

# 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. 181 OCTOBER 2022

Green-eyed Tree Frog, *Litoria genimaculata*  
Daintree Region Image by Alexander Dudley



2019 Whitley Award recipient for the book *Faunaverse Wildlife in poetry Tasmania* [www.faunaverse.com.au](http://www.faunaverse.com.au)  
Natural heritage interpretation and fauna surveys.

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

Arrive from 6.30 pm or a 7pm start.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**FATS meets 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. Turn right into P10f car park.

Or enter from Bennelong Rd/Parkway. It's a short stretch of two way road. Turn left.

Park in P10f car park, the last car park before the Bennelong Rd. exit gate.

## FATS MEETING 7PM FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

**6.30 pm** Lost frogs seeking forever homes: Please bring your membership card and \$50 cash donation. Sorry, we don't have EFTPOS. Your NSW NPWS amphibian licence must be sighted on the night. Adopted frogs can never be released. Contact us before the night and FATS will confirm if any frogs are ready to rehome.

**7.00 pm** Welcome and announcements.

**8.00 pm** Main speaker: Chad Beranek from Newcastle University. talking about "Winners and Losers of forest amphibians after the 2019-2020 black summer fires".

**9.00 pm** People attending will get a chance to select the People's Choice winner from the Frog-O-Graphic entries.

**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.

## CONTENTS

## PAGE

- Frog-O-Graphic People's Choice award voting 2
- Call for frog photos with flies
- Marion Anstis and Grant Webster new genus
- G&GB Frog auditory surveys
- Wetland revival Wirra-Lo 3
- 6 new frog species Mexico 4
- Chadley Beranek, main speaker 5
- Playschool casting callout
- FrogID project
- Royal Zoological Society fellows 6
- Plagues of hard hoofed animals
- Call for PhD student, Melbourne
- Urbanisation and frogs 7
- GARD conference
- 2022 FATS AGM minutes 8
- Invasive ants 9
- Contacts and information 11
- FATS field trips 12



Frog-biting midges are parasites that find frogs by following the sound of their calls.

Image: Timothy Cutajar © Australian Museum

### FROG FLIES AND OTHER BITIES

**S**ome frogs can be extremely hard to find, and it turns out the best way to detect rare species might be through their parasites! Frog-biting flies feed on frogs' blood, so we can collect these flies and sequence DNA from the frog blood they've eaten to confirm the presence of threatened frog species. PhD student Tim Cutajar is developing this technique, but needs your frog photos to improve our understanding of these poorly-known flies.

Tim is building a database of frog/fly interactions to understand which flies parasitise which frogs, and ultimately determine what can be done to make the technique most effective. Frog-biting flies can be very inconspicuous, and you might have already photographed valuable interactions without even knowing it!

You can support frog conservation research by combing through your frog photos for frog-biting flies, and sending them to Tim.

For more information and to submit your snaps, go to [tinyurl.com/frogflies](https://tinyurl.com/frogflies) ! <https://australian.museum/blog/amri-news/its-csi-frogs-edition-and-we-need-you/> Timothy Cutajar  
 Timothy.Cutajar@australian.museum

### NEW FROG GENUS - ANSTISIA

**M**arion Anstis, Amphibian Champion, was interviewed by Patricia Karvelas on ABC Radio National breakfast program. Well done! For those who missed the segment here is the link (6 minutes 25 seconds).

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/frogs-named-after-teacher-turned-amphibian-champion/13950960>

Retired music teacher turned scientist, Marion Anstis got the surprise of her life when she received a call to say a new genus of frogs was going to be named in her honour. The naming recognises Marion's longtime love of the Australian amphibians, which saw her circumnavigate the country in her campervan - doubling as a lab - and record frog species.



### GREEN AND GOLDEN BELL FROG AUDITORY SURVEYS

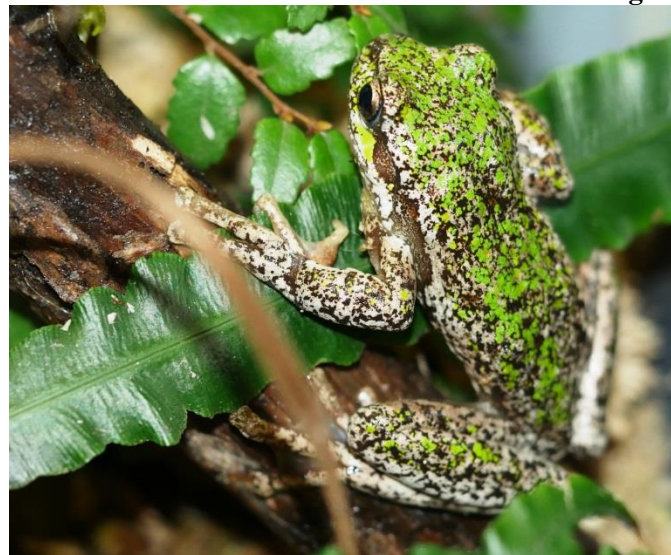
**A**t our October meeting FATS president Arthur White will be asking for volunteers for the Green and Golden Bell Frog auditory surveys at Sydney Olympic Park - to be held in November and December 2022.

### 2022 FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD VOTING

**T**hank you and good luck to all the FATS members who entered our 2022 Frog-O-Graphic competition. People attending the October FATS meeting can vote for their favourite image – the People's Choice Award.

The competition winners' images may be displayed in our December FrogCall No. 182, other FATS publications and our web site. Prizes will be awarded at our 2 December 2022 meeting, followed by our speaker's presentation and traditional fancy Christmas supper .

Image by Craig Broadfield 2021  
 Endemic *Litoria burrowsae* Tasmanian Tree Frog





## WETLAND REVIVAL TRUST HOPES TO RAISE FUNDS TO BUY WIRRA-LO CONSERVATION PROPERTY IN VICTORIA



Wetland Revival Trust fundraises to buy Wirra-Lo.  
*Supplied: Wetland Revival Trust*

**A** unique property in northern Victoria that is home to 30 threatened species, including the Australasian bittern and growling grass frog, is up for sale and a not-for-profit ecological trust is hoping it can raise the funds to continue the vision of its current owners.

### Key points:

- The Wetland Revival Trust needs to raise funds by mid-August so it can purchase the 180-hectare conservation property at Murrabit West
- The property was once a dairy farm but now is home to 30 threatened species
- Barapa Barapa man Ricky Kirby is thrilled by the property's transformation

Ken and Jill Hooper purchased Wirra-Lo in the 1980s and the summer pastures that were grown there complemented their dairy business in nearby Cohuna.



The nationally threatened growling grass frog can be heard at Wirra-Lo. *Supplied: Damien Cook*

Wetland Revival Trust senior ecologist Damien Cook has been working with the couple to repair and preserve the property since 2014 and said the Hoopers were fantastic observers of the natural world. "Even when they were farming it, they were using the run-off irrigation water to keep the wetlands healthy," he said. When the Hoopers retired from farming they placed a conservation covenant on Wirra-Lo to ensure its natural values would be retained.

**Floods revealed a secret** Mr Cook said the 2011 floods revealed the 11 wetlands on the property and sparked the regeneration of native plants. "Ken has been working now to deliver water to each of those wetlands and create habitat for a

huge diversity of species," he said. So far 127 native wildlife species have been recorded at Wirra-Lo as well as 130 native plants. But the Hoopers have decided to sell the property and the Wetland Revival Trust wants to step up and buy it.

"There's a huge opportunity. We can carry forward the vision Ken and Jill had to restore the wetlands and keeping this place available for the community to use, so kids can come here and learn about Aboriginal culture, ecosystems and biodiversity," Mr Cook said.

**Using water to future-proof land** Thirty of the native plant species have been reintroduced to the property and eight of those are rare and threatened. "It's a great example of what can be done with environmental restoration and using environmental water to future-proof the landscape," Mr Cook said.



Barapa Barapa man Ricky Kirby and Wetland Revival Trust senior ecologist Damien Cook at Brolga Swamp, which is one of the 11 wetlands on Wirra-Lo. *(Supplied)*

The federal government's [State of the Environment report was released earlier this month](#) and Mr Cook said some of the findings were dire. "We're continuing to lose habitat, threatened species are becoming more threatened and climate change impacts like bushfires and droughts have wreaked a massive toll on our wildlife," he said. The trust has until mid-August to raise \$750,000 to buy the property and help continue the conservation work at Wirra-Lo. "It's pretty ambitious. I'm always up for a challenge," Mr Cook said.

**Country restored** Barapa Barapa man Ricky Kirby is pleased Wirra-Lo has been transformed into a conservation property and he is hopeful an Indigenous ranger position could be created. "When I see country coming back to its natural state it's like a healing. When the country looks healthy it makes us feel healthy too," he said. During his most recent visit Mr Kirby spotted a swan on Brolga Swamp. "I haven't really seen a swan on a nest since I was a kid and I'm over 50," he said. **Vic Country Hour By Kellie Hollingworth 28 Jul 2022** [https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-28/wetland-revival-trust-fundraising-to-buy-conservation-property/101272802?utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_content=facebook&utm\\_medium=content\\_shared&utm\\_source=abc\\_news\\_web&fbclid=IwAR1bMU-NgwvYwDTCmCJ9pC\\_fwUz8\\_i0fH2NVaCaXlntX-SnLM5DWktXKI](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-28/wetland-revival-trust-fundraising-to-buy-conservation-property/101272802?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=facebook&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web&fbclid=IwAR1bMU-NgwvYwDTCmCJ9pC_fwUz8_i0fH2NVaCaXlntX-SnLM5DWktXKI)



## SIX NEW SPECIES OF MINIATURE FROG DISCOVERED IN MEXICO



Image source, Eric Smith/The University of Texas at Arlington The frogs fit on coins the size of a British 50p or a little larger than a US quarter dollar

**S**ix new species of miniature frogs have been discovered in the forests of Mexico. The species are so tiny that they fit on top of a British 50p coin with lots of room to spare. They are among the smallest frogs in the world and are no larger than 15 millimetres (0.6 inches). They were undetected for so long due to their small stature, colouring and their similarity to existing species.

"These frogs live in the dark, humid leaf litter of the forests and we don't really know anything about what goes on there. We don't understand their behaviour, how they socialise, or how they breed," says Tom Jameson, a researcher at the University of Cambridge. Leaf litter is made up of dead plants or leaves that have fallen to the ground. The species are not widespread across the country and are mostly found in pine-oak forests, in the Sierra Madre del Sur region in southern Mexico.



Image source, The University of Texas at Arlington One of the frogs recently discovered, called the *Craugastor bitonium*

Scientists want the species to be classified as endangered, because the frogs' habitat is declining in quality and they haven't been found in many regions.

"We need to make sure that they don't just get wiped off the map because no-one even knows they're there," says Dr Jameson. It is believed that they play an important role in the ecosystem as a source of food.

The frogs face multiple threats from habitat loss and climate change, to a deadly fungal disease that is wiping out amphibian populations across the world. Many of them live in a very small area, for example in one small forest on a single mountainside.

Size was not the only barrier to the frogs' discovery. They live in territory occupied by armed groups linked to serious crime and violence.

Their presence, typically associated with large drug cartels, made areas of Mexico too dangerous to visit, preventing the researchers looking for frogs in some parts of the country.

"Despite the progress made in identifying the new species, more research is needed to understand the diversity of miniature amphibians in Mexico," says Professor Eric Smith from the University of Texas, US.

Image source, The University of Texas at Arlington The *Craugastor cueyatl* - cueyatl means 'frog' in one of Mexico's indigenous languages Nahuatl



The researchers are hopeful that there is a future for the tiny frogs. They hope to work with the government and non-government organisations in Mexico to create connected zones where the six new species live.

This would potentially give the frogs a better chance of survival because their habitats would be part of a large, interconnected area looked after by conservationists.

Scientists at the University of Texas in Arlington, and researchers from the University of Cambridge and London's Natural History Museum made the discovery. By Maddie Molloy BBC News Climate & Science 4/8/2022

Forwarded to FATS by Andrew Nelson

[https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-62271380?fbclid=IwAR2jqYSV2r1e076dfyhe6RPPANXJ0\\_iqfdbMQNEJRZc4YDUH9YOPFN4Jgfg](https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-62271380?fbclid=IwAR2jqYSV2r1e076dfyhe6RPPANXJ0_iqfdbMQNEJRZc4YDUH9YOPFN4Jgfg)





Two of the major projects Chad focused on are Assessing the impact of the 2019-2020 black summer bushfires on threatened amphibians in New South Wales, *March 2021 – Ongoing*. Assessment of the impacts of fire on the occupancy of several amphibians including *Heleioporus australiacus*, *Litoria littlejohni*, *Litoria watsoni*, *Litoria daviesae*, *Litoria subglandulosa*, *Mixophyes balbus*, *Mixophyes iteratus*, *Philoria pughi*, *Philoria sphagnicola*, *Pseudophryne australis*. and Restoration and reintroduction ecology of the Green and Golden Bell Frog *Litoria aurea*, *September 2016 – Ongoing*. An investigation of methods to create habitat and conduct reintroductions to recover this threatened frog despite impacts from introduced fish and chytrid-induced disease. The aim is to recover this species across its former distribution.

**Chadley Beranek from Newcastle University will be talking at the October FATS meeting, about Winners and Losers of forest amphibians after the 2019-2020 black summer fires. Chad’s interests are in general, restoration and urban ecology, conservation biology, evolution, population genetics and natural history.**

Achieving a PhD had always been his goal since researching amphibian ecology. However there was uncertainty whether he could get there when Chad experienced significant health issues at 22 which almost resulted in his death. Most of his 20s was spent building his body back up.

Chad writes: “I believe that the key to human thriving is through conserving and promoting biodiversity. I also believe that this is the current generations’ most significant problem to overcome. I base my life on this core foundation. My mission is to have the greatest positive impact on nature in one human lifetime. I try to achieve this through every facet of my life; from applying rigorous science down to small behavioural choices, such as purchasing sustainable products. I am currently employed at the University of Newcastle as a teaching associate and a postdoctoral researcher. I also operate an ecological services and conservation education business.” Wrote Chad.

“While I am very fascinated about theoretical models, especially those pertaining to evolution, I am more interested in projects that implement practical solutions for on-ground conservation and restoration. My research has been focused on strategies to enhance habitat restoration for fauna. This has crossed over into other areas of ecological research such as conducting and improving ecological monitoring protocols, investigating population dynamics, determining impacts of disturbances and investigating population genetics. I am mostly interested in fauna, especially amphibians, but I have worked with plants.”



Through The Windows - Casting Callout  
 “Amazing Animals - FROGS”

Dear Parent / Guardian,

ABC TV’s Play School are casting for children (aged 4 – 8 y/o) that are “Pet Parents” of **FROGS** to appear in our iconic ‘Through The Windows’ segment for an upcoming series called *Amazing Animals!* Play School’s Amazing Animals is a five-part series that focuses on mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, and amphibians. In this series we ignite curiosity and explore animals from all over the globe.

Play School will be filming a *Through the Windows* film focused on amphibians, where we will meet a young preschooler who is an adoring Pet Parent to Frogs and teach us the importance of caring for them and animals everywhere. We are on the lookout for children who keep frogs to submit a casting application.

Estimated filming dates would be early/mid November 2022 based in Sydney, NSW.

Pet Parents of Frogs interested in submitting an application should please send the following information and any questions to [play.school@abc.net.au](mailto:play.school@abc.net.au) by 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2022:

- Name/Age of the child.
- Where the child is based in Sydney.
- Parent/Guardian contact information (phone & email).
- A short video (filmed on your phone is fine) of the child introducing themselves and their pet/s frogs in their environment.

Successful participants will be notified when the segment goes to air on ABC KIDS and will be sent a copy of the film.

We look forward to receiving your applications and meeting your pet frogs – have fun!  
 The Play School Team



**FROGID APP AND PROJECT**

**Partnering with our great friends at DigiVol, we’ve launched an exciting project to explore public participation in #FrogID frog call identification! To get involved, register at DigiVol.org and start listening to the latest set of recordings: <https://volunteer.ala.org.au/institution/index/256511121>**

**Dr. Jodi Rowley** is a conservation biologist obsessed with amphibians. Based at the Australian Museum and the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, her research seeks to uncover and document biodiversity and inform conservation decisions. She also has a passion for communicating biodiversity conservation.



**Professor David Lindenmayer** is a full research professor in the Fenner School of Environment and Society. Lindenmayer has been a powerful advocate for using sound science to improve the conservation of native fauna - especially marsupials and other vertebrates - and to enhance our management of the native forest estate, plantations and agricultural lands



Congratulations to the 2022 Royal Zoological Society of NSW Fellows! Dr. Jodi Rowley and Professor David B. Lindenmayer Fellows of the RZS of NSW are scientific members who have rendered distinguished service to the society or Australian Zoology!

**Feral horse damage in Kosciuszko National Park.**

Photos by **Linda Groom and Invasive Species Council.** (see column 2)



**INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

**It's almost beyond comprehension. In a bad way. Day after day, plagues of hard hoofed feral animals are tearing up nature across Australia, leaving a trail of destruction and trashing sacred sites of the oldest living culture on Earth. Yet, these plagues are actually protected in some states. ABOVE native wildlife. Which allows these plague numbers to explode out of control. This is utterly outrageous and prevents us from stopping the destruction that's pushing our beloved places and species to the edge! We need your help to change this ridiculous situation before we reach the point of no return.**

Ensure our leaders protect Australia's extraordinary wildlife and nature, NOT feral hard hoofed pests.

Not far from the summit of Australia's highest peak, Kosciuszko, feral horses trample wetlands and pollute pristine river headwaters. The critically endangered stocky galaxias fish and the southern corroboree frog and Indigenous totems that live in the national park could soon be wiped out. Enough is enough. Australia already hosts the largest feral horse plague in the world! Together you and I need to put an end to this needless destruction. Action is being taken, but it's not happening fast enough.

With your help, I can amplify our actions to hold politicians to account and stop the damage from hard hoofed ferals.

Richard Swain, our Indigenous ambassador, will confront politicians. Together at NSW parliament, we'll present the powerful documentary *Where the Water Starts* and compel state politicians to urgently implement the solutions in their feral horse management plan and protect the park. Truth telling about how ongoing colonialism is destroying Indigenous culture is at its core.

Together led by science and justice you and I can protect nature and Indigenous culture over plagues of feral pests pushing them to the brink Thanks to donors, we make an impact. We've won a feral horse management plan to protect Kosci, now we just need to make it happen! Please donate to the fight. <https://invasives.org.au/donate/>  
**Andrew Cox CEO**



**Call for PhD students in Amphibian Conservation, Genomics, and Synthetic Biology**



*Want to help save frogs declining from a pandemic disease?  
Interested in studying functional genomics and using the latest methods in synthetic biology?*

We are looking for a PhD student to join our team at One Health Research Group at the University of Melbourne.

**Please submit a CV, cover letter, transcripts, and contact information for two referees to [Dr Tiffany Kosch](mailto:tiffany.kosch@unimelb.edu.au) [tiffany.kosch@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:tiffany.kosch@unimelb.edu.au) by 30 September 2022**





**KUDOS DANIELLE WALLACE, MIKAEYLAH DAVIDSON AND BEA WEBB** photo left

**F**irst Global Amphibian and Reptile Disease (GARD) Conference

The Aussies cleaned up at GARD conference! Awarded the best 15 minute presentation and the crowd favourite prize. The calibre of the talks was amazing. They had the opportunity to hang out with so many awesome researchers this week! **August 2022** <https://parcplace.org/event/first-global-amphibian-and-reptile-disease-gard-conference/> Knoxville Tennessee USA Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation



**Damage by feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park alpine ground**



**U**rbanisation is one of the most intensive and rapid human-driven threats facing biodiversity and it's important to understand how our species are responding. Thanks to thousands of people taking part in FrogID, researchers now have access to the largest frog dataset in the world.

This month, research led by AM-UNSW PhD Candidate, Gracie Liu, revealed that frogs are breeding earlier and for longer in urbanised areas. Over 220,000 FrogID records across 42 frog species were assessed in the study, which is the eleventh scientific paper produced by the FrogID team and the first continental-scale assessment of its kind.

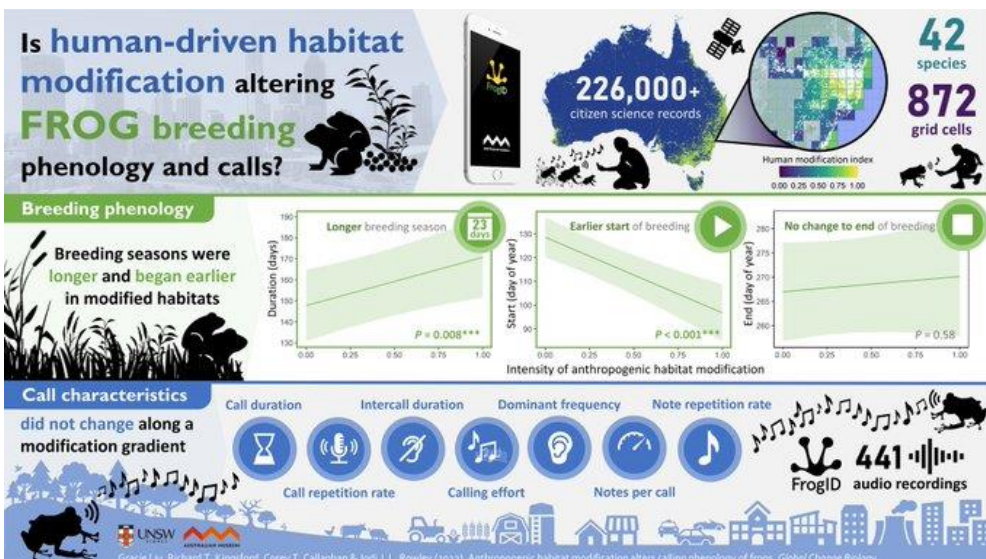
The study is an important first step to understanding how Australia's frogs are responding to human pressures, and your continued use of FrogID will help better understand the negative or positive consequences of increased breeding effort in human modified environments.

**Image (left)**

**Graphical abstract by Gracie Liu**

Read more at August FrogID Newsletter and Australian Museum <https://australian.museum/blog/amri-news/frog-breeding-longer-in-city/>

**FROGID DATA REVEALS FROGS BREEDING EARLIER AND LONGER IN OUR CITIES**



# FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022 **Venue:** Education Centre, Bicentennial Park. The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

**Attendance:** Arthur White, Karen White, Punia Jeffery, Kathy Potter, David Potter, Marion Anstis, Wendy Grimm, Phillip Grimm, Andre Rank, Renata Rank, Jacqui Marlow, Jilli Streit, Margaret Wood, Nick Little, Oliver Hernandez Semeniuk, Nathan Stewart, Samantha Wallace, Miguel Hernandez, Joy Horton, Harriet Potter, Michael Allen, Trudi Semeniuk, Vic Guniunas, Jayden Walsh, Jemima Maal, Peter Spradbrow, Sara Mahoney, Barbara Chawa

**Apologies:** Monica Wangmann, Richard Szczepanski, Marie Szczepanski, Robert Wall, Josie Styles, Michelle Toms, Cassie Thompson, Luc Streit, Graham Pyke.

Minutes of the Previous meeting: David Potter moved that the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted, seconded by Phillip Grimm. Carried

The President's report for 2021/22 will be in the December FrogCall newsletter 182.

It was moved (Andre Rank/Phillip Grimm) that the President's report be accepted. Carried.

### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

POSITION	NAME	NOMINATOR	SECONDER
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Arthur White	Marion Anstis	Punia Jeffery
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	Marion Anstis	Phillip Grimm	Jilli Streit
<b>TREASURER</b>	Karen White	Luc Streit	David Potter
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Jilli Streit	Andre Rank	Luc Streit
<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	Punia Jeffery	David Potter	Marion Anstis
<b>EDITOR</b>	Monica Wangmann	Kathy Potter	Phillip Grimm
<b>FIELD-TRIP CO-ORDINATOR</b>	Robert Wall	Andre Rank	Punia Jeffery
<b>EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR</b>	Kathy Potter	Marion Anstis	Punia Jeffery
<b>MEMBERSHIP OFFICER</b>	Phillip Grimm	Marion Anstis	Kathy Potter
<b>WEB MASTER</b>	Phillip Grimm	Marion Anstis	Punia Jeffery
<b>FROG HELP-LINE CO-ORDINATOR</b>	David Potter	Punia Jeffery	Luc Streit
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	Andre Rank	Luc Streit	David Potter
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	Luc Streit	Punia Jeffery	Marion Anstis

All positions were filled.

**General Business:** Strathfield Green and Golden Bell frog project. Arthur explained that FATS were new habitat area at Greenacre had progressed this with the first Bell frogs arriving in December and breeding occurring in situ shortly afterwards. FATS had received a \$2000 grant from Strathfield Council to help defray the establishment costs at Greenacre and Arthur has applied for a further \$3,400 this year to purchase materials to create a frog motif mural near the entrance to the site, a Song Meter and tower pole and some small gazebos for people to use during Open Days. More working bees are planned for the site in spring and the first Open Day is likely to take place in late September/early October. 2022. There being no further business the AGM was closed at 8.10 pm.

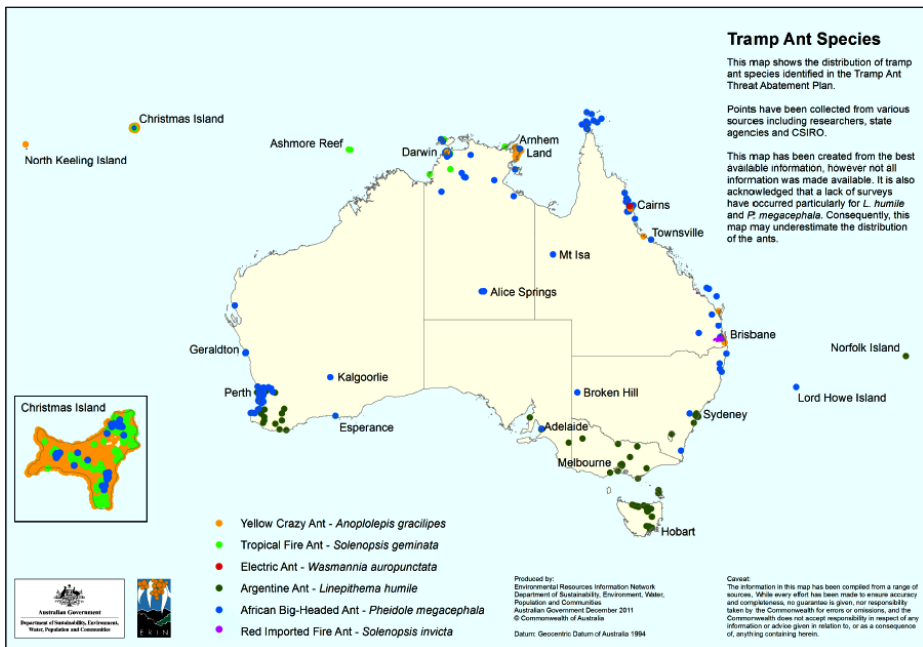
### INVASIVE ANTS

**P**et ant trade a dangerous and costly hazard. An investigation into the online sale of ants has revealed a disturbing global trade that offers up some of the world's most terrifying and dangerous ants as pets, including red imported fire ants, yellow crazy ants and Australia's own bull ants and jack jumpers. "Countries across the world, including Australia, are spending tens of millions of dollars every year battling red imported fire ants and yellow crazy ants, so the thought that people can buy these invasive species online is terrifying," says Tim Low, a biologist who investigated the trade.

Two of the global traders operate out of Melbourne, offering up 'beautiful and unique' Australian queens that 'we will ship directly to you, where ever you are in

the world!' "Australia has made it illegal to import ants into the country and yet is happy to let traders mail potentially invasive Australian ants overseas," Mr Low said. "The export of invasive ants could pose serious biosecurity threats overseas and must be stopped. "Australia is spending over \$750 million just to eradicate red fire ants. It is unconscionable we permit the export of our own problem ants and burden other countries with eradication costs." Ant species exported from Australia include a bull ant with fierce stings listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's most dangerous ant. Other exported ants include jack jumpers, which are so serious there is a national program to desensitise people to their stings. Meat ants and green tree ants are also mailed abroad and could cause serious environmental problems in other countries. **Continued on page 9**





new online portal Insect Watch, which takes us into the world of invasive insects and shows Australians how to identify and report possible new insect invaders. **26 August 2021**

“Stings that make you feel like you’re on fire.” The killer red fire ant is currently spreading through southeast Queensland and has the potential to cover 96% of our country. If we do not stop them, just in QLD alone they will threaten: 45% of birds like the rainbow bee-eater and bush stone-curlew (swarming on nests and ruining habitat) 38% of mammals like the platypus and echidna (ruining habitat and protection from predators) 69% of reptiles like the green turtle and flatback turtle 95% of frogs like the ornate burrowing frog.



The online investigation of Australian ant traders was sparked by a recent study of the global ant trade, which revealed sales of 13 of the 19 worst ant invaders listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This list includes the main species Australia is eradicating – the red imported fire ant, electric ant and yellow crazy ant, plus others of grave concern such as the African big-headed ant and tropical fire ant.

Red fire ant restrictions changed on 1/9/2022. If you live or work in any of the yellow or brown areas, you are legally obliged to follow requirements for moving organic materials including soil, baled hay, manure, mulch, quarry products, potted plants, and turf. On 1 September, 60 new suburbs (the dark yellow and dark brown areas) will be added to the existing biosecurity zones (the lighter coloured-in areas). Find out what your responsibilities are here:

<https://www.fireants.org.au/.../fire-ant-biosecurity-zones> These restrictions are vital to preventing further spread of one of Australia's most worrying invasive insects. Read more about red imported fire ants here:

<https://invasives.org.au/.../invasive.../ants/red-fire-ants/>

In southern USA, red fire ants have killed more than 85 people and have stopped children playing in their backyard. Efforts to rid them from the Brisbane area are struggling to keep them at bay. If we fail, they will spread within a few short years to Sydney and Melbourne and most parts of Australia. Please URGENTLY add your voice to ask the Australian government to STOP these killer ants while we still can.

<https://www.facebook.com/125812604095801/posts/pfbid08nxbZzFkoh7NLIurkefzQTRchsBfS1oog8zm9PtEFFvzJ9xFPjybbd34u7vqVj/>

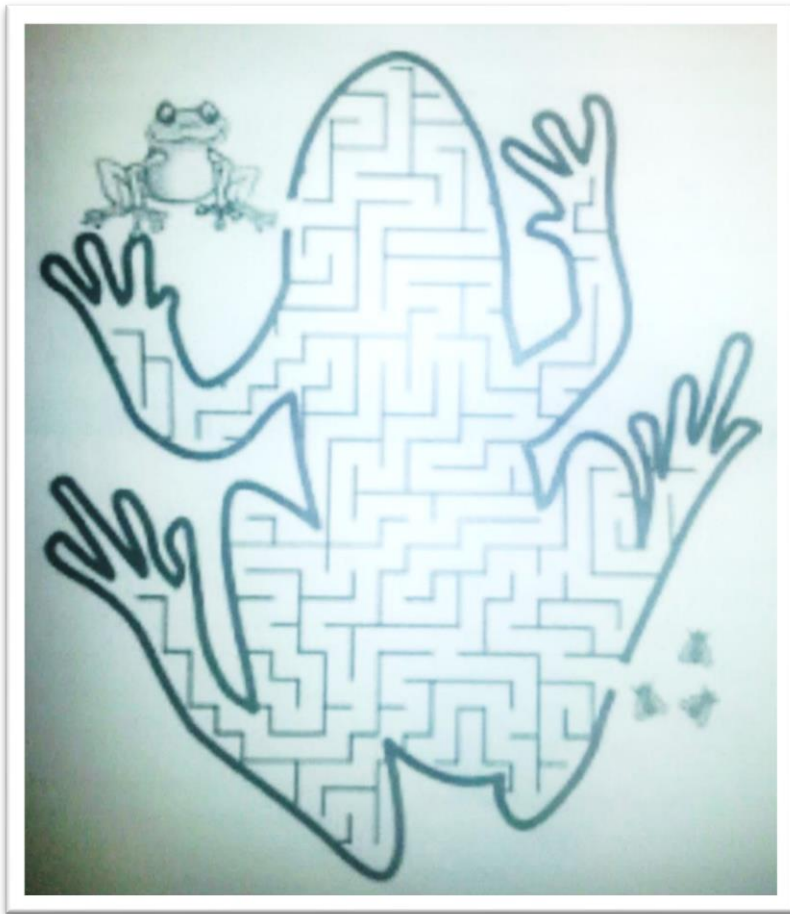
Yellow crazy ants are on the march in Far North Queensland and are not just in yards, but also inside homes. They do not sting, but instead spit acid. These killer ants form supercolonies that can leave entire ecosystems silent in their wake, as well as blind and burn humans. Alarmingly, the expanding infestations are just kilometres from Mt Elliot which will likely mean the extinction of a number of species that occur nowhere else on Earth. From there, these killers will spread across much of the tropics and sub-tropics of Australia. We must act now before this overwhelms us and irreversible damage is done.

<http://www.invasives.org.au/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/invasivespeciescouncil/photos/a.157345914275803/5907428712600799/>



The Invasive Species Council is calling on the Australian Government to stop the export of all Australian ants. It also wants Australia to lead efforts to secure a global ban on the foreign trade in ants. Each country has enough native species to gratify pet owners. Tim Low, a co-founder of the Invasive Species Council and celebrated nature writer, is also behind the





**AUSTRALIAN REPTILE PARK**

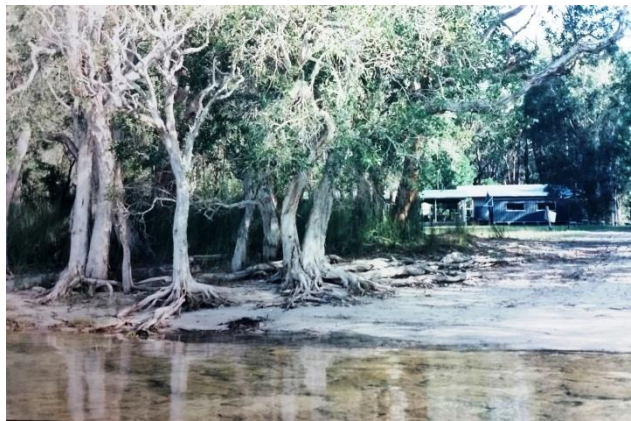
WINNER  
**Australian Tourism Awards 2019 Silver**  
 Major Tourist Attractions

**NSW TOURISM AWARDS 2019 GOLD AWARD**

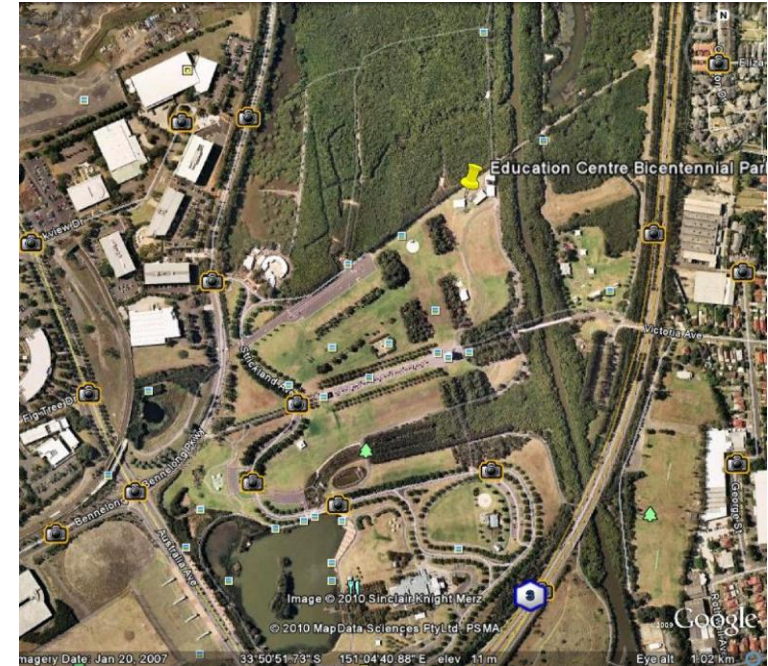





[www.reptilepark.com.au](http://www.reptilepark.com.au)



Smiths Lake



FATS meet at the Education Centre Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay

FrogCall 181 P10 October 2022



**The FATS meeting 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.** 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.

**COPYRIGHT: Material from FROGCALL MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED** without the prior consent of the writer, photographer, editor or president of FATS. Permission from FATS and/or author/s must be obtained prior to any commercial use of material. The author/s and sources must be always fully acknowledged.

**FATS ON FACEBOOK:** FATS has over 4,300 Facebook members worldwide. 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 11 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, Karen & Arthur White, Andrew Nelson, Wendy & Phillip Grimm, Marion Anstis and Punia Jeffery.**



**FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728**

**FATS COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

**FATS MAILING ADDRESS:** P O Box 296 Rockdale NSW 2216

Arthur White	President	ph/fax (02) 9599 1161	arfawhite@gmail.com
Marion Anstis	Vice President	(02) 9456 1698	frogpole@tpg.com.au
Punia Jeffery	Chairperson		puniamje@gmail.com
Jilli Streit	Secretary	(02) 95646237	jillistreit@yahoo.com
Karen White	Treasurer	ph/fax (02) 9599 1161	arfawhite@gmail.com
Phillip Grimm	Memberships, Web Master & Facebook Manager	0432 716 445	phigramm@gmail.com
Kathy Potter	Events Coordinator	0403 919 668	kathy@the-pottery.org
Robert Wall	Field Trips Coordinator	(02) 9681 5308	rjw2008@live.com.au
David Potter	Frog Helpline Coordinator	0413 210 789	david@the-pottery.org
Monica Wangmann	Editor		monicawangmann@gmail.com
Andre Rank and Luc Streit	General Committee members		



## FIELD TRIPS

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

### 7.00 pm 15 October Norah Head, Central Coast Leader: Grant Webster

Take the expressway north. After approx. 70km, take the Sparks Road exit towards Norah Head. The Bowling club is about 30mins away. Meet in the carpark at the Norah Head Bowling and Sports Club, at the end of Victoria Street, Norah Head.

One of the features of the coastal floodplains were the wetlands that formed in the swales of ancient sand dunes. This was the home of “Wallum” habitat. Wallum was originally the name given to species of Banksia by the traditional owners of the Sunshine Coast. Over time, this name was broadened to refer to the complex of swamps, heaths and woodlands growing on low sandy soils along the coastal strip. These wetlands grimly hang on in isolated pockets on the highly-urbanised coastal strip. Tonight, we will look at the coastal heathlands, particularly the Wallum habitat. We will look at some of the unique frog species that have adapted to the dark, tannin-stained, highly-acidic waters of these coastal heaths. Grant’s research takes him to many unusual frogging locations. Tonight, we are fortunate to once again have Grant lend his time and skills to show us another of his research sites. Grant has an unrivalled familiarity with Wallum habitat and coastal heathlands. With a little luck, we may even get a chance to see the elusive Wallum Froglet, as well as some of the other frogs of this unique habitat.

### 11 – 13 November Smiths Lake Camp-Out Leaders: Karen and Arthur White

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

1. For the next field trip, you must email Karen White [white.kazzie@gmail.com](mailto:white.kazzie@gmail.com) by Sunday 16 October and indicate that you (and others in your group) want to attend and what day you intend to arrive. Karen will then put your name on a list. If you attended the previous Smith’s Lake field trip you will automatically go on the Reserve List.

2. Karen will send you a reply email to let you know which list you are on. If you are on the A list you must pay your accommodation by 23 October to confirm your booking. If you do not pay by this date you will be removed from the A list. Cost is \$20.00 per person, per night. You can pay electronically to the FATS bank account:-

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

3. Karen will send you confirmation of your booking when your payment has been received.

4. Karen will email people on the Reserve list, 2 weeks before the field trip dates 28 October 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 Thursday 3 November. If not, your place will be given to the next person on the list. We think that this will be the fairest way to ensure that everyone gets a chance to go to Smith’s Lake.

### 7.45 PM 3 December Homebush Bay Leader: Josie Styles

Meet in the carpark at Wentworth Common. The carpark is in Marjorie Jackson Parkway, about 150m from the intersection with Bennelong Parkway.

The Sydney Olympic Park precinct is known for its population of endangered Green and Golden Bell Frogs. The frogs here soared to public prominence during the planning and construction of the Sydney Olympics venue. These frogs had long-occupied this derelict and largely-forgotten site. The Bell Frogs were facing an uncertain future in the face of a construction project that was perhaps the largest ever undertaken in Australia. The public watched as degraded wetland sites were enhanced to ensure the long-term survival of Bell Frogs. This recovery program was necessary to fulfil environmental obligations to the International Olympic Authority and to placate an international audience that had been given many desperate assurances by the Government that Sydney would be the “Green Games”. Tonight, we will look at how the Bell Frogs are faring a twenty-odd years later. Josie has accumulated vast experience as a professional biologist. She is well-acquainted with the Bell Frogs of Sydney Olympic Park as she previously spent many years with the Australian Museum monitoring the Bell Frog population here. Tonight, she will share her vast experience of this site, and will discuss some of the interesting trends occurring here.

**The Australian Reptile Park, Pacific Hwy, Somersby 02 4340 1022 [https://www.reptilepark.com.au/contact/will host their annual herp societies BBQ on Sunday 4 December](https://www.reptilepark.com.au/contact/will-host-their-annual-herp-societies-bbq-on-sunday-4-december). Contact them to confirm date, details & entry requirements.**

**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.**