

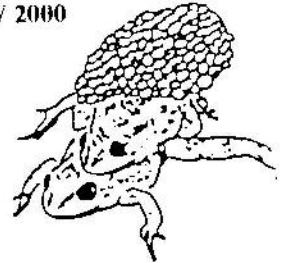
# FROG CALL



Number 19 September 1995

THE FROG AND TADPOLE  
STUDY GROUP OF NSW INC.

P.O. Box A2405  
Sydney South NSW 2000



## The Next Meeting

**F**riday 6th October, 7:00 for a 7:30 pm start at the Australian Museum

### SPEAKERS:

Arthur White	Frogs on the move
Arthur White	A Rosebery site Bell Frog update
You	My 5 favourite frog (or taddie) slides

Current major  
FATS Group ac-  
tivities

### REGULAR FEATURES:

News / announcements / projects / updates  
Discussions / unheeded calls to order  
Refreshments / multi-prize raffles  
Welcome table  
No \$2 door donation for paid-up members  
Bring a visitor!

### *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

So small yet they can



stop a building project

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### *Frog Week:*

First week every November. Many activities take place to focus public attention and interest in endangered frogs. We encourage much public involvement

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 FROG CALL and the FROGFACTS information sheets

## The Last Meeting

**H**ow to dig a hole in the ground and pour water in was a joint effort by Karen, Jacquie and Lothar. Karen showed slides of the new large frog pond at North Hornsby Public School - all the construction stages and the many helpers who dug and scraped and planted and built an enormous bridge across it. In the end, the fire brigade had to come three times to fill the pond up.

Lothar brought a box of bits and pieces that normally belong in or around frog ponds. A lively discussion ensued on how best to avoid duckweed, algae, overheating and speakers who won't go afterwards.

Arthur brought a box of great slides along, with Banjo Frogs from different places, taddies of *Litoria revelata*, the Whirring Tree Frog, and lots of other things.

The raffle was an auction this time. Lou's donated bronze frog on a slice of agate and Lothar's pond fish, water plants and fly pupae found new owners and made the FATS Group \$63 richer.

L.V.

## Frog Week 95

Monday, 30 October to Sunday, 5 November

This is Frog Week's third year. As always, the first week in November, as close as the calendar will allow. Our first year, and those with long memories will recall, was the year where we drove Frogmobiles all the way up and a fair way down the coast and stirred up frogs, press and public along the way. By the second year, most of the other states had joined in, and some in a big way, and together we pointed out the plight of the frogs and what people can do to help. The third year sees the other states still more on their own feet and running their respective Frog Weeks (or Frog Day, as the case may be) at a time of the year that coincides with their local wet season and with frogs being out and about (eg South Australia 11 - 17 September, Queensland 7 October and Tasmania 30 October to 5 November, same as us)

Taronga Zoo did a great Frog Week display in their Education Centre in 1993 and again in '94. They rounded up schools and passers-by, they handed out Frogfacts sheets and they must have converted many a happy, unworried polluter into a gravely concerned frog friend.

This year Taronga Zoo and the FATS Group will be celebrating Frog Week in style. The focus will be on both their Education Centre and the new Serpentaria. Throughout that week, the Serpentaria staff will be giving frog-on-hand frog talks and demonstrations throughout the day. The Education staff will be running frog lectures at regular intervals and will set up a Frog Week exhibition (where FATS is contributing

with posters, photos, display material, handouts and volunteers). The zoo shop will follow the themes with froggy offerings. And the zoo will get school kids to dig and plant up a small frog pond - materials being donated by Ledora Watergardens. This digging business will happen well before Frog Week, so that the TV people will have enough time to snuppet it around for screening during that week. On the last day as a finale, Philip Green will drive the kids crazy with his outrageous Wild Man frog shows.

The Australian Museum will also have a Frog Week display, in their "search & discover" area, as it did last year. Exhibits, regular talks and demonstrations, handouts, people to ask questions to.

Likewise, the Australian Geographic shops will join into the Frog Week spirit with displays and handouts, similar to last year.

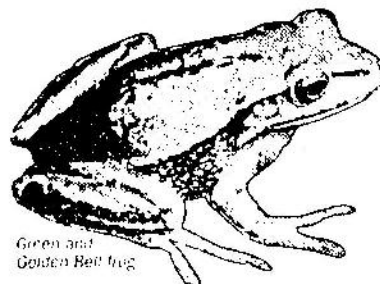
There may also be other organisations with at least some Frog Week space on their notice boards. If you can arrange for one, ring Lothar (371 9129) for the FATS Frog Week kit.

### What else you can do for Frog Week:

1. Speak to the science teachers of your local school and give them the FATS Frog Week kit and "Frogs and Tadpoles in the Science and Technology K-6 Syllabus for NSW Schools". Ring Lothar on 371 9129 if you're stuck without one. Remember to get to them in plenty of time before Frog Week (like now).
2. Write something for your local paper, maybe about how remarkable frogs are, why they're important, that they're in trouble, that their habitat needs help, that kids can record their calls and fill in our survey forms and make their gardens frog friendly. Or get them to interview you. Give them a photo or let them take a shot of you with your frog pond or local wasteland.
3. A letter to the editor of one of the big papers would be good. Everyone reads those.
4. If you can donate some of your time during Frog Week, as a volunteer at Taronga Zoo or at the Australian Museum, please ring Jacquie on (02) 476 2853.
5. Let *Frogcall* know what you did and what worked well and what didn't.

Happy Frog Week to you all!

L.V.



Green and Golden Bell frog

## Field Trips Coming Up

We have now two categories of field trips: general and scientific ones

**General Field Trips** - These are for the average member to get out and have some fun. The emphasis will be on learning how to find frogs and to see froggy habitats. These trips will be to comfortable areas and are not designed to gain important information on rare frogs. They are simply educational.

- **Karloo Pool Track** in the Royal National Park (October) - This will be a short easy walk down past a stream where Red-crowned Toadlets and Giant Burrowing Frogs live and on to a site where Lesueur's Frogs, Blue Mountains Tree Frogs, Broad-palmed Frogs and Common Eastern Froglets call. There is easy access from the Heathcote station.
- **Basin Camping Reserve** in Olney State Forest (November) - A very pleasant spot for people to stay overnight right next to breeding sites for Blue Mountains Tree Frogs, Leaf Green Tree Frogs and Striped Marsh Frogs. A short trip takes people to a pond with several other species. It is a bit of a drive, but the road is easy and the environment very pretty.
- **UNSW Field Station at Smith's Lake** (Myall Lakes) and/or **USydney Field Station near Woy Woy** (somewhere from December to February) - Both very pretty spots with all sorts of easy to reach frog habitats. Hopefully it will be a weekend trip with anybody wanting to attend being able to do so. This trip is subject to the field stations being available and may require the payment of a fee. Interested members will be contacted with more details.

**Scientific Field Trips** - Designed to get more serious and detailed frog information and may require staying in more primitive conditions. Knowledge of frogs will be helpful/necessary.

- **Garigal National Park** (October) - The NPWS would like the FATS Group to do some survey work through Garigal National Park for a report to be tabled by December. There will be a set trip to look at permanent water sites and record the frogs present and hopefully an opportunistic "rain and run" trip if conditions become suitable. Camping overnight may be an option.
- **Dorrigo Area** (November) - Volunteers may be required to help with a frog habitat assessment trip for a week in November. The work will involve daytime visits to sites to record habitat information followed by night surveys for frogs. The hours will be long and the work potentially hard. Frog experience (particularly ENDFROGS) is preferred.

As you can see, no specific dates have yet been chosen for any of these trips, as I would like members to indicate whether they are interested, so I know if it is

worth organising the trip, and, if so, when they would prefer it to be run

If you are interested, you could either ring me with your preferences on (02) 487 4345 (h) or let me know at the next meeting.

**Frank Lemckert**

## For wildlife fans...

*but only if you have CD-rom  
on your computer!*

The Encyclopedia of Nature by Dorling Kindersley Multimedia (UK) is a beautiful worldwide treatment of the subject that adults will enjoy as much as the kids. It covers birds, reptiles, frogs, fossils, insects, fungi, habitats and quite a bit more. It will run on a 386 PC (486 is much better) but you must have a sound board. Deborah paid \$83 for her copy but wasn't disappointed -- shop around for the best price.

## Froggy Non-happenings

**No meeting with the Minister** on licensing issues for frog species, and no meeting to date with the Director-General. The Minister's reply to our letter is on page 11.

**The Landcare grant** we had high hopes for came to nought. They may not be very rich but they certainly are consistent - our Landcare application for 1994 had suffered the same fate. Undeterred, we now put our open hat in the ring for part of a GVCO grant (for voluntary conservation agencies), together with the total catchment management people. We applied for that one also last year, on our own though, and got sunk. In the wetlands.

**A film crew** from one of the TV stations wanted the loan of some frogs ("the bigger and uglier the better!") to dare people in the street to give them (the frogs) a kiss - for money. If they do go ahead with this novel idea, the kissers might get even more money. All they have to do is to sue for having caught roundworm infection, salmonella and certainly frog rash on the lips! But after all, it's a matter of taste. A bit like sucking dogs' noses.

**President Jacques Chirac** has not yet responded to a letter we sent him on 15.8.95 on our common interest in underground testing.

L.V.

## Froggy Events

**Warringah Mall** was the scene of the "Kids, Companies and Creeks" exhibition on Friday, 25 August. The Streamwatch people organised it, there were school classes everywhere, there were businesses showing the wetlands projects they do or sponsor, there was an orchestra and fine speeches, and there was the Minister. And FATS. FATS exhibits took up a large table, two park benches (once their occupiers had moved on) and the backs of other exhibitors' display boards.

Before Dannie Ondinca and I knew it, we were surrounded by a class full of MacKellar Girls' High students, all in their Streamwatch T-shirts, stacking our handouts, folding our Frogfacts, fetching buckets of water and setting up the aquariums and cages.

This time we had real live frogs to show (4 species) and frog spawn and tadpoles. The licence for FATS was courtesy of Terra Australis and was arranged by them with Agriculture in Orange in no time at all! Being able to show live animals makes a big difference in getting the message across to the public. Many thanks, Terra Australis, and many thanks, MacKellar girls!

Among the highlights (apart from when Barbara Bird took over at lunchtime when I needed a break very badly) were the great interest shown by the community and that very nice family who minded the stand for me and then got worried because they thought I had gone home. (It just took a while to find 5 shopping trolleys in which to take everything back to the car park, miles away.)

**The Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Festival** (Frog and Wildflower Festival, as we see it) ran on the 2 - 3 September weekend. Lots of people, lots of rain on the Saturday (which for us at the FATS stand was wonderful) and again a great deal of interest in all things froglike. Jacquie, Karen, Ilze, Allison and I were being kept busy talking, handing out leaflets and signing up new members.

**Kellyville Pets** staged a local fun and animal fair on 9 - 10 September. The AHS took some of the FATS things and handouts with them to their table. Owe you one, AHS!

**Slithers and Croakers.** Find out about the intriguing frogs and reptiles of the Illawarra with Ken Griffiths. Date: 8 - 10 December. Cost: \$140 (RAOU & Friends of Barren Grounds \$130). Ring Barren Grounds Bird Observatory on (042) 360195.

**Barren Grounds Bird Observatory** is going greener still. Our new member Christine McNamara, a Warden at the Observatory, will be displaying FATS and Frog Week material at Barren Grounds. (By the way, they have a great newsletter and course program. Have a look at it at our October meeting.)

**The Cumberland Bird Observers Club** has a stack of our membership forms up their sleeve - for the rainy day when birds are in and frogs are out and

about. Well, we have a stack of theirs, in case the sun shines. Ring our new FATS member Grayham Bickley on (02) 639 7346 if you miss out on a bird form at our next meeting.

**Terrific Scientific** is the name of Caroline Straw's science shop in Annandale. This is where she will be displaying our FATS leaflets and forms - important because she is also the coordinator of the Inner Western Sydney Double Helix Club.

**Frogs of the Sydney Region.** David Stewart's new hi-fi quality tape recording, should be out in the shops in time for Frog Week.

**The Bellingen Environment Centre** is getting involved in sound recording frogs in their area for the Australian Frog Count, as their Secretary Tim Scace informed us.

**Erin Mahony** is Leanne and Michael's latest spawning success. Congratulations to all three!

**The Herp Readers' Club** now meets every third Friday of the month in the evening at the Australian Reptile Park in Gosford. Ring John Weigel on (043) 284 311.

**"O'Reilly's Frogweek"** will be at a rainforest guesthouse on the Lamington Plateau in southern Queensland from 4 to 9 February 1996. If you like casual seminars and frog spotting and don't mind spending a bit of money, ring (075) 44 0644.

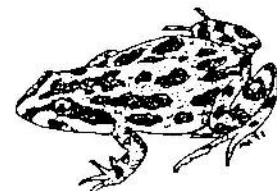
**The Conondale Range,** north of Brisbane, will be the scene of a frog search on 2 - 6 December. Michael Cunningham, of the University of Queensland on (07) 3365 1111, will lead the group.

**Cockroach traps** available at reduced rate of \$6. Ring David Millar, Australian Museum 320 6130.

**Cane Toad** viruses, fresh from Venezuela, are now in a Geelong CSIRO laboratory. Cane Toads are being inoculated with them. If lab trials prove effective, field trials will be next (ABC TV News 13.8.95)

**Ross Edwards,** the composer, will be sauntering through the woods and meadows with music in his ears. He will be gliding past some of the most spectacular frogs you are ever likely to see in close-up on SBS TV. To be seen on a 'Masterpiece' episode on a Monday at 8:30 pm, probably in October or November.

L.V.





## Frogs Afield

A letter from Lance from the far-flung frontier of this State:

Up north, things have been pretty dry and cold over winter, so it hasn't been the best time for frog activity. Recently I assisted Southern Cross University with a field trip for 60 students to Sheepstation Creek in the Border ranges National Park. This is (in good times) a really exciting place for frogging with heaps of species diversity, including finds like Green-thighed Frogs (*Litoria brevipalmata*) and Fleay's Barred Frog (*Mixophyes fleayi*). Having said that, all we managed to find was a single solitary Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*) who was calling near the dam. But at least we did get something!

Anyway, I've still been keeping an eye and ear out for any froggy activity. The Whistling Tree Frog (*Litoria verreauxii*) seems to call throughout winter and regardless of weather conditions. Any sort of rain appears to set off the *Crinias* (*signifera*, *parinsignifera* and *timula*) and likewise the Hip-pocket Frog (*Assa darlingtoni*). Incidentally, I've been working on some new interpretive signs for Mt Warning National Park, and one in particular will be devoted to the Hip-pocket Frog - it makes a great story!

Going back a bit further to last summer, I've been aware of some new records for the Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*) from the upper part of the Tweed River catchment. This is really good because I think that records of this species in the northern part of its range have been few and far between over the last few years.

In other news, I've been involved with a number of local people in putting together a local frog interest group, tentatively called the North Coast Frogwatch Group. I'm keen to encourage all potential members to also join the FATS Group and hope that it might also provide a focus for North Coast FATS Group members. Tracey Allen from Greening Schools at Lismore has done a lot of work in establishing this group, and she's also been conducting educational activities about frogs for local schools. We hope to have some promotional activities organised for Frog Week as well.

### Lance Tarvey

Down south, and in the middle, Arthur was the man on the spot:

### Green-and-Golden Bell Frogs at Kiama

Congratulations to FATS members Sandra Leonard and Jennifer Woods from Minnamurra near Kiama for making the first record of Bell Frogs from the Kiama area. The species was known historically from sites both north and south of Kiama, but there were no records of the frog from in-between. Sandra and Jennifer first observed a Green-and-Golden Bell Frog in Spring Creek at Kiama at 10 a.m. on the morning of the 1st of August 1995. The frog was initially sighted

in low vegetation overhanging the creek. They returned to the site the next day to try play-back recordings of the mating call of Bell Frogs. In response to the playing of the tape, a single Bell Frog emerged from cover and remained near the area where the tape had been played for about half an hour. Completed data sheets of the sightings and site description have been forwarded on to FATS, as well as a series of photographs of the frog. A copy of Martyn Robinson's "Field Guide to the Frogs of Australia" will be forwarded on to these ever-vigilant froggers - the FATS prize (sponsored by Reed Books) for having found a new endangered frog species study site.

### Bell Frog Reserves in the Illawarra

Two major Bell Frog sites in the Wollongong area are now officially classified as wetland reserves. A number of years ago Coomaditchy Lagoon, near Port Kembla, was declared a reserve (primarily because of the birds that use the site). Various sightings of Bell Frogs have been made at the lagoon since. A maximum of 22 Bell Frogs were recorded there last year by Thea van der Mortel, a student from the University of Wollongong. More recently, the area locally known as Koonongulla Swamp at Primbey has been declared a wetland area. Only a few sightings of Bell Frogs have ever been made at Koonongulla (also by Thea) but the site is near the Port Kembla Golf Course, where Bell Frogs have been recorded. It is most probable that those seen on the golf course originated from Koonongulla Swamp.

### Stuttering Frogs at Helensburg

University of Wollongong students John Rice and Eunice Astondoa have been undertaking a survey of frogs in the Helensburg area. Earlier this year they collected a number of tadpoles from various sites around Helensburg. From one site, they collected tadpoles which FATS tentatively identifies as *Mixophyes* (Barred River Frogs). Last month the first of these tadpoles metamorphosed and proved to be Stuttering Frogs *Mixophyes iteratus*. This is a vital record as this species has not been recorded from the central NSW region for over 20 years.

### Wallum Froglets at Vales Point

*Crinia timula* continues to turn up in new areas. In August of this year, a few Wallum Froglets were caught in pit traps set in wetland areas near Lake Mannering, near the Vales Point power station. No calling was heard at the time and the site has been surveyed for prospective habitat. Lake Mannering was once a large paperbark swamp site. It is currently used by power stations in the area as a dumping site for salt ash. Only tiny vestiges of the original paperbark swamp remain, and these will be lost when the salt ash level reaches its ultimate height.

### Olympic Frogs

Last month the second of the Fauna Impact Statements (FIS) relating to the Green-and-Golden Bell Frogs at Homebush was made public. This document, prepared by Graham Pyke of the Australian Museum, contains the first biological information about the

frogs on the site. It describes movements of frogs in and out of the State Brick Pit area, identified breeding areas, movement corridors and assessed sections of the site in terms of their importance to the survival of Bell Frogs at Homebush. There are many recommendations in the FIS but two really stand out as being indicative of the importance of the frogs at this site. The FIS recommends in very strong terms that the Brick Pit not be used as part of the Olympic development area. The Brick Pit contains the largest known population of Green-and-Golden Bell Frogs in Australia and it has been recommended that it remain as a conservation area. Newly created frog habitat has been proposed for sites outside of the Brick Pit. It is hoped that these new sites will be naturally colonised (or in some specific cases, artificially stocked) by frogs emanating from the Brick Pit. The document furthermore recommends that a long-term population and habitat requirement study be carried out on site. If these recommendations are fulfilled, the Homebush Bay Bell Frogs may prove to be the Green and Gold emblem of sensible conservation biology and endangered species management.

Arthur White

## Frogs at search & discover

At the end of last November, the Australian Museum opened search & discover, an information and resource centre. One of the main functions of search & discover is to serve as the starting point for all the public and scientific enquiries and information requests that come to the Museum. The enquiries that have come to search & discover have been highly varied. While spiders and insects are the most popular subjects for information, we are also receiving plenty of enquiries about Australia's frogs. Here is a short summary of the froggy questions people have been asking over the last nine months.

### What's that Frog?

Many of the frog enquiries we get relate to frogs in Sydney gardens. People are often surprised to find that they have frogs in their gardens, and often want them identified. The Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*) and the Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*) are easily the most common of these cases. On several occasions, live specimens of each of these species have been brought in.

Other frog species identified from specimens brought to search & discover have included a Peron's Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*) from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Tyler's Tree Frog (*Litoria tyleri*) and two Banjo Frogs (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) brought in from outside Sydney (one from Goulburn and one from Windsor).

### The Unexpected Frog

There have been several enquiries relating to frogs popping out of bunches of fruit. Of the three of these frogs brought to search & discover alive, two turned

out to be Dainty Tree Frogs (*Litoria gracilentia*) and one was a Green Tree Frog (*Litoria caerulea*).

I should also spare a thought here for the dog in Wollstonecraft who found a pair of Striped Marsh Frogs busy spawning in its water bowl. The dog's reaction is unrecorded, however the owner was happy to receive information on how to provide the frogs with an alternative spawning site.

### Voices in the Night

We have also heard the sounds of frogs in search & discover. On at least two occasions requests for identification have been accompanied by tapes of frog calls. One of these was the *Litoria tyleri*, the other was *Crinia signifera*. We keep the tapes "Frog Calls of South Eastern Australia" and "Victorian Frog Calls" handy for these occasions, and these tapes can be used as a reference by search & discover visitors. Needless to say, the sounds of frogs drifting across the room makes for a very pleasant work environment.

### Homes for the Frogs

One of the most encouraging things (from a frog's point of view) has been the large number of people wishing to improve the frog habitats on their property. The FATS Group Frogfacts sheets have been an invaluable resource in answering these enquiries. The TV programs 'Burke's Backyard' and 'Gardening Australia' have both drummed up some enthusiasm for frog pond construction. The idea for building a frog-friendly habitat often results from the discovery of a frog somewhere in the garden. However, it's not all pro-frog. While many people are keen to surround themselves with frogs, others just want to make the ones they have shut up! Consideration of one's neighbours is very clearly an important factor in setting up a frog pond.

Most people who ask search & discover about frogs have been happy to have them around and have wanted to know more about them. Not only have the Frogfacts sheets been very popular, but we have also distributed a fair number of Frog and Tadpole Study Group flyers and sign-up forms.

### The Rich Diversity of search & discover Enquiries and Resources

Apart from enquiries relating to either specific frogs or frog populations, we have also received a variety of general frog enquiries (eg "Do they have teeth?" and "What is the difference between a frog and a toad?"). Added to these are the requests for help with school and university projects.

To help enquirers find the answers to such questions, we keep a range of resources in search & discover. People are encouraged to visit search & discover to use these resources for themselves and to have a chat with the Information Officers on the staff.

In addition to the frog call tapes, our browsing library has a range of reference books, children's nature books, field guides and nature videos. If a request for information goes beyond the scope of search & dis-

cover, we are able to rely on the wealth of scientific expertise within the Museum

We also have over 20 computer information or educational packages, including two which cover frogs. These are 'Endangered Frogs of NSW' by Dr Hal Cogger (not yet available outside search & discover) and the Webster Publishing / Australian Museum CD-ROM 'Australian Reptiles and Frogs - the Multimedia Experience'. Visitors may also use the computers in search & discover to log in to the Internet and search for information on the World Wide Web. Incidentally, we would refer FATS members to "The Froggy Page" at <http://www.cs.vale.edu/homes/sjl/froggy.html>.

It has been very interesting (and educational) to follow the diversity of search & discover information requests over the last nine months. We are looking forward to the upcoming summer, whatever it may bring. "*Cry havoc and let slip the frogs of war*".

#### **Michael Harvey**

Information Officer - search & discover

To contact search & discover:

Phone: (02) 320 6202

Fax: (02) 320 6065

email: [sand@amsg.Austrmus.oz.au](mailto:sand@amsg.Austrmus.oz.au)

Address: search & discover

The Australian Museum

6 College Street

Sydney NSW 200

### **Hal Cogger - a Friend Moves On**

In my youth the most useful frog book available was 'The Frogs of New South Wales' by H G Cogger. It was a reader friendly and affordable field guide to this State's species and introduction to the biology of frogs. Publishing technology, the state of knowledge of our frog fauna and the taxonomy of frogs have all advanced considerably since 1960 but the value of this handbook, relative to its time, has probably not yet been surpassed.

Hal Cogger, the author of this little volume, retired recently from his position as Deputy Director of the Australian Museum. When people retire it is common for a plethora of superlatives, describing hitherto covert virtues to be unleashed by well wishers in a sort of euphoric frenzy, then to be forgotten and not revisited till their wake. Such artifice is quite unnecessary in speaking of Hal, rather, one must be too selective as his achievements are many. However, while his career

has been a model to inspire young herpetologists he is, above all, a thoroughly decent man. Not only decent but he has always been a respected supporter of the interests of non-professional herpetologists. As a young man Hal was active in the fledgling Australian Herpetological Society and was feature being 'bitten' by a Brown Snake in a film they produced called 'Strange Fascination'. He has been a valued friend and confidant to many members of the Frog and Tadpole Study Group while on numerous occasions Hal's talks enthralled members of the AHS and other groups. I particularly remember the time that, after field work in New Guinea, a Pitted Shelled Turtle hatched in his hand as he addressed a meeting.

Hal started his working life as a Cadet Preparator at the Australian Museum alongside Roy Mackay (founder of the AHS) and, the story is told, had to sharpen his special Government issue pocket knife daily for use in taxidermy. Encouraged by the Director, Dr J W Evans, and with hard work and determination he undertook part-time studies and graduated from Sydney University in 1959, after which he was appointed to the Department of Reptiles and Amphibians with J R Kinghorn. He obtained an MSc, again at Sydney University, and in 1962 was promoted to become head of his department. Hal took three years leave to further his study of an arid zone lizard, the Mallee Dragon, *Ctenophorus fordi*, towards a PhD, awarded in 1970 by Macquarie University. In 1976 Dr Cogger was appointed Deputy Director of the Australian Museum, a position he held till his retirement.

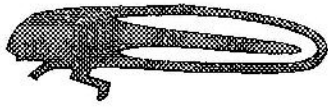
Hal's eminent international standing is unquestioned - Vice President of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, Member of the Executive of the World Congress of Herpetology, and so on. Within our own country he has occupied several prestigious positions and is Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Australian Biological Resources Study. Hal's best known book, 'Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia', first published in September 1975, has remained through each edition the ultimate handbook for those interested in Australian reptiles and frogs.

I could write further of his authorship, his photography, his assistance to promising herpetologists and other achievements, all significant facets of his work, but after that, what would stand out is his sincerity, his wisdom, his commitment and his humility. Surely all who know him and have been encouraged by him, with those who use his work, would join in wishing Hal ongoing and outstanding success in this new phase of his continuing career.

**David Millar**

### **Are Froggers Declining Too?**

With regrets, we had to delete a number of old members from our mailing list, for having become and having stayed non-financial. FATS has to be lean to keep costs down for you. If you can help by enticing some of your friends to join, the loss will not be so severe.



# Tadpole Page

with Deborah Pergolotti

Hey kids!

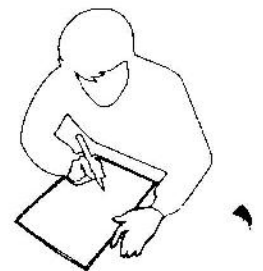
Here's a word game for you to try. It's harder than hopping over a big rock. See if you can find more words than mum or dad.

All the words in this puzzle are froggy things like the names of some common frogs, the food frogs eat and some of the things we use to study frogs. There are 19 words hidden in the letters.

The answers will be in the next newsletter. Good luck.

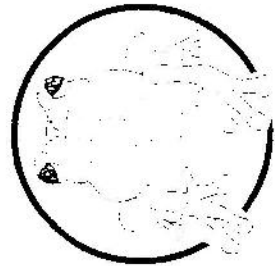


L	E	H	E	S	W	X	F	R	O	G	C	A	L	L	H	J	O
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R	L	Y	A	A	S	E	N	F	P	A	Y	L	P	Q	F	M	V
I	B	K	O	P	L	B	T	L	W	R	Q	I	P	J	E	K	E
C	N	M	U	E	V	F	R	A	A	B	F	E	O	W	E	W	G
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E	M	J	E	E	V	Q	E	K	P	O	W	L	C	M	T	J	S
T	X	S	K	C	C	P	F	A	H	Q	R	N	X	F	S	D	B
S	N	I	W	O	T	M	R	J	I	K	H	P	I	L	N	E	T
Y	O	E	F	R	B	S	O	V	B	A	N	I	H	A	O	O	D
J	H	O	X	D	L	I	G	F	I	J	P	Q	L	B	R	L	F
B	N	S	W	E	V	N	L	Y	A	M	O	T	H	S	E	E	P
C	I	I	C	R	C	A	E	A	N	V	E	K	F	C	P	Y	L
M	T	S	P	K	F	S	X	Q	B	W	A	T	E	R	K	B	J



Hint: the words you are looking for are Perons tree frog, frogcoll, glass jar, Striped Marsh frog, net, crickets, tadpole, metamorph, Green tree frog, insects, flies, eggs, tape recorder, wetlands, water, amplexus, moths, amphibian and hopping.





The Frog and Tadpole  
 Study Group of MSN Inc  
 FATS GROUP  
 PO Box A7405  
 Sydney South, NSW 2000

15 August 1995

Monsieur Chirac  
 President de la Republique  
 Palais de l'Elysee  
 55 rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honore  
 75008 Paris  
 France

Dear Mr President,

**Possibility of Espionage**

We have reason to believe that French underground test results have been, or are about to be, revealed to China

Correspondence has been received by us for publication, containing what we believe to be sensitive information on subterranean sensory monitoring of French underground testing. We feel that information of this nature may aid other countries in reconstructing your tests

Although we know little of the person who passed this correspondence on to us, we are certain that he is of French origin and that he is now of Chinese nationality. In communicating with us he uses the code name "Claude" but does not state his address

We are not a political organisation but we have become concerned about developments in this area. For this reason we are enclosing the relevant publications for your information

Yours sincerely,

*Loblar Voigt*  
 Loblar Voigt  
 President

Enclosed

*Froglets* No. 18 refers to the explosion of a device and to the apparatus used for establishing subterranean visual contact at underground testing sites

*Froglets* No. 11 - 17 refers to previous irregular and suspicious behaviour by the person code-named "Claude"

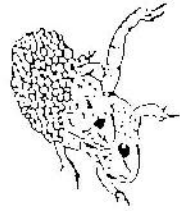
Current and  
 FATS Group are  
 involved

*Endangered Frog  
 Survey*

A study of the  
 habitat, climate,  
 history, present  
 distribution and  
 population of  
 the species of  
 frog living in  
 NSW. Facts  
 and figures are  
 included in the  
 National Park  
 Council Report

*Frog Book*

Just work your  
 fingers. Make  
 a hole in the  
 paper to form  
 a hole. Attention  
 and interest in  
 dampen frog.  
 We encourage  
 much public in  
 volume



**Our Letter to President Chirac**

*Frogcall* is the uniquely named newsletter for calling on the frogs to abandon all testing without delay. We wrote to M Chirac in a form designed to bypass his shredder and to keep his Secret Service out of further mischief by giving them something more worthwhile to do

Although we enclosed with our letter back copies of the last eight issues of *Frogcall*, as well as a membership application form, the President has not yet responded to it.

L.V.



**Claude Can't Stop Testing 'em**

*Comrade Suk Wah, where are you? - Here, Comrade Mei Ling, behind this spinifex bush. You keep humping into me instead of following procedures.*

*Stop! 'Ands up! I 'ave you two surrounded!*

*Goodness, are you a frogman?*

*I am an agent from ze Secret Service. I sink ze Rainbow Warriors. I protect zis 'ole in ze ground. It is for our underground testing, not for you to climb out of! What were you doing in there?*

*But it's our hole. We come from China.*

*Zis end belongs to France! The 'ole is on French soil, because I am standing over it. Ah, I see your uniforms, zey 'ave 'Secret Police' written on zem. Are you colleagues?*

*Comrades. We were guarding the other end of the hole, but the Australian ambassador pushed us in. He thought we were guarding the Women's Conference.*

**Sh!! Listen! Can you 'ear ze thumping in ze distance? Maybe ze testing is beginning!**

Whose testing? Ours? - Look, there are people with torches over there. We should follow procedures. - Yes, let's spy on them.

**Me, too! Be'ind zese salt bushes!**

They are all hopping around in a circle. And they are thumping the ground as hard as they can! What are they doing? - Some of them are Aborigines. I think they are teaching the other one a dance.

**Mon Dieu, zat one is Claude! I 'ave been shadowing zis fellow. Le canard, 'e stuffed 'is French passport down ze testing 'ole! Look at 'im now trampling ze red sand!**

What are they saying? - We must get closer and listen.

That's it, Claude, you're getting the hang of it. Stomp harder! All together!

**This is hard work! It's all Arthur's fault. If he hadn't told me about you Koories testing for holes in the sand like this ... Wait - is that one?**

Sure is. See how the sand sagged into the hole, leaving a crack around it? - That's where we dig. Outta my way! - She's digging away at the hole from the side, so that the loose sand falls out of it, not into it.

**I should have brought a spade from my hardware shop. But you're a metre down already! Don't you think it's easier just to drink tap water?**

Yuck!! - Got it! Big one. Waterholding Frog. - Give it to Claude. Here, hold it up, squeeze it, thumb down, point it into your mouth. - Nice and cool, eh?

**Real cool, yes. Are they always like this?**

No, at Maralinga they're hot. They're probably growing extra legs after what the Brits did to the place. - Didn't even ask us. Didn't even bother digging holes.

**So you couldn't even stuff your passports down their testing holes.**

Gee, you're quick. - What passports?

**I think I just heard something! It sounded familiar. Let's listen, I think there's a frog somewhere. Here, why don't you stand there very quietly and point this torch at those bushes, and you stand there, at an angle, and when you both have a bearing on the same frog, switch your torches on at the same time and where the beams intersect, there is your frog!**

Yeah, we call it triangulation, but we do it with our spears. Like this! - And like this! - Ha, haah!

**OUCH! OW! - Merde, we are discovered! - Our cover is blown! - Jump, jump for your lives! -**

**Into zis 'ole, our testing 'ole! - Where is the manhole cover? As undercover agents we insist... Ooop! - Aaaaaaaah' - 'elppp! - Thump. Thump. Thump.**

Wow, did you hear that bang? That must have been some test!

**Look how this huge hole caved in! Do you think there's a real big frog in there?**

And other things that go bump in the night - Probably best just to cover it up. It would become a pitfall trap for wildlife otherwise.

**Here, can you give me a hand with this manhole cover? Don't worry, I have plenty more over there. I collect them for my shop.**

L.V.

**The Sydney Morning Herald**

...ected Government of  
salvador Allende. - Reuter

### Covers blown

BEIJING: More than 200 Beijing residents fell down open manholes after thieves stole the covers last year, the *Economic Daily* reported here yesterday. A 60-kilogram iron cover can be sold for more than 100 yuan (\$16). - Reuter

### Teen turn-~~o~~

WASHINGTON  
ber

**Thursday, September 14, 1995**



**Our Logo Frog**

In keeping with our growing stature, we are seeking a more serious / artistic / professional / unusual / different logo frog. (Or FATS motif, if not a frog as such.) To grace our letterheads, publications and maybe our 'round seal' which we are required to have. Please send us your ideas, and/or your completed artwork, whichever you can do.





MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
NEW SOUTH WALES

Level 29 St James Centre, 111 Elizabeth Street, Sydney 2000  
Telephone: (02) 233 3631 Fax: (02) 233 3617

In reply please quote NP 95/05013

Mr I Voigt  
President  
The Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW Inc  
PO Box A2405  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 2000

06 SEP 1995

Dear Mr Voigt,

I refer to your letter of 15 June 1995 concerning frog conservation, the National Parks and Wildlife Service's proposals for a licensing system to allow the keeping of amphibians by private people and seeking a meeting with me to discuss matters of interest to your members.

I appreciate your organisation's interest in the conservation of frogs and their habitat and I understand your concern to maintain public awareness and interest in these issues. The organisation is to be commended for research and promotional work it undertakes or encourages.

So far as the proposed licensing of private collections of amphibians is concerned, I do not support your proposal to allow the unrestricted and unmonitored collection of any species from the wild. This would be tantamount to declaring the species as no longer protected. Furthermore, provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act would have to be amended to allow the unlicensed collection of frogs, tadpoles and frog eggs from the wild and I am not prepared to support such an amendment at this time.

I note that the Group has recently separated from the Australian Herpetological Society (AHS) and the Director-General of the Service has advised me that the AHS itself has recently suggested that matters relating to amphibian keeping should in future be discussed with your organisation. Accordingly, I have asked the Director-General to separate the amphibian proposals from those relating to reptiles so that both may progress independently.

As you have also written to the National Parks and Wildlife Service concerning various aspects of the proposed licensing system, the issues raised will be examined by the Service and the Director-General will reply to you direct in due course.

I regret that at the present time I am unable to make a commitment to meet with representatives your organisation. However, I have asked the Director-General to make officers of the Service available to pursue issues of interest to your group.

Yours sincerely

*Pam Allan*

PAM ALLAN, MP  
Minister for the Environment

By JAMES WOODFORD  
Environment Writer

The revenge of the toadlet has begun.

Warty, poisonous, diminutive red-crowned toadlets are winning court cases, dominating the pages of environmental

magazines and are they have short stumpy legs, "as if they walk rather than jump."

They are so poisonous that they have no known predators, do not lay their eggs in water and surface from their burrows so rarely that most Sydneysiders will never see one.

But in the four years since toadlets joined the endangered species list they have become such a force that Dr Hal Cogger, the deputy director of the Australian Museum, has decided to end a 40-year career in scientific research with a swipe at anyone who dares to ignore them.

"Most developers say, 'It's a bloody frog - why should we worry about a bloody frog?'," said Dr Cogger.

"But it does matter because its habitat is declining at a phenomenal rate."

In a recent court case between Warringah Council and developers Ardel Ltd, Dr Cogger persuaded Justice Pearlman of the Land and Environment Court that a development for 63 lots at Allambie was unacceptable because of its likely effect on a breeding colony.

Even the offer by the developers of a tunnel - described by the judge as a "toadlet tunnel" - to assist the toadlets in their travels was unacceptable. Dr Cogger said, because they probably would not use it.

"Anyone developing anything or wanting to do anything in Hawkesbury sandstone areas on the harbour's shores, on the northern peninsula, the North Shore, down south around Waterfall and the perimeter of the Royal National Park is likely to encounter it," he said.

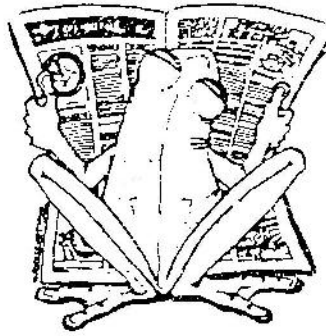
A street has even been named Red-crowned Close in a housing subdivision close to a toadlet colony in Winmalee.

Ms Karen Thumm, an amphibian consultant for the Australian Museum, is fighting several developments in the Hornsby area.

More and more developments are being built around the cliff-top areas that the toadlets inhabit, she said.

"The places the toadlets live have got good views over the valleys; it's where people want to live," Ms Thumm said.

SMH 21 7 95



## Coming Soon - Read all about it!

- What do we do about banana frogs? And why and how and who?
- E.I.D. for frog cages ( that's 'Ethologically Informed Design' of course)
- What a Frog Week we had
- When the Cane Toads come to Sydney
- Your letters, cards and calls (please)
- Something so gruesome you'll just have to wait

### The Committee

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Martyn Robinson	Chairman	(02) 320 6364
David Millar	Secretary	(02) 796 8526 (h)
Arthur White	Treasurer, ENDFROGS consultant	(02) 599 1161 (h & fax)
Harald Ehmann	ENDFROGS coord. & data, FROG WEEK (scientific)	018-257 585 fax (08) 270 3280
Giselle Howard	<i>FROGCALL</i> ed, Membership Sec.	(02) 897 5066 (h)
Philip Green	Schools	(043) 882 321 (ph & fax)
Frank Lemckert	Field trips	(02) 487 4345 (h)
Michael Mahony	ENDFROGS consultant	(049) 772 773 (h)
Jacque Recsei	Catering	(02) 476 2853
Karen Thumm	Media	(02) 482 1017 (ph & fax)

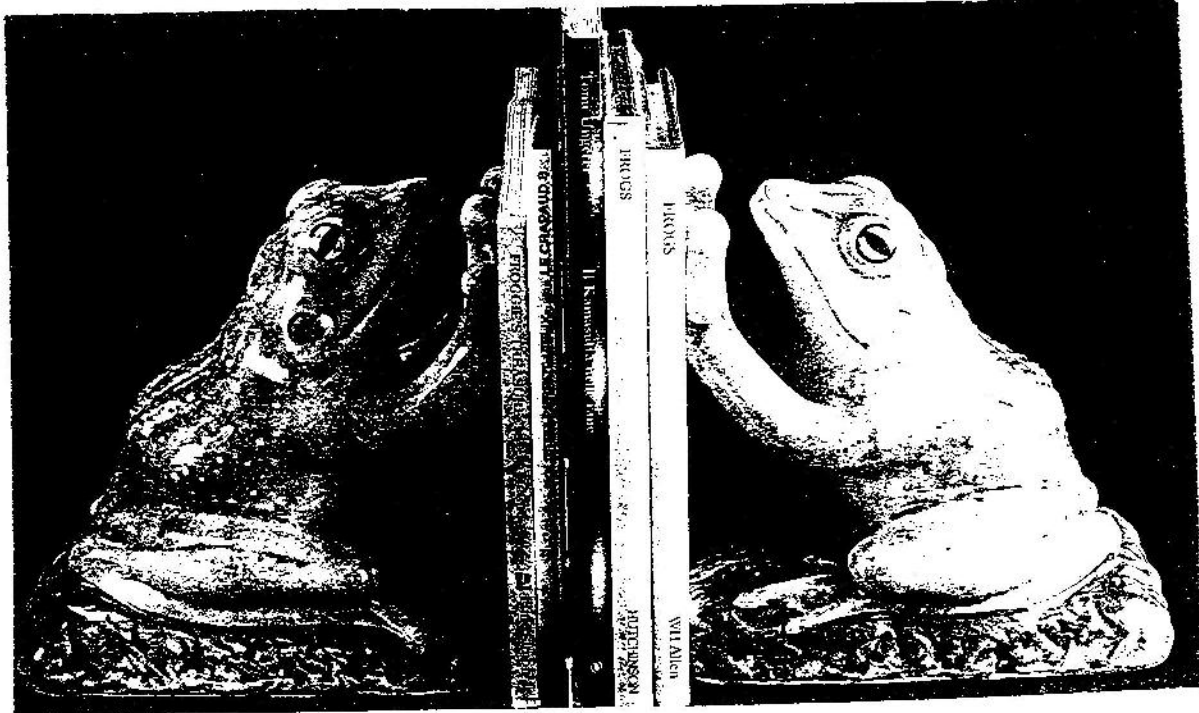


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Ribuoli & Robbiani, 'Frogs - Art, Legend, History', Bullfinch, Boston



Endfrogs