

FROG CALL



THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

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NEWSLETTER No. 166 APRIL 2020

Photo by Craig Broadfield *Litoria raniformis* Southern Bell Frog, Tasmania



**WE REGRET TO
ADVISE YOU THAT**

**FATS PUBLIC
MEETINGS
ARE SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE.**

**PLEASE CHECK OUR
WEBSITE AND
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
FURTHER
INFORMATION.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FATS WILL NOT BE MEETING IN APRIL 2020

In response to the novel coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak, the FATS committee has cancelled our April 2020, June, August and possibly longer, general meetings at Bicentennial Park. We will of course monitor the situation encase things change. See page 2.

We apologise for the inconvenience, but as you know, it is beyond our control. We will advise you about the AGM at a future date. When it is considered safe to do so, bi monthly meetings will resume.

Please continue to communicate with us via the FATS website, by email and the FATS Facebook page.

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FROGCALL NEWSLETTERS FOR MEMBERS

The 12 page FATS newsletter, FrogCall is produced six times a year, February, April, June, August, October and December.

Since the price of stamps rose significantly a while ago, financial members receive a black and white hard copy in the mail only in April, June and August. A hard copy colour glossy bumper Christmas edition is distributed by mail in December.

FATS members receive a colour pdf version of FrogCall every 2 months to their email addresses, as well. Student members only receive a pdf version (and no hard copy).

Please ensure your mailing addresses and email addresses are up to date. Let our membership officer (see page 11) know if there are any changes.

FrogCalls from issue No 1 to the newest copy (currently No 166) are available at our web site www.fats.org.au If you come across a poor quality copy please let us know.

Normally the public (non-members) have to wait a few months to read the latest FrogCall on the web site. FATS members are given sole access for 4 months. Given the need to cancel our April 2020 public meeting, due to concerns of spreading COVID-19 and physical distancing at gatherings, we are making all digital copies of FrogCall available to the public, once they are produced (without having to wait). FATS hope you enjoy our newsletter. This issue is especially for our younger members, and those young at heart, stuck at home.

Please forward items of interest for the FrogCall newsletter to monicawangmann@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CANCELLATION OF FATS APRIL 2020 MEETING

The health and safety of our members is very important to FATS. **In response to the novel coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak, the FATS committee has cancelled our 3rd April 2020, June, August and possibly longer, general meetings at Bicentennial Park. We will of course monitor the situation encase things change.** The Education Centre meeting place is a confined space. The proximity of folk as they enjoy our presentations and suppers is of concern.

Meantime we apologise for the inconvenience, but as you know, it is beyond our control. We will advise about the AGM at a future date. When it is considered safe to do so, bi monthly meetings will resume. Please continue to communicate with us via the FATS website www.fats.org.au , email and Facebook page. Send in any articles or news for FrogCall to monicawangmann@gmail.com

We are re-scheduling our speakers to a later date and look forward to the next time we can see you at a meeting.

Please take care, look after yourselves and those around you. Hopefully we can celebrate a return to normality in the not too distant future. Above all, stay safe until we can meet again! **Marion Anstis, Vice President**



**Miss Quinn and Sophia
her Green Tree Frog, *Litoria caerulea***

2020 FATS FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION

The FATS members' 2020 Frog-O-Graphic competition opens on the 1st May and closes on the 31st 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. Alternate arrangements will be made if we can't meet in October.

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. They don't have to be recent images. The entries may appear in FrogCall, FATS Facebook, our web site and other FATS publications.

Arthur White

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

Licence 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. It is an easy-to-use web-based 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 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>

THE 9TH WORLD CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY

has come to a close and we look forward to the next one in 2024 in Kuching, Malaysia. The World Congress in Dunedin was one of my most memorable congresses and was organised seamlessly by Terri Lowsley, Kate Howden and their team from Conference Innovators. Many delegates remarked that it was also one the best conferences that they have ever attended. My special thanks go in particular to Debbie Bishop ("Behind every successful man there's a great woman") as she worked tirelessly behind the scenes, working on logistics, sponsorship, proof-reading, events and much, much more. I would also like to thank the Organising Committee and the Scientific Committees for all their hard work in organising, reorganising, and then reorganising the reorganisation of an amazing scientific programme. Thank you to delegates for coming all this way to New Zealand – it is a long way away but I'm sure you'll all agree it was worth it! Lastly, thank you to all our great sponsors – again a very important component of a successful congress.

Most of our Keynote addresses will be available on this website and then will migrate across to the [WCH website](#). Please keep in touch and look out for our new newsletter coming out every 6 months to keep you updated about WCH business and the next WCH Congress in Malaysian Borneo. **Prof Phil Bishop University of Otago Conference Director**

Keynote speaker, Dr Jodi Rowley is the Curator of Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Biology at the Australian Museum and UNSW Sydney. After a degree in Bachelor of Environmental Science (Hons) at UNSW, Jodi completed her PhD at James Cook University, where she used radiotelemetry to investigate how interspecific behaviour influences the susceptibility of frog species to decline from disease.

In 2006, Jodi moved to Cambodia to work as a wildlife biologist for international NGO Conservation International, and began conducting amphibian research in Southeast Asia. She moved to the Australian Museum in 2008, and continues her focus on Australasian amphibian biodiversity and conservation. Her research seeks to uncover and document biodiversity, understand its drivers, and inform conservation decisions. She has greatly expanded knowledge about amphibian species diversity in Southeast Asia, having conducted over 25 collaborative expeditions in the region and co-discovered more than two dozen new frog species. Her work in Australia focuses on informing the conservation of poorly-known and 'threatened frog species. She is also Chief Scientist of FrogID, a national citizen science project that has collected over 50,000 georeferenced records of frogs across Australia in its first year. Jodi is passionate about science communication, and translating scientific data into open-access, easily interpretable information, particularly via species conservation assessments.

<http://www.wchnz.com/wch2020>

LEFT: Dunedin, Tom Kirschey and Jodi Rowley presented "Adventures in amphibian conservation: from scientific expeditions to citizen science"





MISMANAGEMENT - NO MOW RIPARIAN ZONES SLASHED AGAIN BY MEANDER VALLEY COUNCIL



Above is an example of an area of riparian habitat where the red marked “no mow areas” have been ignored. Photo 6/2/2019 The image at the bottom is taken from the plan that accompanied the 2018 issued “Permit to Take”.

A local resident has written again to Meander Valley Council, DPIPWE, the Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding the Westbury Town Common (WTC). The letter was accompanied with detailed descriptions and photographs of the area slashed by Meander Valley Council (MVC) since the Permit to Take was issued in 2018. The Common is critical habitat for several threatened local species, including the Green and Gold Frog, *Litoria raniformis*. <https://www.threatenedspecieslink.tas.gov.au/Pages/Green-and-Gold-Frog.aspx>

The evidence provided would seem to indicate that MVC have breached the terms of the issued Permit to Take. Below left, is a

photograph taken at the WTC showing the MVC slashing has occurred down to the water level of the stream. This is clearly well outside the permit authorisation and represents a clear example of a very significant breach of the permit and maladministration.

The issued Permit to Take does not have a number of slashing events limit over the authorised period, but the frequency and severity of the slashing events being conducted by MVC, combined with the increased areas of slash and the clear disregard to the current NVA record of threatened species locations on the WTC is inconsistent with past practice and the intent of the Permit to Take.

It would be surprising if the Department envisaged that the MVC would have taken the unprecedented action to slash as severely and multiple times during the permit period. These actions are considered serious, even reckless, regarding the flora and fauna of the WTC. The effect of these actions are not far short of the MVC original plan (which was rejected by DPIPWE) of slashing, raking and baling the “fodder”, and have subjected the fauna and flora of the WTC to the same possibility of harm as their original plan.

Locals are not convinced based on the Council’s behaviour in this matter that the MVC have complied with their undertaking to DPIPWE made in the original submission seeking a Permit to Take. In issuing the Permit DPIPWE required MVC to comply with this undertaking as well as the additional conditions imposed. Will the Department take this matter seriously and take appropriate action? This situation cannot continue. If not acted upon swiftly, it can be seen that Council will not stop at three cuts this summer, taking full advantage of their permit before it expires. Given this attitude people are very concerned about the real engagement that MVC will undertake with the community to develop the required threatened species management plan to support a new Permit application. Active engagement of DPIPWE to ensure this matter is not continued in a “business as usual” way by MVC is critical.



LOCK THE GATE ALLIANCE & HORNSBY SHIRE CLIMATE ACTION

are campaigning to oppose the current proposal for a new Coal Seam Gas in the Narrabri area. Coal Seam Gas is known to be harmful to the environment, people and climate. If you would you like to learn more about this campaign there is an online Webinar you can attend on 5 April 2020. To RSVP follow this link: https://www.lockthegate.org.au/gas_vs_renewable_energy_forum_pennant_hills

Thanks, Grant Webster

TROPICAL SNAKE DECLINE LINKED TO DEADLY FROG DISEASE

The number of snake species declined from 30 to 21 after the chytridiomycosis outbreak. Researchers believe a decline in tropical snakes in Panama is linked to a deadly fungal disease in frogs.

Key points:

- Researchers were able to monitor frog and snake populations before and after the disease hit Panama
- Many of the snake species are frog eaters and likely died out as their food source diminished
- A similar scenario probably occurred in Australia when chytrid fungus first spread

The infectious chytrid fungus, which attacks the skin of amphibians, has devastated frog populations worldwide since it was first discovered in Queensland in 1993. Researchers knew that an outbreak of chytridiomycosis was inevitable at El Cope in Panama, and so they had time to gather plenty of data before the disease struck the forest ecosystem in 2004.

It turned out they were able to amass seven years of data on amphibian and reptile biodiversity at El Cope before the disease hit, and then continued gathering more data in the six years after the outbreak. After the disease took hold, the number of amphibian species including frogs declined by 75 per cent, they stated in a paper published in Science today. But the number of observed snake species also took a dive, from 30 prior to the outbreak down to 21 after.

Although snakes don't suffer directly from the disease, their decline was most probably caused by the loss of their food source, lead author Elise Zipkin of Michigan State University said. "Given that many snakes eat frogs or frogs' eggs, we hypothesised that there would be some negative consequences on snakes," Dr Zipkin said. "But we were surprised by the extent of the losses to snake diversity."

Research suggests the chytrid fungus originated in the Korean peninsula but Australian and Central American frogs have suffered the greatest declines from the chytridiomycosis disease. The extinction of seven Australian frogs has been linked to chytrid fungus, and 37

more have suffered serious population reductions, including our iconic corroboree frog and the tropical Tinker frog.

Most impacts probably happened before disease detection in Australia

Although it was first identified in the '90s, chytrid fungus is thought to have had its biggest impacts earlier than that. The gastric-brooding frog went extinct in Australia in 1979, the golden toad from Costa Rica in 1987, and worldwide frog declines were recorded during that period. But because the cause of these declines were unknown at the time, there is little data to understand what broader effect that had on other animals like snakes, according to ecologist Ben Scheele of the Australian National University, who wasn't involved with this study. "It's highly likely that similar declines [in snakes] occurred in Australia, but it's very difficult to quantify that," Dr Scheele said. "It's a bit intuitive, that if an animal's food source declines then it would too, but we haven't actually been able to observe that before. "[This study] is, it's really a breakthrough in terms of our understanding of this disease."

Frogs are an important food sources for a number of Australian snakes, including red-belly black and brown tree snakes. Of the 37 frogs that significantly declined due to chytridiomycosis in Australia, about a third are showing some recovery, Dr Scheele said. "Then there's about a third that have greatly declined but their populations are stable in reduced numbers, and the other third is those that are continuing to decline," he said.

Some frog species that are continuing to decline share habitats with other species that are resistant to the disease, which carry it and pass back to vulnerable frog species they come in contact with. Numerous species of Australian snakes are also declining, but it is difficult to distinguish between the effects of habitat loss, climate change, cane toads and chytrid fungus.

The research provides a strong example of the cascading effects of biodiversity loss, according to Dr Zipkin. But there are things we can do to combat the biodiversity crisis the world is currently facing, she said. "One of the biggest causes of biodiversity loss is loss of habitat. Protecting habitat is a critical first step." "Beyond that, we need to create policies that prevent the spread of non-native species and curb emissions to slow climate change."

And while these initiatives need to be government led, there are things that individuals can do too, according to Dr Zipkin. "People can do a lot to protect and conserve nature and native species, even in their backyards," she said. "Plant native species in your garden for pollinators, support local protected areas."

Forwarded to FrogCall by Marion Anstis
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2020-02-14/snakes-chytrid-fungus-frogs/11950680> By environment reporter Nick Kilvert 14 February 2020

LITORIA EWINGII AND LITORIA BURROWSAE



Raising these two species from tadpoles to frogs together has been both educational and a delight. They co-exist in nature and it is interesting to see how they co-exist in captivity.

Litoria ewingii, (top) the Common Brown Tree Frog, occurs in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. The Tasmanian Tree Frog, *Litoria burrowsae*, is endemic to Tasmania.

Evolutionally speaking, it is thought that the Brown Tree Frog has only been around in its current form for perhaps 8 million years. This is in stark contrast to the Tasmanian Tree Frog which has some 27 million years under its belt! It is likely that *Litoria burrowsae* is the second oldest *Litoria* species in Australia on the evolutionary timeline. *Litoria adelaidensis* is perhaps a few million years its senior!

The two frogs in this photo completed their metamorphosis within a few days of each other. This is a very telling image of the size difference in the relative size of each species at the time of becoming frogs.

For those interested in ferns, the backdrop fern is *Blechnum pattersonii* which occurs naturally within much of the range of both frog species. **Craig Broadfield Tasmania**

Ed: Build your own backyard pond. Craig Broadfield built a frog pond in the concrete backyard of his Ulverstone shop and you can too:

https://www.abc.net.au/radio/hobart/programs/evenings/frogs/11918396?fbclid=IwAR1OT4yxP7boyOKlcHblKydrAsXpcJfK33T_fxD2cDNd1W80zx_j9EnoLlc 6 minutes 5 seconds, broadcast 7pm 30 January 2020.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE FLIES IN EXPERTS TO ASSESS CORROBOREE FROGS

Ecologists are concerned the unique frogs have been hard hit by the recent bushfires.



Image Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment

The Australian Defence Force has flown threatened species experts to remote parts of Kosciuszko National Park to assess any damage to the endangered southern corroboree frog from the recent bushfires.

Enclosures based at four corroboree frog habitat sites were assessed by a team of specialists from the NSW Government’s Saving our Species program, Taronga Zoo and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. One of those enclosures had been burned, while another is threatened by an active fire.



Image: Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment

“Unfortunately, there has been damage to the habitat inside the enclosures and also to the irrigation equipment, but luckily the fences surrounding them remained secure,” NSW Environment Minister Matt Kean said. “Sadly, a number of the frogs perished and so all our efforts are now focused on protecting the remaining frogs by reinforcing moist habitat refuges in the enclosures and checking there’s enough food for the colourful but tiny amphibians.”

Captive populations of the frog are held by Taronga Zoo, Melbourne Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary, however, wild populations may have taken a hit during the recent bushfires.



Image: Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment

The small frog with striking yellow stripes on its black body has been decimated by the fatal amphibian chytrid fungus, which reduced the population from an estimated several hundred thousand individuals to just 20 since the 1980s. Scientists are also concerned about the pressure feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park are putting on surviving wildlife, as there is now competition for even less resources.

“We hovered [in a helicopter] over a key wetland for the northern corroboree frog that had not been burnt, deep in the alpine forest,” ecologist Professor Jamie Pittock wrote in *The Conversation*. “A group of feral horses stood in it. They had created muddy wallows, trampled vegetation and worn tracks that will drain the wetland if their numbers are not immediately controlled.”

There are now calls for an emergency cull of feral horses in the national park due to the increasing threat of extinction. **By Australian Geographic 31 January 2020**
<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2020/01/australian-defence-force-flies-in-experts-to-assess-corroboree-frogs/?fbclid=IwAR2A1wFa8f3GE06WT02Hc0B9EwZyXjaj5IepRPTKuQ8UTK7E5gU45RXwttc>

WANT TO HELP BUSHFIRE RECOVERY?

This citizen science project is easy and free. Want to help the bushfire recovery? This citizen science project is easy and free. Casey Kirchoff's home was one of the thousands that were lost in Australia's horrific summer of bushfires, where more than one million hectares were burnt, more than twenty people died, and at least 1 billion animals perished.

For Casey, coming back to her place in Wingello - a few hours South of Sydney - was almost indescribable. "Seeing it and knowing it's a place you loved...I can't find the word for it - it's shattering, really." An ecologist and PHD candidate at the University of New South Wales, Casey has felt the devastation especially deeply, as studying Australian flora is her life's work.

But while the bush around her home is burnt and blackened, Casey has managed to focus on looking forward - and finding solace in the bright green life already sprouting through the ash at her feet. "Coming out and seeing every single blade of grass, it's like - oh my gosh, it's coming back. "As an ecologist, I know what happens with bushfires, I know how it looks, but to actually see it recovering, it's really great." Casey wants to learn about how the biodiversity of bushfire-affected areas is recovering. But with so much land destroyed across the country, she needs your help.

Enter... the Environment Recovery Project

If you want to continue to help with the bushfire recovery process - especially if you can't afford to donate money to causes - the Environment Recovery Project by Casey, UNSW and the Centre for Ecosystem Science might be up your alley.

It's a free, crowdsourced project that's encouraging Australians to go out to bushfire affected areas - if it's safe to do so - and document what they see. "If people want to go out to see what's happening in the burnt areas, if it's safe to do so, if you see any regrowth on any of the plants, any seedlings, animals, that's what we want to know about," Casey said. You don't need fancy gear - just the camera on your phone. "All you need to do is log in, upload a photo, and you can add as much detail as you like."

What to document in fire-affected areas

- Plants (native and weeds): Seedling or resprout
- Animals (natives and ferals): Alive or dead, tracks and scats
- Fungi and Lichen
- Landscapes: Scorch height (how high the fires went) and the amount of leaves burnt in the canopy, shrubs, and ground cover.

So far the project - which officially launches tomorrow - has observations of fresh spider burrows, Eucalyptus sprouts, wombats, and brand new ferns. Casey says understanding how the environment responds, adapts and bounces back after extreme fires will be crucial for scientists as summers are expected to worsen. "We're going to be getting fires occurring more frequently and more intensely, which is predicted under climate change, ecologists are going to be focusing more and more on it. "If we can just get lots of eyes on the ground we can look at the fire intensity and what the plants are doing."

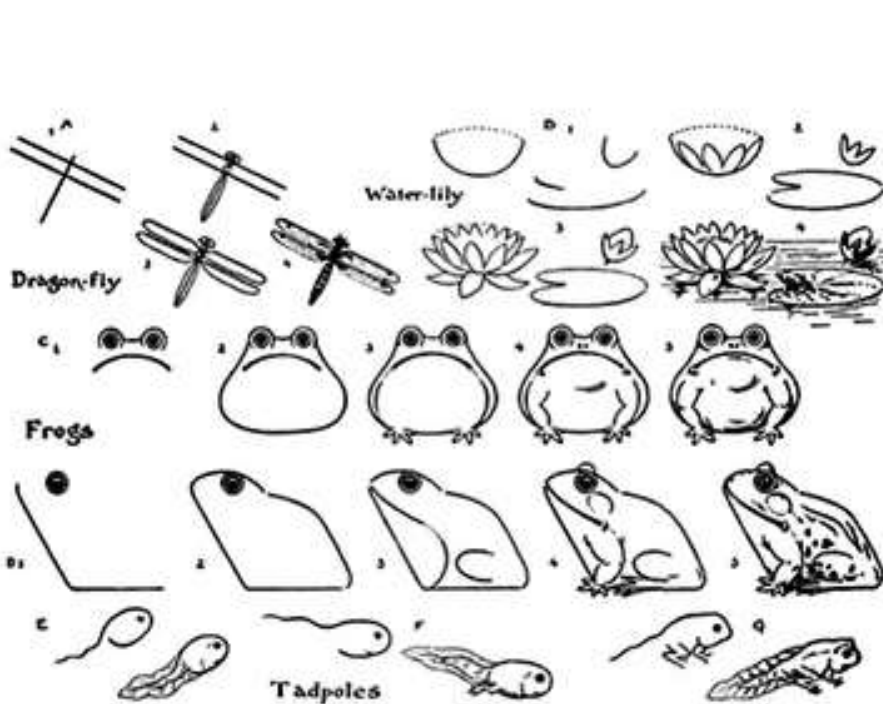
If you want to take part in the Environment Recovery Project, head to its page on iNaturalists.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/environment-recovery-project-australian-bushfires-2019-2020> 29
January 2020

<https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/citizen-science-project-bushfire-recovery-needs-your-help/11910486?fbclid=IwAR1V8FG9koBwLkIWrcHIXK19waIZB8mMv2neNdg0gJZO1Ebm8dNI3LM9tIw>



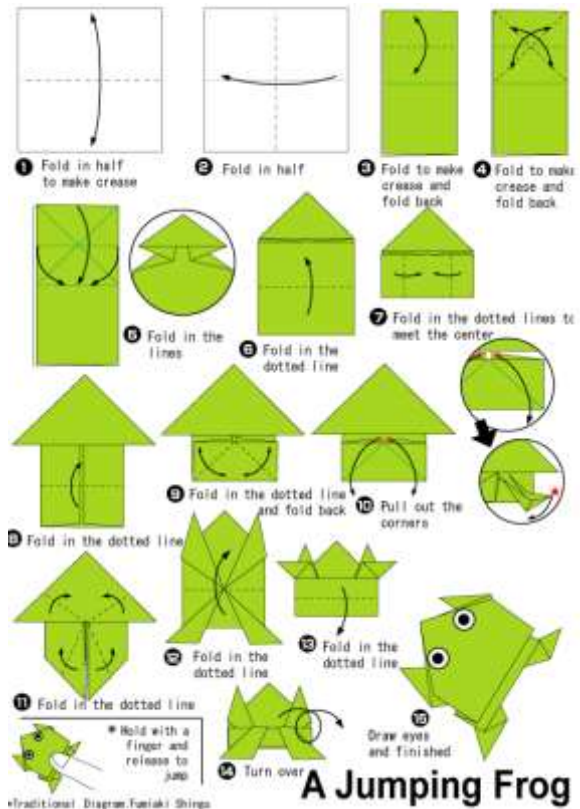
Above, Green Tree Frog *Litoria caerulea* watercolour With compliments Garth Coupland, for the use of FATS members
 Below How to draw ideas, taken from public domain site. Never give up – to colour in



NEVER GIVE UP!



to photocopy, enlarge, colour in or paint the uncoloured copied image. Enjoy





GREEN GLAM GODDESS

We have a lady on this show and most of you know, she goes by the name of the Green Glam Goddess the GGG and she's quite a sight to see. A superstar known for her stylish signature candy apple green, but this diva likes more outfits than you may have seen, heck she's a glamour queen. Some days she just can't make up her mind what she'll wear she goes from green to brown, she's all done up going to town. Then she changes back again for something in between, well what did I say she's a glamour queen.

White-lipped Tree Frog *Litoria infrafrenata* often has huge variations in colour and the reasons for the colour change is not always clear nor consistent, eg. 2nd row 2nd from left, two frogs same substrate one brown one green and

they remained that way for most of the day. Then there's times when no factors changed but the same frog 3rd row last two photos same frog changed colour from brown to green. So sometimes its due to camouflage makes sense, sometimes temperature as darker colours absorb more light etc, bottom right two frogs were grey and when the bottom one lifted its head it left a green imprint on the back of the other like a light sensitive reaction and then there's mood some other factor that we just don't know..... what ever the reason whatever it may be , our girls always look amazing as you can see.

David White

Ph +61 (07) 4098 7131 www.solarwhisper.com

Solar Whisper Crocodile and Wildlife Cruise

FATS MEETINGS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE They will then recommence 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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Our Fieldtrips Season is Over!

Our Spring / Summer fieldtrips have now concluded. It proved to be a most difficult and unusual season. Bushfires, or the imminent threat of bushfires, prompted authorities to withdraw permission for most of our fieldtrips. Sometimes these notifications came at a very late stage. While sometimes disappointing, we hope that all FATS members will understand these decisions, and the lateness with which these decisions do come. Fire situations can change quickly, and authorities make decisions in a constantly evolving situation.

It is part of our fieldtrips license that we comply with authorities in these matters. As it is also in the interest of member's safety, we happily accept the best advice of the authorities. We hope that members understand the need to work in with the various agencies on these issues.

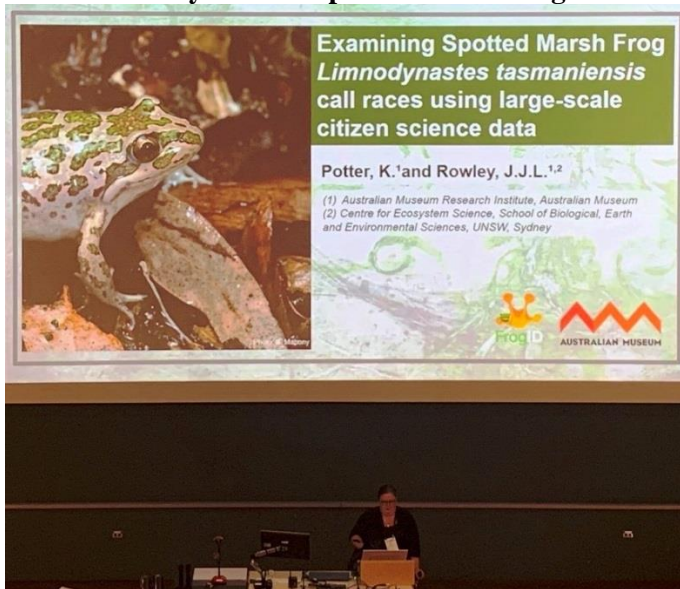
The Committee, and, we are sure, all members, would like to thank our team of intrepid leaders who volunteer their time and skills to conduct fieldtrips. The leaders put in a lot of time researching suitable sites, carry out numerous night's of frogging to thoroughly check out a site. It is particularly disappointing for the leaders to see their hard work go to waste, but they obligingly do this for FATS members year in, year out. We are truly grateful for their help and generosity.

We look forward to our next Spring /Summer fieldtrips program. This will commence in September. Keep watching for announcements in FrogCall. **R.W.**



Jordann Crawford-Ash "Bad neighbours" presentation. She spoke at our FATS meeting in February 2020 too!

Below Kathy Potter "Spotted Marsh Frog call races"



The 9th World Congress of Herpetology was held from 5-10 January in Dunedin, New Zealand. The Congress was fantastic, lots of new collaborations were sparked and everyone's talks went well! To top it all off, Tim Cutajar was awarded best student talk on frogs! Congratulations to Tim!

Jodi Rowley presented a keynote on "Adventures in amphibian conservation: from scientific expeditions to citizen science"

Jordann Crawford-Ash presented her Honours research "Bad neighbours? Amphibian chytrid fungus infection dynamics in three frog species of Sydney" (LEFT)

Brittany Mitchell presented her Honours research "High variability in Red Tree Frog advertisement calls may act as buffer to anthropogenic disturbance" Tim Cutajar presented his Honours research "Surveying frogs from the bellies of their parasites" BELOW



Kathy Potter presented "Examining Spotted Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis* call races using large-scale citizen science data" (LEFT) In addition, Research Associates Glenn Shea, Frank Lemckert and Renee Catullo presented research on "The tenses of existence of the skink *Eugongylus rufescens* (Shaw, 1802) (Scincidae)", "Life on the edge - Green and Golden Bell Frogs in a coastal lake" and "The undescribed frog diversity of the Australian Monsoonal Tropics"

HUGE thanks to the World Congress of Herpetology (who invited Jodi Rowley to present a keynote and supported her travel and organised an amazing meeting) and the Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW (who supported some student travel costs) ED: **Apologies the writer's name has been lost!**