

FROG CALL



THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

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

Email: fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au

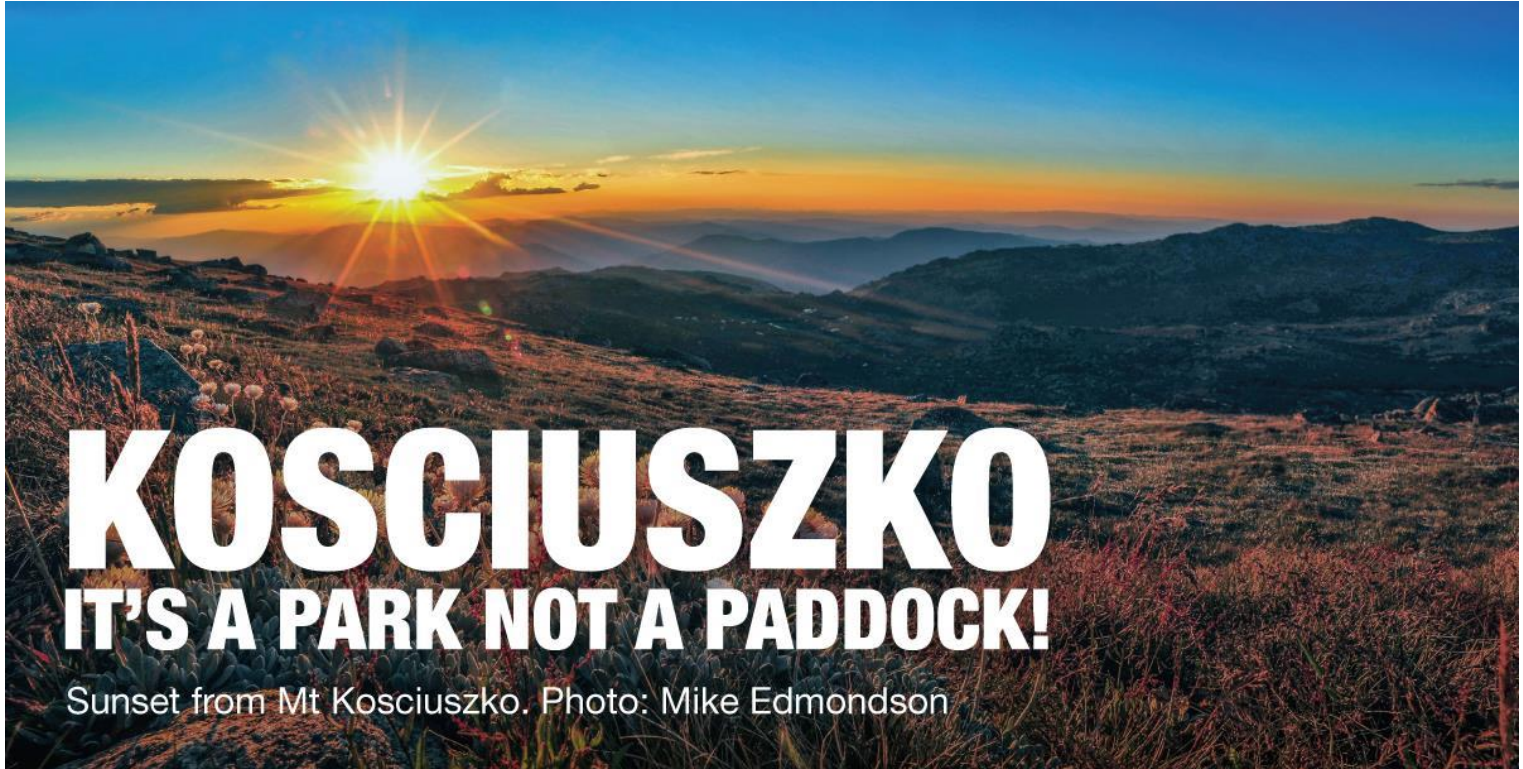
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NEWSLETTER No. 175 OCTOBER 2021



**WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET IN OCTOBER
DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS**

**Hopefully FATS will be able to host
a meeting in December 2021.**

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FATS 2022 FROG CALENDAR

FATS has received a large number of superb entries for our 2021 Frog-O-Graphic competition. Judging will be the hardest ever this year. To celebrate the talent of our photographers, we are organising a calendar using 14 photos from our competition. If you would like an A4 sized souvenir calendar for \$15 please contact Marion Anstis on frogpole@tpg.com.au or 02 9456 1698 no later than 20 October 2021 and advise her of how many copies you would like. MW

PROTECT THE UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS AND WILDLIFE OF KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

It's the unfolding disaster that we can still **stop**. Kosciuszko National Park is a unique piece of Australia. But right now, growing populations of feral horses are muddying Kosciuszko's clear streams, trampling its unique plants and destroying animal habitats.

We can have thousands of feral horses in the NSW Alps or have healthy ecosystems and abundant native wildlife, **but we can't have both**. Scientists say the only way to save the park is to dramatically reduce the numbers of feral horses. The NSW Government needs to act now if we want to save Kosci. Sign the petition to ask the NSW Government to: **Act urgently to protect the unique ecosystems and wildlife of Kosciuszko National Park by implementing a plan that reduces the feral horse population according to the best scientific and RSPCA advice.**

<https://reclaimkosci.org.au/sign-the-petition/>

**WE REGRET TO ADVISE THAT,
DUE TO COVID19 RESTRICTIONS,
THERE WILL BE NO ZOOM OR
FACE TO FACE
FATS OCTOBER 2021 MEETING.**

NATIONAL THREATENED SPECIES DAY

Australia is home to more than 500,000 animal and plant species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. Sadly, 1,000 species are listed as threatened in NSW.

We can't imagine a world without our wattle and wallabies, so we're committed to leaving a legacy that ensures the future of our state's native plants and animals is bright.

For Saving our Species, every day is about championing our threatened species. Each year on 7 September, we ramp up our conservation efforts even more, to mark National Threatened Species Day and raise awareness of the plants and animals at risk of extinction.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/help-save-our-threatened-species>
newsletter@sos.environment.nsw.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN REPTILE PARK BBQ

Depending on COVID restrictions The Australian Reptile Park will hold a Herp Societies BBQ around Sunday 5 December 2021.

Please contact them to confirm if the event can go ahead and what membership information you need to bring along to gain entry to the park and enjoy the free BBQ.

<https://youtu.be/XmY9y9qB1Jg> ANIMAL TALES Tim Faulkner talks about the life cycle of a frog! 🐸 A new educational series for students (and those young at heart) to stay connected with nature!

🐸🐸🐸☐ Don't forget to post your homework on our Facebook pages! <https://facebook.com/timswildlife/>

Phone 02 4340 1022 Email admin@reptilepark.com.au



www.reptilepark.com.au
Sign up to our newsletter for news, updates & offers!

WHAT ABOUT US?

We are Australia's unique alpine animals, now facing extinction as feral horses destroy our only home.



We are small (see our size relative to a horse's hoof below).

We are shy, rare, and difficult to find. Some of us are nocturnal.

In the wild we are only found in or near Australia's unspoilt alpine wetlands.

As feral horse numbers continue to rise unchecked, our fragile wetland homes are being trampled, and surrounding vegetation removed.

We have nowhere else to go.



RECLAIM KOSCI

Here's a new poster to share on your local noticeboard - whether it's a digital noticeboard or the old cork and thumbtacks kind 😊 Or maybe you're in lockdown with school-age kids? They might like to look at the poster, do their own research and think about its contents for themselves. The poster was created by Reclaim Kosci volunteer and science illustrator Gillian Carter, who also contributed to the Reclaim Kosci flowers project. Thank you Gillian! A high resolution version can be downloaded from the Resources section of the Reclaim Kosci web site: <https://reclaimkosci.org.au/downloads/>

DEAD AND DYING FROGS IN NSW

We are emailing to notify you of a temporary change to the release and rehoming policy of frogs in NSW. There have been multiple reports over the last few weeks of sick, dying and dead wild frogs across NSW. While the first cold snap of each year can result in a few localised frog mortalities, this outbreak has impacted more animals over a greater range than previously encountered. Key agencies are working together to coordinate a response and further investigate to try to determine the cause.

If you come into contact with any sick frogs or frogs that have died within 24hrs, please report this immediately to Karrie Rose from the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health (via call or text on 0402 553

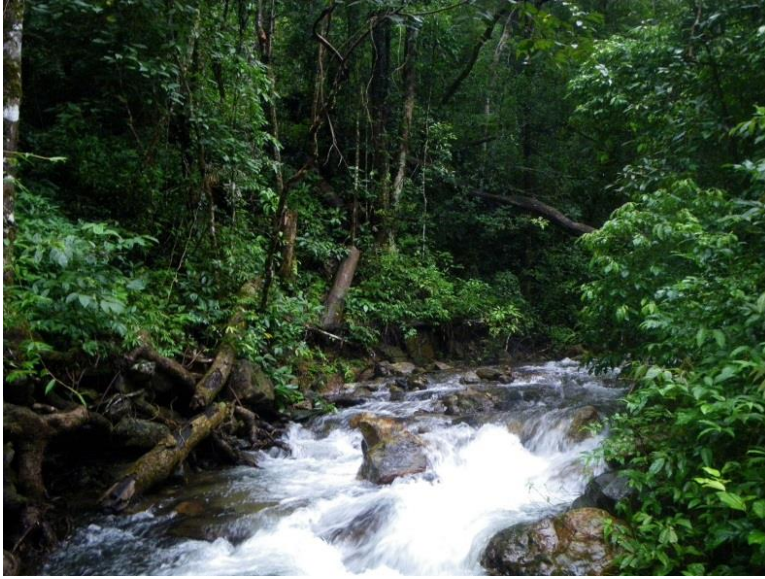
537). Following contact with Karrie, if appropriate arrangements may be made transport affected frogs to the Taronga Wildlife Hospital (Sydney NSW) for examination by Karrie Rose.

Please do not release or rehome any frogs until further notice. Do not release any frogs regardless of health, including if they are Chytrid free. Please do not rehome frogs that come from the wild (including 'banana box' frogs). If you are able to, please hold frogs that come into your care. If you are unable to hold frogs that come into your care, you must follow the current code of practice and frogs are to be euthanised. We will provide an update and advise when frogs can be rehomed or released once the investigation has concluded. We have not had any reports of frog deaths in captivity at this stage. **Best practice biosecurity measures are recommended if you come in contact with frogs:**

- Wearing a new pair of disposable Nitrile or latex, powder free gloves for handling each frog
- Use a clean plastic bag / cleanable container for transporting each frog (for live frogs, ensure the bag is not airtight).
- Isolate and quarantine all new frogs encountered. Keep each frog, tank and cleaning/feeding utensils separate. Frogs originating from the same location may be housed together as one isolation group.

Thank you for your support and assistance. Email from Natalie Izquierdo Team Leader Wildlife NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

A clear-flowing stream in the hilly evergreen forests of Vietnam, typical habitat for Asian Spadefoot Frogs (*Leptobrachium*). Image: Jodi Rowley © Australian Museum



In order to understand the true diversity of amphibians in the forests of Southeast Asia, we've been conducting collaborative expeditions in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, in search of frogs. For many years, we have been venturing into the forests, typically in the monsoon season, when most other biologists leave. We hike up into mountain streams and camp in hammocks or tents, searching for frogs by torchlight. In the face of deforestation, it's a race against time to discover what frogs call these forests home, so that they can be scientifically described, named, and taken into account in conservation decisions.

During our expeditions, we often encountered Asian Spadefoot Frogs (*Leptobrachium*). These rather large frogs are usually heard before they are seen; a deep “whoooooop” or “whup whup” call echoing through the forests on wet nights. Their tadpoles, large and long-lived, can also often be seen resting on the bottom of the clear streams running through the forest. However, seeing an adult Asian Spadefoot Toad can be tricky - they are often buried in the ground or under leaves, and when they are on the surface, they are usually extremely well camouflaged except for one thing... their eyes!

A CLOSER LOOK AT SPECTACULAR RED-EYED FOREST FROGS REVEALS A NEW SPECIES

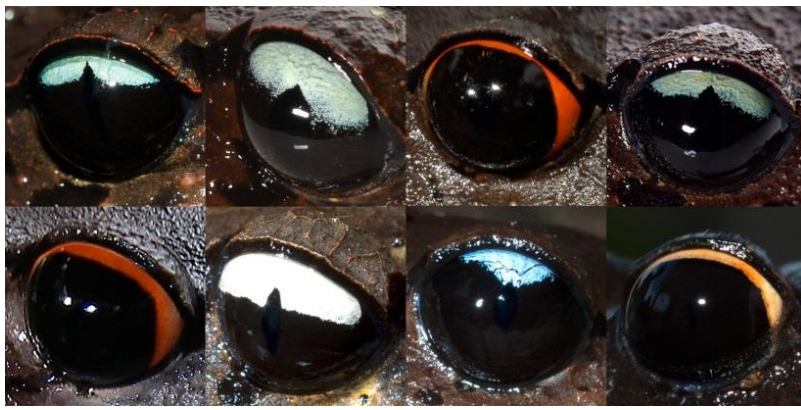
The Asian Spadefoot Frogs (*Leptobrachium*) are large frogs that inhabit evergreen forests throughout Asia and breed in clear, rocky streams. Although usually brown or grey to match their surroundings on the forest floor, their large eyes are often splashed with bright blue, green, red or white. During expeditions in search of frogs in the region, we often came across red-eyed Asian Spadefoot Frogs. By looking a little closer at their appearance, DNA and calls, we discovered a species that, until now, had been “hidden” from science. The Crescent Moon Spadefoot Frog (*Leptobrachium lunatum*) is only known from the forests of northeastern Cambodia and Central Vietnam, an area under threat from deforestation. Our discovery of this regal red-eyed frog highlights just how important these forests are.

Fieldwork camp in Virachey National Park, Cambodia, one of the places in which the Crescent Moon Spadefoot Frog (*Leptobrachium lunatum*) was found. From this camp in the grassland, we trekked deep into the forest to find frogs. Image: Jodi Rowley © Jodi Rowley



The Red-eyed Spadefoot Frog (*Leptobrachium pullum*), Vietnam. Image: Jodi Rowley © Australian Museum

Different species of Asian Spadefoot Frogs often sport a different coloured upper-iris, and that's one way you can tell species apart. However, some species share an eye colour. Until recently, two species of “red-eyed” Asian Spadefoot Frogs were known from Cambodia and Vietnam; *Leptobrachium pullum*, scientifically discovered almost 100 years ago, and *Leptobrachium mouhoti*, scientifically discovered less than a decade ago. However, there's been much confusion about exactly where each species was distributed, and just which of the two red-eyed frogs occurred on the Kon Tum Plateau of central Vietnam and adjacent northeastern Cambodia.



The eyes of Asian Spadefoot Frogs (*Leptobrachium*) are often washed with different colours. Image: Jodi Rowley © Australian Museum

We decided to solve the mystery surrounding these regal red-eyed frogs. We took a close look at the appearance of the red-eyed frogs and their tadpoles, their advertisement calls and their DNA. We realized that the red-eyed frogs from the central Vietnam and adjacent northeastern Cambodia were actually neither known species, but were actually a third species previously unknown to science! We named the species *Leptobrachium lunatum* after the crescent of red in its eye, as *lunatus* means “shaped like a crescent moon” in latin.

Like other Asian Spadefoot Frogs, the new species lives in forests and is likely to be under threat from ongoing deforestation in the region. Now that we have formally described the species and better understand the true distribution of each of the red-eyed Asian Spadefoot Frogs from the region, we can more accurately prioritise their conservation, a vital first step to ensuring that these amazing frogs are heard calling throughout the region for generations to come.



Above Forest loss in central Vietnam.

Image: Jodi Rowley © Jodi Rowley

Below Camp in the forest, Virachey National Park, Cambodia. Image: Jodi Rowley © Jodi Rowley



Dr Jodi Rowley, Australian Museum Research Institute & UNSW Sydney.

Dr Bryan Stuart, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, USA.

More information Stuart, B.L., Som, H.E., Neang, T., Hoang, H.D., Le, D.T.T., Dau, V.Q., Potter, K., & Rowley, J.J.L. (2020). Integrative Taxonomic Analysis Reveals a New Species of *Leptobrachium* (Anura: Megophryidae) from Northeastern Cambodia and Central Vietnam. [Journal of Natural History](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222933.2020.1756498). DOI: 10.1080/00222933.2020.1756498



Field team and departing helicopter, Virachey National Park, Cambodia. Image: Bryan Stuart © Bryan Stuart



Crescent Moon Spadefoot Frog (*Leptobrachium lunatum*) Cambodia. Image: Jodi Rowley © Jodi Rowley

You can read more about this paper here:
<https://australian.museum/blog/amri-news/new-species-red-eyed-leptobrachium/> Authors Dr Jodi Rowley, Dr Bryan Stuart 21 May 2020

We're honoured to be part of the team that was just awarded the Taylor & Francis EO Wilson Prize for 2020 for our paper: Bryan L. Stuart, Hannah E. Som, Thy Neang, Huy Duc Hoang, Duong Thi Thuy Le, Vinh Quang Dau, Kathy Potter & Jodi J. L. Rowley (2020) Integrative taxonomic analysis reveals a new species of *Leptobrachium* (Anura: Megophryidae) from north-eastern Cambodia and central Vietnam, *Journal of Natural History*, 54:1-4, 225-255, DOI: 10.1080/00222933.2020.1756498

This award is for the paper voted the best in the *Journal of Natural History* in 2020. Particular congratulations to lead author and long-term collaborator, Dr Bryan Stuart!

DEAD, SHRIVELLED FROGS ARE UNEXPECTEDLY TURNING UP ACROSS EASTERN AUSTRALIA. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND OUT WHY



[Jodi Rowley](#)

Curator, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Biology, UNSW, Australian Museum



[Karrie Rose](#)

Australian Registry of Wildlife Health - Taronga Conservation Society Australia, University of Sydney

Jodi Rowley is the Lead Scientist of the Australian Museum's citizen science project, FrogID. She has received funding from the NSW Saving Our Species program and other state, federal and philanthropic agencies. Karrie Rose leads the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health, a collaboration between Taronga Conservation Society Australia and the University of Sydney. The Registry is funded by Taronga Conservation Society Australia, service agreements and project-based funding from state, commonwealth and philanthropic agencies.. University of Sydney provides funding.

Over the past few weeks, we've received a flurry of emails from concerned people who've seen sick and dead frogs across eastern Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

One person wrote: About a month ago, I noticed the Green Tree Frogs living around our home showing signs of lethargy & ill health. I was devastated to find about 7 of them dead. **Another wrote:** We previously had a very healthy population of green tree frogs and a couple of months ago I noticed a frog that had turned brown. I then noticed more of them and have found numerous dead frogs around our property. And another said she'd seen so many dead frogs on her daily runs she had to "seriously wonder how many more are there".

So what's going on? The short answer is: we don't really know. How many frogs have died and why is a mystery, and we're relying on people across Australia to help us solve it.

Why are frogs important? Frogs are an integral part of healthy Australian ecosystems. While they are usually small and unseen, they're an important thread in the food web, and a kind of environmental glue that keeps ecosystems functioning. Healthy frog populations are usually a good indication of a healthy environment.



The stony creek frog is one of the species hit by this mysterious outbreak. Jodi Rowley, Author provided

They eat vast amounts of invertebrates, including pest species, and they're a fundamental food source for a wide variety of other wildlife, including birds, mammals and reptiles. Tadpoles fill our creeks and dams, helping keep algae and mosquito larvae under control while they too become food for fish and other wildlife. But many of Australia's frog populations are imperilled from multiple, compounding threats, such as habitat loss and modification, climate change, invasive plants, animals and diseases.

Although we're fortunate to have at least 242 native frog species in Australia, 35 are considered threatened with extinction. At least four are considered extinct: the southern and northern gastric-brooding frogs (*Rheobatrachus silus* and *Rheobatrachus vitellinus*), the sharp-snouted day frog (*Taudactylus acutirostris*) and the southern day frog (*Taudactylus diurnus*).

A truly unusual outbreak In most circumstances, it's rare to see a dead frog. Most frogs are secretive in nature and, when they die, they decompose rapidly. So the growing reports of dead and dying frogs from across eastern Australia over the last few months are surprising, to say the least.

While the first cold snap of each year can be accompanied by a few localised frog deaths, this outbreak has affected more animals over a greater range than previously encountered. This is truly an unusual amphibian mass mortality event.

In this outbreak, frogs appear to be either darker or lighter than normal, slow, out in the daytime (they're usually nocturnal), and are thin. Some frogs have red bellies, red feet, and excessive sloughed skin.



**A browned, shrivelled green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*)
Suzanne Mcgovern, Author provided**

The iconic green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*) seems hardest hit in this event, with the often apple-green and plump frogs turning brown and shrivelled. This frog is widespread and generally rather common. In fact, it's the ninth most commonly recorded frog in the national citizen science project, FrogID. But it has disappeared from parts of its former range.

Other species reported as being among the sick and dying include Peron's tree frog (*Litoria peronii*), the Stony Creek frog (*Litoria lesueuri*), and green stream frog (*Litoria phyllochroa*). These are all relatively common and widespread species, which is likely why they have been found in and around our gardens.

We simply don't know the true impacts of this event on Australia's frog species, particularly those that are rare, cryptic or living in remote places. Well over 100 species of frog live within the geographic range of this outbreak. Dozens of these are considered threatened, including the Booroolong Frog (*Litoria booroolongensis*) and the giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*).



The giant barred frog is a threatened species that lives in the geographic range of this outbreak. Jodi Rowley, Author provided

So what might be going on? Amphibians are susceptible to environmental toxins and a wide range of parasitic, bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens. Frogs globally have

been battling it out with a pandemic of their own for decades — a potentially deadly fungus often called amphibian chytrid fungus. This fungus attacks the skin, which frogs use to breathe, drink, and control electrolytes important for the heart to function. It's also responsible for causing population declines in more than 500 amphibian species around the world, and 50 extinctions.

For example, in Australia the bright yellow and black southern corroboree frog (*Pseudophryne corroboree*) is just hanging on in the wild, thanks only to intensive management and captive breeding.



The teeny tiny Southern Corroboree Frogs have been hit hard by the chytrid fungus. Jodi Rowley, Author provided

Curiously, some other frog species appear more tolerant to the amphibian chytrid fungus than others. Many now common frogs seem able to live with the fungus, such as the near-ubiquitous Australian common eastern froglet (*Crinia signifera*). But if frogs have had this fungus affecting them for decades, why are we seeing so many dead frogs now? Well, disease is the outcome of a battle between a pathogen (in this case a fungus), a host (in this case the frog) and the environment. The fungus doesn't do well in warm, dry conditions. So during summer, frogs are more likely to have the upper hand.

In winter, the tables turn. As the frog's immune system slows, the fungus may be able to take hold. Of course, the amphibian chytrid fungus is just one possible culprit. Other less well-known diseases affect frogs.

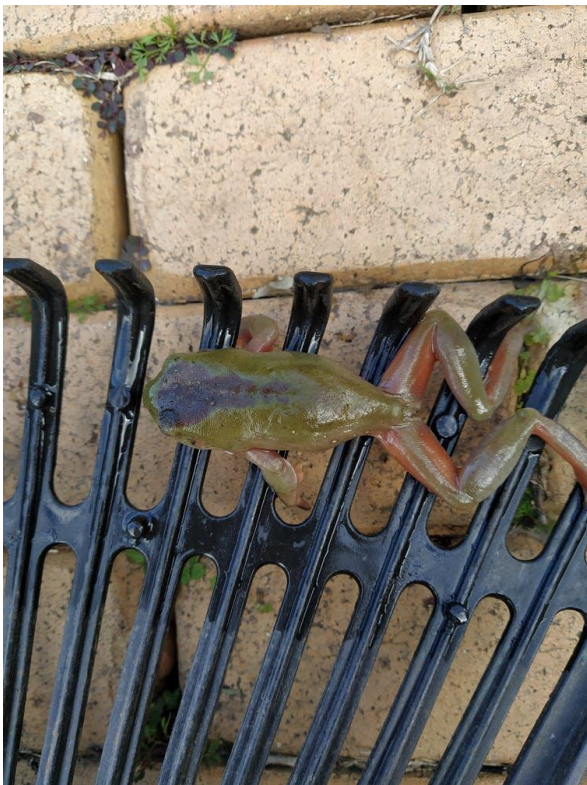


The near-ubiquitous Australian common eastern froglet is one species that seems able to live with the devastating chytrid fungus. Jodi Rowley, Author provided

Continued from P7 To date, the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health has confirmed the presence of the amphibian chytrid fungus in a very small number of sick frogs they've examined from the recent outbreak. However, other diseases — such as *ranavirus*, myxosporean parasites and trypanosome parasites — have also been responsible for native frog mass mortality events in Australia.

It's also possible a novel or exotic pathogen could be behind this. So the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health is working with the Australian Museum, government biosecurity and environment agencies as part of the investigation.

Here's how you can help While we suspect a combination of the amphibian chytrid fungus and the chilly temperatures, we simply don't know what factors may be contributing to the outbreak.



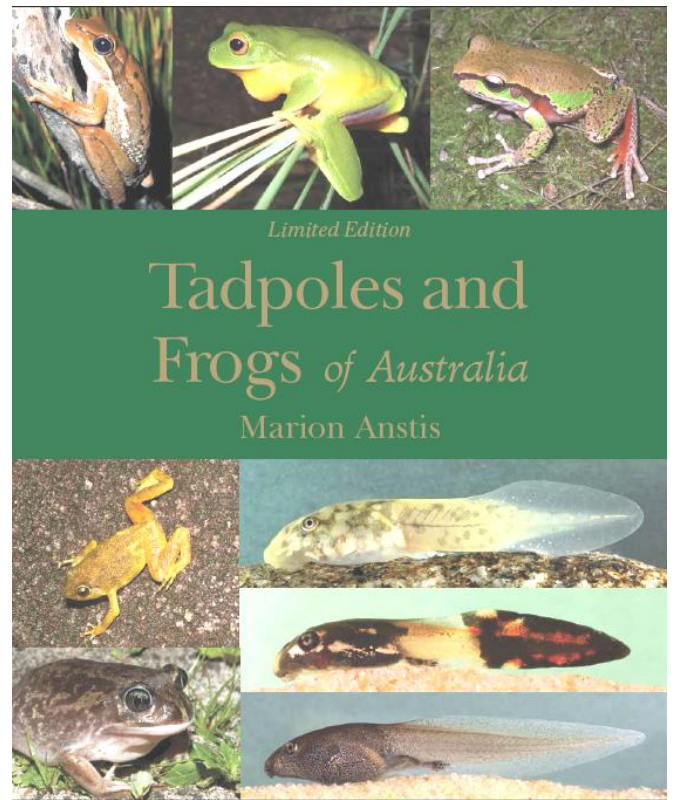
Why green tree frogs are dying en masse is still a mystery. Sophie Hendry, Author provided

We also aren't sure how widespread it is, what impact it will have on our frog populations, or how long it will last.

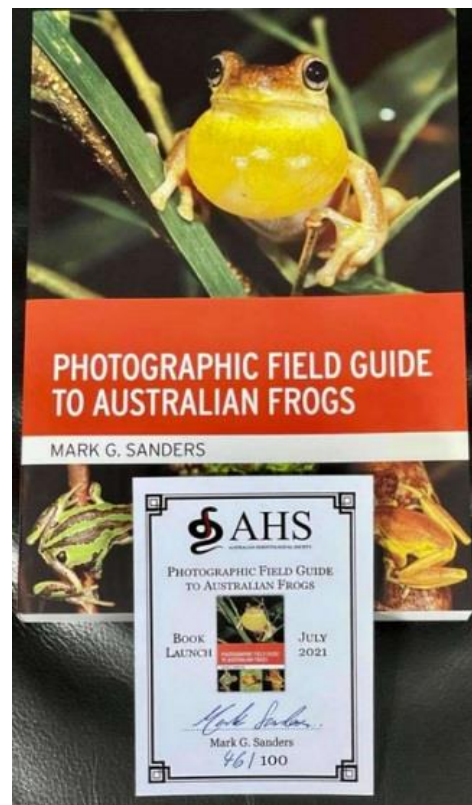
While the temperatures stay low, we suspect our frogs will continue to succumb. If we don't investigate quickly, we will lose the opportunity to achieve a diagnosis and understand what has transpired. We need your help to solve this mystery. **Please send any reports of sick or dead frogs (and if possible, photos) to us, via the national citizen science project FrogID, or email calls@frogid.net.au.** 29 July 2021

<https://theconversation.com/dead-shrivelled-frogs-are-unexpectedly-turning-up-across-eastern-australia-we-need-your-help-to-find-out-why-165176> Forwarded to FATS by Punia Jeffery

Arthur White will provide members with more information in our December bumper colour edition of FrogCall.



Marion Anstis comprehensive reference book on Australian tadpoles and frogs. A great Christmas present!



<https://ahs.org.au/shop/> **SPECIAL DEAL, LIMITED EDITION \$50 MARK G SANDERS' BOOK "PHOTOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN FROGS"** 100 signed books and numbered bookplates. Copies available at Australian Herpetological Society AHS Visit link above. This latest book on the frogs of Australia, includes detailed descriptions, photographs and range maps of 242 species of Australian frogs. The AHS has a limited stock of 100 copies which are personally signed by the author Mark G Sanders.

PUSH TO SAVE AUST FROGS FACING EXTINCTION

Australia has more than 240 species of frogs but a team of scientists says urgent action is needed to protect many of them from extinction within a few decades.



At least 15 more species of Australian frogs could be extinct by 2040 without efforts to save them.

A national team of 29 frog scientists from universities, government agencies, zoos and museums have identified the species most at risk and the conservation efforts needed to save them in a new study. There are four frog species officially recognised as extinct but the Threatened Species Recovery Hub research found three more that are highly likely to be already extinct and four that are still alive in the wild but highly likely to be extinct by 2040. Five more species were found to be at moderate risk of extinction by 2040. Co-author and frog expert Dr Graeme Gillespie said climate change and an amphibian fungal disease were the primary threats to Australian frogs. Habitat loss, invasive fish and pigs were also major threats for some species. "Preventing extinctions is possible but will require a significant increase in management effort and

investment," Dr Gillespie said. "To allow species to survive in the wild we need to identify, create and protect wild refuges." The research, published in Pacific Conservation Biology on Friday, found species at risk in every state and territory except South Australia and Tasmania. **Gina Rushton 21/8/2021 Forwarded to FATS by Marion Anstis.**

<https://7news.com.au/technology/science/push-to-save-aust-frogs-facing-extinction-c-3738938>



Here is another beautiful watercolour by Garth Copland. Copy the image below and colour in.



VET SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMS SURGERY ON GRACILENTA FROG LESS THAN 2CM IN LENGTH



RSPCA vet Meaghan Barrow performed surgery on this tiny *Litoria gracilentata* recently. Supplied: Meaghan Barrow

The RSPCA cares for "all creatures great and small" and they do not come much smaller than the graceful tree frog Brisbane veterinarian Meaghan Barrow successfully performed surgery on recently.

Key points:

- . The injured frog was less than two centimetres in length and less than half a gram in weight
- . Meaghan Barrow successfully sedated and sutured the frog using tiny instruments and diluting its medication
- . The frog has been released into the wild

"It's the smallest animal that I've ever done surgery on," Dr Barrow told ABC Radio Brisbane. "This graceful tree frog is less than two centimetres long and less than half a gram in weight. So a tiny, tiny frog. He could fit on the end of my finger."

The senior wildlife veterinarian said the frog was found at the RSPCA's Wacol facility, having hitched a ride on some foliage.

"One of our vet nurses found him on some leaves that had been brought in to feed some of our koalas. She brought him into the clinic to me and she was really worried, she said 'he seems to have a lump on the side of his body'."



Vet saves tiny frog by performing surgery on it.

"I had a close look and he actually had a little hole, it was only a couple of millimetres but on a tiny frog that's only two centimetres long, that's quite a big hole inside of his chest. He was quite badly injured." The animal's tiny lung and intestines were poking out of a small hole in its thorax.

Surgery of single suture

While the assessment was straightforward, treatment for the amphibian was more complicated.

"It was a bit tricky because he was so small and obviously, we're used to treating animals that are a lot bigger," Dr Barrow said. "In order to treat him, we had to anaesthetise him so that he was sedated enough to fix his wound. We had to dilute the medication by one in 1,000, to get a tiny, tiny dose to be able to make him go to sleep so he couldn't feel anything. We just had to use very tiny instruments, tiny needle and suture materials to pick him up." Dr Barrow said the trickiest part was steadying her hands to suture the tiny frog.

"His skin is so thin, frogs have really thin skin that they absorb oxygen and things through and that just makes it really difficult."

Dr Barrow managed to close up the hole with a single, dissolvable suture and a day after the surgery, the frog was hopping around and had his colour back. "Sometimes when they have surgery and injury their colour changes to brown but very quickly he was bright green again and happy."

The frog was fed tiny mealworms and had pain relief and antibiotics diluted again by 1,000 times. "I've done surgery on green tree frogs, which are sort of palm-sized. You learn to treat so many different animals that you have to be adaptable and try the skills that you'd apply to a dog or a cat, to any species."

The frog was released into the wild a week later. "It's just really rewarding to be able to offer help," Dr Barrow said.

[ABC Radio Brisbane](#) By [Edwina Seselja](#) and [Ellen-Maree Elliot](#) Posted Mon 19 Jul 2021 at 4:02pm Monday 19 Jul 2021 at 4:02pm, updated Mon 19 Jul 2021 at 6:33pm Monday 19 Jul 2021 at 6:33pm Forwarded to FATS by Marion Anstis

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-19/brisbane-vet-successfully-performs-surgery-graceful-tree-frog/100304502?utm_campaign=news-article-share-control&utm_content=mail&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web

The FATS meeting usually commences at 7 pm, (arrive from 6.30 pm) and ends about 10 pm, at the Education Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay, **however the October 2021 meeting is cancelled due to COVID restrictions There will be no ZOOM meeting.** FATS meetings are usually held on the first Friday of every EVEN month February, April (except Good Friday), 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 over 3,820 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, cartoons, events and habitats from all over the world. The page was created 10 years ago and includes dozens of information files – just keep scrolling to see them all. <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. NSW pet frog licences, can be obtained from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (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 sick. Please take you new, formerly wild pet to an experienced herpetological vet for an annual check-up and possible worming and/or antibiotics after adoption. Some vets offer discounts for pets that were rescued wildlife.

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

FATS has student memberships 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, event 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, Grant Webster, Andrew Nelson, Josie Styles, Wendy & Phillip Grimm and Marion Anstis.



FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728

FATS COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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Monica Wangmann	Editor		monicawangmann@gmail.com
Andre Rank and Luc Streit	General Committee members		

FATS MAY BE ABLE TO CONDUCT OUR NOVEMBER 2021 SMITHS LAKE CAMP OUT

FATS may be able to hold our Smiths Lake field trip in November, depending on COVID19 restrictions at the time.

Please contact Arthur or Karen White by email white.kazzie@gmail.com to register your interest as soon as possible.

They will advise you by late October if the trip can proceed and whether a place is available. Due to strong demand and health restrictions, numbers are limited. Be sure to leave a contact number if you ring them. **COVID19 restrictions and fires can mean last minute changes to our plans. It is YOUR responsibility to re-confirm in the last couple of days, whether the field trip is proceeding or has been cancelled.** Phone Arthur or Karen on 02 9599 1161

In the event of uncertain frogging conditions e.g. prolonged/severe drought, hazardous and/or torrential rain, bushfires etc., please phone 02 9599 1161. 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.

12 – 14 November Smiths Lake Camp-Out Leaders: Karen and Arthur White

Our Smiths Lake trip has become such a popular destination that changes were made to ensure that everyone gets a chance to go. We have changed the booking arrangements, which will include a **non-refundable** pre-payment. This arrangement is in case we have too many people wanting to go on the field trip. Due to fires previously in the area and COVID restrictions, please confirm with Karen, a couple of days before 12/11, if the trip will proceed. Pre-payments are refunded if the university, FATS or National Parks cancels the booking.

1. For the November field trip, you must email Karen White white.kazzie@gmail.com by the 29 September 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 Smiths 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 15 October 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. Cost is \$17.50 per person, per night.

Account Name: Frog and Tadpole Study Group BSB 082 342 Account No. 285 766 885

3. Karen will send you a confirmation of your booking when your payment has been received.
4. Karen will email people on the Reserve list. 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 20 October. 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 Smiths Lake.

AUSTRALIAN REPTILE PARK (ARP) BBQ

Sunday 5 December Contact ARP a few days before to confirm if BBQ for herp groups is still on. See page 2

Smiths Lake Photo by Riona Twomey Tindal

Arthur White Smiths Lake 2019 photo by Andre Rank

Smiths Lake March 2015 Michelle Toms Small-eyed Snake

