

FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FATSNSW/>

Email: fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au

PO Box 296 Rockdale NSW 2216

Frogwatch Helpline 0419 249 728

Website: www.fats.org.au

ABN: 34 282 154 794

NEWSLETTER No. 138 August 2015

Photo by Karen Russell Blue Mountains Tree Frog *Litoria citropa*



Arrive 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

Friday 7th August

FATS AGM 7PM TO 7.30PM

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

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

Take a torch!

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.

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Meeting Format Friday 7th August 2015

6.30 pm There are lost frogs (*Litoria caerulea*, *L. infrafrenata*, *L. peroni*, *L. rubella*) 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. Please contact Monica before the meeting to confirm your interest in adopting a rescued frog.

7.00pm Welcome, announcements and

FATS Annual General Meeting.

7.45 pm The main speaker: Marta Vidal-Garcia from ANU. Topic; "Jump to it! Locomotion in Australian frogs".

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.



LAST FATS MEETING 5 JUNE 2015

Marion Anstis welcomed everyone to our June meeting. After announcements Grant Webster spoke about the *Pseudophryne bibroni* group - little brown brood frogs which have declined over much of their range. What are they?

No-one really knows. It is a large group of mostly autumn breeders with colourful markings and are technically undescribed. The distribution ranges from Queensland to South Australia. Grant described in great detail, the calls and character of these cryptic species, drawing loads of questions and comments from the floor. Ultimately their fate and conservation status may lie in DNA research of the complex group and securing their legal status. FATS are very proud of Grant who has been a member of our society since he was very young. He is very gifted and passionate about amphibians.

Arthur White spoke about the physics of frog sounds and hearing. This generated much commentary and questions from those at the meeting. Frogs call to find a female – a mating call, to proclaim territory and to show fright / release call. Sound is actually the receipt of compression waves interpreted by the brain. Unlike humans, frogs have one bone in the inner ear (the staples), an external eardrum and direct muscular control of the vibration of the staples (columella). Don't assume the way humans hear is the same as other animals. Their sense organs are modified to suit their needs. The Coqui frog may produce a loud sound however there are Australian frogs that also generate around 90 db. As usual, Arthur captivated everyone with the explanation of how frogs make sound and hear.

<http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/3160829.htm>
Phillip Grimm played an entertaining video about jumping frogs using a high speed camera, by Dr Phil Bishop. The meeting ended with raffle prizes, relaxed conversation and yummy supper (thanks Karen). MW

FATS MEMBERS FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION

We look forward to seeing your Frog-O-Graphic entries. The competition 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 present at our 4th December FATS meeting. **All entries are by email to photos@fats.org.au**

Please state: your name, confirm that you are a financial FATS member, age if under 18, whether the image is of a pet frog and contact phone number. Maximum 6 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



Christian Hofmann *Crinia signifera* and tadpole
Berowra National Park trackside puddle

FATS AGM NOTICE FRIDAY 7th August 2015

The Frog And Tadpole Study Group NSW inc. AGM will be held on 7/8/2015, commencing 7pm. FATS meets 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 President Arthur White at least two weeks before the meeting for further information and to submit items. We appreciate fresh ideas and new members joining 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 details on page 11. **Arthur White**



by Ryan Little



FAREWELL MR LIVERMORE

(? – 2015)

Church bells rung out across the country when it was learned that that famous frog-about-town Mr Livermore had passed on to that great swamp in the heavens. Mr Livermore is best known for his appearances in movies such as “Singing in the Rain and “Annie get Your Frog”. Mr Livermore is survived by an unknown number of tadpoles and froglets.

Mr Livermore first came to light in a packing container being unloaded from a truck from the north-west of NSW about 23 years ago. His sparkling eyes and witty demeanour quickly made him a crowd favourite and he was snaffled up by talent scouts from all over the country. But like all super-stars, the price of fame took its toll. After a long career in the public spotlight, Mr Livermore took to illicit crickets to settle his nerves, but it wasn't long before he moved into the underworld of cockroaches and stink beetles.

Mr Livermore reached his peak in 2005 when he blitzed the field in the Newcastle Frog and Reptile Show to take the Best Frog in Show award. Shortly afterwards Mr Livermore became the star in the FrogMobile and pulled large crowds to such venues as the Duck Pond at Centennial Park, the Carnival site at Sydney Olympic Park and various local council sports fields.

Mr Livermore has received many awards and glories, why there is even a human named after him. After a stellar career, Mr Livermore became sickly and went off his food. On a cold May morning, Mr Livermore finally got the peace that he deserved. He will be greatly missed.

Vale, Mr Livermore.



Jilli Streit's frog pond



Recent photo of the *Litoria peroni* patient successfully treated by Vet Grahame Baker, Midson Road Vet Clinic 117 Midson Rd Epping

MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION ZONE AT KOGARAH GOLF COURSE WHERE ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING GREEN & GOLD BELL FROG COLONIES IN SYDNEY STILL EXISTS!

It appears that the State Government plans to remove the breeding ponds and foraging land of a remnant colony of Green and Golden Bell Frogs at Arncliffe! The ponds are next to the Kogarah Golf Club land on RMS, Road and Maritime Services (former DMR Dept of Main Roads) property. The GGBFs forage and breed on the golf club land as well. Hope there is a solution for these protected froggies. The situation looks grim. Will they end up circled by a construction zone or development site for Boyd Cooks Cove?



Kogarah Golf Club at Arncliffe will be severely affected by the location of a construction site for the twin tunnels in the new M5 link, which is part of the WestConnex motorway project. The golf course will be reduced from 18 holes to nine holes during the construction period.

It's a further blow to the privately-owned club which has battled declining membership and hoped to secure its future through the proposed Cooks Cove development, which has been stalled for more than a decade.

In a joint statement, the state and federal governments said the midway construction site for the new tunnels would be on land owned by Roads and Maritime Services and Rockdale City Council, which at present is used by the golf club (see story below). An illustration on WestConnex's website showed a large part of the golf course next to Marsh Street would be required.

It also revealed a possible permanent ventilation stack for the tunnels could be located within the zone.

“The site was chosen as it eliminates residential property acquisition, reduces impact on the local community and avoids Wolli Creek bushland and the Tempe Reserve,” the website said. “WestConnex is working with the Kogarah Golf Club to minimise disruption and enable the club to operate a nine-hole golf course during construction.

“Once completed, the land will be remediated and returned to the land owner, Rockdale City Council.” Community feedback was invited. Call: 1300 660 248 or email info@westconnex.com.au

WestConnex said the community would also have an opportunity to comment on the environmental impact statement when it was exhibited later this year.

EARLIER STORY extracts: It will be “an access point for underground tunnelling construction activities”. The statement said the WestConnex



Photo GGBF by Lothar Voigt

Delivery Authority was working closely with Kogarah Golf Club to minimise disruption.

NSW Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Duncan Gay said the Arncliffe location was the most suitable across all short-listed tenders, eliminating residential property acquisitions and enabling future upgrades.

“New M5 twin tunnels will run from Kingsgrove to St Peters, more than doubling the lane capacity along this critical corridor and slashing travel times for hundreds of thousands of motorists every day,” he said.

“The location removes the need for residential acquisitions and enables early work to be done now for a future WestConnex southern extension, which would bring communities in southern Sydney even closer to the CBD.”

<http://www.theleader.com.au/story/3212399/kogarah-golf-club-to-feel-westconnex-pain/?cs=4175> St George and Sutherland Shire Leader 15 July 2015



Red star on map is where photo was taken.



LIFE IN THE PARK 10 am – noon 16 August

Cost: FREE

Come and join a series of short talks on urban ecology. Learn how Sydney Olympic Parks monitoring programs and the community are ensuring that biodiversity continues to thrive in Sydney’s unique urban environmental setting.

Sydney Olympic Park Education Centre, Bicentennial Park (map above)

A light morning tea will be provided. Bring a friend and learn about volunteer opportunities at Sydney Olympic Park Parking available at Bicentennial Park P10 carpark. For directions visit sydneyolympicpark.com.au

Check out the latest event information at facebook.com/sydneyolympicpark

10.00am Healthy habitats at Sydney Olympic Park Jen O’meara , Sydney Olympic Park Authority

10.20am City living: the birds taking up residence in Sydney Dr Holly Parsons, Birds in Backyards program, BirdLife Australia

10.40am Microbats at Sydney Olympic Park Marg Turton

11.00am Managing threatened plants in Western Sydney Greg Steenbeeke, Office of Environment and Heritage

11.20am Bird health in urban wetlands Dr Kimberly Maute, University of Wollongong

11.40am Our living catchment: Fauna and habitat James Smallson, Parramatta City Council

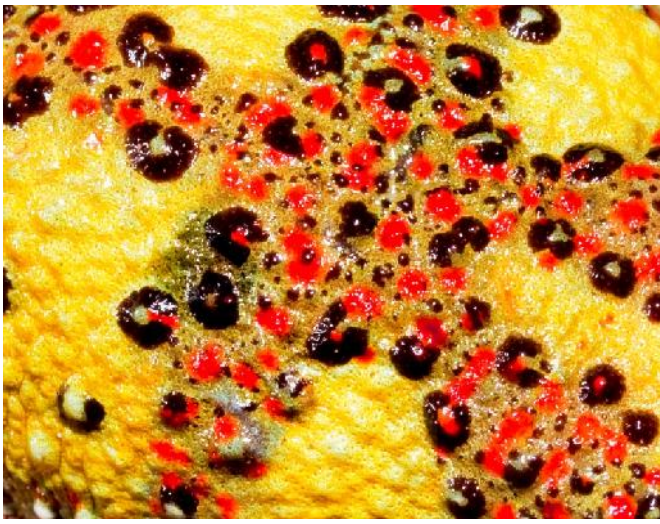
FATS MEETING

Education Centre, Bicentennial Park (map above)

The internal road winds and twists. Just follow the main road and turn right at the P10f parking sign. It’s a short walk to the single story education centre and its tall tower. Both can be seen from the car park. Directions from you home:

<http://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/maps/getting-to-the-park?type=venue&id=384059>

Enjoy reptile, frog and bird displays as well as live footage, via EagleCAM, of our nesting White-bellied Sea-Eagles.



George Madani Notaden frog skin
HERPDIGEST

VIDEO OF NEW SHAPE-CHANGING FROG SPECIES NAMED 'PRISTIMANTIS MUTABILIS'

A newly discovered marble-sized frog is capable of changing its skin texture to mimic its surroundings, has been officially named the *Pristimantis mutabilis* or "Mutable Rainfrog."

First discovered in 2009 by American researchers Katherine and Tim Krynak in Ecuador, it's the first amphibian known to have this unique shape-shifting quality. Upon finding the creature, the pair dubbed it 'punk rocker' due to its spiky texture. But after placing it on a smooth surface they were surprised to notice that the spikes soon disappeared completely, to imitate its flat surroundings.

Scientists believe *Pristimantis's* ability to so dramatically transform its skin within minutes helps it camouflage itself to ward off predators. Due to its minuscule size and ability to camouflage, the mutable rainfrog - or 'transformer frog', as it's been dubbed - has proven difficult to locate, making it hard for scientists to determine the scope of its population.

Extracts By: Reuters video, InterAksyon.com 8 June 2015, Roselle Chen reports.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/111985/video--new-shape-changing-frog-species-named-pristimantis-mutabilis>



George Madani *Cyclorana platycephala* Water-holding Frog

AMPHIBIAN DISCOVERY ILLUMINATES MYANMAR'S 'HIDDEN BIODIVERSITY'

A team of Japanese and Chinese biologists has discovered a new species of crocodile newt from Myanmar, a forerunner of a wave of new amphibian species awaiting description as the relatively unexplored country's "hidden biodiversity" is gradually revealed by science.

Conservationists, however, warn that the new species' only known populations in and around Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State in eastern Myanmar, are threatened by habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, as well as commercial exploitation.

Describing their find in the latest issue of a Thai scholarly journal, the *Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society*, the taxonomists from Kyoto University and the Kunming Institute of Zoology named the new species *Tylototriton shanorum*, dedicating its scientific name to the people of Shan State.

Some 20 species of crocodile newts — also known as "knobby newts" due to two rows of blunt protrusions that run down their back — are found in Myanmar, China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Nepal, India and Bhutan. More than half of these medium-to large-sized newts have been identified only in the past decade and most are legally protected — at least on paper.

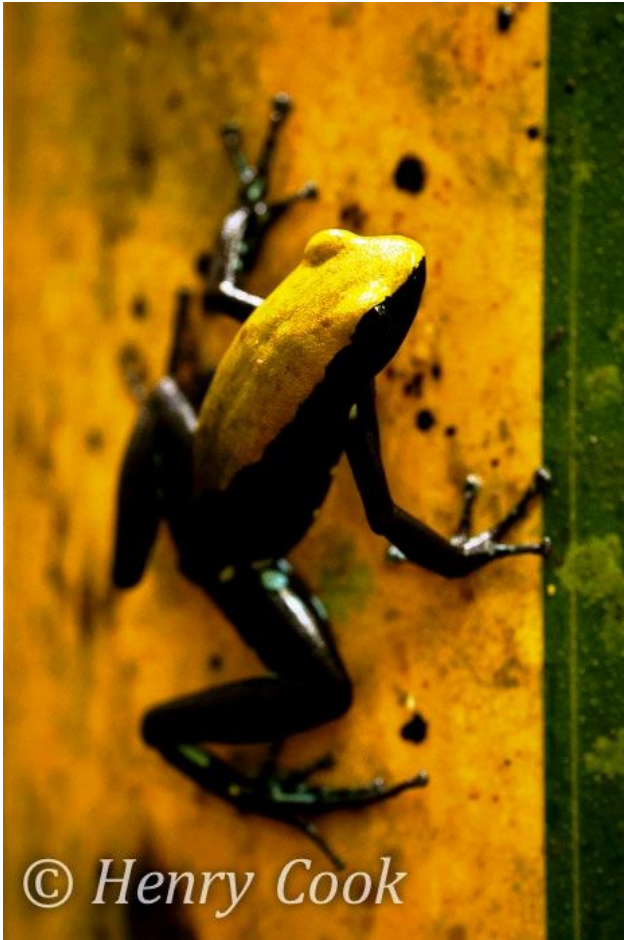
In Taunggyi, which is set spectacularly on a mountain ridge at an altitude of 1,436 meters, the newts, which are mostly terrestrial, live under rocks, logs and debris in the vicinity of permanent or temporary shallow ponds, ditches and marshes to which they migrate during the rainy season for breeding.

According to Pe Than Kyaw, a Taunggyi University biology professor who has studied the newts' population dynamics and reproduction, they were long thought to be the more wide-ranging Himalayan crocodile newt, a closely related species found in neighboring countries and commonly encountered in the international pet trade.

He hoped the identification of the Shan crocodile newt as a genetically distinct species will stimulate local research into its life cycle and habitat requirements, while he stressed the need for field studies to determine its distribution and come up with effective conservation measures. However, considering the fast pace of decline in the extent and quality of newt and other wildlife habitats in the growing township of some 400,000 people, the clock may be ticking for these possibly rare tailed amphibians.

Other factors in the newts' decline include being run over by vehicles during their seasonal migrations to and from breeding ponds, as well as the loss of

shady, moist places to hide, Pe Than Kyaw said. Like other newts in the enigmatic Asian genus *Tylototriton*, the new species, though not as colorfully appealing as some, is also menaced by overharvesting for the international pet trade.



© Henry Cook

Henry Cook Madagascar *Mantella laevigata*, Nosy Mangabe

The new species was identified on the basis of type specimens collected from Taunggyi over a decade ago by Kyi Soe Lwin, currently a project officer with Indo-Myanmar Conservation, an NGO that works to conserve Myanmar’s wildlife, and other local scientists. Teaming up with researchers from the California Academy of Sciences, they pushed the zoological frontier by extensively surveying Myanmar’s amphibians and reptiles, to the extent possible given the country’s delicate political and security environment.

The project, which began in 1991 and ended some six years ago, resulted in the collection of more than 17,000 specimens out of which 26 new species were discovered, 19 of them reptiles.

With some of the most extensive intact forest in Southeast Asia, despite having suffered massive deforestation, Myanmar is one of the region’s most biologically diverse nations. But as the country reengages with the world after decades of isolation, civil conflict and economic decline, its impressive biodiversity faces numerous challenges, ranging from wildlife poaching and both legal and illegal logging to extensive conversion of forest land for agribusiness.

Citing the myriad threats facing the Shan crocodile newt, some of which mirror those that confront potentially thousands of other as-yet-undiscovered species in the country, the report warned that these newts “may disappear just as we’re getting to know them.”

“Even if we can’t stop construction and/or destruction, we can do something like mitigation,” Nishikawa said. “Practically, it’s important and much better than doing nothing.” **Extracts by Tim Johnson, The Japan Times, June 13, 2015 TAUNGGYI, MYANMAR**

1,074 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED DUSKY GOPHER FROGS SOUGHT SANCTUARY IN JACKSON COUNTY

A sanctuary in south Mississippi has just released more than a thousand critically endangered frogs into their new habitat with a dash of hope that these amphibians will multiply fast.

In a report, furnished by the Sun Herald, it was stated that the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge staff in Gautier had released 1,074 dusky gopher frogs into the refuge, ever since May, 2015.

The dusky gopher frog, which is also known as the Mississippi gopher, is classified as a “critically endangered” amphibian and was on the endangered-species list since 2001. The amphibians, which happen to be feisty predators of insects and other small creatures, have many natural enemies and stalkers like spiders, snakes, and cranes, but Melissa Perez, a ranger at the Sandhil Crane National Wildlife Refuge, said that the frogs’ biggest enemy is its dwindling natural environment.

Perez said, “The wet-pines savannah that makes up our refuge is a critically endangered area. She added, “It’s not a coincidence that the frog population continues to decrease, as the refuge grows smaller.”

Extracts Daily Times Gazette, Jun 14, 2015 (S. Mississippi) Via Washington Times

HerpDigest.org: The Only Free Electronic Newsletter That Reports on the Latest News on Herpetological Conservation, Husbandry and Science

Volume # 15 Issue #25 7/10/15 - Publisher/Editor- Allen Salzberg



George Madani *Litoria chloris*

TANK FOR SALE

Tank 4' on a timber stand (see photo). Price \$100 Contact Arthur White 1arthur@tpg.com.au if interested.

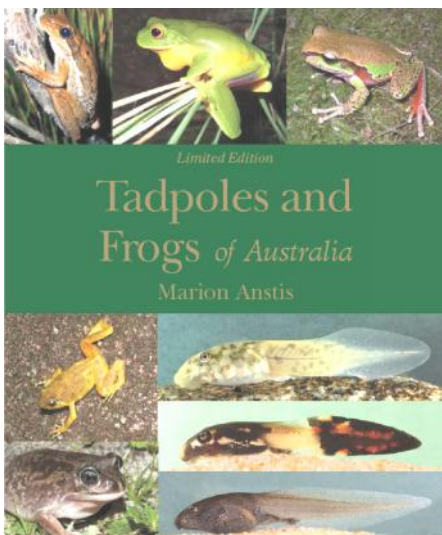


Jason Luke *Litoria Phyllochroa*

The transition of a tadpole to an adult frog is a truly spectacular natural event. Frog eggs are laid as a globular mass that attaches itself to aquatic vegetation. The yolk nourishes the embryo until the larva breaks open and develops into a tadpole. In about 8 weeks, the hind limbs develop, which help the tadpole propel its body underwater. At about 9-10 weeks, the forelimbs begin to emerge, and this is when the tadpole starts to shed its tail by the process of apoptosis (programmed cell death). At around 12 weeks, the tadpole that has now grown into an almost tailless froglet, leaves its aquatic habitat. The whole transformation may claim up to a fourth of the tadpole's weight!

For non-Indian readers- 5th September is observed as Teachers' Day in India in memory of the academic philosopher Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, also India's second President.

<http://www.greenhumour.com/search/label/frogs>



Marion Anstis comprehensive reference book on Australian tadpoles and frogs. A great Christmas present!



George Madani *Litoria wilcoxi*

MITIGATING REPTILE ROAD MORTALITY: FENCE FAILURES COMPROMISE ECOPASSAGE EFFECTIVENESS

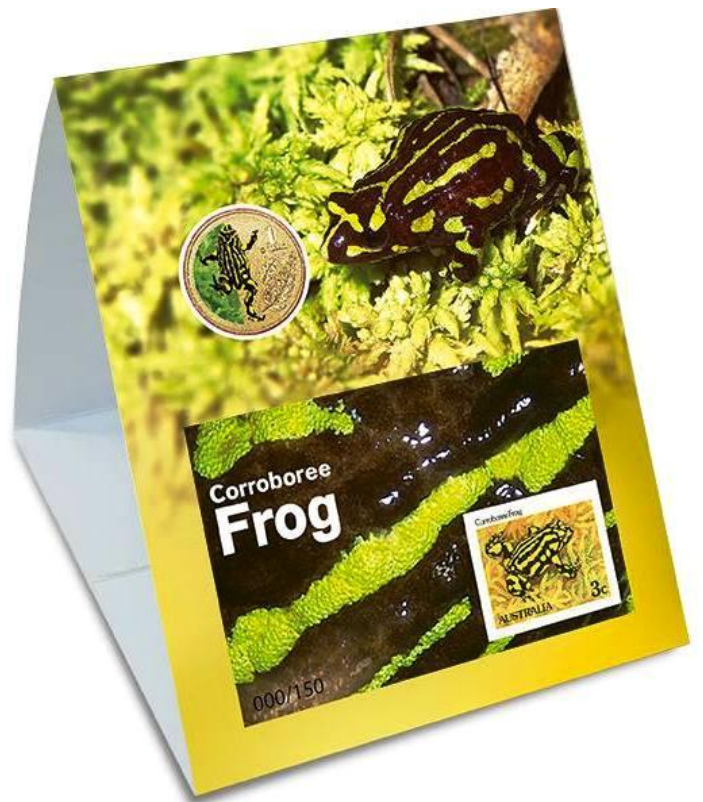
Roadways pose serious threats to animal populations. The installation of roadway mitigation measures is becoming increasingly common, yet studies that rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of these conservation tools remain rare. A highway expansion project in Ontario, Canada included exclusion fencing and ecopassages as mitigation measures designed to offset detrimental effects to one of the most imperiled groups of vertebrates, reptiles.

Taking a multispecies approach, we used a Before-After-Control-Impact study design to compare reptile abundance on the highway before and after mitigation at an Impact site and a Control site from 1 May to 31 August in 2012 and 2013. During this time, radio telemetry, wildlife cameras, and an automated PIT-tag reading system were used to monitor reptile movements and use of ecopassages. Additionally, a willingness to utilize experiment was conducted to quantify turtle behavioral responses to ecopassages.

We found no difference in abundance of turtles on the road between the un-mitigated and mitigated highways, and an increase in the percentage of both snakes and turtles detected dead on the road post-mitigation, suggesting that the fencing was not effective. Although ecopassages were used by reptiles, the number of crossings through ecopassages was lower than road-surface crossings. Furthermore, turtle willingness to use ecopassages was lower than that reported in previous arena studies, suggesting that effectiveness of ecopassages may be compromised when alternative crossing options are available (e.g., through holes in exclusion structures). Our rigorous evaluation of reptile roadway mitigation demonstrated that when exclusion structures fail, the effectiveness of population connectivity structures is compromised.

Our project emphasizes the need to design mitigation measures with the biology and behaviour of the target species in mind, to implement mitigation designs in a rigorous fashion, and quantitatively evaluate road mitigation to ensure allow for adaptive management and optimization of these increasingly important conservation tools.

James H. Baxter-Gilbert, Julia L. Riley, David Lesbarrères, Jacqueline D. Litzgus Author Contributions Conceived and designed the experiments: JBG JLR DL JDL. Performed the experiments: JBG JLR. Analyzed the data: JBG JLR. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: DL JDL. Wrote the paper: JBG JLR DL JDL. Published: 25 March 2015 Abstract For charts and illustrations go to <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0120537>



One of Grant Webster's frog photos has made it onto a limited edition stamp / coin release to help spread awareness about the endangered Corroboree Frog. Nice work Australia Post. Well done Grant !

TADBITS, FROGPIECES AND WEBSITES

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-window-on-the-wetlands-centre-in-warren-nsw#/story>

<http://www.bu.edu/bostonia/summer15/escape-hatch/>

<http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/>

<http://www.amphibians.org/news/frog-wars/>

<http://bolivianamphibianinitiative.org/>

<http://www.theonion.com/article/worlds-frogs-unveil-5-million-year-plan-move-food--50750>



George Madani *Neobatrachus sudelli* - Trilling Frog

GREEN TREE FROG CAPTURED ON FILM EATING CARPET PYTHON IN DARWIN

Carpet pythons often make a meal of green tree frogs but a new video has shown the tables being turned, with one of the amphibians exacting revenge by chomping down on a snake. The 28-second clip taken in the Darwin suburb of Malak on Saturday night shows a green tree frog with a baby carpet python being eaten headfirst, and the snake part way into its stomach.

Once the feisty frog is found by Mark Drescher, who lives in the home, it clings to the still wriggling snake and refuses to relinquish it, even holding on while the snake is lifted into the air. At an estimated 50 centimetres long, the snake would appear a difficult meal for the much smaller frog, but there was no sign of the frog giving up its efforts. "The frog was downstairs under the house when I found it, moving around with what I thought was a lizard's tail wriggling in its mouth," Mr Drescher said.

Mr Drescher said he thought about letting the battle between the two animals continue, but in the end decided to intervene. "I was in two minds as to let it continue but couldn't see that the frog given its size would be successful and [it would be] most unpleasant for the snake, which was obviously well and truly alive, [so I] decided to intervene," he said.



Green Tree Frog *Litoria caerulea* photo P.Cassar

THE AUSTRALIAN REPTILE PARK, SOMERSBY

Herpetological Societies' Christmas Party Sunday
6 December 2015 Host: John Weigel

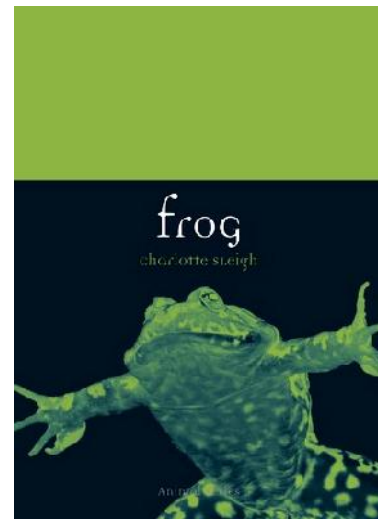
The ARP will hold its Interclub Christmas party on Sunday 6th December 2015 from 10 am to 3pm. Please call them to confirm. This once a year get-together of the herpetological societies is an event not to be missed. Free entry to FATS members. Please take your current FATS membership card as proof of membership.



A green tree frog tries to devour a carpet python (Supplied: Mark Drescher) He said he lifted up the snake and gave it a gentle tug, but the frog held on doggedly. "The snake once free was rearing and hissing and though not happy didn't look to have suffered any ill effects," he said. The snake was then released into his garden.

Dr Gavin Bedford, snake expert and curator of reptiles at Crocosaurus Cove, said it was unusual for a small animal like a frog to try and eat a larger snake. "Carpet pythons are known on occasion to eat frogs, so the tables are turned," Dr Bedford said.The frog was fortunate the python he encountered was a baby carpet snake, as the reptiles can grow to three metres in length, more than a mouthful for even the hungriest frog.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-15/tree-frog-versus-snake-tries-to-make-a-meal-of-carpet-python/6546992> By Xavier La Canna 15 June 2015
Sent to Frogcall by Andrew Nelson.



Here is a delightful "froggy" book, written by Charlotte Sleight called simply "Frog". It's one of a natural history series by Reaktion Books UK, 51 so far, covering everything from "Ant" to "Wolf", via "Cockroach" and "Kangaroo"! "Frog" is beautifully researched and written, full of wonderful, interesting peripheral information about frog and toad mythology and witchcraft, "medicinal" uses through the ages, contemporary Asian pharmacology, 19th & 20th century experiments to understand the evolution and taxonomy of anurans, their widespread use in physiological experiments and teaching, etc. All with a light touch and plenty of humour. Thoroughly recommended. Alan Lane

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). 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.

Rescued frogs are seeking forever homes at most meetings. Please contact us in advance if you wish to adopt a frog. Cash donation required. FATS must sight your current amphibian licence. Licences can be obtained from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) , Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences/GettingAnAmphibianKeepersLicence.htm> We request you join FATS before adopting a frog. This can be done on the night. Sorry we have no EFTPOS at meetings. Rescued frogs are only available to re-home at meetings.

All expressions of opinion and information in Frogcall 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, Robert Wall, George Madani, Karen & Arthur White, Andrew Nelson, Wendy & Phillip Grimm, Henry Cook, Marion Anstis and Bill Wangmann.



FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728

FATS COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Arthur White	President	ph/fax (02) 9599 1161	1arthur@tpg.com.au
Marion Anstis	Vice President and chairperson	(02) 9456 1698	frogpole@tpg.com.au
Wendy Grimm	Secretary	(02) 9144 5600	wagrimm@tpg.com.au
Karen White	Treasurer	ph/fax (02) 9599 1161	1arthur@tpg.com.au
Phillip Grimm	Membership Officer, Webmaster & Facebook Manager	(02) 9144 5600	phigrimm@gmail.com
Kathy Potter	Events Coordinator	0403 919 668	kathy@the-pottery.org
Robert Wall	Field Trips Convenor	(02) 9681 5308	rjw2008@live.com.au
Lothar Voigt	Frogwatch Helpline	(02) 9371 9129	lotharvoigt2@gmail.com
Monica Wangmann	Editor	0418 992 766 / 02 9797 6543	monicawangmann@gmail.com
General Committee members Andre Rank, Punia Jeffery, Vicki Deluca and Jilli Streit			



George Madani *Limnodynastes fletcheri* Barking Marsh Frog Aaron Payne *Pseudophryne covacevichae*

FIELD TRIPS

Please book your place on field-trips; due to strong demand, numbers are limited. Be sure to leave a contact number. Regardless of prevailing weather conditions, we will continue to schedule and advertise all monthly field-trips as planned. It is YOUR responsibility to re-confirm in the last few days, whether the field trip is proceeding or has been cancelled. Phone Robert on 02 9681 5308.

26th September 7.30 p.m. Castlereagh Nature Reserve Leader: Peter Spradbrow

Meet at the Shell Service Station, Richmond Rd, Berkshire Park (opp. Windsor Downs Estate). It is between St Marys Rd. and Llandilo Rd.

There is a popular perception that all frogs are green and live in a permanently watery environment. In Australia, many frogs have developed techniques and a lifestyle to cope with long periods without water. In the Sydney region, areas like Castlereagh can experience very low rainfall conditions. The ponds and watercourses here are ephemeral (“*ee-fem-er-al*” – *subject to drying out, only periodically filled with water*). The frogs here need to adapt to life without water. Tonight, we will look at some of those species that deal with dryer conditions than are experienced by their cousins on the coast. We will examine the ways in which they cope with these conditions and survive in a sometimes hostile environment.

Peter has spent a lifetime in this area and knows every nook and cranny here. Tonight he will use his extraordinary expertise of this area and will show us some of those species here that can, at times, be very hard to find.

10th October 7.30 p.m. Darkes Forest Leaders: Brad and Matt McCaffery

Take the Princes Hwy. south, then take the Darkes Forest Rd. turn-off. Meet 200m from the corner.

A frog’s call is one way we can easily identify a frog. Significantly, only male frogs ever call. Most male frogs have an inflatable vocal sac under their lower jaw. As this vocal sac expands with air, it amplifies the sound. This sound can sometimes be carried considerable distances. Curiously though, some species such as *Litoria lesueurii*, lack this vocal sac and possess a surprisingly soft, muted call. It is thought that the noisy surrounds of rocky stream-sides and river rapids may negate the advantages of a loud call. Tonight we will spend some time listening to frogs calling, looking at vocal sacs and discussing the biology associated with frogcalls.

Brad and Matt have a great understanding of frogs and their behaviour. They have spent many years looking at the frogs of this area and know where to find even the most difficult of species. A good list of species is always guaranteed!

In the event of uncertain frogging conditions (e.g. prolonged/severe drought, hazardous and/or torrential rain, bushfires etc.), please phone 9681-5308. Remember! rain is generally ideal for frogging! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring enclosed shoes that can get wet (gumboots are preferable), torch, warm clothing and raincoat. Please be judicious with the use of insect repellent – frogs are very sensitive to chemicals! Please observe all directions that the leader may give. Children are welcome, however please remember that young children especially can become very excited and boisterous at their first frogging experience – parents are asked to help ensure that the leader is able to conduct the trip to everyone’s satisfaction. All fieldtrips are strictly for members only – newcomers are however, welcome to take out membership before the commencement of the fieldtrip. All participants accept that there is some inherent risk associated with outdoor fieldtrips and by attending agree to; a release of all claims, a waiver of liability, and an assumption of risk.

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