

# FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

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NEWSLETTER No. 139 October 2015

*Litoria caerulea* Green Tree Frog “Benson” Photo by Christian Hofmann



Arrive 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

## Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

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.

### Meeting Format Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

- 6.30 pm** There are lost frogs (including *Litoria caerulea*, and *L. peroni*) 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 and announcements
- 7.30 pm** Main speaker: David Nelson “Frogging Costa Rica”  
Announcement of winners Frog-O-Graphic comp and the voting for People’s Choice award.
- 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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Photo by David Nelson *Geocrinia laevis*

Garth Coupland watercolour



*Limnodynastes peroni* Striped Marsh Frog

NOTES FROM LAST MEETING WILL BE IN FEB. FROGCALL

FATS FACEBOOK PAGE <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FATSNSW/> has almost 1,500 members.

Copies of some recent posts on our FATS Facebook page:

<http://www.amphibianark.org/news/aark-newsletter/>



Greg Martin  
11 July at 09:18

Two of my mags .... well, just being mags



Like Comment Share

You, Riona Twomey Tindal, Josie Styles, Jenny Pride and 19 others like this.

<http://www.ketv.com/news/omaha-zoo-helps-save-frogs-from-extinction/34128612>



www.ketv.com

KETV.COM

Like Comment Share

Ross Wellington, Christian Hofmann, Tracy Lee Neuman and 4 others like this.

Tracy Lee Neuman Now that's a cutie 😊  
12 hrs · Unlike · 1

Lori Britton What is he. Gorgeous  
5 hrs · 1 like



**TADPOLES ON THEIR WAY TO VOTE** Ngaire Worboys shared Frans de Waal - Public Page's photo. Origin of this beautiful picture: "While photographing lilies in a local swamp a cloud of tadpoles swam by numbering in the thousands, all following along in a trail." By Eiko Jones, National Geographic, featured on "Current Biology" on Facebook.

**FROG & TADPOLE STUDY GROUP STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 01/07/2014 – 30/06/2015**

01/07/2014 - 30/06/2015		01/07/2013 – 30/06/2014	
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$13033.38</b>		<b>\$ 9907.24</b>
<b>Income</b>			
	\$ 747.46	Interest	\$ 1605.99
	\$ 3797.32	Membership	\$ 6325.00
		Donations	\$ 400.00
	\$ 2000.00	Grants (SOPA)	\$ 2000.00
	\$ 1020.00	Sales (books etc)	\$ 1199.00
	\$ 661.00	Raffle /Auctions	\$ 612.00
	\$ 957.00	Rescue Frog Sales	\$ 930.00
	\$ 1458.00	Field Trip Income	\$ 920.00
		Community Day Income	\$ 1000.00
	\$ 2202.50	Workshop Income	\$ 1408.50
		Mature Term Deposit	\$10000.00
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$12843.28</b>		<b>\$26400.49</b>
	<b>\$25876.66</b>		<b>\$36307.73</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
	\$ 37.00	Bank Fees	\$ 7.00
	\$ 53.00	Dept of Fair Trading	\$ 52.00
	\$ 1010.00	Insurance	\$ 715.00
	\$ 1480.02	Printing – Sundry	\$ 720.50
	\$ 3371.46	Printing – FrogCall	\$ 3381.47
	\$ 1507.81	Postage – FrogCall	\$ 1435.60
	\$ 195.94	Stationery	\$ 77.94
	\$ 172.00	Post Box Hire	\$ 158.00
	\$ 1392.01	Field Station Hire	\$ 824.00
	\$ 1584.00	Herpetofauna	\$ 924.00
	\$ 660.00	Sales – Expenditure	
	\$ 3254.18	Sundry Expenses	\$ 2159.03
	\$ 541.15	Photographic Comp	\$ 564.05
	\$ 125.00	Subscriptions (NCC)	\$ 110.00
	\$ 560.00	Mobile Phone	
	\$ 1000.00	Student Grant	
	\$	Workshop Expenses	\$ 726.78
	\$ 1000.00	Donations	
	\$ 1476.95	Live Food – Rescue Frog	\$ 1418.98
		Publishing Costs	\$ 10000.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 19420.52</b>		<b>\$ 23274.35</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$ 6456.14</b>		<b>\$ 13033.38</b>
<b>TOTAL FATS ASSETS</b>			
<b>Cash in Bank</b>	<b>\$ 6456.14</b>		<b>\$13033.38</b>
<b>Term Deposits</b>	<b>\$ 37114.65</b>		<b>\$37114.65</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$43570.79</b>		<b>\$ 50148.03</b>

**HYGIENE PROTOCOLS WHEN FROGGING**

**G**reetings fellow froggers. As the frogging season picks up please be aware of the proper frogging hygiene protocols for when we do go out. This includes ensuring our gumboots, field gear and even vehicles are all clean when moving between sites. For more information please check out this link: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nature/hyprfrog.pdf> We also all need to be aware that certain frogs, particularly threatened species, in addition to being at risk to chytrid fungus are also prone to site disturbance. Other sites are also study sites used by various researchers. Please don't advertise sites in your photos. Some sites are kept discrete for a reason. Thanks guys and happy frogging to you all. **George Madani**



**George Madani Cyclorana calling**

# WestCONnex

# ONE BIG CON!

## COMMUNITY GROUPS COME TO RESCUE OF ARNCLIFFE GGBFS



**M**embers of Wollie Creek Preservation Society and WestCONnex Action Group discovered that on 17 July 2015, the State Government Roads and Maritime Services RMS (former RTA) quietly lodged a Referral under the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation (EPBC) Act with the Australian Department of the Environment. This meant the public had only ten business days to read, digest and comment on the 55-page document and the 147-page attachment.

A direct outcome of this RMS Referral means endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog habitat at Kogarah Golf Club in Arncliffe and up to 75 hectares of vegetation, including Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest, are under direct threat from WestCONnex M5 construction. We have less than 48 hours to save endangered species and forest from WestCONnex .

On 17 July 2015, the NSW Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) quietly lodged a Referral for the WestCONnex New M5 to the federal Department of Environment.

Thankfully, this Referral was picked up by one of our supporters - and the information it contained was devastating. It revealed that:

- Kogarah Golf Club in Arncliffe, home to one of the last remaining colonies of the beautiful and endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog, will be the tunnel's midway construction site - which will surely spell the end for these fragile creatures.
- More than 75 hectares of vegetation will be destroyed by this part of WestCONnex, which includes endangered Turpentine Iron Bark Forest and around 80% of a rare stand of critically endangered Cooks River Castlereagh Ironmark Forest.

The RMS has known about this for months. But they've kept us - the public - in the dark. We understand the matter has been referred by the Federal Government back to the RMS and State Government to resolve.

## PROTECT GGBFS FROM DEVELOPERS

Care2 from USA (unable to confirm their environmental credentials) sends GGBF rescue petition across world including to Lizzie Austin's mum Virginia in UK and Robert Wall's aunty in Berlin! The GGBFs are getting more attention overseas than in Sydney: "If we don't act now, yet another endangered animal in Australia could soon be extinct. Australia is home to a vast array of diverse and beautiful species, but it also has the **worst extinction rate in the world**. One of the main causes is ever-expanding human development. And that's exactly what threatens the Green and Gold Bell frogs at the Kogarah Golf Course at Arncliffe near Sydney.

The frogs at this golf course are among *the last of their kind*. Despite this, developers plan to build a tunnel straight through vital habitat. This is unacceptable — endangered frogs need to be protected! Please take action today to halt the development and protect these frogs.

Construction would destroy 75 hectares of vegetation. Experts warn that this "will surely spell the end for these fragile creatures." We can't let that happen. Let's show the Australian government the whole world is watching! Sign the petition to protect the endangered Green and Golden Bell frogs. Thank you for making a difference."



**EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN  
SALAMANDERS THREATENED BY SE ASIAN  
CHYTRID FUNGUS**



*Tylototriton shanjing yunnan* Jodi Rowley

**E**ach year, thousands of salamanders are collected from the forests of South East Asia and exported to Europe and North America. But now Jodi Rowley says a chytrid fungus has been identified with which the SE Asian salamanders can live quite comfortably, but which if introduced to Europe and North America on imported salamanders could destroy local populations. North America is a salamander hotspot where 50% of the world's species are found. **15 August 2015**  
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/science/show/european-and-north-american-salamanders-threatened-by-se-asian-/6697958#transcript>



*Paramesotriton deloustali*, tam dao, vinh phuc province, vietnam Jodi Rowley



*Paramesotriton hongkongensis* Jodi Rowley

**BRAZILIAN FROGS USE THEIR VENOMOUS  
HEADS AS WEAPONS**



Lip of *Corythomantis greeningi* greening Greening's frog  
Butantan Institute: Carlos Jared

**I**t has long been known that some frogs secrete venom out of their skin, but two frogs have taken this phenomenon to a whole new level by using their heads as venomous weapons. The venom released from the head of one of the frogs is so toxic that it could kill 80 humans, or more than 300,000 mice. The frogs are described in the latest issue of the journal *Current Biology*. "Discovering a truly venomous frog is nothing any of us expected, and finding frogs with skin secretions more venomous than those of the deadly pit vipers of the genus *Bothrops* was astounding," says co-author Edmund Brodie Jr. of Utah State University.

Brodie and his colleague Carlos Jared of Instituto Butantan in São Paulo, Brazil, made the determination — painfully — while studying the Brazilian frogs *Corythomantis greeningi* (Greening's frog) and *Aparasphenodon bruno*i (Bruno's casque-headed frog). While collecting frogs for research in Brazil, Jared picked up a Greening's frog and instantly felt a jab. That moment led to about five hours of excruciating, radiating pain. Both of the frog species have little spines coming out of their head that the researchers discovered deliver the venom.

The researchers calculated that a single gram of the venom from Bruno's casque-headed frog is more potent than that of deadly pit vipers. These snakes are among the most dangerous snakes in the world. Until better and more modern treatments, the human fatality rate after being bitten by such a snake was around nine per cent in Costa Rica alone. Jared was grateful that his encounter happened with a Greening's frog, whose venom is somewhat less toxic.

Even with Bruno's casque-headed frog, the scientists doubt that it delivers a full gram of venom to victims. Hopefully other individuals who have the misfortune of receiving the venom will pull away the moment that the pain strikes. The scientists, however, aren't sure what is possible. As Brodie said, "we have been unwilling to test this by allowing a frog to jab us with its spines" again. He and Jared next plan to better characterise the venom and the skin glands that produce it. They also plan to investigate several other frog species from around the world, some of which they also suspect to be venomous. *DiscoveryNews.com* from Steve Weir **7 August 2015 Jennifer Viegas**  
<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2015/08/07/4288824.htm>



A newly discovered Giant Squeaker Frog (*Arthroleptis krokosua*)

## SAVE THE FROGS!

### GHANA HAS HELPED DOUBLE THE POPULATION SIZE OF WHAT IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ENDANGERED AMPHIBIAN SPECIES!

**U**ntil last week, only 13 total Giant Squeaker Frogs (*Arthroleptis krokosua*) were known to exist. I am very happy to announce that a team of SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana and SAVE THE FROGS! KNUST researchers has found 15 new Giant Squaker Frogs in the Sui River Forest Reserve, bringing the total known population size of this species to 28 individuals! Over the past three years, SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana has been working with logging companies, politicians and villagers to reduce the deforestation and non-native weeds that threaten the Giant Squeaker Frogs. It is great to see our efforts paying off.

"Dear all, we wish to announce that we've recorded 15 individuals of the Giant Squeaker Frog this year. The team just got back from the field. This discovery now clearly informs us of which areas to focus our habitat restoration exercises. We also took videos that we will edit to make a short documentary. The team wants to say thank you to our members and donors for your support and encouragement. Cheers." -- Sandra Owusu-Gyamfi, SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana Associate Executive Director & Ecologist



One of the newly discovered Giant Squeaker Frogs, in Sui River Forest Reserve

Three of the newly discovered frogs were gravid females, the first time scientists have ever observe these frogs with eggs. For the first time, we know the frogs' breeding season and habitat. SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana Co-Founder Gilbert Adum says he is excited that at long last they have found the frog's breeding habitat.

"This is the most important step in saving the frog from extinction, as we now know where to focus our efforts in protecting the frog" he says. In the meantime he called on the Forestry Commission to grant permission for SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana to delineate these critical habitats and establish a Giant Squeaker Frog Sanctuary. The Sanctuary would offer permanent protection for the species and other co-occurring endangered frogs including *Phrynobatrachus villiersi* (Vulnerable), *P. annulatus* (Endangered) and *Hylarana occidentalis* (Endangered).

The Giant Squeaker Frog is evolutionarily distinct frog from any West African amphibian. It was first identified in 2002 from a single specimen that research scientists found at the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve in western Ghana. Despite active searches to find more frogs, it was not until 2009 that 14 individuals of the Giant Squeaker Frog, all juveniles, were recorded. This year's observation of 15 individuals including gravid females is a sure indication that the Giant Squeaker Frog now has a high chance of survival in the long term. Project Coordinator Adomako Ohene Boakye says the team will continue monitoring the frog's new population to contribute important data to science.

SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana would like to thank the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Disney Conservation Fund, Rufford Foundation and the donors and members of SAVE THE FROGS! for their financial support. We strongly encourage you to hold a fundraiser on behalf of SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana, so they have the funds to amplify their efforts, train more frog conservationists, protect more habitat and save more Giant Squeaker Frogs.)

**The Giant Squeaker Frogs are under constant threat** "If not for our efforts Sui Forest would not be standing. The deforestation rate is not declining much but it would be worse without our efforts. Our constant presence, conservation education and reporting of illegal activities forced some farmers to abandon their farms. Some of the frogs were found near these areas." -- Gilbert Adum, SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana Co-Founder, Executive Director & Ecologist



*An illegal farm near the frogs' habitat*



*Illegal logging near the frogs' habitat*

Species that have less than 500 individuals are extremely prone to extinction due to reduced genetic diversity and natural disasters. We have helped more than double the Giant Squeaker Frog's population size, from 13 to 28. With your financial support we will be able to ramp up our efforts in Ghana and ensure that the frogs have the habitat they need to double their population size every year. If we double the Squeaker Frog's population each year, this species will be out of the "danger zone" within five years - and up to 28,672 individuals ten years from now.

Is this possible? We will only know if we try! What we are certain of is that in the absence of our efforts, the Sui forest will be destroyed by legal and illegal logging and farming. Our staff and volunteers in Africa are counting on your support to save the Giant Squeaker Frogs.

Please donate and help us save the Giant Squeaker Frogs from extinction. Thank you!

**Please support our extremely dedicated team in Ghana and help us save more Giant Squeaker Frogs!**



*Teaching at KNUST in Kumasi, Ghana in September 2011.*



**Our footprints are "all over Ghana"**

"Dear Kerry, It is a great pleasure indeed to hear from you and I must acknowledge the great work you are doing to promote amphibian conservation in Ghana and globally. I have met your legacy and footprints all over Ghana and I must immediately admit they are remarkable. Kind Regards" — David Kwart, Co-Founder, Herp Conservation Ghana **Long live the Giant Squeaker Frogs!**

**Dr. Kerry Kriger SAVE THE FROGS!**  
**Founder, Executive Director, Ecologist**  
[www.savethefrogs.com](http://www.savethefrogs.com)  
[www.savethefrogs.com/kerry-kriger](http://www.savethefrogs.com/kerry-kriger)  
[kerry@savethefrogs.com](mailto:kerry@savethefrogs.com) 415-878-6525  
 (voicemail)

**SAVE THE FROGS!** is the world's leading amphibian conservation organization. We work in California, across the USA, and around the world to prevent the extinction of amphibians, and to create a better planet for humans and wildlife. Frogs are the most threatened group of animals on the planet: nearly 2,000 of the world's amphibian species are threatened with extinction and up to 200 species have entirely disappeared in recent decades. Your financial contributions to **SAVE THE FROGS!** are tax-deductible and enable us to spread amphibian awareness, campaign for threatened amphibians and train the next generation of amphibian conservationists. Please donate, become a member, help us fundraise, and forward this email to your friends and colleagues to help spread the word. Thank you!

You can write to us at **SAVE THE FROGS!**, PO Box 78758, Los Angeles, CA 90016 USA or call us at 415-878-6525.

## MACQUARIE RIVER TRAILS

**O**ur bigger and better glove box guides for Macquarie River Trails is being launched.

Warren's Spring Festival is set for 17-18th October so put it in your diary with lots to do across the weekend including our **RiverSmart fund-raiser paddle-a-thon** on the Saturday. Details will be up on our website any day so watch that space and save the date. The paddle will be from weir-to-weir, which depending on flow should take most people 2-3 hours (I'm told!). Hope to see you there.

**National Parks will again be offering guided walks in the Macquarie Marshes over the October long weekend. For details phone 6843 4011 or email [pilliga.discoverycentre@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pilliga.discoverycentre@environment.nsw.gov.au) Dr Bill Phillips CEO RiverSmart Australia Ltd Macquarie River Trails Mobile 0438 817 470**



The pond has attracted a few tadpole predators such as dragon fly nymphs, giant water beetles and a white faced heron. In addition before the arrival of the frog species Damien was forced to introduce some native fish to control the mosquito population.



George Madani *Neobatrachus*

## FROG HEAVEN IN THE SUBURBS



**F**ATS accepted a rescued Dainty Green Tree Frog from Damien. It is doing very well. We discovered that Damien and his girlfriend Renee had built frog heaven in Sydney. They are keen to naturally attract as many frog species as possible. Their current species list up to 4. The pond seen here is about 44m in length stretching from the front of the property to the back and is 8 months old.



They ended up introducing blue eyes, rainbow fish and Australian smelt. Despite all the other residents in the pond the frog species seem to be increasing by 2 every 4 months, *Crinia signifera* and *Lymnodynastes peronii* were the first arrivals followed by one *Litoria peronii* and one *Litoria ewingii*.

More water plants on the way to hopefully attract a few green tree frog species.







# Frogs of Australia

Frogs of Australia is a comprehensive electronic field guide to Australian frogs, available for iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

The advent of the smartphone has revolutionised the creation of field guides. With this app you will have detailed text, photos, and maps for all 238 Australian frog species, plus over 700 call recordings, all in your back pocket. In addition, GPS hardware provides location-based filtering\*, enabling you to restrict your search results to only those species found in your area.

Written and produced by Conrad Hoskin, Gordon Grigg, David Stewart, and Stewart Macdonald, the guide includes introductory sections on frequently asked questions about frogs and frog biology, plus diagrams of anatomical features used to identify frogs. Species profiles include high-resolution photographs, distribution maps, descriptions of key characters, similar species, calls, and more. The guide is constantly evolving and will be updated with new features and as new species are described.

### Feature overview

- Profiles for all 238 Australian species.
- Detailed descriptions and distribution maps.
- Fully self-contained – no network connection is needed.
- Over 1200 high resolution images, showing subspecies, colour and pattern variation, habitat, and more.
- Over 700 frog call sound clips.
- Filter species down to just those found in your area using your device's GPS hardware.\*
- Shows your current location on the distribution map.\*
- Universal app for iPhone, iPad, iPad mini and iPod touch.

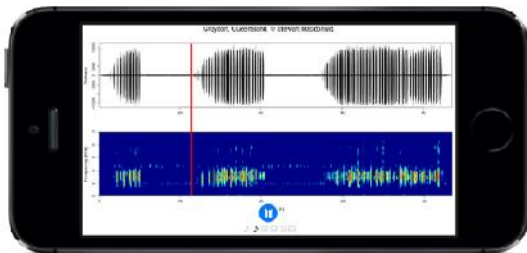


Find out more at [www.ugmedia.com.au](http://www.ugmedia.com.au)

\*accurate location functionality requires GPS hardware (not found on iPod touch or wifi-only iPad models)

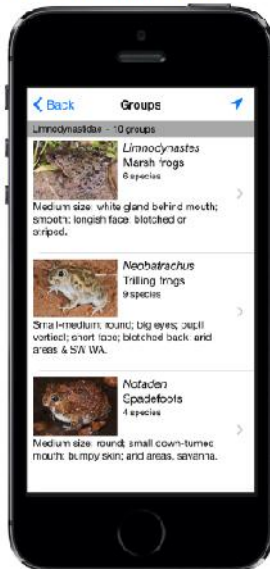
Frogs of Australia

[www.ugmedia.com.au](http://www.ugmedia.com.au)



Sonograms and spectrograms allow you to visualise calls as they play.

An intuitive 'Browse by Appearance' feature presents similar looking frogs with a thumbnail and a short description. This list can be filtered to show only those species found in your current location.\*



## FROGS OF AUSTRALIA MOBILE APP

It seems so long ago that David Stewart addressed FATS members in Sydney when he spoke about his CD "Australian Frog Calls - Subtropical East". David has great memories of the "Frogmobile" when it travelled from Sydney to Brisbane and called in at his place, when he lived in Mullumbimby. Nowadays he lives on the far western edge of Brisbane where he continues to record fauna sound as his profession.

FATS is delighted to read that David Stewart's Australian Frog app has been released. It took some years coming, but the frog app is now available. It was as long ago as 2004 when he first started talking about an app for Queensland frogs with Harry Hines and Ed Meyer. It was 2011 when Conrad Hoskin invited David to join him, Gordon Grigg and Stewart Macdonald in compiling an app of Australian frogs. David is now pleased that he did point the microphone at frogs all round Australia for many years which has proved to be very useful for this app. The beauty of an app is it is easy to add information and make any corrections, which will be available in future upgrades.

Here is some information about the app on the left and a link to the iTunes Store. At this time the app is available for Apple devices only - versions for Android will be available shortly.

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/frogs-australia-complete-electronic/id680061595?mt=8>

Please get back to David if you require further information about the app. We hope members of FATS will be excited by the content as it is right up to date on species taxonomy and it contains calls of 223 of Australia's 238 frog species.



Photo by George Madani *Uperoleia*

## CRITICALLY ENDANGERED MINIATURE FROGS    Future uncertain despite success of site GET NEW LEASE ON LIFE THROUGH BREEDING PROGRAM

**A**n army of critically endangered miniature frogs has been given a new lease on life after being released in Western Australia's South West. The white-bellied frogs are endemic to a vast area of forest south of Margaret River and are under immense pressure due to the destruction and disturbance of their habitat.

The creatures are the focus of a breed-for-release program at Perth Zoo, which has been designed to bring the threatened species back from the brink of extinction.

Eggs are collected from the site every year and are reared in aquariums at the zoo for 12 months before being released back into the wild to breed.

More than 60 frogs were discharged back into the region's muddy creek lines this week. Perth Zoo zoology technical officer Tammy Goad said the process of releasing the frogs could be tricky, due to their paltry size. "When they metamorph, they're about 0.02 of a gram, which is smaller than a rice bubble," she said. "It's quite challenging for us to work with an animal that small, especially when we have a couple of hundred of them to deal with.

"We put the frog into a little depression, put a leaf over the top and then hopefully they'll make their little home there and we can come down and monitor in future years." The male adult frogs grow no bigger than a human thumb nail and barely move from the spot they are placed, effectively sitting and waiting for a female mate.

### Multiple threats to frogs' survival

Department of Parks and Wildlife nature and conservation program leader Kim Williams said the frogs must overcome significant challenges in order to survive. "There's a range of threats," he said. "It can be climate change; reduced rainfall is a significant threat across the entire distribution of the species. "Large fires or any fire at the wrong time of year such as in the middle of summer will remove vegetation and expose the site to drying out in summer, which is really bad.

"It's also local scale things such as feral pigs opening up and churning over the soil and people coming in inadvertently to cut firewood and opening up areas."

Mr Williams said the growing of cannabis crops along the creek lines had also proved to be a major problem for the frogs. "People are planting illegal drugs and introducing chemicals and weeds into these pristine swamps," he said. He said there had been instances in the past where nests of eggs laid in the vicinity of an illegal drug crop had failed to hatch.

More and more frogs are now actively calling for a mate, suggesting there is a future for the creatures after all.



**Baby white-bellied frogs, weigh the same as a rice bubble, released into the wild to breed. ABC News: Gian De Poloni**

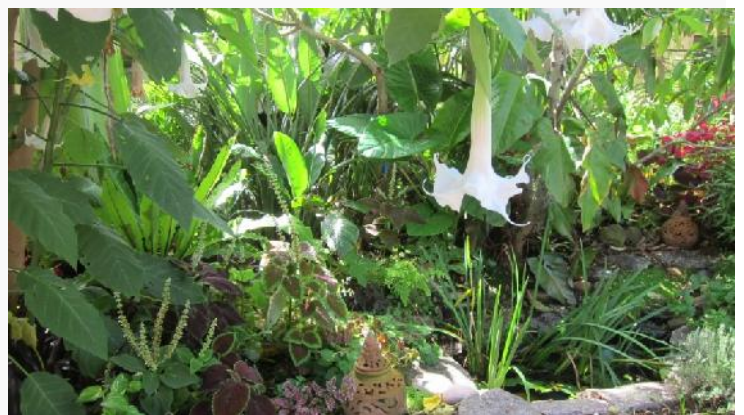
"What we're trying to achieve is a number of stable, self-sustaining populations that can survive the occasional disturbance," Mr Williams said. He said one of the release sites chosen when the zoo program began in 2010 was performing exceptionally well. "Twelve months after releasing 70 frogs, we got 31 calling," Mr Williams said. "You assume it's a 50/50 male female ratio so that's a really good success. "The next year the number of calling frogs increased up to about 48, and subsequently it's gone up to 62 or so and has maintained it, even though we haven't released any more into that site."

Mr Williams said there was still a long way to go until the species could be considered safe. "The critically endangered nature of the white-bellied frog means approximately 54 per cent of the known sites have become extinct over the last 15 to 20 years," he said. **By Gian De Poloni**

**VIDEO: Endangered white-bellied frogs released in WA's South West (ABC News)**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-22/endangered-white-bellied-frogs-released-in-was/6796420>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-22/critically-endangered-miniature-frogs-get-new-lease-on-life/6796212> Sent to FATS by Marion Anstis



Jilli's frog garden

**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.**

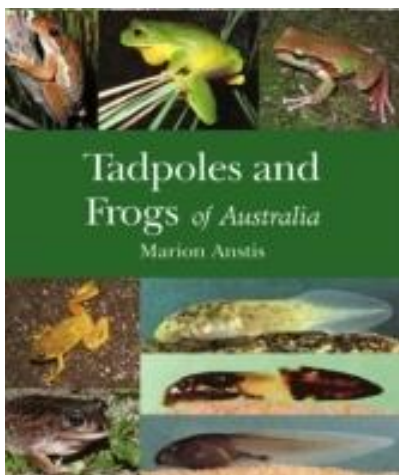


**FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728**

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General Committee members Andre Rank, Jilli Streit, Punia Jeffery and Vicki Deluca



**RECENT COMMUNITY EVENTS FATS ATTENDED:**

- Australian Museum Science Festival and Expo
- Centennial Park, Science in the Swamp
- Sydney Olympic Park, Life in the Park, Education Centre
- Willoughby Fauna Fair
- Ku Ring Gai Wildflower Festival, St Ives
- Blacktown Council Bat Night, Nurragingy Reserve, Doonside
- Stony Range Spring Festival, Dee Why
- Asquith Boys High School, Community Fun Day

**FATS have signed copies of Marion Anstis' "must have" reference book Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia. A great Christmas present.**

**Please contact Kathy Potter if you would like to help at future FATS stalls. No experience required. Join us for an hour. Meet other froggy people.**

## 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 9681 5308**

**10 October 7.30 pm 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 looking at vocal sacs and the biology of 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!

**20-22 November Smiths Lake Camp-out Leaders: Karen and Arthur White,  
optional photographic session with Marion Anstis**

FATS members are familiar with our Smiths Lake outings. These outings are a perennial favourite. Arthur and Karen have conducted fieldwork here for many years and will once again show us their intimate knowledge of this wonderful area. Quite simply, this means a bumper-load of animals.

Also, in response to many requests, this year the FATS committee has decided to run an optional session of macro-photography. We have the services of Marion Anstis for this. Most would be aware of Marion's exquisitely photographed, award-winning books. This weekend, for those who are interested, Marion will demonstrate the pros and cons of photographing frogs and tadpoles. She will cover SLR and compact cameras (be sure to bring any night-time flash equipment that you may need). There will be an additional charge of \$10-00 per person for anyone wanting to do the photographic sessions. It represents a wonderful opportunity to get professional tuition in this specialist area.

Cabin/dormitory accommodation and camping sites available. Hot showers. All kitchen facilities/utensils/crockery supplied. There is a **non-refundable** fee of \$17.50 p.p. per night. An additional charge of \$10.00 ea. for those choosing the photographic option. Phone Arthur and Karen White on 9599-1161 for bookings and further details. Limit of thirty people.

**6 December 10 am to 3 pm Christmas Party at Australian Reptile Park, Somersby Host: John Weigel**

The herpetological societies are having their annual inter-club Christmas party from 10 am till 3 pm. There is free entry for FATS members. You **MUST** present your FATS membership card at the gate. Bring your own lunch or purchase at the kiosk. John usually takes us behind the scenes of this facility. It is a good time to get up and close to many hard-to-find species. No bookings required. You may turn up at anytime. This is always a great day out! The ARP will reserve the whole undercover area and provide some steaks, sausages, bread and cans of drink.

**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.**