

FROG CALL



NEWSLETTER No. 83
June 2006

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP OF NSW INC

Email fatsgroupnsw@hotmail.com
PO Box 296 Rockdale NSW 2216
Website www.fats.org.au
ABN 34 282 154 794



Christine Gresham's Green and Golden Bell Frog

You are invited to our next FATS meeting
at 6.30 pm for a 7.30 pm start

Friday 2nd June 2006

Temporary "FATS" building, Jamieson Street
Sydney Olympic Park - see map page 3



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- MEETING FORMAT for 2nd June 2006**
- 6.45 pm Large Green Tree Frogs, small *gracilentas* and *fallaxes* from the Frog Rescue Service are looking for permanent homes and are ready to collect. Please bring your FATS membership card & amphibian licence.
- 7.30 pm Welcome and announcements
- 7.45 pm Main speaker:- Arthur White "Life as a Wallum Froglet"
- Elvira Lanham:- Speciation and hybridisation in
Pseudophryne australis and *bibronii*
- Jervis Bay field trip report
- 9.15 pm 5 Favourite Slides. Anyone wishing to speak about their recent frogging trips or experiences is most welcome to tell all. If you have slides or other images, bring them along as well.
- 9.30pm Drawing of door prize, guessing competition
Light refreshments and pleasant conversation

- Last meeting
- Main speaker:- Marion Anstis
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Arthur White p2
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LAST MEETING 7 APRIL 2006

Giant chocolate frogs were raffled at the start of the meeting, young children seemed to be the successful winners of smaller treats. Julia

Shoulder asked whether FATS members are interested in assisting with the monitoring of Bell frogs at Long Reef.

Following the welcome and announcements, Marion Anstis presented her account of madly charging around the landscape, photographing frog and tadpole jewels of South-eastern Australia, (helped by Dr Martin Zdiminski, CALM -Dept of Conservation and Land Management WA - and Professor Dale Roberts.)

Sadly both *Geocrinia* species and *Spicospina flammocaerulea* Sunset Frogs are currently under threat from the competing wine industry, which, sometimes unknowingly, share the frogs' dramatically diminished habitats.

The critically endangered, tiny species of *Geocrinia alba*, *lutea*, *rosea* and *vitellina* are terrestrial breeders whose offspring live entirely in jelly. Dry creek beds and sometimes reed clumps, moist leaf litter and pockets of clay are breeding sites.

Geocrinia lutea, Nornalup frogs have a pulsing / ticking call and live in the impenetrable seclusion of thick low sedges, around small creeks. Tadpoles, with metallic blue spots, have jelly nests, in sphagnum moss.

Geocrinia rosea, the Roseate Frog, with a pink flush on its body, lies in a hollow of mud, preferring karri forests and moist shrubbery. Males call at the base of very dense tickets and vegetation clumps. Nests, in excavated wells, are in sandy peat.

Critically endangered *Geocrinia alba*, is a white-bellied frog with a very fast ticking call. Its remaining habitat is a mere 1.9 square kilometres. The tadpole jewels are camouflaged in their nest.

Geocrinia vitellina has an orange belly is now restricted to one creek system. As they grow their colour gets really yellow.

Spicospina flammocaerulea can be found near small deep pools. Marion sited one that had been in amplexus for 3 weeks.

Thank you Marion for those magnificent slides, frog call recordings and passionate presentation. These gorgeous little frogs may survive extinction if the expanding wine industry can find opportunities to accommodate their microscopic habitat needs. Who knows, in the competing world of wine, some heroic agriculturalists might find it a useful marketing edge to grow frog-friendly beverages.

David Nelson presented his observations from a field trip in February 2006, on Frogs and Reptiles of the Top End, which was part of his tropical wildlife biology management course.

The proliferation of animals sighted included carpet pythons, water pythons, Slatey grey snake (with a catholic diet - eats anything), frog eating Keelback snake, Brown tree snake, Children's python, Blind snake, geckos, goannas, dragons, a frill-necked lizard, salt and fresh water crocodiles, a monitors hunting for freshwater shrimp and of course many frogs including burrowing frogs, the just described *Uperoleia daviesae*, *Litoria pallida*, *Crinia bilingual*, *Uperoleia inundata*, *U. lithomoda* stonemaker's floglet, *Cyclorana australis*, an almost white *Litoria rubella*, *Lt bicolor*, *Lt. dahlii*, *Lt. caerulea*, *Lt. nasuta*, *Lt rothii*, *Limnodynastes convexiusculus* and unfortunately Cane toads. Thanks yet again David for a descriptive, interesting and informative presentation.



Arthur White spoke about the review of the conservation status of the populations of *Litoria caerulea* and Green and Golden Bell Frogs in NSW.

There are significant numbers of declining Bell frog sites in NSW. Translocated and some remaining bell frog sites are being monitored. Some plans of management have been prepared. The 38% recent loss of habitat leaves 11 sites left in Sydney and possibly 17 sites remaining elsewhere in NSW.

The bell frogs are facing a situation in the next 10 years that the only populations that are likely to survive are those where sites are managed and Broughton Island.

Discussion at the meeting included bringing back Bell frog species from New Zealand, the unique qualities of the Kooragang Island site and other surviving populations on private land.

We are very fortunate to have so many widely experienced, committed environmentalists and capable presenters on the committee and amongst our membership. MW

THE FROGS THAT PASSED ME BY

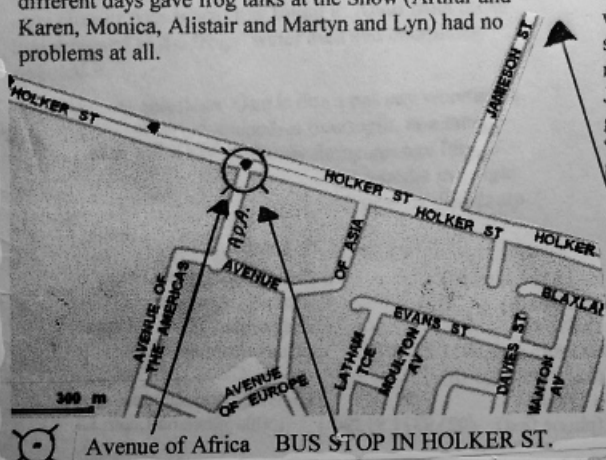
When I was younger, I think I sometimes lost a day after some merriment. Now I've misplaced two months. They just went zip! It started with the AAP photographer who came over for a Green Tree Frog picture to go with a FATS article. I never got to see either. I will be quicker next time, I thought, so when the Telegraph did a whole page on Cane Toads, I wrote back the same day. About our FATS Cane Toad Alert service and what people should and shouldn't do with them. Of course I then forgot to buy a copy, so anything could have gone in (if anything at all). I only remembered when Chris Smith from 2GB rounded me up in the ensuing Cane Toad frenzy, for an off-the-cuff comment.

Getting thoroughly lost in the Easter Show could happen to anybody, and probably does. But why did it happen to me twice, each time on the way out from the FATS talk trying to get back to the car park and passing by the same rides over and over again? No big problem, but I was carrying eight frog cages. All the others who on different days gave frog talks at the Show (Arthur and Karen, Monica, Alistair and Martyn and Lyn) had no problems at all.

CSIRO are running a study into environmental volunteering. Two researchers came up from Canberra. They wanted to know how we FATS volunteers manage to motivate ourselves and each other. I told them how frog power begets people power, but I could soon tell from their faces it made little sense to them. When they send me the transcript, I think I'm going to die.

And then a whole frog went missing. A brown frog with bright yellow legs. A lady rang in when Geoff Ross from NPWS and I were in Simon Marnie's ABC studio; she saw one at the Central Coast. No such thing, I thought, if it's truly brown. But now I'm having my doubts. What if it was a male Stony Creek Frog just coming back from its randy yellow breeding colour and browning back unevenly? Legs last? Do they ever do that? Unless she was pulling a Peron's Tree Frog leg and saw the yellow flash markings underneath?

Today someone rang me and said how happy she was there's something about the Frogmobile at Centennial Park tomorrow in today's (20.5.) Herald. I had no idea; I must have sounded like a real dill. She seemed especially happy when she got the impression that but for her call I would have missed going there altogether. I hope someone is also going to remind me the day before the next Centennial Park Frogmobile show on Sunday, 16 July (that's for your diary, please). And while you're at it, give me a wake-up call before the Frogmobile "Community Day" show for Warringah Council's World Environment Day Expo on Saturday, 24 June. L.V.



FROG FOOD FAVOURITES

The good thing about keeping frogs is that you get to keep all those lovely insects as well. But which ones should you lavish your time and your money on? Unless you catch your own, your choice is probably limited to crickets, woodies, mealworms and flies, at least for the medium-sized and larger frogs. There have been articles in *FrogCall* on raising and keeping those delicacies, but we have never given much clue on which is better, safer or more convenient. Well, here is one opinion.

Did you set up your frog cage first, with feeding as an afterthought? Did you plant the cage up nicely and then put some woodies in? And did you watch the plants getting eaten up by the woodies and their numerous descendents? You may also have watched those tiny descendents running up to the lid and out through the airholes. Into the kitchen. Or worse still, right into the next cage, maybe spreading frog disease from one cage to the other. But you must admit, they did polish off much of the dirt and dead insect bodies, and they left the cage cleaner than when they found it. Apart from those that drowned in the frogs' water area and completely polluted it.

A few simple solutions: One is don't put any woodies in. Put the frog in with the woodies overnight, in a mostly bare feeding cage with a slightly damp sponge for the frog. Or, if you have the time, put that woodie in alright but on plastic tweezers and handfeed the frog. Or, dump them all in if you have ground frogs that can't get to the Vaseline strip you have to smear around the top under the lid. And no live plants, not much open water and not too much sogginess. Your frogs will be growing their own food that lives partly on the frogs' droppings and on other gunk in the cage.

What if your nicely planted cage has a few stray crickets that the frogs can't reach? Frogs seem to be keener on crickets than on anything else; they are likely to stay alert until the last cricket is found. And crickets are easier than woodies on live plants, and they sing nicely. Their best feature: They can't climb up the glass. (If a few manage to shimmy up the corners, stick a short length of clear adhesive tape somewhere over the silicone seam and watch them slide down again.) Just don't let them get within reach of the flyscreen in the lid, just as with woodies. (They all bite through nylon flyscreen; they all tempt frogs to jump at them even if they're sitting underneath metal flyscreen that can scrape the frogs' noses raw.)

The big downside is that crickets die easily, from getting soggy and from getting their legs pulled out by other adult crickets unless they are well spaced out. No wonder adult crickets don't last nearly as well as half-

grown ones. Crickets are harder to transport, harder to store, and certainly more bothersome to breed than woodies – and a pest to keep the ants out. Worst of all, they jump right into the water and turn it into a rotting broth. (The only reason frogs die so persistently and predictably from overfeeding: knee-deep in putrid insect corpses!) But maybe you have a dry frog cage with only a dripping trickle, or an elaborate filter system that is able to remove dead crickets, or a water area covered in thick floating plants – maybe with a couple of catfish underneath, in an aqua-terrarium, to gobble up any extra stupid crickets. All these strategies work, by the way, but sometimes it's easier to resort to the separate feeding cage.

And now comes ze vondervorm. The mealworm. A "worm" that can be served in any smooth bowl and can't climb out; that couldn't even get out of one of those pet shop frog cages that have gaps and holes everywhere. They're fine as long as you keep the worm bowl in a dry spot in the cage. But mealworms are tough and fatty little things. Like the other frog foods, they should be vitaminised and/or gutloaded and should be served with other foods in rotation. Maybe after the feeding cage, the frogs should go back to their residential cage together with a bowl of mealworms to keep them topped up.

Mealworms are by far the cheapest of the frog foods. They last for months with minimal care, and they breed very slowly but very surely. With some basic care, they are unlikely to pollute the water or to spread frog diseases into the next cage or into your garden. (You do dispose of waste from the mealworm bowl and from the frog cage thoughtfully, don't you, and not into the garden, do you?)

With mealworms you also have to keep the ants out, and moisture, and if you're allergic to them, also your face and your fingers. Because some people can be allergic to them in a big way – as this one well knows.

Lastly, the house flies. Kitchen flies, unless your cage is fly-proof, so you'd need to attend to that. Maybe better to use a feeding cage for them, too. But for many years I had a great frog aqua-terrarium with archer fish and rainbow fish (they also like flies) and on land mostly fake plants and a few woodies and sometimes crickets, and a topping-up mealworm bowl. The flies kept the frogs moving, the drowned ones were dealt with by the fish, the corpses on land by the woodies. What I had to remember was to give the tank's front glass and land area a good spray cleaning before I let the next lot of flies loose inside.

House flies are a conundrum food. Although frogs from around 16 mm up to Cane Toad size go after them, they can be deadly for small tree frogs – frogs that are small enough to climb in with the pupae through the hatching

hole. If they get covered in pupae, they quickly dry up. A simple solution is to stand guard over the hatching hole and close it up when enough flies are in the cage – which probably takes two minutes. It's quicker if you use two cups stuck inside each other, with a hatching hole going through both, and if you then rotate the inner cup to close it off. With the styro cups poking halfway through a large enough hole in the cage lid, you can do that all from outside – no flies escaping and no cross-contamination of cages with your hands!

They may also be a conundrum if you have sick frogs. If you let a few flies from such a tank escape, they could then sit with their contaminated feet on the flyscreen of the next cage, or even get to your garden and your frog pond and beyond. So, although they are a convenient food for hands-off quarantine cages, unless you can completely contain the flies – better not use any on frogs that might be sick.

Frog a threat to bypass bid



Endangered: Wallum froglet

THE tiny wallum froglet is the latest creature to threaten a multi-million-dollar project. After the orange-bellied parrot stopped a Victorian wind farm, the 3cm frog has been recruited to block a bypass on the Queensland-NSW border.

Full report — Page 4

Frog hops in way of \$543M road project

The Australian page 1 and 4 17 April 2006-05-21



Bypassed or not? A wallum sedge frog

There are a few basic ideas that touch on frog feeding in *FrogFacts* 6 and 8 (which you can read in the publications section of www.fats.org.au).

Has anyone come to other conclusions? Or found an efficient way of feeding lots of frogs while keeping the cage nice and clean? Any experience with ensuring that chytrid doesn't get spread with the food? Anyone else around with mealworm allergy? And what about all the other frog foods? How does it work feeding frogs outdoors, or in your bathroom – any takers? Anyone with useful experience with tubifex, maggots, caterpillars, springtails, worm farm contents, meadow plankton or anything else of interest to frogs?

So, I just wrote in to *FrogCall*. Why don't u2? L.V.

Frog hops in way of \$543m road project

Annabelle McDonald

A TINY amphibian is the latest creature to threaten a multi-million-dollar development.

The 3cm wallum froglet could hold up a \$543 million road project on the Queensland-NSW border after local residents took court action to protect the vulnerable species.

While construction has started on the long-awaited Tugun bypass following approvals from the NSW, Queensland and federal governments, some residents fear the project will harm four local species of frog.

The Queensland Government was forced to alter the route of the 7km freeway to avoid frog ponds, and is planning a network of tunnels to allow the movement of wildlife.

But the Tugun Cobaki Alliance is still not satisfied and has launched legal action against NSW Roads Minister Eric Roozendaal and the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority in an effort to stop the project.

The legal action comes after federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell blocked a \$220 million wind farm project in Victoria this month to protect the orange-bellied parrot, but found no grounds to stop a residential development that threatened the golden sun moth.

Tugun Cobaki Alliance president Valerie Thompson said the group might seek an injunction to stop construction until the matter is resolved in the

Land and Environment Court.

"The bypass, which will involve the removal of 45ha of native vegetation, is likely to cause the localised extinction of the long-nosed potoroo, wallum froglet, wallum sedge frog and common planigale (a marsupial mouse)," Ms Thompson said.

While the NSW Government is not contributing any funds to the project, its approval was needed to give the green light to the four-lane bypass, which includes a tunnel under the Gold Coast airport and a bridge over Hidden Valley.

The cost of the bypass has already blown out by about \$150 million, largely due to delays, rising construction costs and 50 environmental conditions imposed by the NSW Government.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service lists the wallum froglet as a vulnerable species.

The Queensland Government has been forced to incorporate tunnels into the bypass design, set aside an 80ha site to conserve threatened species, and devise a cultural heritage management plan to protect ancient Aboriginal sites.

Queensland Minister for Transport and Main Roads Paul Lucas said it was one of the most protected developments in the country. "This project has already been subject to very exhaustive environmental conditions from the Queensland, NSW and commonwealth governments — that will make it one of the greenest roads in Australia," he said.

Did you know there are more than 4 million hectares of forests and woodlands on private land in NSW - equivalent to an area two-thirds the size of Tasmania - that can be logged or clear felled without any meaningful environmental controls?

The forest giants, including majestic river red gums, ancient ironbarks and mighty brush box, are fast disappearing as landowners realise they can make a quick buck by logging them, or selling them for firewood. This means that many native animals that nest and breed in large hollow trees are finding it more and more difficult to find safe homes. They urgently need your help.

Send a message to Premier Morris Iemma, and the Ministers for Forests and the Environment, asking them to urgently introduce strong controls for logging and firewood collection on private land. If you care, you can help prevent forests like these being destroyed by simply clicking on the link below and sending an email to the Premier. It will only take a minute to help protect our forest heritage.

* Take action now on the NCC website:

http://www.nccnsw.org.au/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=201 Anne Miller Administration
Officer Nature Conservation Council of NSW
amiller@nccnsw.org.au

THE march of the cane toad from Queensland must be stopped. With new evidence this new pestilence is invading with greater vigour than first thought, the State Government must act.

It has been aware of this insidious migration from the toad-infested Sunshine State for at least a decade. But what has been done about it since? Little, is the answer.

First introduced to Queensland in the 1930s to control insect pests, the toad soon became a pest in its own right and one of the country's potentially most damaging. News of toads turning up in Sydney has not even inspired prompt action.

New scientific evidence has discovered the consequences will be disastrous and its spread unstoppable if something is not done.

It has taken the Government's own 10-member independent scientific committee to act.

It has listed the creatures as a "key threatening process". This now puts a legal obligation on the Government to act under its own threatened species laws.

It must immediately come up with a threat abatement plan or be in breach of its own legislation. Unfortunately, considering the record of action by this Government, no one will be holding their breath. But we will be watching and waiting for the response.

It will be unforgivable if the Department of Environment and Conservation allows these critters to become established and infest our backyards and national parks.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, April 24, 2006.

PROTEST LETTER
AGAINST DEVELOPER-LED COASTAL
PLANNING STRATEGIES/CHANGES

We want to hear from every group who cares about the protection of the coastline from major developers. (see page 7)

Could you email me back to let me know if your group agrees to having its name on the letter and could you please pass it on to any other groups you know to ask them the same. We are hoping to pass the letter over after Easter Hols (18 April). So if you can get responses back asap, but at latest by then, it would be really appreciated. If you are not part of a group, but concerned about this as an individual, do send a letter direct to Morris Iemma. Now is the time to act!

The letter attacks the direction of the coastal regional strategies that have been released and which have been so stripped of meaningful environmental protection, once they have gone through Cabinet and the Treasurer Michael Costa. They have largely ended up being instruments that benefit a few major developers in key areas (eg Vincentia, Hunter Valley, etc), leaving everything else open to anything. When added to the planning deregulation overhaul that has been occurring there is now a major shift towards preventing good sustainable planning / development / environment protection outcomes on the coast.

The intention of this response is to try and counter the current State Government's bowing to the wishes of the development industry through its planning amendments, which has been almost entirely at the urging of the property industry.

Even if your area is not currently covered by a coastal regional strategy it is still important to sign up to this, in order to stop the current trend in reduction in protection of areas under extreme pressure, which will help major developers get their land rezoned throughout NSW.

Anna Broome Nature Conservation Council of NSW
5/362 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 9279 2466 Fax:
9279 2499 e-mail: abroome@nccnsw.org.au (Editor's
Note: Even though the date has past, please send in your comments anyway.)

Stop toad invasion



Insidious enemy . . . cane toad near Parramatta

Hon Morris Iemma
Premier of NSW
Level 40, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney 2000

Dear Premier,

Rejection of direction of Coastal Regional Strategies and Planning overhaul

I am concerned at the direction of the government's coastal planning process.

The release of the draft Lower Hunter, Far North Coast and South Coast regional strategies in their current standardized format have angered residents and community and environment groups in those regions. When added to the recent broader planning overhaul there is a strong perception that the Government is only making decisions on behalf of the property industry and the Strategies have simply been adjusted to suit the larger developers operating in those regions. In contrast real environmental and community concerns by those that live in the regions affected are given lip service.

The current climate means that future strategies for parts of the Mid North Coast, Illawarra and Central Coast are unlikely to be acceptable in the wider community unless they genuinely represent local community concerns and protection of biodiversity and natural resources.

Community groups on the coast have attempted to constructively participate in the strategy process, that the government promised would protect the coast from a wave of damaging and speculative development. The strategies have failed to do this. The rest of the planning legislation has entrenched the problems as it shows the Government up as having contempt for local community and environment views. There is a need for the Government to get out into the wider community and listen to voices beyond those representing the development industry.

Key problems of the strategies so far include:

- Failure to protect areas of important native vegetation and low key settlements from massive development proposals benefiting a few major landholders;
- Inclusion of weak 'sustainability criteria' that allow evasion of key objectives such as ending urban sprawl and ensuring efficient use of infrastructure, by locating close to existing centres;
- Adoption of investigation zones to benefit a few major developers which only serve to invite speculation, preemptive tree clearing and create uncertainty in the community;
- The use of panels to bring back highly contentious and damaging lake and coastal foreshore developments that have long been seen as too damaging to occur.
- Lack of detailed data and maps showing natural hazards and conservation values to be avoided by development;
- Failure to account for the impacts of climate change

I am aware of lobbying by developers and that they have support from powerful members of your Cabinet. The strategies, like much of the problematic planning overhaul, will need a major shift to bring it back to being more representative of the whole community.

Your intervention to remedy the situation is urgently required.

Yours sincerely,



CRAPAUD VULGAIRE.

On lui prête une longévité extraordinaire.



CÉRATOPHRYNS A BOUCLIER OU CORNUE.

Sa morsure est fort dangereuse.



RADIOGRAPHIE DE LA GRENOUILLE COMMUNE.

Les os n'occupent qu'une très petite partie de son corps.



CÉRATOPHRYNS CORNUE.

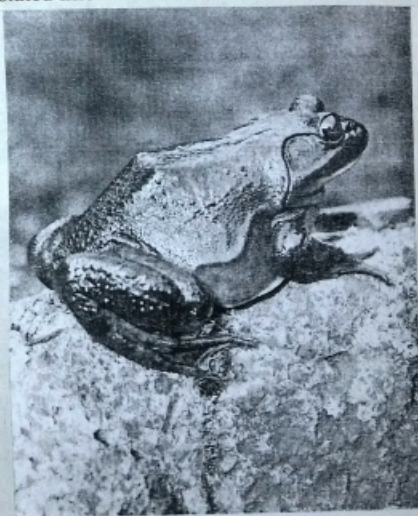
Elle guette autour des fermes les poulets et les canetons.

Animals living in the World January 1902
Natural History published by Charles J Cornish
Translated into French



GRENOUILLE VERTE OU COMMUNE.

C'est la grenouille comestible.



GRENOUILLE TAUREAU.

Elle est aussi appelée Grenouille Mugissante a cause de la puissance de ses coassements.



RAINETTE VERTE.

Abondante dans le sud de l'Europe.



CRAPAUD VULGAIRE.

Il devrait être protégé par tous les jardiniers: c'est un précieux destructeur d'insectes.



RAINETTES BLEUES DE LA NOUVELLE-HOLLANDE.

Dave Hunter from the Department of Environment and Conservation searching for Corroboree frogs Kosciusko National Park March 2006



photo by Gerry Marantelli, Corroboree Frog March 2006



GRENOUILLE TIGRINE.

TOXIC TOADS HOPPING south faster

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH,

April 24, 2006

- The cane toad (*bufo marinus*) is a native of Central and South America
- In 1935, they were imported from Hawaii to Australia, with 3000 released in north Queensland to try to control the native cane beetle that attacked sugarcane crops
- Females lay as many as 36,000 eggs twice a year
- Highly toxic, they have no known native predator

By SIMON BENSON
State Political Reporter

THEY'RE ugly, poisonous and heading your way.

The dreaded cane toad is marching south through NSW at a previously unexpected pace with new predictions the pest could sweep our coastal areas all the way to the Victorian border.

A State Government report has warned that the current rate of spread of the toxic amphibians is now 3-4km per year. However, it also warns some years are seeing far more "rapid movement".

The report by the Government's 10-member independent NSW Scientific Committee, gazetted in Parliament last week, listed the cane toad as a "key threatening process" under NSW environmental laws.

It means the Government, which to date has done little to stop the cane toad march into the state, now has a legal obligation to stop the spread. It must construct a threat-abatement plan to deal with the problem or find itself in breach of its own threatened-species legislation.

Toads have been found in the border ranges at altitudes of 1000m, a height at which scientists believed they could not survive.

New bioclimatic modelling by scientists has revealed they are poised to "readily expand south".

Already established south of Port Macquarie, it is only a matter of years before the toads invade coastal areas and Sydney.



Natives in trouble

- Northern quoll (right)
- Spotted tail quoll (top right)
- Raptors
- Pale-headed snake
- Banded snake
- Green thighed frog
- Golden bell frog (left)



"Modelling of the potential distribution of cane toads predicts range extensions into the north-western slopes of the Great Dividing Range and throughout coastal areas with potential to expand into Victoria," said the report.

The discovery of the toads at high altitudes has alarmed scientists as it suggests they are more adaptable than previously thought.

Climate change modelling predicts their distribution may also be repeated throughout inland NSW by 2030.

Native to Central and South America, they were imported by Queenslanders to control sugar cane pests. Instead they became pests themselves with no known native predators.

Native animals are at risk of being wiped out by being poisoned to death trying to eat them.

They can reach very high densities of up to 2000/ha. There is currently no known way of reducing established populations.

Trapping is labour intensive and no known biological control has yet been established. The report claimed populations have now been found in Lismore, the headwaters of the Richmond River, Yamba and Port Macquarie.

Isolated populations have also been found in national parks in the coastal areas.

Single animals have already been found in Sydney but no colonies have yet been discovered.

Editorial: Page 18

Has the cane toad invasion reached your area? Tell us at dailytelegraph.com.au

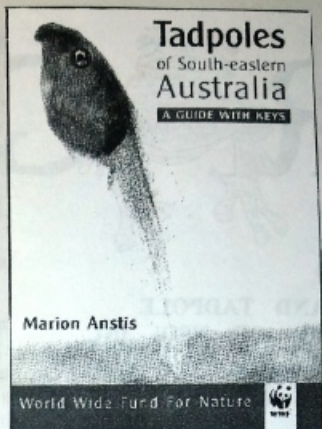
FROG MOBILE

Take a peek in the Frog and Tadpole Study Group's mobile learning centre. There are ponds with tadpoles and various breeds of frogs with information on how to conserve vulnerable species. Sun, 11am-3pm, Shelter Pavilion, Parkes Drive, Centennial Park, 9339 6999 or see fats.org.au.

MILL...
WINE &...
Relax with...
varietal...
strin...
by...
fun...
to t...
Cam...
3pm...
Park...
Gover...
enter...
Street gat...
Parram...
wmi...
.e



SMH 20-21.5.06



Crinia signifera



ART NUBIAN GALLERY

A ceramic piece with a smiling frog, a symbol of rebirth, is one of the 600 artifacts on display in the new permanent gallery devoted to the art of ancient Nubia March 2, 2006, at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. Some of the finest works on display from the earliest great civilization of black Africa are whimsical animal figures and pictures, a far cry from the stiff religious art of Egypt. (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green) <http://www.aapimage.com.au>

Alpine Tree Frog *Litoria verreauxii alpine* listed as endangered Photo Gerry Marantelli Kosciusko National Park March 2006



Dr Ross Perry advises that the Homebush Animal Hospital on Parramatta-Road has closed, but that he can be contacted on telephone or fax at 02 9982 5831, or telephone or text message at 0419 693279, or email at birdoc@birdoc.com.au 11

FIELD TRIPS.

Bookings/Payments For Weekend Camp-outs.

With our Spring/Summer field-trips programme soon to get underway, we thought it timely to remind all members of our rules for booking weekend camp-outs. Please remember that we have commercial arrangements with the managers of these venues & as such, we need to organise fieldtrips on a commercial basis. This will prevent an unfair burden being placed upon the FATS finances.

Bookings can only be made by **FORWARDING PAYMENT IN FULL, IN ADVANCE**. Bookings can only be accepted in order of payment ('first in, first served' until fully booked). Where monies are received after a fieldtrip is fully booked, a refund will be made. Once a booking is accepted, any cancellation will result in **FORFEITURE OF PAYMENT**.

Please also note that once a cancellation is made, FATS will not be obliged to provide accommodation for you should you later change your mind & once again wish to attend the field-trip (i.e. any cancellation is considered final, payment is immediately forfeited & accommodation is no longer allocated). For those who do cancel, please also remember; should FATS be able to subsequently fill the available room, it will **NOT** entitle the cancelling member to a refund. Once again, **ANY CANCELLATION WILL RESULT IN FORFEITURE OF PAYMENT.....THIS MEANS NO REFUNDS !!**

The FATS Committee not only welcome, but indeed encourages all members to attend fieldtrips (particularly if they have not previously done so). The Committee does however, urge all members to carefully consider their upcoming commitments **BEFORE** booking. This will avoid unnecessary disappointment for members & both costly & timely administrative work for committee people who volunteer their time.

If there are any queries regarding our booking procedure, please contact the Field-trips Co-ordinator.

Regards, The FATS Committee.

FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728

FATS CONTACTS

		phone	email
Arthur White	President	ph/fax (02) 9599 1161 (h)	awh41103@bigpond.net.au
Wendy Grimm	Vice President	(02) 9144 5600 (h)	wgrimm@ar.com.au
Elvira Lanham	Secretary	0417 418 596	elvirajlanham@hotmail.com
Alistair MacDougall	Chairperson	(02) 9398 9885 mob 0411 277 070	al@laava.com.au
Karen White	Treasurer	ph/fax (02) 9599 1161 (h)	
Andrew Nelson	Membership Officer	(02) 9411 6068	awnelson@optushome.com.au
Lothar Voigt	Publicity / Exhibition Officer	ph/fax (phone first) (02) 9371 9129(h) ring first	
Punia Jeffery	Asst. Publicity / Exhib Officer	(02) 9969 1932 (h)	
Robert Wall	Field Trip Co-ordinator	(02) 9681 5308 (h)	
Marion Anstis	Quarantine Officer	(02) 9456 1698 (h)	
David Nelson	Web Master	(020 9411 6068 (h)	
Monica Wangmann	Editorial Panel	(02) 9797 6543 (h) mob.0418 992 766	wangmann@tig.com.au
Katherine Wangmann	Editorial Panel	(02) 9797 6543 (h) fax 9797 0603	

INSURANCE DISCLAIMER FATS has public liability insurance for its various public functions. FATS members should be aware that this insurance does not cover FATS members (it covers the public & indemnifies FATS). We are currently checking with insurance firms to see whether a realistic group policy can be organised to cover FATS volunteers and people who attend field trips.

***** DON'T FORGET *** our specialist research field trips with Graham Pyke & The Australian Museum.
Ideal for all students & serious enthusiasts. Locations at Long Reef, North Avoca & Broughton Island.
Contact the Field Trips Co-ordinator for further details 9681 5308.**

FATS meetings commence at about 7.30pm and end about 10.30pm, on the first Friday of every EVEN month (February, April, June, August, October and December), at Building 22, RANAD, Jamieson Street, Sydney Olympic Park, (SOP) Homebush Bay. We hold six informative, informal, topical and practical meetings each year. Please check this Frogcall for further FATS meeting information. Visitors are welcome. We are actively involved in monitoring frog populations and other field studies, 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. Material from Frogcall **MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED** without the prior consent of the Editor or President of FATS. Permission from FATS and/or author/s must be obtained prior to any commercial use of material. The author/s and source must be fully acknowledged. Always confirm date and location of the next meeting.

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