

FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

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NEWSLETTER No. 136 April 2015

Painting by Garth Coupland – Green Tree Frog *Litoria caerulea*



Arrive 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

Friday 10th 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.

The April meeting is on 10/4/2015, due to Good Friday, Easter

Meeting Format Friday 10th April 2015

- 6.30 pm** There are lost frogs (*Litoria caerulea*, *L. fallax*, *infrafnata*, *L. peroni* and *L. gracilentia*) 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 contact Monica before the meeting to confirm your interest in adopting a rescued frog.
- 7.00pm** Welcome and announcements.
- 7.30 pm** Main speaker, Josie Stokes from NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), the great Green and Golden Bell Frog explosion in the Shoalhaven and the consequences if it. "Boom, bust..boom!- A short history of the GGBF on the Shoalhaven floodplain"
- 9.15 pm** Show us your frog images, tell us about your frogging trips or experiences. Guessing competition, continue with frog adoptions, supper and a chance to relax and chat with frog experts.

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Litoria infrafrenata White-lipped Tree Frog painting by Garth Coupland. FATS usually have several rescued White-lips looking for their forever home.



Jo's inner city frog pond

LAST FATS MEETING 6 FEBRUARY 2015

Marion Anstis opened the February meeting and welcomed everyone. After our frog society announcements Arthur White spoke about life as a threatened Wallum Sedge Frog. It is unique in Australia and the first hard data and PHD on it, is just completed.



Monica Wangmann showed images of the Northern Corroboree Frog breeding program at Tidbinbilla. Jillie Streit spoke about the last FATS field trip to Smiths Lake. The meeting ended with relaxed frog chat, raffles and supper. MW

**MAIN SPEAKER AT FATS APRIL MEETING
Josie Stokes with Green and Golden Bell Frog**



Photo by Michelle Toms

FATS ON FACEBOOK – ENQUIRIES & ID REQUESTS

My neighbours are making complaints about the native frogs in our pond and the surrounding neighbourhood! I found your (frog) group via Council. They haven't called me back yet but considering they promote frog encouragement I don't think there will be much my neighbours can do. They are not our frogs, they choose to stay with us every now and then throughout the year! I love them. From Jo. This post attracted a flurry of 26 "likes" and 75 responses and comments on FATS' Facebook page.

The poster continued...."Council apparently supports frog ponds... they were laughing when I rang. The lady I spoke with said they'd all heard about the frog complaint. I've yet to get a call back from the Environmental Health Officer... I doubt I will... she's probably laughing too much."

Sample response comment on FATS Facebook page: "He might be going to give you an award for excellence in environmental management. Anyone who can make their yard healthy enough for frogs in Inner Sydney these days should be awarded! Frogs are protected and so if they are 'wild' in your yard the environmental health officer can whistle Dixie, just quote the NSW NPWS Act 1974 Harming them is punishable by severe fines and relocating them requires a licence....if they are GGBFs he'd need a Threatened Species Translocation Proposal and likely an SIS!"

"Great advice thanks. They are Striped Marsh Frogs and likely coming from the Bicentennial Park wetlands along West Botany Street. We walk around the Wetlands... such a great little oasis for birdlife down there."

Another comment on the Facebook page: "Wild frogs are protected animals in NSW. There are many natural and local animal sounds in your suburb, cockatoos, birds, cicadas etc. Be very polite with Council. If they cause you any grief there are many other Councils that can offer you good legal advice.....Try to be neighbourly. Check that ponds and water puddles are not near people's bedroom windows etc See <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/ProtectedSpecies.htm>

**The FATS Facebook page has 1,309 members.
Web address <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FATSNSW/>**

Cane toad or native frog?

The Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*) was first introduced into north Queensland in 1935 to eradicate cane beetle pests destroying sugar cane. Sadly these toxic toads have spread rapidly across the country, despite attempts to stop them.

These are CANE TOADS



Thick ridges around eyes and nose

Usually rusty-brown with large, mostly golden eyes



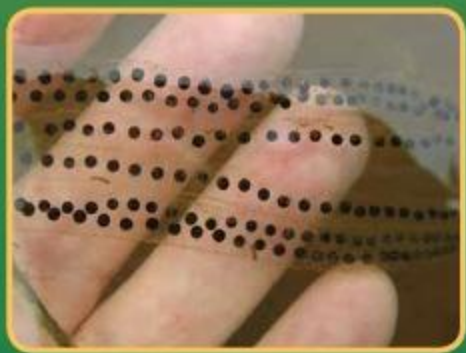
Dry, warty, leathery skin

Large fleshy gland on side of neck



Sometimes darker brown with mottled sides

Toad eggs and tadpoles



Eggs in long chains, unlike native frog eggs



Young toads lack the large gland and are often patchy in colour

Toad tadpoles are small and black with a short tail and are dark underneath – native tadpoles are mostly paler underneath with longer tails. Unlike most native tadpoles, toad tadpoles often swarm together in large groups and are toxic to native animals.

These are NOT!

Adult cane toads are large and live on the ground, and may be confused with some of our large native Australian ground-dwelling frogs. None of our protected native frogs have dry skin like cane toads, nor such a large gland on each side of the neck. Our larger tree frogs are mostly green with smooth skin. Here are some examples of larger brown native ground frogs which you may see on wet roads at night.

Wide-mouthed frog, *Cyclorana novaehollandiae*



Banjo frog, *Limnodynastes dumerilii*

Striped Burrowing frog, *Cyclorana alboguttata*



Note how these all lack the large gland, the thick ridges above the eyes and the really dry skin of the cane toad, even though their skin is slightly rough. Looking more closely, you can also notice their heads look different from the broad, bony head of the cane toad. Australia has no native true toads.

NB: Please report sightings of cane toads in Sydney. For more information about them and what to do if you find them in your garden or neighbourhood, please contact: **The Frog and Tadpole Study Group NSW (FATS): www.fats.org.au** or ring the Frog Watch Helpline: 0419 249 728.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ISSUES ALERT FOR ASIAN BLACK SPINED TOAD



The black spine toad is poisonous and considered a pest. Authorities are asking peninsula residents to look out for a toad species that can carry disease and poison other animals. The National Parks and Wildlife Service has issued the alert for the Asian black spined toad after one of the animals was found in a backyard in Belrose, in Sydney's northern beaches. The animal is believed to have arrived by shipping container from Singapore, a NSW Office of Environment and Heritage spokesman said.



A black spine toad was found at Belrose. Credit: Biosecurity

Taronga Zoo vets identified and killed the toad and National Parks staff are investigating whether it has established a breeding population. The species is nocturnal and often congregates in open areas and beneath street lights to catch insects. The toads are poor climbers. The spokesman said the species posed a risk to pets and the environment. "It competes with native species for food and habitats and has the potential to carry exotic parasites and diseases," he said.

The species is a pale yellow-brown colour, and has black ridges over its eyes. People who see the toad should capture the animal using gloves or a container, and call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/northern-beaches/national-parks-and-wildlife-service-issues-alert-for-asian-black-spined-toad/story-fngr8hax-1227276752209> by Steven Deare Manly Daily 24 March 2015

If you think you have seen a cane toad, get an expert to confirm the species before killing it.

Many Australian native, brown frogs are mistaken for cane toads, after a media events. People less familiar with the 230+ different species of Australian native frogs and toadlets can easily get confused.

Call experts for help such as Frogwatch helpline 0419 249 728 or NPWS or post enquiry to FATS Facebook page.

LODGE FROG RECORDS BY 30/4/2015

Lodge returns either by E-book at www.animalkeepers.environment.nsw.gov.au or paper Animal Keepers' Record Book. Lodgement period is from 1 April 2015 through to 30 April 2015. This is a licence condition that you as an Animal Keeper Licence (AKL/AKLZ) holder need to adhere to each year.

If you keep your records online via the E-book, please ensure you record any changes to your animal holdings **BEFORE** commencement of the Lodgement Period on 1 April 2015. You will then be required to lodge your records via the "My Lodgements" tab from 1 April 2015 until 30 April 2015.

Information on all NSW wildlife licensing is available at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences/> All enquiries please contact Wildlife.Licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 9585 6406 (please select option 2). Please note that due to high numbers of enquiries we may not be able to respond immediately, and your patience at this time is appreciated. **Kind regards, Wildlife Licensing Biodiversity & Wildlife Team National Parks & Wildlife Service Office of Environment & Heritage PO Box 1967 HURSTVILLE NSW 1481**



Photo by George Madani *Litoria brevipalmata*



Photo George Madani European Fire-Bellied Toad

SHAPE-SHIFTING FROG DISCOVERED IN ECUADOR

When faced with the threat of being gobbled up by hungry predators, the ability to seamlessly blend in with the environment is crucial for survival. Some animals have evolved appearances strikingly similar to things in the environment, like stick insects or stonefish, whereas others can quickly change colour to match the background, such as chameleons and cuttlefish. Now, adding to this awesome list of copycats, scientists have discovered a species of frog that is able to change its skin texture in order to mimic the surface it is perched on.

Interestingly, although this unique skin-morphing ability does not appear to have been reported in amphibians before, shortly after this frog was found, colleagues of the discoverers noticed that a close relative already known to science also shares this talent, but scientists never noticed it before. The new frog and its skills have been described in the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*.



photo credit: Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society

The species was discovered by a duo of researchers, Katherine and Tim Krynak, whilst they were exploring a nature reserve in Ecuador's western

Andean cloud forest back in 2009. Having regularly surveyed animals living in the reserve for a number of years, the pair immediately suspected that an unfamiliar spiny frog perched atop a mossy leaf was a previously unknown species. They caught the marble-sized animal, which they nicknamed "punk rocker" due to its spiky skin, and brought it back to photograph.

But when they placed the tiny frog onto a smooth sheet for its photoshoot, they were startled to see its skin was completely smooth. Unsure as to whether they had collected the right animal, the frog was returned to its cup, which they had filled with moss. Amazingly, the animal quickly assumed its previous spiky appearance.

"The spines came back... We simply couldn't believe our eyes, our frog changed skin texture," Katherine Krynak said in a [statement](#). "I put the frog back on the smooth white background. Its skin became smooth."

Krynak explained that although the frog's combination of spines and coloration clearly help it blend into mossy backgrounds, whether the texture-changing ability truly helps the species evade predators is unknown at this stage. Colleagues back at Universidad Tecnológica Indoamérica then spent the next few years characterizing the frog, which revealed that it can change its texture in around three minutes.

Morphological and genetic analysis also confirmed that the animal is new to science, so it was later named *Pristimantis mutabilis*, or the mutable rainfrog.

Further investigation then led members of the research team to discover that a close relative of the frog, *P. sobetes*, also shares this skin-morphing ability, raising the possibility that other *Pristimantis* frogs may also be capable of the same trick. This could have implications for how the species have been identified in the past given it is now a possibility that one species could have been mistakenly described as two.

The researchers would like to continue their work by further characterizing the animals and investigating whether these two species independently evolved this trait or inherited it from a common ancestor.

24 March 2015 by Justine Alford

Sent to FATS by Marion Anstis
<http://www.iflscience.com/plants-and-animals/skin-morphing-frog-discovered-ecuador>



Photo Aaron Payne *Litoria littlejohni*

Lizards, goannas and frogs 7th April, snakes and frogs 8th April. Visit us, stay and help a while or just say hello and meet some live native Australian frogs and toadlets. Please contact Kathy Potter (page 11) if you are able to assist for a couple of hours. MW

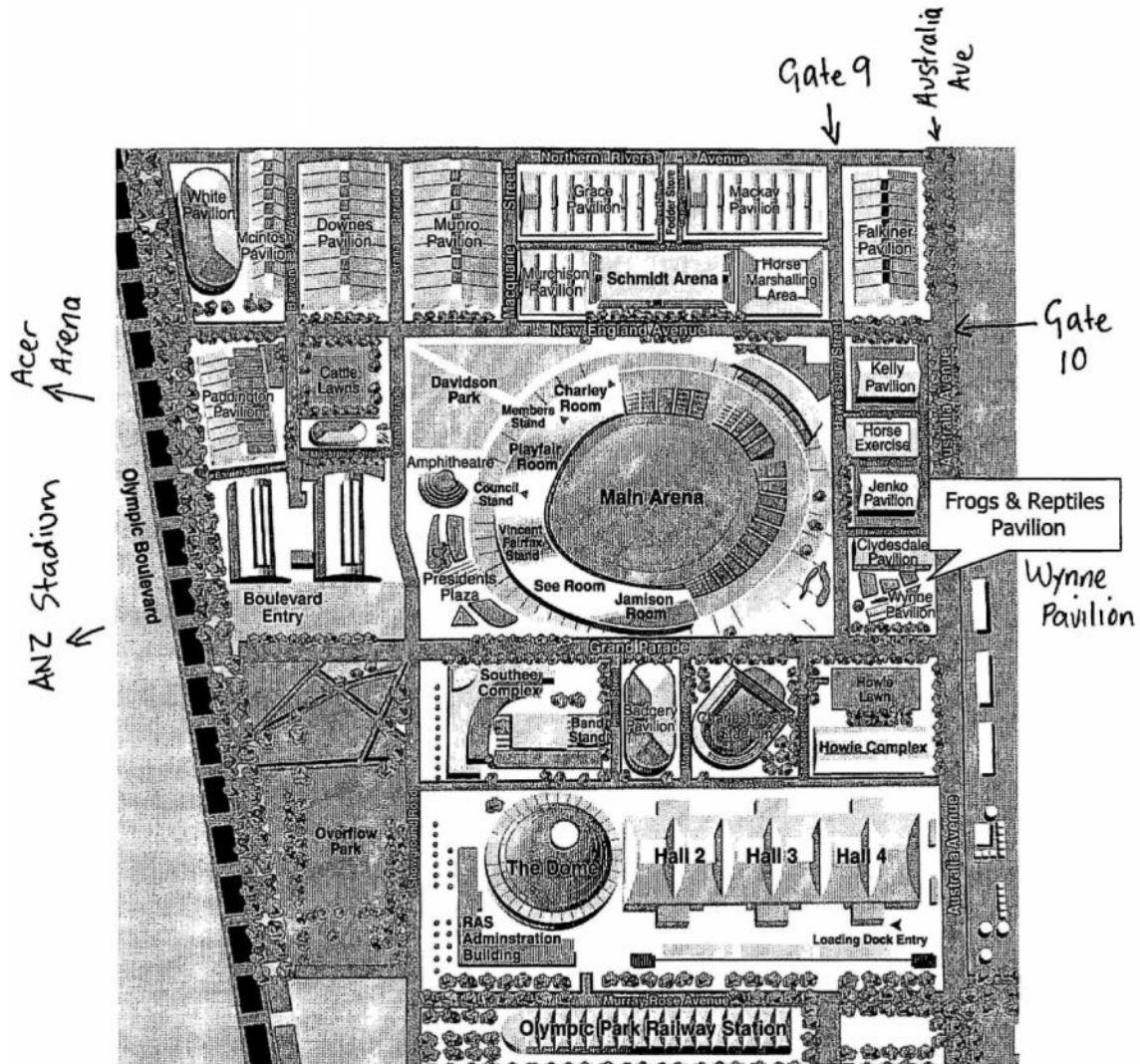


Photo George Madani *Assa darlingtoni* Marsupial Frog

FATS AT THE EASTER SHOW 7 & 8 APRIL 2015

FATS frog experts and possibly live frogs will be at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, Wynne Pavillion, Showground, Sydney Olympic Park, Tuesday 7 & Wednesday 8 April 2015

See Wild Expo Info info@wildexpo.com.au.



FATS FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION 2015

In 2008 FATS conducted our 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. So start painting, drawing, photographing or whatever you do to capture the essence of a frog. We look forward to seeing your entries.

The Frog-O-Graphic competition for FATS members opens 1st May 2015 and closes 31st July, 2015

9 Categories Junior and Senior Best Frog Artwork (send photo), Junior and Senior Best Frog Image, Junior and Senior Best Pet Frog Image, Junior and Senior Most Interesting Image. Category winners to be decided by a panel of judges. **People's Choice** will be decided by everyone at our 4th December FATS meeting. **All entries are by email to 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**



Photo by Jason Luke *Litoria citropa*

FATS AGM NOTICE - FRIDAY 7th August 2015

The FATS AGM will be held at 7pm 7th August 2015. 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. We appreciate fresh ideas and new members on our committee. No experience required. The FATS committee meet 6 times a year. No task commitments or time expected of committee members, other than what you are able to spare. See contacts details on page 11. **Arthur White**



From Jocelyn Holloway Facebook

FATS STUDENT GRANTS

Since 2008, FATS has offered small grants to students to assist with the cost of frog related study and research. If you are interested please contact Arthur White on 9599 1161 or 1arthur@tpg.com.au for further information.

HOW TO PAY FATS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTLY

Direct bank transfer BSB 082 342
account name Frog and Tadpole
Study Group account 285766885
Please ID yourself by name if there is an
option and if possible FATS membership
number and email Karen White
1arthur@tpg.com.au to confirm transfer.

FROGCALL NEWSLETTER & FATS WEBSITE

FATS Frogcall newsletter available as a pdf file of under 2 MB. Please let me know via email to monicawangmann@gmail.com if you would like to receive an electronic colour copy every 2 months. The Login part of the FATS Web Site www.fats.org.au has been removed for easier access. Frogcall newsletters will be available to the general public. **MW**

FROG LINKS

<http://www.amphibians.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/FrogLog99.pdf>

THE AUSTRALIAN GECKO PICTORIAL

By Gunther Schmida

(available as a download from www.guntherschmida.com.au, price: \$5)

Scales and Tails editor, **John McGrath**, looks at a title that forms part of an ambitious project by one of Australia's favourite wildlife photographers and naturalists.

Gunther Schmida's name will be familiar to many readers, as his articles and images have appeared in books, magazines and other publications for over 50 years (he must be a lot older than I thought). It is as a wildlife photographer that Gunther is perhaps best known, and his superb images are the cornerstone of this massive undertaking.

Gunther is in the process of compiling a series of pictorials that

are available as Power Point-based pdf files. There are 11 titles available, covering every group of Australian reptiles, along with several on native fish. The intent is to painstakingly record high-quality images of every species, including as many naturally-occurring variants as possible (for example, there are no less than 18 varieties of Tiger Snake depicted in the venomous snake pictorial). The pictorials are 'open-ended' and the beauty of this format is that it allows for regular updates and constant refinement. Each volume comprises upwards of 100 pages of mostly full screen images, along with minimal, basic text that is designed to convey some interesting facts about the group concerned. Gunther tells me that he estimates the completed work will contain approximately 6,000 images. As if that wasn't

enough, he is also working on a series of 15 reference books that will be reviewed in a subsequent issue of S & T.

It would be unfair to attempt to review the complete series of pictorials as a whole, and impossible to do them justice. For the purposes of this review, I will therefore focus on the volume devoted to Australian geckos (and pygopods), as a representative sample. This consists of 182 pages (by my count) and is organised alphabetically by family, genus and then species. The unmistakable first impression is that this is a collection of absolutely magnificent images – the vibrant photos literally seem to jump off the screen. Additionally, this pictorial features a number of species not commonly



www.guntherschmida.com.au

The concept, text, lay-out and all images contained in this publication are by **Gunther Schmida** and protected by copyright. All rights reserved.

This pdf volume is designed to be a quick pictorial guide to some Australian frogs.

All pages may be copied, or printed on home printers and used in school or other non-commercial projects.

They may NOT be used on other websites without prior written permission by the copyright holder.

Change pages by using the .up or down keys on the keyboard.
Table: users can just scroll the pages.

Dwarf Green Tree Frog *Litoria fallax* and native tree on water lily flower.



The Australian Frog Pictorial

Edition 12 -14

Southern Frogs Family: Limnodynastidae Genera: several



Crucifix Toad *Notaden bennetti* Günther, 1873
6 cm - Glenmorgan - S-Qld



seen in other publications, such as the Clawless Gecko and various *Strophurus* species. A number of interesting and strikingly beautiful local variations are depicted – for example, there is a stunning *Oedura gracilis* and a rather unusual brown *Strophurus elderi*, along with no less than 12 locality-specific variants of *Oedura marmorata*. Although not completely comprehensive, a good range of species is included – obviously there is some scope for further additions.

The text contains some interesting information, however it is quite obviously secondary to the pictorial content and perhaps could benefit

from some additional editing; I must admit I found myself ignoring it as I pored over the images! I also thought the format could benefit from the addition of an index of some kind.

This entire enterprise is obviously a labour of love for Gunther, and entails an extraordinary amount of work. I would love to see the pictorials developed as a series of coffee table books, but obviously cost may be prohibitive.

I would encourage readers to visit Gunther's website for further information, including previews of the pictorials and reference

books. Titles may be purchased conveniently using Paypal, upon which you receive a link to download high resolution files, which are printable on home printers, in whole or as selected pages. Although Gunther has built an enviable reputation as one of Australia's foremost wildlife photographers, I must say I was astonished by the quality of the images involved, and for the asking price of \$5 each, these pictorials are a steal!

1. *Strophurus s spinigerus*.
2. *Uvidicolus sphyruus*.
3. *Oedura gracilis*.

GÜNTHER SCHMIDA'S WONDERFUL PICTORIAL E-BOOKS ON FROGS, REPTILES, NATIVE FISH ETC.

Each e-book starts off with some preamble and explanatory text, then gives each species a simple format page like this – quick and easy to absorb. Go to Günther's website where downloads can be made – some free and some for a token \$5.

The ones on fish for example, are probably the most comprehensive collection of our native fish, and beautifully done. If you go to the website, click on Pictorials and the list comes up of available titles. The good thing is that once downloaded and purchased, the pages can be reproduced or copied, printed etc. for projects and the like. **Marion Anstis**

These e-books have had quite a few rave reviews in the last few months.

So what is it all about? When he started nature photography some 55 years ago, he did so because he wasn't happy with his artistic efforts at drawing and sketching. Also, a photo is a moment in time, even if it is a staged one. He has become quite good at that, but it has never been his profession. He could earn far more in construction and engineering. However, his hobby had always paid for itself through publishing (over 150 articles) and photos (thousands in over 500 publications).

However, when the GFC struck, everything came to a stop. At first Günther was going to give it all up, but then he thought that he had been doing it for far too long to just let his work go unused.

There are many very good nature photographers out there, but no-one does Australian freshwater fishes better than Günther. He

would also give all the frog and reptile photographers a run for their money. He does other aquatic life of course, and now even birds.

Günther is not trying to create super scientific work, rather to create something that inspires other people not yet infected with the 'nature bug'. He knows his now 30 year old 'The Cold-Blooded Australians' book did that for a lot of people, they still thank him for it after all these years. So the images are top notch and all taken by Günther Schmida, because he want to be able to say that he had some firsthand experience with all that is shown, however brief that may have been. The texts are a combination of his experiences, second hand info from friends, as well as what has been published by researchers, all kept in simple language for everyone to understand. He includes author and year of description. It makes it so much easier to see what is new.

All volumes may be copied and printed as long as no professional third parties get involved. All is designed to be appreciated on as large a screen as possible, i-phones etc. don't really cut it. Gerald Allen (fish) and Hal Cogger (herps) love what he is doing too. I believe that both think it should be printed. He is considering it.

<https://www.hightail.com/download/UIRUK0dwQk5sMHh1a3NUQw>

KILLER FROG DISEASE: CHYTRID FUNGUS HITS MADAGASCAR



Madagascar is home to more than 500 species of frog

A devastating disease that has wiped out amphibians around the world has been discovered in Madagascar, scientists report. A survey has found that the chytrid fungus is present in numerous sites, although it is not clear whether it is infecting frogs yet. The island is home to 500 frog species, and researchers fear they could be at significant risk. The findings are published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

One of the authors, Goncalo Rosa, from the Zoological Society of London, said he was worried about the impact that the fungus could have. "It is heartbreaking, especially when you have an idea of what is happening elsewhere in other tropical areas - you see the frogs are gone," he told BBC News. "The same could happen to Madagascar as well."



The chytrid fungus has been found across the island - but it is not yet clear if it is killing frogs. The chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) was first identified in the 1990s and has swept across the world. It infects the animals through their skin, and has killed off vast numbers of amphibians.

Madagascar was thought to be one of the last places free from the disease, but now the fungus has been confirmed in several sites across the island. Scientists are trying to establish whether the fungus has always been present, but just not detected, or whether it has spread from elsewhere, Mr Rosa said: "If these findings represent endemic chytrid, it means it has been there forever, coexisting with these frogs."

"But if we are talking about a recent introduction, this is really worrying because we've seen what has happened in other places. And if frogs in Madagascar have never coexisted with the fungus, it could be catastrophic - this could cause huge biodiversity loss."



Many of Madagascar's frogs are not found anywhere else in the world. Conservationists are particularly worried because Madagascar is an amphibian haven. Many of its 500 species of frog are not found anywhere else in the world. "This is what makes Madagascar this special and unique place," said Mr Rosa.

If the disease is a new arrival, scientists will try to work out how it got to the island. It can be carried on people's clothes or by invasive species, such as the recently introduced Asian common toad.

Researchers are now trying to establish where the disease has spread. But with no cure, it may be difficult to limit the impact it has on Madagascar's unique amphibians. **By Rebecca Morelle Science Correspondent, BBC News Forwarded to FATS by Andrew Nelson and Marion Anstis**
<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-31645122>

SICK FROGS LINK

<http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/sick-frogs/>

TAXONOMIST APPRECIATION DAY 2015 WINNER



Pun by Natalie Sopinka Illustration by Christin Hardy
<http://buzzhootroar.com/taxonomy-puns-we-have-winners/>

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 Easter, Good Friday 3 April 2015**). Call, check our web site, Facebook page 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, field studies and trips, have stalls at local events, 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.

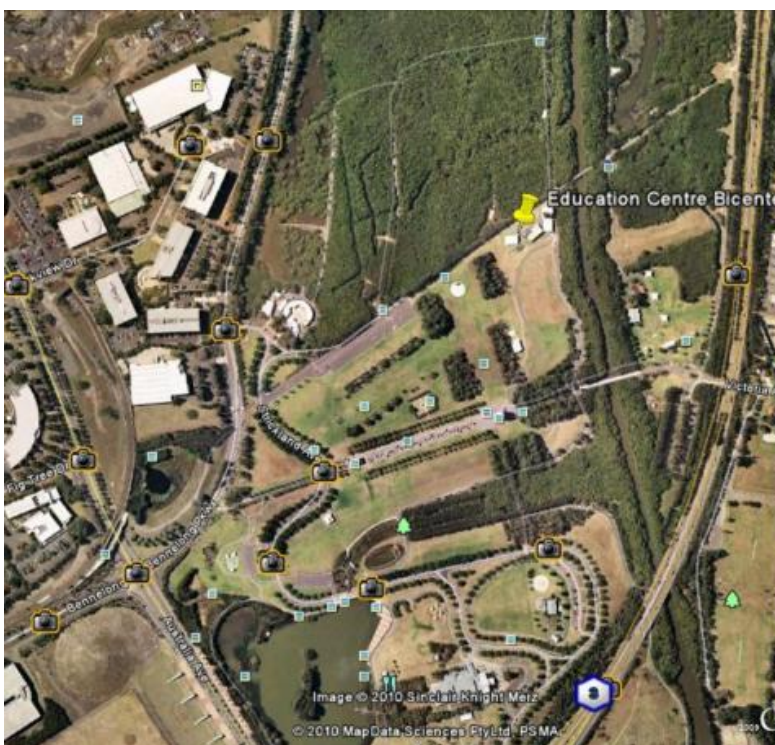
Your articles, photos, media and webpage links, membership administration and envelope preparation is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to regular newsletter contributors, Lothar Voigt, Robert Wall, George Madani, Karen & Arthur White, Andrew Nelson, Wendy & Phillip Grimm, Marion Anstis and Bill Wangmann.

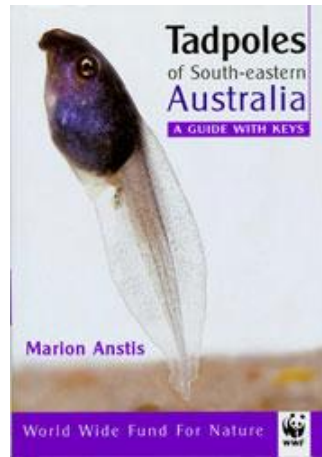


FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728

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Phillip Grimm	Membership Officer, Webmaster & Facebook Manager	(02) 9144 5600	phigrimm@gmail.com
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Monica Wangmann	Editor	0418 992 766	monicawangmann@gmail.com
General Committee members Andre Rank, Punia Jeffery, Vicki Deluca and Jilli Streit			





TIPS FOR TADPOLE PHOTOGRAPHY photos and notes by Marion Anstis

This will help you achieve photos of live tadpoles with a compact camera to facilitate identification. You will need to choose a camera which has good macro capabilities, focuses quickly and has manually adjustable ISO and exposure compensation.

Dorsal view

1. Photos in dorsal view are often more helpful for identification. Place tadpole in shallow container (e.g. rectangular plastic takeaway) in which there is pre-washed sand and rainwater (or clear pond water from where tads are collected – not tap water) to cover tadpole. Instead of sand, you can just use a plain clear or translucent plastic container and place it on a black background.
2. Be patient and wait for tadpole to remain still. After a while, tadpole will usually move less, so photographs can begin. You can often gently nudge tadpole into a better position using a soft small watercolour paint brush.
3. Turn on flash setting and macro setting, set ISO in lower range if possible, or on auto.
4. Focus and shoot at a *slight* angle to the water surface to minimise flash reflection from water surface. The aim is to try to position the lens almost parallel to the dorsal surface of the body so that eye position and body shape is clearly shown.
5. Exposure compensation may be necessary as the camera will expose for the brightest area (e.g. pale sand). If tadpole appears too dark, try +0.3 EV, if too light, try -0.3 and experiment in a similar manner, adjusting further if necessary (there is usually a +/- button on many compacts for this purpose).
6. Take several shots, as flash reflection may occur over tadpole in some.
7. You can also try photos in good daylight without direct sun, without using flash, if the tadpole keeps still, but flash often makes it easier to get a slightly moving tadpole in focus.

Lateral view For this you will need a small glass or clear plastic container or mini tank no less than about 12 cm or so long and up to about 10 cm high.

1. Place a fairly thick level layer of fine washed, sieved sand on bottom and half fill container with rainwater or filtered water (tap water will produce tiny bubbles which mar the photo). Place container on level surface. Alternatively, you can place clear plastic container on black or dark plain background.
2. Gently release tadpole in tank and wait. When tadpole eventually stops swimming around, try to get a shot with its body as close to parallel to the side of the container as possible. A photo taken from the left side of the tadpole will be helpful, as the spiracle (only on left side) may then be visible.
3. Again, a small watercolour paint brush is useful for moving the sand or tadpole around to gently encourage it to lie as parallel as possible to side of container. Some are more cooperative than others!
4. You will need to tilt the camera (slightly) to avoid flash bouncing directly back into the lens.
5. Adjust exposure as required.
6. You can email me for assistance with ID if required, for a small charge at frogpole@tpg.com.au

