

FROG CALL



THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

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NEWSLETTER No. 154 APRIL 2018



World Frog Day 20 March So much diversity in the world of frogs! Let's celebrate all of the almost 7000 known frog species and the likely thousands of as yet unknown to science. Make sure we don't lose any more awesome amphibian friends to extinction.

Photo and comment by Dr Jodi Rowley

Curator, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Biology, Australian Museum

*You are invited to our
FATS meeting.
Everyone is welcome.*

Arrive from 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

Friday 6 April 2018

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 Rd / Parkway.

It is a short stretch of two way road. Park in P10f car park, the last car park before the Bennelong Rd. exit gate.

FATS meeting Friday 6 April 2018

6.30 pm Lost frogs desperately seeking forever homes: Several cheery Green Tree Frogs *Litoria caerulea* and one lonely *Litoria peroni* Perons Tree Frog. Priority to new pet frog owners. Please bring your membership card and cash \$50 donation. Sorry we don't have EFTPOS. Your current NSW NPWS amphibian licence must be sighted on the night. Rescued frogs can never be released.

7.00 pm Welcome and announcements

7.30 pm Our main speaker is Grant Webster:
" Kim Dong's Hot pot- the frogs of Korea"

9.30 pm Show us your frog images. Tell us about your frogging trips or experiences. Guessing competition, frog adoptions continue, supper, relax and chat with frog friends and experts.

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FATS MEETING 2 FEBRUARY 2018

Arthur White treated us to a talk on the history of Frogology in Australia. He spoke about the oldest culture in the world, their relationship with frogs, recounted how Europeans began to classify Australian frogs about 1790 through to current conservationists, too many to mention here. More on this in our December collector's edition. Photos below are of Arthur White and his presentation.



Photo by Peter Spradbrow *Litoria chloris*
2017 Frog-O-Graphic competition

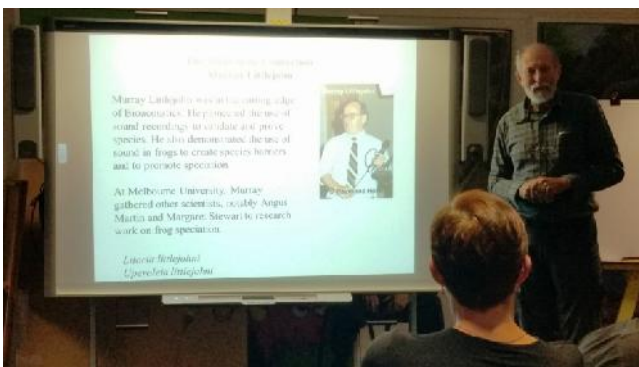
2018 FATS FROG-O-GRAPHIC

Ten years ago FATS conducted our first Frog-O-Graphic competition. This proved very successful as we have many creative people in the group. So start photographing. We look forward to seeing your entries.

The FATS members' 2018 Frog-O-Graphic competition opens 1st May and closes 31st August, 2018

Best Frog Image,
Best Pet Frog Image,
Most Interesting Image,
People's Choice.

Category winners to be decided by a panel of judges. **People's Choice** will be decided by everyone present at the 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, whether the image is a pet frog and your contact phone number. Max 6 entries per person. Max attachment size 6 MB. Fabulous prizes awarded. Entries must be original and your own work. The winning entries may be featured in FrogCall, FATS 2019 calendar and other FATS publications. **Arthur White**



Australia's first national frog count! Kathy Potter demonstrated the successful free Australian Museum Frog ID app for smart phones, which includes a guidebook, photos and calls. <https://www.frogid.net.au/> promoted by FATS member and Museum Curator Dr Jodi Rowley. Recordings you make and send in via the app, will be identified by a team of experts. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sI73oSP1MjE> Why not start your year off capturing some frog calls? Not sure how to use FrogID? This detailed video should help. Get the kids to watch it and then demonstrate on the phone. Happy Frogging! Here is a map showing 10,000+ recordings since the launch. <https://www.facebook.com/FrogIDaus/videos/1503891476375333/>

Josie Styles spoke about her roller coaster frog field trip to Queensland, surprise encounters and the very successful #FrogFriday with 3,550 (and growing) followers on Twitter. **MW Photo below Kathy Potter**



OFFICIAL BOOK LAUNCH "CANE TOAD WARS" BY RICK SHINE 28 MARCH 2018

Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

It's Rick's first book since his now-classic "Australian Snakes-A Natural History" and describes his team's research on one of the most high-profile environmental pests in Australia – the Cane Toad. It's written for the public, not just other scientists and tells the extraordinary story about how a giant frog from the rainforests of Brazil managed to conquer the driest continent on Earth and what we can do about it.

FROGCALLS FOR FATS MEMBERS

Existing FATS financial members receive FrogCall every two months by email as a pdf digital attachment. In June and December you also receive a hard copy by post. FATS make FrogCall available to the public, via our web site, after three or more months.

We have now uploaded a digital version of all our past newsletters from No 1 in 1991 to No 151 October 2017, for the public on our web site www.fats.org.au

The FATS FrogCall newsletters, prior to August 2007 (Nos 1 to 90), had no electronic master copy. I photographed the originals (many with colour articles never seen before by members) and saved the photos as pdf documents. Not all older FrogCalls had their 12 pages merge evenly, in size. If you come across any of our FATS newsletters that are too difficult to read, I will attempt to adjust the page sizes and ask Phillip Grimm to upload the improved version. Just email with the newsletter number to monicawangmann@gmail.com. MW

HELPERS NEEDED FOR FATS DISPLAY AT SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2 & 3 APRIL 2018

If you are able to help at the joint FATS and Australian Museum stall, please contact Kathy or David Potter. Even a couple of hours will help. We have hundreds of people visit us. It's a fun day. See page 11 for contact details. <http://www.wildexpo.com.au/default.htm>

FATS EVENTS

The Australian Museum has asked FATS to have a frog display for all the April school holidays, 14-29 April, for 3 hours per day possibly from 11am to 2pm. Can you spare an hour or two? Volunteers would be very welcome. No experience required. Please contact Kathy Potter see page 11.

Arthur White gave frog talks on 15 February to the University of the 3rd Age Group, Sydney University, at Panania and on 23 February "History of Green and Golden Bell frogs and their management at the Sydney Olympic Parklands", at Homebush.

Marion Anstis gave a frog talk at the Christophorus Retirement Village, Hornsby on 13th March.

FATS DONATIONS

FATS gave a \$500 donation to UNSW Aspire programme to encourage secondary students to undertake tertiary study. MW <http://www.aspire.unsw.edu.au/>

FATS STUDENT GRANTS

This year FATS is awarding 5 student grants. We are able to do this many because of the large donation that we received from Australian Bush Heritage. The successful applicants were:

Emma McInernery - University of Wollongong. Her project is the looking at the effects of dietary stress on juvenile Southern Corroboree Frog and how this relates to adult survivorship.

Brittany Mitchell - University of Wollongong. He project will look at the effects of dietary carotenoids on the predisposition of Southern Corroboree Frogs to frog chytrid disease.

Shannon Kelleher - University of Wollongong. Her project will examine mate selection in Southern Corroboree frogs.

Jordann Crawford-Ash – Australian Museum. He will measure and examine the incidence of Bd, the pathogen that causes Frog Chytrid Disease, in two species of Sydney frogs.

Timothy Cutajar – Australian Museum. Tim will be monitoring frog biodiversity using prey (invertebrate) DNA.

Congratulations to the winners and we look forward to hearing about the outcome of their researches at a later FATS meeting. AW



MARGOT GIVES BUBBLES A HELPING HAND



One of the 2,363 FATS Facebook friends, Margot from King Creek NSW (mid north coast) found her local *Litoria caerulea* Green Tree Frogs (GTFs) that hang around the house, spawning in her cat water bowl.



Despite having a lovely pond to use on the property, the GTFs chose a perilous shallow saucer! Margot came to the rescue, researching the situation and used her creativity and care to see the tadpoles metamorph over a few weeks of summer. She found several frog friends on our Facebook page willing to offer advice and help her raise the tadpoles.



What to do with spawn?



By 14/1/2018 Tadpoles are safe and thriving in their new temporary pond. They are fed boiled greens...a mix of baby spinach and other leaves and spirulina pellets. "I covered the boxes with flyscreen to ensure that our other big frogs are not tempted by these tender young things. I found an

interloper...obviously came in with some pond water. The fish seems to have blue eyes and an orange /yellow body."

LEFT: Bubbles in trouble. RIGHT: A regular visitor



"The tadpoles are on the verge of morphing...first one left this morning. I have flexible flyscreen loosely draped over the boxes to keep them safe with sticks where they can climb out and leave."

27/1 "And a little drama on the way. Am wondering what's going on with one of my tadpoles. It's swimming around like crazy... on its front and on its tummy (had initially thought it was dying...but those two 'bubbles' seem to be getting bigger. So am hoping that this means the front legs will be breaking through. It's a BIG tadpole. I let it swim through my hand, over my fingers and gently apply pressure with thumb as it passes through."

Marion Anstis: "The front bulges are the arms soon to pop out, but the bubbles I suspect may prove its undoing, as you can see it is really struggling to absorb oxygen from the water (see videos on FATS Facebook page), and the behaviour and activity you describe is not normal. I have seen this type of condition occasionally, but have no idea what causes it. What have you been feeding them with? And has the water been changed at times during development, with aged or filtered water?"

1 Feb, Margot: "I have been changing the water daily, and towards the end twice daily. The water is filtered rainwater from a tank. I have also used tap water to which I have added water conditioner. Of the 44 tadpoles, there are just 5 left including Bubbles."

4 Feb "I'm now down to my last 2 tadpoles" I have just gone through the list of identified frogs we have here on our property. All have been identified correctly. So far, 9 types - *Litoria* family - *caerulea*, *peronii*, *dentata*, *wilcoxii*, *latopalmata* and *fallax* (6), plus *Uperoleia fusca*, *Mixophyes fasciolatus* and *Limnodynastes peronii* make up the 9. I'm pretty chuffed with this assortment. No wonder our rainy nights are filled with song."

Marion Anstis: (extracts) "You won't need to change the water that frequently - sometimes it is better to let the water age naturally for a week or so. Filtered rainwater is fine, but mixing water from different sources can be not too good. I would just use the algae discs, but for four tadpoles that are still feeding, you would only need about

half a tablet and add another half when that is eaten. Don't add food to containers once tads have 4 legs. They stop feeding then. Good luck."



"Bubbles now has one left arm out (through spiracle, breathing tube hole) but it's been two weeks of working hard to get his right arm out. I have seen it stretched out so far that I could see it clearly, only to go back in again. Does Bubbles need some help now to get his arm free? He hasn't been eating for a while and his tail has started to diminish. Had not thought this process would take this long."



28 March "Finally...Bubbles got his right arm free with a little bit of help. He hasn't eaten for days and has been trying to pop out his right arm for weeks. Just now...as I was watching...his right hand emerged with folded down fingers so I left him to it. Came out 10 minutes later, and the full arm and hand had gone back inside his body and he started to float upside down. So I reached in and gently stroked till his hand found the opening and fully popped out with the full arm following. I had thought that the arm was contained in a membrane alongside the body that dissolved. But as I discovered, there is a small opening (slit) on the side of the body where the arm pops out. In Bubbles' case, his arm kept missing this opening as either his elbow had poked out or just then, part of his fingers....perhaps because he's so big and his limbs are long and gangly. I'm positive he couldn't have lasted much longer, so I'm glad I helped him out. Phew... it's been a long labour of love and I'm sure you are also relieved to read the end of my Bubbles posts. Thanks everyone on the FATS Facebook page for your support, advice and patience." **Margot 2018**



If raising tadpoles inside see Frog Facts 6 at www.fats.org.au Frog Facts 2 or 3 for outdoors ponds.



FROG POO TEST IS DUNG DEAL TO GIVE AMPHIBIAN CRISIS THE SKIDS

A new tool has been developed by scientists at The University of Manchester to help reverse the decline in some of the world's most endangered species of amphibians Lucas Huggins and the Manchester team developed a simple way to detect parasite signals such as DNA shed out in the stool of the amphibian host, without the need to kill them.

.....The research is published in the journal Plos One.....Richard Preziosi, Honorary Professor in Conservation, Ecology at The University of Manchester supervised Lucas' research. He said: "We are really excited to have developed what we believe is a key first step in the important journey of elucidating the role parasites are playing in catastrophic global amphibian declines." **Press Release University of Manchester, UK, 27 10.17 For more Information contact: Michael Addelman, Media Relations Officer michael.addelman@manchester,UK**

THIS IS WHY 75 PER CENT OF PET REPTILES DIE WITHIN A YEAR

Keeping reptiles and amphibians such as turtles, snakes and lizards as pets may be fatal for them, warns a study which found that 75 per cent of these animals die during their first year in the home. Researchers from Ghent University in Belgium reviewed issues such as disease transmission to humans, welfare problems associated with poor care, and the ecological implications of trading wild animals. The study, published in the journal Veterinary Record, found that 75 per cent of reptiles die during their first year in the home. Researchers also found that inappropriate management and nutrition by inexperienced keepers remains a concern.....

The team outlined several measures to mitigate health, welfare and conservation risks, such as introducing minimal care requirements, improving pet keeper education, enforcing quarantine and entry controls, closing legal loopholes to prevent trade in wild animals, and increasing access to specialist veterinary care. **LONDON New Indian Express, 27 October 2017**

ONE SIMPLE SIGNAL SETS OFF A COMPLICATED FROG JOURNEY

South American poison frogs are known to most people for their poison — and their brilliant colours. But in almost all species, the poison frog carries tadpoles on its back to a rain forest pool for their final growth stage. One species, *Allobates femoralis*, may or may not be mildly poisonous, and for

colour it has a splash of orange on its thighs. Thus its endearing common name, the brilliant-thighed poison frog. And sure enough, the females lay the eggs in a relatively dry spot in the rain forest, and once the embryos reach tadpole stage, the males load them on their backs and take off.

Andrius Pasukonis, a researcher associated with the University of Vienna and Harvard University, has been studying these frogs in the rain forest of French Guiana to learn how the males find the pools and what triggers this complicated act of tadpole transport. He and Kristina Beck, a graduate student at the University of Vienna, and others, determined in one project that the frogs don't search for pools but return directly to pools they know.....He and his colleagues also found that they could trigger the complex behaviour of tadpole transport simply by putting tadpoles on a frog's back. The tadpoles could come from any frog at all. And the method worked just as well with females as males. That was a surprise, because in nature females only carry tadpoles if the male has disappeared, and then they will only carry tadpoles from the exact spot where they laid their eggs. Males will carry any tadpoles found in their territory.....

He said the study of complex behaviour in amphibians is in its infancy, and hopes to perhaps delve into the underlying neuroscience. **HERPDIGEST - VOL. 19 ISSUE #63 10/31/17 New York Times, Science Take, 10/24/17 by James Gorman and Cristopheher Whitworth Video at <https://nyti.ms/2h69ZDe>**

PROFESSOR IDENTIFIES TROUBLING TREND FOR GLOBAL FROG DIE-OFF

A decade after the Bd fungus devastated amphibian populations in a Peruvian cloud forest, researchers published a paper showing that Bd isn't a hit-and-run disease. A decade after an outbreak, Peruvian frogs still haven't recovered.....When exposed to the fungus in the lab, three of the eight frog species showed significant die-offs. None of the eight were totally free of the fungus in the wild either, with most species hovering around a 50 percent infection rate. Only one had managed to maintain its pre-collapse numbers. The researchers published the results last month in the journal PLoS ONE. The research was a collaboration with SF State Assistant Professor of Biology Andrea Swei and Alessandro Catenazzi, an assistant professor of zoology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The team also included three undergraduate students. The work was supported by the National Science Foundation, as well as by the Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica, a Peruvian conservation organization. **HERPDIGEST - VOL. 19 ISSUE #65 11/9/17 By Patrick Monahan, Wednesday, November 8, 2017, San Francisco State University**

**GUELPH STREET GETS UNDERGROUND
FROG CROSSING MOVE COMES AFTER
'SEVERAL HUNDRED FROG FATALITIES'**



GUELPH — Improvements just completed on Eastview Road will make the area safer for pedestrians, cyclists and frogs.But perhaps the most unique feature of the reconstruction are three underground tunnels that serve to make is safer for frogs, salamanders and toads to cross from one side of the wetlands in that section of the road to the other..... The specific work includes a half pipe on the Hadati Creek side on the north side of the road that directs amphibians to three tunnels that will take them safely under the road to the wetlands on the south side.the city has put similar crossings for a similar reason on Poppy Drive in the south end of the city.....**by Tony Saxon, Barrie Today, 4/12/17 HERPDIGEST - VOL. 19 ISSUE #70 12/6/17**

concluded that the amphibians represented two previously unknown species that used to go by the name of the Sarayacu treefrog (*Dendropsophus parviceps*). As a result of this research collaboration between Ecuador's Catholic University (PUCE) and Peru's Centro de Ornitología y Biodiversidad (CORBIDI), the treefrogs were recently described as new to science in the open access journal ZooKeys.

The scientists remind that, back in 1972, when Anthony Burgess explained the title of his famous novel *A Clockwork Orange*, he said: "I've implied the junction of the organic, the lively, the sweet -- in other words, life, the orange -- and the mechanical, the cold, the disciplined (...)" "Without knowing, he was also giving a good metaphor to describe ecosystems," comment the researchers. "Nature works as the interplay between life and its cold, mechanical, and disciplined physical matrix."

Furthermore, both new frogs, scientifically listed as *D. kubricki* and *D. kamagarini*, are characterized by having a bright orange blotch on the shanks, reminiscent of the 'orange pieces of nature'. On the other hand, the species name kamagarini refers to 'demon' or 'devil', as per its translation from the Matsigenka language spoken in southeastern Peru. One of the characteristic features of the new species *D. kamagarini* are namely its horn-like protuberances on the upper eyelids.

Amphibians are important pieces in ecosystems as secondary consumers in food chains. They also play a significant role in decomposition and nutrient cycling.

The newly discovered Kubrick's Treefrog (*Dendropsophus kubricki*) showing its bright-orange stains. Credit: Pablo Venegas CC-BY 4.0



Stanley Kubrick -- arguably one of the most brilliant and influential film directors of all time -- left an immemorial legacy in cinema. His masterpiece, *A Clockwork Orange* (1971), was based on Anthony Burgess's 1962 novel of the same name. **16/1/2018 Pensoft Publishers The original story is licensed under a Creative Commons License. Journal Reference: Daniel Rivadeneira, Pablo Venegas, Santiago Ron. Species limits within the widespread Amazonian treefrog *Dendropsophus parviceps* with descriptions of two new species (Anura, Hylidae). ZooKeys, 2018; 726: 25 DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.726.13864**

NAMED AFTER STANLEY KUBRICK, A NEW SPECIES OF FROG IS A 'CLOCKWORK ORANGE' OF NATURE

Two new frog species were discovered in the Amazon Basin. Both had been previously misidentified as another superficially identical species. One of them received a name translating to 'demon' or 'devil' in allusion to the horn-like projections visible on its eyelids. The second one was named in honor of famous American filmmaker Stanley Kubrick, because of his masterpiece *A Clockwork Orange*.

Curiously, one of them received a name translating to 'demon' or 'devil'. The second one was named in honour of famous American filmmaker Stanley Kubrick, because of his masterpiece *A Clockwork Orange*. Having conducted analyses of genetic, morphologic, and bioacoustic data, scientists C. Daniel Rivadeneira, Dr. Pablo J. Venegas, and Dr. Santiago R. Ron

ROMEO MIGHT BE ONE OF THE LAST MEMBERS OF HIS SPECIES. WON'T YOU HELP HIM FIND A MATE? BOLIVIAN SEHUENCAS WATER FROG



Bolivian Amphibian Initiative is making 10 expeditions to locations where the species was once common, hoping to find Romeo the water frog a mate. Photo: Matias Careaga/Global Wildlife Conservation We thought Lonesome George was a sad case. But now, there's Romeo. Romeo is a Sehuencas water frog, and he is quite possibly the only member of his species alive today. Possibly. Researchers haven't given up hope and are using this Valentine's Day to tug on our heartstrings to help find Romeo a lover.

In an odd-yet-perfect collaboration, Global Wildlife Conservation, Match — the world's largest relationship company — and the Bolivian Amphibian Initiative have teamed up on a fundraising campaign to find a mate for Romeo. The goal is to get researchers in the field to find out if any other Sehuencas water frogs exist, and if any do, to find a potential mate.

Romeo has his own dating profile on Match, and the campaign aims to raise \$15,000 by Valentines Day, money that will be used to fund 10 field expeditions by the Bolivian Amphibian Initiative. From basic field equipment to transportation and guides, the funds will be essential in the search for individuals and to keep this species in existence.....



Romeo has been calling out for a mate — to no avail. Photo: Dirk Ercken and Arturo Muñoz/Global Wildlife Conservation According to GWC, "The Bolivian government plans to build a dam in a forested area where the Sehuencas water frog was once so

common it became its namesake: Sehuencas. In addition to looking for Sehuencas water frog adults and tadpoles, the expedition team will test the water of streams and rivers at key sites for traces of DNA from the frogs, confirming that they are there to be found even if team members don't see them immediately."

Finding and conserving any Sehuencas water frog individuals is critical before the dam goes up. And who wouldn't want to help preserve a species with such a sweet face?

Since 2010, Romeo has lived in an aquarium in a shipping-container-turned-amphibian-ark in the Museo de Historia Natural Alcide d'Orbigny in Cochabamba City, Bolivia. It's been a lonely life. So if you'd like to help out Romeo and the entire species, visit Romeo's profile and make a donation toward the scientific expeditions.

The Sehuencas water frog isn't the only amphibian species in need of protection. As a highly sensitive indicator species, frogs around the world have faced severe declines for the same reasons: pollution, habitat loss, and the chytrid amphibian pathogen. The loss of frogs indicates the decline of an ecosystem.

If you'd like to learn more about the importance of frogs and help preserve all amphibians, explore information and conservation resources at Global Wildlife Conservation and Amphibian Survival Alliance. **Mother Earth Network, 2/13/18**

DNA TOOL FINDS FROGS AND FIGHTS FUNGUS dna-tool-finds-frogs-and-fights-fungus-298523.png



Credit: Devin Edmonds, USGS [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

A new technology being developed at Washington State University could help save amphibians around the world from deadly pathogens like *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), a particularly nasty type of fungus that attacks the skin of frogs and salamanders.

The new tool, know as environmental DNA, or eDNA, detects telltale bits of genetic material that living creatures shed into their environment, and enables wildlife scientists to confirm the presence of a wide

variety of aquatic organisms without the hassle of finding them.....In a recent study in the journal Diseases of Aquatic Organisms, WSU scientists demonstrate for the first time that eDNA could provide a viable solution to the problem.

Colleen Kamaroff, a former WSU natural resources graduate student, and her advisor Caren Goldberg, an assistant professor in the WSU School of the Environment, used eDNA to detect Bd one month before the pathogen impacted populations of mountain yellowed-legged frogs in Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park in California.

Their research demonstrates eDNA could provide an early signal of where Bd die-offs may occur which would help conservationists take action to save amphibians afflicted by the pathogen..... Their research demonstrates eDNA could be a promising, non-invasive method to screen lakes and other bodies of water for the presence of Bd. Currently, the only way to test for the pathogen is take skin swabs from afflicted amphibians.....

Since 2011, Goldberg and WSU colleagues Alexander Fremier and Katherine Strickler have played an instrumental role in bringing eDNA from a proof of concept to a practical tool for species conservation. Today, Goldberg is involved in many eDNA related research projects, several of which involve the detection of Bd. For example, she recently received a National Geographic research grant to go to Panama to look for endangered Golden Frogs and determine how they are being affected by Bd using eDNA. Goldberg is also working with colleagues across the United States to sample lake water to determine whether a pathogen related to Bd that has devastated salamander populations in Europe does not establish itself in North America. "Bd is the first emerging disease shown to cause the decline or extinction of scores of populations of amphibians not otherwise threatened around the world," Goldberg said. "eDNA could be a useful tool to help inform efforts to protect surviving populations." **Article from Washington State University Reference: Kamaroff, C., & Goldberg, C. S. (2017). Using environmental DNA for early detection of amphibian chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* prior to a rapid die-off. Diseases of Aquatic Organisms, 127(1), 75–79.**

<https://doi.org/10.3354/dao03183> Mar 13, 2018
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10/28/17 Wish to make a donation to HerpDigest? You can By cheque made out to HerpDigest and mailed to Allen Salzberg/67-87 Booth Street - 5B/Forest Hills, NY 11375. Or PayPal, asalzberg@herpdigest.org Allen Salzberg Publisher/Editor of HerpDigest Free Email Newsletter Reporting on Latest Herp Conservation and Scientific News (www.herpdigest.org)

FATS AGM NOTICE FRIDAY August 2018

The FATS AGM will be held at 7pm Friday 3 /8/2018. FATS meet at the Education Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park. If you would like to ask any questions about joining the FATS committee, please give us a call. Contact our President Arthur White at least two weeks before the meeting for further information and to submit items. 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**

AMPHIBIAN RECORDS ARE DUE IN APRIL

Some native frogs bred in captivity can be kept as pets in New South Wales, as long as you have a licence. The only non-native (exotic) amphibian that can be kept as a pet without a licence is the axolotl, *Ambystoma mexicanum*. All other non-native frogs and amphibians cannot be kept as pets because they may become invasive and spread disease. See the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage web site link below.

It's against the law to take frogs or tadpoles from the wild or release unwanted ones. Taking animals from the wild, or even your backyard, can cause local extinctions. Dumped frogs can spread disease and starve to death or be killed by other animals. Pet native frogs must be bought from licensed animal keepers.

Licensing helps us: protect our unique native frog species and their ecosystems, keep animals safe and abide by NSW laws. Tadpoles must not be collected from national parks or other reserves. When tadpoles have turned into froglets they must be released at the place where they were collected.

Native frog species that can be kept as pets are classed as Companion, A1 and/or A2. Each class requires a different type of biodiversity conservation licence. The right type of licence for you will depend on how many frogs you want to keep and what type of frog you want. See <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences/native-animals-as-pets/frog-keeper-licences>



Notaden weigeli Kimberley Spadefoot photo George Madani



BARKLY TABLELAND FROGS

Worried about flushing Green-Tree Frogs *Litoria caerulea* down the toilet, a Barkly Landcare member decided to make an alternative home for these persistent frogs. A bucket containing poly piping has created a safe, cool and moist environment for these frogs to hang out.



If you decide to make one, always remember to maintain at least a quarter of water in the bottom. The pipes are hot property! For more back-yard friendly frog tips, you can visit the Queensland Museum; <http://www.qm.qld.gov.au>

Barkly Landcare was formed in 1995 and is a community of pastoralists who are dedicated to improving land and environmental management practices in the Barkly region of the Northern Territory.



The Barkly Tableland is a vast and remote landscape within Australia. It is characterised by the Mitchell Grass Downs, naturally treeless plains with intact native grasses that support a productive beef industry.



The Barkly Tableland is home to several sites of national and international conservation significance. These sites include some of the largest freshwater lakes and wetlands in Australia that provide habitat to migratory birds and cracking clay specialists. There are significant influences which threaten the natural amenities of the Barkly Tableland. These threats can have significant impacts on the region's biodiversity. Some of the threats to the Barkly include weeds, feral animals and grazing impacts around watering points.



FATS Facebook post by member Joe Walker, about the Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association <https://www.facebook.com/Barkly-Landcare-and-Conservation-Association-1491433711187148/> <https://barklylandcare.org.au/>

FATS MEETINGS commence at 7 pm, (arrive from 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. 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 displays at local events, produce the newsletter FROGCALL and FROGFACTS information sheets. FATS attend many community fairs and shows. Please contact Kathy Potter if you can assist as a frog explainer, even for an hour. No experience required. Encourage your frog friends to join or donate to FATS. Donations help with the costs of frog rescue, student grants, research and advocacy. 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 FATS Committee, unless expressly so stated.

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FATS ON FACEBOOK: FATS has over 2,360 Facebook members from almost every continent. Posts vary from husbandry and frog identification enquiries to photos and posts about pets, gardens, wild frogs, research, new discoveries, jokes and habitats from all over the world. The page includes dozens of information files.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FATSNSW/>

RESCUED FROGS seeking forever homes are at our meetings. Contact us in advance if you wish to adopt a frog. Cash donation (\$30 to \$50) required to cover care costs. Sorry we have no EFTPOS. FATS must sight your current amphibian licence. Licences can be obtained from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Office of Environment and Heritage. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences/GettingAnAmphibianKeepersLicence.htm> We request you join FATS before adopting a frog. This can be done on the meeting night. Most rescued frogs have not had a vet visit unless obviously ill. Please take your new, formerly wild pet to an experienced herp vet for a check-up, possible worming and/or antibiotics. Consider having annual checks for your frog pets. Some vets offer discounts.



Thank you to the committee members, FrogCall supporters, meeting speakers, Frog-O-Graphic competition entrants, events participants and organisers David, Kathy and Harriet Potter, Sarah and Ryan Kershaw. The FrogCall articles, photos, media and webpage links, membership administration and envelope preparation is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to newsletter contributors, Robert Wall, George Madani, Jilli Streit, Karen & Arthur White, Andrew Nelson, Michelle Toms, Josie Styles, Jodi Rowley, Wendy & Phillip Grimm and Marion Anstis.



FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728

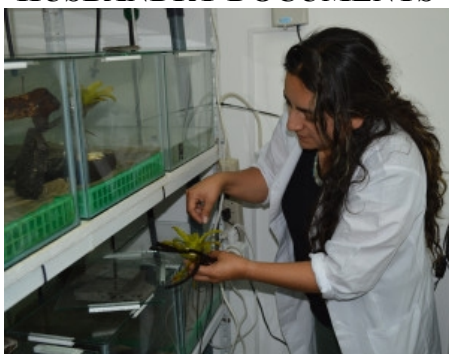
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HUSBANDRY DOCUMENTS



This website includes a wide range of articles related to various aspects of amphibian husbandry. You can search for specific words within the title, author and description fields by using the Search field in the menu bar at the top of this page. Amphibians in the Classroom or at Home Document Templates Enclosures Feeding and Nutrition General Amphibian Husbandry Documents Health – Biosecurity and Quarantine, Diseases, Drugs and Treatment, Frog Anatomy Charts, Haematology, Medicine, Protocols, Light and UV, National Amphibian Action Plans, Population Management, Program Development. Rearing, Reintroduction, Reproduction, Species-Specific Husbandry, Species-Specific Management Plans, Water and Water Quality and Workshop Presentations
<http://www.amphibianark.org/husbandry-documents/>

FATS FIELD TRIPS' Spring / Summer program has finished for this season. Our fieldtrips program will recommence next September. For the benefit of newer members, FATS run a series of nightly and weekend fieldtrips every Spring and Summer. These are scheduled at different locations across the Sydney metropolitan area, sometimes Blue Mountains and as far afield as The Watagans, near Morissett, on the Central Coast. We have regular camp-outs to Smiths Lake, near Seal Rocks. These fieldtrips are open to all members. Bookings are essential. We have limits, (fairly small) numbers of people we can take along. Announcements of upcoming fieldtrips are in FrogCall. Fieldtrips are a perfect way to gain experience in frog identification and acquiring skills to find frogs in the wild. They are popular with photographic enthusiasts. Many of the images in our annual Frog-O-Graphic competition were taken on FATS fieldtrips. If you have any enquiries regarding our trips, please phone Robert Wall on 02 9681 5308. **RW**

Marion Anstis, Robert Wall and FATS members on a relaxed Darkes Forest field trip



SMITHS LAKE MARCH 2018

I joined in with the FATS group field trip staying at the UNSW Smith's Lake Field Station last weekend. Just want to say a huge thank you to all the wonderful, friendly, knowledgeable members who made this a really fun and interesting experience. On Friday night we ventured into the Wallingat National Park. I looked around the field station itself on the next night.

Photo by Eric Oppel Wallingat National Park
Great Barred Frog *Mixophyes fasciolatus*



Despite having had so little rain lately that we have council water restrictions, the group managed to find some lovely frogs including the gorgeous Great Barred Frog at the quarry as it had not been seen there for ten years. I heard, wallum froglet, red backed toadlet and more, as well as a number of snakes and bats.



Photos by Eric Oppel Wallingat N P
above Whirring Tree Frog *Litoria revelata*
below Red-backed Toadlet *Pseudophryne coriacea*



It was my first time doing this and I'm thoroughly hooked! During the day when not looking for frogs, various birds were also seen, plus some of us went snorkelling at Seal Rocks. Here we saw plenty of fish including wobbegongs, banjo sharks and a large number of shovel nose rays. Wow! What a weekend. Can't wait to do this again and thoroughly recommend it to everyone. **Eric Oppel rejoined member Ed: Welcome back.**

AWESOME FATS Field Trip to the Watagans. Thanks to Brad and Kim McCaffery for hosting us. 10-12 Species seen/heard in really dry conditions: *Mixophyes iteratus*, *M. fasciolatus* *M. balbus*, *Adelotus brevis*, *Litoria fallax*, *L. phyllocroa*, *L. wilcoxii*, *L. revelata*, *L. tyleri/peronii* metamorph and *Limnodynastes peronii* I am forgetting one or two I'm sure! **Photo Josie Styles (abbreviated from Facebook)**

