

FROG CALL



THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

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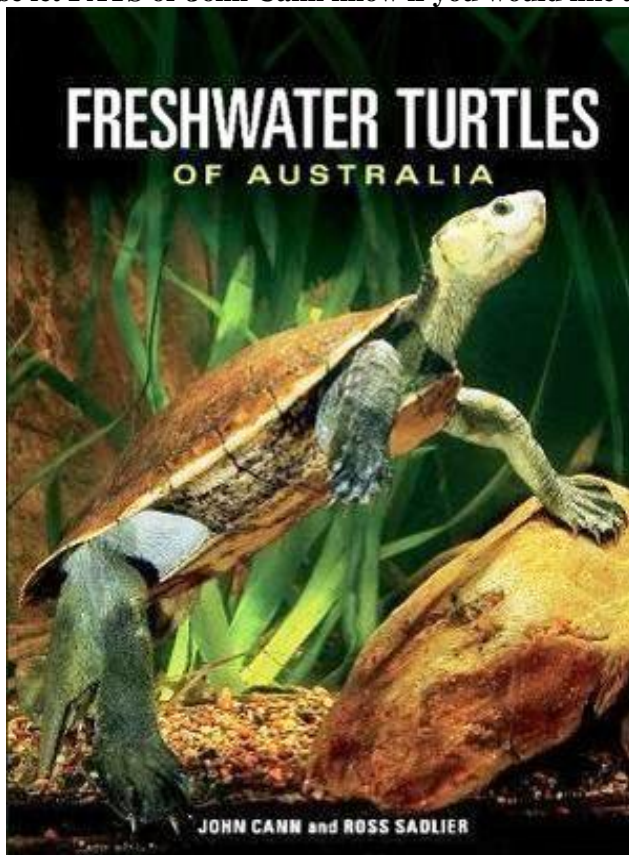
ABN: 34 282 154 794

NEWSLETTER No. 159 FEBRUARY 2019

Freshwater Turtles of Australia by John Cann and Ross Sadlier

This book is for sale.

Please let FATS or John Cann know if you would like a copy.



*You are invited to our
FATS meeting. It's free.
Everyone is welcome.*

Arrive from 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

Friday 1 February 2019

**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's 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 1st February 2019

6.30 pm Lost frogs seeking forever homes: Green Tree Frogs *Litoria caerulea*, 1 *Litoria infrafrenata* White-lipped Tree Frog, Priority to new pet frog owners. Please bring your membership card and cash \$50 donation. Sorry, we don't have EFTPOS. Your NSW NPWS amphibian licence must be sighted on the night. Adopted frogs can never be released.

7.00 pm Welcome and announcements

7.30 pm Our main speaker is Arthur White

"Why are True Frogs, true?"

Punia Jeffery will talk about Axolotls

Simon Clulow will discuss his new book

"Frogs of Australia", signed copies for sale tonight.

9.00 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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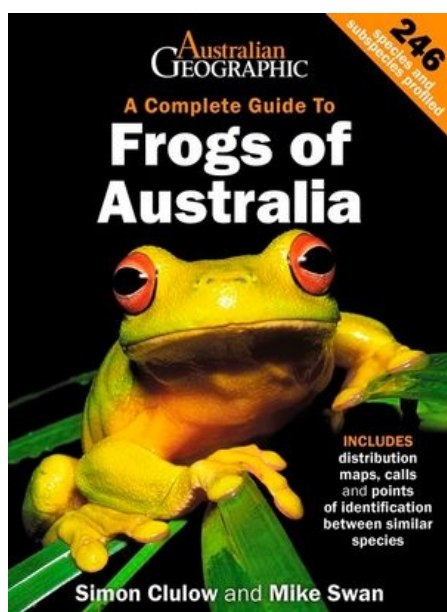
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LAST MEETING 7 DECEMBER 2018

Punia Jeffery our Chairperson, welcomed members and visitors. In October we saw images and heard stories from Marion Anstis about the Serengeti. We admire her ability to capture the essence of an animal. Punia spoke about axolotls. In December we announced the winners of our 10th Frog-O-Graphic competition. FATS continue to participate in the annual end of year auditory surveys at Homebush. Volunteers should contact Arthur White for information and to register their interest.

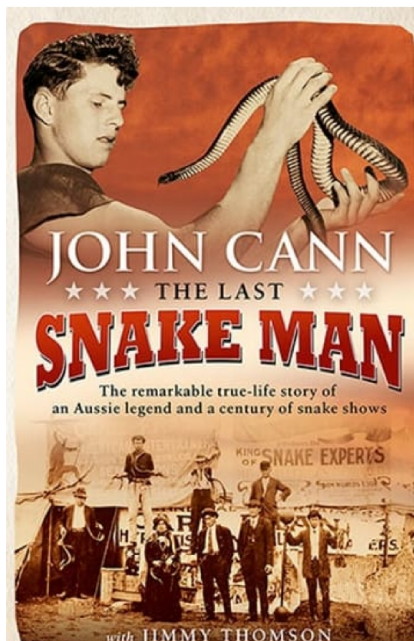
Our December main speaker, well known in the herpetological world, was John Cann (see pages 2 to 5). Arthur White spoke about the high biodiversity at Smiths Lake, where FATS have field trips twice a year. The meeting ended with Frog-O-Graphic prizes awarded, a tasty Christmas supper, raffle and friendly conversation. MW

NEW BOOK - FROGS OF AUSTRALIA



Throughout much of the world, frog populations are declining and some species are disappearing totally. In Australia, several species have become extinct in the past 25 years. This guide provides concise accounts of all the known frogs of Australia. Simon will speak to us at the February meeting. He may have signed books for sale, at around \$45.00. The text includes size, status, distribution, habitat, behaviour, calls, distribution maps and full-colour photography. Closely related frogs are shown in identical poses for comparison. The introductory section of the book covers frog biology, habitats, families and genera.

Congratulations Simon Clulow and Mike Swan on this “must have” guide book. MW



JOHN CANN TURTLES AND PREDATORS

His mother may have been the Cleopatra of Snakes and his father the original snake man of La Perouse, but the last of the snake men, John Cann, admits his real passion is turtles. Attendees at the December 2018 FATS meeting were treated to John Cann's talk and historic images of turtle predators.

JOHN CANN, THE LAST SNAKE MAN OF LA PEROUSE, TELLS A STORY WITH BITE IN HIS NEW BOOK

Some people call me the Snake Man of La Perouse. But that's not quite right. That title belongs to my father, George Cann. Pop entertained and informed generations of visitors to the La Pa Loop as it was known locally, and he combined the skills of a born showman with the expertise of a scientist. No one knew snakes better than my dad. There's probably no line of business in which the phrase "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger" is truer than snake handling. If a snakey survived a slight bite and no antivenom was given, and then pulled through OK with a few more bites and scratches, there's a slight possibility that they'll build up resistance to future bites. And they did get bitten. If you're in this game long enough, it doesn't matter how experienced or careful you are, sooner or later a snake will get you. **Extracts continued on pages 3, 4 & 5.**

2019 FATS FROG-O-GRAPHIC

The FATS members' 2019 Frog-O-Graphic competition opens 1st May and closes 31st August 2019. Categories: Best Frog Image, Best Pet Frog Image, Most Interesting Image & People's Choice.

Category winners are decided by a panel of judges. People's Choice is voted for by everyone present at the October FATS meeting. All entries are by email to photos@fats.org.au Please state: your name, confirm that you are a financial FATS member, **identify the frog species preferably by scientific name (in the file name) and location**, if known, 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 entries may appear in FrogCall, Facebook, our web site and other FATS publications. **Arthur White**

Extracts continued from page 2

Graeme Gow, who succeeded Pop as curator of reptiles at Taronga Park, recalls that in the late 1950s he borrowed a 1.3-metre tiger snake from Dad for a display and that the snake continuously struck at the wall of the glass tank where it was housed. When the time came for its return it took 90 minutes to get it safely bagged.

When Graeme returned the snake to Pop, he warned him it was an angry one, earning him a look of "Who do you think you're talking to?" before Pop tipped the snake from the bag. The tiger immediately flattened its head and struck at Pop's trouser leg. When he then moved it with his foot, the snake struck back, sinking its fangs into his Achilles tendon. Even so, Pop refused all offers of help and merely said to Graeme, "Don't tell the missus". His only "treatment" was numerous cups of tea.

A much more serious bite occurred in 1961, when a large brown bit Pop on the hand in front of a crowd at the La Pa Loop. He carried on with the show, but collapsed 45 minutes later. The crowd thought it part of the act, but a friend, Frank Rodgers, realised there was something up and quickly drove him to Prince Henry Hospital.

and his condition deteriorated rapidly. The antibodies that had kept him alive for almost 50 years were letting him down. Luckily, a health inspector from Bathurst had seen the brown snake bite Pop but had left the show before Pop collapsed. When he heard what had happened, he went to the hospital and told them the bite was from a brown. When the correct antivenom was administered, Pop's body responded immediately. It's possible that Pop helped to some degree to save his own life, given the brown snake antivenom had only recently been developed and he regularly provided Eric Worrell with brown venom for the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories.



The Snake Man of La Perouse offers his cheek to a red-bellied black snake.



No one knew snakes better: George Cann, Taronga Park's curator of reptiles, cradles a serpent. An image from the book *The Last Snake Man*. Credit: Picasa

Frank told the doctors that the bite was probably from a tiger snake. For the first time in his life, Pop received antivenom, but there was no response. He was put on a respirator

Even after he retired from the zoo, Pop was still working with snakes and was constantly seeking an opportunity to return to the country around Lake George and Lake Cowal, or the Murray River. Every September he and Worrell would take a bushmen's holiday together to go snaking.

A few days after he suffered a stroke in August 1965, Pop rose from his bed in Prince Henry Hospital and disappeared. He was found two hours later, walking through the nearby bush looking for snakes where, nearly 60 years earlier, he'd gone snaking with Snakey George. He passed away a couple of days later aged 68, one of the longest lived of his trade, at least before antivenom was developed.

Mum had been asking me to take over the shows from Pop but I had never done snake shows, and neither had my brother George. We just hunted snakes and caught them. But we realised once he had gone that if we didn't do it, an important old tradition would die, so, two weeks after Pop's death, George and I performed for the first and only time together at the La Pa Loop. After that, we worked the snake pit on an alternating roster basis on Sundays and most public holidays.

Although catching snakes can be a lot of fun, it has a serious side – and that's helping to provide venom to create antivenom. About two or three people each year die from snakebites in Australia, most from brown snakes. Making antivenom is a straightforward process. A horse is injected with enough venom to give them a headache, probably. And then they slowly build up the doses, so that the horse develops enough antibodies to be fully immune. Their blood is then processed to isolate the antivenom. They rest the horse for a while and then repeat the process, but eventually they retire the horse to the paddocks.

It works with humans too. Theoretically they could have used Pop's blood to make antivenom, although that would have been for tiger snakes rather than browns or taipans. He'd been bitten so many times by tigers he'd become immune. A lot of snake men did. A lot thought their antidote was saving their lives. They knew nothing about antibodies or that it was their previous bites saving them.....

The inland taipan, or fierce snake, restricted to the corner country of NSW, Queensland and South Australia, is the most dangerous and venomous snake in the world without dispute. And then comes the coastal taipan, the New Guinea subspecies of which was named *Oxyuranus scutellatus canni*, after my dad.

.....When I showed at La Perouse, I always used fresh snakes, just like Pop and my brother George did, because like them I didn't want people to see quiet snakes and think anyone could pick them up. I wanted them to see the danger. And I always had mad browns and mad tiger snakes so people could realise what they could really do. I have a video of the last public show I ever did at the Loop in 2010. I took down my liveliest tiger snake, one that I only used to show now and then because he scared me. He was too good for me. As I picked him up, I explained to the crowd how dangerous he was.

"If the snake wants you, he's got you. And here's a typical example," I said. "I'll tell you what this snake's gonna do. He'll wriggle, like this, he'll come halfway up, and then he'll bite me on the wrist if he can." And that's exactly what happened. He wriggled, he came up, and he went straight for my wrist with his mouth open, but I rolled him over, and when he came down he was already in the bag.

This is an extract from *The Last Snake Man* by John Cann with Jimmy Thomson, published by Allen & Unwin, rrp \$32.99. 24 January 2018 SMH <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/john-cann-the-last-snake-man-of-la-perouse-tells-a-story-with-bite-in-new-book-20180124-h0nf6q.html>

HONOUR FOR SNAKE MAN WITH A PASSION FOR TURTLES

For 40 years "Turtles were my main interest," he said. "They're terribly on the decrease and nobody knows why. They're dying in every major river system in Australia and Papua New Guinea."

For 90 years Mr Cann's family ran the snake show every Sunday in the pit at La Perouse,

an area once alive with snakes - tigers, browns and blacks. His father George, a showman and curator of reptiles at Taronga Zoo, started the show in 1919 and helped start the first anti-venom program with the late Eric Worrell of the Australian Reptile Park. Now the Canns's contribution to La Perouse and our knowledge of snakes has been recognised side by side with the suburb's French namesake in a permanent exhibition at the La Perouse Museum (Botany Bay NP).



[The snakeman of La Perouse video](#)

The story of the Cann family and the Snakeman of La Perouse. Produced and directed by Afterglow Productions.



Legacy .. a poster for his mother, the Cleopatra of Snakes.

Some people may have thought the Cann show a bit of vaudeville, a sideshow owing more to the tradition of Bearded Ladies, the Tallest Man in the World and, drumroll please, Two-Headed Men.

Yet many of the early snake handlers were called professors. These self-taught herpetologists pioneered the study of reptiles, collected species and tested anti-venoms and theories (very often with fatal results). John Cann is a professor in that tradition.

What a fabulous FATS evening, in front of a full house at the Education Centre we heard John Cann talk in December 2018 of his adventures, turtle predators and his love of turtles.

He's written nine books on snakes and turtles, discovered 10 to 12 new turtle species, travelled Australia and the world to lecture on snakes and reptiles, advised the zoo and the reptile park. Until he was 60, Mr Cann worked full time job as a rigger while raising a large family. He sees the snake-show legacy as a major contribution to our understanding of snakes, but during the show he often broke the law to show visitors how dangerous snakes could be.....

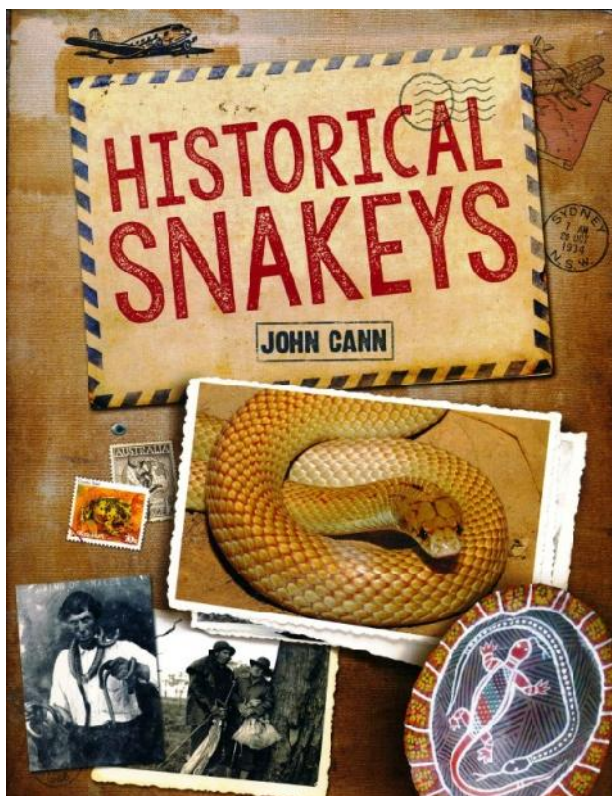
He had been bitten five times, once by a tiger snake, which caused complications that caused the loss of a kidney. He had also developed an allergy to snakes. The next bite would have been fatal.

His children did not want to take over the show. "My sons weren't interested in reptiles, which made me a bit sad and a bit glad," he said. Retiring was a relief, freeing him to go outback in search of turtles: "As soon as I gave it away, I was away to Western Australia." In 1992 John Cann was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia for Conservation, Environment and Community.

He's now 1200 pages into volumes one and two of a family history, including his own sporting ventures. He represented Australia in the decathlon in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and he played Rugby League for NSW. Sadly for us, it's a limited release: family only. **His memoirs will also be available in the National Library and in the Maroubra library. By Julie Power 8 November 2012**

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/honour-for-snake-man-with-a-passion-for-turtles-20121107-28yi9.html>

Contact John Cann or FATS to purchase Historical Snakes 600+ photos, half price at \$40.00. Freshwater Turtles of Australia by John Cann and Ross Sadler (cover photo) is for sale. Please let us know if you are interested to buy any of the books.



ENDANGERED BOOROOLONG FROG NEWLY DISCOVERED ON THE NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS



Litoria booroolongensis newly discovered population on the New England Tablelands:
Photo by Jodi Rowley, Australian Museum

Once common and widespread, The Booroolong Frog (*Litoria booroolongensis*) has disappeared from much of its range across eastern Australia and is now listed as Endangered. The last time the species was reported from the New England Tablelands of northern NSW was over 40 years ago. However, during surveys in search of another missing frog, the Peppered Tree Frog (*Litoria piperata*), we have now rediscovered Booroolong Frogs on the New England Tablelands! Our discovery is great news for the Booroolong Frog and provides hope for rediscovering other missing frog species.



Booroolong Frog (*Litoria booroolongensis*) from the newly discovered population on the New England Tablelands of New South Wales, Australia. Image: Jodi Rowley, Curator, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Biology, AMRI & UNSW

& Timothy Cutajar, Honours student & Research Assistant, AMRI & UNSW.

<https://australianmuseum.net.au/blog/amri-news/frog-rediscovered-booroolong/?fbclid=IwAR2dZI3KjveQeWWvrnAYT7oMvN99n11fPMJKUm3Nn9Gv77adGYB7RKHnIbI> by Dr Jodi Rowley (Australian Museum & UNSW) and Timothy Cutajar (Australian Museum & UNSW) 7 January 2019

CREATING THE POPES GLEN WETLAND

The recent article in FrogCall #157, “10 steps to build your own wetland” motivated me to tell the story of how a community volunteer group, the Popes Glen Bushcare Group (PGBG) created a 1 hectare wetland at the headwaters of Popes Glen Creek, Blackheath NSW. Working since 2002, with support from the Blue Mountains City Council and funding from the NSW Government Urban Runoff Control Program and Environmental Trust, the PGBG has converted a horrendously weed-infested and degraded silt flat into a thriving wetland filled with native riparian and wetland plants, frogs and birds.

The challenges

Weed removal and revegetation. The silt flat was occupied by a forest of huge, mature willows (*Salix fragilis*) and a dense understorey of blackberry, ivy and privet (Photo 1).



Photo 1. 2005, the challenge: the forest of mature *Salix fragilis* with dense weedy understorey. Work began in 2002 and some early plantings can be seen beside the creek on the left.

We removed these trees and weeds progressively and protected the silt with dense plantings of native riparian and wetland species – over 20,000 plants of local provenance planted and thousands of hours of weeding in the massive revegetation program that has lasted the best part of 16 years and is still continuing (Photos 2, 3).



Photo 2. Removing willows and understorey weeds and planting in the exposed and barren silt flat. Note the plantings in the background.



Photo 3. A community planting day.

Stormwater surges. Popes Glen Creek drains a significant part of the township of Blackheath, so rain causes sudden and severe surges in flow that eroded the creek banks, scoured out our plantings and deposited sheets of silt. To create a wetland, these damaging events were managed by diverting some of the flow into a pond and by building structures from woody debris or coir logs to slow down the flow and disperse it across the silt flat (Photo 4). The raised water table suppressed the carpet of Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and stimulated growth of native sedges, *Carex gaudichaudiana* and *Eleocharis sphacelata* (Photos 5, 6).



Photo 4. Building a detention cell from woody debris. The carpet of Creeping Buttercup seen here exploded when we started removing the willows and opened the ground up to light. However it served the useful purpose of protecting the surface while our plantings became established and we found later that it was suppressed by the raised water table.

The result

The result of sixteen years of work is shown in Photo 7.

The formerly highly degraded and weed-infested silt flat at the headwaters of Popes Glen Creek is now on the trajectory to become an Upper Blue Mountains Peat Swamp on Sandstone, listed as Endangered Communities under both NSW and Federal legislation.



*Photo 5. Our structures slow down the flow and disperse it across the silt flat, raising the water table and stimulating growth of the native sedge *Carex gaudichaudiana*. Note willow stumps, piles of debris and remaining standing willows in background.*



*P6. Stands of the native sedge *Eleocharis sphacelata* appeared.*



Photo 7. This view today (2018) is from the same location as Photo 1, taken in 2005. The diversion pond in the foreground is much appreciated by ducks and frogs and the silt flat behind is now a meadow of native sedges and a wide variety of other local wetland and riparian plant species.

Four species of frogs (so far!) have colonised the wetland (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*, *Lim. peronii*, *Litoria verreauxii* and *Crinia signifera*) and we are waiting impatiently for *Litoria peronii* to make its way there from communities nearby. We have also recorded 57 species of birds using the site.

The PGBG, with Council support, will continue to maintain the plantings, remove weeds and monitor the water quality and the populations of frogs in this created wetland.

Written by Alan Lane

For more about the weed-removal and revegetation program:

<https://site.emrprojectsummaries.org/2015/02/22/twelve-years-of-healing-rehabilitating-a-willow-infested-silt-flat-revegetation/>

The stormwater management aspects of this project, <https://site.emrprojectsummaries.org/2015/05/09/twelve-years-of-healing-rehabilitating-a-willow-infested-silt-flat-stormwater-management/>

The photo-history of this restoration project, *Decades of Healing*, is available for free download at <http://dl.bookfunnel.com/i3nt7ey9v9>

Four short videos telling different aspects of the Popes Glen story are available from aabr regen TV:

Introduction/Overview

www.aabr.org.au/portfolio-items/pop-es-glen-field-day-series-overview/

Weeds

www.aabr.org.au/portfolio-items/pop-es-glen-field-day-series-weeds/

Revegetation

www.aabr.org.au/portfolio-items/pop-es-glen-field-day-series-revegetation

Stormwater

www.aabr.org.au/portfolio-items/pop-es-glen-field-day-series-stormwater/



A family of ducks enjoying our diversion pond, which they share with large numbers of frogs.



See pages 6 & 7 Filming in our wetland, 2017

CORRECTION

The frog image in December FrogCall 158 by John Pumpurs is *Litoria chloris* and not *Litoria xanthomera*. Apologies.

FATS AT THE 2019 ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Let us know in March if you would like to help us at the Show.



WARRIEWOOD WETLANDS FIELDTRIP – LEADER: JAYDEN WALSH

Our night on the boardwalks of Warriewood Wetlands began very well when Jayden spotted a Powerful Owl. We had very good and close views of this rather impressive and hard-to-find bird. These wetlands originally covered over 400 hectares. Jayden spoke at length about their extensive history. Today, only a small sliver of these wetlands remain, ominously bounded by a major shopping centre and a rather recent housing development.

We spent quite some time familiarizing ourselves with the calls of various frogs, and separating out the jumble of mixed calls. We also spent time practicing the techniques used when looking for frogs, and refining our spotlighting techniques. Jayden pointed out some of the microbat residents of Warriewood, as well as the local reptile species.

Perhaps our best find of the night was the Tyler's Tree Frog *Litoria tyleri*, a frog not often seen in metropolitan Sydney. Jayden bravely waded through cold, thigh-deep water to show us this species. A special FATS commendation for this dedication to duty! Many thanks to Jayden for a very informative, thoroughly interesting and enjoyable night. **RW**

WHERE DID THE STRIPEYS GO?

FATS member, Margot in the Port Macquarie hinterland, has noticed a total disappearance of Striped Marsh Frogs *Limnodynastes peroni* this year. They were the most prolific here since she moved in 3 years ago...but this summer they have not seen nor heard any. They have a large dam/pond on their property which has seen a number of water birds over past months including herons and dusky moorhens. Could they have eaten all the Stripeys? Probably not. The property has *Litoria caerulea*, *L. dentata*, *L. fallax*, *L. latopalmata*, *L. peronii*, *L. wilcoxi* and *L. gracilentia*, *Uperoleia fusca*, and *Crinia signifera*. But no more stripeys. FATS is keeping in touch with Margot.



HAPPY WORLD WETLAND DAY 2 FEBRUARY AND WORLD FROG DAY 20 MARCH 2019

Me: I promise I won't talk about herpetology at this party.
 '3 drinks later'
 Me:



FROG & TADPOLE STUDY GROUP

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR 01/07/2017 – 30/06/2018

	01/07/2017 – 30/06/2018		01/07/2016 – 30/06/2017
Opening Balance			
	\$12383.09		\$ 8174.50
Income			
	\$ 1004.15	Interest	\$ 609.75
	\$ 4565.00	Membership	\$ 4860.00
	\$ 4200.00	Donations	\$ 743.15
	\$ 2000.00	GGBF surveys – SOPA	\$ 2000.00
	\$ 117.00	Sales	\$ 1065.35
	\$ 625.00	Raffle – meetings	\$ 735.00
	\$ 1150.00	Sales – Rescue Frogs	\$ 340.00
	\$ 1295.00	Field Station Income	\$ 1740.00
	\$ 9347.50	Workshop Income	\$ 4522.00
Total Deposits	<u>\$24303.65</u>		<u>\$16620.25</u>
	<u>\$36686.74</u>		<u>\$24794.75</u>
Expenditure			
	\$ 87.00	Bank fees	\$ 1.00
	\$ 45.00	Dept of Fair Trading	\$ 54.00
	\$ 455.00	Insurance	\$ 345.00
	\$ 2048.10	Printing – FROGCALL	\$ 2274.90
		Printing – Sundry	\$ 324.50
	\$ 1005.60	Postage	\$ 660.00
	\$ 141.22	Stationery	\$ 76.32
	\$ 191.00	PO Box Hire	\$ 186.00
	\$ 1248.00	Field Station Hire	\$ 1657.00
	\$ 923.45	Sales – Expenditure	\$ 660.00
	\$ 822.40	Photographic Comp	\$ 795.60
	\$ 3672.34	Sundry Expenses	\$ 2461.44
		Subscriptions	\$ 220.00
	\$ 4000.00	Student Grants	\$ 850.00
	\$ 2500.00	Donations	\$ 300.00
	\$ 1343.00	Live Food – Rescue frogs	\$1545.00
	\$ 858.00	Herpetofauna	
Total Expenditure	<u>\$19340.11</u>		<u>\$12411.66</u>
Closing Balance	<u>\$17346.63</u>		<u>\$12383.09</u>
TOTAL FATS ASSETS			
Cash in Bank	<u>\$17346.63</u>		<u>\$12383.09</u>
Term Deposit	<u>\$37114.65</u>		<u>\$37114.65</u>
Total Deposits	<u>\$54461.28</u>		<u>\$49497.74</u>



RAISING TADPOLES IN AUSTRALIA

Margot K Pickering from the NSW Mid North Coast writes:

I raised my Green Tree Frog *Litoria caerulea* tadpoles in polystyrene boxes, obtained for free from our local Fish Shop.

A couple of large rocks were placed in each box so the tadpoles, as they started to morph, were able to sit on them and have their heads out of the water for breathing. I also placed a branch/stick in the water that came out on one side so they were able to sit on it, and then climb out of the box once they were ready to leave.



The boxes were located in the middle of circular garden beds that are densely planted. Some flyscreen covered the boxes, so that birds couldn't get at them. An opening was left - large enough just for them to get out. Some small holes were made in the sides of the boxes, about an inch or so from the top, just with a screwdriver. When it rained, the boxes would not fill up and overflow, washing the tadpoles out.



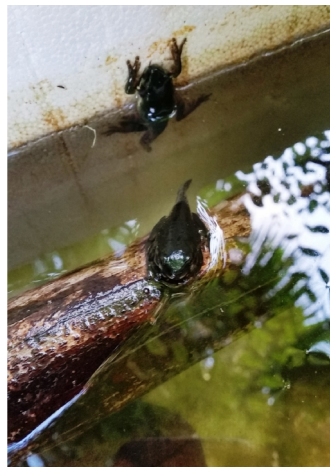
It was important to have the boxes sited so that they got some sun, either dappled during the day, or about a third of the box

with sun and the rest in shade. The taddies will flock to the sun, but move into the shade if they got too hot. Make sure the ground around the boxes is kept well mulched with leaf litter.

Some poly pipes (See Alexander Dudley's sketch in an earlier FrogCall and in Facebook) were erected, dug into the ground (frog poles). These are great spaces for the new tree frogs to hide in during the day. (Ground frogs need different habitat.) Stack some house bricks for them to hide in. We have a lot of birds here, including water birds. With the heat, I also placed a soaker hose, snaking it over and through the bushes, which finely misted the area when the temps rose. This created a rainforest type environment which they love up here. So in short... provide a comfortable temperate environment with safe boxes for them to easily climb out of, and somewhere to hide once they do. Check out my pics on my Facebook album.



Only rainwater was used in the boxes. When that was not available towards the end, I used tap water with water conditioner (ager) added, from the pet shop. It is important to keep water as clear as possible, so I partially changed it every 2 to 3 days, scooping it out then pouring in clean water. The taddies became much more active in clean water. I lost those in a third box. I think from contaminated pebbles I had put into that box. The previous owners used Roundup on everything, so this could have been the cause. It's important to wash everything that goes into their boxes, ie rocks. If unsure of contamination, scrub with mild vinegar solution and rinse off well in rainwater.



I fed tadpoles daily with mixed leaf greens that I chopped, briefly blanched and then froze in ice cube trays, dropping a couple of cubes into their boxes, as well as some spirulina algae wafers (they stay whole and don't dissolve, so won't spoil water and easy for taddies to nibble). A small sieve was used to pick out any uneaten greens that still floated around

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 exhibit at many community fairs and shows. Please contact Events Coordinator 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 about 2,550 Facebook members from almost every continent. Posts vary from husbandry, disease 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 are at our meetings. Contact us if you wish to adopt a frog. A cash donation of \$30 - \$50 is required to cover care and feeding 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 (link below). Please join FATS before adopting a frog. This can be done at the meeting. Most rescued frogs have not had a vet visit unless obviously ill. Please take you new, formerly wild pet to an experienced herp vet for an annual check-up and possible worming and/or antibiotics after adoption. Some vets offer discounts.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences/GettingAnAmphibianKeepersLicence.htm>

FATS now has Student membership for \$ 20 annually with Electronic FrogCall (but no hard copy mail outs).
<https://www.fats.org.au/membership-form>



Thank you to the committee members, FrogCall supporters, talented 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 are greatly appreciated. Special thanks to regular newsletter contributors, Robert Wall, George Madani, Jilli Streit, Karen & Arthur White, Andrew Nelson, Steve Weir, Michelle Toms, Josie Styles, Jodi Rowley, Wendy & Phillip Grimm and Marion Anstis. Have we forgotten someone?



FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728

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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.

9th February 8-15pm.

The Watagans

Leader: Grant Webster

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MEETING PLACE FOR THIS FIELDTRIP!

Meet at McDonalds Restaurant, Morisset (only 400m from our previous meeting point). Take the freeway north. After approx. 83km, take the Morisset/Cooranbong exit. Turn right and travel approx. 2.5 km to the corner of Mandalong Rd and Ourimbah St, Morisset. McDonald's is on the corner. Meet in the carpark.

Many FATS members were clearly disappointed this fieldtrip was scheduled in the middle of the holiday season while they were away. After cancelling this fieldtrip due to low numbers, we have been inundated with requests to re-schedule this outing for a better time. The FATS Committee has heeded the criticism! We have asked Grant to make himself available for another date, and he has graciously agreed to cut into his research obligations and run this trip again. The Watagans is an outstanding frogging site. Tonight, we can expect some of the more elusive rainforest and riparian species. We hope to pick up some of the impressive, and endangered Barred Frogs. We also hope to find the super-secretive *Pseudophryne coriacea*. With a little luck, we might be able to tick off this hard-to-find species tonight.

Grant is somewhat of a specialist on the *Pseudophryne* genus. He has enlightened us at club meetings about his work into this group and their current taxonomical complexity. Tonight, he hopes to show us one of his favourite species, and will update us on his latest fieldwork with this genus. This research is shedding some very interesting light on these frogs.

29th – 30th March

Smiths Lake Camp-Out

Leaders: Karen and Arthur White

Smith's lake has become such a popular field trip destination that changes are needed to ensure that everyone gets a chance to go. Up until now, it has been first in goes to the head of the list, but this approach has meant that the same people often get to go and newcomers miss out. In addition, we have people cancel late so their place goes unfilled. To overcome both of these problems we have changed the booking arrangements, which will include a **non-refundable** pre-payment for the booking. Most people will still be able to attend, this arrangement is in case we have too many people wanting to go on the field trip.

1. For the next field trip, you must email Karen White white.kazzie@gmail.com by the 16th February and indicate that you (and others in your group) want to attend and what day you intend to arrive. Karen will then put your name on a list - if you attended the previous Smith's Lake field trip you will automatically go on the Reserve List.
2. Karen will send you a reply email to let you know which list you are on. If you are on the A list you must pay your accommodation by the 16th February to confirm your booking. If you do not pay by this date you will be removed from the A list. You can pay electronically to the FATS account:- **Account Name: Frog and Tadpole Study Group - BSB 082 342 Account No. 285 766 885.** Cost is **\$17.50** per person, per night.
3. Karen will send you confirmation of your booking when your payment has been received.
4. Karen will email people on the Reserve list, 2 weeks before the field trip dates (16th February). You will be told if there are spaces available for you or not. If are able to go, you will now need to forward your payment to guarantee your place. Payment must be received by the 23rd February. If not, your place will be given to the next person on the list. We think that this will be the fairest way to ensure that everyone gets a chance to go to Smith's Lake.

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.