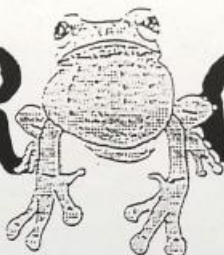


# FROG CALL



NEWSLETTER No. 67  
September 2003

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP OF NSW INC  
PO Box 296 Rockdale NSW 2216  
Email [fatsgroupnsw@hotmail.com](mailto:fatsgroupnsw@hotmail.com)  
Website [www.fats.org.au](http://www.fats.org.au)  
ABN 34 282 154 794



You are invited to our special  
fundraising meeting for the  
**CAIRNS FROG HOSPITAL**

6.30 PM for a 7.30 PM start

FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2003

Australian Museum, William St entrance



## MEETING FORMAT for 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2003

- 6.30 pm A small number of frogs, mostly juvenile *Litoria Caerulea* are ready to collect from the Frog Rescue Service. Please bring your FATS membership card, Amphibian Licence.
- 7.30 pm Welcome and announcements
- 8.00 pm Guest Speakers:-  
David Stewart from Nature Sound -  
the pitfalls of recording frog sounds  
Kirsten Parris -  
the results of her extensive surveys for  
the Great Barred Frog *Mixophyes fasciolatus*.
- 9.30 pm 5 Favourite Slides (Please bring along any froggy slides that you would like to show)
- 9.45 pm Auction and drawing of door prize
- 10 pm Tea and Coffee



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Many thanks to our President Arthur White, for actively representing FATS, sharing research insights and the wonders of frogs with us and making each meeting such a success. It takes a very special person to run and auction and keep gatherings lively and interesting.

A big thank you to Lothar Voigt who has tirelessly been the public face of our group for nearly 12 years. Please contact Lothar and register your interest in helping on frog display days. We can always use more help. No experience necessary.

Don't forget your Amphibian licence books were due in to the NSW NPWS in August 03.

Arthur White presented some of his research on the Wallum Froglet *Crinia timula*, which is likely to undergo a massive decline in numbers. No-one is doing any research on the species because they are small, hard to find and even when you do find a potential froglet, they are hard to identify. A tragic situation for these frogs.

Wallum Froglets sites have been found on exposed wind swept, rocky headlands in winter. No-one in their right minds would be looking for them there. These creatures are very adaptable. Their chosen habitat can help distinguish them from similar species. They are often far away from breeding habitats. By identifying water, vegetation and other environmental characteristics, it is possible to select sites that are likely to have froglet populations. They like still water both fluctuating or ephemeral, being within 1.2 km of the coast, deep organic layer on the bottom of ponds, short shedges with breeding habitats including dense ground cover. The characteristics that suit the Wallum Froglet vastly differ for Brown Froglets *Crinia signifera*, who like permanent pools and prefer sites at least 580 metres away from the coast. The detailed potential site descriptions were accompanied by excellent slides. (Ed: Hopefully these little creatures will get a second chance and further studies will identify more coastal sites before greedy developers take the lot.)

The channel 2 Creature Feature, Frog Rescue video was played. Lothar spoke about field trip etiquette. One, Don't spread frog diseases from place to place. Two, Learn how to examine frogs, tadpoles or spawn. Three, Don't trash their habitats, it's someone's home. The meeting ended with auctions galore, frog quiz (thanks Arthur) and refreshments in the lobby, thanks Wendy (and Barbara). MW



During Frog Week the Frog-Mobile will be officially unveiled for all to see. The Frog-Mobile is a large trailer that contains various frog displays. FATS will use it at community days, school visits and other public venues to promote the conservation of frogs.

The unveiling will take place in Centennial Park on Saturday 1st of November 2003. The unveiling will be conducted by radio-personality Simon Marney (ABC) and Prof. Michael Archer from the Australian Museum.

There will be various displays on during the unveiling including how to set up back-yard frog ponds and making your backyard frog friendly. There will be other activities such as face painting and frog call impersonations to amuse the children. So, if you always wondered what a Frog-Mobile could look like, come along. I will guarantee that you will be surprised by what you see. AW

### TRIVIA NIGHT

Also to celebrate Frog Week this year, FATS is going to host another Trivia Night at the Australian Museum. Arthur has been banned from writing the questions and various categories, such as current events, sports, Australian history, natural history will be covered, along with a smattering of frog-related questions.

The night will be Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> of October and will be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor auditorium in the Australian Museum. It starts at 6 pm. Supper will be provided but you are advised to bring your own food and drink to consume during the evening. It is also a good idea to organise a group (of up to 10) and book a table. In this way you (and your clever friends) can be together on the same table. The cost is \$5 per person.

There will be games and other activities throughout the night, some of which will require gold coins (so empty the piggy bank and fill your pockets with gold coins so that you can be in everything).

Fill in the insert in Frogcall as soon as you have organised your table. If you don't have any friends, we will find a table for you to join. It will be a fun night.



WALLUM FROG

*Crinia timula*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003.

**2002-2003 has been yet another successful year for FATS. Our success comes from the good work of many people who enjoy their frogs and the company of other similar minded people.**

This year has seen some interesting events, in particular the development of monthly field trip program. We were not sure if there would be enough interest to justify so many trips but it has become apparent that FATS people really want to see frogs. Full credit for the success of this scheme must go to Robert Wall who arranged the field trip leaders and the program. For the upcoming season we are looking to organise even more trips (if we can do it).

This year we also joined the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Worldwide Fund For Nature and the National Parks Foundation in producing the "Frogs of Western New South Wales" poster. This is a lavish production featuring 37 frog species and is a credit to all involved.

The Frogmobile trailer is also well advanced. Lothar Voigt took on the enormous task of getting the trailer ready for use and has been working steadily on it. We are aiming for a grand unveiling in Frog Week (November) this year.

As always, a number of people work to keep FATS alive and active. Our editor Monica Wangmann somehow manages to get FrogCall out before each meeting. I know most people read it from cover to cover when it first arrives. Although FrogCall is a newsletter-style of magazine it is a splendid flagship for our Society as it really covers the range of interest in frog-related events that we are interested in.

Karen White, our treasurer, continues to do the drudge and balance the accounts for FATS. Since Karen has been doing the job FATS' finances have continually grown and we are now in a sound financial position to undertake venture such as the frog poster and assist with grants. This year we awarded a student grant to Amy Gye from ANU to enable her to buy a transmitter so that she can track frogs. We also raised money for the Cairns Frog Hospital to help it continue its important work in isolating and identifying new and exotic frog pathogens.

Unfortunately, we are losing our long-serving Membership Secretary Steve Weir (who is moving out of Sydney). Steve has had the chore of maintaining the membership data base, as well as arranging the labels for FrogCall mail outs and receipts. Thank you Steve. Thanks also to Marion Anstis for arranging the Membership cards.

Another long-serving member who is standing down is Martin Reuter. Martin has been our field trip co-ordinator for a number of years and helps to get that scheme initiated. Thank you Martin, your time spent here was much appreciated.

Also many thanks to Wendy Grimm for being our secretary. Wendy is a wonderfully efficient person who really helps to keep us all on the ball. She never grumbles and is always at executive meetings on time, with minutes and with ideas and questions.

I have mentioned Lothar before in relation to the FrogMobile. As if it wasn't enough to keep him busy, Lothar also arranges all of the public displays and talks for FATS as well as arranging helpers and explainers. This takes a lot of time and effort. Most importantly it keeps FATS in the public eye and gives our Society a lot of kudos. Lothar was also instrumental in putting together the July FrogCall when our editor was stricken with pneumonia.

Another willing helper is Punia Jeffrey. Punia is the happy little bubble that tries to fill in whenever there is a gap or we are short handed. She has helped out on most of the sub- committees this year, including the Artwork sub-committee for the FrogMobile trailer. She is also full of interesting new ideas and suggestions for the Society. Thank you Punia. Adam Crawford is another reliable helper who has been willing to step in when we need him. David Nelson is another who helps behind the scenes; David and Steve have revamped the FATS website and are constantly making little improvements to it.

Barbara Bohdanowicz has been our Chairperson. Work commitments often prevent Barbara from making it to FATS events, but despite this she still represents FATS whenever she can.

FATS can only survive because people are willing to put themselves out and help. We are fortunate in that our members can see the good work that FATS does and work to help the Society, not themselves. Other Societies have floundered because individuals have used Society position as a means of one-upmanship or abused positions of power. We do not have people with this mind set on the FATS executive and I hope that it will always stay that way. Thank you to all who have helped, either by bringing items for the auctions, or buying items that you really didn't want, by helping on a stall or by letting your neighbours know that FATS exists.

I look forward to another exciting year for FATS.  
**Arthur White President**



# Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW Inc. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2003

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2003.

**Venue:** Theatre, Australian Museum. The meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m. and was chaired by Arthur White.

**Apologies:** B Bohdanowicz, S Weir and M Reuter.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** It was moved (W Grimm /M Wangmann) that the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted. Carried.

**Business Arising from the Previous Minutes:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**President's Report 2003:** See Frogcall page 3

It was moved (M. Wangmann/A Nelson) that the President's report be accepted. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report (Karen White):**

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the financial year July '02 to June '03 was tabled and questions invited. refer page 6

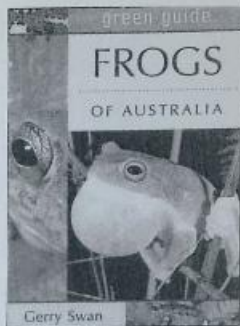
It was moved (White/L Kelso) that the Treasurer's report be received. Carried.

**Election of Office Bearers**

- President:** Arthur White (L Voigt/K White) Duly elected.  
**Chairperson:** Barbara Bohdanowicz (A White/P Jeffery) Duly Elected.  
**Secretary:** Wendy Grimm (A White/L Voigt) Duly elected.  
**Treasurer:** Karen White (L Voigt/W Grimm) Duly elected.  
**Membership Officer:** Andrew Nelson (K White/P Jeffery) Duly elected.  
**Publicity/Exhibition Officers:** Lothar Voigt (W Grimm/M Anstis) Duly elected.  
Punia Jeffery (K White/W Grimm) Duly elected.  
**Field Trip Coordinator:** Robert Wall (L Voigt/K White) Duly elected.  
**Editorial Panel (3):** Marion Anstis (W Grimm/P Jeffery) Duly elected.  
Monica Wangmann (M Anstis/P Jeffery) Duly elected.  
Vacant  
**Quarantine Officer:** Vacant.

**General Business:** None.

There being no further business, the AGM was closed at 8pm.



## Frogs solve a hairy problem

By RUCHI LAMBA

TARONGA Zoo bred poisonous frogs for the first time this week, in a bid to save endangered wombats.

Careful matching between adult South American poison dart frogs is required for fertilisation.

Taronga Zoo spokesperson Mark Williams said the process can be applied to the endangered northern hairy-nosed wombat.

"Working with an animal that is not endangered can give you the skills to save an animal which is," Mr Williams said.

The frogs' breeding data will be passed on to the Queensland Environment Department to help preserve the northern hairy-nosed wombat.

The South American poison dart frogs get their name from the poisonous mucous on their skin, which is strong enough to kill a monkey.

In South America, natives dip their lethal hunting darts into this poison.

The frogs are also renowned for their bright colours and patterns — warning signs to potential predators that the amphibians are poisonous.

The frogs are difficult to breed because they lay only a dozen eggs at a time, compared with thousands laid by other frog species.

Mr Williams said the breeding



Poisonous ... the dart frog.

program was part of a plan to educate visitors about the importance of conservation.

"It is vital for visitors to realise the importance of saving the animal's habitat, in order to save the animal," he said.

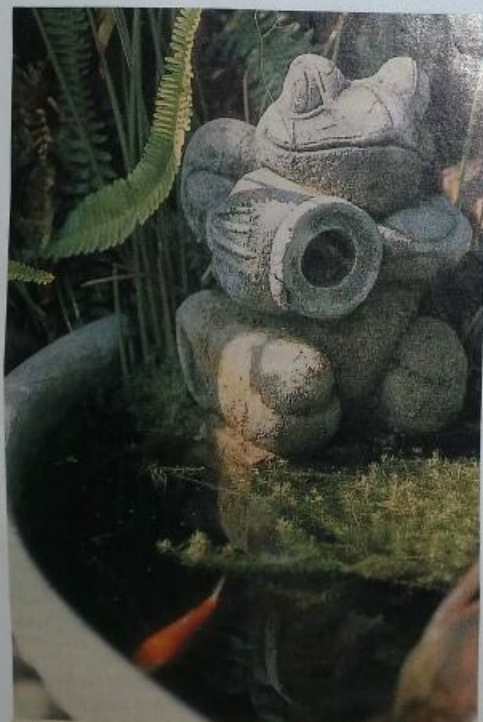
"If the rainforests in South America are cleared, these animals could disappear forever."

Zoo director Guy Cooper said the female laid the eggs in the jungle and the male placed them in the water.

"The tadpoles are carnivorous and could eat each other if they stayed together."

Adult frogs are 2.5cm long, and the froglet bred at the zoo is smaller than a 5c coin.

Only one of the 18 tadpoles bred at the zoo has turned into a froglet.



## PROTEST PROTEST PROTEST PROTEST

Email to The Hon. bob.carr@www.nsw.gov.au

**I** am writing this letter to strongly protest the decision by the State government to cull 2500 kangaroos at the Australian Defense Industries (ADI) site at St Mary's a western suburb of Sydney NSW.

I cannot believe that there could be something so misguided and cruel. The blood of the kangaroos from the ADI site will land all over Bob Carr if he lets this senseless slaughter go ahead. Shame on the cold blooded mongrel who lifts up his gun and aims it at the head of such a helpless and beautiful target and shame on anyone who would let this happen within a kilometer of a community. These animals are no threat to mankind or the environment.

The State government simply wants the land to build a 5000 home housing estate and there is other land available for this project.

The kangaroos and emus at the ADI site are connected genetically with the last free roaming mobs in the entire Sydney basin and have been a very useful tool in educating thousands of children, adults and visitors to our beautiful country for over 50 years.

Admittedly, there are some CSIRO experiments and other problems amongst this mob but lets tackle them in a mature and responsible way. Culling is not the answer for the ADI site nor are houses.

This site not only contains kangaroos and emus but also holds a large number of protected species including frogs, lizards, snakes, birds, mammals and fauna. If you think by wiping out these species and adding another 5000 families to an already problem area is going to solve anything for the human race you are strongly mistaken.

For too long man has wiped out countless species for his own selfish needs only to end up with an environmental and ecological disaster. Let's learn by our past mistakes and move forward.

I have recently taken over the role as Conservation Committee Co-coordinator for (SOFAR) the Society Of Frogs And Reptiles based in the Hunter region of NSW.

At SOFAR we strive to save endangered species and fauna and participate in projects to reverse the damage already done by man and save our precious wildlife. This goes against all our goals so we will be doing all we can to let the community know about this outrageous decision and find out what we can do to halt this tragedy before it goes ahead.

Please Bob block the decision to sell such a special and important part of the St Mary's community. Sydney needs more places like ADI to help tackle some of their social issues that have become problems.

**JOHN McGrath. sofara44@hunterlink.net.au**

## MYSTERY FROG

**H**ere are five clues to help you identify the mystery frog. If you think that you know the identity, come along to the FATS meeting and fill in an entry form. It costs \$1 for each entry that you make. There is an interesting prize to the winner (if there are more than one correct answer, the winner will be drawn from a box containing all of the correct respondents).

Clue 1: I am a large frog.

Clue 2: When I get annoyed I puff myself up to look bigger

Clue 3: My mating call has been likened to that of an owl

Clue 4: I live on the east coast of Australia but have many relatives on the west coast.

Clue 5: During the breeding seasons, the males develop sharp spines on their fingers.

**Who am I? AW**



## THE FROGS PROGRAM UPDATE

**W**ith the unfortunate loss of Stan Orchard, who coordinated the WWF/Rio Tinto National Frogs Program, we are faced with a time of change and are still waiting for some definite decisions from the above Partnership before we will know what the future of this very important program might be financially. We can, however, provide a small update on where things stand at present, but none of this is confirmed yet.

The Partnership has expressed interest in supporting, at least for another year, the following initiatives:

- 1) Setting up a National Frogs Australia Network
- 2) Setting up an independent website for this network
- 3) Some ongoing meetings of the Science and Education Panels
- 4) Seeding funds for establishing the Education Panel project FROG ZONE, which will establish frog habitat/wetland areas in seven pilot schools in NT, NSW, Vic and Tas and provide curriculum materials associated with frogs and frog conservation
- 5) Conservation of the Corroboree Frog (funds committed by Stan, but yet to be released)
- 6) A National Conference of Frog Groups

Representatives of the Science and Education Panels have had two meetings with the Partnership so far, one of which was to discuss the proposed website. Now we await their decisions as to whether funding will be available, at least for the above list, and how much they are prepared to put into these areas.

We will keep you informed. **Marion Anstis**



Flora & fauna on the site  
Benson (Rare Bushland  
Plants of Western Sydney, 1991)

**Save western Sydney's endangered bushland**

Website of the ADI Residents Action Group

See page 5



Landscapes

Eastern banjo frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*)



Photo by D.Nelson

Frog & Tadpole Study Group  
Statement of Income & Expenditure  
For the year 01/07/02 to 30/06/03

	01/06/01 – 30/06/02	01/07/02 – 30/06/03
Opening balance	\$41216.83	\$25713.45
<u>Income</u>		
Interest	\$ 445.16	\$ 76.91
Matured IBD	-	\$10270.90
Sundry Income	\$ 45.00	\$ 27.45
Membership	\$ 9952.70	\$ 8898.00
Donations	\$ 90.00	\$ 273.00
Grants	\$13750.00	-
Sales	\$ 773.00	\$ 819.00
Auction/Raffle	\$ 1027.50	\$ 2140.50
Rescued Frogs	\$ 1725.00	\$ 1500.00
Field Trips	\$ 895.00	\$ 852.00
Sale of Tadpoles of Aust	\$ 1750.00	\$ 1247.00
Trivia Night	\$ 517.00	-
Disease Workshop	\$ 345.00	-
Total Deposits	<u>\$31315.36</u>	<u>\$26104.76</u>
	\$72532.19	\$51,818.21
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Bank Charges	\$ 65.71	\$ 9.00
Insurance	\$ 594.00	\$ 785.00
Fair Trading	\$ 38.00	\$ 39.00
Printing Sundry	\$ 615.75	\$ 384.00
Stationery	\$ 703.38	\$ 107.56
Postage – FROGCALL	\$ 1215.45	\$ 1166.74
Postage – sundry	-	\$ 19.75
Printing – FROGCALL	\$ 1730.86	\$ 2609.95
Venue/Post Box/ Field Station Hire	\$ 1763.00	\$ 2719.00
Herpetofauna	\$ 1617.00	\$ 1366.75
Donations	\$ 200.00	\$ 1000.00
Tadpoles of Australia	\$ 2997.50	-
Sales – Expenditure	\$ 149.90	\$ 1139.26
Subscriptions	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00
Sundry Expenses	\$ 196.02	\$ 650.60
OSRAM Grant expenditure	\$ 13200.00	\$20357.32
Mobile Phone – Frog Help Line	\$ 652.84	\$ 890.90
Term Deposit	\$20000.00	-
Trivia Night Expenses	\$ 447.33	-
Frog Rescue Equipment	<u>\$ 522.00</u>	-
Total Payments	<u>\$46818.74</u>	<u>\$33299.92</u>
Closing Balance	\$25713.45	\$18518.29



TOTAL FATS ASSETS

Cash in Bank	\$ 18518.29	(\$9442.68 is still grant money)
Investments	\$ 26540.38	(\$1190.67 interest, re-invested)



OCTOBER MEETING  
FUND RAISER FOR CAIRNS FROG HOSPITAL



The next meeting will be a special fund-raiser for the Cairns Frog Hospital. The Frog Hospital is a voluntary service and is often the first point of contact for many new and exotic diseases found in Australian frogs. The work of the hospital is vital in controlling the spread of diseases through the native frog populations. You are all asked to bring along items that can be auctioned or be prepared to bid for the items that have been brought in for sale. Straight donations are also accepted.

There will be two main speakers at the next meeting: David Stewart from Nature Sound will be talking about the pitfalls of recording frog sounds while Kirsten Parris will be talking about the results of her extensive surveys for the Great Barred Frog *Mixophyes fasciolatus*.

The meeting starts at 7.30 pm. If you want a good seat, get there earlier. Entrance is through the William Street entrance. Tell the security guard that you are going to the Frog Meeting and he will show you through to the Threatrette.

If you are picking up frogs from the Frog Rescue Service, these are available from 6.30 pm. onwards. Frogs are only available to FATS members and remember to bring your frog keepers licence with you. No frogs without showing the licence and FATS membership card. AW

FROGBITS AND TADPIECES

NSW Reptile and Amphibian Keeper Species Stats have been uploaded to an Excel spreadsheet to FILES/NSW NPWS summarising the species and numbers held/bred etc by NSW Licensees.

INTERESTING WEB SITES

<http://wildlifetlas.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/wildlifetlas/watlas.jsp>

Oolong Sanctuary near Dalton/Gunning  
<http://www.pcug.org.au/~gianni/>



"Our trees are too young and have few natural hollows. The FRIENDS OF OOLONG are dedicated to resolve this problem."

"A piece of our precious bushland"

OOLONG SANCTUARY



LOTHAR VOIGT AT H.H.S. RICHMOND

On Friday 10 October, 7.30pm at the Country Women's Association Hall West Market St Richmond our publicity and exhibitions officer Lothar Voigt will be presenting "Keeping Frogs for Beginners". Inquiries to Jim Stopford President, Hawkesbury Herpetological Society 9628 8060 or 9832 9013.

HERPDIGEST INTRODUCING HERPARTS.COM

HerpArts.com is an on-line herp gift shop with everything from antique to contemporary prints and photos, handmade jewelry from Australia, (yes we do carry probably the world's only snake neck turtle brooch) contemporary watercolors, birthday and holiday greeting cards. FOR A \$30 (plus postage and handling) DONATION TO HERPDIGEST, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND YOU A 2004 FROG OR TURTLE CALENDAR. See <http://www.Herpdigest.Org/Donate/> Herpdigest C/O Allen Salzberg 67-87 Booth Street -5b, Forest Hills, Ny 11375 USA.

FREE ACCESS [HTTP://WWW.PNAS.ORG](http://WWW.PNAS.ORG)

Electronic access to the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)" - is available immediately (<http://www.pnas.org>). All PNAS content is free on-line to everyone just six months after publication, and many other journals are also available to all readers after a brief delay. [rma@iucnsl.org](mailto:rma@iucnsl.org) web site <http://www.nap.edu> B. Alberts, President U.S. National Academy of Sciences [Dr.Bruce.Alberts@nas.edu](mailto:Dr.Bruce.Alberts@nas.edu)

THE NSW LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT

ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW CONFERENCE

The conference is for those who are, who engage, who would like to be, or who work with expert witnesses in the Land and Environment court. You get this as it may be of interest to you, or you may be able to pass it on to someone who may find it of value.

Friday 31st October 2003: Corus Hotel 7-9 York Street, Sydney \$60 members / \$90 non members

Thanks Danny Wotherspoon

Blue Mountain Wilderness Services Pty

Ph (02) 4751 4273 Fax (02) 4751 9497

Email: [wilderness@mountains.net.au](mailto:wilderness@mountains.net.au)

Web: [www.mountains.net.au/wilderness](http://www.mountains.net.au/wilderness)



David Suzuki (Patron)



"All over the world, human activity is destroying irreplaceable habitats and causing a major crisis of species extinction. Human beings remain dependent on nature to cleanse, create and replenish air, water and soil and to capture sunlight. We are biological creatures whose need for these services of nature cannot be replaced by economic or technological activity. Therefore, at this critical stage in human development, we have to protect every ecosystem and species we possibly can if our children and their children are to have the richness of health and opportunity their forebearers had. Australia's unique landscape is under heavy attack and it's fragile ecosystems threatened as never before. Will Australians think beyond the deadlines dictated by economic and political pressures and opt for action that will sustain future generations? I believe they will."

30/06/03

<http://frogs.org.au/frogs/tasmaniensis.html>

Spotted grass frog

(*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*)



Photo by D.Nelson

Lesueur's Tree Frog  
(*Litoria lesueuri*)

The files are in the NSW NPWS files folder on Yahoo/Australianherps [australianherps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:australianherps@yahoogroups.com) They are not on the NPWS website. You may have to join the email group.



(*Litoria booroolongensis*)  
The Booroolong Frog



Photo by Michael Mahony

## DUNPHY WILDERNESS FUND REFERENCE GROUP

Nominations are requested for an NCC representative to the Dunphy Wilderness Fund. The Fund aims to acquire private land to consolidate and protect wilderness areas. It was set up by the NSW Government in 1996, to honour the contribution made by the Dunphy family to the conservation of NSW

For more information please visit:

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/The+Dunphy+Wilderness+Fund>

and <http://www.fnpw.com.au/apDunphyWF.htm>

Please email a short cv to [ncc@nccnsw.org.au](mailto:ncc@nccnsw.org.au) by

Friday 17th October Jeff Poole Admin. Officer

Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Level 5, 362 Kent Street Sydney NSW 2000,

Australia (02) 9279 2466 Fax: (02) 9279 2499

E-mail: [jpoole@nccnsw.org.au](mailto:jpoole@nccnsw.org.au)



## CANE TOAD-PROOF FENCE FOR NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA?

Currently a dialogue is going on in Australia about the efficacy of building a Cane Toad proof fence in Australia. Local Authorities are for it, citing how Cane toads already have ravaged the world heritage-listed Kakadu National Park. But many experts believe that the fence won't work.

To follow the story I would suggest monitoring local newspapers like the Hobart Mercury and ABC the Australian Broadcasting Company. **Herpdigest**

## AMPHIBIAN STUDY AIMS TO UNDERSTAND EFFECTS OF RESTORATION

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida recently began a study of amphibians at Picayune Strand State Forest and Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve. The goal is to see what lives there now and compare it to what lives there years from now after the Everglades restoration.....The researchers say manmade changes to the environment have turned some marshes into dried-up prairies, altering the wildlife that lives there.

Removing roads and canals in Picayune is expected to bring back some of the natural water flow and the creatures that need the water to survive, scientists said.

Frogs need an abundant supply of water to go through their life cycle, so if water is scarce or dries up too quickly, tadpoles never become breeding adults.

There is one disturbing thing: Ceilley has seen only one kind of fish, and he expected to see a few species.

Bartoszek said having only the *Gambusia* fish could mean the water quality is not high enough for other types of fish to survive. (extracts) By ANDREA

STETSON, Ft. Myers August <http://www.newspress.com/news/bonita/030901frogstudy.html>

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/cryptogams/underworld/panel-10/>

Australian National Botanic Gardens

A Northern Corroboree Frog, *Pseudophryne pengilleyi*, on a bed of Sphagnum.

## CANBERRA FROG 'THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION' City News, Canberra, 9/3/03

The Northern Corroboree Tree Frog, *Pseudophryne pengilleyi*, is facing an uncertain future as one of the most affected fauna species of Canberra's devastating January fires.

Chief Minister John Stanhope last week announced the critical status of the species has worsened from 'threatened' to 'threatened with extinction'. "Given the very small size of local breeding groups and the damage caused to Corroboree frog habitat, further declines and local extinctions are likely. The possible threat to this species by a fungal disease is of additional concern," Chief Minister Stanhope said.

This brightly marked amphibian is native to the ACT region, and is almost entirely located in the Ginini Flats wetlands and Namadgi National Park. The frog is only small at 2.5 to 3cm and has distinctive lime green or green tinged dorsal stripes. It is sometimes confused with its southern cousin *Pseudophryne corroboree*, whose stripes are more commonly yellow.

Executive Director of Environment ACT, Dr Maxine Cooper believes collection of the surviving eggs is vital to the future of this species. "The plight of the Northern Corroboree Frog is so dire, a captive husbandry and breeding program may be the only way of protecting this species from extinction," Dr Cooper said. "The numbers of Corroboree frogs have declined dramatically over the past 20 years. There were areas where once thousands of individuals existed. Now, our latest monitoring information suggests there are less than 100 adult frogs in the ACT."

Around 360 surviving eggs have already been removed from Mt Ginini to a captive husbandry facility at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Geoff Underwood, Senior Wildlife Officer at Tidbinbilla said most of the collected eggs have hatched, but the tadpoles will not be released back into their natural environment in the short term. The decimation of habitat surrounding the wetlands and the decline of the bogs as subsequent impacts of the fire makes it inappropriate for an immediate release program. The tadpoles will be kept and bred in captivity as a kind of population insurance.

"A decision is still to be made on what is the best stage for release." Mr. Underwood said. The lack of shelter is a concern for frog survival and will be an important consideration. Likewise post fire conditions such as weed encroachment, feral animal increase and decline in habitat will make it extremely hard for the frogs to get a foothold in the path to recovery.

Forwarded on by Alexahnder (from Herpdigest)  
Editors note:- We welcome new member Alexahnder to FATS. Spies tell me that he has fostered an active interest in reptiles and amphibians at the Inner West local high school he attends. Well done!





Is organising an annual international nature and landscape photographic competition and subsequent exhibition at state museums and other high profile venues. To enter the competition photographs or digital images must be of subjects taken within the bioregion of Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica and New Guinea.

Cash prizes totaling SEVENTEEN THOUSAND AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS are available for winning entries.

ANZANG Nature wishes to encourage excellence in nature and landscape photography. Profit from the competition and exhibitions will be donated to nature conservation organisations that are actively purchasing and managing natural habitat in the region for the express purpose of providing sanctuary to native flora and fauna.

There are nine sections in the competition:

1. Animal Behaviour
2. Animal Portrait
3. Botanical Subject
4. Underwater Subject
5. Wilderness Landscape
6. Threatened or Endangered Animals or Plants
7. Black and White
8. Digital Camera Photography
9. Junior Photography

Entries close 1 st May 2004.

For competition rules, entry forms and further information contact

Website: [www.anzangnature.com](http://www.anzangnature.com)

Email: [compete@anzangnature.com](mailto:compete@anzangnature.com)

Telephone/Fax: +61(0) 8 9321 3685

Postal address: ANZANG Nature GPO Box 2828,  
Perth, Western Australia 6001

Proudly sponsored by Western Australian Museum  
Forwarded on to Frogcall by Barbara Bohdanowicz

SMITHS LAKE FIELD TRIP ALL BOOKINGS ARE FILLED.

FATS will be conducting an overnight field trip at Smiths Lake in the Myall Lake National Park, about 100 km north of Newcastle. The field trip will run from Friday to Sunday 26th to 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2003. A limit of 30 people is placed on this field trip and all places are filled. If you missed out, there will be another trip to Smiths Lake in Late February or early March 2003. AW



Producer: Stephen Crittenden Perspective report by Belinda Keir, water user, who says she was "frustrated" with the NSW Government announcements during the recent drought. She says becoming a responsible water user isn't "as easy as it sounds", saying she "naively" thought Sydney Water's helpline would be helpful.

She says the saving water schemes are "pretty complicated". She says the two biggest urban water-wasters are "the stupidity of flushing toilets with drinking water". Keir talks about the value of siphoning washing machine water onto lawns, believing that simple solutions like this are the most effective in the long-run. She says we shouldn't expect the NSW Government to be "any great help" in the reduction of water usage. However she thanks Bicycle NSW, the Consumers Association and the Frog and Tadpole Society, saying we should vote for them.

## FROGS OF WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES POSTER

At long last, the poster showing the Frogs of Western New South Wales has been printed. This has been a joint production, instigated by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (thank you Melanie), and involving FATS, Worldwide Fund for Nature and the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

This double-sided poster features 37 species of frogs in full colour, has detailed notes about each and is stunning to look at. The posters can be bought at the meeting for \$5 (discount price). We only have a limited supply. AW Editor's note: ACE Hot roller display co. 5 Waltham St Artarmon will laminate this large poster for \$22 9439 7733.

## Near-extinct frog stays jump ahead

DESPITE having been pushed to near extinction by man, the green and golden bell frog has proven its resilience by surviving the worst drought in 100 years.

The endangered frog — made famous after a colony halted construction at the Olympic site in Sydney — has escaped extinction on the North Coast although all of its natural waterholes have disappeared.

Recent surveys of the northernmost colony, where as few as 40 may live in the Yuraygir National Park, near Yamba, are encouraging with rangers finding tadpoles.

The frog was once widespread across NSW, now as few as six colonies with populations larger than 300 now exist.




Threatened frog species


But National Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger Matt Clarke fear the Yuraygir frogs may have bred too late and that their tadpoles may not mature in time to reach adulthood.

Normally the frogs breed in January.


However because their waterholes had dried out, rangers said the frogs did not get a chance for a "breeding event" until a third of the area's rainfall arrived in one night.



## FROGS IN THE DOUBLE BAY



Dear Mr Yamamoto,



I am very sorry to disappoint you about that newspaper story, because it is clearly wrong on several accounts, and it may not be worth wasting your time on further.

There is only one species that is very abundant and at times quite noisy in the Double Bay area, the Striped Marsh Frog. It does not sound remotely like a baby, nor is it attracted to baby cries. The baby coming home and the frogs starting up are two unconnected events that appear to have happened at the same time.

The article also indulges in some exaggeration. There may well be about a dozen Striped Marsh Frogs making a racket in a pond, and there could be a few of them in the open on a porch (when they are quiet; this species calls in water). However, there would not be hundreds or millions - they space themselves out. Also, there is no frog-free suburb of Sydney the Notleys could have moved to. (A less drastic step would have been to simply get rid of their pond.)

None of the other, less common species in Double Bay (in particular the Bleating Tree Frog, Peron's Tree Frog and Common Eastern Froglet) show such extravagant behaviour either. In my view there is no mystery at the bottom of this, just some newspaper journalist's flight of fancy. **Regards,**

**Lothar Voigt**  
Frogwatch Helpline Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW (02) 9371 9129 or 0419 249 728

## TADPOLES AND MOSQUITOES

**F**or those interested in mosquitoes and tadpoles.

<http://www.bio.usyd.edu.au/Shinelab/shine/reprints/358-competition%20between.pdf>

<http://www.bio.usyd.edu.au/Shinelab/shine/reprints/359-biological%20warfare.pdf> Steve Weir

**M**y name is Emiri Yamamoto. I work for a Japanese television research company called Formulation Inc. I'm looking for some information on frogs' behavior seen in the Double Bay region. I would greatly appreciate if you could spend some time and give me some ideas.

I've heard of a news said there was a family with a newborn baby in the Double Bay, and the baby's cries sounded like mating call of frogs attracted millions of frogs to the yard of the family's house. Is this quite common behavior of frogs?

Also, I would like to know the breeding season of this particular frog species.


I copy and paste the news text below. Copyright 2003 Sun Media Corporation Portage Daily Graphic (Manitoba, Canada) March 4, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition HEADLINE: ANYONE HEARD FROM CHICKEN LITTLE? BYLINE: BY ARTHUR BLACK

There's a school of thought that says we could learn a lot more from animals, if only we could decode the messages they're sending us. What do we make for instance of the swarm of frogs that recently surrounded a home in Double Bay, Australia?

As near as anyone can figure, the frogs were drawn by the cries of a newborn child. Hours after baby Gwen Notley came home from the hospital, the frogs started showing up in the front yard. "By the end of the week, there were millions of frogs on our porch," says Gwen's father, Rourke.

Scientists were flummoxed. Maybe the baby's cries sounded like a frog mating call? The Notley's finally moved to a frog-free suburb of Sydney.

I look forward to hearing from you, Best Regards,  
Emiri Yamamoto Formulation Inc. TMS Building  
9F, Shibuya 3-1-6 Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0002  
Japan Tel. +81 3 3498 8232 Fax: +81 3 3498 8235  
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<http://www.formulation.co.jp/index.html>



Local aerosol artists have designed a mural on a bus shelter outside Thomas Aquinas Village in Springwood.

The environmentally themed mural is part of a project funded by the Department of the Attorney General under the 'Beat Graffiti Scheme'.

The mural also follows a 20 year tradition of developing community murals on bus shelters throughout the area.

The purpose of the project is threefold. Firstly it aims to rejuvenate the perception of young people as positive contributors to the community of Springwood.

Secondly, it aims to improve and develop the access to education, training and employment of young people who fall into the "at risk" category in the Springwood area.

**New look:** Marie Dale and Dorothy Glazebrook, residents from Aquinas Court, admire the upgraded bus shelter.

The Blue Mountains Gazette, Wednesday, 9 July 2003



Finally, it aims to lower the incidences of illegal graffiti within the Springwood town centre.

There has already been a positive response from the community with local residents involved in the thematic design of the aerosol artwork, and visitors to the area conversing with the artists and praising their work.

Offers of further work have been offered to the artists from church groups to local businesses for the design of shop-front murals.

"This project has allowed these young, local artists to positively express themselves and benefit the Springwood community in the process," said Blue Mountains mayor Jim Angel.

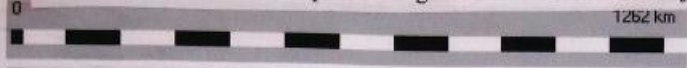
"The bus shelter outside Thomas Aquinas Village is a shining example of the potential of our young people. It is important we nurture this potential through initiatives such as this."

**Sighting Results**

**975 recorded sightings for selection:** Fauna, *Litoria caerulea* (Green Tree Frog), All of NSW

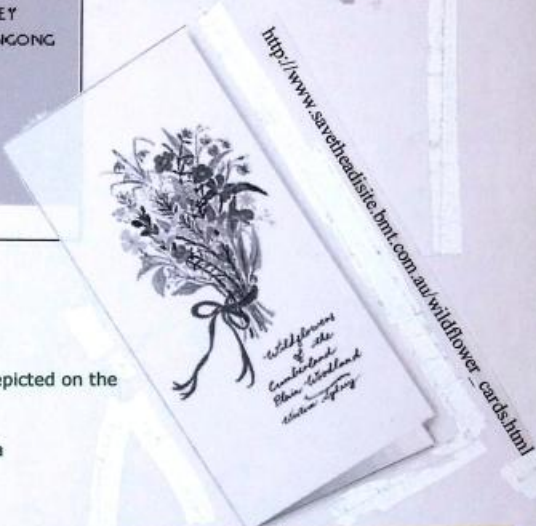
Report generated on Thur 25/09/2003 - 12:22 PM (Data valid to 12/9/2003)

<http://wildlifeatlas.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/wildlifeatlas/watlas.jsp>



**Legend**

Layer	Symbol
Species (Grid Counts)	1 2 - 5 6 - 10 11 +
Nature Reserves	
National Parks	
Base Map (AUSLIG)	



**Call Bernie about our Save the ADI Site cards**

For ten years the ADI Residents Action Group has been fighting hard to save the former ADI Site at St Marys from the bulldozers. They've run up some big bills in the process. Sonia Bennett has painted a posie of the flowers of Cumberland Plain Woodland. We've had it turned into a top quality greeting card, which you can use for any occasion. Donate \$5 or more, and we'll send you a pack of 5 cards, with envelopes. If you would like to donate more, you can ask us to send you an extra pack for every multiple of \$5, from \$10 upwards. Postage is \$1.50 for any quantity. ADI Treasurer, Bernie Laughlan, has arranged a credit card facility for the Group, and is happy to receive donations, whether by credit card or other means. Just phone him on 02 9623 1317, and he can arrange everything on the spot.

Here are the flowers depicted on the card:

1. Gooderica hederacea
2. Scaevola albida
3. Themeda australis (kangaroo grass)
4. Prostanthera scutellarioides
5. Hardenbergia violacea (false Sarsaparilla)
6. Viola bretonicifolia (native violet)
7. Triconyone elatior (yell rush lily)
8. Wahlenburgia stricta ssp. stricta (native bluebell)
9. Ozothamnus diosmifolium (everlasting paper daisy)



10. Pimelea spicata (rice flower) Endangered 3E

11. Wahlenburgia gracilis (native bluebell)



## FIELD TRIPS



Please book your place on field-trips; due to strong demand, numbers are limited ( phone 9681-5308 ). Be sure to leave a contact number. Regardless of prevailing weather conditions, we will continue to schedule all monthly field-trips as planned. It is **YOUR** responsibility to re-confirm, in the final days, whether the field-trip is proceeding or has been cancelled ( ph. 9681-5308 ).

**October 18. 5-30p.m. Chullora Wetlands Leader : Terrill Nordstrom.**  
Meet in Dasea St, near the cnr. of Rookwood Rd, Chullora (outside R.S.P.C.A. Shelter). For many years, Terrill, wearing his other cap of community & environmental activist, has had a close association with the rehabilitation of this wetlands area. Public access is generally restricted at this site. Tonight, Terrill will show us the large number of frogs that have since returned to this once degraded site. Along with a guided tour, he will discuss the peculiar history of this former railway-yard wasteland & its subsequent transformation into a wetlands oasis. We will meet slightly earlier than usual so that, with the benefit of some daylight, we may better appreciate the magnitude of this project.



**November 29 8-00p.m. Riverstone. Leader : Liz Kelso.**  
Meet at Knudsen Reserve, Garfield Rd, Riverstone ( almost opposite Carnarvon Rd ).  
The Cumberland Plain is an often harsh landscape. To cope, its froglife had to adapt in remarkable ways. Sadly, so much of this woodland has succumbed to urbanisation that it is now listed as an endangered ecological community. Liz, who has studied the frogs of this area for many years, will show us some of the hidden jewels that can still be found in forest remnants. Tonight, we will both marvel at these survivors & ponder the fragility of this sometimes uncompromising region.

**December 13 8-30p.m. Homebush Bay Leader : Glen Muir.**  
Meet in the carpark near the cnr. of Hill Rd & Bennelong Rd, Homebush. ( then short convoy to Homebush Bay site.)  
The froglife of Homebush Bay attracted national attention during the planning of the Sydney Olympics. Tonight, we will explore the green spaces set aside by the planning authority. We will evaluate the conservation achievements of possibly the largest urban/recreational project in Australia. Glen has secured special permission from the Sydney Olympic Park Authority for us to visit this site tonight - such concessions are not granted lightly. Glen has been involved in monitoring frog populations at this site, so his knowledge & insight should prove invaluable.

In the event of uncertain frogging conditions ( e.g. prolonged/severe drought, hazardous and/or torrential rain, bushfires etc. ), please phone 9681-5308.  
Remember! Rain is generally ideal for frogging! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring enclosed shoes that can get wet (gumboots where specified), torch, warm clothing and raincoat. Please be judicious with the use of insect repellent. - Frogs are very sensitive to chemicals! Your leader is there to help you achieve maximum enjoyment from your frogging experience. - Please observe all directions that he/she may give. Children are welcome, however please remember that young children especially can become very excited and boisterous at their first frogging experience. - Please help ensure that the leader is able to conduct the trip to everyone's satisfaction. Unfortunately, due to current insurance requirements, all field trips are strictly for members only. Newcomers are however, welcome to take out membership before the commencement of the field-trip. This situation has been imposed upon us and we regret any inconvenience.

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728

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<b>Lothar Voigt</b>	<b>Publicity / Exhib. Officer</b>	(02) 9371 9129(h)	for fax, phone home number first
<b>Punia Jeffery</b>	<b>Assistant Publicity / Exhib. Officer</b>	(02) 9969 1932	
<b>2 Vacancies</b>	<b>Editorial Panel &amp; Quarantine Officer</b>	(We are still accepting offers to join the committee)	
<b>Monica Wangmann</b>	<b>Editorial Panel</b>	(02) 9797 6543 (h) fax 97970603	Email wangmann@tig.com.au
<b>Marion Anstis</b>	<b>Editorial Panel</b>	(02) 9456 1698 (h)	Email marion@zeta.org.au



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 6.30 pm for a 7.30pm start.  
**NO MEETINGS ARE HELD ON GOOD FRIDAY so check each 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.

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