

# FROG CALL

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NEWSLETTER No. 117 February 2012

Photo by vet Lee Peacock



*Litoria infrafrenata* White-lipped Tree Frog awaiting adoption.

Pictured at the Bird & Exotics Vets, for a health check

before returning to FATS quarantine. See story inside pages 6 & 7.

To adopt a frog, NSW NPWS amphibian licence must be sighted at FATS meeting.

Our colour Frogcall newsletters can be emailed to you as a pdf attachment (about 1.4 MB). Interested? Email [wangmann@tig.com.au](mailto:wangmann@tig.com.au)

Arrive 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

**NB April meeting is 13/4**

**FATS meet at the**

**Education Centre, Bicentennial Pk**

Easy walk from Concord West railway station and straight down Victoria Ave.

If walking, take a strong torch in winter.

By car: Enter from Australia Ave at the

Bicentennial Park main entrance,

turn off to the right and drive

through the park. It's a one way road.

Or enter from Bennelong Road / Parkway.

It's a short stretch of two way road.

Park in p10f car park, the last car park

before the exit gate. See map p11.

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### MEETING FORMAT Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012

**6.30 pm** Lost frogs needing forever homes, White lips, Perons, Green Tree Frogs, Rubellas, Fallaxes and Gracilentas. Please bring your FATS membership card and \$\$ donation. **DECCW / NSW NPWS amphibian licence must be sighted on the night.** Rescued frogs can never be released.

**7.00 pm** Welcome and announcements.

**7.30 pm** The main speaker is Arthur White talking about  
 \* The Cane Toad round up at Taren Point Sydney (including playing short documentary),  
 \* the Woonona Bell Frogs and  
 \* Frog Street Japan.

**8.30 pm** Show us your frog images, tell us about your frogging trips or experiences, guessing competition, continue frog adoptions, supper & a chance to relax and chat with frog experts.

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## LOST FROGS NEEDING FOREVER HOMES



**Jake Janos and his FATS rescued Green Tree Frog *Litoria caerulea* that he has had for four and a half years**



**Miguel Diaz's Rescued *Litoria infrafrenata*  
White lipped Tree Frog**

**LAST FATS MEETING 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2011**

**J**o Ocock was our main speaker. "Frogs in the boom."



**One of the many *Litoria rubellas* rescued at Auburn Bearing Engineering, Schaeffler Australia**

It is thought that these metamorph frogs were trapped in engineering equipment during the floods in Queensland. The guys at Auburn called FATS to rescue over 20 Rubellas. These tiny, pear shaped frogs are almost fully grown, out of quarantine and needing forever homes.



**H**ome to 15 different frog species, the Macquarie Marshes are NSW's largest remaining inland floodplain wetland, situated two hours north of

**Dubbo. There are open lagoons, large reedbeds, river red gum woodlands, and meadows of couch grass and aquatic vegetation. It's a fabulous place to do frog research. I've also been rather lucky to have started my research at the end of a decade long drought as during the summer of 2010-11, the Macquarie Marshes experience the biggest flood since 2000!**



**Long Plain Cowal near the height of the flood, finding tadpoles and vegetation information.**

I was fortunate enough to be living out there while carrying out monthly surveys and radio-tracking starting in spring 2010. I was also lucky to leave before getting cut off by flood waters and having to spend Christmas out there! That big flood was my second fieldwork season, the first being a small environmental water release the previous spring. These two seasons, plus the one I'm in the middle of now, will allow me to get information on the relationship between the frogs and the flow regime or 'flood pulse' of the Macquarie river that flows into the Marshes. We know the movement of water across floodplain habitats during periods of floods is important for maintaining the biological diversity and ecological integrity for the animals and plants that reside in floodplain wetlands. However, how frogs use these unpredictable watery habitats remains largely unknown. Three months after the big flood arrived, there was evidence that the breeding had been successful for species like the barking marsh frog (*Limnodynastes fletcheri*), the striped marsh frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*), eastern sign-bearing froglet (*Crinia parinsignifera*), and the salmon-striped frog (*Limnodynastes salmini*) with many newly metamorphosed baby frogs appearing all over the Marshes. With the arrival of heavy rains in November and December, all the other frogs started to appear and breed around the flood waters as well as rain-filled temporary ponds.

more active on the floodplain than the green tree frogs, which – quite obviously – preferred to hang around trees. But the green tree frogs also needed warm nights and a bit of rain before they moved around, while the barking marsh frogs were happy to move with or without rain and over a wider range of temperatures.



*Limnodynastes salmini*

The Marshes are under threat from the level of extraction of water from the Macquarie river for irrigation farming. A key component of the restoration of degraded floodplain wetlands, is the delivery of water in a way which mimics natural, pre-regulation flow conditions. My research will be translated into recommendations delivery of that water, such as deciding when the flood should start, which areas of the Marshes should be flooded, and how long the water needs to stay around for to ensure happy healthy frogs. This is all very important, as frogs are an important food source for many wetland animals, including snakes and egrets – both of which two of our radio-tracking frogs ended up in!

My research has enjoyed great support from the local community. I also couldn't do it without my many volunteers from Australia and overseas. I also wouldn't have been able to complete my fieldwork without the two student research grants from FATS, this support was very much appreciated – thanks FATS! **Jo Ocock**



*Neobatrachus sudelli* photo Jo Ocock

This included the water-holding frog (*Cyclorana platycephala*), the painted burrowing frog (*Neobatrachus sudelli*), crucifix frogs (*Notaden bennetti*) and wrinkled toadlets (*Uperoleia rugosa*).

A particularly exciting discovery in the 2010 floods was finding a species not previously known from the Marshes, the ornate burrowing frog (*Platyplecturn ornatum*). The flood appears to provide appropriate breeding conditions and habitat that would not otherwise exist in this inland semi-arid region, for nearly all frog species.

I also put radio-tracking devices on barking marsh frogs (*Limnodynastes fletcheri*) and green tree frogs (*Litoria caerulea*) so I could find out how far they move in different conditions at night and where they hide during the day. Here I found that the barking marsh frogs were



Southern Nature Reserve Jo Ocock, Diana Grasso & Angela Knerl

**Grant Webster spoke about lane Cove National Park frogs. Our Frog-o-graphic competition winners for 2011 received their prizes. The meeting ended with Christmas supper party, lucky door prizes and informal frog chats.**

**LOCAL PERONS TREE FROG *LITORIA PERONII***



**RESCUED BY MICHELLE TOMS** Day 1 back injury



Day 16 Local Perons frog ready for return to wild



Day 3



Day 16 release day - original habitat known



Day 8



Day 8 on the mend Well done Michelle!

**PAEDOPHRYNE AMAUENSIS**

is a species of frog from Papua New Guinea discovered in August 2009 and formally described in January 2012. At 7.7 mm in length, it is the world's smallest known vertebrate.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paedophryne\\_amauensis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paedophryne_amauensis)

E. N. Rittmeyer et al. 2012 forwarded by Steve Weir





## ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2011 FROGS HUGE SUCCESS

### GREEN FROGS AND BLUE TONGUES

#### NEW COMPETITIONS IN 2011

Frogs and Reptiles will join the all-time favourite animal competitions and become an official Sydney Royal competition in 2011.

With 'Sydney Royal' attached to its title, the Frog and Reptile Show which has been run for the past 5 years, will become the largest of its kind in the country.

Non-venomous snakes, lizards, and frogs will be judged by independent judges and the best of the best rewarded. Frog and Reptile classes include: Open Tree Frogs; Carpet Pythons; Antaresia Pythons; Aspidites Pythons; Dragons; Blue Tongues and Small Monitors.

Organisers are considering adding turtles to the competition too.

Prizes will be awarded in each category as well as accolades for Grand Champion, Runner up to Grand Champion, the heaviest frog, the highest placed youth keeper, and a people's choice award.

Competitions are open to amateurs and youth hobbyists as well as professional breeders. To enter, participants must email or post a recent photo of their animal, to the organisers who undertake an initial round of judging to select the best specimens for each class.

To register your interest email [info@wildexpo.com.au](mailto:info@wildexpo.com.au)



### 2012 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW FROG & REPTILE SHOW TUE 17/4 - WED 18/4

**T**he organisers of the Easter Show have allocated two days in 2012. Lizards ON 17/4 and snakes 18/4, and Frogs over both days. Wildexpo are calling for all entries from all species and classes of frogs, lizards & non venomous snakes. See <http://www.wildexpo.com.au/Show12/default.htm>

The organisers of the Easter Show placed the Frog & Reptile competition as one of the best held in 2011, both from a visual perspective and from an organisational perspective. Lets make 2012 even better. **If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask, [info@wildexpo.com.au](mailto:info@wildexpo.com.au)**

SMH 16/1/12 LOST FROGS ARTICLE BY JOHN HUXLEY

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/it-might-not-seem-cricket-but-a-frog-needs-a-feed-occasionally-20120115-1q1fk.html#ixzz1jZECUAY5>

From Barbara Harvey SMH 3/9/2011



2009 Mystery photographer sorry not sure who took it

### CASTLE HILL REPTILE EXPO

**F**ollowing the success of the 2011 Castle Hill Reptile Expo we would like to invite you to attend the 2012 Castle Hill Reptile Expo at Castle Hill. 11-12 Feb '12 [www.reptiles.com.au](http://www.reptiles.com.au) - see our facebook page under expos



Photo by Carol, *Litoria phyllochroa* at Thornleigh

### PAY FATS MEMBERSHIP BY DIRECT DEBIT

**F**ATS membership can be paid by direct debit bank transfer to BSB 082 342, account name Frog and Tadpole Study Group and account 285 766 885 you need to identify yourself by name if there is an option and if possible membership number. Please email Karen White to confirm the transaction at [1arthur@tpg.com.au](mailto:1arthur@tpg.com.au)

Photo by George Madani (who is speaking in April)



*Neobatrachus centralis* Trilling Frog



1 Hunter Street Green Square, NSW  
2017  
Cnr of Hunter and McEvoy Street  
Ph: (02) 9319 6111,

web: www.birdvet.com.au

**WHAT'S THE PROGNOSIS, DOC?  
AM I GOING TO CROAK?**

Lee Peacock, Veterinarian

BSc(vet), BVSc(hons), MACVSc(Avian Health)

**“Frogging” is not the domain of a single group of people. Instead a diverse range of scientific professionals are often involved including biologists, ecologists, conservationists as well as many amateur enthusiasts. There are many professionals who study frog diseases, but who treats sick frogs?**

**A veterinarian is the logical answer for most animals but is not always the first person a frog owner goes to for advice regarding their sick frogs.** Perhaps it is thought that vets are either not interested or simply do not know much about frogs. In some cases it is assumed by the owner that frog diseases cannot be treated. These days there are many vets able to treat frogs. Although ‘Frog Medicine’ is not a part of the average veterinary training there are vets who are interested and have taken steps to improve their knowledge and experience with these animals. Almost all vets and vet clinics that claim to have an interest in ‘Exotic’ pets are very willing to try and diagnose and treat frogs.



**This *L. gracilenta* was infected with *Tetrahymena*. His skin improved with treatment.**

Frogs, like all animals, can be susceptible to injuries, infections, parasites and other diseases and many of these problems can be treated if detected early.



***Acanthocephalan* found in the body cavity of a frog**



**An unknown worm larva found in a faecal sample of a frog**



**A pinworm egg found in the faeces of a frog**



**An unidentified mite nymph found in the faeces of a frog**

Vets at the Bird and Exotics Veterinarian clinic consult with and treat many non-traditional and non-domesticated animals. This clinic caters for the diagnosis and treatment of birds, reptiles, fish, and small mammals excluding dogs and cats, as well as amphibians including frogs.

dedicated to constantly renewing and updating their knowledge and skill base.



**This *L. gracilentia* is in long term care to find out more about a particular parasite it is carrying**

The clinic itself is designed specifically with appropriate hospital enclosures (ranging from open cages/hutches for birds and mammals to heated reptile/amphibian enclosures and tanks) as well as size- and species- appropriate surgical and diagnostic equipment. Ultrasound and radiographic imagery for tiny animals, blood tests, parasite identification, surgeries and biopsies are some of the more common procedures carried out on site at this clinic.



***Litoria rubella* getting a health check at the vet clinic**

All of the vets at this clinic are passionate about all of their patients and uphold the ideal that all animals deserve high quality veterinary attention regardless of species. In order to provide a high quality service the vets here combine general veterinary medical knowledge with current scientific data for different species collated from many sources. Like all scientific fields it is ever changing and the team of vets at this clinic are



**A Radiograph of *L. peronii* with a fractured leg**

Frogs have been seen as patients at this clinic for many years, however the number of frogs that are brought to the clinic have been few compared to other types of animals. The vets at the Bird and Exotics Veterinarian clinic are passionate about providing the best service they can for frogs and their owners. It is hoped that the number of frogs that receive veterinary assistance will increase in the future as more owners become aware of vets in their area that have an interest in frog medicine and surgery. At Bird and Exotics Veterinarian all of the vets- Drs. Alex Rosenwax, Lee Peacock and Tegan Stephens- can confidently offer advice and treatments for your pet frogs.

★ | **What They're Discovering in Indonesia:**



TREE FROG

Proving once again that nature is the gift that keeps on giving, scientists announced the discovery of several new species of animals in New

Guinea's Foja Mountains—including a large (and friendly) woolly rat, a tree frog with a nose that inflates, a multicolored imperial pigeon and the world's teeniest wallaby. The critters were first observed on a 2008 trip to the region, which is known as the Lost World because it is virtually untouched by humans.

**FROG KILLER IMMUNE GENES REVEALED**

**S**cientists have taken a big step toward understanding why some frogs survive the fungal disease chytridiomycosis while others quickly die. A group from Cornell University, US, identified genetic factors that seem to make some individual frogs immune. This could improve captive breeding schemes, the team writes in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Chytridiomycosis is slowly spreading across the world, and has already sent a number of species extinct. Just two years ago, researchers discovered how it kills - by damaging the skin so that key nutrients cannot pass through, resulting eventually in cardiac arrest.

Frogs and other amphibians that have no resistance succumb quickly, with some populations being extirpated in just a few weeks. Yet some populations and some entire species survive intact, which has long perplexed researchers; and salamanders and caecilians (limbless amphibians bearing a superficial resemblance to earthworms or snakes) appear more resistant as groups than frogs - another mystery.

**What are amphibians?**

First true amphibians evolved about 250 million years ago There are three orders: frogs (including toads), salamanders (including newts) and caecilians, which are limbless

Adapted to many different aquatic and terrestrial habitats

Present today on every continent except Antarctica

Many undergo metamorphosis, from larvae to adults

Chytridiomycosis can kill amphibians in less than a week - depending on their genes The idea would be to screen amphibians' MHC genes before breeding, to increase the odds of producing Bd-resistant tadpoles. EXTRACT

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-15060980> forwarded to FATS by Andrew Nelson 26 9 2011 article by Richard Black Environment correspondent, BBC News



Daily Telegraph photo Bestmann Imagery Green Tree Frog tries to eat a red bellied black snake in Queensland.

**P**hotographer Rowan Bestmann captured this phenomenal struggle between a seemingly defenceless green tree frog and a vicious red bellied-black snake in his home in Maryborough, Queensland. He said the struggle continued for just under one hour. The frog had started eating the snake, but the snake hadn't given up it was still wildly writhing around, so the frog was having to hop this way and that to make sure it didn't lose its meal."

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/in-the-battle-of-frog-vs-snake-slime-wins-over-scales/story-e6freuy9-1226243692323>



**JIM AND BARBARA'S BROAD-PALMED FROG, CAMDEN**

This Broad-palmed Frog, *Litoria latopalmata*, may have hitchhiked to their garden in that bag of mulch or be a local. Frogs often fall into freshly dug trenches at night and hide under loose soil when it gets light. The diggers then come back, find the frog and are convinced they dug it up from a great depth. One that made the headlines was found when they dug up the base of the chimney in the old Sydney Park brick pit. After decades of entombment, the story went, the frog was still alive – but to their horror it had turned almost snow white! LV

**Murwillumbah, inside the Mt. Warning Caldera**



*Litoria tyleri* Laughing Tree Frog or *Litoria peronii* ? Photo from Deb - frog calls help distinguish similar species <http://frogsaustralia.net.au>





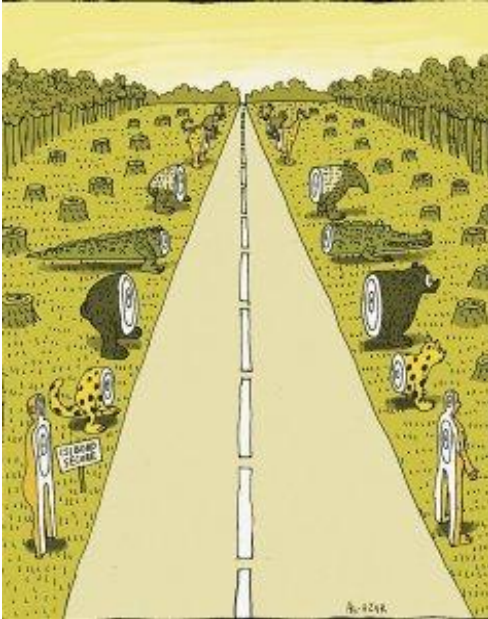
Some of our FATS committee L to R Punia, Arthur, Marion, Vicki, Sheila, Wendy, Phillip, Lothar and Karen



**Interesting links:** <http://savethefrogs.com/teachers/images/Wild-World-of-Frogs-Self-Guided-Tour.pdf>  
<http://www.5landswalk.com.au/> <http://www.5landswalk.com.au/north-avoca?> FATS incl. Arthur & Karen were there.  
[http://www.conservation.org/campaigns/lost\\_frogs/Pages/search\\_for\\_lost\\_amphibians.aspx](http://www.conservation.org/campaigns/lost_frogs/Pages/search_for_lost_amphibians.aspx)

### TIPNIS TRIGGERS A WINNING CARTOON!

La Razon's cartoon won the first national award:



A drawing of Al – Azar (Alejandro Salazar), published on 10 July in the section Gallery of Abnormalities of the supplement: Animal Politician, won the first national award in the caricature category of the National Press Association. The image is referred to the conflict unleashed by the Government project for the construction of a road that would cross the National Park and indigenous territory Isiboro Sécure, TIPNIS.

According to the criterion of Al – Azar, what was reflected in the cartoon, was that the road plan not only cut in two the park but also its resources: plants and animals, including man. This cartoon was broadcasted in several formats as shirts and bags, the latter made by the feminist group: Mujeres Creando.

<http://bolivianthoughts.com/2011/11/29/tipnis-humor/>



FATS 20 YEAR ANIVERSARY AND FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETION CELEBRATIONS DECEMBER 2011

Photos by Phillip Grimm



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Please send articles for the FrogCall newsletter to 38 Albert Pde Ashfield NSW



*Thank you to the many Frogcall supporters. Your articles, photos, media clippings, webpage uploads, Membership administration, mail-out inserts and envelope preparation is greatly appreciated.*

*Special thanks to regular newsletter contributors, including*

*Lothar & Alice Voigt, Robert Wall, George Madani, Karen & Arthur White, Wendy & Phillip Grimm, Grant Webster, Marion Anstis, Andrew & David Nelson and Bill Wangmann.*



**FATS MEETINGS** commence at 7 pm, end about 9.30pm at the Education Centre Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay and are usually held on the first Friday of every EVEN month February, April, June, August, October and December (but not Good Friday). Call, check our web site or email us for further directions. Easy walk from Concord West railway station and straight down Victoria Ave. Take a strong torch in winter. By car: Enter from Australia Ave at the Bicentennial Park entrance and drive through the park (one way road) turn off to the right if entering from the main entrance. If entering from Bennelong Rd/Parkway. It's a short stretch of 2 way road. Park in the p10f car park (the last car park before the exit gate). See map.

We hold 6 informative, informal, topical and practical free 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 writer, photographer, 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 sources must be always fully acknowledged.

**INSURANCE DISCLAIMER** FATS has public liability insurance for its various public functions. This insurance does not cover FATS members; it covers the public and 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.



**T**he Spring and Summer FIELD TRIPS program has concluded. FATS will commence trips again after the Autumn Winter recess.



Carly's Green Tree Frog at Paterson NSW

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/frogs1.html>

Although a few Australian frog species, such as the green tree frog, are flourishing in human environments, many species have suffered dramatic population declines since the 1980s. Fifteen species of Australia's frogs are currently endangered, twelve are listed as vulnerable and four have become extinct. Of particular concern is the disappearance of frogs from pristine habitats.



Cane Toad tadpoles  
photo by Kim in Karumba FNQld

### SMITHS LAKE FIELD TRIP 18-20 NOVEMBER 2011

**"Twas brillig and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe  
All mimsy were the borogroves  
And the mome raths outgrabe."**

**C**ould we be describing the abundance of frogs we found on this wonderful weekend or the joyous delight of the froggers in froggy heaven?

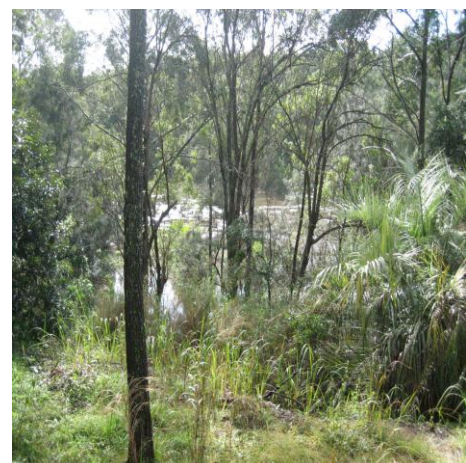
After twenty years of FATS and field trips the magic is undiminished. Sixteen keen froggers (including 4 newbies) enjoyed wonderful frog hunting conditions at Smiths Lake. Five sites from Sandbar, Cellito, Sugar Creek (2 sites), and Twin Fire Dams as well as the field station revealed 13 frog species and 6 snake species. The bird life was as plentiful as ever with 44 species identified.

We were fortunate to share the field station with a small group of bird researchers from the University of Oslo. Dr Melissa Rowe (an Australian ornithologist presently based in Norway) is working on Sperm Competition in Passerines with a focus on Meluridae (Fairy and Grass wrens). Smiths Lake is only one of the many locations she will be sampling in Australia. Some of us were lucky enough to see emu wrens up close and personal. Very beautiful!

When not frogging or birding or identifying plants, we enjoyed the beaches at Seal Rocks, a dip in the lake, bush walks, good food and good conversation.

Arthur acknowledged 20 years of FATS with a celebratory painting on one of the standing boards. Check it out next time you come along. We also recreated one of the original boards dating back to the 1970-80's with an excerpt from "The Jabberwocky" (as above).

Thanks again to Karen and Arthur for organising the field trip. No matter how many times we have been to Smiths Lake we never seem to get enough of it and are as keen as ever to return at the next opportunity. Barbara Bohdanowicz



**CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN (extract) For Green and Gold Bell Frog Compensatory Pond  
RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION Cnr of Greenwell Point Rd and Worrigeer Rd, WORRIGEE near Norwa**



Measures must be in place to protect the native vegetation prior to works commencing. BlueCHP Ltd is proposing a residential subdivision on the corner of Greenwell Point Rd and Worrigeer Rd, Worrigeer. The Development Consent was issued by the Land and Environment Court (SCC ref DA09/1735) on 17 November 2011. The consent requires a compensatory frog pond to be constructed prior to other site works progressing. This Construction Management Plan (CMP) has been prepared to satisfy Condition 15 of the Consent which requires various construction matters to be addressed and approved by Council prior to a Construction Certificate being issued. All earthworks for the frog pond will be undertaken in Spring/Summer.

**WHAT'S AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GARDEN?**



**Photo by Faye *Litoria peronii***

We live in Western Sydney, just outside of Blacktown and have a few local Green Tree Frogs and Marsh Frogs.  
<http://frogs.org.au/frogs/species/Litoria/peroni/> and  
[www.frogsaustralia.net.au/frogs/](http://www.frogsaustralia.net.au/frogs/)



**Georgina's South Australian Green Tree Frog**



**Perons Tree Frog photo by Faye**

