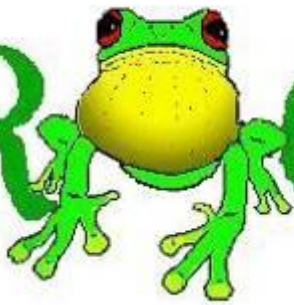


# FROG CALL



THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FATSNSW/>

Email: [fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au](mailto:fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au)

PO Box 296 Rockdale NSW 2216

Frogwatch Helpline 0419 249 728

Website: [www.fats.org.au](http://www.fats.org.au)

ABN: 34 282 154 794

NEWSLETTER No. 165 FEBRUARY 2020

Photo by Jayden Walsh Crucifix Frog *Notaden bennettii*



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

Arrive from 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

**Friday 7 February 2020**

**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 in winter.

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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**6.30 pm** Lost Green Tree Frogs *Litoria caerulea* frogs and "friends"  
seeking forever homes: 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. Please contact us first if you plan to adopt a frog.  
We will confirm what frogs are ready to rehome.

**7.00 pm** Welcome and announcements

**7.45 pm** Our main speaker is Jordan Crawford-Ash, from Australian  
Museum. Her topic is "Are they just bad neighbours? :  
Understanding the infection dynamics of the amphibian  
chytrid fungus for three Sydney frog species".

Kathy Potter will talk on the "Call Races in *Limnodynastes  
tasmaniensis* What do they mean?"

**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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## LAST FATS MEETING 6 DECEMBER 2019

**M**arion Anstis spoke about her trip to wildlife reserves and national parks in Costa Rica. Her intensive tour workshops resulted in obtaining spectacular wildlife photographs, some of which she shared with us on the night. FATS awarded the Frog-O-Graphic competition winners their prize. Well done winners. The quality of entries was exceptionally high. The night ended with Christmas supper, raffles and friendly chat. **MW**



**Arthur White with 2019 Frog-O-Graphic competition winners Kathy Potter, Cassandra Jane, Marion Anstis, Karen Russell and Michelle Toms.**

## FATS AT THE 2020 ROYAL EASTER SHOW

**C**ontact our Events Coordinator **Kathy Potter** to help FATS at the Royal Sydney Easter Show in April 2020. We have a display on the last 2 days (Monday and Tuesday) of the show. Frog Explainers are required. No experience necessary. Visitors to the stall mostly want to tell you about Striped Marsh and Perons Frogs. **MW**



**IN NSW, FROG KEEPER RECORD BOOKS  
NEED TO BE LODGED BETWEEN  
1 AND 30 APRIL 2020**

**L**icence holders must keep records of their native animal pets in an electronic record book or 'e-book'. If you hold a Native Animal Keeper Licence

**you must keep records.** The electronic native animal keeper record book, or e-book, is an easy-to-use web-based record book. It is a condition of your licence to **keep your native animal records up-to-date.** This includes records of:

- native animals you own
- details of how you acquired and disposed of them
- breeding events
- deaths or escapes.

These records help us keep track of the supply chain and ensure that captive-bred animals, and not animals taken from the wild, are being bought and sold. If you don't have access to a computer you can complete a paper record.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences/native-animals-as-pets/frog-keeper-licences>

## 2020 FATS FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION

**T**he FATS members' 2020 Frog-O-Graphic competition opens 1<sup>st</sup> May and closes 31<sup>st</sup>

**August 2020. Categories:** Best Frog Image, Best Pet Frog Image, Most Interesting Image and 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](mailto: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**



**Frog-O-Graphic competition entry 2017, by Karen Russell**





Photo Northern Corroboree Frog, Uni. of Wollongong

Since writing this poem earlier today, I have heard that some but not all of this gorgeous species' habitats have been burned. Giles Watson FATS Facebook friend

### CORROBOREE FROGS

I was twelve, and enraptured, deep in the Brindabellas, jeans soaked to the knees in bogwaters. Bulbous grasshoppers trundled over moss, their gumnut-brown elytra hiding fat abdomens multicoloured as gobstoppers. Fallen eucalypts, grey as sable, melted into squelching soil.

And there they were, where my father's colleague said they would be: slow-moving corroboree frogs like impossibly precious living stones, obsidian veined with sulphur, breathing jewels precipitated out of wetness, scintillating in their highly polished skins.

Today the news came: their last remaining bastions cannot yet be reached - the fires are still burning - so we cannot know whether nature spared them once again, or whether the bogland is boiled alive,

and I lie in bed suppressing tears, fearing that while I slept, these little living encapsulations of everything that's sublime went out of the world forever. And the child, aged twelve, for all his delight, could not gauge the gravity of that moment:

that the tiny being who blessed his hand by crawling across it could, in his lifetime, be for always gone.

Poem by Giles Watson, 13th January 2020



Photo Michael McFadden Northern Corroboree Frogs

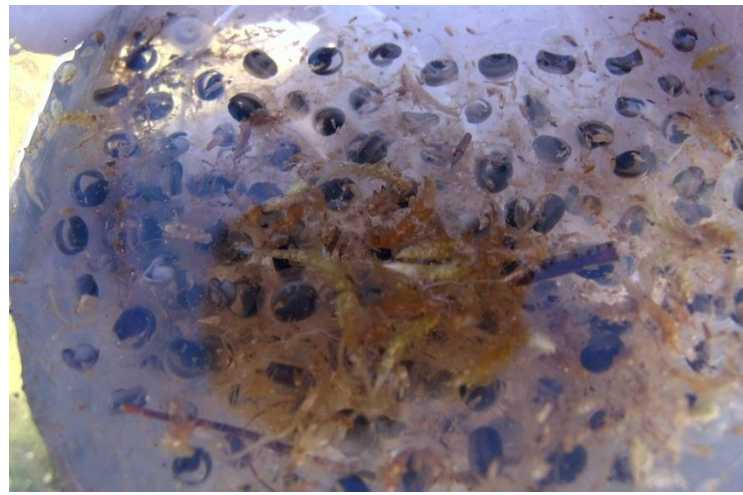


Photo Monica Wangmann Corroboree frog spawn rescued by Dave Hunter and Gerry Marantelli 3/2006

### VALE JOHN DIAMOND

Sydney 19 September 1947 - 31 December 2019

**John Diamond, beloved companion of Georgina San Roque, died in St Vincent's Hospital, surrounded by family. The funeral and wake were held at Kuring-gai Wildflower Gardens. John and Georgina were long time FATS members and donated so much to our society.**

John was a leading and well-respected member of the bush regeneration community of Greater Sydney. He was a mentor and inspired others with his outstanding achievements for our natural world. Many will remember his deep understanding and care for the land.

We have lost a champion who understood and protected ecosystems with great passion and energy.

There are some lovely tributes to John at <https://tributes.smh.com.au/obituaries/126944/john-raymond-diamond/> and the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIhiGURMRhQ>

Donations in lieu of flowers to BirdLife Australia [birdlife.org.au](http://birdlife.org.au)



Bray Ave Wetland





**WORLD FROG DAY 20 MARCH 2020**

**FROGS REVEALED**

**F**inally caught sight of two Perons Tree Frogs which were flushed when saving low sodium water from the laundry to our 100+ litre drum. We often hear these fellows at night but never had the luck to see them. Alan & Jill February 2018



*Litoria citropa* Blue Mountains Tree Frog Photo Josie Styles

**FATS OCTOBER 2019 OURIMBAH FIELDTRIP**

**I**n October, we had a great first FATS Field Trip for the season with Grant Webster as our leader!

Our planned site was the Watagans, but unfortunately a massive out of control fire was burning and we weren't permitted in (for obvious reasons). We dodged the 220 hectare fire while others were being evacuated from the area and headed south back down the F3 Freeway.

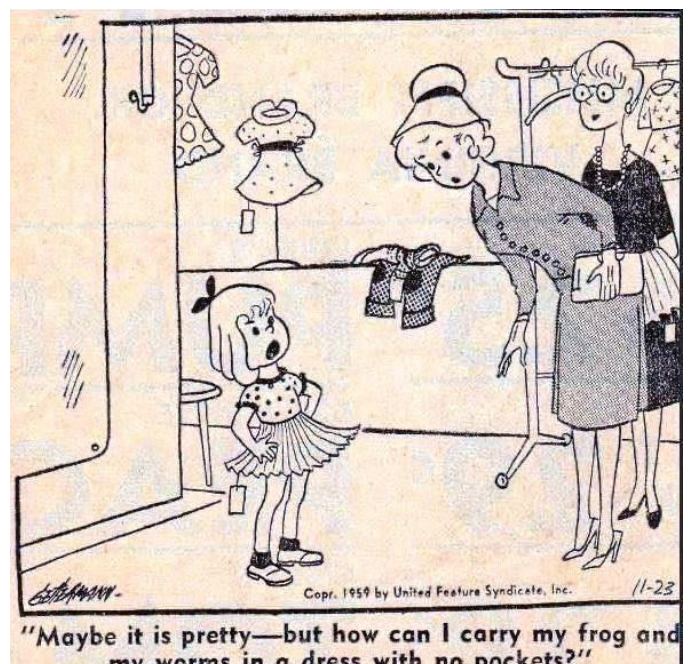
We decided Ourimbah would most likely have the goods and ended up with a fabulous 11 frog species: *Adelotus brevis* (M+F in the same pond) *Limnodynastes peroni* *Uperoleia fusca*, *Crinia signifera*, *Litoria peronei*, *Litoria dentata*, *Litoria latopalmata*, *Litoria phyllocroa*, *Litoria citropa*, *Litoria wilcoxii* and *Litoria tyleri*.

Massive thanks to Grant Webster for kindly volunteering his time and local, expert knowledge to us keen beans on a Saturday night.

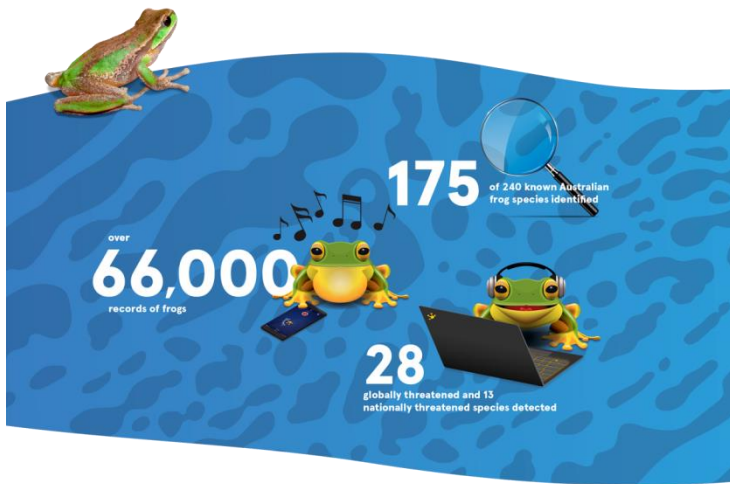
If you want to join us on future FATS Field Trips, you must be a current financial member (part of our licensing requirements), so if you have been thinking about joining, **DO IT!!** Josie Styles **Ed: See page 12**



King Creek NSW photo by Margot K Pickering







**FrogID first year findings** 10 November 2017 - 9 November 2018 Thanks to all of the froggers out there, we were able to amass 66,000 verified frog records in FrogID's first year!

## FROGID: CITIZEN SCIENTISTS PROVIDE VALIDATED BIODIVERSITY DATA ON FROGS OF AUSTRALIA

*Herpetological Conservation and Biology* 14(1):155–170.

Submitted: 25 October 2018; Accepted: 31 January 2019; Published: 30 April 2019.

*Jodi J.L. Rowley* 1,2,4, *Corey T. Callaghan* 2, *Timothy Cutajar* 1,2, *Christopher Portway* 1, *Kathy Potter* 1, *Stephen Mahony* 1, *Dane F. Trembath* 1,3, *Paul Flemons* 1, and *Adam Woods* 1

1 Australian Museum Research Institute, Australian Museum, 1 William Street, Sydney, New South Wales 2010, Australia

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4 Corresponding author, e-mail: [jodi.rowley@austrmus.gov.au](mailto:jodi.rowley@austrmus.gov.au)

**ABSTRACT :**

**T**here is an urgent need for comprehensive global biodiversity data, particularly for highly threatened taxa such as frogs. Some of the most dramatic frog population declines, globally, have occurred in Australia, but logistical difficulties of surveying frogs (i.e., the large size of Australia and remoteness within it) have limited our knowledge of biodiversity. Citizen science projects have recently facilitated the collection of broad-scale biodiversity data, but the application of citizen science data collection to frogs has lagged behind other taxa.

Citizen science projects targeting frogs have been successful in collecting occurrence data, but typically rely on species identification via user-submitted photographs. Photographs of frogs can be difficult to identify to species and may also inadvertently encourage handling of frogs.

We developed FrogID, an expert validated biodiversity database of frog occurrences in Australia, reliant on acoustic validation. FrogID uses smartphone technology, allowing participants to submit recordings of calling frogs, providing a biodiversity

database with geo-referenced frog species records, and a digital collection of frog calls. In a short time, FrogID has allowed us to collect data on rare and threatened frog species, document the decline of native frog species from parts of their range, and detect invasive species, including native species that have established populations outside their native range.

In this paper, we (1) introduce FrogID, including technical details, (2) highlight preliminary findings, and (3) identify potential future uses of the data.



**Jodi J. L. Rowley** is the Curator of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Biology at the Australian Museum Sydney, New South Wales, Australia and University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Her research strives to uncover amphibian biodiversity, assess population threats and trends, and inform conservation decisions. Photographed by Stuart Humphreys.

<https://www.frogid.net.au/>

**How to use the FrogID app**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s173oSP1MjE>



**Kathy Potter** completed a degree in Linguistics in 2009 before discovering an interest in bioacoustics and amphibian research. She has been working at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, as a Research Assistant for almost two years on a variety of projects centered around frog advertisement calls, including FrogID. Kathy also has extensive experience as a science communicator through her involvement with FATS. Photographed by David Potter. Congratulations Kathy.









## OLDEST LIZARD FOSSIL SHOWS THESE REPTILES ARE THE ULTIMATE SURVIVOURS



**The 250-million-year-old specimen from the Alps suggests that lizards evolved before Earth's largest mass extinction—and thrived after it. *Megachirella*, the mother-of-all-lizards and snakes. Davide Bonadonna, Nature**

**A**round 252 million years ago, an event dubbed the Permo-Triassic extinction event or “The Great Dying” rewrote the story of life on Earth. Researchers aren’t sure exactly what led to this global catastrophe—there’s some evidence it was set off by an asteroid strike or huge volcanic eruptions—but what’s clear is that up to 96 percent of marine species and 70 percent of terrestrial vertebrates said bye-bye.

Until recently, it was believed that the ancestors of modern day squamate reptiles—which include all lizards, snakes and legless lizards—appeared after this massive die-off, taking advantage of all the unfilled ecological niches. But, as Nicola Davis reports at The Guardian, a new study suggests that squamates actually evolved before The Great Dying and powered through this cataclysmic period. That finding would transform the lizard family tree—and make these scaly creatures the ultimate survivors.

Davis reports that the new research is based on a 240-million-year-old fossil collected from the Dolomites, part of the Italian Alps, by an amateur fossil hunter in the early 2000s. Researchers could never figure out where the small, lizard-like reptile fit in the evolutionary tree. According to a press release for the study in the journal Nature, paleontologists have now taken a fresh look at the three-inch creature using CT scans to create 3D images of rock-encased animal.

Sarah Kaplan at The Washington Post reports that those scans revealed details of the brain case, collar bone and wrists unique to squamate lizards, as well as bones that survive today in modern lizards as reduced vestigial structures. The team also spent 400 days examining 150 specimens of other lizard-like creatures held in fossil

collections around the world, and constructed the most detailed DNA family tree of living squamates (the word squamate, by the way comes from from Latin squama, or “scale”). They concluded the fossil is the oldest squamate ever discovered, and named it *Megachirella wachtleri*.

“The specimen is 75 million years older than what we thought were the oldest fossil lizards in the entire world and provides valuable information for understanding the evolution of both living and extinct squamates,” lead author of the study Tiago Simões of the University of Alberta says in the release.

That detailed DNA set and the *Megachirella* specimen are now allowing researchers to untangle the lizard family tree. “For the first time, having that information with this highly expanded data set, now it became possible to actually assess the relationship of not only this species but also of other species of reptiles,” Simões tells Kaplan.

Ruth Shuster at Haaretz reports that the data settles a long-simmering debate in reptile evolution, by showing that geckoes split from the common ancestor of all lizards before iguanas. Snakes split off from burrowing lizards likely sometime in the Jurassic period.

One of the most impressive aspects of *Megachirella*, or at least other similar proto-lizard species, is that it survived at all. The fact that early lizards made it through the Great Dying means they were made of tough stuff, or were small enough to avoid the fate of larger vertebrates. ““The Permo-Triassic extinction event was a dangerous time to be alive,” David Martill, a paleobiologist at the University of Portsmouth who wasn’t involved in the study tells Davis. “Not much escaped its deathly touch.”

Evolution, however, is the flip side of extinction, co-author Massimo Bernardi of the University of Bristol tells Davis. After the extinction event, the lizards found a new world with less competition and fewer predators, which led to a burst of reptile diversification. Squamates “were actually there before the extinction, they went through [it] in some way, and they took the opportunities that opened up just after the extinction,” says Bernardi.

Kaplan reports that there are over 70 million years between *Megachirella* and the next known lizard fossil, which is more time than there is between humans and the dinosaurs. But there are clues to how this particular little Mega died. About 250 million years ago, the Dolomites were islands with sand beaches. It’s possible that the lizard was caught up by a thunderstorm, since it was found in a fossilized layer containing plant debris that was swept out to sea.

Which is probably a better way to go than getting fried by an asteroid, anyway.

**HerpDigest Volume # 21 Issue # 22 — 31/5/18**

**Free electronic newsletter covering the latest news on reptiles and amphibians by Jason Daley, smithsonian.com, 31 May 2018**



## AUSTRALIA'S FROGS, REPTILES AND INVERTEBRATES ARE AT RISK OF EXTINCTION FROM BUSHFIRES TOO (extracts)

**Several Australian animals could be pushed to the brink of extinction by the current bushfire crisis, including critters you probably haven't heard of before. Australia could lose multiple species as a direct result of the fires — and even after the flames die down, loss of habitat and food will be an ongoing issue.**

The glossy black cockatoos on Kangaroo Island have, so far, survived (two-thirds of the island remains unburnt), but the future of the Kangaroo Island dunnart is looking bleak after its entire known range was burned in the last week.

Mammals and birds like these are probably the creatures that many of us will notice missing from our bushland, and are also the most confronting to see hurt or killed. But Australia's unique amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates are also in danger.....

### **Corroboree frogs' future unclear**

Fires have also affected the alpine habitat of the endangered southern corroboree frog and the forest and sub-alpine habitat of the endangered northern corroboree frog. There are very low numbers of the southern corroboree frog left in the wild, but they have been bred in captivity.

A spokesperson for Zoos Victoria confirmed that they did not remove any southern corroboree frogs from their natural habitats before the fires. "While we know the region they inhabit has been impacted by the fires, the actual number of affected southern corroboree frogs is not known as the impacted areas are still unsafe to enter," they said in a statement.

Zoos Victoria and Taronga Zoo still have healthy 'insurance' populations of captive-bred frogs at their facilities. It's unlikely other groups involved in corroboree frog conservation accessed their sites before the fire, but that hasn't been confirmed.

Some of the other threatened amphibians and reptiles likely to be affected by fires this season include the Guthega skink in the Bogong High Plains, Martin's toadlet in east Gippsland, the alpine she-oak skink, the Blue Mountains water skink, the broad-headed snake in NSW, and the hip-pocket frog in NSW and Queensland.

### **Alps could change forever**

In the Australian Alps, the bogs, fens, meadows and heath are all unique ecosystems unto themselves, and none of them are particularly resilient to fire, said Kate Umbers from Western Sydney University. "As the fires come through, it's those species that are quicker to recover that will move in first and get a foothold," said Dr Umbers, who is an ecologist studying alpine animals.

"Shrubs are likely to encroach onto the alpine meadows and daises might not be able to recover as quickly," she said. "So while the organisms in the shrubs will increase, the ones of the meadows, bogs and fens will be decreasing. "A big ecological turnover is possible if the system doesn't get a chance to recover on the whole."

Dr Umbers studies insects like grasshoppers, and much like the alpine skinks, her study species are found in isolated populations on different alpine peaks and bluffs. Her main concern is losing genetic diversity, rather than individual animals. "The chances of them being completely wiped out is low, but with a decrease in numbers goes the genetic diversity," Dr Umbers said. "Without genetic diversity in a population the species is vulnerable to disturbance because they don't have the toolkit to respond and adapt. "It matters *which* individuals survive, not just that any individuals survive."

### **Stirling Range endemics 'may have been fried'**

Insects and other invertebrates on the other side of the country are also under stress from recent fires. Fires have torn through the Stirling Ranges in WA, damaging the unique biodiversity of the region which includes its invertebrates, said zoologist Leanda Mason from Curtin University. "In the south-west we have a lot of short-range endemics. Because it's such an old, stable landscape, species have had time to specialise," Dr Mason said. "The intensity and the frequency [of these fires] is unprecedented. "Things like trapdoor spiders, snails, millipedes and worms that can't move anywhere and are often restricted to the peaks may have just been fried."

And being endemic to the area means that those species are not found anywhere else in the world. "Not only can they not escape, but once they are wiped out from an area, if they don't go extinct, it could take centuries for populations to recover, if ever," she said.

### **Invertebrate knowledge gaps a problem**

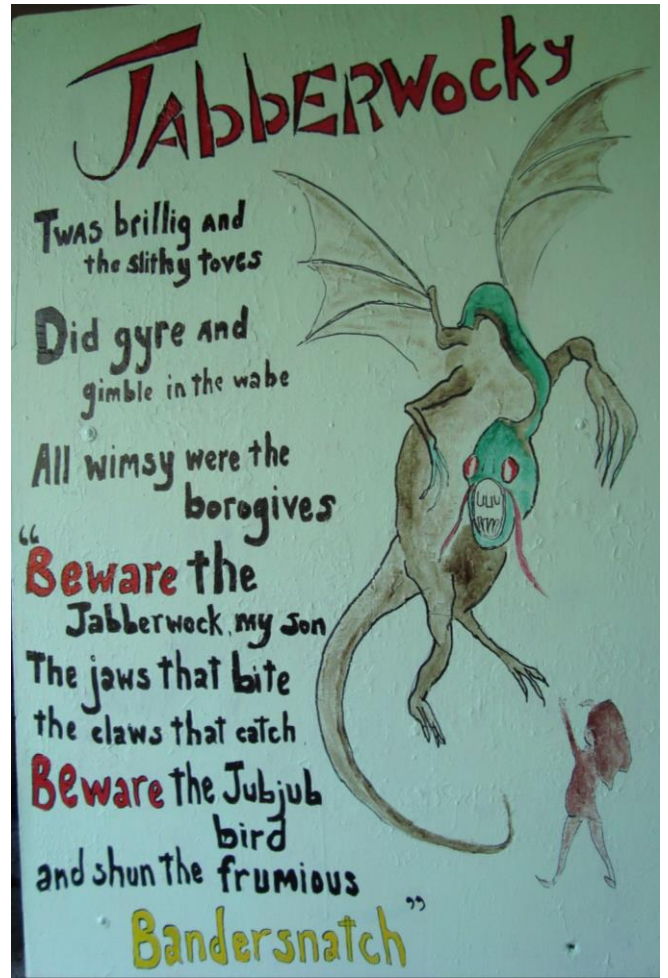
Tanya Latty has been studying a velvet worm in the temperate forests of NSW and ACT, and is waiting for it to be safe to get back to their sites to check on the worms. "We know that these worms have no ability to flee a fire. We just hope that, if the fires were of a low enough intensity, they will have been insulated from the heat within their logs," said Dr Latty, an entomologist at the University of Sydney. "There are many species of invertebrates that are massively understudied so the actual impact of these fires on species may never be known. "It's conceivable that species could have been wiped out without us even knowing they were there."

"And it's not just the size of the fires themselves, but the fact that they are occurring alongside many other stressors like habitat loss, climate change, invasive species and pesticide misuse." These fires come at a time when insects in particular are under threat from multiple fronts.

However, an international group of scientists, including Dr Umbers, has laid out a "roadmap" of solutions to protect global insect populations, including by reducing land-clearing and over-harvesting. It was published yesterday in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*. **ABC Science By Jo Khan Updated 8 January 2020**



HOW TO GET TO  
SMITHS LAKE FIELD  
STATION



All photos are by Radu Zamfirescu  
 Red-Backed Toadlet *Pseudophryne coriacea*



SMITHS LAKE FATS FIELD TRIP



Whirring Tree Frog *Litoria revelata*





**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 almost 2,900 Facebook members from across the world. 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 \$50 is appreciated 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, Karen & Arthur White, Andrew and David Nelson, Josie Styles, Wendy & Phillip Grimm and Marion Anstis.



**FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728**

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General Committee members	Natalia Sabatino, Andre Rank and Vicki Deluca		



## FATS SPRING / SUMMER FIELD TRIPS PROGRAM

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

**22 February 7-30pm**

**West Head/ Kuringai N.P.**

**Leader: Cassie Thompson**

Meet at the Duckholes Picnic Area, corner of McCarrs Creek Rd and West Head Rd, Terrey Hills.

From earliest days, Sydney's northern suburbs fell victim to extensive ridge-top development. The high ridges were considered more desirable for housing. The fearful combination of housing, roads and storm-water drains reduced bushland and forever altered water-flows and introduced urban run-off. Species unique to the ridge-tops lost habitat. In addition, the frogs that relied on soaks for moisture, or dwelled in the streams below faced new struggles for survival. Tonight, we will look at some of the frog species that were once widespread across the ridge-tops of Sydney.

Cassie is an Environmental Officer with the Roads and Maritime Service. She specializes in biodiversity issues and has a responsibility to both recognize and manage the "flow-on" effects of proposed developments. Tonight, she will introduce us to some of the small populations that have survived at West Head. We will consider the reasons other populations have succumbed to the extensive urban development of the North Shore.

**FULL February 2020 Smiths Lake Leaders: Karen and Arthur White**

As most FATS members would be aware, the Smiths Lake fieldtrip earlier this season (November, 2019) was cancelled due to the catastrophic fires around Buladelah. In the interest of fairness, the committee decided, for this fieldtrip, to give first opportunity to all those members who had booked onto the November fieldtrip and had their trip cancelled. Following this first round of offers, all places on this fieldtrip have been taken up.

**Unfortunately, no further bookings can be accepted at this time.** We are sorry, we know all members look forward to going to Smiths Lake, but we hope all members will understand.

**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. RW**

### **DECEMBER 2019 FATS FIELD TRIP LED BY JOSIE STYLES:**

**I** have been waiting 23 YEARS to get footage of the Endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog *Litoria aurea* calling. Last Saturday night, I led the FATS January 2020 Sydney field trip. We were rewarded with a chorus of about 15 Bell Frogs calling in one pond. Excited was an understatement. I recorded the chorus with the free Australian Museum FrogID App and then somehow managed to get footage of this male calling from the water's edge.

Note: I had permission from the land managers to survey this site. Hygiene protocols were implemented, and I have a NSW Scientific Licence and Ethics permit to undertake this work. Please do not disturb threatened frogs (and their habitats) unless you have a licence for survey. Continued disturbance can impact studies on threatened frog populations by decreasing their chances of observation/occurrence by ecologists. **Josie Styles**

The video can be seen and heard on the FATS Facebook page.

See page 4

<https://www.facebook.com/josie.styles.50364/videos/195610564917637/?t=2>