

# FROG CALL

NEWSLETTER No. 90  
August 2007

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**Metamorph Water-holding Frog *Cyclorana platycephala***  
photo Marion Anstis

*Frogmobile helpers are like gold dust. The future depends on you. We need "Frog Explainers" at the Centennial Park duck pond. No experience required.*

*Call Lothar Voigt on 9371 9129*

*Email [lothar@exemail.com.au](mailto:lothar@exemail.com.au)*

*or ring the Frogwatch Helpline on 0419 249 718.*

*Join us at the FATS AGM and meeting  
6.30pm for a 7.00 pm start*

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007**

*Follow signs to Building 22  
end of Jamieson St. off Holker Street,  
Homebush Bay, (Sydney Olympic Park)*

*Public transport available by bus or train.*

*Call us the day before if you would like  
to be collected from the train station.*



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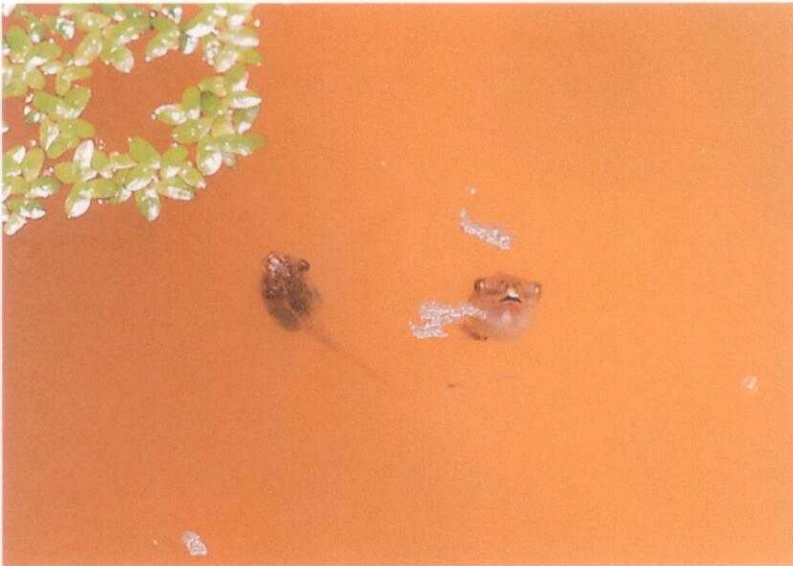
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## MEETING FORMAT for 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007

- 6.30 pm "Buckets of banana frogs" Adult and juvenile Dainty Tree Frogs *Litoria gracilentata* and White Lips *Litoria infrafrenata* are ready to collect. Please bring your FATS membership card & Amphibian Licence if you would like to take a pet home.
- 7.00 pm Welcome, AGM, announcement of inaugural Frogographic competition winners and people's choice award.
- 7.45 pm Main Speakers: Aaron Organ (Ecology Partners) "Monitoring Green and Golden Bell Frogs at Sydney Olympic Park". David Nelson "Dam Fogg- what is out there?" An account of recent frogging adventures in Fogg Dam, Northern Territory.
- 9.00 pm 5 Favourite Slides. Tell us about your recent frogging trips or experiences. If you have slides or other images, bring them along as well. Door prize and guessing competition, followed by light refreshments and pleasant conversation.

LAST MEETING 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2007

## RAISING TADPOLES AND YOUNG FROGS SOME HELPFUL TIPS



Electric Tree Frog Tadpoles photo Marion Anstis

### 1. Materials for Tadpole Keeping

- Opaque plastic wash bowl, baby's bath – white or pale colour, aquarium
- Old enamel bath
- Dry river sand
- Dry leaf litter from bush - soaked
- Small dry rocks
- Water plants if desired
- Aged water or rainwater supply

### 2. Preparation

- Wash river sand thoroughly
- Clean a used aquarium and flush with hot water, or rinse out new plastic dish
- Briefly immerse water plants in warm water with a small amount of bleach, rinse thoroughly with cold water
- Rinse used rocks in hot water

### 3. Setting up

- Lay sand to depth of 4-5 cm (less if no plants)
- Arrange rocks and plants
- Add pre-soaked leaf litter which should sink
- Fill to depth of about 20 cm – pour water into jar standing on bottom. Add tads.
- Use an overhead UV fluorescent light if indoors
- If outdoors, provide access to some morning sun, making sure water will not overheat
- Partial or complete cover for rain events and shade as needed



### 4. Maintenance

- Avoid overcrowding – 1-6 tads per litre, depending on size
- Feed with a variety of these foods, but little at a time, 1-3 times daily depending on rate of consumption
- Top up water one quarter at a time
- Clean container and set up again if water goes green – alter site and/or feeding regime

### 5. Feeding

- Most general pond dwellers do well on small amounts of crushed algae discs, with additional floating goldfish flakes for surface feeders.
- Larger types that feed avidly will also chew on SMALL (20c coin size) sections of frozen endive or lettuce which usually floats. Only when it is eaten should more be added.
- Feed only a small pinch of finely crushed algae disc (sunk) to smaller Crinia, Pseudophryne, Uperoleia and stream dwellers etc. as these also feed mainly on bottom sediments.
- Many tads go nuts over dead insects at the surface or protein sticks, especially as their legs are growing.

### 6. Problems

- |                              |                                             |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Tadpoles look thin        | • Over or under feeding                     |
|                              | • Overcrowding                              |
|                              | • Water quality deteriorated                |
| 2. Tadpoles don't grow       | • As above                                  |
|                              | • Water temperature cool – e.g. over winter |
| 3. Tadpoles die or disappear | • Any of above                              |
|                              | • Toxins introduced                         |

### 7. Metamorphosis

- Prepare takeaway food container – holes in lid, shallow water, rock, sand, leaves
- Place tree-frog tads in there as soon as they have 4 legs
- Ground frogs only need to be removed from tad container when tail is half resorbed
- Burrowers need sand (or clay – dried first before moistening)
- Do not feed until tail fully resorbed, provide hiding places

### 8. Growing up

- Keep species separate
- Keep gutsy feeders separate from smaller siblings
- Release excess in your garden if they came from there
- To Museum, if under permit requirements

Marion Anstis

## LAST MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2007 (continued)

**A**listair MacDougall opened the meeting and welcomed new and regular members and guests. Lothar Voigt spoke about the Frogmobile at Warringah, the Reptile and Frog and Reptile Expo at Castle Hill and our regular Frogmobile display at Centennial Park.

Andrew Lo, an environmental economist, was our main speaker. You may remember his beautiful ink painting on the front cover of our April newsletter. Andrew's was active in the community fight to save Manly Dam. Frog advocates such as Harold (Hal) Cogger took the side of the Red Crowned Toadlet, in a succession of court battles.

Many books pursuing ecological sustainability, were mentioned at the meeting: "Gaia A new look at life on Earth" J E Lovelock, Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring" 1962, "Going Native" Michael Archer and Bob Beale, (Ed Also refer <http://www.users.on.net/~rmc/global.htm>), "Ecology of Commerce" and "Nature of Capitalism" Paul Hawken, et al, "Cradle to Cradle" William McDonough. (Apologies for incomplete author details)

A walk in an old growth forest is a journey of discovery. What is not right for nature is not right for business:

**Transcript 12/8/1999 BHP faces Ok Tedi damage**  
**KERRY O'BRIEN:** *First, BHP's ongoing problem child -- its massive \$3 billion Ok Tedi copper mine in Papua New Guinea. The big Australian's worst fears have been confirmed with the release of a new scientific report by Ok Tedi Mining Limited, which is majority owned by BHP. The report verifies what ecologists and landowners have been claiming for years -- that the impact of the mine on the local environment, in Papua New Guinea's western province, has been far greater and more damaging than predicted. The Ok Tedi and Fly rivers have been seriously polluted. So far about 4,000 people have been affected, but that number could grow significantly. There's already been one out-of-court settlement with PNG landowners for \$500 million, and BHP now faces a fresh round of compensation claims.....*

Andrew Lo's presentation on bio mimicry, eco-centric and anthropocentric behaviour, tourism, constraints of capital stock, intra and inter generational equity and "the selfish gene" will be recorded in more detail in a later edition of Frogcall. Andrew has taken a stand not to mortgage our children's future. Environmental sustainable cities must meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations' needs. We thank him for his enlightening and entertaining presentation. MW

## FATS AGM NOTICE

**T**he FATS AGM will be held at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007 FATS meeting, at 7pm. If you would like to ask questions about joining the FATS committee, please give any of us a call. Refer to the committee contact details in this newsletter.

There are a diversity of roles within the committee to accommodate your interests, skills and available time. You only need to devote whatever time you can spare. New committee members help develop fresh ideas and keep our organization interesting and fun. No previous experience or qualifications are required. Please contact our secretary Punia Jeffery or myself for further information or a nomination form. MW

## FROGMOBILE DATES

**D**ates done: 22.4. Centennial Park, with Andrew Lo and Beth Raymond. A busy, sunny day.

4-6.5. Frog and Reptile Expo at Castle Hill, with Annie Nielsen, Jason Luke, Punia Jeffery, Marion Anstis, Lisa Tennyenhuis, Grant Webster, Karen Russell, Bec Hansen, Brad and Matt McCaffery, Robert Wall. The expo was packed full of frog-frenzied footfolk, and the show itself was awesome.

23/24. & 27.5. Warringah schools workshops & community day, with Grant Webster. (The FM had to compete against rainwater tank stands, gutter designers, customs displays etc. Guess where all the kids congregated!)

16.6. Randwick Council (cancelled when the storm started blowing the giant tent away).

4.7. Kellyville Pets, with Beth Raymond. My estimate of 1000 visitors was borne out by their turnstile that has a counter in it. I had lost my voice giving the ½ hour advertised talks every hour; then tried screeching. Then used a mike, but that screeched also. But a good time was had by all.

15.7. Centennial Park, with Beth and Grant. 1500 visitors, and again a nice sunny day.

And three cheers and many more thanks to our wonderful helpers!

### Frogmobile dates coming up:

Sunday, 9.9. Bushland Day at Annangrove Park, 10am – 2 pm. Baulkham Hills Council.

Saturday, 13.10. Environmental Open Day at Jacquie Osmond Reserve, 10am – 2 pm. Liverpool Council.

Sunday, 4.11. Centennial Park by the Duck Pond, 10:30am – 3:30pm for FROGWEEK!

Helpers needed. Please do contact me (Lothar 9371 9129 or Frogwatch Helpline 0419 249 728).

### Other FATS dates coming up:

Sunday, 2.9., Frogs on ABC Radio 702, with Simon Marnie. After the 10am news.

Sunday, 2.12. Frog workshop (3 hours). Ku-Ring-Gai Council. Watch this space. L.V.





Corroboree Frogs, photo from Andrew Nelson

## THE WEATHER MAKERS

**P**rof Tim Flannery will be speaking about his book "The Weather Makers" Ashfield town hall 260 Liverpool Road Ashfield Free admission. Doors open 6.15pm for a talk from 7 to 8pm Friday 23/11/2007 Be early! The details will eventually appear on Ashfield Council's web site.

[http://www.ashfield.nsw.gov.au/library\\_authatashfield\\_Coming.html](http://www.ashfield.nsw.gov.au/library_authatashfield_Coming.html) and

<http://www.ashfield.nsw.gov.au/> MW



## 2007 INAUGURAL FROGOGRAPHIC PRIZE

**W**inners of the froggie photos or drawings competition will be announced at the FATS August meeting.

### Categories:-

- 1
  - a Best frog photo (all ages)
  - b Best frog photo (under 16 yrs old)
- 2
  - a Best frog artwork ie drawing, cartoon or painting (all ages)
  - b Best frog artwork (under 16)
- 3
  - a Most interesting image (all ages)
  - b Most interesting image (under 16)
- 4 A "people's choice" award will be judged at the August meeting of FATS. (open to all ages)

The FATS Committee



Arthur White - Cane Toad Muster 2007



Green Tree Frog and dinner at Port Macquarie



Cane Toad Trap

LAST MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE (continued from p 3)  
CANE TOAD MUSTER 2007

**W**endy Grimm participated in the Port Macquarie Cane Toad Muster for 2007. With the assistance of George Madani and Arthur White she spoke to us about the innovative event.

Western Australians have been effective leaders in their determination to prevent Cane Toads colonising WA and this year, Port Macquarie borrowed one of their successful weapons - namely Nifty the sniffer dog who was the highlight of the muster. Not only are these WA dogs trained to detect cane toads, but with their exceptional sense of smell (and intelligence), they can differentiate between fresh trails and ones that may be up to a week old....AND then convey this detective work to their handler by sitting if a Cane Toad is detected!

**Cane Toad sniffer dog Nifty and handler Jen Francis**



Port Macquarie has had the dubious honour of being the most southern Australian location that has a permanent population of Cane Toads - not that they were invited or received hospitably by the locals! Cane Toads are very successful hitch hikers and for many years have been infiltrating NSW towns that receive (usually) road freight from Queensland.

Eight years ago the Port Macquarie community mobilised for their first annual Cane Toad Muster. Initially, the toad haul was staggering with hundreds being collected in a night. However it seemed that the musters were slowly having an impact when about four years ago, these numbers started to fall, so much so that by 2006 and 2007 all out efforts have been made to exterminate the toads.

The enthusiasm of the local community, Landcare (over 150 volunteers turned out for the first night of the muster) and the support and involvement of a range of government departments (including NPWS, Councils and WA CALM who provided Nifty on loan for the muster, and groups including FATS were rewarded - not by a swag of Cane Toads - but by virtually no evidence of even recent trails and a complete absence of live toads. Careful planning and organisation of volunteers was a feature of the muster. With only two juvenile Cane Toads detected in the past two years, it is tempting to hope that this is one battle in a major war across the toad that has been well and truly



Port Macquarie

<http://www.airviewonline.com.au>

won.....Crinia and Striped marsh Frogs were heard . But - beware! The next truckload of hitch hikers may already be on the road! (extracts from **A Question of Balance** and Wendy Grimm's presentation)

### BOOK WRANGLER GONE "LOCALLY WILD"

**L**ocally Wild - Keeping native animals as pets" is the title of this wondrous book by Christopher Cheng. As with many of us, there is a growing length of bookshelf on this subject in my home. Mike Archer and Bob Beale, Susan Hand, Erna Walraven, Jennie Churchill and other prominent authors made the subject respectable. This one makes it accessible to the younger reader.

It even made me want to be a younger reader again. Lots of photos, clear text and how-to drawings, easy to follow even for us armchair enthusiasts who can keep most of those animals in our heads only. Right now I am having trouble getting the book back from Bree, my four-year-old granddaughter (four-and-a-half, she corrected me), who can't read anything yet apart from the page numbers which she reads very eagerly. I have to read all the rest to her, all 96 large pages; it's her favourite book right now.

Locally Wild is both a how-to book and a motivational book that is brimming with infectious enthusiasm. From Mike Archer's foreword to case histories of practitioners who share interesting bits of their lives with our wildlife, and of young amateurs who have bonded with a native animal, the book encourages nature preservation by personal examples. Not a bad way to get kids first to identify with their pet and then with wildlife in their backyard and schoolyard and then with the wider conservation issues.

As you would expect, there are chapters on a selection of insects, on native fish, on frogs (yes, a whole chapter on frogs), on reptiles, birds and mammals. The keeping instructions go hand in hand with describing their needs and habits. And Christopher Cheng has found the right note and format to keep the interest up. RRP \$26.95, Pluto Press, hitting the bookshops any day now. **L.V.**



## EMAILS FROM FROGNOISEGARDEN

**D**oes anyone have any ideas on how to remove frogs from a pond? Someone I know is having major dramas with a neighbour who is complaining about the noise from the frogs. I suggested getting new neighbours, but unfortunately this is not an option. The frogs are in a pond surrounded by a rockery and I've tried bait in buckets to no avail. If the frogs cannot be removed, then it's likely the pond will be drained and filled in. Any suggestions would be much appreciated. **Regards, Andrew**

**Hi Andrew,**

There are several options. Firstly, let's assume you're talking about Striped Marsh Frogs (SMFs) because that's the most common case, at least around Sydney, and it has a bearing on how to proceed.

SMFs can be recognized by their rhythmic loud "tock", like a loud dripping tap or like hitting two wooden sticks together. If the call sounds different, ring the Frogwatch Helpline and ignore the advice below. Firstly, frogs are protected wildlife and legally should not be interfered with. So far, DEC have not been prepared to issue permits for their removal on the grounds of noise problems. And a good thing, too: We definitely don't want frogs translocated to a new area and risk spreading chytrid fungus around.

Even if you did move the frogs on, it usually doesn't do much good. Because you're unlikely to catch them all. And others will come and take their place. They are good travellers, especially in wet weather, and have no problem crawling under paling fences. And the first one may act as a beacon for others. A better way is to make use of a peculiarity of this species: They (the males of course only) will only call when they are floating or sitting in water, however shallow, even if it is only water in a tin can or flower pot saucer. Either remove all open water, or get it out of their reach by fencing it in or raising it well off the ground. SMFs are ground frogs, not tree frogs. They can't climb up a fence and they can't jump over one that is at least 60 cm high.

Make a fence of 12x12 mm aviary wire around the pond and dig it at least 15 cm into the ground. Use a few fence posts as needed. To get in and out yourself, cut a 35 x 35 cm opening out of the top part of the fence and make a 40 x 40 cm door flap out of the same material. Attach two hooks made from coathanger wire near the top corners to hang the door across the opening.

If the rockery is inside the fence, lift each rock to check for frogs underneath, and place the frogs outside the barrier where they will stay quiet. Make sure there are no chairs, bushes etc against the outside of the fence which the SMFs could use as stepping stones to get in.

If there are any SMFs you overlooked inside your enclosure, or any baby frogs that got through and then

grow up inside and next year turn out to be noisy males, find them with a torch after dark when they are in the water (remember, this species doesn't call from dry land) and place them outside your barrier.

The other possibility is to gently remind the neighbours that the frogs are wildlife and are property of the Crown and that it is the Queen and not the backyard owner who is responsible for them and their noise. Now, if someone built a pond right outside the neighbours' bedroom window, there might be some room for negotiation and sympathy ...

Because this species calls at low frequencies, double glazing and ear plugs are of limited use. Paradoxically, a whole chorus of SMFs is I think a great deal easier to bear than a single male steadily metronoming through the night. So if you can't remove or exclude them all, maybe bring a few of them in!

You're welcome to give the Frogwatch Helpline phone number to your neighbours if they keep blaming you.

**Much luck, Lothar**

*The frogs in question are Striped Marsh Frogs, I heard one when I was there the other day. The pond is not mine, but I do some occasional maintenance on it for the owners. They have lived there for 20 years and are not bothered by the frogs, but their new neighbour is making a fuss and they are concerned that they may resort to poisoning the pond. Unfortunately the rockery is cemented in around the pond, so it will not be easy to find all the frogs. **Regards, Andrew***

**Hi Andrew,**

*We have a large population of the SMFs round our garden, and we have had a neighbour complain, it is difficult. I often wonder why such people don't move into a unit in the CBD where they can enjoy the peace and quiet :-)* The frogs get into a pond just outside our bedroom. That can get a bit much and I will go out with a torch and a net and gently move them down our backyard. The offending males are not too hard to catch if the pond is not cluttered, because they are driven to float at the surface and go pop. However, if there is a suitable water body they will keep coming. Sometimes after I clear them out there is a new tenant waiting and they are back and popping before the night is out. If your friend is willing to do a little gentle discouraging on bad nights it might hose the neighbours down a bit. I hope so. By doing that you may disrupt breeding a bit but with this species I don't think that is a big problem.

*What is FATS opinion on the dominance of SMFs in urban/ suburban Sydney? We get an occasional lone Peron's but otherwise it is wall-to-wall SMFs. I shifted a wheelie bin yesterday and there were several under it. They are at very high density in our garden.*

**Cheers, Chris**

**Hi Chris and Andrew,**

There is probably not one suitable habitat in Sydney that is not already overplastered with them. And their tadpoles appear to be able to spoil the water for other frog species. They don't really need our help in suburbia, but tree frogs do, and some need it badly.

I find if I disturb SMFs they stay quiet for a short while only. Five to ten minutes if I stand stock-still and ready to switch my torch on again, longer if they can still see my outline silhouetted against the night sky, probably a fair bit longer still if I yell and hurl my alarm clock at them. Andrew, if your friend sang Silent Night outside his neighbours' bedroom window, they should stay quiet for the entire duration (the frogs, more so than the neighbours).

But small to medium-sized goldfish just might be a reasonable alternative for selectively keeping the overall SMF population down. They won't touch the Peron's Tree Frog tadpoles (above a minimum size) but relish the SMF ones. Please don't think I have it in for them.

**INSANITY STREAK**



**Monday DIARY OF A DAY TRADER**

... And there's the beautiful golden toad. Golden toads mate over a few days a year on the side of an obscure mountain somewhere in Latin America, and then retreat underground ... a few days of frenzied humping, and then millions of little tadpoles appear in the pond!

"Jasper, the golden toad is extinct," said a young woman called Saskia.

I was at a very serious dinner party in Point Piper, the home of one of Grace's wealthy girlfriends, Mimi, and her husband Tom.

Just up the road is Frank Lowy's pile, and down the road is Malcolm Turnbull's.

As well as Mimi, Tom, Jasper and Saskia, were Katie, Baz and other sons and daughters of rich Australians.

One was the heiress of a Persian carpet king; others were the offspring of industry magnates and investment bankers.

We were discussing climate change.

"The golden toad's breeding ponds are evaporating too quickly," said Saskia. "The warmer climate is responsible."

"OK, but what about the lesser yellow-speckled newt? It's got a tongue three times the length of its body," said Jasper. "Can you imagine if our tongues were that long?"

"It's extinct too," said Saskia.

"OK. Well how about this," continued Jasper. "I've heard of a frog that vomits up its babies."

"It's called the gastric ruminant frog or something. An amazing creature.

"The mother swallows the fertilised egg, which hatches insides her stomach; when the baby frogs are big enough to hop, the mother vomits them up."

Katie was enchanted: "I'd much rather vomit my children up."

"It's also extinct!" Saskia furiously interjected. "Climate change has killed them all, and you sit there making jokes about them!"

After a suitably contrite silence, Jasper said: "So tell me Bone: bought any good shares lately?"

Sent to Frogcall by Matthew Kemplay-Hill

In the inner parts of Sydney, SMFs are the only frogs that are likely to come to your pond, at least within a waitable timeframe.

And they keep insect pests down, they are educational for the kids, and they are a ready supply for raising tadpoles in local schools. On the downside, I think they and their bonking could hinder public goodwill as much as help it, they do seem to crowd other suburban frog species out, and they are resilient little things that could act as a reservoir for chytrid fungus amongst frogs – especially in times of stress when the competition is more vulnerable. Maybe.

As we must all get older and maybe a bit plumper, we and our partners often start snoring. There is an incentive then to be the first one to fall asleep. Unless you have earplugs that really work with low frequencies. Has anyone tried chewing gum? Would anyone like to invent smart bionic earplugs to cancel the snoring out? I bet they would work on SMFs too. Fitting the earplugs onto the frogs would be a different matter. Perhaps if the frogs can't hear themselves, they give up bonking. As we must all when we get older. **Cheers, Lothar**

The Daily Telegraph 17/2/2007

*Golden toads in a whole lot of trouble*

**PHANTOM DAY TRADERS' \$1 MILLION OR BUST 2007 PORTFOLIO (as at noon, July 20)**

NO. OF SHARES	COMPANY	PRICE	PURCHASE DATE	PRESENT VALUE	PROFIT (LOSS) \$
450,000	Alkane Exp	0.21	14/2/07	0.39	78,750
10,000	Metgasco	1.00	11/04/07	1.13	1300
10,000	Oxiana	2.82	21/02/07	3.85	10,300
10,000	Roc Oil	3.14	7/02/07	3.67	5300
50,000	Silex	3.35	23/3/06	10.79	372,000
Total portfolio size: <b>\$803,750</b>					<b>Profit: \$467,650</b>

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**THE AUSSIEAUSSIEAUSSIE DAY TRADERS' \$1 MILLION OR BUST 2007 PORTFOLIO:**

Portfolio size: **\$550,020.04**

*BUSINESS SECTION - INVESTING*

**Tuesday**

Last night spilled into the early hours of this morning. The debate degenerated into a bitter competition over who had the biggest carbon footprint: Jasper or Baz.

Baz drives a Toyota Prado, as well as a Mercedes; while Jasper's three cars include the Toyota Aurion and an Aston Martin.

Baz flies business class to LA two times a month; Jasper, first class to Hong Kong, six times a month. While Baz has a very advanced air-conditioning unit in his home, Jasper's house has three fridges.

While they were adding up their CO<sub>2</sub> scores, Saskia was vomiting in the bathroom.

The Carbon Footprint Competition had proved too much.

Indeed, it is an interesting fact that certain indulged young Australians feel pride, not shame, about having a large carbon footprint.

I must inform Professor Valerie Carr-Edwards, our ethical investment consultant, to see her reaction.

Anyway, I recommended a few shares to Tom and Mimi and the rest.

I adopted my serious demeanour and sober voice, in keeping with my reputation around Point Piper as a global investment expert and superb stock-picker.

"Well, I would be careful about China, which is overheating," I intoned, "but there remain some great opportunities.

"China's continued growth is being fuelled by more than 450 of the top multinational corporations.

"But here's the dilemma: Both Chinese and foreign-invested companies cannot find enough people with the right skill sets to keep China growing!

"So I'd recommend China Career Builder, a job search company, which already has a sizable lead in a worldwide market for human resource services!"

The evening fizzled out about 3am, when poor Saskia finally emerged from the bathroom.

"Did you vomit up any frogs?" wondered Jasper, at which he was bundled out of the house in disgrace, and revved his Aurion on the street to celebrate winning the CO<sub>2</sub> competition.

**Wednesday**

Feeling like a regurgitated frog, I traded in bed today.

**Thursday**

Still from my bed, I investigated a few ram-paging Chinese stocks.

Baidu, the Chinese version of Google, which floated on the Nasdaq in 2005 at \$US27, is now hovering around \$US200.

Other Chinese internet companies have made staggering returns in the past year or so: Sina.com, Sohu.com, and NetEase.com are all soaring.

The question is, why did we miss these opportunities? Why weren't we told?

Getting into the Chinese market isn't easy, of course.

You've got to go via the Nasdaq, and that involves all sorts of currency and tax issues.

**Friday**

This morning I got a summons to the Phantom DayTraders Emergency Stock Briefing. Doomsday, our bear market analyst, reckons a global meltdown is upon us.

*7 Sent in By Punia Jeffery*

*JAMES BONE*

## HERPDIGEST

### DEEP FUNGAL DERMATITIS IN THREE INLAND BEARDED DRAGONS

Caused By The *Chrysosporium* Anamorph Of *Nannizziopsis Vriesii*. (Yellow Fungus Disease)

**The *Chrysosporium* anamorph of *Nannizziopsis vriesii* (CANV), a keratinophilic fungus that naturally and experimentally causes severe and often fatal dermatitis in multiple reptile species, was isolated in pure culture from skin samples of three inland bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*) with deep granulomatous dermatomycosis.**

The first animal presented with a focal maxillary swelling involving the skin and gingiva. This lizard died while undergoing itraconazole and topical miconazole therapy. The second presented with focally extensive discoloration and thickening of the skin of the ventrum and was euthanized after 10 weeks of itraconazole therapy. A third lizard presented with hyperkeratotic exudative dermatitis on a markedly swollen forelimb. Amputation and itraconazole therapy resulted in a clinical cure. Histopathology of tissue biopsies in all cases demonstrated granulomatous dermatitis with intralesional hyphae morphologically consistent with those produced by the CANV. !

The second lizard also had granulomatous hepatitis with intralesional hyphae. Evidence in this report suggests that the CANV is the etiologic agent of an emerging condition in captive bearded dragons that has been called 'yellow fungus disease'.

**MR Bowman, JA Pare, L Sigler, JP Naeser, KK Sladky, CS Hanley, P Helmer, LA Phillips, A Brower, and R Porter Department of Surgical Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin - Madison. USA. Med Mycol, June 1, 2007; 45(4): 371-6.**

### AUSTRALIA TO BUILD CROSS-CONTINENT CLIMATE CORRIDOR (ON EAST COAST NORTH TO SOUTH)

**This is a major ecological project. How would it affect the herps of Australia? Australia will create a wildlife corridor spanning the continent to allow animals and plants to flee the effects of global warming, scientists said on Monday.**

The 2,800-kilometer (1,740 mile) climate "spine," approved by state and national governments, will link the country's entire east coast, from the snow-capped Australian alps in the south to the tropical north -- the distance from London to Romania. "A lot of that forest and vegetation spine is already there. But there are still blockages," David Lindenmayer, a professor of

conservation biology, told Reuters of the plan. "The effects of climate change will likely to be less severe in systems that have some resilience and that we haven't gone in and buggered-up."

The creation of the corridor was agreed by state and federal governments this year amid international warnings that the country -- already the world's driest inhabited continent -- is suffering from an accelerated Greenhouse effect.

Climate scientists have predicted temperatures rising by up to 6.7 degrees Celsius (12 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2080 in the country's vast outback interior. A 10-year drought is expected to slash one percent from the A\$940 billion (\$803 billion) economy.

The corridor, under discussion since the 1990s as the argument in support of climate change strengthened, will link national parks, state forests and government land. It will help preserve scores of endangered species. "We are talking a very long-term vision, a land use that values keeping the eastern forests in place over past uses like landclearing," said Graeme Worboys from the IUCN, the world conservation union.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology last year said climate change was occurring so fast in Australia that cooler southern towns were moving to the warmer north at the rate of 100 kilometers each year.

Lindenmayer, from the Australian National University, said governments would need also to work with private landholders to link the corridor through voluntary conservation agreements. "Given only 10 percent of Australia's landscapes are going to be in formal reserves, we are going to have to be far cleverer about how we manage the country outside," he said.

But Michael Dunlop, from the country's top government science organization, the CSIRO, said the corridor would not be a silver bullet for conservation efforts, with the country needing to do more to protect different types of climates.

"Connectivity is just one solution. Connectivity is not one of my six big hits," he said. **By Rob Taylor  
CANBERRA (Reuters) - 7/9/07**

PETER Spradbrow's pet green tree frog is a long way from home.

It hitched a ride from Queensland on a banana truck and ended up in NSW.

With no way of knowing which farm he'd come from, the Frog Rescue Service had no choice but to find him a new home.

So far, three frogs have found their way to Mr Spradbrow and next month he will be showing his froggy friends at the Australian Frog and Reptile Show at Castle Hill Showground.

The show attracts about 16,000 people each year to gawk at crocodiles, pythons, goannas and turtles.

This year Mr Spradbrow hopes one of his little friends may win the title of Australia's Biggest Frog. But the main reason he is entering is to show people that frogs and reptiles make great pets.

"Frogs eat only once a week," he said. "This means they only go to the bathroom once a week - talk about low maintenance!"

"What more could you ask for in a pet?" They make a fraction of the mess of the average pup or kitten, but have twice the attitude, Mr Spradbrow says.

"You wouldn't think so, but frogs have such amazing personalities," he said. "They'll laze about six days a week but on feeding day they'll do all sorts of things to try to get noticed."

"As I walk past, they'll decide to go swimming, or hang off the top of their cages. They're hilarious."

**The Australian Frog and Reptile Show is on Friday-Sunday, May 4-6, at Castle Hill Showground. Adults, \$10, children, \$5, family \$25 (under-4s free). Details: [www.wildexpo.com.au](http://www.wildexpo.com.au)**



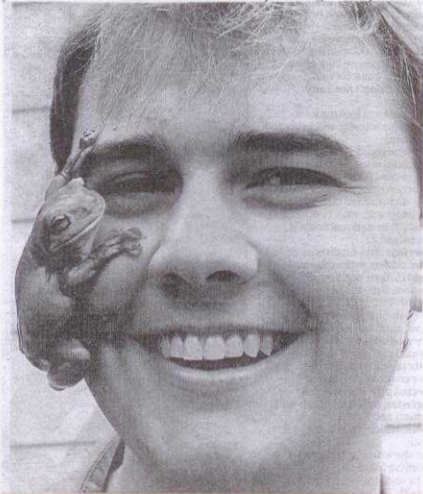
## CAN POWERLINES HELP FROGS?

**S**cientists are trying to figure out if clearings created for powerlines through rainforests may be helping frogs survive a deadly disease.

In laboratories, scientists have noticed the potentially fatal fungus chytridiomycosis is not nearly so deadly at temperatures of about 37C. But once the temperature drops to about 25C, the fungus becomes more potent. The fungus had proved deadly to higher altitude species.

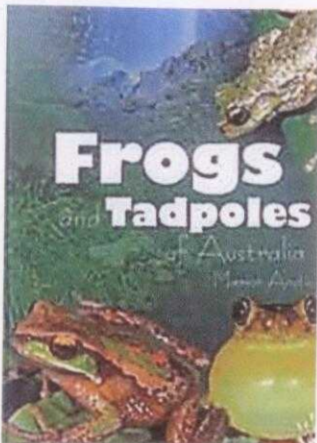
Chytridiomycosis is believed responsible for three species being wiped out but might be to blame for at least six extinctions. "The idea is to look at small-scale but intensive disturbance to the frogs habitat and monitor how it affects them," said Lin Schwarzkopf, of James Cook University's school of marine and tropical biology.

There are no cases of population declines due to the disease in frogs that live in lowland rainforests. The project will examine why this could be. "Higher, more variable temperatures and light levels and lower humidity seem to protect frogs from the disease," Professor Alford said. "Small clearings being made for power line towers are likely to increase the exposure of frogs to such conditions, which could reduce their vulnerability to the disease. "Our monitoring of the frogs will determine if the areas disturbed by tower construction are used by frogs and how." **By Brian Williams, [couriermail.com.au](http://couriermail.com.au), July 12, 2007**



**Frog friend:** Peter Spradbrow, from Llandilo, so loves frogs that he adopts lost ones and has entered his green tree frog in the Australian Frog and Reptile Show next month.

Picture: Alana Landsberry



## Frogs and Tadpoles of Australia

By Marion Anstis

This book is all about Australian frogs, where they live, how they breath, how they catch their food, how they mate and how they develop from eggs to tadpoles and finally into baby frogs. It includes:

- full colour photographs showing frogs and tadpoles in their native habitats
- a full-colour map showing the different habitats
- fun text full of interesting facts about their lifestyle and behaviour
- activities to test your knowledge
- a glossary to explain new words
- an index of both scientific and common names
- a list of other books and websites where you can find out more

48 pages. 325mm X 245mm. (2007) Hard Cover. RRP \$19.95

## CANE TOADS ARE NOT CAUSING THE ECOLOGICAL CATASTROPHE IN AUSTRALIA FOR WHICH THEY HAVE LONG BEEN BLAMED, ACCORDING TO A NEW SCIENTIFIC STUDY.

**A** leading researcher into the dreaded amphibians says field and laboratory trials tell a different story to what has been a mantra for scientists and naturalists for decades.

In an article published in Australasian Science magazine, Professor Rick Shine of the University of Sydney said most native species were not directly affected by cane toads. Native predators were adapting rapidly to toads in ways that enabled them to coexist and the amphibians were evolving to be good little Australians such as in helping to reduce mosquito numbers.

Professor Shine and a team of scientists are working at Gogg Dam on the Adelaide River floodplain near Darwin to see what happens as toads advance across the Northern Territory.

They ate invertebrates and competed with frogs but studies showed the effects were small.

He said while high mortality rates were seen in frogs and about 90 per cent of goannas died when toads arrived in a habitat, overall effects had been "very patchy".

A bigger issue was toads poisoning animals that tried to eat them. "Many species really aren't at risk because they are closely related to Asian species that still have the genetic baggage to be able to process toads and to deal with toxins or recognise that you shouldn't eat them," Professor Shine said.

The keelback, a common snake with Asian ancestry, ate toads without problems. Snakes most in trouble were venomous species such as king browns and death adders which experienced high mortality rates when toads arrived. **Darwin, 7/15/07, ABC,**

**If you have any questions or complaints please send them directly to us at [asalzberg@herpdigest.org](mailto:asalzberg@herpdigest.org) And you'll receive a response or acted on immediately. HerpDigest: The Only Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter That Reports on The Latest News on Herpetological Conservation, Science**

## WARM SPRING 'AFFECTING WILDLIFE'

**A** warm spring has brought about the early arrival of some UK wildlife, the first results of the Springwatch 2007 survey suggest.

Over the past few months, amateur naturalists have logged more than 24,000 first sightings of six key species of plants and animals. Some, such as the peacock butterfly and frogspawn, have been spotted earlier than expected. The Woodland Trust said it was worried "because the changes are so rapid".



The survey shows some species are appearing earlier than expected

Springwatch, now in its third year, is run by the Woodland Trust and the BBC.

The survey data is being compiled to build up a picture of the season as it unfolds across the UK so that it can be compared to previous years. As the survey has



The first sightings of swifts have not changed by much

been running for a limited time, the results cannot be interpreted as definitive guide to how a changing climate is affecting wildlife, but researchers are already examining the data for trends. Recent weather in the UK has been extremely mild, and records show it has been the warmest spring since the Springwatch survey began in 2005. Nick Collinson, head of conservation policy at the Woodland Trust, believes the warm conditions may be responsible for some earlier-than-expected sightings. He said: "This has been our earliest Springwatch year, well ahead of the normal time we would have expected to see these events 30 years ago." Members of the public were asked to record the dates they have first seen red-tailed bumblebees, frogspawn, flowering hawthorns, seven-spot ladybirds, peacock butterflies and swifts. Some of the

preliminary findings of this year's survey include:

Frogspawn spotted on average two weeks earlier than in 2006 and three weeks earlier than the "phenological norm" (an average first-sighting date based on data gathered over the last 30 years). Peacock butterflies sighted on average one month earlier than 2006, two weeks earlier than 2005, and one month earlier than the norm. For swifts, the data is still returning, but initial results suggest the date has stayed much the same as 2006, 2007 and the phenological norm.

Mr Collinson was worried about the possible impact of increasingly warm springs. He said: "We are concerned because the change seems to be so rapid. "And we know there is a mismatch of timing, so, for example,

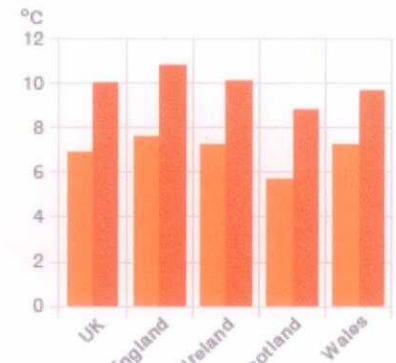
when insects would pollinate flowers, the flowers are coming out earlier than the insects are available, and we know this is happening. "It is very difficult to tell what that means, but certainly we know that wildlife is under pressure."

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/nol/shared/spl/hi/pop\\_ups/07/in\\_pictures\\_enl\\_1180015643/img/1.jpg](http://news.bbc.co.uk/nol/shared/spl/hi/pop_ups/07/in_pictures_enl_1180015643/img/1.jpg)

forwarded by Andrew Nelson

### APRIL 2007 AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

■ April mean temperature (1971-2000)  
■ Provisional mean temperature April 07



SOURCE: UK Met Office

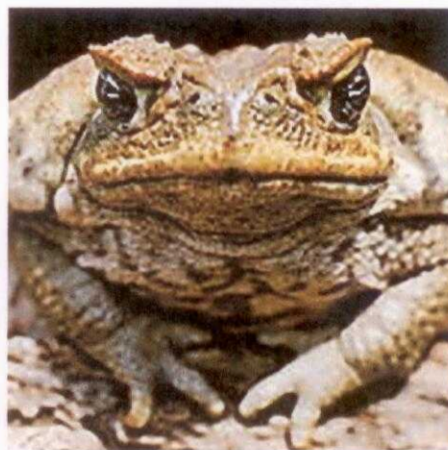
### SPRINGWATCH: AVERAGE SIGHTINGS ACROSS UK

		30-year average	2005 Springwatch	2006 Springwatch	2007 Springwatch
	Red-tailed bumblebee	N/A	N/A	7 April	21 March
	Frogspawn	12 March	6 March	15 March	25 February
	Seven-spot ladybird	N/A	7 March	21 March	5 March
	Hawthorn flowers	11 May	28 April	8 May	16 April
	Peacock butterfly	15 April	30 March	14 April	15 March
	Swifts returning	10 May	5 May	4 May	Results awaited

**RSPCA TEES OFF ON TOAD-CLUBBING STUBBY HOLDER**

**T**he RSPCA has criticised the Townsville City Council for a producing a stubby holder promoting "cane toad golf" as a highlight of living in north Queensland.

The beer holder is part of a \$270,000 council promotional campaign, which is designed to build community pride. RSPCA spokesman Michael Beattie says it is irresponsible. "The RSPCA acknowledges the fact that the cane toad needs to be eliminated ideally but simply whacking a few with golf clubs doesn't work," he said. "Nine times out of ten the cane toad will simply get up and hop away." The Mayor of Townsville Tony Mooney says he does not want anyone to be offended by the campaign and steps will be taken to sort the matter out.

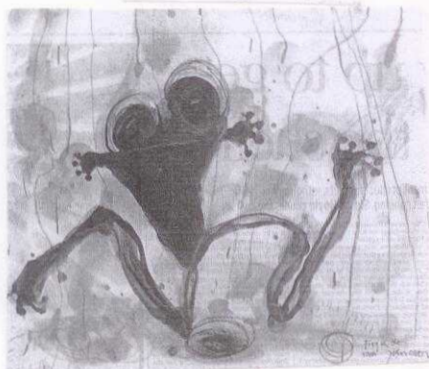


The RSPCA is angry about a stubby holder promoting cane toad golf (photo Reuters)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200706/s1944818.htm> forwarded to FATS by Stephen Weir

Business section, Investing, Art SMH page 46 21/7/2007

John Olsen's *Frog in the Rain* .....sharing the gains



**Olsen skims pond**

Idly skimming a 10-year-old copy of *Australian Art Collector* magazine, *ArtSmart* couldn't help noticing John Olsen got a very prescient wrap in a cover story about Australia's most wanted artists. Among those who went on record that Olsen was undervalued back in those dark old days of 1997 was artist, critic and publisher Jeff Makin, along with Robert Bleakley, then chairman of Sotheby's, and Bill Wright of Sherman Galleries.

At the time, Olsen's auction high was \$80,000. "Olsen is up to \$150,000 below where he should be," Makin is quoted as saying. "You could buy now and almost add \$100,000 on the front straight away." A big call, back then, but right on the money.

John Furphy's *Australian Art Sales Digest*, then and now a highly useful source of information on the art market, says that as of December 31, Olsen has sold some 12 works in

excess of the \$230,000 figure Makin foresaw, including one for above \$1 million. That was Olsen's two-metre wide oil, *Love in the Kitchen*, which brought just over \$1,075,500 in Hobart last October - a record for Olsen and for a living artist.

But Makin may have overshot when he warned the magazine's readers to "forget the frogs" and opt for large Olsens directly linked to his personal emotional trauma. In recent years even Olsen's sketchy renditions of frogs and other fauna have shown themselves to be no turkeys. Watercolours such as *Frog in the Rain* shone at Sotheby's in May, fetching \$56,400, *Baboon* at the same sale fetched a stunning \$67,200, while *Tree Frog* brought an impressive \$40,800 at Deutscher-Menzies in December.

Roger Dedman's *Australian Art Markets Movements Handbook*, newly republished by Deutscher-Menzies, has a graph showing Olsen's prices taking off from around 1995, appreciating around sixfold to an average \$50,000. Dedman's comment is that Olsen's wide popularity would suggest that further increases could be expected.

By SAFFRON HOWDEN  
Environment Reporter

WEEDS and willow trees, an invisible fungus and decades of farming have brought this tiny frog to its knees.

Less than 10 per cent of the Booroolong frog population, which once spawned the length of the Great Dividing Range, is believed to live on in the wild.

The mottled brown frog is endangered. It lives in rock crevices beside streams but is now confined to the southwestern slopes of the Dividing Range in NSW and just over the border in Victoria.

The Booroolong is being attacked by predatory introduced fish which eat its tadpoles. Farming and erosion washes sediment

downstream to fill cracks it once inhabited, rivers are drying up, and the roots of non-native weeds and willow trees choke its home.

The invisible chytrid fungus, attacking frogs the world over, is also diminishing its numbers. Fungus spores get into the frogs' skin, through which they breathe, and slowly asphyxiate them.

Taronga Zoo has begun a breeding program with 34 Booroolong frogs to lift numbers.

Each frog is being kept in isolation to prevent disease while they are tested for the fungus, thought to have spread from Africa. So far, two separate tests are negative.

Taronga zoo keeper Michael McFadden said Australia had lost eight different species of native frog in the past 30 years.

"The fungus could have been the driving factor," he said.

"At the moment it's causing a bit of havoc around the world."

But land clearing and agriculture have also taken their toll, he said.

Once Taronga Zoo and project partner the NSW Environment Department are certain the 34 Booroolong frogs are free of the fungus, they will be brought together to breed.



Kid groves ... Taronga Zoo is breeding the endangered Booroolong frog

Tiniest frog on brink of croaking The Daily Telegraph 12/4/07 Sent to Frogcall by Matthew Kemplay-Hill

**FATS meetings commence at about 7.00pm and end about 10.00pm, 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.

## 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 & advertise 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. Phone Robert on ph. 9681-5308.*

**15 Sept 6.30p.m. Chipping Norton / Hammondville. Leader: Sharyn Cullis  
Georges River Environmental Education Centre.**

Meet at the Education Centre, at the end of Central Ave, Chipping Norton (next to Chipping Norton Public School ) Tonight, Sharyn Cullis of the Georges River Environmental Education Centre will kindly open up the Environment Centre for us & will invite us to look at some of the exhibits there. She will talk to us about the Georges River – much maligned by some, but one of the major drainage systems of the Sydney Region & an important feature of the topographic relief of the Sydney Basin. We will then go out & look for some of the frogs of the rare, remnant river flat forests & associated floodplains & wetlands. Sharyn has a long & intimate professional association with this immensely threatened catchment area. We are fortunate to have her talents available to us tonight.

**12 – 14 October Smiths Lake Camp-Out. Leaders : Arthur & Karen White.**

In frog field-guides, the habitat of many frogs is described as ‘WSF’ or wet sclerophyll forest. The term ‘wet’ alludes not to rainfall, but to the presence of a rainforest understorey. This weekend we will learn how to identify these tall, eucalypt-dominated forests & we will discuss how they differ from true rainforests. By correctly identifying habitat we are more able to predict the frog species that may occur in an area. We will then look for some of the remarkable frogs that reside within the tall, wet forests around Smiths Lake. After years of local study, Arthur & Karen enjoy an extensive knowledge of the local fauna & geology of this area. Their reputation for turning up all sorts of frogs, reptiles & nocturnal life ensures this fieldtrip is always popular. During the day, swim, surf or just relax & enjoy the beautiful views & good company. Cabin/dormitory accommodation & camping sites available. All kitchen facilities/utensils/crockery supplied. A **non-refundable** fee of \$14 p.p. per night applies. Phone Arthur & Karen directly on 9599-1161 for bookings & further details. Limit of thirty people.

**Our specialist research field trips with Graham Pyke & Australian Museum. Ideal for all students & serious enthusiasts. Locations: Long Reef, North Avoca & Broughton Island. Contact our Field Trips Co-ordinator.**

**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 are preferable ), torch, warm clothing and raincoat. Please be judicious with the use of insect repellent - frogs are very sensitive to chemicals ! Please observe all directions that the leader may give. Children are welcome, however please remember that young children especially can become very excited and boisterous at their first frogging experience – parents are asked to help ensure that the leader is able to conduct the trip to everyone’s satisfaction. All field trips are strictly for members only - newcomers are however, welcome to take out membership before the commencement of the field-trip. All participants accept that there is some inherent risk associated with outdoor fieldtrips & by attending agree to; a release of all claims, a waiver of liability, & an assumption of risk.**

**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.

**FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728**

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