

FROG CALL



THE FROG AND TADPOLE
STUDY GROUP OF NSW INC

NUMBER 27 - JANUARY 1997
PO Box A2405
Sydney South NSW 2000

THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 7th February at 7:00 pm for a 7:30 start
at the Australian Museum (William St. entrance)
The meeting will finish by 9:30 with coffee afterwards.

SPEAKERS:

Main Speaker	Marion Anstis on Tadpoles of the Sydney Region A frog of the Sydney region: <i>Litoria fallax</i> , the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog
Everybody	My 5 favourite frog slides (or 5 minutes - whichever comes first)

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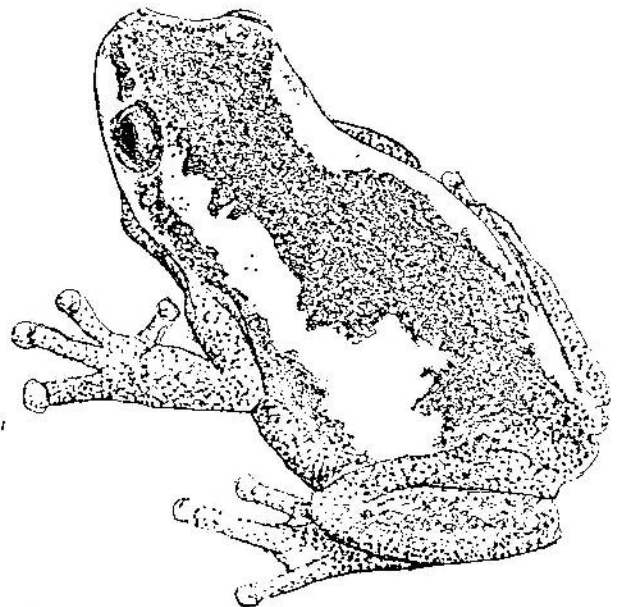
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REGULAR FEATURES

News and announcements, field trips, projects, refreshments!
Auction, discussions, gossip, welcome table, things you can buy!
No \$2 door donation for paid-up members: 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, Oct and Dec.) at 7 pm for a 7.30 start. Visitors are welcome. We are actively involved in monitoring frog populations and in other frog studies, and we produce the newsletter *FROG CALL* and *FROG-ACTS* information sheets.

Litoria dentata



THE LAST MEETING (6.12.96)

A. The Extraordinary Meeting

We kicked off with the promised election of the committee for the rest of the financial year. Nominations were received and nominees elected unopposed for all but two of the positions. The new committee members, and the remaining vacancies, are thus:

President:	Martyn Robinson	93206364 w
Chairman:	Giselle Howard	98975066 h
Treasurer:	Arthur White	95991161 h
Secretary:	Lothar Voigt	93719129 h
Editorial Committee:	Karen Thumm	94821017 h
	Alison Frappell	94893366 h
	Monica Wangmann	97976543 h
Publicity Officer:	Michael Harvey	93206202 w
Field Trip Co-ord.:	Frank Lemckert	94874345 h
Exhibition Co-ord.:	vacant	
Librarian:	vacant	

It is especially pleasing to have a couple of new faces on the committee as we always can do with an injection of new ideas and fresh viewpoints. So welcome to Alison and Monica and we hope you will find it a challenging but rewarding experience.

As the outgoing President, Lothar thanked the old committee, recalled their excellent work and the Group's major events over the last half year, and he congratulated the new committee.

B. THE MORE ORDINARY MEETING

Frogs of the O'Hares Creek Area was Jenny Taylor's and Peter Harlow's talk and slide show. They were back from a frog and reptile survey for the National Parks Association. The site, between Campbelltown, Appin and the Holsworthy Army Base, was locked away by the Water Board for 75 years. It has pristine vegetation, a koala colony, a smart snake (it worked out how to bite through Peter's leather gloves) and lots of other reptiles. The frogs were holding out for rain though; *Litoria citropa*, the Blue Mountains Tree Frog, was just about the only species seen during the first six months of the survey. So Jenny and Peter had plenty of time raising up the local tadpoles to see what they turned into. In the end they ended up with 24 frog species: 14 actually seen and the rest heard and also from Arthur's and Frank's historical records. Two threatened ground frogs (*Pseudophryne australis* and *Heleioporus australiacus*) turned up and one threatened tree frog (*Litoria littlejohnii*). The area, thank goodness, is now a State Recreation Area and Nature Reserve.

"A frog of the Sydney region": Martyn provided us with an entertaining expose on the habits of the bleating tree frog, *Litoria dentata*. You'll find his handout on page 8.

The auction raked in an astounding \$262, an all-time record. The donors were simply overcome by generosity, and the bidders didn't mind getting screwed by Martyn the auctioneer. This is what the donors brought in:

Ros Dight	Purse made of dried Cane Toad
Lothar Voigt	Frog with false beard, Pickerel rush, fish
Steve Kum Jew	Dwarf Papyrus, <i>Nymphoides germata</i>
Deb Stevenson	Pocket Frog

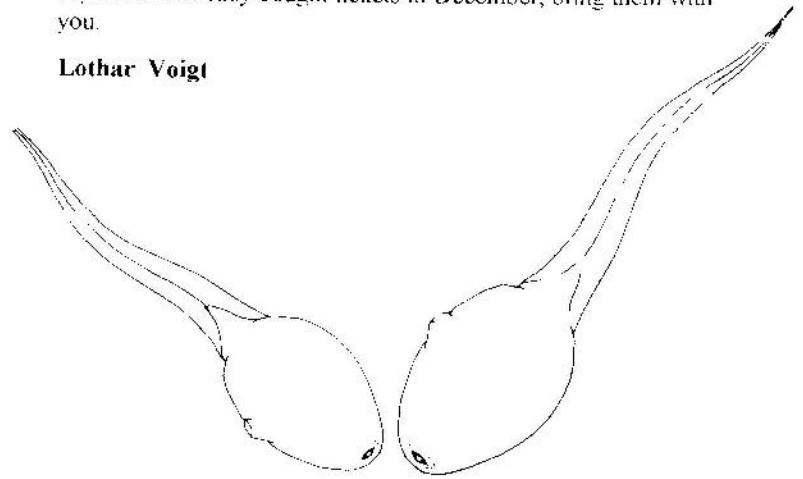
Diane Eva	Frog underwear
Terry Cheate	Tea towels
Rainer Enke	Eau de cologne
Katherine Wangmann	Frog in egg basket

A tribute to the unknown donor (with apologies for not being able to write fast enough):

Stick pen with frog
Bookmark leaf frog
Bog frog with toilet brush.

A sandstone frog sculpture will be raffled at the next meeting. If you have already bought tickets in December, bring them with you.

Lothar Voigt



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Field trips for the following few months are as follows:-

February

31st of January: Manly Dam. As easy walk down into the Manly Dam area from the Warringah Aquatic Centre in Allambie Heights. There should be a chance to see Common Froglets, Lesueur's Frogs, Leaf Green Tree Frogs and Striped Marsh Frogs and, with some luck, Red-crowned Toadlets. We will meet at the western end of the car park at 7-30PM.

7th-9th of February: Dorrigo. Yes, I will be back at that place doing some more fieldwork and if people would like to come up and see a few frogs (see report in this newsletter for more excitement) then please call me to make arrangements. The cost will be \$5 per person per night plus looking after your own food requirements. Bring your own bedding.

8th of March: Heathcote Swamps. Well its actually a large and small quarry pit which have been flooded for some years and hold a few frogs. If you like some easy frogging with a chance to see at least 6 species then this is the trip for you. Meet at the eastern side of the Heathcote railway station from which it is but a brief car ride and walk to get to the site. A post frogging tea and cakes may just be arranged at one of the friendly natives' nearby huts.

Contact: Frank Lemckert for all field trips.

F.L.

RECENT FIELD TRIPS



Barren Grounds not so barren

The November "Slithers and Croaks" weekend at the Barren Grounds Bird Observatory was a great success in that 16 species of Herps were found, with two being new sightings for Barren Grounds. Ten species of frogs were observed between Barren Grounds and the Carrington Falls area. They were, Bleating Tree Frog (*Litoria dentata*), Lesueur's Frog (*L. lesueurii*), Heath Frog (*L. littlejohnii*), Peron's Tree Frog (*L. peronii*), Leaf Green Tree Frog (*L. nudidigitis?*), Whistling Tree Frog (*L. verreauxii*), Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*), Haswell's Frog (*Paracrinia haswelli*), Brown Toadlet (*Pseudophryne hibronii*), and of course Eastern Froglets (*Crinia signifera*) by the bucket full. The wardens, Raoul and Christina, provided the group of 9 with the usual four star hospitality. The Barren Grounds is most noted for its variety of bird and plant species; however there is also a good variety of mammals, reptiles and frogs. Any one who has not been to the Barren Grounds for either a day visit or a week-end course is missing out on one of the most interesting places within a short drive of Sydney. Barren Grounds can be contacted on (042) 360-195.

Foot note:

The following Saturday I returned to Carrington Falls where no less than 20 Blue Mountains Tree Frogs (*Litoria citropa*) and about the same number of Lesueur's Frogs were observed. No Heath Frogs were heard or seen at the Barren Grounds, however a Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*) was observed which I believe is the first (official) adult sighting for the reserve.

Ken Griffiths

(Ed. note: There is also a specimen of *Heleioporus australiacus* from Barren Grounds in the AM collection, but it is great to have seen one again!)

Dorrigo

23-25 November 1996

A week of fieldwork by myself was followed by a weekend for FATS members to enjoy the froggy delights of the Dorrigo area. Unfortunately, Dorrigo proved to be as unpredictable as ever and the weekend remained grey and cold. This was unfortunate from the frog point of view and appears to have been the main cause only three FATS people, Ken and Lou (along with Arthur White hanging on from helping me during the week) turned up to enjoy the chance to see a number of rare frogs. The cold conditions did not make frogging easy and luckily I had retained a number of species of frogs from my wanderings through the week and so Ken and Lou managed to see most things on offer. The main species of interest were the Giant Barred Frog *Mixophyes iteratus*, Southern Barred Frog *M. balbus*, New England Tree Frog *Litoria subglandulosa* and Hippocket Frog *Assa darlingtoni*. I also managed to see Sphagnum Frogs *Phyloria sphagnicolus* and their eggs, and

have all three species of *Mixophyes* in hand at once (I ended up seeing a total of 15 species by the end of the week). Unfortunately for Ken, we did not manage to catch a single Great Barred Frog *Mixophyes fasciolatus* after he had arrived, and I had already released the ones previously caught. This embarrassed me as I insisted that we would see dozens of them as they are really common up there. Instead, we just kept catching those damned Southern Barred Frogs (which I of course said would be the rarest). Ken and Arthur got in a few good shots and I expect some will be seen at the next meeting. With a bit of luck I can organise such a trip again and hopefully get some better weather. Dorrigo is a beautiful place and the frogging remains as good there as anywhere in NSW. Any confirmed frogophiles will never forget having gone there.

F.L.

Smiths Lake Field Trip

30 November - 2 December 1996

Like a plague of locusts, FATS descended on Smiths Lake. Frog-hungry souls arrived from far flung places to search for secretive amphibians. The throng consisted of Paul and Greti, Ken, Debbie, Brett and Chloe, the O'Briens were represented by Charles (the chauffeur), Marcelle, Laurence and Sandra; and finally Sam and Adele Avery (see what a little pressure can do). The stage was set for action. Ken Gover shared his knowledge of the bird world with us.

After a strenuous day at Seal Rocks the group assembled at night to attack Wallingat State Forest. The waterholes were jumping with frogs. In particular, Tyler's Tree Frog *Litoria tyleri* was in fine voice and amplexing pairs were found and ogled. Large numbers of Dwarf Tree Frogs *Litoria fallax* added to the communal screech. Fewer numbers of Whirring Tree Frogs *Litoria revelata* and Peron's Tree Frogs *Litoria peronii* were heard. On the ground were Tusk Frogs *Adelotus brevis*, Smooth Toadlets *Uperoleia laevigata*, Common Eastern Froglets *Crinia signifera* and Striped Marsh Frogs *Limnodynastes peronii*. A single Barred Frog *Mixophyes fasciolatus* was "wark warking" away and led the group a merry dance of frustration. He was not found, but FATS doesn't give up easily.

Sam Avery disappeared into a hole and reappeared with a handful of Leaf-tailed Geckoes.

Further frogs searches in other parts of the forest failed to add to the species list. Pit buckets were buried in the swamp behind the field station in an attempt to catch the calling Wallum Froglets *Crinia muula* and Freycinet's Frog *Litoria freycineti*. They also eluded capture. Back at camp, a Sugar Glider was spotted in a small wattle tree. A few red-necked wallabies were grazing on the lawn in the morning.

Ken Gover impressed the group with his fondness for native invertebrates. His charity in feeding a selection of ticks and leeches did not go un-noticed (although Ken didn't notice the leech until next morning). A captive pair of Smooth Toadlets spawned during the night. Surprisingly, the spawn was

divided into seven clumps comprising 20, 29, 12, 15, 26, 23 and 38 eggs (total 163 eggs).

Another day of being a sight-seer followed by a relax at the beach. The next night saw us return to Wallingat. The species list did not change except for the addition of Red-backed Toadlets *Pseudophryne coriacea*. Using finely-tuned triangulation skills, Sam and I nailed the elusive Barred Frog. To top it off several large tadpoles of this species were also found.

The night in the forest also revealed two large Diamond Pythons, a bandicoot and a Red-necked Pademelon.

So despite the absence of rain, Smiths Lake again induced frog-fever amongst the FATS adventurers.

A.W.

IN SEARCH OF VICTORIAN BELL FROGS

In December, froggers from New South Wales and Victoria converged on the tiny township of Cann River in north-eastern Victoria. The quest was to find frogs - especially Green and Golden Bell Frogs. NSW was only represented by three froggers, Graham Pyke, Trent and Arthur White. The Victorians were in force. Many members of the Victorian Frog and Tadpole Study Group were present including executive members Graeme Gillespie, Gerry Marantelli and Michael Scroggie. Others included Keir Jarvis, Richard Jackson, Michael Burton, Kate Milkins, Letitia Hodson, Dave Stewart, Jodelle, Paul and Kelly. The Victorian FATS people had several quests, including checking out the few known localities for Giant Burrowing Frogs *Heleioporus australiacus* and Stuttering Frogs *Mixophyes balbus*. Neither species were found. Others were checking out the local frog fauna. Several species were found including Ewing's Tree Frog *Litoria ewingii*, Verreaux's Frog, *L. verreauxii*, Leaf-green Tree Frog *L. phyllochroa*, blue Mountains Tree Frog *L. citropa*, Peron's Tree Frog, *L. peronii*, Lesueur's Frog *L. lesueurii*, Eastern Pobblebonk *Limnodynastes dumerilii*, Striped Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes peronii*, Haswell's Frog, *Paracrinia haswelli*, Martin's Toadlet *Uperoleia martini*, Yellow Toadlet *Pseudophryne dendyui*, and of course the Common Eastern Froglet *Crinia signifera*. The frogging was quite good and fairly productive.

Our main task was finding Bell frogs. We began by checking out a number of historical sites around Mallacoota. Barbara Triggs, a resident of Mallacoota was able to provide some useful observations about the populations surges of Bell frogs over the last twenty years in the area. A number of coastal sites were visited, some with Bell frogs, others abandoned. At each site, a complete habitat evaluation was carried out, including water quality measurements, plant associations, history of the site, fish species present etc. Bell frogs were found in a number of coastal areas, including many natural sites. However, Bell frogs proved to be consistent in that only tadpole and spawning sites found were

man-made dams, quarries or pits. Some highland sightings were checked out and evidence of Bell Frog migration up mountain streams was accumulated.

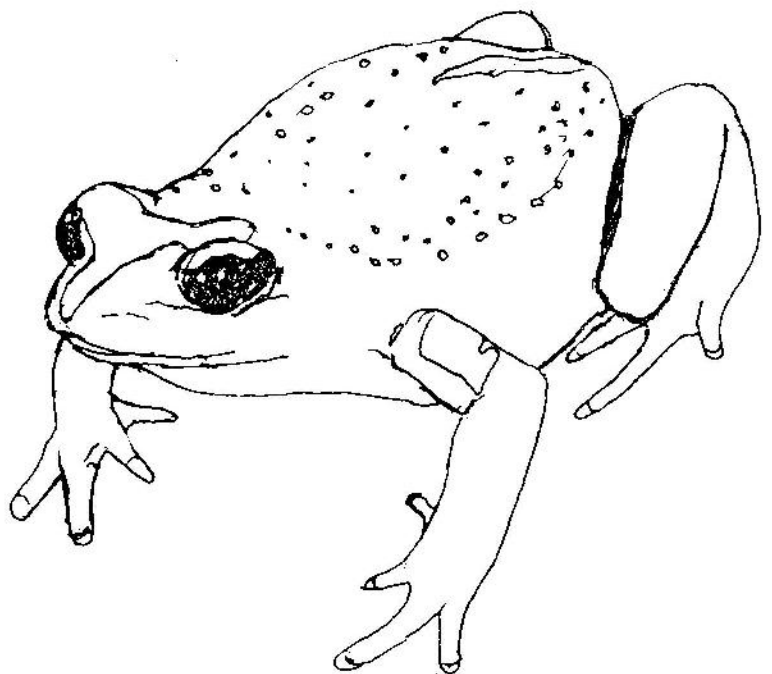
The Gippsland sites where the Bell frogs were found were relatively undisturbed, coastal lagoons and streams. This sort of habitat has disappeared from much of New South Wales. Fortunately, these waterways free of the introduced fish the Plague Minnow (Mosquito Fish) *Gambusia holbrooki*. Our surveys of the rivers of NSW showed that *Gambusia* had travelled as far south as Eden and was knocking on the Victorian door. Victorians could not be completely complacent about the vitality of the frog populations in the northern Gippsland as Redfin Perch had invaded some of the waterways.

We also took the opportunity to travel down to the hybrid zone of Green and Golden Bell Frogs *L. aurea* and the closely related Southern Bell Frog *L. raniformis*. We were unable to locate definite hybrid animals but some of the Green and Golden Bell Frogs in this zone had unusual markings.

The time spent observing Green and Golden Bell frogs in the northern Gippsland was a pit of time warp for me. To see Bell frogs in coastal lagoons and in coastal rivers is virtually an impossibility in New South Wales, yet this was how Bell frogs lived in our state until fairly recently. The species has enough plasticity in its habitat requirements that it has managed to survive in alternate, man-made habitats in NSW, but it was very disquieting to mull over the differences between the life style of Victorian Bell Frog compared to that of our Bell Frogs. Perhaps Jeff Kennett is also a frog god.

This trip also provided a good opportunity to see other Victorian fauna, such as Tiger Snakes, Yellow-Bellied Gliders, Bobucks, Sugar gliders and a Myriad of birds and lizards.

Arthur White



Sick and Dead Frogs in Northeast New South Wales and Southeast Queensland

Since May 1996 there have been a number of reports of sick and/or dead frogs of several species, mostly in northeast NSW and southeast Queensland. Some populations seem to have suffered substantial mortalities whilst others have only been slightly affected.

Based on these reports Environment Australia's Endangered Species Unit has to date convened two teleconferences of the Queensland and Northern NSW Threatened Frogs Recovery Team (TFRT). A series of actions to help monitor the situation have been resolved upon.

Currently monitoring is being carried out on the Main Range and Lamington National Park areas of southeast Queensland, primarily for *Mixophyes fleayi*. A proposal for a mark-recapture study of a *M. fleayi* population (using PIT tags rather than toe-clippings) in an area in Lamington N.P. has been approved to attempt to determine the rate and extent to which a possible illness is affecting a population.

Efforts are being made to involve Brisbane frog groups to survey urban and rural areas in and around Brisbane where significant mortalities of the *Litoria caerulea*, *Limnodynastes terraereginae* and *Adelotus brevis* were reported between May and October 1996.

Pathology tests have been conducted on some of the dead and terminally ill frogs collected. Although a number of pathology changes have been detected none are diagnostic of any specific cause. No indications have been found of fungal or bacterial disease. Further tests are continuing. The work is being co-ordinated by the Animal Health Laboratory at Geelong

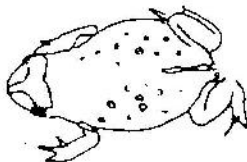
The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is currently working on establishing the extent and nature of the problem, and does not intend to involve the general public at this stage. No reports of sick and/or dead frogs have been received over the last month, and the cause of the mortalities may have disappeared, at least for this summer.

It should be noted that any person collecting live or dead frogs must be appropriately authorised under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, however should you observe sick or dead frogs it may aid in the collection of data on the problem if you report your observations (please note the species, location found and the type of environment) to NP&WS Threatened Species Officer Nick Sheppard on phone 066 598 231 or fax 066 516 187. Any stage (eggs, tadpoles, metamorphs, juveniles and adults) should be reported if dead, ill or exhibiting abnormal behaviour.

Symptoms that Sick Frogs may Exhibit

Bodily Symptoms

- darker or blotchy upper (dorsal) surface
- reddish/pink tinged lower (central) surface, legs and webbing of feet
- prominent vascularisation
- swollen hind limbs
- very thin or emaciated
- deformed
- skin lesions
- infected eyes



Behavioural Symptoms

- Lethargic limb movements, especially hind limbs, and shows little or no movement when touched
- Abnormal behaviour (e.g. a nocturnal, burrowing or arboreal frog sitting in the open during the day) and making no vigorous attempt to escape

Test

Tap frog just above eye
Turn frog on its back
Hold frog by its mouth

Healthy

Frog will blink
Frog will flick back over
Frog will use forelimbs
to try to remove grip

Sick

Frog will not blink
Frog will remain on back
No response from frog

Based on information sent by Gary Davey, Manager, Threatened Species, and Nick Sheppard, Threatened Species Officer, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. This article was approved of by the NP&WS (17/01/97)
Alison Frappell

The Science Page

with Michael Harvey

World Wide Web Frogs

The World Wide Web is huge, and constantly growing. Out there in cyberspace, there are over 50 million pages, covering subjects from Anarchy to Zoological Parks and everything in between. So where is a frogger to start? There aren't even any frog calls to triangulate. Or are there? Let's take a quick spin through some of the frog sites on the web, and see where they can be found.

The World Wide Web is just one aspect of the Internet. Documents on the Web can include text, pictures, sound files, animation and video footage. These documents can be linked to each other, so that looking at one document can lead you to a host of related sites, and so on. Hopping from site to site either on a search for information or from simple curiosity is known as "surfing the Web". To get at these documents or "Web sites", you need a browser programme, most commonly *Netscape*, *Mosaic* or *Microsoft Internet Explorer*. Every Web site has an address, usually prefaced by "http://". If you have such an address, you can type it into your browser (exactly as it is written) to hop straight to the site. There are also many Web sites devoted to helping you search the Web for a particular topic, institution or even person.

My search for Web sites on the subject of frogs threw up literally hundreds of sites. Many of them were actually not particularly relevant to "frogs, the amphibians" - a nice lesson in the importance of not making your search subject too broad. For example, I turned up a record company (*Frog Records*) and several software companies. However for the keen frogger, there is much amphibian material to be found.

For Starters, *The Froggy Page* (<http://www.cs.yale.edu/homes/sjl/froggy.html>) is one of the best. It contains material suitable for froggers of all ages, including plenty of frog pictures and frog sounds. It's lighthearted and entertaining, and also provides links to many more "scientific" pages. Another great site to start from is *Frogland* (<http://www.teleport.com/~dstroy/index.html>). *Frogland* is not only an excellent resource by itself, but also has an extensive list of frog sites on the Web. This list, called the Leaping Pad (<http://www.teleport.com/~dstroy/lists.html>) is well organized, and certainly made my task of finding frog sites much easier!

If you feel that frogging should begin at home, there are some Australian sites worth looking into. At James Cook University there is a site dedicated to declining amphibian populations in Australia at: <http://www.jcu.edu.au/dept/Zoology/herp/decline/decl.html>. You can also look for Frogs of the Australian National Botanic Gardens at <http://155.187.10.12/projects/frogs/anbg-frogs.html> and Frogs in Brisbane at <http://www.gil.com.au/~howarth/frogs.html>.

The Australian Museum (<http://www.austmus.gov.au>) has an ever-growing Web site. At present you can find the herpetology department in the Science and Human Studies section of this site. The Museum is gradually expanding these science pages, starting with the Malacology section. The Museum also produces a series of information disks, including one on frogs. See.... <http://www.austmus.gov.au/html/infodisk/inf01.htm> for details. The Australian Museum will be a site to watch over the next few months.

There are many frog pages dedicated to educational projects. The Whole Frog Project..... (<http://www.itg.lbl.gov/ITG.htm/pg/docs/Whole.Frog/Whole.Frog.html>) -and the Virtual Frog Dissection Kit (<http://george.lbl.gov/ITL.htm/pg/docs/dissect/info.html>) are intended for use in high school and university biology classes. Moving from the anatomy of frogs to their ecology, *Frogwatch* is a page detailing an environmental education program for schools, youth and environmental groups, families and individuals. You can find *Frogwatch* at <http://www.cciw.ca/eman-temp/ecowatch/FROG/>. We have already seen an Australian site on declining amphibian populations. For worldwide information on the same phenomenon, try *FROGLOG*. *FROGLOG* is the newsletter of the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force of the World Conservation Union's Species Survival Commission (<http://acs-info.open.ac.uk/info/newsletter/FROGLOG.html>).

As we all know, frogs appear in many shapes, sizes and colours. If you are keen on bright and beautiful frogs, visit <http://206.10.131/index.html> - that's the Dendrobatid (poison arrow frog) Page.

For people interested in keeping frogs (and reptiles), there is much to be gained from a quick surf. Among the "keepers pages", Mike Pingleton's Herpetocultural Page (<http://gto.ncsa.uiuc.edu/pingleton/herp.html>), Melissa Kaplan's Herp page (<http://www.sonic.net/~melissk/>) and the Frog Keeping Page (<http://www.student.potsdam.edu/place40/frogs>) are all valuable sources of information. *Frogland* (see above) is also great for frog keeping info. An interesting site which makes use of data collected from frog keepers is the Longevity of Frogs page at <http://www.halycon.com/slavens/lfrog.html>. There are also many commercial sites out there, and The Herp Mall at <http://www.herp.com/> provides a good start point to search for these.

Now as this is just a quick peek at what is available, I'll wind up the tour here. But I couldn't leave out the most famous frog of all. Kermit can be seen on the Muppets Home Page at <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/VR/BS/Muppets/muppets.html>.

If all this makes you want to head straight out and grab a virtual surfboard, and if you're not sure where to catch a virtual wave, then here are some addresses which might help. Some are commercial "Internet Cafés" where there is an hourly charge. These include:

- Well connected (35 Glebe Point Rd.)
- Digi Kaf (174 St Johns Rd, Glebe)
- Cybernet Cafe (2-4 Palmer St, Parramatta)



- The Internet Cafe (Cnr Druitt and Clarence Sts. Sydney City)
- The Internet Shop (6/136 Willoughby Rd, Crows Nest)
- Internet Access Shop (116 Miller St, North Sydney).

In addition to these, many libraries offer Internet access so check with your local library. The State Library has an Internet service, and you can also surf the 'net for free in **search and discover** at the Australian Museum.

Good Luck and Happy Hunting!

M.H.



FROGBITS & TADPIECES

The Showground people are giving FATS free space for four days for the Easter Show - for the last year still at the old site. Although we haven't yet accepted, we'll need plenty of volunteers if we go ahead. Let me know by the next meeting if you can help.

Ocean Care Day on the Manly Corso on 2nd December was, in no small part, a froggy and FATSy event. What runs into the ocean is part of the problem, same problem as ours. Dianne, Allie, Kathryn, Martyn and I (and the people who walked off with my hi-fi and frog tape) all had a great time As I sail, same problem everywhere.

Streamwatch re still being benign to frogs and FATS. We dragged our displays to their open day in Chipping Norton in November in November and will do another one at Homebush Bay at the end of January. At present our FATS posters and other stuff have gone bush, they re gracing their Frogwatch show in Bourke.

Moorwingee N.P. tadpoles have travelled the other way, first class. They are now growing up in the big city to establish their identity. Six taddy tanks and six froglet cages, one for each waterhole. Courtesy of AHS and NPWS who gave them an A Class License.

Funding proposals: We have a request in for a grant to get the Endfrog report published, and another one to get more Frogfacts done

Where the Helpline couldn't help: 93719129 is busy this time of year - banana frogs, identifications, garden ponds, cats, swimming pools, noise, tadpole food, schools, all sorts of things. One usually feels one has been of some use. Not always, though.

- Middle-aged male Aussie voice. Very distressed. He had a Peron's Tree Frog in a cupboard for eight years but it had now got under the fridge and got squashed. Man then starts sobbing, loudly and uncontrollably, hangs up. Leaves me devastated for days.

- Lady, strong accent, wants to know where she can get "Cuban Bull Frogs" from.

- Guy, wants to know where to get "African Red Toads" from. **Has no accent**, so I'm brave enough to ask him which **recipe calls for those**. No, he says, they're a traditional **Chinese remedy**, you eat their droppings. The heck I would!

L.V.

Frog ulcers: This "titbit" comes from Martyn Robinson, who has informed us that his last *Cyclorana novaehollandiae* will have to be put down as it is obviously suffering from ulcerating palms and soles and probably internal lesions. It has been diagnosed as having a Frog "T.B", probably the *chelonina* species of the sickness, which is probably not transferable to humans. To quote Martyn, do not drink the water or bath in it, and Wash your hands! if you are handling an obviously sickening frog. Taronga Zoo will analyse sick or dead frogs, but charges for this service.

NPWS Surveying: Volunteers are required for surveying in the Hervey Ranges by the NPWS Dubbo/Parkes District. The survey periods are from the 28/1 - 8/2, 24/2 - 7/3, and the 24/3 - 4/4. Food and accommodation (probably shearer's quarters) will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Matthew LeBreton, on (068) 832235.

Excerpt from riverpost, the newsletter of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust, No 32, Dec 1996 in their "Nibbles" section (quoting from somewhere else):

"Deformed frogs reflect environmental damage. Concern continues about a world-wide decline in frog numbers. North American reports from the midwestern states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota and further afield in Quebec and Vermont document frogs with a similar pattern of misshapen limbs, tails, missing or shrunken eyes and reduced sex organs. Scientists in some areas have difficulty in finding any frogs without deformities and suggest causes may include pesticides, parasites or radiation from ozone depletion. The Western Australian 21/10/96."

Hornsby Council Bush Regenerators Annual Workshop had Jacquie and Karen as their guest speakers on the GBF and RCT (Giant Burrowing Frog and Red-Crowned Toadlets for the uninitiated) as well as other frogs likely to be encountered in the Sydney Region and possible conflicts of interests in the management of endangered species. The feedback has been very positive.

Karen Thumm

BLEATING TREE FROG. KEFERSTEIN'S TREE FROG

Litoria dentata

Meaning of name - *Litoria* means beach or shore, *dentata* means toothed

* Size - 45mm

* Call - a high pitched bleating sound almost painful to listen to and quite loud.

*Habitat - Often associated with coastal lagoons, ponds and swamps. Can also be found in inundated grassy ditches and not infrequently around human habitation eg. coastal caravan parks. Hides by day under rocks, peeling bark, hollow branches, and in pipes around human habitation. Can often seem to disappear for several years and then return to its old haunts in some areas.

*Description - creamish to grey brown above with a broad dark brown stripe or band running from the head down the back to the rump. A stripe runs through the eye & tympanum and down the side. Often a dark blotch runs obliquely from the groin to the back blotch. Groin and armpits often yellow. The upper half of the eye is usually a distinct red. Large discs on the toes and fingers - webbing present on both hands and feet.

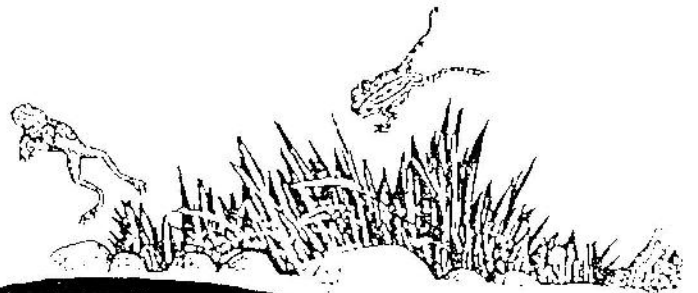
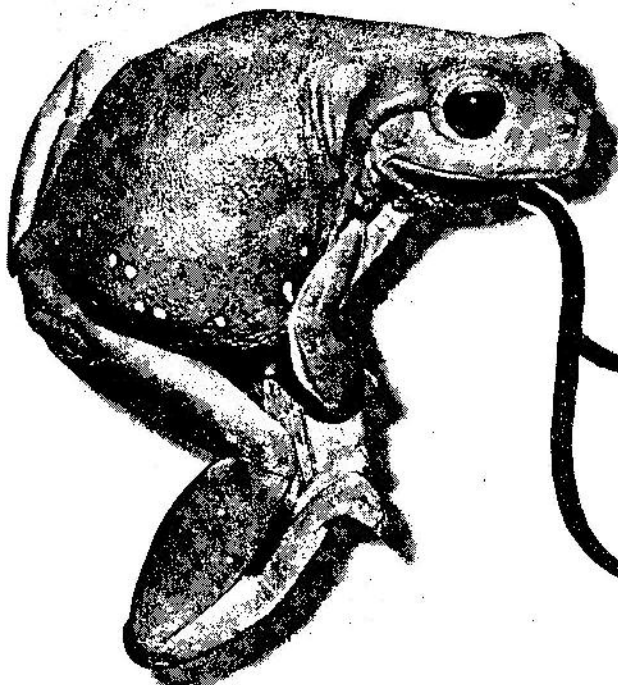
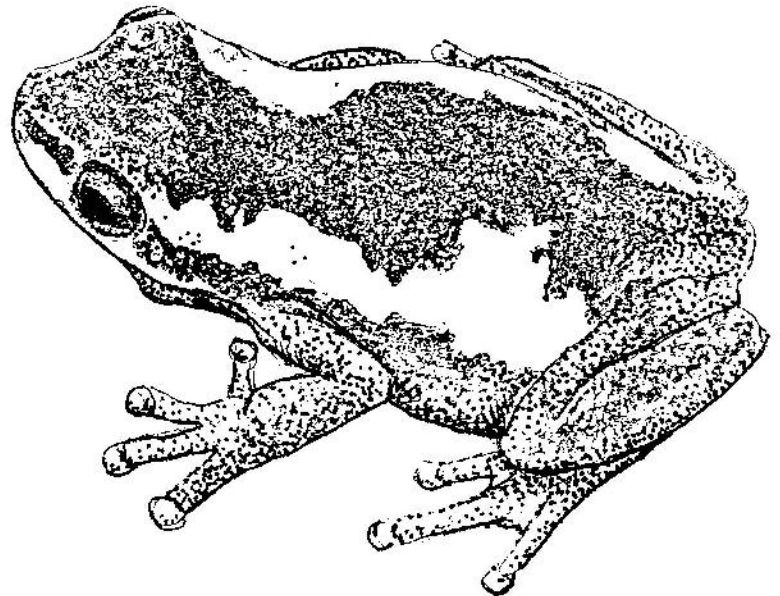
* Breeding - usually only after spring and summer rains (coming from the north NOT the south) in shallow temporary ponds, ditches, and swamps. The growth is rapid and the new metamorphs can often be seen on exposed vegetation near the breeding site where they tend to resemble bird droppings



THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1997

PASSENGERS JUMPY

ANSETT'S frequent flyers include a very large number of North Queensland frogs. In Canberra, where the airline has been keeping a rough count, as many as 200 frogs have been collected in the past two years by the capital's fruit wholesalers and greengrocers as they unpack produce from the far north. The little critters - including green tree frogs and red-eyed tree frogs - are collected by Canberra Nature Parks rangers and flown home, free.



Queensland - hybridised one day,
frog-virus infected the next ?