

FROGCALL

Newsletter No. 100
April 2009

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Frogcall Turns 100!



Harald Ehmman
FATS founder speaks

Jodi Rowley in deep jungle
Rare frogs and blood sucking insects

George Madani
Back from the dead

David Nelson
Embedded in FNQ

Green-eyed Frog poster and more! '

Next Meeting

Friday 3rd April 2009

Arrive at 6.30pm for a 700pm start.

End of Jamieson St (off Holker St)
Follow the signs to building 22
Homebush Bay, Sydney Olympic Park.

www.fats.org.au



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They said it wouldn't last

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And they said it wouldn't last...

There are at least two natural history societies I've been involved with from their early days that I was advised by other people 'they won't last long – there's not enough interest!'

One is native bees and the other is native frogs. I wasn't surprised that the statement was proved wrong in both cases. I think everyone must have had at least one story read to them as a child where a frog was a major character. Frogs – with their basic 'humanoid' body shape compared to most animals are also easy things for most people to empathise with, and since 1980 when many frog species worldwide were noticed to be declining, this empathy stirred a great public interest. Little wonder that FATS was well attended from its very early days at the old Sydney Technical College in Ultimo under

the nurturing care of founder Harald Ehmann. Since then the venue changed to the Australian Museum and then again to Homebush and the membership has continued to grow with field trips, guest speakers and designated state Frog Week all proving popular. No wonder there's so many frog ornaments along people's mantel-pieces and old copies of Frogcall in libraries and on naturalists bookshelves!

**Martyn Robinson,
Naturalist – Science Communication
Australian Museum**

Happy 100th FROGCALL!!!

I'm writing this at a favorite and good time for writing and frogging: after midnight, when insights flow and frogs often do most interesting things that may not occur earlier!

Frogs have been and are still an important part of my life. For some weeks now my work energies have been focused on minimizing the generally unknown scourge of much of Australia's interior. Over one million feral Camels are trashing environmentally critical parts of our remote Outback, in particular the very rare permanent springs, the scarce and culturally iconic rockholes, and the vulnerable waterholes, soaks and ephemeral swamps. Some of these sites have incredibly rare relictual ecosystems, animals and plants, including at least one frog. Yes you guessed it, there had to be a froggy connection with Camels!

The Centralian Toadlet is a new and as-yet undescribed species of Pseudophryne known from only three locations with permanent surface water, each one being in widely separated arid rocky ranges, with two in far northern South Australia and one just into Western Australia (Ehmann 2007). Though I now work to recover many threatened species (incl. plants, mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes) and to minimise threatening processes (incl. Buffel Grass, Camels, Cane Toads, Cats and Foxes) I sustain a soft spot for frogs, FATS NSW and its publication FROGCALL.

Frog declines both overseas and in Australia were getting plenty of early media coverage from mid 1991. In November of that year

I gave a talk on the topic to the Australian Herpetological Society's (AHS) monthly meeting with the hope of getting wider involvement. I also mailed out over 40 invitations to local and a few interstate frog people. The first meeting of nine frog-o-philes that pressed on Pseudophryne-like was held at the College in the warm evening of Tuesday 10 December 1991.

Back then no-one could have known that Camels would beat climate change to become the primary decline factor for at least one frog species in Australia.

The first newsletter, dated and first mailed out on 20 December 1991 was a modest (and nameless) one page note (a bit like *Limnodynastes peroni*!?) summarising the first meeting and advising of the second. Its only graphic was of a spawning pair of Spotted Marsh Frogs (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*). The second newsletter (also nameless) had four pages, still with the spawning pair as the only graphic. The third newsletter (titled FROGCALL # 3) carried that name for the first time. It was dated August 1992, had 5 pages, and the Red-eyed Tree Frog logo (first time). I had some fun doing those original illustrations, and even more fun changing the logo into a cheeky thumb-up winking frog with the caption "Born to Spawn!" (last page of FROGCALL # 9), and into a top-hatted and pointing Uncle Sam with a hint of the species' call in the caption: "WE NE-E-E-EED YOU NOW!" (back page of # 15). I gladly passed the preparation of FROGCALL to the boundlessly witty Lothar Voigt at about # 6. With # 14 the logo's vocal sac had become the "O" in FROGCALL!

The other eight frog-ragers and travail-makers (including another equally eccentric German in the pond!) recorded in that first tentative froggy chorus were Dan Wotherspoon, Lothar Voigt, Martyn Robinson, Barry Nilsson, David Millar, Steven Kum Jew, George Hassapladakos and Noelene Gabelish (as Arthur mentions in his article, there were 15 apologies). Early in 1992 (4 February) some of the students from the Herpetological Techniques course that I ran at the then Sydney Technical College (now the Sydney Institute of Technology) helped boost the second meeting to 20 persons, and thus both Shane Gow and Karen Thumm became FATS stalwarts. The third meeting of 27 on 14 April 1992 included another early stalwart, Jacquie

Recsei. A month earlier a princess who was destined to kiss a frog in 2008 was born. That third meeting decided to formally set up the FATS as a special interest group of the AHS, and this symbiotic relationship continued until 6 May 1994 when FATS members resolved to become independent and incorporated.

These early years saw most members involved in our ambitious and partly Government-funded survey of the threatened frogs of NSW which became known as the ENDFROGS Survey (I wrote of a very juicy and squishy bit from then for the FATS's 10th anniversary in FROGCALL # 56, so more of ENDFROGS maybe another time!). Those first choruses have spawned many more since, and each subsequent year and each FROGCALL have seen FATS NSW (Inc) diversify and develop in new directions. Not unlike the complex population dynamics of many frog species at a pond over 18 seasons! Members both past and present can be justifiably proud of their fine efforts and the many good outcomes and achievements!! To the FATS NSW meeting of 6 May 1994 I reported "There have been 11 issues of FROGCALL, each better than the last. They are the lifeblood of FATS – the important connective tissue that keeps us informed and involved, and its lots of fun to read and learn from." This holds as true today with FROGCALL # 100 as then. This vital function deserves our accolades of thanks to the several editors and many contributors to FROGCALL over the past near 18 years.

I look forward to issue # 200, and I hope to report in an issue soon that the Camel threat to that critically endangered Centralian Toadlet (and the other equally deserving species and their ecosystems) has been significantly relieved.

Best Wishes and Thanks from Harald Ehmann, one of the FATS founders.

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Reference:
Ehmann H 2007. The South Australian Rangelands and Aboriginal Lands Wildlife Management Manual. The South Australian Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, Adelaide.

The Story of FATS

The Beginning

In the beginning there was no FATS-but in 1992 that changed. FATS (or the Frog and Tadpole Study Group) is a much-loved and versatile group. It budded off the Australian Herpetological Society (or AHS), which was a group of mad-keen reptile and frog lovers. In the early years, the AHS was totally dominated by the reptile enthusiasts and the froggers found that they could get little attention or floor space to discuss frog matters. Over the years the froggers in the AHS occasionally held their own meetings after the main meetings. As time went on, it became apparent that there was more than a little interest in frogs and in 1991, Harald Ehmann raised the possibility of creating a frog interest group. From this idea, FATS was spawned.

The first meeting of interested people who later formed FATS was held at Sydney Technical College (now the Sydney Institute of Technology) at Ultimo on the 10th of December 1991. Nine hardy souls attended that meeting (but there were 15 apologies). The core of the several initial FATS Group meetings and efforts were Harald Ehmann (then Convenor and later the first President), Lothar Voigt, Martyn Robinson, Noelene Gabelish, Jacque Recsei, Steve Kum-Jew, Karen Thumm, David Millar, Danny Wotherspoon, Shane Gow, and Arthur White.

The early meetings and field activities were heavily devoted to the then new protective legislation for frogs, and the study of threatened and endangered frogs in NSW. A Private Members Bill had been passed in Parliament that meant that frogs were now legally acknowledged as animals in New South Wales and that the conservation status of many species needed to be resolved. Various members of FATS made submissions to the State Government regarding the apparent abundance and scarcity of certain frog species- the combined input from the frogging community formed the basis for the initial determination of the threatened and endangered frogs in this state.

It was during these early years that some major differences emerged between the fledgling FATS group and the AHS. Most of the members of the AHS at the time were lizard and snake keepers, and the major topics at meetings were matters relating to reptile husbandry, such as breeding, disease treatment and cage designs and captive requirements of different species. FATS chose to not to be focused on the keeping of frogs, but instead, on helping to add to the collective scientific knowledge of frogs as well as broadcasting the decline of frogs to the wider community.

Arthur White - FATS President

Litoria personata as tadpole, metamorph and frog

Marion Anstis



Jodi Rowley

Since late 2006, I've spent a considerable amount of time covered in leeches and other assorted, blood-sucking or biting insects, whilst scaling waterfalls throughout Indochina in pursuit of amphibians.

Before my move to Asia, I'd done my fair share of frog-oriented fieldtrips in Australia, and it was quite a shock to start working in such a different region. Firstly, the amphibians of Indochina are extremely different to those found in Australia. The most obvious being the addition of two different groups of amphibians: salamanders/newts and caecilians. Growing up in Australia, it's been a huge novelty to find these amazing amphibians in the field for the first time. Even the frogs differ greatly from those found in

There is very little information on Indochinese amphibians that is useful to carry around when you're in the forest. To make things even more difficult, in Indochina, there are also a huge number of 'cryptic species' - groups of species that look almost exactly the same, but differ only in aspects of their behaviour, calls or genetics- sometimes making field identification impossible. Other challenges were cultural- not understanding much of the local language, eating rice (and not much else) for three meals a day and learning the customs and way of life at each new field site.

Luckily, I'm now an expert in chopstick-use, and I'm developing a better understanding of Indochinese frogs just in time for my return to Indochina for the 2009 monsoon season!

'...the identification skills I had learnt in Australia were nearly useless...'



Australia. What looks to me just like a tree frog turns out to be a member of an entirely different family of Asian frogs, and what calls like a Mixophyes turns out to be a Leptobrachium, belonging to yet another family.

At first, each new amphibian encountered was a surprise, and the identification skills I had learnt in Australia were nearly useless. The lack of field-guides, keys, frog-call cd's and the presence of undescribed species made me appreciate how lucky Australians are to have so much information readily available on their native amphibians.



Amphibian training course in forest, Na Nheo, Van Ban, Lao Cai, Vietnam

Stan Orchard in Oz

It's August 1997 and I'm in Prague at the Third World Congress of Herpetology presenting Canada's perspective on why amphibians are apparently on the decline. After my talk a guy walks up to me and asks, "How would you like to come to Australia and take part in a workshop in Canberra? We're trying to set up a national frog conservation program like Canada's", he explains. I'd never been to Australia, and the trip was free, so I naturally said "Okay!". This brief exchange launched an odyssey that more

I, if one must be publicly humiliated it's best to do it anonymously on the other side of the planet. And what are the chances that I'll ever be invited back to Australia?!

Editor's Note: Stan A. Orchard is a conservation biologist and an international specialist in the biology of amphibians and reptiles.

From 1981-1999 he ran a herpetology program in the Natural History Section of the Royal British Columbia Museum. From 1994-1999 he was the National Co-or-

'...Slides erupted out of the mechanical corpse 20 feet into the air and cascaded over the now totally distracted audience...'

or less consumed my life for the next five years. The Canberra workshop on 'Declines and Disappearances of Australian Frogs' was held the following November. I planned to fiddle a bit with my Prague talk and then just enjoy Australia.

So imagine my surprise two weeks before the event when I'm told, "Oh, by the way, you'll be giving the keynote address at the national conference." The workshop had now morphed into a national conference and somehow my 15 minute presentation was metamorphosing into Godzilla. But I was pumped, so I quickly knocked off a stream of consciousness about "Gordian Knots" - a literary tour-de-force that deserves its place in herpetological obscurity. Anyway, I arranged my slides in a Kodak carousel and then headed for the airport. As I later discovered, North American slide trays have morphological features unknown to Australian slide trays - so as I began my talk the tray jammed. The crippled projector was clearly having a grand mal seizure when a helpful herpetologist with vast biological training decided to dissect the tray rather than just dislodge it. The result was awesome. Slides erupted out of the mechanical corpse 20 feet into the air and cascaded over the now totally distracted audience who by this time likely thought that I was some hilarious novelty act hired to warm up the crowd. Well, thought

dinator for Canada for the IUCN/SSC Task Force on Declining Amphibian Populations in Canada (DAP-CAN). In 1994 he co-founded the Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network (CARCNet) and served as its Chairman from 1994 to 1999.

In 1998 he was invited to Australia by WWF to - over four years - design and manage the world's largest privately-funded amphibian conservation program. That program is now an independent organization known as 'Frogs Australia'.

Returning to Canada in 2003, he resurrected plans to develop the tools and strategies to effectively eradicate populations of invasive American bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) and Green frogs (*Rana clamitans*) in south-eastern British Columbia.



On the Frog and Toad with David Nelson



Greetings fellow frog fiends! I'm writing to you from Cairns - a brief resting place that I have reached after spending two months driving northwards from Sydney. During this time I've camped almost every night in a different National Park, next to a different stream. And naturally, given my penchant for frogging, I've spent nearly every one of those nights walking around with my headtorch and camera.

blogspot.com" <http://davotrip.blogspot.com>

Choosing some favourite froggy moments is tough but here goes. Chancing upon the beautiful New England Frog (*Litoria subglandulosa*) in Cathedral Rock NP. Finding large numbers of the endangered Fleay's Barred Frog (*Mixophyes fleayii*) right near my campsite in Main Range NP and listening to them as I fell



I've been to some awe-inspiring places and seen some amazing things. I've been very lucky with the frogs and have seen many of the species that to me were once just mythical frogs in the field guide. Apart from our anuran friends, there have been a few encounters with snakes (sometimes close encounters!), dragons, geckos and other reptiles; marsupials of all shapes and sizes, intricate invertebrates and even the odd feathered thing. I've swum in streams, fallen in creeks, climbed mountains, explored gorges, lifted hundreds of rocks and logs and driven thousands of kilometres without breaking down or getting bogged once! I've also taken thousands of photos, some of which you can see along with stories of my travels on my blog "In the Wild" at [HYPERLINK "http://davotrip.blogspot.com"](http://davotrip.blogspot.com)

'...I've .. seen many of the species that to me were once just mythical frogs in the field guide...'

asleep. And finally, three stars of the wet-tropics rainforest: the Waterfall frog (*Litoria nannotis*) - tenacious grip and swimming strength in rushing cascades, the large-eyed, sometimes tastefully speckled Australian Lace-lid (*Nyctimistes dayii*), and my favourite, the Green-Eyed Frog (*Litoria serrata*, formerly *genimaculata*). It's a delicate beauty, with an almost mossy-looking back - and how could you resist falling in love with those green-rimmed eyes?

FATS Frog Files

FATS has many great wildlife photographers within it's ranks, from seasoned pros like published authors Marion Anstis and Ken Griffiths to an army of up and coming field trippers. Those who regularly attend FATS meetings will be familiar with a high standard of photographs, often taken in very difficult circumstances around different parts of Aустarlia and around the world. Here are some of the best contributed for this 100th edition.



Bango Frog - Matt MaCaffery



American frog Northern leopard frog, *Rana pipiens* Anthony Nicholson



Fleay's Barred frog Brad MaCaffery



Red eyed tree frog *Litoria chloris* Kim MaCaffery



Pseudophryne covacevichae, taken near Millaa Millaa on the Atherton Tablelands, Qld. Wendy Grimm



Green & Golden Bell Frog Virginia Ede



Blue Mountains tree Frog, *Litoria citropa* - Henry Cook



Dwarf tree frog *Litoria fallax* - Chloe Neuman



Litoria staccato in NT - Henry Cook



Ornate Nursery Frogs, *Cophixalus ornatus* - David Nelson



Endangered Fleay's Barred Frog (*Mixophyes fleayii*) - David Nelson

Green-Eyed Frog *Litoria serrata*



photo: © David Nelson

George of the Jungle and the Black Mountain



Where shadows fall dead upon the surface amidst a mountain where green things have surrendered in their struggle to grow, and no sign of life appears to emerge from within the gloom. It is a place where rocks reign supreme.

Yet from below the colourless granite boulders

‘...your breath grows shallow from fear of making your presence known in the darkness...’

made black by peculiar lichen comes a foreign sound daring to break the silence. A faint tap tap tapping issuing from deep within the cracks and crevices created by the collapse of a fallen army of boulders.

With caution and wariness, one descends into the void, where one slip is a death sentence. The gleam of a faint light, futile as it is swallowed up by the darkness. Where one must resort to crawling on all fours, squeezing between the cold rocks, hands searching for touch with only sound as your guide.



Cophixalus saxatilis - Black Mountain Frog - Female

Deeper you enter, your curiosity evading common sense and any notion of return from subterranean depths. As cold beads of sweat fall across your brow, and your breath grows shallow from fear of making your presence known in the darkness. Any hope or memory of sunlight begins to diminish, yet still the sound drives you. Your only point of reference

in a rocky maze of darkness and emptiness. Until finally you close in, where the faint sound of life now transforms into an incessant tap tap tapping echoing all round, all sense of direction lost. The call piercing your mind.



Cophixalus saxatilis pair

A moment to pause, a second to concentrate and there! Your prize, still half hidden within a crevice, a tiny elusive male, calling from within a place where all other frogs have shunned. Mottled brown and pale yellow, flecked with silver. There he perches in contravention of the norm and joined by a chorus of his brothers. And not far a female, driven by instinct into the darkness to find her mate. Bright yellow as though to rebel against the black mountain challenge, almost as though a beacon to life, to prove that life can still exist where all others have failed.

Found no where else in this world and solely endemic to Black Mountain, *Cophixalus saxatilis* – the Black Mountain Frog.

George Madani

Grant webster reports from the border

Over the months of November and December I visited the border region of NSW 3 times in search of frogs. This area has an extremely high diversity of frogs, with over 50 species occupying the region.

There is also a big variety in the types of frogs found up there from the large barred frogs to the tiny hip-pocket and mountain frogs. Some of the places I visited included Border Ranges NP, Washpool NP, New England NP, Tooloom NP in NSW and Lamington and Main Range NP's in QLD.



Mixophyes fleayi

As with all frogging trips there were good times and bad so of the worst included my camera breaking, the tent being destroyed by strong winds and having to travel very long distances to find specific frog species. However there were good times as well with some rare frogs being sighted including Fleay's Barred Frog, Red and Yellow Mountain Frog, Masked Mountain Frog and the Hip-Pocket frog, with a grand total of 40 species seen over a period of about 2 weeks.

Grant Webster

Stalking Frogs & Chytrid

Why does Chytridiomycosis drive some frog populations to extinction and not others? The effects of interspecific variation in host behaviour (aka "Stalking frogs")

Amphibian populations around the world have declined or become extinct in recent

decades, and many of these declines have been attributed to the amphibian disease chytridiomycosis. However, while some species appear to have been severely affected by the disease, other, sympatric species remain unaffected. For species that have declined, mortality events occur more often in the dry/cool season. It is known that the thermal and hydric environments experienced by frogs can have a large influence on their susceptibility to chytridiomycosis, which suggests that some interspecific differences in the effects of the disease may be explained by variation in microenvironmental use among frog species. This study examined the microenvironments selected in the field by a pair of frog species that have declined to differing degrees; *Litoria nannotis*, which has experienced large and long-lasting population declines, and *Litoria genimaculata*, which declined to a lesser extent and since recovered. Frogs of each species were tracked in North Queensland rainforests, and their three-dimensional location and temperature were recorded several times a day. Thermal and hydric models were also placed in sites representative of those chosen by each species. *Litoria nannotis* was largely restricted to the stream environment, moving significantly smaller distances overall, and remaining significantly closer to the stream in terms of both elevation and horizontal distance, compared to *L. genimaculata*. *Litoria nannotis* also had a significantly lower average temperature and temperature range compared to *L. genimaculata*. Thermal and hydric models revealed that microenvironments typical of *L. nannotis* had significantly higher humidity and lower temperature than those environments typical of *L. genimaculata*. Frog behaviour also varied significantly with season. In the dry/cool season, both species moved less often, moved shorter distances, had a significantly cooler body temperature and were more often in contact with other frogs than during the wet/warm season. Interspecific and seasonal differences in frog behaviour may indeed determine disease susceptibility, with declining frogs and frogs in the dry/cool season behaving in manners more conducive to the development of chytridiomycosis.

Jodi Rowley

George of the Jungle ‘Back from the Dead’



High up on the plateau, in a place seldom visited, a river begins to grow. At first beginning as a creek it flows slowly amongst fern lined banks, meandering peacefully between gnarled eucalypts as it begins to find its journey down to the tablelands. One by one other tributaries interlink and the creek begins to grow picking up its pace and momentum. Before too long, what once was a peaceful scene turns to violence as slabs of sandstone begin to jut out from within the rivers course, interrupting its flow, causing the water to swirl and foam within itself.

throws them into the churning water below. Yet moments later they resurface and clamber back onto the rock ready for another turn.

Presumed extinct for almost 16 years until rediscovered late last year, *Litoria lorica* – the Armoured Mist Frog is back from the dead and provides hope for other Wet Tropics frogs severely affected by Chytrid fungus that they too can make a comeback.

George Madani

‘...Yet amongst the chaos of sound and water are little tiny figures playing amongst the turmoil...’

Sudden drops appear, creating fast and furious waterfalls and the noise begins to ascend into a deafening roar of water crashing upon rock. The banks of the river turn to stone and riparian vegetation abandons the waters edge to find sanctuary further up the bank.

The slopes now rock become precariously steep and the rushing torrents of water sweep up the sides making any purchase slippery and wet. Yet amongst the chaos of sound and water are little tiny figures playing amongst the turmoil. Literally living on the edge are little frogs, perched precariously low, near the waters edge until a splash of water laps them off the rock and



Litoria lorica - Armoured Mist Frog



Litoria lorica



Litoria nannotis - Waterfall Frog

Get your new FATS T-shirt

As part of the Frogcall hundredth edition celebrations FATS has commissioned leading Australian commercial artist Steve Vanderhorst to illustrate our new look T-shirt.

The result has an outdoor heritage feel showing a father and child frogging, summing up what FATS is about. The back has a red crowned toadlet detail as seen in our logo.

The new look T-shirts will be available in all sizes at our up coming April 3 meeting for \$25 (strictly members only) They're sure to be a collectors item so don't miss out.

Steve Vanderhorst's work can be seen on line at: www.stevvanderhorst.com



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INSURANCE DISCLAIMER FATS has public liability insurance for its various public functions. 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 & people who attend field trips.

Fieldtrips.

Autumn / Winter Recess. No fieldtrips scheduled.

The Spring /Summer Fieldtrips Programme recommences in September.

I was asked, for this 100th issue, to write a short history of our fieldtrips program. This caused me to stop & reflect on the commitment & confidence of early fieldtrip organisers. Even in FATS' infancy, they shared a confidence that fieldtrips could eventually be established as part of a regular FATS activity.

Fieldtrips were held somewhat spontaneously & irregularly throughout the year. Not surprisingly, our first fieldtrips were organised & led by Arthur & Karen White. As with so many other aspects of FATS activities, Arthur & Karen have formed the critical backbone of FATS & certainly got the fieldtrips off to a flying start. Ken Griffiths later took on the role, Ken in more recent times has become known for his nature photography & of course, his wonderful frog & reptile fieldguides. He still leads the occasional fieldtrip for us. My first fieldtrip was with Ken, out to the Royal National Park. Just the four of us, but a wonderful night & a great introduction to frogs. The fieldtrips job was eventually taken over by Steve Weir, whose professionalism on fieldtrips was pure joy to watch. Many members today will recall Steve's great understanding of ecology & his powerful observation skills. Fortunately for FATS, Steve, from his 'new' home in Newcastle, still contributes regularly to FATS & is a valuable source of information of all Central Coast news. The Smiths Lake weekend, always organised by Karen & Arthur, was a cosy gathering of a very small group who realised just how good the Smiths Lake weekend was & tried their hardest to convince others of it. The commitment & faith of these early fieldtrip leaders was critical for a fledgling club & laid solid foundations on which to build future fieldtrip programs.

In time, the Smiths Lake trip became a blockbuster weekend that books out in days. On September 21, 2002, on an outing to Chatswood led by a very youthful, & may I say, an unusually quiet, David Nelson, FATS tried a new fieldtrips format. It marked the beginning of regular monthly outings that were led not by committee people, but by the members themselves. Our Spring/Summer programme has been a regular feature of FATS' activities ever since.

Regardless of the format, we have seen a steady progression of talent coming up through the ranks. FATS are justifiably proud of these people. Many have gone on to professionally study in the scientific field. Others continue to give up their time to lead trips, using the skills they themselves acquired on outings. It is also very rewarding to see members regularly turning up to fieldtrips sharing enthusiasm, humour & lots of tea & coffee.

In an era that has quickly seen fieldtrips become dogged by issues of hygiene protocols, public liability & insurance regulations, OH&S considerations & a multitude of permit requirements, a return to the 'good old days' may seem appealing. From its inception though, the aim was to get members out into the bush looking for native frogs. More than ever, we are doing precisely that. And that must be a good thing.

Just a special thank-you to Monica, who, of course, puts together every issue of Frogcall. She also shows great patience dealing with all the last-minute changes, late submission & general dramas presented to her by a sometimes flustered Fieldtrips Co-ordinator. Somehow, Monica always makes it work in the final edition.

Congratulations on a fine 100. Robert Wall.

FATS MEETINGS commence at about 7pm, end about 10pm and are usually held on the first Friday of every EVEN month February, April, June, August, October and December, at Building 22, RANAD, off Jamieson St, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay (accessible by car, train or bus). We hold 6 informative, informal, topical and practical meetings each year. Visitors are welcome. We are actively involved in monitoring frog populations, 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.

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