from that area before. We haven't been able to confirm exactly what Michael found because he remains a difficult man to contact.

\*We will have the draw for the froggy quilt and pillow cases at the May meeting. There will still be time to buy more tickets at the next meeting. The proceeds are going to provide prizes in this years Gould League competition on rainforests. Hence the FROGFACTS 4 - Rainforest Frogs' which has been sent to 800 schools. Thanks to Karen Thumm for writing it, to all those who vetted it, to Harald for his pics and to Matthew Le Breton and Lothar for putting it together at such short notice.

### FROM THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD - 2.3.94

The world wide decline in amphibians has found another likely global culprit- the rise in ultra-violet radiation caused by the thinning of the ozone layer. Researchers at Oregon State Uni have shown that UV-B is killing off the eggs of the local frogs and toads in the Cascade Mountains. The research was praised by Lorelei Saylor from the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force as well as other USA researchers. It was also pointed out that the world-wide population decline might not turn out to have a single global cause.

*The above newspaper article was lifted from the TIMES and is referring to the paper by Blaustein, A.R.*

*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA) 1994*

*Volume 91, pp 1791-1795, March 1 issue.*

The paper discusses effects of UV exposure on amphibian reproductive success, at the egg maturation stage. Experiments on the effects of UV exposure were carried out on eggs in semi-natural enclosures. The article demonstrates levels of DNA repair in different species by photolyase, an enzyme which removes cyclobutane pyrimidine dimers. UV-B promotes production of cyclobutane pyrimidine which causes the damage to DNA. *Hyla regilla*, a frog not in decline and not sensitive to UV-B exposure has a high photolyase activity in comparison to the other species tested. The 2 frogs in decline are *Bufo boreas* and *Rana cascadae* which live at high elevations and are active during the day.

Recent data shows an increase in UV-B levels in the Northern Hemisphere in the last 5 years.

*Are the species with their eggs hidden from light also in decline?*

### A NEW FROG

*From a West Australian Newspaper article in late March and also heard Green and Practical.*

A new species of frog was found in a crayfish burrow in a peaty swamp.

Pierre Horvitz, an Edith Cowan University lecturer, found the frog in a peat swamp near Denmark (Albany W.A.) while carrying out a survey of wetland animals. The colourful new species of frog was found in the proposed Mt Roe National Park Area. The frog is dorsally dark chocolate brown with very warty rough skin.

It has orange feet and ventrally it is orange, white and bright blue.

His find was confirmed by Dr Dale Roberts and Dr Wardell-Johnson who is from Conservation and Land Management.

### THE SECOND WORLD CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY

*At the last meeting we gave a quick run-down on the Congress*

The congress was between December 29 and January 6, and 700 herp-minded delegates flooded Adelaide University. It was very froggy and had over 450 topics to choose from, of which half were on amphibians. Half of the 300 poster presentations were on amphibians. The abstracts are available from Shane, Karen, Lothar, Harald or Jacque if you want to look at the topics and gain some valuable references.

*Here are a few meaty bits for your delectation.....*

### Cane Toad Research

A number of papers, workshops and poster presentations dealt with the *Bufo marinus* problem. A group of Brazilian and Venezuelan researchers were present, plus the CSIRO and numerous representatives from many Australian Universities.

\* Cane Toad Ecology is still incompletely known.

\* Their main mode of spreading in Australia is incompletely known (as tads, in floods, hopping, on trucks etc)

\* The migration urge differs between seasons, sexes, age groups and individuals. Some stay put and some get Wanderlust.

\* After erupting in a new area, followed by a rapid increase in numbers and a subsequent population crash, they rebound at lower densities (and at smaller sizes). These lower densities are still much higher than in South America, indicating lack of natural predators or disease.

\* Sydney's climate would be OK for them.

\* 90% of their food is ants and termites.

\* Predator populations that initially decline from eating the Cane Toad gradually recover (as far as is known to date)

\* Keelbacks and a few other predators eat them with no ill effects.

\* Invertebrates kill *Bufo* tads

\* In South America, *Bufo marinus* mortality is very high: appearing mostly as predation and seasonal shortages

- \* Native tadps die from eating a single Cane Toad egg
- Their overall impact in Australian Ecology is vague guess-work
- \* Their impact on the Australian economy may be small.
- \* There is a political directive to keep them out of Kakadu (they are at the edge already) and to eradicate or contain them as "people don't want them!"
- \* If their spread can be slowed, wildlife would have more opportunity to adjust.
- \* The toads have a preference for open areas over dense forest.
- \* They don't mate at densely vegetated areas of water holes, only along the bare stretches.
- \* The only effective control is thought to be a virus, ticks being the vector
- \* The Australian toads that were brought here in 1935 via Hawaii are tick free. The ones in their native South America have ticks which don't seem to bother them.
- \* No obviously sick toads were found in South America with one exception which could not be studied in the field nor transported in time
- \* Five virus strains have been found in Venezuela, the best hope to date.
- \* The CSIRO are now planning to put toads with ticks on an offshore island to see whether the ticks slow them down. This will be studied together with the effects on any native frogs.
- \* A search will commence for a virus on some other **Bufo** species outside Latin America: for a virus that has not co-evolved with Cane Toads and may bowl them over.
- \* A miracle field pathologist will be needed to find sick **Bufos** in tropical places and to find viruses on them in the field.

The New Years Party was at James Hardy Winery and here is a sample from Rick Shines' disgustingly wonderful menu.

#### :Frog Spawn Soup:

A marvellous ingress of fresh spawn from *Litoria caerulea*

(with a touch of *Bufo marinus* to tingle the palate), mixed with the juice of a road killed brownsnake for that authentic outback flavour

The croutons are made from the barbecued carcasses of the finest endangered species, mostly pygmy bluetongues (*Tiliqua adelaidensis*) and broad-headed snakes (*Hoplocephalus bungaroides*) to provide a unique and never to be repeated taste sensation.

#### :Froglegs au Adelaide:

Tender hindlimbs of *Limnodynastes*, specially cultured in the sedimentation tanks at the Adelaide University's sewage treatment Plant. The marinade imparts a unique flavour to the gastrocnemius muscle and the piquancy is enriched with a subtle blend of prostaglandins from the gastric mucosa of *Rheobatrachus vitellinus*

### Frog Decline

Various speakers at the Congress noted regional amphibian declines and local extinctions.

A workshop found it hard to come to grips with the extent, let alone the reasons or the cure.

\* Fellers and Gross (California) compared recent and 75 year old field data from Western USA National Parks. They reported significant frog declines and listed probable causes as:

- a) introduced predatory fish,
- b) the gradual loss of open meadow and associated aquatic habitats
- c) an extended drought

\* Henle (Leipzig) lists 7 broad general factors as causes for frog decline

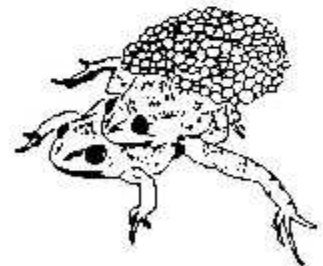
- 1) habitat loss or degradation, especially landscape fragmentation
- 2) biocides and pollutants
- 3) road traffic
- 4) immigrant predators
- 5) hunting and collecting
- 6) competition from alien species
- 7) natural causes

\* Stebbins (California) implicates the endocrine connection. Organochlorines are believed to mimic naturally occurring oestrogens, although no data is available at this stage

- A) Organochlorines are likely to be globally distributed in trace quantities
- B) intrude into the developmental processes of amphibians

\* Carey (Colorado) holds the role of stress to be important in amphibians declines and extinctions. She postulates sub-lethal stress from environmental factors, causing immunosuppression and infections. Handling, rapid pH changes, dehydration, pesticides and UV light could cause immunosuppression. She sites this example: when their is wheeled around the lab the resident cattish show high levels of stress hormones for the following 3-5 days

\* Johnson (Toronto), Head of the Declining Amphibian Task Force says there is no consensus and no data



\* Ingrams (QLD) If scientists don't have data they are useless and if they can't find the frogs they have no data. The old advice to governments "save the habitat and you save the species" is rubbish. You've got to manage them.

**Sandie Jones from the University of Canberra** gave a fantastic talk on the abundance of *Aprasia parapulchella* (Pygopodidae) in the grasslands of the ACT. *What has this got to do with frogs, you might ask? How often are you convinced that the frog should be there but you can't find it on a specific field trip? Especially those rare and endangered and "cryptic" species?*

FROM HER ABSTRACT

*Aprasia parapulchella* fulfils the 'rare species' criteria -low numbers and habitat specific. It has been suggested that the rare status is a result of the difficulty of identifying the presence of a species on site. The study addressed the issue by determining whether *A. parapulchella* occurs in low abundances or if intensive surveying could show that it is locally common (*These people turned 82,000 rocks to find a total of 195 A. parapulchella*)

This species was found to occur in low abundances even though the sites surveyed contained suitable habitat and were surveyed in optimal weather conditions. Because of the difficulty in determining if an absence of a species is an artifact of sampling or actually an absence, a method of probability of non-detection was used. It was found that 750 rocks needed to be turned to be 98% sure that *A. parapulchella* was not present on site.

*Maybe this will help us when surveying for endangered frogs? The difference is that frogs do call sometimes which makes them easier to find but they don't always co-operate. ... Does anyone have any thoughts on this?*

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **From Martyn Robinson**

*One letter and one fax of interest*

The letter from an Amateur Herpetologist from South Africa who is interested in coming to Australia to photograph frogs in November. His experiences in South Africa seem to make light of many of the difficulties we encounter.....

*"In South Africa I usually locate the species by listening to the calls at night and then revisiting the sites during the day when the hippos and crocs are more visible...what is the best practice in Australia?"*

*If anyone wants to contact him prior to his arrival (I've already sent printed material), write to*

Wolfgang Ochojski,  
69 Erica Road,  
Table View, 7441  
Cape Town  
South Africa.

### **A Fax from Welpa**

It mentions egg masses of Cane Toad and other frogs being stranded in a hot drying puddle. The rains have stopped early. They took the spawn and placed it in an aquarium. The differences between the two make interesting reading....

*"the toad eggs hatched in a day or so and the frog eggs took a week"..... "the toadpoles developed much faster, grew fatter and grew all their legs well before the frogs"..... "The toadpoles then began eating the frogpoles, even though there was plenty of other food source available"..... "The toadpoles were smarter, harder to catch-the frogpoles you could catch with your hand they did not dart away and they also appear not to have any sense of smell they seem to swim into the food before identifying it".*

Interesting stuff but a shame the frog species was not identified.

E.E. Cameron and H.G. Cogger (1992, *The Herpetofauna of the Weipa Region*, Cape York peninsula, Technical Reports of the Australian Museum No7 ) record that the Cane Toad first appeared in Weipa in 1979.

### **NSW Endangered Frog Survey**

Angus Adair has put together yet another version (FEB '94) of the NSW Endangered Frog Survey Guide-lines. I hope you have all made your comments so we can pester Angus for a 'final' version.

It was decided at the last committee meeting to send the completed survey forms to Harald.

*But how would you like to manage this data base? Who has access, how are contributions made and how and where do we store it?*

If you are an active frogger you will also need the guide-lines booklet (available from Shane-(02) 698 7641)

Shane has weekly NSW rainfall charts: contact him for recent rainfall before heading off on your field trip.

### **Froggy Anti-freeze from Barbara Harvey**

Two groups of researchers from France and America have been pooling their results on intense cold and its effects on man.

Once an organism freezes, ice ruptures the cell membranes and the organism will die due to paralysis of their functions. Some polar fish, caterpillars and spiders contain a type of anti-freeze that enable them to survive temperatures to -36°C. The champions of surviving extreme cold are frogs! In fact 4 families of frogs found in the forests of Canada. Their bodies actually accelerate the formation of ice crystals but only outside the cell membrane. The production of sugars resembling ethylene-glycol, a super anti-freeze, prevents the freezing process from spreading into the cells.

A frog can accumulate a huge amount of sugars increasing its body weight by a 1/5. The heart stops beating, the blood stops circulating and breathing stops until the animal becomes a lump of ice which can be shattered. This lump of ice thaws out in spring and the frog returns to life and recovers its stored energy.

Man is also able to produce anti freeze sugars similar to frog secretions but cannot stand the high concentrations of glucose (80 gms/litre of blood) that the frog attains. There is risk of diabetes for more than 4gms/litre of blood. Researchers are still working on it.....Gilles Rousset

### ***Taudactylus acutirostris* at the Zoo**

Captive breeding programmes at Taronga Zoo, James Cook University and Melbourne Zoo have been generally unsuccessful. Taronga did not manage to keep any metamorphs after the 4th day from tail absorption. Gerry at Melbourne Zoo kept one till 35 days after metamorphosis, James Cook have had no success.

Dion (who is going to come and give us a talk!) thinks that the growth hormone may be effecting the tadpoles. Taronga is building a new Reptile and Amphibian House, which may be ready in November!

### **Karen Thumm**

During a recent trip to Germany, I had a few insights into the activities of the DGHT, The German Herpetological Society (the 'T' in the name stands for terrariums. Their name implies an interest in the keeping and breeding of herptiles- a little word from the congress) Their eleventh Workshop Newsletter includes a list of breeding successes. 4,941 animals representing 46 species have been successfully bred.

28 of the species were Poison Dart Frogs, reflecting the interest of the leader of the group, Helmut Zimmerman, of Stuttgart. *Litoria caerulea*, *Limnodynastes peronii* and *Litoria infratrenata* were on the list. Helmut keeps some fat, healthy shinglebacks and blue tongues, 28 species of *Dendrobatids* and *Mantella aurantiaca* from Madagascar. The group supports the declaration of a National Park to help save these gold frogs.

Another herp -Kurt Rimpp, has an interest in newts and has a male *Chamaeleo jacksonii* climbing around his pot plants. He has salamanders in an outdoor enclosure. He also has a certificate of descent for all his animals.

The Ministry for Traffic has put out a book (58 pages) on the protection of amphibians by inserting "Toad tunnels" under roads. Frogs and toads migrating to their breeding ponds don't then get run over. Where there is no tunnel, roads get closed on prime nights and Kurt for example patrols his area and informs the police when the roads must be closed. It is a pity that such measures need to be taken, as the habitat is so carved up. A warning to Australians! I will be becoming a member of the DGHT and will keep you informed of anything of interest. K.T.

### **Harald Ehmman**

The marvels of modern technology almost worked for me in early March. While I was doing one of my 'earballing' drives south of Sydney, I came upon some calling *Heleioporus australiacus* and wanted to pass on the news as quickly as possible. So I phoned our resident *Heleioporus* buff Jacquie Recsei by mobile phone and put the hand piece out the window near the frog, but the continuous calls didn't transmit, as Jacquie couldn't hear them! The trusty tape-recorder did the trick though and the frog barely missed a call in the experience.

The Herps Techniques Course students at Sydney Institute of Technology had a froggy baptism in February. Many of them are mainly interested in snakes, but the wet weather during their field work presented vast numbers of frogs including: *Paracrinia haswelli*, *Crinia signifera*, *Uperoleia tyleri* and *Limnodynastes dumerilii*.

*Litoria raniformis* is in extremely good shape in the whole of the Murray River system. I had to slalom between them.

### **News and things from Lothar Voigt**

Speaking as Treasurer, where is the much needed tadpole dollar? The greenback? Der Froschgroschen? One filmmaker borrowed 2 Green tree frogs from me, against the promise to support our endangered frog survey. He then produced \$1?. A second film maker (the word had obviously spread) had it all sewn up with me when he was asked for our now standard fee. Never heard from him again. This is no way to launch the Australian Frog Count, I thought. So Martyn copied and I handed out hundreds of FROGFACTS at the Pet and Animal Expo in February. This brought in \$35 in donations, after the paper was paid for. But it also brought lots of interest in frogs. Some people were 'treading crowd' to stay in the same spot in the crush, to tell me about their encounter with a frog or to ask me what is going on with them.

There is nothing better than seeing teeming masses of metamorphs with bulging tummies as tight as a drum. Before mine get released, they get fished out of their tadpole boxes into clipped plastic cages with a handful of weed in them. The cages then get put on their sides, inside the covered compost box with fruit peel around them. Every few days the boxes get dunked in the pond and put back.

When the froglets have outgrown their quarters they get dumped alongside the fence near the pond, where there are planks lying on the ground with more fruit peel underneath. Over the planks runs a shelf with the tadpole broccoli boxes on it. Every time I go past the tads get a bucket full of pond-water, which slowly seeps out of the small holes, halfway down the boxes, onto the froglet planks below. And next year the neighbours will have to turn their hearing-aids down.

Which all goes to show that the dumbest treasurers make the fattest frogs!

(Lothar now believes that we are all familiar with that well known German saying that the 'dumbest peasants make the fattest potatoes')

**Scenes from Claudes' Hardware Corner.....**

Excuse me do you have anything to stop a frog from sitting on the spray bar?  
Huh?

I can't see the frog up there. Its under the hood.

You wanna see a frog??? Claude!!!!

Bonjour Monsieur, What can I do for you?

My frog keeps sitting on the spray bar. I can't see it then.

You wish to see your spray bar?

No, my frog. But it's all under the hood

Of course Monsieur. You can count on my discretion.

Lemme call triple-oh Claude.....

Monsieur this may be serious. We agree that your frog likes being high up and near the warmth from the light fitting. Oui?

ER-we?

Alors!, then put a fly-screen under the spray bar, where it is also hidden by the hood. It will not change the pattern of the rain. Make an aluminium frame just like a window fly screen and support it on glass strips silicon-glued to the side of the tank, right under the spray bar.

Do I cut a corner out of the fly-screen for the hose and cables?

Oh No No No Monsieur!, it is easier to make the screen a little shorter than the length of the tank. Fill the gap with a narrow piece of glass with a small corner cut out of this instead. Push some filter wool in the gap that remains and your frog cannot escape.

Why not perforated flat or corrugated perspex instead of fly screen?

More work. Lots of holes to drill to get the ventilation through as well as the rain and harder to keep your frog from wiggling past. Flat perspex tends to, how you say, sag and the corrugated ones need a squishy profile stuck on the ends. It is also harder to keep algae off it. May I ask how you keep your algae from clogging your spray bar Monsieur?

Well it is clogged right now, it is one of those commercial translucent ones.

Mon Dieu! You must throw it away! Here, use electric conduit and elbows and saw slits in it crosswise. Install the slits uppermost and Voila!

Gosh thanks Claude.

*Post Claude, This woman wants to see ya. says it's your fault that she's got a leaking problem.*

Are you the guy who is into frogs?

Am I into frocks? Madame where I came from.....

You let my husband make a right mess of our house! You told him to stand his fish tank on end for his treefrogs, didn't you?

Well...

I tell you, it leaks everywhere. He has this blasted conduit rain bar on top, and water is coming through the ventilation slits in the door or around the door edges.

Of course Madame! your husband built an inward draining door that sits in a groove between two glass strips, with the inner strip shorter so the water runs back into....

Some goes on the carpet!

Mais oui!, capillary action: a known problem. Do not worry Madame, some of the best engineers are working on it. I want it fixed!

You could consider standing it in a sink of course.

In a sink?!

A very shallow one made from two thin sheets of styro glued together like a sandwich. The top one has narrow strips cut out as drainage grooves, leading to a hole at the back. It also has a strip cut off around the edges with a silicon-glued angled plastic beading around the perimeter to complete the outside channel, and any water running down your tank will drain to the hole at the back of the styro. Attach a short hose under the hole, through or around the support of the tank, put a jar underneath and there, Madame, is your invisible sink!

Well, maybe you are good for something then.

If this sink for your frog does not work, I will eat it. Au Revoir, Madame.

L.V.



"As you can see, most of these things are jackrabbits, but keep your eyes peeled for armadillo as well. ... We're about five miles now from the dead steer."

Handwritten notes in the bottom right corner, including the words "roadbill" and "tourists".

## From 'The Travelogue of Barbara Harvey'

From 17-22nd of December I was with Klaus Uhlenhut of Kirrama Wildlife Tours in both the Iron Range and Lakeland National Parks of Cape York. I flew to Lockhart River (whence Klaus had already driven his 4WD) and we stayed at the Lockhart River Aboriginal Reserve Guest House. Being December, the wet season had just started and enough rain had fallen to liven up the frogs. The rain was not enough to stop us getting around and it mostly fell in the very early morning, adding up to perfect froggy conditions.

Species seen around Iron Range were: *Litoria caerulea*, *L. rothii*, *L. nigrofrenata*, *L. nasuta*, *L. gracilentia*, *L. pallida*, *L. rubella*, *Limnodynastes ornatus*, *Sphenophryne gracilipes*, *Cyclorana brevipes*, *Rana daemeli*.

At Wenlock River Crossing-*Crinia remota*.

At Archer River Roadhouse, where we overnighed on our way south, there was a large dam with thousands if not hundreds of thousands of Cane Toad metamorphlings around the edge. Even so, we saw many *Litoria nasuta* and *Limnodynastes ornatus* and *Litoria rubella* was found in the buildings of the roadhouse (100metres distant)- pleasing proof that the Cane Toad has not yet eliminated the native frog from its territory here. Reptiles seen were Frilled-neck lizard, two Lined-dragon species, a Rainbow Skink *Carlia longipes*, the House Gecko *Genyra dubia* and one of the highlights of the trip-a Green Python *Chondropython viridis*, a magnificent specimen and wonderfully co-operative for the photographer! Klaus Uhlenhut is an excellent naturalist and tour leader and we saw some 146 species of birds including all of the Cape York endemics with the added bonus of a Spotted Cuscus and a Spectacled Flying Fox.

## From Lance Tarvey.

Thanks to Lance for his article in his local newspaper (He lives in Alstonville).

The article described *Limnodynastes peronii* and *Mixophyes fasciolatus* as well as how to tell Cane Toad tadpoles from others with the accompanying advice "not to kill tads if you are not sure".

He also asked people to send recordings to the NP&WS and has attracted 25 new members to the F.A.T.S.Group by including our post box number.

Plus he has sent us some frog info.....

In early March he was hearing Wallum frogs from many locations. (You have to contact Lance if you're up that way) as well as *Litoria olongburensis*. He recently visited Hugh and Nan Nicholson's property at Terania Creek ( Australian Rainforest Plants 1.2&3 ) and without much effort picked up 13 species.

He tried, unsuccessfully, for *Mixophyes fleayi* in the palm forest at Nightcap National Park but did pick up Assa at about 200metres ASL. (Michael Mahony has picked up *Mixophyes fleayi* at this location previously.)

Species at Nicholson's property (I believe they are selling the property and nursery for approx \$1 million?)

*Adelotus brevis*(call), *Crinia signifera*(call), *Limnodynastes peronii* (call&sighted) *Uperoleia fusca* (call&sighted), *Mixophyes fasciolatus*(c&s) *Litoria peronii*(c&s) *Litoria chloris* (s) *L. fallax* (c&s), *L. pearsoniana* (c&s) *L. dentata* (c) *L. lesueur*(s)

*L. revelata* (c) *L. latopalmata* (c&s)

Hugh and Nan regularly get *L. caerulea* and *L. gracilentia* (I think). I recorded this for the Wildlife Atlas and I will fill in one of the standard site forms if I can decipher the code (-yes Shane will send him the standard 'Frog Spy Code Book' with compliments from Angus )

Also he got *Kyrannus loveridgei* breeding in Whian Whian State Forest with tadpoles in a burrow in a table drain.

He also tells us that Dave Stewart is putting together a recording of the frog species of the North Coast and Tablelands.

## Dan Wotherspoon

A quick ring around brought Barbara Harvey and Peter Jones to Rose Lindsay Cottage for a night of frogging. The Red-Crowned Toadlet was too shy and the *Heleioporus* were hiding but we enjoyed each other company and some common frogs species.

Even with very good rain at Falconbridge, *Pseudophryne australis* was very shy -have they put food before sex? One fat female *P. australis* came to a new garden we made here, with lots of leaf mulch over newspaper. We are 300 metres away from the nearest calling site.

A Cane Toad was found near Windsor on a creek which crosses the Putty Road-we are hoping it was a hitchhiker from QLD.

## Shane Gow

Shane and Karen found *Heleioporus australiacus* tads at Binya Close Hornsby Heights. Which may not sound so wonderful except that this stunning area is subject to a large Landcom D/A and subsequently to a Fauna impact Statement-all due to the agitation of local greenies.

Shane also has a tape with the most incredible whooping call from a *Heleioporus*- which he will play at the next meeting when he gives his 5 minute chat on strange behaviour of breeding *Heleioporus*.

Shane also found Heleioporus breeding in Royal National Park and Ku Ring-Gai Chase National Park West Head. Karen and Shane also found *Litoria littlejohnii* in the Watagan State Forest. Marion Anstis took a recording and Shane and Marion photographed it on a subsequent expedition. It definitely smells like curry.

Shane has also asked me to tell you that FROGFACTS 2&3 are available and I would like to tell you that I have FROGCALL 4,5,6,7,8,9,10, but not 1,2&3 Does anyone have these? Do they exist? and if so please send us a copy.



## **Bombaderry Creek- a quick summary**

*Leatch vs National Parks and Wildlife Service and The Shoalhaven City Council*

The Shoalhaven City Council applied to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for a licence to take or kill endangered fauna. The need for the licence arose from a development consent by the council to its own proposal to construct a link road from North Nowra to the Princes Highway. The road includes a 60metre bridge over Bombaderry Creek. The Director General granted the licence subject to conditions.

May Leatch appealed against the decision with reports from various experts on the flora and fauna of the area. Apart from the rare flora of the area the rare fauna included the Yellow-bellied Glider and the Giant Burrowing Frog- *Heleioporus australiacus*. Dr York and Gary Daly heard the call of the GBF while spotlighting for gliders. The Fauna Impact Statement considered the gorge to be degraded and not prime habitat for the species and so the validity of the FIS was questioned in reference to the non-inclusion of the GBF. The frog has only been sighted in a small number of locations in the Shoalhaven area and therefore it was considered important to conserve the species.

Justice Stein agreed with the perceived need to alleviate traffic problems in this area, in the future, but did not consider that the council had explored the alternative routes fully as a balance against the issue to take or kill endangered fauna. Justice Stein was not convinced of the validity of the council's economic arguments.

*The Justice also emphasised that the refusal to grant the application should not be the end of the proposal and further information on endangered fauna and advances in scientific knowledge may mean the licence could be granted in future.*

## **NOTICE: SGM, RULES, AGM, NOMINATIONS, FEES**

As was discussed and decided at the last meeting on 2.2.94 notice is hereby given, (so this is it), that at the next meeting on Friday, 6.5.94 there will be:

**1/A Special General Meeting** at which a vote will be taken, on whether the F.A.T.S. Group should be incorporated, with its own rules of association, or whether it should remain a special interest group of the AHS. Incorporation could be finalised in August.

In case it is decided to incorporate, a further vote will be taken on whether to adopt the proposed F.A.T.S. Group Rules Of Association. These are identical to the AHS rules with the following three exceptions:

1) In the first sentence of the 'Objects' section:

delete 'reptiles and amphibians' and replace with 'amphibians'

2) Instead of a President /Vice President structure adopt a President /Chairman structure

3) In the unlikely event of winding-down at some future time:

transfer assets to another incorporated association with similar aims rather than to the Australian Museum.

The F.A.T.S. Group can further modify the rules at any time, with a government fee of \$20

The complete 'Rules' (20 pages) can be obtained from Lothar Voigt- (02) 371-9129 and will also be available at the next meeting.

**2/An Annual General Meeting** if the decision is made to incorporate.

The AGM would present the Conveners report, Treasurers report and elect the new committee.

Nominations are invited from F.A.T.S. Group Members for the following positions:

President, Chairwoman/man, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Officer / Newsletter Editor, 3 Committee Members.

The new committee will co-opt from amongst them; Public Officer, Survey Officer, Affiliation Councillor, Catering Officer, Scientific Advisers.

Nominations for Committee positions should be sent to Harald Ehmann or to Lothar Voigt at the post box address on the front of the newsletter, up to one week before the meeting on the 6.5.94. Nominations will be accepted at the meeting for positions still vacant. According to the rules, AHS and F.A.T.S. Group, the nominations must be countersigned by 2 members. (Up till now a member is anyone on the FATS mailing list or is an AHS member).

**3/Membership fees.** As foreshadowed at the last meeting, a clear membership and a separate financial footing need to be established, regardless of the SGM outcome on incorporation. It has been decided to apply the same membership rates and categories and annual rates as those of the AHS.

Membership with Herpetofauna..... \$20

Membership without Herpetofauna..... \$10

Family membership with Herpetofauna..... \$30

Overseas membership (airmail, with Herpetofauna). .... \$30

In general membership fees are for the financial year May to April. People joining between October and February pay half the fee for the remaining part of the year. For this year you will be asked to pay half the amount in October to carry you through to April '95.

The good news is that after April there will be no door donation and no further postage stamps to send in. You can ask for the remaining stamps to be sent back with your next newsletter- *of course you can donate them to help send frogfacts and sound recording replies out!*

Your membership fee will pay for room hire, newsletter printing and mailing, insurance and all the things that should make meetings and newsletters more enjoyable and informative. L.V.