

# FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

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NEWSLETTER No. 125 June 2013

*Litoria auae* photographed near Merauke Papua © David S. Price



laughingfrogphotography.com March 2004. (c) 2012

LEAD Asia Senior Environmental Consultant & FATS Facebook friend

Arrive 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

## Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June

**FATS meet at the Education Centre, Bicentennial Pk, Sydney Olympic Park**

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

By car: Enter from Australia Ave at the Bicentennial Park main entrance,

turn off to the right and drive through the park. It is a one way road.

Or enter from Bennelong Road / Parkway.

It is a short stretch of two way road.

Park in p10f car park, the last car park before the exit gate.

Time extension to forward **your** amphibian returns - no later than 31 May

### MEETING FORMAT Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**6.30 pm** There are a few lost frogs needing forever homes with financial FATS members. Please bring your FATS membership card and cash \$40 - \$50 donation. Your NSW NPWS amphibian licence must be sighted on the night. Rescued frogs can never be released. Sorry we have no EFTPOS at meetings.

**7.00pm** Welcome and announcements.

**7.30 pm** Main speaker: Marcelle Douglas, Macquarie University Chytrid case study

Arthur White will talk about the Lazarus Project – Prof Michael Archer's work on extinct Gastric Brooding Frog.

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

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Wetlands tour January 2013 Environmentalist Arthur White led a tour of Rockdale's wetlands.

<http://www.theleader.com.au/story/1225314/wetlands-tour/?cs=1003>

Forwarded to FATS by Robin Vance

### LAST FATS MEETING 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013

**P**unia welcomed members and visitors to FATS, where the S stands for Study Group which is FATS prime motivation. The study and monitoring of frog populations in the Stroud area has lead to the printing of a stunning poster: *Frogs of Stroud*. A limited number of posters are for sale (\$13) from FATS or George Madani. Volunteers for Science in the City- please contact Punia or Vicki about this August activity.

Frog-o-Graphic competition open from April to end July. See FATS website [www.fats.org.au](http://www.fats.org.au) for details of how to submit your entries by email.

Smiths Lake April fieldtrip is fully booked and Saturday night trips have finished for the year.

FATS was at the last two days of the Easter Show in the Domestic Pets pavilion. Thanks go to Kathy and David Potter, their daughter and all of the other volunteers who waved the FATS flag, mounted a great display with lots of activities and fielded many questions. Congratulations to the members who came away with show awards for their pet frogs.

Lothar, who mans the Frogwatch Helpline, gave valuable tips on how to maintain your home ponds to a frog-friendly level.

The main event kicked off with Grant Webster delving into *Revelations on Dynamic Sexual Dichromatism in Frogs* – in other words – Yellower the Better? Grant has stirred the frog world with his field studies and literature searches tabulating a previously unrecognised large number of species in which male frogs change colour to display more yellow at breeding than in non-breeding times. Grant described his methods and equipment used, the sites and locations near Smiths Lake on the north coast and the multiple trials used to ensure statistically testable results. He then suggested why this change is beneficial to males in explosive breeding situations and might reduce the need for male-to-male combat. Grants work was supported by a small scholarship from FATS. His work has lead to ongoing international collaboration on this topic.

Students working in any aspects of frog research were invited to contact Arthur White about scholarship grants.

The writing of *Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia* by Marion Anstis has been completed and it is in the pre-publication stage. See Frogcall page 5. The raffle of froggy-fun items was followed by a chance to chat and exchange tall or short & fat stories over a delicious supper organised by Karen. **Wendy Grimm**

Photo by Facebook friend Nina Rogan



*Litoria peroni* Perons Tree Frog

### FATS MEETING 7 JUNE 2013

*A Case Study with Chytrid Fungus, Marcelle Douglas*

**C**an preventative measures and early detection help keep your frog from getting the devastating chytrid fungus? Is there anything you can do if you suspect your frogs have it? This case study takes a practical and in-depth look at an interesting set of circumstances that introduced chytrid into a tank of Striped Marsh Frogs and what followed as told from the perspective of a novice frogkeeper. Find out how it was contained and treated with some unexpectedly positive outcomes and advice that would benefit anyone who wants to keep, or currently keeps frogs.

**MD**

### COVER PHOTO LITORIA AUAE

*Described in the following paper, extract:*

**L***itoria gracilent*a (Anura : Hylidae) and related species in New Guinea J. I. Menzies and M. J. Tyler *Australian Journal of Zoology* 52(2) 191 - 214 Published: 8 June 2004

**Abstract** We examined a large collection ( $n = 132$ ) of tree frogs, hitherto identified as *Litoria gracilent*a, from various localities in New Guinea and compared them with *Litoria gracilent*a from Queensland and with the recently described *Litoria elkeae* from far west New Guinea. We found that the frogs in question were neither *L. gracilent*a nor *L. Elkeae* but comprised two distinct taxa described herein as new species. We call attention to the problems of performing statistical analysis on measurements of soft-bodied organisms and consider that the conclusions reached in this analysis are both conservative and realistic.



## FATS AGM NOTICE FRIDAY 2 August 2013

**T**he FATS AGM will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2013, commencing 7pm. FATS meet at the Education Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park. If you would like to ask any questions about joining the FATS committee, please give us a call. Contact our secretary, committee members or myself for further information. We appreciate fresh ideas and new members on our committee. No experience required. We meet 6 times a year. No task commitments or time expected of committee members, other than what you are able to spare. See contacts on page 11. **Arthur White**

Photo by George Madani



*Pseudophryne coriacea* Red-Backed Toadlet

## 2013 FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION

**I**n 2008 FATS conducted the first Frog-o-graphic competition. This proved very successful as we have many creative people in the group who take marvellous photos, do incredible drawings and art works, can sculpt, potter or create frog do-dahs from just about anything. Here is your chance to show off your skills. So start painting, drawing, photographing or whatever you do to capture the essence of a frog. We look forward to seeing your entries.

All winners will be announced at the October 2013 meeting.

**Categories** Junior Best Frog Artwork (send photo), Senior Best Frog Artwork (send photo), Junior Best Frog Image, Senior Best Frog Image, Junior Best Pet Frog Image, Senior Best Pet Frog Image, Junior Most Interesting Image, Senior Most Interesting Image. Category winners to be decided by a panel of judges.

**People's Choice** (Decided by the audience 4th October FATS Meeting) Entries close Wednesday 31st July 2013 **All entries are by email to [photos@fats.org.au](mailto:photos@fats.org.au)**

**Please state: your name, confirmation that you are a FATS member, age if under 18, whether the image is of a pet frog and contact phone number. Maximum six entries per person. Maximum attachment size 6 MB.**

Fabulous prizes will be awarded for each category. Entries must be original and your own work. The winning entries may be featured in colour in Frogcall and other FATS publications.

**Arthur White**

## DELAYS IN HERPETOFAUNA

**M**embers who subscribe to Herpetofauna will be aware that it is behind in its publication schedule. This means that people who paid for two copies last year are still owed an issue. To rectify this, if you paid for Herpetofauna last year you will not have to pay again this year. So when you renew your FATS subscription tick the Herpetofauna box and note on the form that you paid last year. Only pay for your FATS' subscription. **Arthur White**

## FATS MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

**P**lease pay promptly to reduce the workload for FATS volunteers. Payment options are by cheque in the post, cash at the meeting or direct bank transfer to BSB 082 342 Account name Frog and Tadpole Study Group Account 285766885. You need to ID yourself by name if there is an option and if possible membership number which is on the green renewal notice. If unsure email Karen to say you have paid by direct debit.

**Borneo Sabah Danum Valley 2009 *Nyctixalis pictus***  
Photo by Michael Cermak FATS Facebook friend



## FORUM

### Plants & Animals of the Cumberland Plain

Saturday 29 June 2013

Bowman Hall, Campbell Street, Blacktown

11am for 11:30am start. Finish 4:30pm

Free admission & catering – light lunch, morning/afternoon tea provided (but booking required for catering)

**To Book:** Call Wayne 9621 2105

or via email: [w.olling@optusnet.com.au](mailto:w.olling@optusnet.com.au)

Come and learn about the native plants and animals of Western Sydney - their original extent, present extent, current issues they face, and what the future holds.

Expert speakers present. Plant identification available – bring samples for identification.

This project is supported by Blacktown & District Environment Group Inc, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

For all latest event and agenda updates, see: [environmentblacktown.wordpress.com](http://environmentblacktown.wordpress.com)



**COMPOSITION OF THE UDA MALIBODA TRAIL IN THE SAMANALA NATURE RESERVE (SNR) SRI LANKA  
A CAUTIONARY NOTE**

Extracts from a 2012 paper from FATS Facebook friend, Dinal.  
By Dinal Samarasinghe, Suranjan Karunarathna,  
Indika Peabotuwege, Majintha Madawala, Nirmala Perera,  
Dushantha Kandambi, Nuwan Bandara and Chamara Amarasinghe

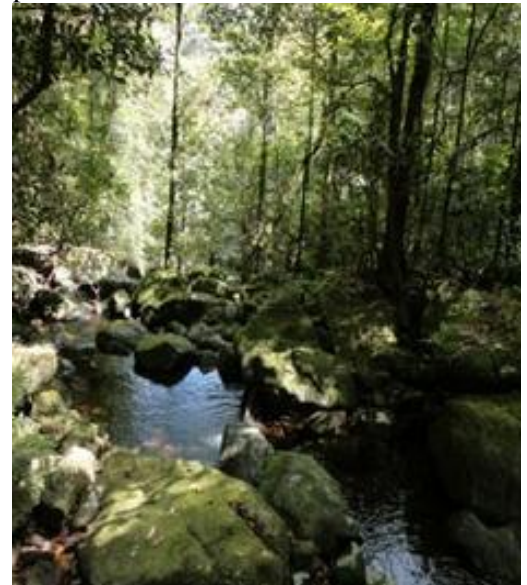
**T**he Samanala Nature Reserve (SNR), also known as the Peak Wilderness Sanctuary is the third largest nature reserve in Sri Lanka. Peak Wilderness was declared a sanctuary on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1940, encompassing an area of about 55,300 acres (22,379 ha). During the British colonial rule (1815 – 1948) large areas of forest were cut down and converted to tea plantations mainly in the Nuwara Eliya district, while other areas were cleared for different agricultural purposes. According to the current management plan, the geographical area of the sanctuary is about 24,000 ha, of which 21,175 ha comprises natural or semi natural vegetation, while the remaining includes tea estate and village settlements (DWC, 2007; Karunarathna et al. 2011)

This forest is regarded as one of the most important forested areas for endemic bio-diversity in Sri Lanka and is owned by the Central Highlands World Heritage Centre (UNESCO, 2011). This tropical rainforest spreads over 224 km around Adam’s Peak (2,245 m asl) which is the most prominent peak in the area and a mountain with great religious significance. There are four main trails used by pilgrims to reach Adams Peak (Peabotuwege et al. 2012). The Uda Mäliboda trail starts from the ‘Uda Mäliboda village’ and continues via Madähinna (Kuruwita trail) to Adams Peak. This is the longest trail and is seldom used by pilgrims since it consists of rough terrain and narrow footpaths (Karunarathna et al. 2011).

Current studies have shown that treehole breeders, direct developers, and those that depend on clear forest streams are the most susceptible to forest deterioration and fragmentation (Gascon et al. 1999; Funk and Mills, 2003; Lemckert, 1999). Human activities that occur within this forest can aggravate and accelerate the rate of decline of the local populations. It is recommended that long-term data on environmental variables such as forest cover, temperature, precipitation, rain and stream chemistry, atmospheric dust transport, relative humidity and light intensity are gathered and constantly monitor the forest. Additionally systematic studies on microhabitat associations of amphibians, especially of the recently described frogs during the past decade should also be carried out for us to have a better understanding on what ecological parameters are necessary to maintain healthy populations in forests such as Uda Mäliboda.



A great responsibility lies on the shoulders of policy makers and scientists presently active today to save the remaining forest area and its inhabitants of the sanctuary. However, work should not be only limited to constant monitoring; short term and long term conservation strategies should be developed and implemented.



Cascade habitat: shrub mixed with riverine forest patch

Although there is an ongoing hydroelectric power plant project, it is strongly recommended that further development activities in this area must not continue. Additionally, the villagers must be educated about the importance of the forest around them to minimize further encroachment and slash and burn forest clearing for settlement and plantation. **Extracts from Samarasinghe et al 2012 Amphibian Composition of the Uda Mäliboda Trail in the Samanala Nature Reserve (SNR), Sri Lanka: A Cautionary Note Froglog 101, 50 - 52**



*Pseudophilautus asankai*. Photo: Dinal Samarasinghe.



*Pseudophilautus femoralis*. Photo: Dinal Samarasinghe.



*Taruga equeis*. Photo: Dinal Samarasinghe.



*Duttaphrynus kotagamai*. Photo: Suranjan karunarathna.

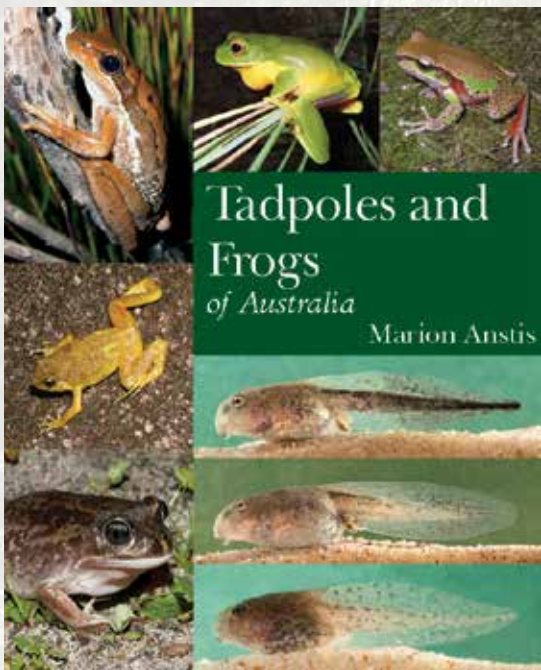


*Pseudophilautus sarasinorum*. Photo: Dinal Samarasinghe.



*Pseudophilautus alto*. Photo: Dinal Samarasinghe.





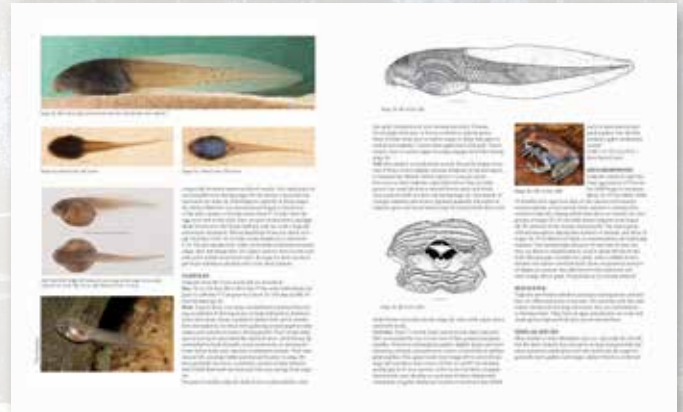
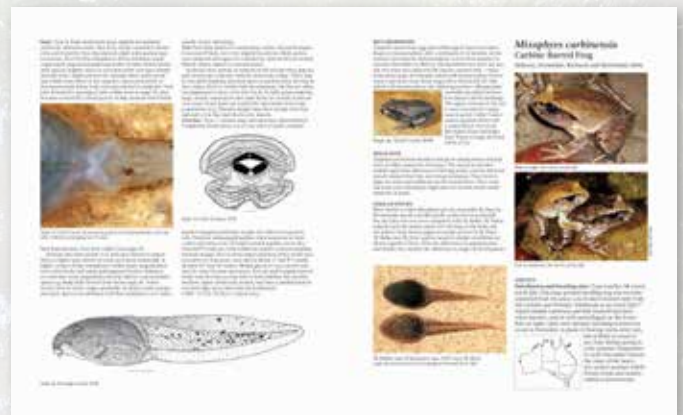
# Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia

by Marion Anstis

A stunning, comprehensive, one-of-a-kind reference work on the life histories of Australian frogs will be available in September 2013.

This 816 page book, with hard cover and dust jacket, will include 500 limited edition, numbered copies signed by the author, with additional regular copies. The book covers all adult frogs and includes illustrated descriptions of the eggs, tadpoles and metamorphs of most species, with keys to tadpoles and eggs. Full colour throughout, including over 3,060 photos and drawings, it is a must-have reference for amateurs, students and professionals.

To secure your order, please complete your credit card/cheque details below. Price \$145 including postage within Australia. For overseas orders, please include your email to confirm postage price.



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**Rufous fantail Photo by Michelle Toms**



**FATS EXCURSION TO SMITH'S LAKE**

**25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April**

**T**he word about camp was that “nothing has really changed at Smith’s Lake in 40 years”. And yet...and yet, it seemed from the stories that much has changed, and not necessarily for the worse.

On our first expedition – on the evening of ANZAC day - we visited the Sandbar and heard a few frogs. Red-backed toadlets (*Pseudophryne coriacea*) greeted us on our arrival there. Eastern common froglets (*Crinia signifera*) were conducting a croak concert deep in the swamp, but we couldn’t see them from the edge. And a few striped marsh frogs (*Lymnodynastes peronii*) were calling in the distance.

Our first lesson from Arthur at the Sandbar, was ‘triangulation’. Using two sets of ears we learned to hone in on a target frog call. Digging in the mud at the point where our torch lights transected we successfully turned up a couple of red-backed toadlets (*Pseudophryne coriacea*) - empirical evidence that triangulation really works !

Around the Sandbar, grey-headed flying foxes (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), feeding in the treetops, sounded deceptively like fractious tree frogs. Arthur, mischievously tried to trick us into guessing the name of the giant bat frog, but no one fell for it. Alas, the cold bright night and dry conditions, romantic and beautiful as it was for us, had kept the frogs in hiding.

Friday night - April full moon – and we headed out to Wallingat National Park. I found myself bucking along the pothole-pocked road at Sugar Creek, in Arthur’s Nissan Patrol. Conditions again on Friday were dry and cold. As usual, before setting off into wild frog habitats, we all sterilized our gumboots by stepping into a bucket of water and bleach. For me, this simple act is always accompanied by thrilling anticipation. I love venturing into the dark nocturnal world to look for the elusive, exquisite creatures that emerge in the gloom. But although I was excited I was not very encouraged that we would see many frogs.

At Wallingat, the moon-drenched forest of Flooded gums (*Eucalyptus grandis*), Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), and occasional Tallow wood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*) flashed by, towering over us making a lacey black canopy. Young Cabbage Palms (*Livistona australis*) pushed their fan-fronds out from the understory, slashing against the side of the Nissan Patrol as we headed, first for the Quarry, and later, to the Twin dams.

Safe inside the Patrol, I listened to the frogging stories that flowed from Karen and Punia. Their delight seemed

visceral. This frogging experience - repeated so many times over the years for them, was the fabric of fond memories, and not just for my co-travellers. Many people who gathered around the dinner table at Smith’s Lake Field Station treasured these experiences too. This is more than frogging, I reflected, it is also oral history at its best - the story of a place and the people who have cared about it through all its changes, over decades.

Although the cloudless cold had, until now, kept the amphibian population pretty quiet, on Friday night we still managed to find a reasonable variety of frogs.

**Photo by Michelle Toms**



**Broad palmed rocket frogs (*Litoria latopalmata*)**

At the Quarry we found Broad palmed frogs (*Litoria latopalmata*), Striped Marsh Frogs (*Lymnodynastes peronii*) and Eastern common froglets (*Crinia signifera*) actively calling, though well hidden. We also found a juvenile leaf-tailed gecko (*Saltuarius moritzi*) camouflaged, though not hidden well enough, sitting on the quarry wall.

Pushing on to the Twin Dams, 19 keen FATS froggers splashing about in the reeds at the edge of the deep ponds turned up 5 different frog species. When we arrived, Whirring tree frogs (*Litoria revelata*) were calling, so were Eastern common froglets (*Crinia signifera*), Eastern dwarf tree frogs (*Litoria fallax*), Jervis Bay tree frogs (*Litoria jervisiensis*), and Haswell’s frog (*Paracrinia haswelli*). Eventually, we found, photographed and released again, all these frogs.

**Male Tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*)**



**Photo by Micelle Toms**

We heard a shy Tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*) above but did not see one. And we heard, and later caught, some not so shy striped marsh frogs (*Lymnodynastes peronii*). Striped marsh frogs are wide spread along the Eastern seaboard and are common across Sydney. They are peculiar from the point of view that the males are larger than the females. We found a couple of ‘marshies’ whose stout little forearms quickly defined them as males and then we caught, inspected and released again, a slimmer smaller female with beautiful dorsal stripes. Tusked frogs (*Adelotus brevis*) are the only other species found in this area in which the males are larger than their mates.

**Photo Michelle Toms**



**Whirring tree frogs (*Litoria revelata*)**

It is always exhilarating to find frogs in their natural habitats. Each frog has its own fascinating adaptive characteristics. Male Whirring tree frogs (*Litoria revelata*) for example, turn sulphur yellow when breeding. Red-backed toadlets (*Pseudophryne coriacea*), on the other hand, each have their own special ‘finger print’ – an individual black and white thoracic design. But perhaps the most amazing adaptation that I have come across at Smith’s Lake is the particular smell exuded by the Jervis Bay tree frog (*Litoria jervisiensis*). This small mustard-coloured frog smells exactly like a rich blend of Indian curry powder!

On a tree near one of the ponds, fresh tell tale scratches in even pairs ascending each side of the trunk indicated the presence of Koalas. We looked, but neither heard nor saw the maker of the claw marks.

Even though the cooler, dryer autumn weather is bringing the frog-breeding season to an end we still found several metamorphs. A tiny Whirring tree frog (*Litoria revelata*) with its legs and its tadpole tail still attached and Eastern dwarf tree frogs (*Litoria fallax*), the size of a little fingernail, ranging in colour from brown to bright green. Arthur suggested that the late season metamorphoses might give the frogs a bit of advantage against predators that, by now, have moved on to other places or other food sources.

Finally, we had to check out the Sugar Creek picnic site for the adult leaf-tail gecko (*Saltarius moritzi*) that lives on the barbeque there. No one home! Instead, we picked up two iridescent eyes peering steadily down at us from the top of a

flooded gum. A Greater glider (*Petauroides volans*) was watching us as it foraged for blossoms.

If the nights were dreamy and cool the days were sunny and warm. At Seal Rocks the summer-warmed sea was like a bathtub. A school of Eagle rays (*Myliobatis australis*) came right into the shallows to search for molluscs. Lifting their pointed wings above the surface of the water the rays looked deceptively like pairs of sharks cruising by. Further out, around the rocks, the snorkelers were lucky enough to spot a green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*).

Saturday night was again clear and bright and this time we headed back towards Bulahdelah. Thick fog had settled in the low-lying flats along Smith’s Lake and we dipped our beams and switched on fog lights. We turned off the main road where the sign said ‘Grandis’. Driving through magnificent forest, the tallest flooded gum, ‘grandfather Grandis’ 83 plus metres tall, soon rose up before us. Everywhere in the treetops there was forest chatter. Noisy flying foxes dropped flowers, insects chirped and sang while we looked for Koalas, but found none. We saw another glider, this time a sugar glider (*Petauroides breviceps*) its bright eyes unwavering as it stared at us. It was high up on a trunk, feeding on the sweet eucalypt sap.

Returning to the Research Station along Horse Point track in the Nissan Patrol Karen said; “I remember when we could walk up this track and find so many species of frog in the pond here. We didn’t have to drive anywhere. There were even green and gold bell frogs here. Remember that?” What has changed? “Well” said Arthur, “they used to mine the sand dunes and that created the ponds. Now they’ve stopped mining and the ponds have gone. But the dunes have almost gone too!” “Hey,” piped up Punia; “Remember when the Briars used to live in the farm down the track? They had the most wonderful kiwi fruits, boy and girl plants! And remember when someone wanted to put a resort with a marina at the end of Horse Point and a surf school across the lake?” Hmmm!!! Well, certainly in some ways nothing has changed. Thank goodness!  
**Jilli Streit**

**Red-bellied black snake skin**



**Photo by Michelle Toms**

**All Michelle Tom’s photos were from the previous trip to Smith’s Lake. MW**





Extracts from frog presentation by Md Safiqul Islam Dhaka Bangladesh

## Frogs & Amphibians in Bangladesh

Amphibians: 6 families; 34 known species

Frogs: 5 families; 32 species total

.....H. A. Chowdhury *et. al.* 2008

<u>Discoglossidae</u>	<u>Megophryidae</u>	<u>Microhylidae</u>	<u>Ranidae</u>	<u>Rhacophoridae</u>
1) <u>Euplyctis</u>	1) <u>Leptobrachium</u>	1) <u>Kalophrynus</u>	1) <u>Amolopes</u>	1) <u>Chironomantis</u>
2) <u>Fejervarya</u>	2) <u>Xerophrys</u>	2) <u>Kaloula</u>	2) <u>Climotatus</u>	2) <u>Polypedates</u>
3) <u>Hoplobatrachus</u>		3) <u>Microhyla</u>	3) <u>Humerana</u>	3) <u>Rhacophorus</u>
4) <u>Ocicodyga</u>		4) <u>Uperodon</u>	4) <u>Hylarima</u>	
5) <u>Sphaerotheca</u>			5) <u>Sylvirana</u>	



## INTERNATIONAL FROGS - WHY ARE FROGS IMPORTANT?



**Fire bellied toad**  
 Bradykinin – reduces high blood pressure



**EXTINCT**  
**Gastric brooding frog**  
 Prostaglandin – possible peptic ulcer cure



**Whites tree frog**  
 Caerin - blocks HIV transmission



**Waxy monkey frog**  
 Dermaseptin – treats anti-biotic resistant *Staphylococcus*



**Phantasmal poison frog**  
 Epibatidine - painkiller 200x more powerful than morphine



**African clawed frog**  
 Magainin – diabetic foot ulcer cure



Participant at Save the Frogs Day rally

## AMPHIBIAN RECORD BOOKS DUE 31 MAY 2013

**Annual Amphibian Keepers' Record Book** returns are due by 31 May 2013 either by paper via the post or e-book at [www.animalkeepers.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.animalkeepers.environment.nsw.gov.au) This is a licence condition requirement that you as an Animal Keeper Licence (AKL) holder need to do each year. See <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences/electronicFaunaRecordBook.htm>

We also take this opportunity to let you know that a Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Reptiles is now in place. This Code is for anyone licensed by OEHL to keep reptiles as pets and has been designed to contribute to the welfare of reptiles in captivity. All licensees with a Reptile Class licence need to read and comply with this Code. This requirement will now become a condition of your licence.

Copies of the Code can be downloaded at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au) and we have also attached a copy. All enquiries please contact

[wildlife.licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wildlife.licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au) or call (02) 9585 6406.

Did you know that you can apply for most scientific, animal keeper and import/export licences online at <http://www.licence.nsw.gov.au>

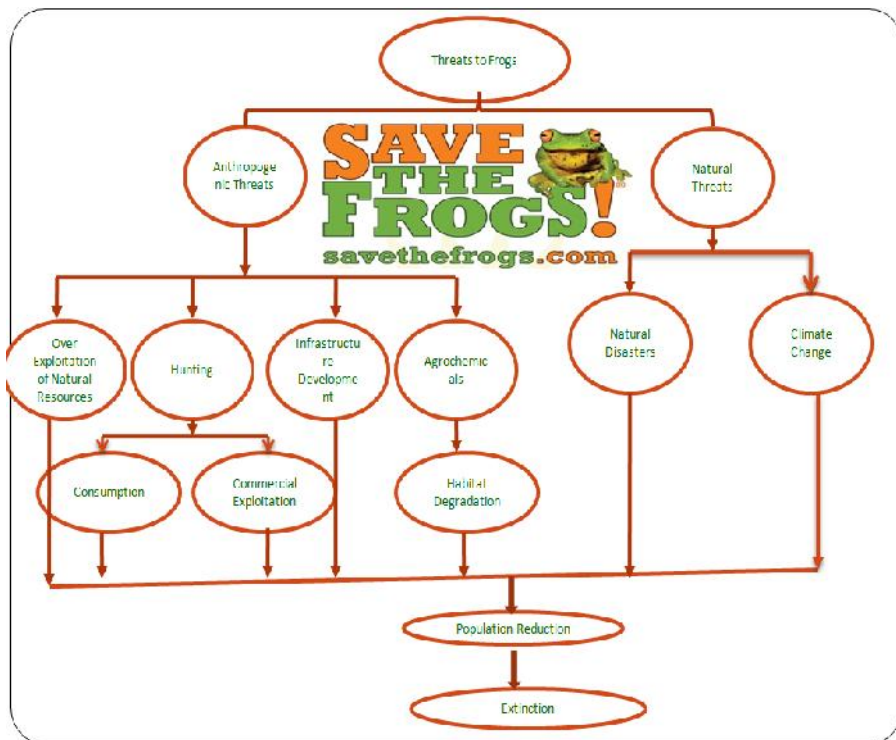
Regards Wildlife Licensing and Management Unit National Parks & Wildlife Service Office of Environment & Heritage Department of Premier & Cabinet PO Box 196 HURSTVILLE NSW 1481 Fax: 02 9585 6401



## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SAVE THE FROGS DAY

**A**t Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, there were 216 participants, 12 Teachers of Zoology Department, 11 Others Department Chairman and Teachers, Honorable Vice Chancellor and Dean of Earth and Life Science celebrating Save The Frogs Day.

This event is being funded by Save The Frogs Bangladesh. I am very pleased that Save the Frogs helped us celebrating the fifth Save the Frogs Day. I have always tried to work on raising awareness among the local people. In this case I have celebrated with the University teachers to increase the undergraduates interest to come forward to Save Frogs. On the occasion of 5th annual Save The Frogs Day, Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Branch, Department of Zoology of Jagannath University, Dhaka Bangladesh had arranged a daylong program with different educational events. Honorable Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman inaugurated the programme, and participated in open discussion.



Md Safiqul Islam, M.Sc (Thesis Group), Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation, Jagannath University, Dhaka gave the key presentation on the "Status and Distribution of Frogs in Bangladesh". The presentation provided current and updated information about the amphibians in Bangladesh with emphasis on conservation. The presentation was followed by an open discussion on the frogs and their current habitat and how we can save frog habitat. Professor Dr. Saiful Islam, Chairman, Department of Zoology, Dr. Abdul Alim, Associate Professor, Aniban Sarkar, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, Shayer Mahmood Ibney Alom, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, Farnan Muznabin, Lecturer, Department of Zoology participated in open discussion. Then a video documentary was presented by the ATN News on Save The Frogs. OVIJATRI Travel Club presented a slideshow, the conservation aspects of frogs and their life cycle. Then we arranged a Open Quiz Contest (20 Question for all participants) among the participants. Finally at the end of the program, we arranged a short cultural program for 30 minutes with the help of Arshi Cultural Club. Then Arshi presented a short drama on illegal hunting of wild frogs and their effect in the environment. We gave prizes to three winners and closed our programme with a rally. **Md Safiqul Islam**

Nick Edards' Yoda,

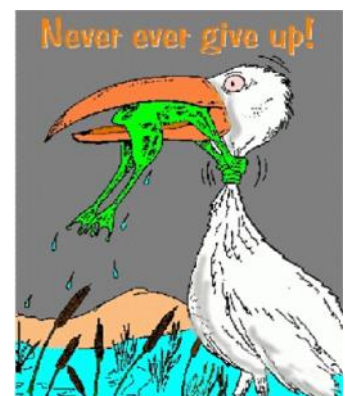
the rescued Green Tree Frog *Litoria caerulea*



Street art frosh, Halle Germany, Facebook

### RARE FROG HOPS TO IT AFTER FLOODS

**A**rare frog species has leapt back from the brink of extinction, after floods threatened to wipe away their habitat. The Booroolong Frog population, listed as a threatened species in Victoria, was feared lost after flooding in March 2011. A recent survey of the species' main breeding sites in the Upper Murray region, in the state's northeast, has discovered the opposite has occurred, with the Department of Sustainability and Environment saying floodwaters have rejuvenated the Booroolong population. **Sent by Phillip Grimm** [http://bigpondnews.com/articles/Environment/2013/01/09/Rare\\_frogs\\_hop\\_to\\_it\\_after\\_floods\\_834021.html](http://bigpondnews.com/articles/Environment/2013/01/09/Rare_frogs_hop_to_it_after_floods_834021.html)



FATS ICON FOR 21 YEARS



## PROTECT THE LAWS THAT PROTECT THE PLACES YOU LOVE

**O**ur rights and environment under threat!



**Stand up against the most significant changes to planning and environment laws in a generation!** Sweeping changes to NSW planning laws threaten our environment and communities. The proposed changes represent the most significant backward step in environmental protection and community participation in more than a generation.

Under the new planning system:

- 80% of all development in NSW will be approved as complying or code assessment, with no community consultation.
- The principles of ecologically sustainable development have been removed from the planning system.
- Important environment protection zones will be removed (E3 and E4 zones will be rolled into overarching rural and residential zones).
- Third party appeal rights will be weakened.

This is an essential time to speak up for a planning system that protects the environment and our communities: **1. Make a submission** in response to the White Paper and draft Planning Bill before **28 June, 2013**. **2. Send a copy of your submission, together with a cover letter, to your local MP.** Better still, request a meeting to discuss your key concerns. **3. Spread the word** – put a notice on your Facebook page, an [article in your newsletter](#) or hold a short briefing at your next meeting. [Send a media release](#) to your local media. **Attend one of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's community consultation sessions. Subscribe to NCCs Planning Watching Briefs**

The NCC is pleased to offer our members the opportunity to subscribe to a new information service, *Planning Watching Briefs*. This initiative provides a summary of government processes (both state and federal) that have the potential to impact on the NSW planning system. The Planning Watching Briefs will be circulated to email subscribers each month. To sign up to receive the Planning Watching Brief, email NCC on [policy@nccnsw.org.au](mailto:policy@nccnsw.org.au). For any further information or assistance, please contact Kate Smolski, Campaigns Director, or Cerin Loane, Planning Policy Officer, on (02) 9516 1488. Best wishes, Pepe Clark Chief Executive Officer [ncc@nccnsw.org.au](mailto:ncc@nccnsw.org.au) [www.nccnsw.org.au](http://www.nccnsw.org.au) [www.facebook.com/naturensw](http://www.facebook.com/naturensw)

### INTERESTING LINKS

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=u0eJGDmUQds](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=u0eJGDmUQds) Queensland Frog Society Pobblebonk song – adorable!

Save the Frogs Day 27 April 2013 in Borneo

<http://www.theborneopost.com/2013/05/26/racing-for-frogs/>

watch out for Pets magazine June/July issue

<http://www.universalmagazines.com.au/magazines/pets-2/>

June 2013 P10

## REBECCA MOOY HELPING FARMERS ESTABLISH HABITATS

**H**awkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority Catchment Officer (Coast and Estuary), Rebecca Mooy attended a training course to "train the trainer" about surveying frogs. She was sent by Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority to become a trainer and funded by Clean Energy Futures, Australian Government. Part of the Biodiversity project is to encourage landholders to establish vegetation or enhance remnant vegetation on their land to link to other pockets and create wildlife corridors. One of the best ways we can do this is by connecting riparian corridors, improve habitat around dams and wetlands. She learnt to encourage farmers to have more native species around dams and habitats such as for frogs. The weeks course was a Yanco. FATS were able to assist Bec with resource material. Thanks to Wendy Grimm for putting us in contact with this hard working officer! Many FATS members work quietly behind the scenes supporting environmental initiatives. MW

### FROG SURVEY VOLUNTEERS

**H**ey FATS! I'm looking for volunteers to catch and help process some *Litoria aurea* and *Litoria fallax* with me in Sydney Olympic Park in June for my Honours project. If need be, accommodation is provided in Newington Armory! Soooo, if you're interested, just email me: [amalina.2804@gmail.com](mailto:amalina.2804@gmail.com). Cheers! :) Amalina Katinka Kikkoman



"Skinny legs! ... I got skinny legs!"





Photo Jilli Streit, Cricket, Smith's Lake Field Station Nov. 2013



Photo George Madani  
*Litoria infrafrenata* White-lipped Tree Frog

**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. **FATS MEETINGS** commence at 7 pm, (arrive 6.30pm) and end about 10pm at the Education Centre Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay. They 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 or enter from Bennelong Rd/Parkway. It is a short stretch of 2 way road and park in p10f car park (the last car park before the exit gate). 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.



Thank you to the many Frogcall supporters. Your articles, photos, media and webpage links, membership administration and envelope preparation is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to regular newsletter contributors, including Lothar Voigt, Robert Wall, George Madani, Karen & Arthur White, Wendy & Phillip Grimm, Grant Webster, Peter Spradbrow, Marion Anstis, Andrew & David Nelson, Barbara Bohdanowicz and Bill Wangmann.

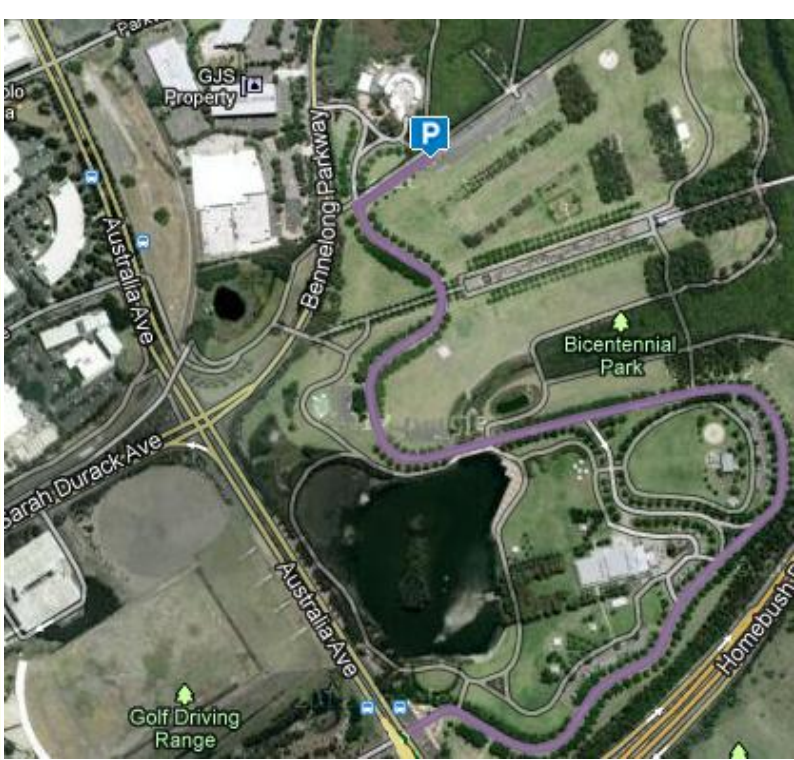
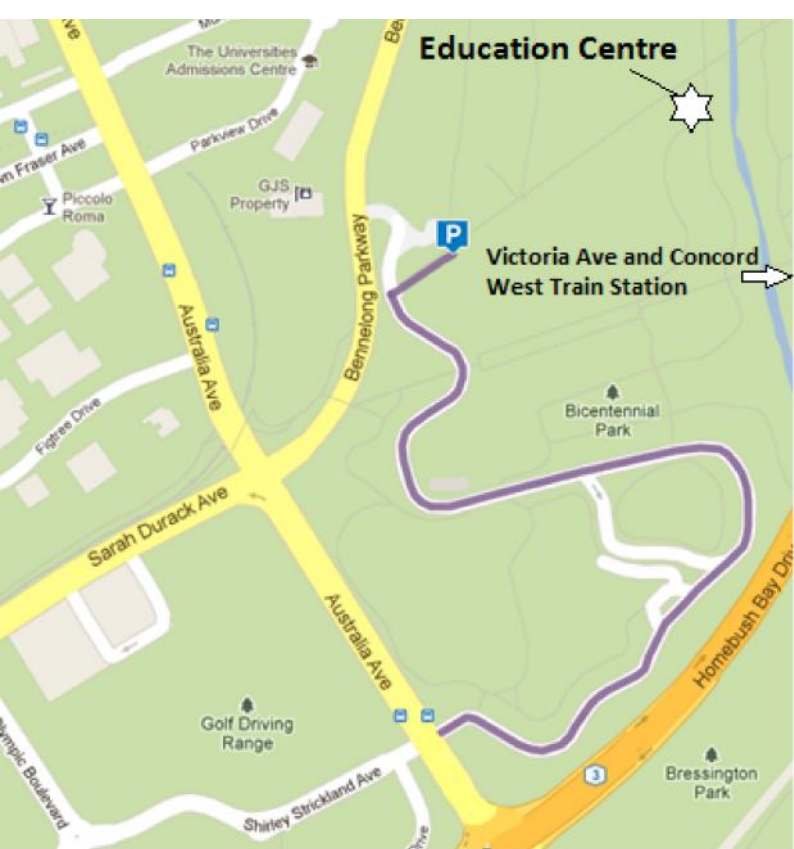


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Education Centre, Bicentennial Park

The internal road winds and twists. Just follow the main road and turn right at the P10f parking sign. There should be a sandwich board sign on the road "To FATS meeting". It's a short walk to the single story education centre and its tall tower. Both can be seen from the car park. It will be dark when you arrive so bring a small torch. Directions from you home: <http://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/maps/getting-to-the-park?type=venue&id=384059>

**THE FATS FIELD TRIPS ARE IN AUTUMN / WINTER RECESS**

Our Spring / Summer program re-commences in September.

**Smith's Lake November 2012**



Photo by Jillie Streit, Flannel flowers *Actinotus helianthi*, Luc Streit, Punia Jeffery, Marion Anstis & Wendy Grimm