

FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

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NEWSLETTER No. 130 April 2014

Photo by Aaron Payne *Litoria xanthomera*
Mount Spec, Queensland-Orange Thighed Tree Frog



Arrive 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

Friday 4th April

**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.

MEETING FORMAT Friday 4th April 2014

6.30 pm There are a few lost frogs needing forever homes available to FATS financial members. Please bring your FATS membership card and cash \$40 - \$50 donation. Your current NSW NPWS amphibian licence must be sighted on the night. Rescued frogs can never be released. Sorry we have no EFTPOS at meetings. Please call Monica before the meeting to confirm your interest in adopting.

7.00pm Welcome and announcements.

7.45 pm Main speaker: Dr Cameron Webb talking about mosquitoes "Taking the bites out of frogging"

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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LAST FATS MEETING 7 FEBRUARY 2014

Following announcements, Jake Janos spoke about keeping Central Breaded Dragons, their mutations and frog husbandry. He brought his gorgeous dragons for us to hold. Lothar Voigt gave tips on keeping frogs, pool to pond conversions and algae control. Marion Anstis spoke about the 2014 Australian Society of Herpetologists International Conference in Canberra. Arthur White reported on insectivorous Ghost Bats and Cane Toads. He displayed native animal photos in our "show us your images" segment at the end of the meeting. Judy Harrington spoke about Haslams Creek rising tides. The meeting ended with yummy supper, raffle and lots of good conversation. MW



aedes_aegypti_doggett Photo borrowed from blog <http://cameronwebb.wordpress.com/> Dr Cameron Webb

Our main speaker in April is Dr Cameron Webb, Hospital Scientist and Clinical Lecturer, Pathology West - ICPMR Westmead, Medical Entomology, Marie Bashir Institute of Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity, University of Sydney, Twitter: [@mosziebites](https://twitter.com/mozziebites) His talk is entitled "Taking the bites out of frogging". He will be talking about mosquitoes. FATS are so fortunate and honoured to have experienced and expert speakers every meeting. Some main speakers are our FATS members and others are linked to the herpetology field.

CANE TOAD FIND AT GOSFORD (extracts)

prompts warning from frog expert Ross Wellington



Frog and toad expert Ross Wellington urges Central Coast people to be on the lookout for cane toads after one was found in Gosford. A lone cane toad found in a retention basin at a Gosford construction site has conservationists worried — is it a stray or the tip of a disastrous environmental iceberg? Only time will tell according to ecologist and frog expert Ross Wellington. "So far it's the only one found there," Mr Wellington said.....Building contractors found the dreaded cane toad last Friday and took it to the Gosford NPWS office. As luck

would have it Mr Wellington was working at the time just across the road at the Rumbalara environment centre. Mr Wellington, who formerly worked for the National Parks and Wildlife Service specialising in frogs — particularly cane toads — immediately identified it as the most unwanted guest in all of Australia.

"It's raised the question of whether cane toads have established on the Central Coast or this is a one-off sighting of a stray individual that has hitched a ride among materials or produce from Queensland," Mr Wellington said. "The community needs to keep an eye out to ensure that it is just a stray and not the first sign of an establishing colony south of its known range."

Cane toads have moved south as far as Yamba and are marching west across Queensland to the Northern Territory. They reached Darwin a few years ago and are heading towards to the Kimberlys. Recently a colony was found at Taren Point, a southern suburb of Sydney, and Port Macquarie, but both were eradicated.

While Mr Wellington is urging the community to be vigilant, he has also asked people not to go around killing frogs willy nilly. "People should not just go and kill a frog because they may accidentally kill a native frog that, at first glance, might appear to be one of them," he said.

IDENTIFY FIRST ...Adult cane toads are usually heavy-built and weigh an average of up to 1.8kg and their size can vary from between 12cm up to 23cm. The colouration on their back and sides also varies from olive-brown or reddish-brown, grey, and yellow while their bellies are semi-yellow or semi-white with darker mottling. Behind their ears lie the parotid glands, which usually causes their head to appear swollen. The glands gland produce milky toxic secretion or poison that is dangerous to many species and can kill native wildlife.

"We don't want people to go around killing native frogs by mistake," Mr Wellington said. "If you think you have seen a cane toad you should notify the NSW Environment and Heritage NPWS office in Gosford on 4320 4320." The NSW Environment and Heritage has a useful website at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestweeds/CaneToads.htm>

Source: Australian government, Dept of Environment
<http://m.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/central-coast/cane-toad-find-at-gosford-prompts-warning-from-frog-expert-ross-wellington/story-fngr8h0p-1226830267414>



Photos by Andre Rank from FATS meeting in February Jilli and Luc Streit, Wendy Grimm at Education Centre

GUACAMOLE

Kirsty, our 11 year old daughter adopted "Guacamole", the Green Tree Frog at the December FATS Society Meeting. Joanna advised us that Guacamole has become a treasured member of our household, with his habitat having pride of place in our living room. Kirsty has written more about Guacamole's adventures in her own words....

Guacamole has had a number of experiences he will always remember, and this adventure is one of many. Guacamole was enjoying the peacefulness of his rock hide out. When a very peculiar visitor arrived. This impostor was furry and appeared to be attached to a green string.



FROGS HIT HIGH NOTES TO WARD OFF COMPETITION

source teejaybee/Flickr (extracts)

Male orange-eyed tree frogs trill to advertise their size not to prospective mates, but to other males, a new study has found. "Frog calls are analogous to a human face in terms of the information they convey," says Dr Shinichi Nakagawa of New Zealand's University of Otago. "They can convey 'sexy' information, such as whether someone is good looking or handsome, as well as the person's unique identity. "Normally, frogs call to attract potential mates to their territory, however, the calls of orange-eyed tree frogs (*Litoria chloris*) are unique because they contain two distinctly different notes - moans and trills."

Previous research had suggested that the moan component attracts females, while the trills are thought to warn off other males... Their study, led by Morgan Maclean and published in the *Australian Journal of Zoology*, found six different call features - trill frequency and duration, moan frequency, duration, number and number of pulses -combined to give each frog a unique call.

In many frog species size equates to quality, with larger males having grown faster or survived longer than smaller males. They usually have greater fertilization success and their offspring have better survival rates. "Most frog calls contain information about the caller's size, as indicators of male quality that help females choose the best mate." This is known as intersexual indicator theory. "These frogs are unusual because females don't choose mates based on body size, either large or small," says Dr Nakagawa. "If they did, that information would be contained in the moan calls."

Instead they seem to be using their calls only to keep in touch with the other frogs in their pond, helping to distinguish between friendly neighbours and potentially threatening strangers. **2012 Rachel Sullivan ABC From Andrew Nelson**



This impostor was Belle the labradoodle. Belle was with us for six weeks while her original family were renovating. Belle was instantly curious of this petite, green animal and took it upon herself to inspect him closely. Guacamole was highly alarmed and took cover high up on his stick. He let a small croak escape and fled behind some rocks.

Belle soon lost interest and began to ignore Guacamole. However she has not yet mastered her curiosity over the crickets and a few will occasionally end up in the wrong mouth.

Extra thoughts: If Guacamole spends long periods in his rock, he will come out a darker green than when he went in. **By Kirsty**



Kira Alia Leon



© Kira 2013
artofmystery.blogspot.com

Black-spotted Sticky frog/ Red-sided Sticky Frog (*Kalophrynus pleurostigma*) - Selangor, Malaysia. <http://artofmystery.blogspot.com/2012/12/tropical-reptiles-amphibians.html>

Unlike · Comment · Share · 10 January at 18:04

You, Cindy Jackson, Kira Alia Leon, Christian Hofmann and 3 others like this.

Chantel Beadnell Cutest, cranky old man faced frog?
16 January at 23:49 · Unlike · 1



<https://soundcloud.com/wildambience/giant-banjo-frog-limnodynastes> From Ed Glatfelter-Jones



Giant Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes interioris*) chorus, Backyamma State Forest, NSW, Australia
soundcloud.com

Last night I camped by a small wetland in a

Unlike · Comment · Share · 14 January at 01:37

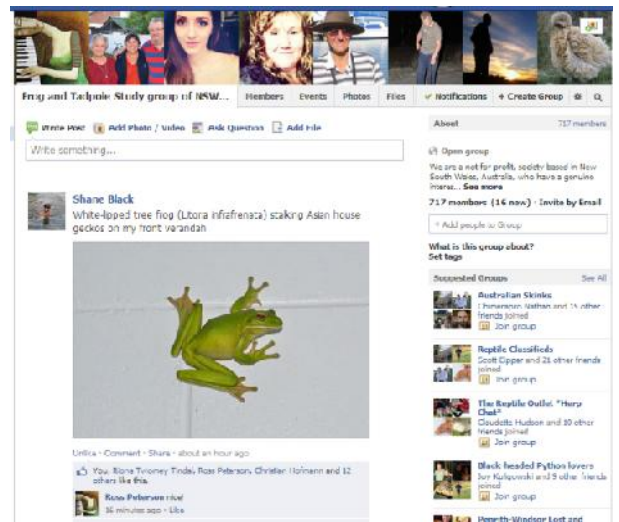
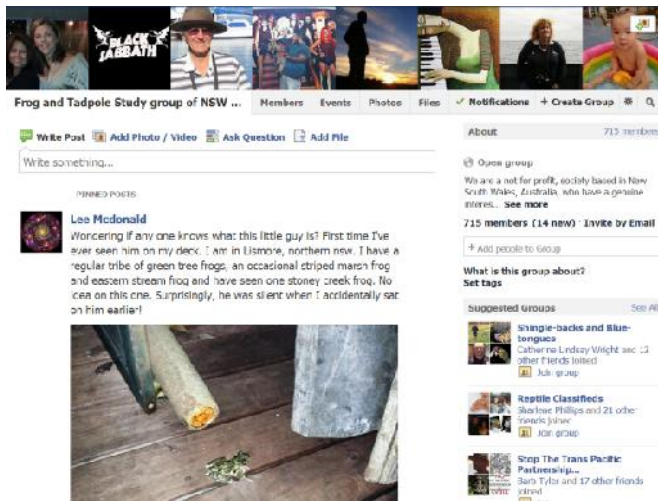
You, Kira Alia Leon, Cindy Jackson and 2 others like this.

Dianne Lane fantastic
14 January at 10:07 · Unlike · 1

SAMPLE POSTS ON FATS FACEBOOK PAGE

Above centre, a mermie in Facebook house of frogs <https://www.facebook.com/AHouseOfFrogs> question mark hc_location=timeline

Here are samples of what the FATS Facebook page looks like and some of the posts. Dozens of our members help with regular enquiries. Below left & bottom of this page is a thread of conversation to identify a brightly coloured Perons Frog.



- Lee McDonald** It actually makes a sound like a giant cicada.
25 January at 02:48 · Like
- Grant Dubs** This frog is from Lismore??? It almost looks like an exotic species due to that greenish colour... although I think it's probably just an odd coloured Peron's Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*). can u check to see if there is yellow and black in the thigh and back of legs? any chance of a more clearer image? (a macro shot detailing the frog would be best!) thanks
25 January at 07:43 · Like · 2
- Glenn Laycock** Its not L nannotis is it. Im not sure of that species range.
25 January at 08:47 · Like
- Monica Wangmann** It doesn't appear to have the star pupil of a Perons. Any chance of a closer photo Lee McDonald? Is it <http://www.arkive.org/peppered-tree-frog/litoria-piperata/> ?? I assume not.
Peppered tree frog videos, photos and facts - *Litoria piperata*
www.arkive.org
I learn more about the Peppered tree frog - with amazing Peppered tree frog photos and facts on ARKive
25 January at 11:25 · Edited · Like · 1 · Remove Preview
- Grant Dubs** I noticed that too, it looks almost like a *Litoria serrata* (well out of natural range though...). Quite a puzzle! Thoughts Adam Parsons, Naturefouryou Eipper?
25 January at 11:25 · Unlike · 1
- Monica Wangmann** Richard Wells? Riona Twomey Tindal? Marion Anstis? Any ideas of what species this is found in Lismore?
25 January at 11:41 · Like
- Grant Dubs** nah its too bulky for a piperata. I'm still leaning towards a boldly marked *Litoria peronii*. There's not really much else that it could be. 😊
25 January at 12:08 · Unlike · 2

- Riona Twomey Tindal** That's a new species awaiting for you grant. ;p its really stunning green variation if it was *Peronii*. I have a photo of one very young metamorph frog that was mostly green out near the telescope at wee waa. So might be like that?
25 January at 12:32 · Unlike · 1
- Scott Eipper** Looks like an aberrant Peron's Tree Frog.....much more green than usual
25 January at 12:36 · Unlike · 2
- Marion Anstis** Facebook Looks like *Litoria peronii* to me. See the fine hint of a cream vertebral stipe and the head etc. is right. Wouldn't be surprised if they get a greenish hue on occasion, given their green spots.
Marion... See More
25 January at 13:38 · Unlike · 4
- Lee McDonald** Wow. Thanks for all the comments frog lovers! Will aim to get a better shot of him over the next night or two. Amazing what turns up on my deck.
25 January at 18:13 · Unlike · 2
- Theresa Rossdale** When I take pictures of some of my perons tree frogs in the right light they look like they are speckled with emerald. I will have to see if I can find one of my pictures that shows it
25 January at 19:32 · Unlike · 1
- Adam Parsons** I would say *Litoria peronii* as well. I have seen these frogs completely olive green in colour.
about an hour ago · Like

HOT BODIES PROTECT FROGS FROM DISEASE

By following individual frogs in the rainforest, we reveal that hot frogs are less likely to be infected with a potentially deadly fungus. The amphibian chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) is responsible for the often fatal amphibian disease chytridiomycosis. This disease has now been associated with declines and extinctions in hundreds of species of amphibians worldwide, and is a serious threat to global amphibian biodiversity.

However, not all amphibian species decline from chytridiomycosis, and many amphibians that have declined from the disease in some environments coexist with it in others. Why might this be?

One such reason is temperature. In the lab, the amphibian chytrid fungus grows best between 17-25°C and infected captive frogs can be cured by simply raising the temperature. Natural populations of frogs also appear to be affected by temperature, with infected frogs more often detected in cooler months and at higher (and therefore cooler) altitudes. So there's reason to suspect that temperature may play an important role in determining whether individual frogs are infected with the amphibian chytrid fungus in nature.



To investigate this, a small team of volunteers and I tracked over 100 frogs of three species in the rainforests of north eastern Australia. Each frog was fitted with a tiny radio-transmitter or diode attached via a tailor-made waist-belt that allowed us to find each frog every day and night for up to 16 days at a time. This was no easy feat in steep, boulder-strewn streams surrounded by dense (and often prickly!) vegetation. Once we located each frog, we recorded its body temperature (using an infrared gun or thermally sensitive radio-transmitter). This was also often rather tricky- just because the transmitter is telling you the frog is close, it doesn't mean that it's easy to see. Frogs that sit on rocks tend to look like rock, and frogs that sit on leaves have a tendency to look like leaves!

Although frogs were often located in the same parts of the same stream (with the same air temperature), the body temperatures of individual frogs varied considerably among and within individuals. A frog sitting under a boulder in the

stream was a whole lot cooler than a frog basking in the sun ten metres up a tree or sitting on a sun-warmed rock.

The results of our intensive frog-stalking revealed that the more time individual frogs were found at temperatures above 25°C, the less likely they were to be infected by the amphibian chytrid. Frogs of all species were very unlikely to be infected if 75% or more of their body temperatures were above 25°C. This is the first demonstration that individual frog thermal histories affect the probability of amphibian chytrid infection in nature.



Our findings also point towards one possible way to reduce the impact of the disease on threatened amphibians in nature. By carefully manipulating habitats to increase the availability of warmer temperatures, we may be able to help frogs reach temperatures that allow them to reduce or eliminate infection. While at first glance, our findings may suggest that global climate change may act in favour of amphibians, it's too complicated to predict. The impacts of global climate change, particularly at the small scales relevant to a frog, are likely to vary among species and sites. While increased air temperatures at some sites might decrease disease impact, increased cloud or canopy cover may increase it.

Reference: Rowley, J.J.L. & Alford, R.A. Hot bodies protect amphibians against chytrid infection in nature. Scientific Reports 3, 1515; DOI:10.1038/srep01515 (2013). Research from the School of Marine and Tropical Biology at James Cook University and the Australian Museum. 22 March 2013 Dr Jodi J L Rowley©Jodi <http://australianmuseum.net.au/BlogPost/Science/Hot-bodies-protect-frogs-from-disease#sthash.2nirC70b.dpuf>



Green and Golden Bell Frog photo Punia Jeffrey

A WEEKEND WITH THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP

I never come back from a FATS field trip without feeling I've been 'away'. It may only be a Friday afternoon to midday Sunday but what goes on in between is so diverse and stimulating that I rock home full of new memories, new knowledge (or old knowledge renewed more like) and a sense that the world is a richer place than it was when I set out two days before.

To start with there's the sheer beauty of the place. The UNSW field station is set beside Smiths Lake, a huge shimmering saucer of water that stretches in all directions with barely a house or cleared field in sight. Lined with reeds and melaleucas, its stillness seeps into your brain and bones. A salve to a jangled body torn through highways and byways after a 3-and-half-hour ride from the city.

Then there's the people: old faces, new faces, greetings, introductions and a sideways glance at the blackboard which is already filling up with the names of animals sighted by the first arrivals. By the end of the weekend you'll be scratching around for space to add another entry. The people gathered here bring new meaning to the term 'focus group'. Ostensibly they are here to discover more about frogs but discussions around the long table where we eat our meals, drink, knit, read, listen and learn are abuzz with exchanged experiences and fascinating stories about wildlife and the natural world. You may be a PhD student, a child, an amateur naturalist or a professor; everyone has a tale to tell.



Our intrepid Willie Wagtail photo Louise Egerton

On this latest weekend, those around the table are continually entertained by a fearless Willie Wagtail (above) who loves human company, the greediest Kookaburra I have ever encountered and some Lace Monitors that saunter around, flicking their forked tongues in and out in their never ending quest for food. Among the Swamp Mahoganies on the right a family of 3 Sacred Kingfishers zip around, calling to one another while on the left friarbirds and honeyeaters squabble over nectar rights in the flowering paperbarks.

There's time to kick back. Arthur, Karen and Punia head for the Lake. The level is very low, despite the recent rain but it only serves to concentrate prey for the White-faced Herons and Sea Eagles, so they're happy. We eat lunch, find our bunks and wander down the track as showers of Red-rumped Finches fly up before us.

We'll prepare dinner in the outside kitchen, sup a wine or two and wait for night to fall.

The excitement mounts as we don gum boots and head torches. Frogs can absorb harmful chemicals through their skin so those wishing to handle frogs tonight will refrain from using insect repellent. All footwear must be dunked in disinfectant before venturing out to avoid inadvertently spreading *Phytophthora*, a notorious fungal killer of the Australian bush. Arthur sorts us into cars to minimise the convoy that he will lead.

**Yellow-faced Whipsnake Photo by
Phillip Grimm**



We're off. The adventure begins. Not far along the forest road and we are brought to a halt. Doors open. Torch beams flicker. We shuffle up to the front car. Arthur is holding a slender Eastern Small-eyed Snake (*Cryptophis nigrescens*). Do not try this at home! In fact, don't ever handle a snake; it is so easy to mis-identify snakes. For one thing, their colour is rarely a good indicator because they slough off their skin; they may look fresh, bright and colourful in their newest skin but in their old outfit they can look dull and murky.

I dip—as they say in birding circles—on the next find: a Yellow-faced Whipsnake (*Demansia psammophis*). above

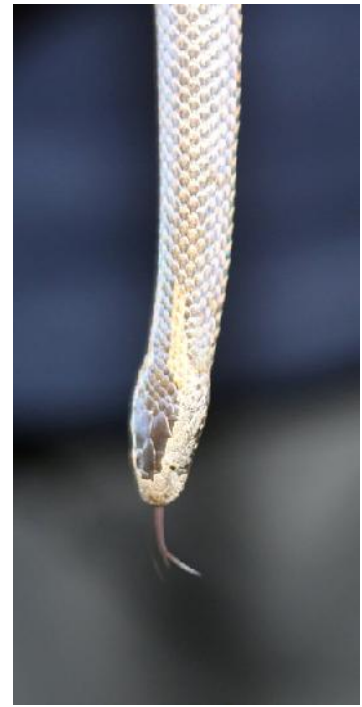
A third stop, and we're all gathered around to look at a Golden-crowned Snake (*Cacophis squamulosus*)

opposite page



Tylers metamorph by Phillip Grimm

Like the Small-eyed Snake, this species is nocturnal. The night is young and the track is still warm from the day's sun so these snakes are probably warming up here before the hunt. Barmy nights are the best for love, or rather sex, and the temperature has just dropped. Although we hear the calls of the Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*) and the Tusked Frog (*Adelotus brevis*), we only get a chance to have a good look at one frog that night, spotted by the young eagle-eyed naturalist, Namkhai.



Golden-crowned Snake photo by Phillip Grimm



This is the Red-backed Toadlet (*Pseudophryne coriacea*). A mere 3cm long, its back is indeed red but its belly is a striking jigsaw of black and white shapes. Photos Louise Egerton



Saturday morning and the group disperse on various pleasure-seeking activities: birdwatching, snorkelling at Seal Rocks or visiting local friends. In the evening we come together again and set off slightly earlier this time in the hope that the warmth of the day will lure out more amorous frogs. Splashing about at the edges of dark pools of water, Whirring Tree Frogs (*Litoria revelata*) are calling but prove elusive. We encounter several tiny Dwarf Tree Frogs (*Litoria fallax*) hunched up against reed stems and there are quite a few Jervis Bay Tree Frogs (*Litoria jervisiensis*), too. Of great interest is a strange-looking individual: mostly frog but with a tail poking out the back. Many in our group immediately recognize it as a metamorph: a frog in transition from tadpole to fully formed frog. This 'ugly duckling' will come of age as Tyler's Frog (*Litoria tyleri*). Photo above left It's past midnight on our return.

Tomorrow we will rejoin the rest of humanity to work and watch TV but our encounters at the field station and in the forest's world of darkness will remain with us. A small splinter of understanding and respect for our fellow species has lodged itself in one of those chakras and can never be removed.

Article by Louise Egerton
<http://louiseegerton.com.au/>

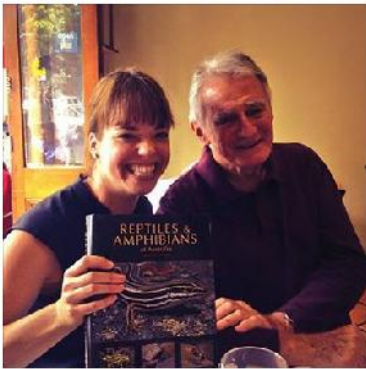
FATS has nearly 900 Facebook members (individuals & organisations) from all over the world. Posts on the page range from frog identification enquiries, frog call sound files, new books eg Hal Cogger's book below, husbandry information, wonderful frog, pond and landscape photos, research, new species, competitions, food sources for pet frogs and tadpoles, event announcements and rescue device ideas for animals that fall in water bodies. MW



Write Post Add Photo/Video Ask Question Add File

Write something...

Jodi Rowley
 Oh yeah!! I got to set eyes on the new herpetology bible of Australia yesterday! It's AMAZING! Thanks Hal Cogger!!! 🙏



Unlike · Comment · Share · about a minute ago

You and Leonie Valerijne like this.

Indi Rowley (order yours if you haven't already! <http://www.publish.csiro.au/cid/6501.htm>)

Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia
www.publish.csiro.au
 Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia is a complete guide to Australia's rich and... See more

About 746

Open group

We are a not for profit, society based in south Wales, Australia, who have a general interest... See more

746 members (8 new) Invite by E

+ Add people to Group

What is this group about?
 Set tags

Suggested Groups

- Australian Reptiles and Frog's**
 Matt Greenleas and 8 others joined
 Join group
- Lock The Gate Alliance I**
 Barb Lylor and 62 others joined
 Join group
- Carpet Python World**
 RUI and Walls and 14 others joined
 Join group
- Australian Frog Keepers**
 Becky Southwell and 13 others joined
 Join group
- Australian Frogs for Sale Wanted...**
 Becky Southwell and 13 others joined
 Join group

Sponsored Last Minute Cruise Deals

Peter Soltys
 Yesterday at 10:58

guys, any ID for this little bugger? 😊
 found south of Royal NP

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You and 6 others like this.

Peter Soltys I didn't manage to take the shot of his back thigh, it was red?/ dark orange
 Yesterday at 11:04 · Like

Peter Soltys the frog was about 4-5 cm long
 Yesterday at 11:08 · Like

Jodi Rowley Looks like a baby Litoria citropa to me 😊
 Yesterday at 13:39 · Like · 4

Rob Burns Yep, citropa.
 Yesterday at 14:05 · Unlike · 2

Phil White Litoria citropa morph.
 21 hours ago · Like · 1

Kira Alia Leon shared Amphibian Specialist Group's photo.
 21 March at 16:36

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To download our new FREE eBook "The Amphibians" - a collaborative project between the Amphibian Survival Alliance and Meet Your Neighbours - please visit:
<http://www.amphibians.org/the-amphibians-ebook>

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On Friday I gave presentations on amphibian conservation in Menlo Park to 120 Synapse School students and 60 of their parents. Since 2009 I've given 246 presentations to over 13,000 attendees. www.savethefrogs.com

Like · Comment · Share

This Owl Nightjar is sharing it's Hollow Log Home with some Green Tree Frogs and a moth. How sweet!

Like · Comment · Share

Snirf Raaz, Ruby Goes, Christian Hofmann and 25 others like this.

Matthew Kemplay-Hill I bet he's (the frog) glad it is not a Frogmouth. It is handy to have snacks in the box.
 16 March at 23:50 · Unlike · 1

Katie Whiting Gorgeous!!!
 17 March at 19:37 · Unlike · 1

Jodi Rowley
5 hrs

Lucky shot of an awesome frog (*Duellmanohyla rufioculis*, Costa Rica). He says "HE!" 😊



Unlike · Comment · Share · 7



Several Amazonian tree frog species discovered, where only two existed before. Read more here: <http://news.mongabay.com/2014/0318-watsa-new-amazon-frogs.html>

Red De Anfibios En Chiapas shared Red para la Conservación de Anfibios en Chiapas's photo.
16 March at 12:14

Estimados amigos. Por este medio me permito invitarles a participar como expositores de la 4a Colección Fotográfica "Anfibios Mexicanos" que será presentada por primera vez durante la 4a Semana Internacional y 2o Congreso Nacional de Anfibios a realizarse del 3 al 8 de mayo de 2014 en Berriozábal, Chiapas. Esperamos también contar con la participación de cada uno de Ustedes en el 4o Concurso de Fotografía en Anfibios. Cierre de las convocatorias, 4 de abril.

Dear friends. Hereby I invite you to participate as exhibitors at the 4th photographic "Mexican amphibians" collection which will be presented for the first time during the 4th International week and 2nd National Congress of amphibians to be held from 3 to 8 may 2014 in Berriozabal, Chiapas. We also expect the participation of each one of you in the 4th contest of photography in amphibians. Closing of the calls, on April 4. (Translated by Bing)



CONVOCATORIA EXPO:
http://www.semahn.chiapas.gob.mx/portal/descargas/anfibios/convocatorias/4ta_exp_foto2014.pdf

CONVOCATORIA CONCURSO:
http://www.semahn.chiapas.gob.mx/portal/descargas/anfibios/convocatorias/4to_concurso_foto2014.pdf

...cierre de las convocatorias, 4 de abril

CALL EXPO: http://www.semahn.chiapas.gob.mx/portal/descargas/anfibios/convocatorias/4ta_exp_foto2014.pdf call contest: http://www.semahn.chiapas.gob.mx/portal/descargas/anfibios/convocatorias/4to_concurso_foto2014.pdf...cierre of the calls, April 4 (Translated by Bing)

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Frog and Tadpole Study ... Members Events Photos Files

Write Post Add Photo/Video Ask Question Add File

Write something...

David Bush
5 hrs

Adaminaby nsw



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You, Graeme Finn, Ross Peterson and 8 others like this.

View 1 more comment

Christian Hofmann The alpine form of Verreaux's Tree Frog (*Litoria verreauxi alpina*)
1 hr · Unlike · 1

FATS ON FACEBOOK - POSTS BY MEMBERS

Marion Anstis' book *Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia* created quite a stir on Facebook over the last year with hundreds of people including FATS members paying for a copy months in advance and posting their excited comments on Facebook when their collectors' edition arrived just before Christmas.

Alexander Dudley
Get this book. Even if you have to sell your kids. Or someone else's.



Unlike · Comment · Share · Follow Post · 2 hours ago

You, Riona Twomey Tindal, Grant Dubs, Susie Adamczyk and 4 others like this.

Glenn Shea That book's not covering enough.
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Bleating Tree Frog By Virginia Davistown 2007

INTERESTING WEB SITES

Identifying Frogs New version of app available: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.gov.au.stmus.frogsfieldguide&hl=en> for android devices. We do hope you find the app useful. Regards, Jen Cork Online Producer Australian Museum



Frog Log, Ebay from Natasha Watson & Faye Galbraith Facebook <http://swimming-ponds.theownerbuildernetwork.co/2014/02/16/how-to-build-your-own-natural-swimming-pond-pt-3/>

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/pool-harbours-last-croaks-of-precious-frogs-20130810-2ror4.html>

<http://www.thehsi.org/alert-mass-mortality-events-in-irish-frogs/> <http://www.thejournal.ie/frogs-kildare-1332973-Feb2014/> Mystery in Kildare after discovery of 250 dead frogs Samples have now been sent to a lab in the UK to examine the cause of the mass die-off.



From Kim Rudderon Facebook. This stunning image is actually five women decorated by world champion body-painter Johannes Stötter to look like a frog.

EXPOS

13 APRIL 2014 ILLAWARRA REPTILE SOCIETY

Kembla Grange Racecourse, Kembla Grange. All enquires to Jo 0429 600 962.

ROYAL EASTER SHOW FROG AND REPTILE EXPO

22nd April – Lizards and Frogs.

23rd April – Snakes and Frogs. See the web site.

<http://www.wildexpo.com.au/comp%20rules.htm>



Photo Ben Brown

HERPDIGEST

LEIPZIG: AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF RESEARCHERS HAS MADE IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN UNDERSTANDING THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE DEADLY AMPHIBIAN CHYTRID PATHOGEN (extracts)

In some regions, the deadly impact of the pathogen appears to be hampered by small predators, naturally occurring in freshwater bodies. These micropredators may efficiently reduce the number of free-swimming infectious stages (zoospores) by consuming them. This natural behaviour will reduce the infection pressure on potential amphibian hosts and goes a long way towards explaining the occurrence of chytridiomycosis, at least in temporal climatic regions. These results were published in the renowned scientific journal Current Biology. The team of researchers state that their results raise the hope of successfully fighting chytridiomycosis, nowadays one of the most deadly wildlife diseases.

The entire class of the amphibians is greatly affected by the current wave of global extinctions. Although anthropogenic habitat alteration and fragmentation are the most important causes of amphibian biodiversity loss, mere conservation of amphibian habitats no longer guarantees amphibian survival. Indeed, the introduction of infectious diseases has been shown to drive amphibians to extinction even in seemingly pristine habitats. "The current amphibian decline is a disaster for ecosystems around the world" says Dr. Dirk S. Schmeller from the Helmholtz-Center for Environmental Research (UFZ) and the CNRS Unit Ecolab, and adds "Amphibians have key roles in freshwater ecosystems, and when they are gone, far going changes are unavoidable".....

The study also contributes to a better understanding on how ecosystem health is linked to the establishment of pathogens in new environments, as only in healthy ecosystems the community of microorganisms might be able to consume zoospores effectively. **From the January issue of Current Biology. [HerpDigest.org](http://www.herpdigest.org): The Only Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter That Reports on the Latest News on Herpetological Conservation, Husbandry and Science Volume # 14 Issue # 13 2/22/14 Publisher/Editor- Allen Salzberg**

FATS MEETINGS commence at 7 pm, (arrive 6.30 pm) and end about 10 pm 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. We hold 6 informative, informal, topical, practical and 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.



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AN 'EXTINCT' FROG MAKES A COMEBACK IN ISRAEL

The first amphibian to have been officially declared extinct by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has been rediscovered in the north of Israel after some 60 years and turns out to be a unique "living fossil," without close relatives among other living frogs. The Hula painted frog was catalogued within the *Discoglossus* group when it was first discovered in the Hula Valley of Israel in the early 1940s. The frog was thought to have disappeared following the drying up of the Hula Lake at the end of the 1950s, and was declared extinct by the IUCN in 1996. As a result, the opportunity to discover more about this species' history, biology and ecology was thought to have disappeared.

However, a team of Israeli, German and French researchers now report in the scientific journal *Nature Communications* on an in-depth scientific analysis of this enigmatic amphibian.

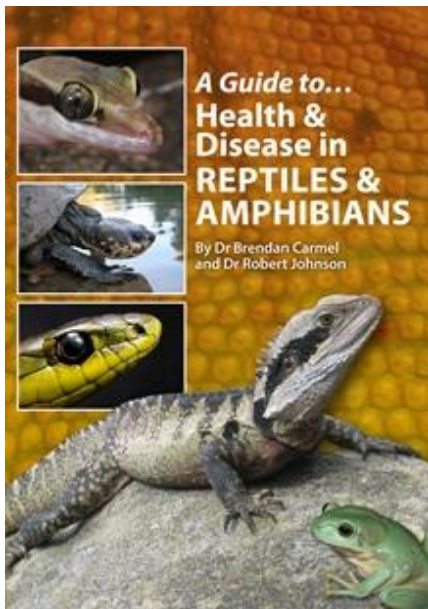
Based on new genetic analyses of rediscovered individuals and the morphologic analyses of extant and fossil bones, the conclusion is that the Hula frog differs strongly from its other living relatives, the painted frogs from northern and western Africa. Instead, the Hula frog is related to a genus of fossil frogs, *Latonia*, which were found over much of Europe dating

back to prehistoric periods and has been considered extinct for about a million years, The results imply that the Hula painted frog is not merely another rare species of frog, but is actually the sole representative of an ancient clade of frogs (a group with a single common ancestor). Plans to reflood parts of the Hula Valley and restore the original swamp habitat are in place, which may allow expansion in population size and a secure future for the Hula painted frog.



Hula painted frog. (Credit: Sarig Gafny)

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/06/130604113437.htm> 4 June 2013 Science News ... from universities, journals, and other research organizations brought to FATS' attention by George Madani in Facebook



A GUIDE TO HEALTH & DISEASE IN REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Authors: Dr Brendan Carmel and Dr Robert Johnson. RRP AUD55 plus P&H. Before I write this review, I need to put in a disclaimer. Robert Johnson and Brendan Carmel are very good friends and colleagues of mine. We teach together at James Cook University for one week every winter, taking 4th year veterinary students through the intricacies and delights of avian, reptile and small mammal medicine and surgery. I say this because I want you, the reader, to know how passionate these two veterinarians are about exotic pets and teaching the public (and other veterinarians) about reptiles and amphibians.

When Sheryll Steele-Boyce (Reptile Publications) first asked me to suggest the names of two vets who might be interested in writing this book, I did not have to think past their names. That they so readily agreed to write this book, and then did such a magnificent job, assures me that I was right.

A Guide to Health & Disease in Reptiles & Amphibians is 174 pages of full colour information, tips, good humour and awesome cartoons. (Robert is a renowned veterinary cartoonist, seeing the humour in his daily work with a clarity that every vet 'gets' immediately.) The book is broken down into sections and, like the Dummy™ series of books, you can read each section separately although—as the authors say in their introduction—you will get the most benefit by reading it from cover to cover first. The sections include an introduction to reptiles, frogs and herpetology; a guide

to buying and quarantining new reptiles and frogs; a large section on husbandry; the safe handling, restraint and transport of reptiles and frogs; feeding them and then breeding them. It then moves on to looking at the healthy reptile frog and turtle (and their anatomy) before going into a discussion on first aid. The rest of the book looks at diseases and conditions of snakes, lizards, turtles and frogs and a checklist of these diseases for quick reference. It concludes with a glossary of terms and words used throughout the book. A unique feature of this book is the use of highlights to draw your attention to what the authors consider to be the most important points. Ignore these highlights at your peril!

The 240 photographs used throughout the book are a tribute to the many photographers who contributed them—this book is worth buying just to look at the pictures!

Now, a review is always considered incomplete or biased if the reviewer doesn't say a few bad things about the book. The title of this book should use the word frog, not amphibian. Readers hoping to learn about axolotls, the most common amphibian in captivity, will be disappointed. This book limits itself somewhat by focusing on Australian species, while ignoring species held overseas. But to include them all would have taken the authors another year and added considerably to the size (and cost) of the book. And, with the increasing popularity of Australian species in overseas collections, everything that is written here will be read avidly outside this country. Besides, I'm not adverse to a little Australian content! An index would have been very useful, particularly given the amount of information provided.

But, if that's as bad as it gets, it must be a good book, right? Yes, it is! I have read my copy several times, and I will be recommending it to veterinary students as a gentle introduction to reptile medicine. My only disappointment is that the people who need to read it—novice reptile and frog owners—won't read it till after they've made their mistakes. But all books carry that inherent drawback and there is nothing we can do about that. **All in all, this book should be compulsory reading to anyone working with reptiles—vets, herpetologists, scientists, zookeepers, etc. I am proud that my two colleagues and mates have made such an outstanding contribution to herpetological literature.**

Reviewed by Dr Bob Doneley BVs FACVSc CMAVA University of Queensland, Gatton. Published by Reptile Publications © 2014.

Books are for sale at Reptile Publications 07 5568 0011 or email reptiles@reptilepublications.com.au or order at www.reptilepublications.com

or the South Penrith Veterinary Clinic Stafford St, South Penrith <http://www.reptilevet.com.au/>

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PHOTO BY ANDRE RANK – FATS MEETING FEBRUARY 2014



Andrew Nelson, Barbara Bohdanowicz & Karen White