


FROG CALL



THE FROG AND TADPOLE
STUDY GROUP OF NSW INC.

NUMBER 48 - July 2000
PO Box 296
Rockdale NSW 2216

ABN 34 282 154 794

Our meeting will commence at 7.30 PM, FRIDAY
4th August 2000 at the AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, WILLIAM ST ENTRANCE

****NEW** FATS EMAIL fatsgroupnsw@hotmail.com**
and
wangmann@tig.com.au for editorial material



HELP Committee Vacancy for Field Trip Co-ordinator HELP

Material from Frogcall **may not be reproduced** without prior consent of the Editor or President of FATS.

The permission of the Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW Inc and/or the author(s), must be obtained prior to any commercial use of material. The author(s) and source must be fully acknowledged.

**HAVE YOU PAID
YOUR MEMBERSHIP ?**



MEETING FORMAT for 4th August 2000

- 7.30pm Dion Hobercroft
The captive breeding program for Green and Golden Bell Frogs
- 8.15pm Steve Weir Frog Profile *Litoria caerulea*
- 8.30pm Panel Question Time
- 9.00pm 5 favourite frog slides or 5 minutes
- 9.15pm Guessing competition and Auction
- 9:45pm Finish for tea, coffee & biscuits



CONTENTS

- The Last meeting
- Guest speaker: Lothar Voigt
- Keeping Frogs and
water quality p2
- press clippings p2
- Frog hygiene protocol p3
- Obituary - Claire Deane p3
- Aust Rep Park Fire p3
- Press clippings p4
- Profile *Litoria Raniformis* p5
- FATS Balance sheet p6
- Frog housing & exercise p7
- Frogbits and Tadpieces p8
- Lee Daynes p9
- Press clippings p10
- Committee contacts p12

THE LAST MEETING 2nd June 2000

Barbara Bohdanowicz welcomed those in attendance at our June 2000 meeting and identified our diverse group of professional herpetologists, experienced and beginner frog keepers, families, students and enthusiasts.

Our President, Arthur White, presented the annual report at our AGM, including the success of the Frog Rescue Service which had become "Bigger than Ben Hur", the status of *Litoria littlejohni*, hygiene protocol and chytrid workshops. Other programs during the year included the frog carer service and CaneToad Alert.

The Frog and Tadpole Study group is the only organisation in NSW with any data on CaneToads in NSW.

FATS has made a transition from amateur group to an organisation being courted by various levels of government for advice.

Media interviews for the newspaper press, radio and TV have had mixed results. How they present the information and its interpretation can backfire on other people and us.

The Treasurer Karen White gave her report and the new committee were elected. We wish to thank the outgoing committee members for their hard work during the year and welcome to the new members of the committee. Two later additions to the Editorial Panel are Punia Jeffery and Martin Reuter, (see page 12).

WE URGENTLY NEED A FIELD TRIP CO-ORDINATOR.
Please consider this role as a one of offer or on a regional basis.

Lothar Voigt spoke about keeping frogs and in particular water quality. The specifics of this will appear in a future Frog Facts publication. Issues raised at the meeting were

- * why some tadpoles grow well and the differences between fish feeding habits and tadpoles that "graze".
- * "Water ager" to get rid of ammonia (often built up by rotting food) as well as chlorides.
- * the "soft" water quality in Sydney.
- * ph levels and the use of baking powder, salt and bicarbonate of soda, calcium carbonate.
- * how to make water polluted by frogs and tadpoles good again, including the affect of sunlight on pond water.
- * mechanical filtering of water.
- * the "good" bacteria in water.
- * caution in using Sydney rainwater.

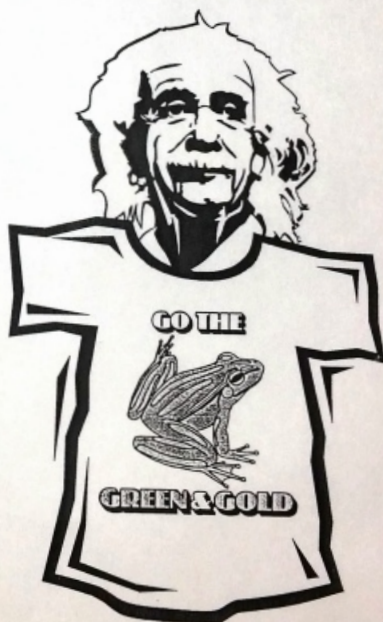


Other issues raised were

- the status of barred frogs in the Sydney basin, covering 121 sites. Slides included *Mixophyes balbus* (which has a pale blue crescent in the top part of the eyes), *Mixophyes iteratus* (with golden eyes), and habitats.
- the release of protocols for frog hygiene assumes that every animal you come across is to be treated as though it were infected.
- the current results of the NPWS Cane Toad Alert launched on 12 March 2000. Of the 83 incoming telephone calls, 11 were possibly cane toads (only 4 cases were confirmed) and 19 cane toad sightings were confirmed as local frogs.
- the unveiling of the Green and Golden Bell Frog at the airport. (We aren't the only lunies who think frogs are really neat !)

Thank you to all the members who helped with membership applications processing and other activities, Arthur White for your wonderful slides and Will Introna who spoke about the Bell Frog night survey. Congratulations to the winners of our guessing competition, Tony Brabe and Bob Hayes. Our auction was assisted by Katherine Wangmann and Karen White. MW

WANNA LOOK LIKE A GENIUS?



BE SEEN IN A FATS GROUP SHIRT
ORDER YOURS NOW !

2 Available at meetings or by mail-order
Enquiries to Steve Weir

FROG HYGIENE PROTOCOL

Largely in response to the threat to frog populations posed by the amphibian chytrid fungus, NPWS have produced a document called the Hygiene Protocol for the Control of Diseases in Frogs. The document provides guidelines for the public, for frog field workers, wildlife rescue organisations etc, and it is now binding for licensed frog keepers - as one of the conditions of the licence. If you have recently obtained or renewed your licence, you will probably have been sent a copy.

For frog keepers, the important parts of the document are those that deal with:

- taking from and releasing to the wild,
- keeping tanks separate from each other - no transferring of water or moisture between tanks,
- disinfecting tanks prior to and after housing frogs or tadpoles,
- banana box frogs to be quarantined before being transferred to a licensed frog keeper,
- what to do with sick or dead frogs.

In addition, NPWS are producing a brochure and/or poster for the public and a poster for schools. No doubt you will also find out more about these issues at FATS meetings and from FATS publications. In the meantime, however, please bear the following in mind:

- Apparently 5 - 20 % of incoming banana box frogs are infected with chytrid fungus, with fluctuations between seasons and between species. (This is far more serious than we thought!)
- Only amphibians get it. It is harmless to humans.
- Tadpoles are carriers; they succumb after metamorphosis.
- It is now apparent that treatment with benzalkonium chloride is not particularly effective against chytrid fungus. Quarantine must at present rely on infected frogs eventually either showing symptoms themselves (in isolation during the first 6 weeks) or infecting other frogs that then show symptoms (in small groups during the second 6 weeks).
- Symptoms are often difficult to see, especially with small frogs.
- Moisture transfers chytrid fungus - wet or damp hands from having touched another cage before; splashes of water between tanks, moving plants or equipment between tanks etc.
- Drying out kills chytrid fungus.
- Chytrid appears to remain infectious in water in the absence of frogs or tadpoles (for how long is not known).
- Pour waste water from frog and tadpole tanks down the toilet, not into or near your garden or into the stormwater system. Those who have a septic system (and those who run a quarantine station) should pour waste water first into a bin with chlorine bleach and then let some of the chlorine evaporate before pouring it out.
- Solid waste gets wrapped up and placed in the garbage, not on the compost.

- The requirement for disinfecting cages means that you should use gravel or palm peat instead of garden soil, that you should disinfect plants and that, if you use biological filtration, you need to re-establish the useful nitrification bacteria.
- Don't give tadpoles out from your frog pond. Don't take out or bring in pond plants without bare-rooting and disinfecting them.

There is no doubt more to all this, and there are no doubt more considerations. How we will get on top of it, and how the frogs will, is by no means clear. But we have to keep trying. What else can we do? L.V.

OBITUARY

Claire Deane, the daughter of our members Carol and Trevor Deane, tragically died on Thursday, 8th June. She was one of the bushfire victims at Mount Ku-Ring-Gai, when a burnoff by National Parks went out of control. Claire was a NPWS Field Officer, and this was only her second time out.

The night before the accident Claire talked to her parents about the dangers involved. She felt strongly that it had to be done and that somebody had to be prepared to do it. This sense of idealism and responsibility was characteristic for her all her life.

Claire was 25 years old. Our deepest sympathies go out to Carol and Trevor. The FATS Committee

AUSTRALIAN REPTILE PARK FIRE

On Sunday, 16th July a fire occurred during the night at the Australian Reptile Park at Somerset near Gosford. It destroyed most of the ARP's main building and most of the animals, including amphibians, that were housed indoors.

This is a severe blow to our friends Robyn and John Weigel, to their dedicated staff and to all who love the Park. Many of us have grown up with the Park as our central focus of interest and enjoyment, and many of us have spent countless Christmas parties there as guests of the Weigels.

The ARP has not only been a focal point for the herp-minded public but also been the sole supplier of snake and spider venom to the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, for the production of antivenene. This has been a service that ARP has in large part subsidised and carried out for now 50 years.

As John said a few days ago when interviewed on the radio, the greatest challenge will be obtaining permits to import, and in some cases to capture, new animals. There are seven authorities involved, and bureaucratic delays are formidable. It took five years to get approvals to import King Cobras. To get the critical venom collection going again, John has appealed to politicians to help cut through these delays.

Virtually all zoos in Australia and many overseas zoos have offered help, and so have many members of the public and organisations including the FATS Group. A public funding appeal has been set up with one of the banks. Your support will enable the Park to open its gates again hopefully very soon. L.V. Editor: Send letters to your local Federal and State Government representatives, to assist the ARP acquire imported animals and cutting through the red tape with authorities.

A recent revisit by our little friend. He wasn't put off by the flash nor by our presence. A beautiful sight to see in our own yard. **Ben and Wendy Harmer.**



Toad poison may make princely fortune

MONDAY, MAY 10, 1999
THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW

The coal industry may be taking a hammering from falling prices, but another industry is breeding in the wetlands of Queensland's far north.

Golfers, drivers and scientists have tried for years to wipe out the cane toad, but now two Melbourne businessmen have hatched a scheme they reckon will make a big dent in the ranks of one of Australia's worst pests.

The infestation started with the introduction of a mere 101 toads in 1935 as an experiment to eradicate cane beetles.

The bane of environmentalists and wilderness groups for many years, the toads are now threatening



to engulf the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory.

But Melbourne businessmen Mr Alan Day and Mr John Ratcliffe are gathering the toads in far north Queensland to export their venom to Asia for use in traditional medicine.

The first exports of venom, taken from two large glands in the back of a toad's head, will leave a production plant at Machans Beach, north of Cairns, in May and could open up a multi-million-dollar industry.

The Melbourne-based business consortium behind the \$250,000 venture pays residents of the seaside town to trap toads and is expanding its operation to the Northern Territory later this year.

The toads are held at a "process-

ing farm" in the town, where they are kept under lights and then cooled before the venom is extracted by needles.

Venture partner Mr Ratcliffe, a practitioner in traditional Chinese medicine, said plans were also being made to produce toad by-products, including chicken and fish pellets and fertiliser.

He said a hotline with details of toad "drop-off" points was also being set up for collectors in Queensland and the NT.

"The skin, eyes, liver, heart and other organs can be freeze-dried and put in containers and exported," Mr Ratcliffe said.

"Personally, my idea is to blast them [the dead toads] out of a wood chipper and into a vat of citric acid to render the remains liquid and for use as a liquid fertiliser."

Dried toad skin and potions made from toad venom have been used for thousands of years in Chinese medicine, and are still dispensed to treat congestive heart failure.

Mr Ratcliffe said he hoped toxins in the toad's skin, which was a high source of protein, would become inert once mixed with meal and baked, not harming the animals eating the byproducts.

AAP ■





FROG INFORMATION PROFILE

Scientific Name: *Litoria raniformis*

Common Names: Giant Barred Frog

Distribution: The Giant Barred Frog is found in forested areas of the coast and adjacent ranges (historically) from SE Queensland to the Blue Mountains of NSW. Field guides have listed the range as far south as Narooma, but there is no evidence that these frogs were found south of the Blue Mountains. Its current distribution is somewhat reduced from this. The Blue Mountains populations are apparently, there are only half a dozen scattered populations between the Watagans and Kempsey and perhaps a dozen known populations from Grafton to Queensland. The one area this species remains widespread and relatively common is the coast and ranges around Coffs Harbour where it appears to be present on every suitable creek. Why this frog has remained so common in this area whilst declining everywhere else is unknown.

Physical Description: This is very large frog. Females can grow to 120mm and weigh 200 grams. Males are somewhat smaller and only attain a length of 80mm. Individuals have a mottled brown back pattern and can be quite spotty in appearance. The belly is a white to creamy yellow and males usually have a darker throat. The backs of the thighs have a distinctive black and yellow marbling which sets them aside from other barred frogs. The upper half of the eye is a spectacular gold and is obvious at all times. Juveniles also have the gold eye, but so do the juveniles of other species of Barred Frogs.

Breeding Biology (including call): This species appears to breed one to two weeks after a moderate to heavy rainfall event when the stream levels have returned to "normal". This appears to ensure that there is a good supply of water available. Eggs are laid on the banks of streams in a most unusual manner.

The female, with the male on her back sits next to a vertical bank or even horizontal overhang and immediately after the eggs are expelled and fertilized she flips them up out of the water with her back feet. The 200-300 eggs are sticky and cling to the surface she has chosen where they can develop out of the water and the reach of aquatic predators. The eggs hatch after several days and the tadpoles drop into the water. The tadpoles appear to take at least a year to reach metamorphosis and can grow to lengths of at least 10cm. They are strong swimmers.

Males can be heard calling at any time from September to April, but the calling can be very sporadic and unpredictable. Choruses of dozens of males are occasionally heard, but 5-10 males is perhaps the norm. The males call from the banks of streams, 2-5 metres from the water's edge, sometimes concealed under leaf litter and sometimes above. The call is a very deep "wart wart".

General Habitat Requirements: This giant barred frog occupies areas of wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest. It can be found in areas of dry sclerophyll forest, but only where there is a wide area of moist riparian vegetation. The giant barred frog is notable for breeding in large permanently flowing streams and rivers. When individuals are not breeding they still appear to remain tightly associated with the riparian zone, which contrasts strongly with the habits of the other barred frogs. Radio-tracking work has found them to spend the days either hiding under leaf litter or, more commonly, sitting under low vegetation alert, but very well camouflaged. Their diet consists of any invertebrates or vertebrates small enough to subdue and includes king crickets.

Similar Species: The giant barred frog is sufficiently different in size and shape to the other barred frogs to make it relatively easy to tell apart. The golden upper hemisphere to its eye and obvious black and yellow mottling on the back of its thighs clearly differentiate it from any other species, even at the juvenile stage.

Frank Lemckert

The Manly Daily says

FORGET survival of the fittest, the striped grass frog has just put Darwin — and the Jordans — in their place.

The Jordans' place is a new Balgoolah townhouse, which they claim is impossible to reside in because of the croaking of frogs from a neighbours' fish pond.

We have no cause to doubt the din and the pond may indeed be man-made, however the frogs were there first. There is evidence of a creek on the property before townhouse construction took place, confirmation this is a natural grass frog habitat and then there is their status as a protected species — all pointing to a

strong legal case for the amphibians if the matter were to go to court.

The Jordans have decided not to pursue the matter that far, even if forced to flee their new home. But let us suggest some compensation, along the lines of the marketing possibilities: *About to be listed, new North Balgoolah townhouse, far from third runway and such, native wildlife outside the window, wake to birdsong and more...*

We trust Mr Jordan, a real estate agent, can do better. We also trust the frogs will be celebrating when the sun goes down tonight.

**FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR 31/05/99 - 31/05/00**

31/05/99 31/05/00

Opening balance \$9031.88 \$16066.22

Income

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Membership | \$10319.50 | \$ 8286.30 |
| C.D.'s & Cassettes | \$ 1150.00 | \$ 645.00 |
| END FROG | \$ 191.40 | \$ 187.60 |
| Cards | \$ 0.00 | \$ 251.00 |
| Frog Sales | \$ 715.00 | \$ 1963.00 |
| Auction/Raffle | \$ 717.40 | \$ 1108.00 |
| Field Trip | \$ 223.00 | \$ 825.00 |
| Donations | \$ 340.00 | \$ 100.00 |
| Displays incomes (Easter show) | \$ 2435.60 | \$ 120.00 |
| Sundry income | \$ 920.05 | \$ 761.00 |
| Interest | <u>\$ 10.80</u> | <u>\$ 45.89</u> |
| Total Income | <u>\$17022.75</u> | <u>\$14283.79</u> |

Expenditure

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fair Trading | \$ 35.00 | \$ 35.00 |
| Bank Charges | \$ 121.09 | \$ 49.91 |
| Insurance | \$ 280.87 | \$ 308.75 |
| Postage - Frog Call | \$ 836.74 | \$ 1350.05 |
| Postage - End Frog | \$ 27.10 | \$ 45.55 |
| Postage - Sundry | \$ 154.85 | \$ 258.50 |
| Printing - Frog Call | \$ 1208.60 | \$ 1605.78 |
| Printing - End Frog | \$ 548.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Printing - Sundry | \$ 851.14 | \$ 772.72 |
| Herpetofauna | \$ 1050.00 | \$ 1802.50 |
| Frog Tanks | \$ 1454.00 | \$ 138.00 |
| Frog Food | \$ 218.70 | \$ 362.50 |
| Subscriptions | \$ 150.00 | \$ 55.00 |
| Mobile Phone | \$ 26.94 | \$ 427.95 |
| Stationery | \$ 391.94 | \$ 201.47 |
| C.D.'s & Tapes | \$ 886.00 | \$ 1442.40 |
| Frog Jewellery & calendars | \$ 370.10 | \$ 0.00 |
| Frog Cards | \$ 0.00 | \$ 339.00 |
| Sundry | <u>\$ 679.00</u> | <u>\$ 166.82</u> |
| Total Payments | <u>\$ 9988.41</u> | <u>\$10831.88</u> |

Closing balance \$ 16066.22 \$19518.13*

*\$10000.00 of this balance is now in a term deposit.

**\$5000.00 of this balance is grant money for new Frog Facts.

**H
I
G
H
T
I
D
E**



FROG HOUSING

Hi there I'm Martin Reuter from Wisemans Ferry, and as your newest member of the editorial panel I would like to introduce you to the wonderful world of frog housing or better known as a vivarium. The first thing you should ask your self, how I would Like it if a Giant picked me up and put me in a HUGE clear tank with no way out!!!!

Oh sure there is a swimming pool (Chinese food container) and pool side deck chairs (ROCKS) and a beautiful log Cabin (HOLLOW LOG) and the sun shines all year round (LIGHT GLOBE).

Not much fun is it??? Well it need not be that way, would you not feel a lot happier if the surroundings that you were accustomed to, were in this HUGE glass tank?? Frogs are no different to you and I, so think like a frog and he will be happy.

The naturalistic tank is certainly the most beautiful tank, it consists of real soil (or similar substrate) and live plants, and is not as difficult to maintain as you think. Naturalistic tanks provide some of their own food source, small insects, worms etc. Live plants that have strong stems and leaves that are capable of holding you frogs weight, see your nursery and ask them what plants would be suitable for your needs. Plants help breakdown pollutants in the tank such as nitrates. (Remember Lothar's talk last meeting!!)

They also provide many hiding places, which believe it or not make you frogs hide less. They hide less because they are more comfortable knowing that safety is only a speedy jump away.

Next you will need some form of lighting. There has been some debate over what type of lighting is the most beneficial for your new pet frog. Some argue that full spectrum lighting should be used and others say it isn't necessary. The use of full spectrum lighting is however beneficial to your frog, in that the UV rays help your frog turn the food it has eaten into calcium that it needs for healthy bone structure. Florescent tubes are a good choice because they don't produce too much heat and are cheaper to run in terms of power consumption. And don't forget that UV does not travel through glass!!!

The lighting in place, the full spectrum light will also keep your plants looking great and healthy. Now that you've provided the light and plants its time to add the water supply. This can be achieved in several ways, one is a small bowl or by adding a separate small fish tank inside your main frog tank, if you're using the latter, make sure that you place a large rock or log in the water so that the frog is able to get out with ease.

Remember that most tree frogs are not the world's best swimmers and they will tire quickly in water that is too deep or with no easy way of escape. Never use Distilled water, always use either rain or dechlorinated water at all times.

If you are concerned of ammonia levels rising due to the droppings your frog has deposited over night you can do several things to cure this common problem. One is to change the water on daily basis and the other is to add a product called cycle, which you get, from your pet shop and add some into the frog's water, which in return helps to break down the waste leaving the water clean.

And the last thing to add is the cover, when you have decided on what cover to use, make sure that nothing can escape or enter from the outside, you will find ½ covered with glass, and the other ½ use fly screen for there air supply

And there you have your new happy frog vivarium! **Martin Reuter** 7

FROG EXERCISE?

At the last meeting for those of you that were not there, a fellow froggy member asked the question of how she could give her green tree frog more exercise, well didn't that spark a few comments!!! Lothar suggested putting a mouse wheel in. With it, various other comments were made including one from me, which was to put a snake in with it!!!! And we all had a laugh and nothing further was said.

Well if you're new to frogs, then that was a fair question to ask. At this time of the year most frog's if they're smart should be asleep, but if you keep you're tank warmer then they will still be active. A good way to keep you're frog healthy and fit is to give him plenty of good food and room if you want all of the above then why not give him some extra fast food like American cockroaches, which I might add are so fast that even you would have a very hard time to keep up with these critters.

To make them a little slower just place them in the fridge for a few minutes and you will be able to add them in you're tank with ease. So bare in mind, if you do want to exercise you're frog's make sure that the lid is on tight and watch just how fast your frog can be!!! Sorry for the snake comment **Martin R.**

FROG MEDIA PUBLICITY

Harry's Practice has filmed again at Lothar's home.

Katrina managed to put a 3' frog tank together in 3 minutes? (Not counting the time when the camera was off because I had fallen into their tripod.) Oh, and a big thanks to the French's Forest Garden Club for the \$50 donation to FATS. (Lothar had given them a pond talk.)

Bourkes Backyard **LV**

10 May Sydney Morning herald Page 7. "Jumper first to don Green and Gold". Story about Bell frog sculpture at Sydney Airport

10 May Radio interview, 2GB, James Valentine. Frog sculpture,

22.May. Daily Telegraph Page 5. "Invading Cane Toads spread across Sydney"

23 May 2000. Radio interview 2SM Howard Sattler. Cane Toads

26 May Backyard Frog Ponds. Western Courier. P5.

28 May Cane Toads are Coming. Sunday Mail Brisbane. Supplement.

30 May Frog Search. Central Western Daily. Frog surveys for *Litoria castanea*.

20 July. Sydney Morning herald. P5. "Fungus Alert: hands off the frogs". News release about frog hygiene protocols.

22 July Burkes Backyard. Cane Toads are Coming.

25 July Aussie Post. Look before you squash. P15. Article asking people not to kill frogs that they suspect are Cane Toads. **AW**



FROGBITS AND TADPIECES

INTERNATIONAL AMPHIBIAN DAY

A series of events for the global amphibian community, featuring the participation of noted scientists, hobbyists, and breeders. November 3 - 5, 2000, Baltimore, Maryland USA. See www.intlamphibday.org for details.

All proceeds of International Amphibian Day go towards amphibian conservation.

DECLINING AMPHIBIAN POPULATIONS TASK FORCE

The Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force operates under the umbrella of the IUCN (the World Conservation Union) Species Survival Commission. Established in 1991, the DAPTF consists of a network of over 3,000 scientists and conservationists belonging to national and regional working groups which now cover more than 90 countries around the world. The mission of the DAPTF is to determine the nature, extent and causes of declines of amphibians throughout the world, and to promote means by which declines can be halted or reversed.

CENTER FOR ECOSYSTEM SURVIVAL

The Center for Ecosystem Survival (CES) is dedicated to creating global partnerships to inspire broad-based participation in the preservation of biological diversity through ecosystem protection world-wide. CES works in partnership with schools, universities, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, natural history museums and science centers worldwide to protect wildlife and nature. Funds raised go directly to the purchase and protection of critical habitat for endangered species of plants, animals, and ecosystems.

FROG FOOD AND SUPPLIES

Let us know if there are any more to add to this list

Wings n fins, 4a Boyle st, Sutherland 9542-4255

Bizarre Pet, 273 Bronte rd, Waverley

Kellyville Pets, 106b Windsor rd, Kellyville

Earthryte Reptile and Amphibian Food, Troy Cluss
phone/fax: 02 9689 3416, email: puahele@one.net.au.
Westmead

Millers Reptile Supplies Kingslegh@aol.com St Marys
0428 641238

Simone Massart 02 95246269. Gynea Pet & Vet Supplies.

Drew Smith for fly pupae, overnight delivery 08 83863411

USEFUL, FUN AND NEW ADDRESSES

ozfrogs@egroups.com email communications forum

Herpetological Society of Queensland Inc is now online.
www.geocities.com/herp_society_qld_inc/index.htm#top

<http://www.npws.nsw.gov.au/wildlife/licence/reptile.html>

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/frogs/mainstory/frogstory2.html>

International Law - Wildlife Interest Group website, at:
http://www.eelink.net/~asilwildlife/6_meeting.html

**Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians
Seventh Annual Conference** October 18-22, 2000. Reno
Nevada. Open to any interested parties. Updates on
nutrition, infectious diseases, diagnostics, and husbandry.
Contact Wilbur Amand, VMD at 610-358-9530

Riparian Habitat and Floodplains Conference March 12
- 14, 2001 Radisson Hotel Sacramento, California

A conference integrating California riparian and
floodplain restoration, research, conservation,
partnerships, education, policy, and biota, bringing
together a wide variety of experts and interests.

We are soliciting papers in the following major theme
areas: Conservation and Restoration of Riparian and
Floodplain Habitat

- Managing Multiple Uses to Maintain Riparian Health
- Multiple Species Conservation
- Integrated Floodplain Management

Research and Technology in Restoration and Monitoring
of Riparian and Floodplain Habitat

- Recent Advances in Monitoring, Restoration, and
Bioengineering

- Riparian Biota Associations and Multiple Species
Conservation

- Riparian Disturbance Factors

Policy and Programs in Riparian and Floodplain
Management

- Bioregional Planning and Partnership Efforts

- Environmental Ethics, Outreach, and Education

- New Policy Ideas for the Future

Abstracts are due by November 17, 2000, and should be in
Word or Word Perfect, 10 point Times New Roman font.
Submissions should include title, author(s), affiliation(s),
address(es), and an abstract of 300 words or less.

<http://www.tws-west.org/riparian> Diana Craig USDA Forest
Service drcraig01@fs.fed.us

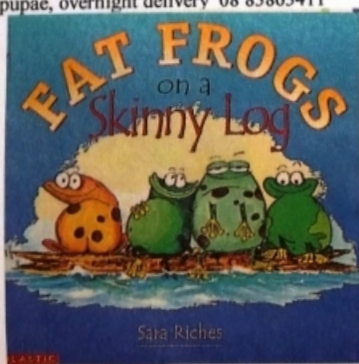
GREEN AND GOLD POLO SHIRTS

ORDER YOURS NOW !!!

Available at meetings or by mail-order.

Enquiries: Steve Weir, contact details Frogcall page12.

Fat Frogs On A Skinny Log
By Sara Riches (Scholastic
Australia, \$11.95) ★★ ★★
IT'S NOT easy being green.



HONOLULU, June 5 (UPI) - An invasion of tiny noisome frogs from the Caribbean is threatening to torpedo Hawaii's lucrative nursery industry and is driving rural residents to distraction with a piercing call that is as loud as a table saw. "Either you get used to it, or you go insane," Linda Stevens, a resident of Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii who has them in her yard, told the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

The newspaper said Monday that the offending frog, known as *Eleutherodactylus coqui*, is only two inches long, but its shrill call can reach 100 decibels, about the same noise level as a power saw cutting through a piece of wood. With some areas being packed with as many as 10,000 frogs per acre, the racket is more than enough to shatter the peace and quiet of the pastoral area.

Department of Agriculture biologist Earl Campbell, who is part of a government team dispatched to the island to figure out a way to control the frog infestation.

The frog originated in Puerto Rico and is believed to have arrived in Hawaii in the 1980s mixed in with imported plant material from Florida. A quieter relative known as *Eleutherodactylus planirostris*, hails from Cuba and the Cayman Islands, and has also joined in the plague. The creatures have thrived well in Hawaii and have found a home on the Big Island of Hawaii, Maui, Oahu and Kauai amid the flower fields where acres of orchids and other tropical flowers are grown for export to the mainland and to Asia. **With compliments Martyn Robinson**

SE QUEENSLAND THREATENED FROGS RECOVERY TEAM

Extract of minutes: The recovery team was posts updates on Frognet. Three recovery team meetings were held in 18 months and implementation of two recovery plans for species in the southeast continued with the assistance of NHT funds.

Over the past two 'summer' seasons extensive monitoring and survey for threatened stream frogs has been undertaken. Volunteers from universities, community groups and the public provided invaluable assistance.

Members of the recovery team have produced a number of publications over the past 18 months, including scientific papers, newspaper, radio and television interviews and popular articles. Several frog identification, survey and monitoring methodology courses have been conducted.

Harry Hines, coordinator, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (harry.hines@env.qld.gov.au)
March 2000

5TH ANNUAL MEETING of the CANADIAN AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE CONSERVATION NETWORK

Herpetologists from Canada & the USA will meet in Penticton, BC this fall to discuss conservation issues and efforts affecting reptiles and amphibians, including symposia on wetland conservation issues, important amphibian and reptile areas, and volunteer monitoring programs. <http://www.cciw.ca/ecowatch/dapcan/intro.html>
Laura Friis Laura.Friis@gems8.gov.bc.ca

THE ART OF FROGS, OR FROGS OF ART

Most of us who keep frogs feel a special bond with the extraordinary little creatures we share our lives with. We sit quietly for what seems like hours on end, just watching them as they do their froggy thing in the homes we make for them. We are enchanted by their antics, and call excitedly to whoever is around to "come and look at what Kermit is doing", whenever we catch them in a comical pose or they just look plain magnificent.

The desire to share these special moments with others, to show them just how beautiful and exceptional frogs are, is common to just about everyone I've spoken to who's ever kept a frog as a pet. Many of us wish we had a camera to enable us to permanently record those amazing moments we share with our frogs.

Some go down this route and take photographs, but few of us ever really believe we have done our bug-munching companions justice with our efforts. Even fewer take the time-consuming path and try to record the moment by painting it. To use a paintbrush to accurately record a frozen instant in all its detail is a skill that takes years to develop, even when the talent is there to begin with.

One such person who fits the bill is Lee Daynes, a wildlife artist and fellow FATS member who lives and works on the South Coast of NSW. Lee shares her house with a selection of frogs and spends her days recording their lives with watercolours. I was recently shown a selection of Lee's work, and was so impressed I decided to write this to let other members know of the availability of art featuring our amphibian friends.

Lee and her husband Paul run Dulkara Wildlife Gallery at 55 Murramarang Road, Bawley Point. I would recommend to anyone travelling down that way to drop in and have a look at the art Lee is producing. For those who would prefer a day trip closer to Sydney, Lee is also about to be exhibited for three weeks from October 7th at The Gallery on Lurline, Lurline Street, Katoomba.

For the computer savvy amongst us, Lee and Paul do have a website, <http://www.dulkara.com> but currently it's experiencing some problems. Hopefully by the time this is published the problems will have been sorted out. If you'd like to know more, Lee and Paul can be contacted by email at <mailto:daynes@scoastnet.com.au>, or by telephone on (02) 4457 1411.

Anyone who has ever wanted to share a moment of their frog's antics with someone else should go to see Lee's art. Lee has an affinity with her "working frogs", and this is demonstrated in every painting she produces. Her paintings not only authentically capture the myriad expressions of frogs we've come to know and love, but the frogs, as well as being anatomically correct, are accurately depicted in poses taken from real life observations.

Steve Weir P.S. If anyone knows of any other artists producing art featuring frogs then please let myself or Monica know and we'll do our best to get your review into Frogcall.



WATER PLAN WILL KILL RIVER:

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has lashed out at a Queensland Government plan that will result in hundreds of billions of litres of water being extracted each year from an environmentally sensitive river system. Up to 650 billion litres of water would be taken each year from the Condamine-Balonne River system, reducing its flow by up to 75 per cent.

The river catchment straddles the NSW-Queensland border and feeds two crucial national park wetland areas that are already suffering the effects of water extraction. At the beginning of the 1990s the catchment was flowing almost naturally.

INNER WESTERN SUBURBS COURIER

Monday, May 22, 2000

Threat to bell frog

By ANTHONY RADFORD

ANOTHER legal battle is looming over the previously doomed green and gold bell frog.

Strathfield Council has voted to seek legal advice over a decision by Bankstown Council to sell off its Roberts Road sanitary depot to make way for a refrigerated warehouse facility.

The site, on the border of the two municipalities, is next door to the Cox's Creek Bushland Reserve, one of the few remaining habitats of the frog and an area managed by Strathfield Council.

Strathfield Council is concerned the development of the Roberts Road site could impact on the bushland reserve.

A joint report by Strathfield Council Parks and Recreation officer, David Backhouse, and Planning, Building and Environmental Services director, Don Smith, has accused neighbouring Bankstown of inadequate consultation.

"It may be the case that Bankstown Council did not consider the significance of the [reserve] and the related threatened species or critical habitat contained on that reserve when assessing their development application," the report said.

"There is some question over the processes taken by Bankstown... and that the proposed development may impact the threatened species and community of the reserve.

"Council may be within its rights against Bankstown Council for failing to acknowledge

these two points and for inadequate consultation and assessment of submissions."

Strathfield councillor Andrew Ho called for the boundary to be redrawn and for his council to take control of the site.

"The local government boundary between Strathfield and Bankstown councils was originally drawn around the depot in good faith so Bankstown would have a say in how it managed its works on site," he said.

"By rezoning the site and then selling it off to developers, Bankstown Council has breached its trust to the people of Strathfield and has acted like a neighbour of the worst kind."

Bankstown Planning and Environment director Gerry Beasley rejected the claims.

"We referred our development application to the National Parks and Wildlife Service so they could study the impacts on both the vegetation and the green and gold bell frog," he said.

"We got the green light."

The council also called in an independent auditor to check the way the application was handled.

Lowe MP John Murphy said he was concerned over the development in a letter to Bankstown Council last year. "This site, together with the adjoining site, constitutes the last vestiges of habitat buffer in the vicinity for the green and gold bell frog and other fauna and flora. It would be a travesty for the site to be consumed by such development," he said.

but by 1994, 385 billion litres was being extracted annually. By 1999 storage capacity in the system had increased to about 940 billion litres. The Queensland Department of Natural Resources has revealed it intends to formalise these massive volumes rather than significantly wind them back.

The principal research scientist at the NPWS, Dr Richard Kingsford, said the catchment was one of the most ecologically important in the Murray-Darling Basin. "It contained over 1.2 million hectares of flood plains in 1990," he said. "I would expect that at least half of that wetland area will be lost." He was especially concerned about Narran Lakes, one of the reserved areas. **SMH JAMES**

WOODFORD, Environment Writer

This prompted Taronga

Zoo to ask Council to assist in developing a whole community based education program.

The project, titled 'Frog Focus Botany', has school students and other local groups supporting the program by collecting scientific data and assisting with improving habitats.

The NSW Department of Education and Training, the Zoological Parks Board of NSW and the NSW Region of Parks and Leisure Australia have provided financial assistance.

Council keeps the public informed on the progress of the program via local newspapers, local radio and Council publications.

Currently it is preparing for the Zoo to wind down its involvement and transfer more responsibility to the community.

The aim is to develop a five year plan for the ongoing management and development of the release site.

This has involved listing the project outcomes in Council's Management Plan, involving more staff in the Project and organising further community meetings.

Council has lodged a number of grant submissions and capital requests to create extra ponds and control predatory fish. Improving existing and future ponds with board walks, and retaining walls to reduce the impact of site visits, is also planned.

Council is also providing interpretive signage at the site for public and school education.

To date the project has been very successful with mature frogs emerging. The Australian Stock Exchange has joined the project as a major sponsor and plans are

Botany Bay City Council, in partnership with Taronga Park Zoo, is spearheading a program which aims to save Australia's endangered frog species.

Local Government FOCUS January 2000

in place to take Frog Focus to other communities throughout Australia.

Frog focus in Botany Bay



Manager Parks and Landscape Kevin Lowe said the program, which is expected to become as widespread as Bushcare and Landcare, was developed when a colony of Green and Golden Bell Frogs was discovered at a nearby construction site.

Taronga Zoo, which had been running a captive breeding program, sought Council support to reestablish the frogs in 'the wild' at Botany Bay.

"Frogs are a good environmental barometer," Kevin Lowe said.

"They are highly sensitive to environmental changes and their decline is an indicator of wider environmental degradation.

"By reestablishing populations and monitoring their progress we can learn a lot about our environment."

Earlier attempts to rebuild frog colonies failed due to lack of resources.

For further information contact

Kevin Lowe,
telephone
(02) 9366 3666



Unhand me ... the Australian green tree frog, like other species, should not be handled without gloves. Photo by JESSICA HROMAS

Schools and TAFE colleges will be given a licence to remove a maximum of 20 tadpoles from one location in their local area for life cycle studies. Each school will require endorsement from an animal care and ethics committee. And as soon as the tadpoles have transformed, they must be returned to their point of capture.

FUNGUS ALERT: HANDS OFF THE FROGS

From today, NSW children will be warned about a new form of stranger danger - don't pat the frogs!

The warning is contained in a set of guidelines prepared by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hygiene Protocol for the Control of Disease in Frogs. It is for the wellbeing of the amphibians - not the kids. In an attempt to halt a fungal disease sweeping the nation's ponds, the parks service is urging youngsters not to handle frogs unless absolutely necessary and to return all tadpoles to their exact place of origin.

The disease worrying the NPWS, chytrid fungus, is known to be affecting at least 30 species nationwide. Even the despised and introduced cane toad has been known to succumb to the fungus.....Of about 2,000 species of frogs in the world, Australia boasts around 240 - 70 of them recorded in NSW. According to the NPWS's threatened species officer, Mr Ross Wellington, the best way to prevent disease is, wherever possible, not to touch frogs and to treat each pond as a separate place. Mixing water and amphibians from pond to pond should be avoided at all costs. Meanwhile, the NSW Scientific Committee will soon list another of the State's frogs as an endangered species. Fleay's barred frog has disappeared in the past five years from its last strongholds in northern NSW. SMH 19 July 2000
JAMES WOODFORD, Environment Writer

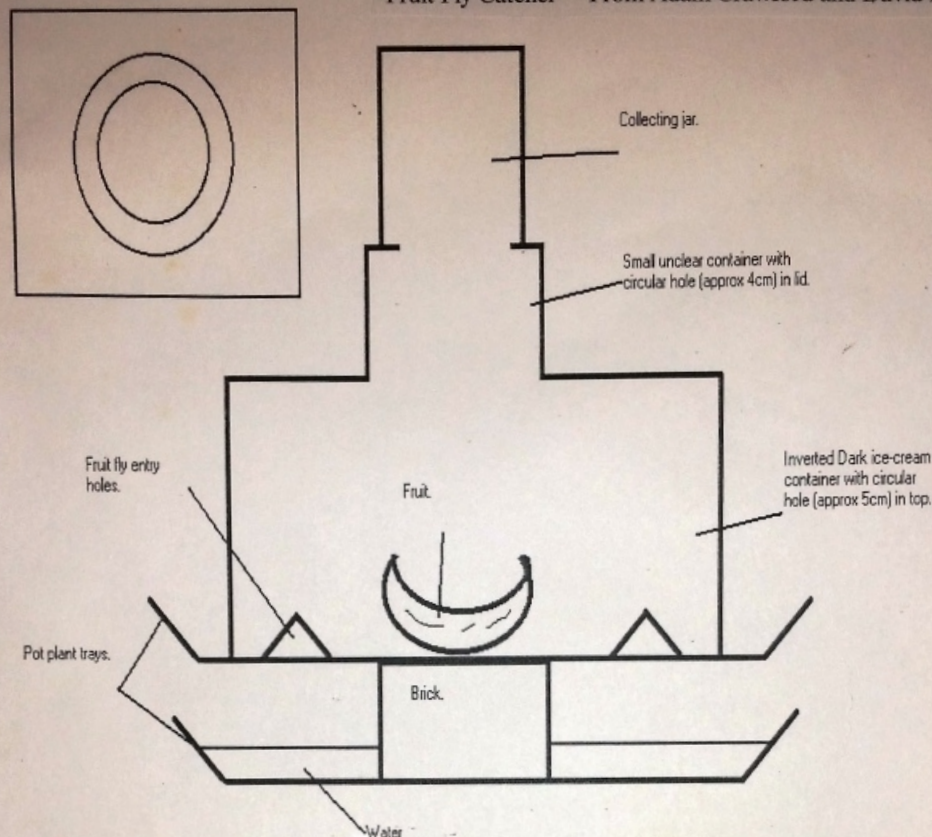


Fergus Barker (above) enjoys spending time at his frog pond. The green and golden bell frog *page 2* which was found in the urn brickpit at Homebush Bay. Photographs by Sahlan Hayes and Robert Pearce

FEB 24-MAR 1 2000

The Sydney Morning Herald





CONTACTS

FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728EMAIL fatsgroupnsw@hotmail.com

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Arthur White | President | (02) 95991161 (h) | fax 9599 1161 (h) |
| Barbara Bohdanowicz | Chairperson | (02) 9665 9330 (h) | |
| Lisa Weir | Secretary | (02) 9792 7675(h) | |
| Karen White | Treasurer | (02) 9599 1161 (h) | fax 95991161 (h) |
| Steve Weir | Membership Officer | ((02) 9792 7675 (h) prefer to be contacted on 9710 6866 (w) | |
| Lothar Voigt | Publicity / Exhib Officer | (02) 9371 9129(h) for fax phone home number first | |
| Elisabeth Pidd | Publicity / Exhib Officer | (02) 9181 3073 (h) | |
| Vacant | Field Trip Co-ordinator | | |
| Monica Wangmann | Editor | (02) 9797 6543 (h) | fax 9797 0603 email wangmann@tig.com.au |
| Carl Spears | Editorial Panel | (02) 4341 5663 (h) | |
| Punia Jeffery | Editorial Panel | | |
| Martin Reuter | Editorial Panel | | |

**Thank You to all those who contributed to this newsletter**

We hold six informative, informal, topical and practical meetings each year at the Australian Museum, Sydney (William Street entrance). Meetings are held on the first Friday of every **even month** (February, April, June, August, October and December) at 7 pm for a 7:30pm start. **NO MEETINGS ARE HELD ON GOOD FRIDAY so check newsletter for alternate dates.** Visitors are welcome. We are actively involved in monitoring frog populations and in other frog studies, and we produce the newsletter *FROGCALL* and *FROGFACTS* information sheets. All expressions of opinion and information are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as an official opinion of the Frog and Tadpole Study Group Committee unless expressly so stated.