

FROG CALL



Number 14 • November 1994

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP OF NSW INC.

P.O. Box A2405
Sydney South NSW 2000

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Jacquie Recsei	Member	(02) 476 2853 (h)
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Current major FATS Group activities

Endangered Frog Survey:

A study of the habitat characteristics, present distribution and population sizes of 21 species of "at risk" frogs in NSW. Partly funded through the National Estate Grant Program.

Consultants to Endangered Frog Survey:

Michael Mahony	(049) 772 773 (h)
Arthur White	(02) 599 1161 (h)

* Shane Gow resigned from the committee as the work was taking up far too much of his time. Many thanks for your work as secretary and media contact from all of us, Shane! His functions have been distributed, at least for the time being, between David and Karen - two willing victims in the nick of time! And a welcome to Deborah who has joined the committee and is already setting up a data base for belting your names and addresses into.

Frog Week 1994:

First week in November. Many activities planned to focus public attention and interest in endangered frogs. We anticipate considerable public involvement.

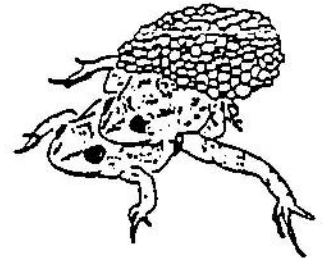
NEXT MEETING

*******Friday 2nd December*****7:00 for 7:30 pm*******

at the Australian Museum, William St. entrance and follow the signs.

SPEAKERS

Wolfgang Ochojski	"African Reed Frogs"
Geoffrey Smith	"Streamwatch and the Australian Frog Count - a Synergy?"
You (big giant audience participation!)	"My most recent frog observation" &/or
Lothar Voigt et al	"My five (5) favourite frog slides"
	"What Really Happened in Frog Week 94"



REGULAR FEATURES

News announcements --- Discussions --- Informal atmosphere --- Refreshments ---
Updates on projects --- \$2 donation at the door (paid-up members are exempt!)
Yes, and bring a visitor!

We hold six informative, informal, topical and practical meetings each year at the Australian Museum (William Street entrance) in Sydney. Meetings are held on the first Friday of every even month (February, April, June, August, October, December) at 7 for 7:30 pm. Visitors are welcome. We are actively involved in monitoring frog populations and frog studies, and we produce a newsletter FROGCALL and the FROGFACTS information sheets.

THE LAST MEETING

There were plenty of recent frog sightings/observations/ remarkable experiences by our not-so-passive audience, in fact the Group would not come to order for quite some time afterwards.

Arthur treated us to slides of Red-crowned Toadlets at Hornsby Heights, where he monitored them for 5 weeks during this drought. They tend to occupy the higher built-up positions there, some 30m below plateau level, and they stayed put during that time. Many had buried themselves in shale lenses that accumulate in fire trail gutters and that have some residual moisture left, particularly on east facing slopes and where some seepage occurs. They also use yabby holes and cracks and have waxy skin secretions. In settled areas they have disappeared at an alarming rate. Red-crowned Toadlets can be distinguished by their individualised belly patterns and can be photocopied with ease.

Harald showed us slides of last year's Frog Week field trips. This then ran into discussions on what is planned for this year and on the Endfrogs survey.

Ian Bundeluk generated much interest with his table display of Aboriginal art, much of it with frog motifs.

L.V.

FROG WEEK FLURRY

Frog Week (Remember, remember, the first week in November!) certainly was a week worth remembering. The news is still coming in from all sides at the time of writing this, and there'll be an update at the meeting. Here are some of the highlights in case you can't wait:-

The government happened to run Water Week the week before ours. And - Giselle landed that one - they gave us a Frog Week marquee at Homebush Bay, together with a permit to show frogs there. She and Arthur and Cameron got surprised comments all day long from people who had only seen frogs in books and on TV and who now discovered that they also exist in the real form. And the Frogfacts went like hot cakes.

Henrietta and our other frogs and tads stayed on for another day, with Arthur running bumper-to-bumper sessions for school classes filing past. Then, by the time I had collected our display material, Giselle had put in a Frog Week display in the Homebush Bay Environment Centre's Water Week exhibition. We felt that Frog Week was by no means watered down - Water Week was frogged up!

Our FATS Frog Week display then went to Warringah Council's Garden Festival, minus the live frogs but with Martyn, Noelene, Dannie, Karen, Shane and me drawing crowds anyway. 33 new members that day, and a great deal of fun both inside and outside the marquee Warringah Council had provided for us.

In the meantime, Frog Week displays went up all over the place. Martyn, who had to do appearances for signing frog field guide books in four of the Australian Geographic shops, found Frog Week displays in all of them. That was arranged by Reed Books, together with 30 donated copies of Martyn's award-winning field guide as prizes for us to give out!

And there have been Frog Week displays at the Homebush Bay Environment Centre (Giselle was busy on that one), two at the Australian Museum (Martyn), at Coffs Harbour Zoo (Alan Manning), at Taronga Zoo again, at some of the regional schools' Field Resource Centres (Philip Green) - the Gosford one sent their bulletin with Frog Week information out to all Central Coast schools -, at some NPWS visitors centres and schools - complete with school activities - (Karen and Jacquie) and goodness knows where else. With all the Frog Week information packs Giselle, Karen, Harald and I had sent out, press articles began to appear everywhere.

COLUMN 8

AMONG all the "this week" and "that week", we can tell you this week is Frog Week, "a tradition that was started in NSW last year". Lothar Voigt, chairman of FATS - the Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW Inc - says people worried about disappearing frog species can help in the Australian Frog Count. "Simply take a sound recording of your local frog calls, from which the species can be determined and put it onto a computerised map," he says. Last year, more than 100 tapes were sent to Frogfacts, PO Box A2405, Sydney South 2000. The group is also calling on members to "hope, request, dance and/or pray" for rain to fall soon. Rabbit, rabbit.

SMH 4.16.94

Saving the frogs, we may save ourselves

The first week in November is Frog Week! These little creatures are a barometer of our ecology and the fact they are in decline should be of concern to all of us.

I recently installed a pond to provide habitat for frogs in my garden.

In spite of coal dust, cokeworks' emissions and pollution from motor vehicles, RTA spraying of weeds and road verges, there are frogs in Coalcliff. Sometimes I hear them and local children assure me there are

tadpoles in the creek and drains. FATS (Frog and Tadpole Study Group of the Australian Herpetological Society Inc) has received funding for a project "Habitats and Populations of Rare and Endangered Frogs of NSW".

They are surveying 21 species known or suspected to be in danger in NSW.

Readers who wish to help or obtain further information should write to FATS, PO Box A2405, Sydney South, 2000. Projects you can

join in (and schools are excellent at this sort of thing):

1. AFC - the Australian Frog Count; get your tape recorder out.
2. Find an Endangered Frog Study Site - and win a prize.
3. Learn to record field data - give your bushwalking a new purpose.
4. Adopt a pond - become a wetlands custodian.
5. Dig a frog pond - grow wildlife in your water garden.
6. Help restore a green and golden

bell frog habitat - for neighbours of this endangered frog.

7. Learn to record field data. ENDFROGS is the name of FATS' endangered frog survey which needs your help badly. Of 83 frog species in NSW, 21 are at risk and some have not been seen for a number of years. FATS does not have enough study sites. Write to FATS for details. If our world is so polluted that frogs can't survive, we might all be in danger of croaking.

P. Ferguson,
Coalcliff.

November 1

Come home, Kermit

This week, I understand, is Frog Week. Up here, on the North Coast, it also is the beginning of cockroach season.

I mention these two apparently unrelated events because, according to old-timers, it used to be common practice in these parts to keep a green frog or two under the kitchen sink to pounce on and devour unwary cockroaches.

These days, so far as mosquito defences are concerned, there are any unwary cockroaches. Our life is pasteurised, sterilised, sanitised and deodorised, littered with B and equipped with an electric zap and several strategically placed squirt cans of insecticide. The cockroaches treat all this with scorn.

Bring back the frog, I say. Come home, Kermit, all is forgiven.

R. Marshall
Toorm

October 31

Aus. S. 16.94

Penny Ferguson had the right idea when she wrote her Letters to the Editors to incite the public to take frog sound recordings. Column 8 also helped along (twice, actually) and the first frog tapes promptly began to appear in our letter box. (All we need now are some nice government funds so we can do something about it. Yes, we do have an application in with a nice government department.)

Danny was one of the Frog Week school speakers who took some time off from looking for Red-crowned Toadlets to talk to classes using the FROGFACTS sheets. His talk at the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society was covered by the local press. Chris Cole, the owner of the magnificent Conservation Hut Cafe overlooking the Jamieson Valley at Wentworth Falls, then put frogs (well, frog photos) on his menu and asked for a Frog Week display which he put up in his restaurant.

The electronic media got quite stirred up too, although this year we didn't do the Frogmobile-whistlestop-fieldtrip-media-circuits we pulled off last time (too dry for frogs at the north and the south coast). Our message went out over the airways nevertheless, with Teachers Federation Radio Illawarra (Martyn) and ABC Radio Bega and ABC Radio Lismore (me) beaming out interviews. ABC Radio had also interviewed Coffs Harbour Zoo (where Alan Manning is running a Frog Week display which is getting much attention by the public and school classes). Other radio and TV stations also gave us plugs.

Interstate: Harald sent some 70 Frog Week information packs interstate and stayed in touch with the other groups. In Queensland, RANA ran a very successful Frog Day on 5.11. with lots of grass roots activity along the coast and heaps of media coverage. In Victoria there was much interest and media exposure. Tasmania has a Frogwatch programme in full flight. Western Australia is just starting up but already strong interest by the media. In South Australia the weather was ideal for frogging, the Environment Minister launched the Frog Census (fully government funded!), they had a full-page colour print of S.A. frogs in a major daily newspaper, almost 600 people registered to sound record frogs and were sent a free tape, instruction sheet and prepaid return envelope. Last year NSW, now Australia-wide, next year...? And after that?

What needs doing now: We haven't yet done the magazines (apart from ANH Magazine which set off a very busy nation-wide ring-in, and the WIRES newsletter which prompted various abandoned-frogs-in-fruit-shops calls). The electronic media and the daily press are ephemeral things but magazines tend to stay on coffee tables, with our tape recording instructions and address much more retrievable once people are ready to go out bush. And here, dear reader, is where you come in.

(1) Especially for you to send out, there are 4 information sheets in this issue. They are de-linked from Frog Week and are therefore of lasting value.

(2) Send them with your covering note or article (and photos if you have any - they'll probably pay you for them) to your favourite magazines - bushwalking, canoeing, gardening, 4WD, farming, nature, pet, aquarium, army, hippie, science, scouts, schools, camping, bird watching (so they can count frogs instead when the weather's bad), astronomy (they're out at night, aren't they?), etc etc.

(3) When your article is published, take it to our next meeting or send a copy to FROGCALL. Sometime next year, all you magazine authors will be in an extra special, exclusive, wonderful raffle, just to make it even more fun!

And while you're at it, why not hang a copy on your school's, tech's, uni's or club's notice board?
L.V.

FIELD TRIPS COMING UP

Eco-froggo-tours!	December/January Holidays!	Away from the Crowd!
Free-of-fee!	Boredom Busters!	Kermit Country Calling!
Give Yourself a Purpose in Life!	Ain't You Lucky!	WOW! and Reedeep!

Michael Mahony would be happy to have some volunteers in the Dorrigo Plateau area the first 3 weeks in December and again in February, and in the Border Ranges in January, to help with population studies of *Mixophyes iteratus* and *balbus*. If you like radio tracking those Great Barred Frogs (beats dowsing for Waterholding Frogs!), give him a call on (049) 772 773. But you need to arrange your own transport, you'd need to be there for at least three days so it's worth getting you trained up, and you may not be able to handle the frogs yourself because of licensing requirements.

<u>Field Trip Leader</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Going to</u>
Gavin Ayre	(049) 430 095	2nd or 3rd w'end in Dec. TBA	Barrington Tops (<i>Mixo, L. subgland.</i>) Myall Lakes
Garry Daley	(044) 460 384	TBA	Nowra area
Philip Green	(043)882 321	TBA	Wattagans
Giselle Howard	(02) 897 5066	Sat. 14.1. TBA	Liverpool/Bonnyrig Woronora Catchment
Jacque Recsei	(02) 476 2853	Sat. 3.12.	Darkes Forest
Lance Tarvey	(066) 283 897	Wed. 19.1.	Nightcap (<i>Mixo fleayi</i>)
Lothar Voigt	(02) 371 9129	Sat./Su. 21.&22.1.	Gibba Swamp, Wollemi
Danny Wotherspoon	(047) 514 273	Tue. 17.1.	Bonnie Doon (Katoomba)

The field trips are intended for training, site surveys and frog data recording, wherever possible with emphasis on endangered frogs and in particular on species we haven't got much data on yet. Ring one of the field trip leaders who will, if you can come along, send you a trip confirmation sheet. (A blank one is in this issue so you know what's involved.)

Among the leaflets in this FROGCALL is also one beginning with "21 Species...". The location codes along the right-hand column are our prime target areas for rare frog species. If you live near those areas or are planning to spend some time there, and if you already have some field work experience and would like to lead a group, please ring me asap. We could then announce some additional well-targeted field trips at the December meeting!

If you're startled over all our field trips even in this weather, just wait until after the rains have fallen. This is a dry run. - There was a visiting psychiatrist who was shown the asylum's swimming pool. The psychiatrist expressed delight and amazement over the sheer level of activity, with scores of patients jumping into the pool from all sides, and was told with a smile "You should really see them when there's water in the pool!"

L.V.

WHETHER FROGS OR FROG WEATHER?

Midnight phone call from our President **Harald Ehmman**:

The Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that the drought has intensified and that there is still a major rainfall deficit over eastern Australia. But the NSW South Coast up to Sydney is in slightly better shape and is now hovering on average.

Seasonal outlook: The El Nino effect is likely to get worse. From November to January there will probably be below average rainfall from Wollongong north over most of NSW. Only the Northern Tablelands are likely to stay at the current level.

Recommendation: The Northern Tablelands (*Litoria subglandulosa*, *L. castanea/flavipunctata*, *L. piperata* in particular) are worth targeting and also the South Coast (*L. aurea*, *L. littlejohni*).

MEMBER NEWS

from Martyn Robinson:

Martyn rang in to confess to an infestation of tiny red flour beetles. The good news is that the frogs find them delicious - six frog species have been offered the beetles and all have enjoyed them greatly. Even better, the beetles breed readily in dry soyaroni and dry dog food. Better still, Martyn can spare a few small starter sets if you give him a day's notice and then turn up at the Australian Museum with your jar.

Martyn is also plagued by parthenogenetic Surinam cockroaches. These are Manna for frogs; they are cricket-size but with nice plump nourishing bodies instead of being mostly legs; they don't tend to invade the kitchen and they are easy to breed: - A plastic garbage bin in a warm place, with lawn clippings and vegetable scraps will do the job. Run a 4cm wide smear of vaseline around the bin's inside near the top to keep them in. And if you can't find a starter female in your own compost heap, Martyn may be able to help you out.

from Arthur White:

Field trip with Shane, Karen and Jacquie to Barrington Tops. Heard hundreds of Glandular Frogs (*Litoria subglandulosa*) calling. Found them spawning at 5 degrees C! At Allen River in Chichester S.F. both the northern and the southern calling races of the Leaf-green Tree Frog (*L. phyllocroa*) were sympatric - peppered ones and plain green ones intermixed but apparently with no distinction along calling language lines. (Arthur knows of one other site further up north where the two calling races also occur together.)

from Karen Thumm:

R45703's been found! It was pickled together with Brown Toadlets. (See last issue.)

Karen needs more study sites close to Sydney for the Brown Toadlet *Pseudophryne bibronii*. Please ring her on (02) 482 1017 if you know of one.

from Garry Daley:

Garry has seen Heath Frog (*Lit. littlejohni*) spawn, same time of the year as last November (although the weather was different. He has found 4 Heath Frog populations down south, and a new site for the Eastern Owl Frog (*H. australiacus*) in the Budjong area. Near Nowra he found Great Barred Frog tads, probably *M. balbus*. He's been doing an inventory of frog and reptile species for Jervis Bay and for Crown Lands near Shoalhaven catchment.

from Jacquie Recsei:

Went with Karen on a National Parks Association Biodiversity Study to the Shoalhaven area. Everything had gone mad and was calling: *Crinia signifera* and *Lim. peronii* and *Lim. tas.* of course, but also a *Litoria booroolongensis* (who had turned a fervent yellow, just like a *Litoria lesueuri* on heat), some *lesueuri* males themselves but no females (they may have been a bit shy with that impertinent yellow stranger around?), and *Litoria peronii* and *phyllocroa* and the Banjo Frog *Lim. dumerilii*. And a *Uperoleia* which remained safe from further investigation by calling from the middle of an Angus bull stud. (The fields and creeks were deforested, eroded and cow-plastered. Small wonder nobody was game to wade across the bull pasture!)

(Ed. apol. to non-scient.-infat. r'drship: *Litoria booroolongensis* = Booroolong's Tree Frog, *Litoria lesueuri* = Lesueur's Tree Frog, *Litoria peronii* = Peron's Tree Frog etc. Maybe it could have got worse (Keating's Frog? Lake Westpac?) but unless the common name adds anything meaningful I'll be inclined to boycott it. - More ed. apol. to those c/f: FC14 getting chocker. L.V.)

LICENSING AND NPWS

After encouraging discussions with senior management of National Parks late last year and earlier this year, we are still waiting for licensing and exemption categories for frogs to be put into place. Gerry and Glenn attended a recent meeting where an indication was given by staff that there were major reversals of a previous point of agreement. The meeting was broken off and another meeting with the Director-General is being scheduled.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS?

No, it doesn't mean taking a 'leak' in the bush!

For decades now water supply dams have been built around the state with little consideration of the possible effects on ecosystems. Government agencies such as the Sydney Water Board, Department of Water Resources, NSW Fisheries and others are working on policies and agreements to allow water releases from dams purely for the environment; i.e. environmental flows. This effectively gives water 'rights' to the environment in the same way that urban dwellers and farm irrigators have rights to water.

In natural river systems plants and animals may rely on changes in the water flow. These changes may be seasonal or occasional and linked to drought or flood. A dam or a weir may stop the effects of small storm events being passed downstream and will reduce the flow peaks in major storms. Environmental flows can be used to mimic natural events.

We know something of flow requirements for some fish and for plants like flooded gums but what about frogs?

If you have any ideas, comments, suggestions..... please give me a call on (02) 895 7806 (w) or (02) 897 5066 (h).

Giselle Howard

THE GOULD LEAGUE "PROJECT ENVIRONMENT"

Taken straight from the back page of FROGFACTS No. 4: "The Frog and Tadpole Study Group is a sponsor of the 1994 Gould League "Project Environment" on Rainforests. The FATS Group judges and awards prizes to the best entry on Rainforest Frogs in the Infants, Primary and Secondary sections."

The time has come; the entries are in and Karen has done a lot of work with them. We decided to give two prizes in the Primary and two in the Infants sections and also recognise three merit awards:

MERIT AWARDS:

Joshua McClenaghan Ben Venue Public School Public Sch. (Primary Section) Section)	Courtney Ramsay Beacon Hill Public School (Primary Section)	Mitchell Smith Turramurra North (Primary Section)
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Joshua was the overall winner of the "Project Environment" competition, with a stunning project on *Kyarranus* Mountain and Sphagnum Frogs.

PRIZES:

Bradley Edwards Hornsby North Public School (Infants Section - equal 1st prize)	Craig Green Beacon Hill Public School (Infants Section - equal first prize)
Bronwyn Hembry Wingham Public School (Primary Section - 1st prize)	David Helstroom Hornsby North Public School (Primary Section - 2nd prize)

Congratulations to all magnificent seven! The prizes are not only a free FATS Group membership till May 96 (the first ones ever issued) but also a Robinson - a Field Guide to Frogs of Australia (South East), sponsored by Reed Books!

The presentations will be (were, by the time you read this) at Taronga Zoo on 21.11. in the presence of Virginia Chadwick, Richard Morcroft, SMH and no doubt many curious animals.
K.T./J.R./L.V.

ERRATIC, ERRATIC

Thank goodness - I was the only one who got hopelessly confused over *Litoria littlejohni* and *jervisiensis*. Maybe there is a remedial course for people who can't even write notes in the dark and gawp at Arthur's slides at the same time. Contrary to anything contrary in FROGCALL 13, *littlejohni* is the new, dark and handsome Heath Frog Arthur had described and *jervisiensis* is the good old Jervis Bay Tree Frog it always has been.

L.V.

BACK FOR MORE AT LE 'ARDWARE STORE

And 'ow are your 'usband's breeding efforts getting along, Madame?

Quite adequately, thank you. But you really shouldn't try that line with me, Claude. I'm respectable. And we have six kids already.

His frogs, Madame!

No, his tadpoles, he calls them.

No no no, your 'usband's frog breeding. I was inquiring ...

Oh! - I see. Oh, dear. - Well. He does seem to spend a lot of time splashing around with them. By the time he's finished syphoning out and cleaning the tank he has to start cleaning the book shelves because that's usually where the syphon hose went. The next morning the table is full of books spread out to dry, and he's still up ironing the pages. He only stays awake by sometimes syphoning into the power point.

Then 'is breeding efforts may not be adequate, Madame. If I could assist in any way ...

Claude! Stop it. And let go of me!

I was merely directing you to our gardening section. In the meantime, tell me why he does so much syphoning, Madame.

He's got a dry feeding tank and a wet breeding tank for his Green Tree Frogs. And he's put some ruined books under one side of the breeding tank, so that the dirt accumulates in the shallow water at the other end where he syphons it off every night. A great deal of work but he's very fond of the frogs.

Ah, something we 'ave in common. What are your 'usband's views about 'eating them?

He wouldn't dream of it! Besides, they're too expensive.

But an aquarium 'eater/thermostat costs only 40 dollars.

Oh yes, he's got one of those in there. And an upturned shallow styrene box with some holes in the sides and a brick on it. What I need is something to get him back into bed.

Ici, Madame. You should 'ave no problem with these. Two plastic flower pots. Some fly screen.

Activated carbon, aquarium grade. And some filter wool. Put the fly screen in the bottom of these pots, fill them nearly up with the carbon, stack them on top of one another inside the frog tank and put the filter wool on the topmost pot. Then you need a small submersible pump with an outlet hose placed on the filter wool and a stone on the hose end to keep it there. Oh, and you need to use some vinegar and a pH kit from time to time, because when the carbon removes frog waste and secretions, the water gets quite alkaline.

But why two pots?

The carbon in the top one becomes exhausted first. When this occurs, swap them over and replace the exhausted carbon, now in the lower pot. The first time, simply measure how many weeks it takes to exhaust it. I will show you how some other time. Then just keep to that schedule. Even if the top carbon becomes a bit over- or underused, the bottom pot will make up for it and nothing is wasted. I will also show you how to regenerate the carbon so you don't need to throw it out into the garden.

My husband has a slag heap next to his ten compost bins. I was wondering what it was.

Ten bins! You must tell me one day why so many.

But what about the intake hose? You haven't told me how to avoid sucking eggs through the pump.

This tank is also used for breeding, you know.

Naturellement. If it were not for the spawn, you could have a much simpler system that is also ideal for display tanks. But - another time! With your tank, you can push the intake hose down the riser stem of an undergravel filter. Then spawn won't be damaged, the water will be pre-filtered, ammonia will be removed by bacteria on the gravel rather than on the carbon and the carbon lasts longer when its pores are not blocked up by the bacteria. A winwinwin situation, tres terrifique! And the undergravel filter can run continuously - as it must to keep the bacteria alive. The carbon filter then needs to run only intermittently; this way you can sometimes remove the outlet hose from the flower pot and connect it to the rain bar. Of course, if you invested in a separate pump and timer for the rain bar ...

Maybe later. How can he get the big frog-doo out without getting his syphon out again? That's what I want to know.

Madame, first you may want to know that your 'usband sometimes uses a net.

Annette??? - The dirty old man!

Oui, an unpleasant affair, Madame.

And I was going to set up his new tank for him when he's away on a field trip, and get him a pump and a FATS Group gift membership for Christmas! BOO HOO!

But a net is not bad at all ...

Well, we'll see about that! I will give him Annette!!!

Alors, my assistant has some right here.

That's not Annette?

Now, that's a net! The best one in the shop. But with such a pump - yes, do sit down, Madame, on the flower pots is fine - with such a pump you need neither net nor syphon. Simply take the intake hose out of the undergravel filter stem for vacuuming, stir the gravel a little bit and the sediments will be pumped onto the filter wool in the top flower pot from where they can be removed very easily. I see you are smiling again. No more books getting soaked, no?

(Sniff.) Yeh!

No doubt you are wondering how to stop any gravel from getting drawn into the pump. Simply attach a wide clear pipe to the intake hose, perhaps made from a small plastic bottle. A hole in the side of the pipe, for your thumb to fit over, will give you further suction control. Use the pipe to stir the gravel while you vacuum. Then place it back into the stem. The stem must be even wider of course and must reach just out of the water at the top, so that water can only get in from below where it is filtered. C'est ca?

One more thing, Claude. Say "heating".

Heating.

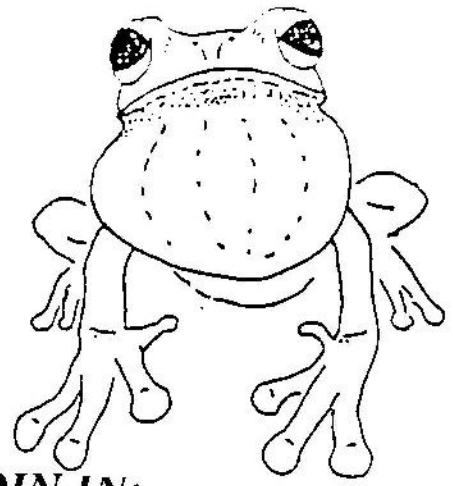
So!

Please - not with your 'andbag! 'elp!

L.V.

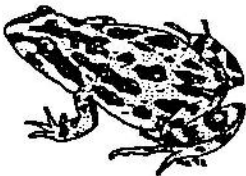
**THE FROG AND TADPOLE
STUDY GROUP OF NSW INC.**

PO Box A2405
Sydney South NSW 2000



PROJECTS WHERE YOU CAN JOIN IN:

- 1. *The Australian Frog Count (AFC) -
get your tape recorder out!***
- 2. *Find an Endangered Frog Study Site -
and win a PRIZE!***
- 3. *Learn to record field data -
give your bush walking a new purpose!***
- 4. *Adopt a pond -
become a wetlands custodian!***
- 5. *Dig a frog pond -
grow wildlife in your water garden!***
- 6. *Help restore a Green-and-Golden Bell Frog habitat -
for neighbours of this endangered frog!***
- 7. *Meet other frog friendly people -
meetings, slide shows, training sessions, field
trips, newsletters, fact sheets and a lot of fun!
Simply join the***



**FATS Group
PO Box A2405
Sydney South NSW 2000**

We hold six informative, informal, topical and practical meetings each year at the Australian Museum (William Street entrance) in Sydney. Meetings are held on the first Friday of every even month (February, April, June, August, October, December) at 7 for 7:30 pm. Visitors are welcome. We are actively involved in monitoring frog populations and frog studies, and we produce a newsletter FROGCALL and the FROGFACTS information sheets.

THE AUSTRALIAN FROG COUNT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Each frog species has a unique call which we can identify on a sound recording tape you send in. You can thus help establish a baseline for past and present frog occurrences and declines, and help build the most comprehensive frog data base ever:

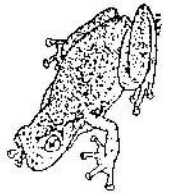
1. *Take your tape recorder to places where frogs are calling.*
(This is usually best done after dark and especially after rain.)
2. *Take a 5 minute sound recording at each location.*
3. *Speak onto the tape where the exact location is, the date and time.*
4. *Do this at as many locations as you wish.*
5. *Add your name, address and phone number.*
(As a voice-over or on paper)
6. *Send your tape to the*
FATS Group, PO Box A2405, Sydney South, 2000.

We will write back to you with the names of the frogs we have heard and whether any of them are rare.

To say thank you to you we will also enclose our brochures
FROGFACTS No. 2 - "Keeping Frogs in Your Garden" and
FROGFACTS No. 3 - "Establishing Frog Habitats on Your Property".

There is also a special prize if you find us a new study site of an endangered frog species (at any time of the year until October 1995):
The truly excellent "Field Guide to Frogs of Australia" (south-east) by
Martyn Robinson, sponsored by Reed Books!

THE FROGS ARE COUNTING ON US!



LEARN TO RECORD FIELD DATA

ENDFROGS needs your help badly.

ENDFROGS is The FATS Group's ENDANGERED FROG SURVEY.

Of some 83 frog species in NSW, 21 are "at risk" and some of these have not been seen for a number of years despite intensive searching. For many of these 21 species, we don't have enough study sites.

If you live in or visit a country area or if you go bush walking, please make sure you have your tape recorder, a few of the FATS Group's frog survey data forms, a torch and a thermometer with you. Then, whenever you come across a good frog chorus, simply do this:

- * Take a 5 minute sound recording of the frogs so that we can identify them by their distinctive calls. Also speak onto the tape the location, the date and time, who you are and which data form will correspond to this recording.
- * Fill in the data form by observing the location in detail. (You will find that the form will guide you through each step. You may also find it best to record the location onto the form in daylight and to do the sound recording after dark and/or after rain when the frogs are most likely to be calling.)
- * Send both, with your name, address and phone number, to the FATS Group, PO Box A2405, Sydney South, 2000.

We will reply to you, -

*** with the names of the species we have identified from your sound tape and whether any of them are rare,

*** and to express our appreciation also with our brochures on making your garden or your property frog-friendly. Also:

*** if you found a new study site for us, with questions on whether you can give us more information or even take us there; and whether you would like to become involved in monitoring the site over time. We can train you for this. Sponsored by Reed Publications, your prize for the discovery of the site will be a copy of Martyn Robinson's award-winning Field Guide to Frogs of Australia (south-east). - Although this offer remains open until October 1995, please send us your first data soon.

ONLY BY LOOKING WILL WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!



21 FROG SPECIES IN EASTERN NSW WHICH ARE ENDANGERED OR BELIEVED TO BE AT RISK

These are the frog species that are subject to the FATS Group's Endangered Frog Survey:

<i>Assa darlingtoni</i>	Marsupial Frog	
<i>Crinia tinnula</i>	Wallum Froglet	NS
<i>Heleioporus australiacus</i>	Eastern Owl Frog	
<i>Litoria aurea</i>	Green-and-Golden Bell Frog	
<i>Litoria brevipalmata</i>	Green-thighed Tree Frog	CP
<i>Litoria castanea/flavipunctata</i>	Monaro Bell Frog/New Engl. Bell Frog	NT
<i>Litoria littlejohni</i>	Heath Frog	CP
<i>Litoria olongburensis</i>	Wallum Reed Frog	NS
<i>Litoria piperata</i>	Freckled Tree Frog	NT
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Bell Frog	
<i>Litoria spenceri</i>	Spotted Tree Frog	
<i>Litoria subglandulosa</i>	Tablelands Tree Frog	NT
<i>Mixophyes balbus</i>	(Great Barred Frog)	CP
<i>Mixophyes fleayii</i>	Border Ranges Great Barred Frog	NR
<i>Mixophyes iteratus</i>	Giant Barred Frog	CP
<i>Philoria kundagungan</i>	Yellow-bellied Mountain Frog	NR
<i>Philoria loveridgei</i>	Border Ranges Mountain Frog	NR
<i>Philoria sphagnicolis</i>	Sphagnum Frog	NR
<i>Pseudophryne australis</i>	Red-crowned Toadlet	
<i>Pseudophryne bibronii</i>	South Eastern Toadlet	
<i>Pseudophryne corroboree</i>	Corroboree Frog	

Thirteen of the above species have an area code against their names. It is these species we don't have enough data or study sites on. Without such data, we cannot hope to determine whether and at what rate and perhaps also why they are vanishing. (If you encounter the other eight species, we would of course also like to hear from you.) The area codes are:

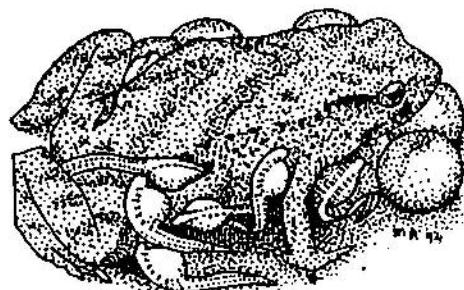
NS = Northern coastal acid-heath swamps

CP = Coastal plains and ranges

NT = Northern tablelands

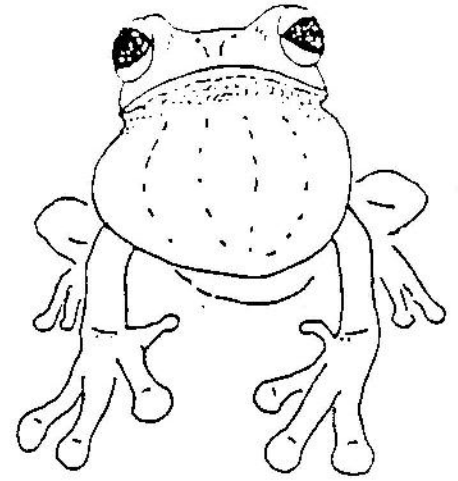
NR = Northern wet ranges

So if you go to or live in one of these areas, we would particularly like to hear from you. Help the endangered frogs by sending us a tape recording of their calls and if you can, by also completing a frog survey data form. For blank forms, please ring Giselle Howard on (02) 897 5066 (a.h.) or Martyn Robinson on (02) 339 8364; or write to the FATS Group, PO Box A2405, Sydney South, 2000.



**THE FROG AND TADPOLE
STUDY GROUP OF NSW INC.**

PO Box A2405
Sydney South NSW 2000



Date: _____

FIELD TRIPS

Dear _____

This letter is your confirmation to participate in the next field trip:

Date of trip start _____

Destination _____

Rendezvous point _____

R.V. time _____

Approx. return time _____ same/next day/other: _____

Field trip leader _____ phone _____

No. of people in your household participating (incl. yourself) _____

As this is a small and low impact field trip, you will be asked at the R.V. point to transfer into the field trip leader's vehicle. Only that one vehicle will proceed to the destination site.

For liability insurance purposes, all participants must be FATS Group members. The field trip leader will be able to sign you up if you are not current. (The FATS Group insurance does not cover you however, only the public.)

Don't forget to bring one or two good torches and a change of sneakers, socks and trousers if you are going to wade in after the frogs!

In case you or one of yours cannot make it, please ring the field trip leader so that car seats can be reallocated.

Best wishes for good frogging and bad weather,

Lothar Voigt
Chairman

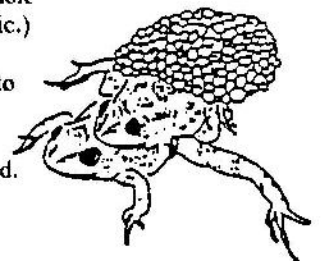
Current major FATS Group activities

Endangered Frog Survey:

A study of the habitat characteristics, present distribution and population sizes of 21 species of "at risk" frogs in NSW. Partly funded through the National Estate Grant Program.

Frog Week 1994:

First week in November. Many activities planned to focus public attention and interest in endangered frogs. We anticipate considerable public involvement.



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