

FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

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NEWSLETTER No. 184 APRIL 2023

Neobatrachus sudellae Sudell's Frog photographed by Fabian Byers



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

Arrive from 6.30 pm or a 7pm start.

Friday 31st March 2023

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 31st MARCH 2023

6.30 pm Lost frogs seeking forever homes: Please bring your membership card or join FATS on the night 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: Jordann Crawford-Ash from ANU:
"The Battle to control Frog Chytrid Disease and its Pathogens"

9.30 pm Show us your frog images. Tell us about your frogging trips or experiences. Guessing competition, frog adoptions continue, supper, relax and chat with frog friends and experts.

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LAST FATS MEETING 3 FEBRUARY 2023

Shannon Kaiser was our main speaker at the last meeting, talking about the interaction between frogs and environmental chemicals.



Photo by Wendy Grimm Shannon Kaiser

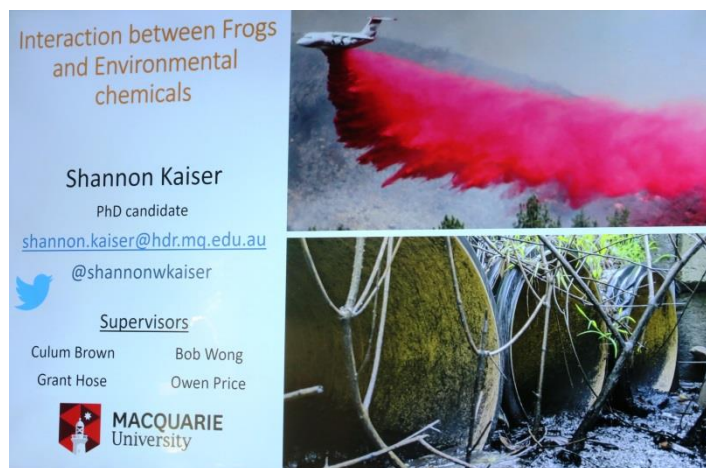
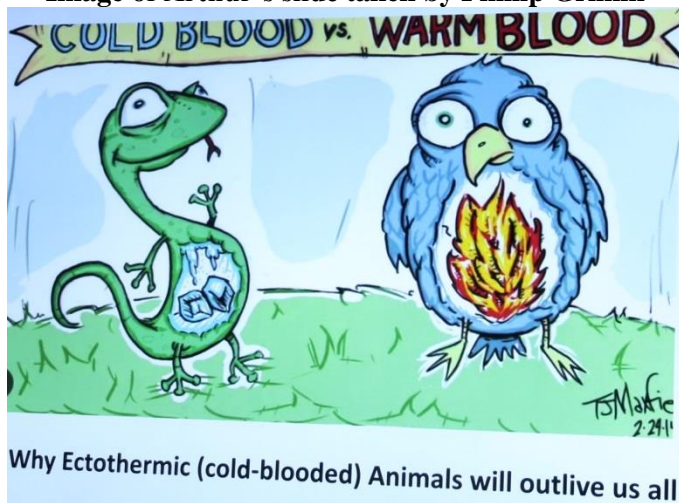


Photo of Shannon Kaiser's slides taken by Phillip Grimm

Arthur White spoke about ectothermic animals.
Image of Arthur's slide taken by Phillip Grimm



FATS 2023 FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION

The FATS members' Frog-O-Graphic competition opens on the 1 May and closes on the 31 August 2023.

Categories: Best Frog Image, Best Pet Frog Image, Most Interesting Image and People's Choice. Winners are decided by a panel of judges.

People's Choice is voted for by everyone present at the October FATS meeting.

All entries are by email to photos@fats.org.au

In the submission please state:

- * your name,
- * confirm that you are a financial 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**

FATS AGM NOTICE FRIDAY 4 AUGUST 2023

The FATS AGM will be held on Friday 4/8/2023, commencing 7pm. FATS meets at the Education Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park.

If you would like to ask any questions about joining the FATS committee, please give us a call. Contact our President Arthur White at least two weeks before the meeting for further information or to submit items. We appreciate fresh ideas and new members on our committee. No experience required. The committee meets 6 times a year. No tasks, commitments or time expected of committee members, other than what you are able to spare.

See contacts details on page 11. **Arthur White**

IN NSW, FROG KEEPER RECORD BOOKS NEED TO BE LODGED BETWEEN 1 & 30 APRIL 2023

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. For licences:

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

To complete your yearly frog returns if you have more than one frog:

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

INVESTIGATING COAL POLLUTION AND DYING NATIVE FROGS IN ROYAL NATIONAL PARK



Scientists alarmed at discovery of sick frogs in Royal National Park near coal mine pollution Image Shannon Kaiser

According to researchers, there are indications that the native frog population in the Royal National Park may be ill as a result of coal pollution. Reports from EPA say otherwise. After coal sludge repeatedly leaked into the local waterways that flow into the Royal National Park last year, the NSW Environmental Protection Authority is currently reviewing the Metropolitan colliery's license in Helensburgh, south of Sydney.

As part of their research into the effects of foreign chemicals introduced to freshwater ecosystems, Shannon Kaiser and Chad Beranek, both scientists, have been assessing the health of the local frog population. At the pollution site, according to Kaiser, who is a Ph.D. candidate at Macquarie University, found two green stream frogs that appeared to be on the verge of passing away, as well as two dead frogs of the same species. Kaiser claims that they came across a frog that was lying on its back and unable to stand up. That is used as a cutoff point for when to euthanize the frog because it is clearly struggling and does not have long to live. It is a fairly strong indication that the frog is suffering and near death. The fact that this is only occurring at sites near the Hacking River and not at any other locations where coal sludge has not been found, he continued, is quite alarming.



Dark black sludge covers part of Camp Gully Creek which runs into the Royal NP. (Supplied: James McCormack/Wild Magazine)

Native Frogs vs. Coal Pollution According to a September 2022 article in [The Sydney Morning Herald](#), the water that streams through the Royal National Park generally should be sparkling, but along Camp Gully Creek it is dark and murky and the river bed is

covered in sludge following a pollution incident involving a nearby mine. Although there had not been reports, Kaiser and Beranek assert their claim through their survey. The surveys started at Camp Gully Creek and the Hacking River, two major rivers that flow through the Royal National Park, in December last year. Although it was challenging to prove a connection between the frogs' poor health and coal pollution, according to Kaiser, the animals were especially vulnerable to changes in their natural habitat. Because of the way their skin functions, he claimed that frogs are especially sensitive to environmental change. Any chemicals that end up in the water can directly contact the frog, which can result in some pretty serious damage. Kaiser is unsure if the coal sludge has that effect, but it may weaken their immune system because chytrid is a disease that kills frogs all over the world. The frog's immune system may have been compromised by the coal sludge, which means that it may now be succumbing to the disease as a result of it being present in the area.

The EPA reported that work had now progressed from Camp Gully Creek downstream further into Hacking River since the cleanup of polluted waterways is still ongoing. An EPA spokesperson stated that since the middle of 2022, water samples have been taken downstream of the discharge location. To better understand the environmental impact and to guide the investigation, these are being examined for a variety of substances. The results, according to the agency, show there is no risk dealt by the recent pollution incident to human health. According to ABC News, no effects on local wildlife, including frogs, have been seen by the EPA or reported by the community.

People are asking why no containment is being used for the clean-up. EPA explains that because the coal material's particles are so tiny, they float in the water column and proceed with the current. Booms and sediment fencing are two containment techniques that are intended to keep larger particle sizes or floating material in place. Due to the size of the particles, these methods would not work in this incident. According to the [NSW EPA](#), using water gates would stop all water flow and result in flooding, so they cannot be used. The NSW Environmental Protection Authority encourage anyone with information to report it to our Environment Line on 131 555 so we can investigate. Peabody Energy, the company which owns the Metropolitan coal mine, has been contacted for comment. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-01-09/scientists-concerned-over-sick-frogs-near-coal-spill/101832914> Extracts of articles by Rich Co 11/1/2023, NatureWorldNews.com and ABC Illawarra Tim Fernandez 9/1/2023 Forwarded to FATS by Phillip Grimm Continued on Pages 4 to 7 <https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/54966/20230111/coal-pollution-causes-sickness-native-frogs-australia-national-park-scientists.htm>



A PUBLIC FORUM DISCUSSED COAL SLUDGE POLLUTION IN ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

A public forum was held on 30 October 2022 to discuss the major pollution event in Royal National Park, caused by coal waste from a mine at Helensburgh. Camp Gully Creek, a tributary of the Hacking River, was found full of black sludge. National Parks Association executive officer Gary Dunnett said at the time the water in the creek looked "more like flowing tar". Speakers were water researcher Dr Ian Wright, Greens MLC Sue Higginson, the former principal solicitor and CEO of the Environmental Defender's Office. Dr Wright's research focuses on the impact of coal mining activities on streams and rivers. He is a recognised expert in the field of freshwater ecology, water quality, water policy and the science and management of water pollution.

In August, Dr Wright carried out water testing at Camp Gully Creek, the stream where Peabody discharged coal sediment pollution. Camp Gully Creek runs into the Hacking River, which in turn flows for over 10 kms through the Royal National Park down to Audley Weir, then out to Port Hacking. Ms Higginson, an environmental law expert, visited Camp Gully Creek in September and saw the coal sludge pollution. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre spokesperson Dr Catherine Reynolds said, "There is the question of whether the mine should be operating in this sensitive location, full stop. On a more immediate level the Environmental Protection License needs examining, and we've been advised that community

involvement is critically important in achieving any alterations."

https://www.theleader.com.au/story/7956737/coal-sludge-pollution-forum/?_ptid=%7Bkpx%7DAAAAsKSzk0rzcgoKbHJBNG5aZFhwYRIQbGU0dnA5ODI0bG9uNzk5NhoMRVgzQUVBQjNMUIhEiUxODbqaTVvMDizLTAwMDAzMWlpOGttzRpeHMwZmcldDRidW9nKhhzaG93T2ZmZXI3OFJZWUITVFFIUOdETUQwAToMT1RJNkppM0Q3NOROUhJ2LXMA8BIIINWkwOTJ3YWhaDjQ5LjE5Nv4yMzUuMTOzYgNkd2Zo5ta1nwZwAXgM extracts from The Leader, [Murray Trembath](#) 26/10/22

It is understood that the coal deposit found on 1/1/2023, was probably from the Helensburgh mine. It had washed away by the time the EPA got to Swallow Rock, Port Hacking. All they saw was normal wood detritus.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre 18/1/2023 wrote "...The EPA believe it is 'likely' that coal from the mine at Helensburgh is now polluting Port Hacking. The only point under question is the date when this material escaped from the mine site. No containment measures were put in place following multiple pollution discharges from the mine this year. Most of the black coal sludge waste washed down Camp Gully Creek and the Hacking with the force of the rains, prior to the subsequent 'cleanup'. Where did this material disappear to? Unfortunately it appears that the mine is continuing to release polluted material, despite multiple prevention notices which they continue to ignore.

<https://www.ssec.org.au/help-protect-the-royal-national-park-submission-guide-for-the-epa-review-of-peabodys-metropolitan-coliery/?fbclid=IwAR1VXdW5cqsIFhiJO-2RoxhQPFgx28iedtar6KFC2vvH210E2-WcpiPis7A>

**HELP PROTECT
THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK:
MARCH STATE ELECTION & EPA REVIEW
PEABODY'S METROPOLITAN COLLIERY**

Many people do not realise that an American multinational, Peabody, has a working coal mine adjacent to Australia's oldest National Park. This mine, the Metropolitan Colliery, has released polluted waste material into a waterway which flows through to the heart of the RNP on numerous occasions through 2022. On 16 January, 2023 the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) reported yet another spill, "[grey, turbid water with possible coal material present.](#)" The EPA are currently reviewing Peabody's pollution license, EPL 767.

You can take action on this issue by writing or speaking to your local candidates in the lead up to the NSW State election on Saturday 25 March. For email addresses for candidates in the Heathcote, Miranda, and Cronulla electorates see FrogCall page 7. For a sample letter template, and the submission to the EPA see: [Email addresses & sample letter template](#) [Our longer EPA submission pt.1](#)

[EPA submission pt.2](#) With the lead up to the election there's been noticeable silence from both NSW Labor and the Liberal National coalition about this mining operation that has now adversely impacted two important catchments: the Woronora Reservoir catchment and the Hacking River catchment in the Royal National Park. [Both parties support the continued operation of this mine.](#) It would be a huge help if you could write to local political candidates and ask them to speak out and take action to ensure the RNP is properly protected and this sort of pollution never happens again.

With the election coming up now is our best chance to get them to listen. So far only the Greens candidate for Heathcote Cooper Riach has visited the site and said "[The mine at Helensburgh should close "as soon as possible"](#)". **To consider when you write: what should you ask for?**

There are two approaches you can take: 1. Ask the politicians to support EPA in cancelling Peabody's license altogether, or 2. Ask them to ensure the license is tightened so that this sort of pollution never happens again. Whatever option you choose there are a couple of points from the [Protection of the Environment Operation Act 1997](#) which are vitally important and should be included in any email. When reviewing the licence the EPA has to consider:

- the "environmental values of water affected" and
- "the practical measures that could be taken to restore or maintain those environmental values".

Both these points are relevant because we know the **value** of the Royal National Park means that it deserves to be protected. We also know that the **clean-up undertaken to date has only been partially successful.** [Heavy rain washed most of the black sludge waste material far downstream, and no containment measures were put in place.](#) To date the EPA has decided that remediation should only take place to [the intersection of McKell Avenue and Lady Wakehurst Drive.](#) Sutherland Shire Environment Centre members have seen coal sediment pollution much further downstream, at far as Audley Weir. Over the new year holiday period other members saw coal sediment waste material in Port Hacking itself, at [Swallow Rock Reserve.](#)

The value of the Royal National Park and inadequate cleanup should be emphasised in any email. Our politicians must consider whether the Royal National Park ecosystems should continue to be risked in this way. Your email does not need to be long, or include all the information. Please check out the links in this article. It's really important to make your email personal. You can select key points which concern you to help build your case. Let your local political candidates know how you feel about what has happened and why you think it's wrong.

1. Cancel the license If you believe it is **not appropriate to have a coal mine in a location where it has the potential to do such damage** to our waterways and beaches, and that it is not acceptable to risk the ecological integrity of the National Park, please ask that Peabody's Metropolitan Colliery be prohibited from releasing anything into the RNP at all, and ask that its pollution license be cancelled.

The multiple pollution events have occurred through 2022. With heavy rainfall coal sediment waste may have been released at other times, and not been reported or recorded. **This raises the question of whether we can rely on this company to do the right thing.** They have already proven they cannot operate in this sensitive location without unacceptable impacts. Even if spills occurred due to a significant amount of rain we've had earlier this year should the Colliery be operating in this location if is unable to manage conditions at the site?

The photo below shows the mine's surface facilities and two holding dams where the coal waste sediment is kept directly adjacent to Camp Gully Creek. Two large drains allow the dams to overflow directly into the creek and from there into the Hacking River. The site is very narrow and constrained for the type of coal processing facilities Peabody requires. No measures were put in place to prevent pollution flowing downstream into the Hacking River and on through the length of the RNP, down past Lady Carrington Drive, Audley Weir and out to Port Hacking.



continued from P5 Should we can rely on this company to do the right thing? Over the last few years Peabody has included multiple “Invalid sample” test results on their monitoring summaries submitted to the EPA. In addition to the multiple “Invalid samples” there have been months where Peabody’s testing claims no breaches were recorded, even when we know for a fact that coal sediment / waste material was released.

out informal surveys in October 2022 and found a “**significant impairment of the benthic macroinvertebrate community**“, and a marked reduction in the diversity of families of such organisms. At Camp Gully Creek they found no pollution-sensitive riffle beetles (Elmidae) or mayflies (Leptophlebiidae, Baetidae, Caenidae).



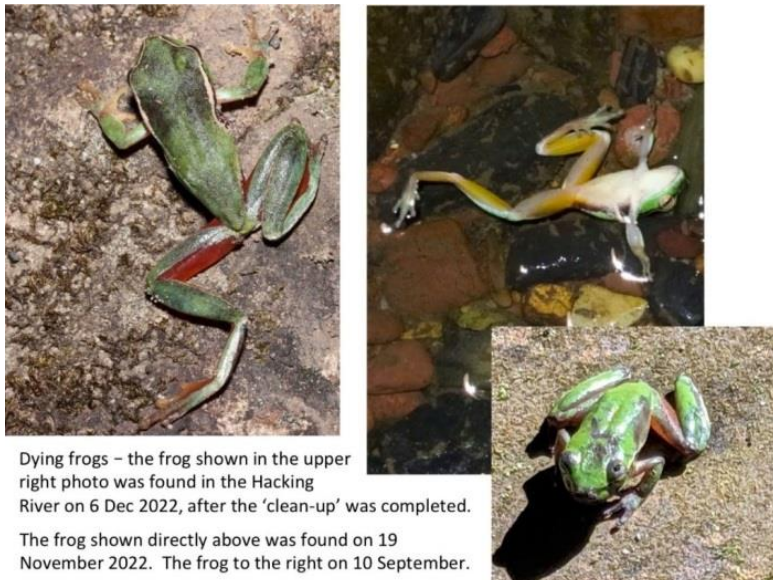
14 August 2022, Dr Ian Wright at Camp Gully Creek. Photo credit: Bob Crombie

Independent water testing by Dr Ian Wright on 14/8/2022 showed that the Colliery discharged saline wastes at twice the rate of ANZECC salinity guidelines. It had no authorisation from EPA to do this. Subsequent testing by other independent researchers through late 2022 has shown consistently high salinity levels. Dr Wright’s test results also found increased levels of **barium, lithium or strontium** at the mine site, substantially higher than levels found upstream. Peabody had no authorisation to discharge these metals into Camp Gully Creek.

All these studies raise questions about ongoing flow on effects through the ecosystem. Such impacts are not just a matter of what happened in 2022. There have been other spills in previous years. [Old coal waste material is still visible along the length of the Hacking River.](#) The EPA refers to coal waste that has accumulated from previous spills as “**legacy issues**”. Will such “legacies” be ongoing? We know the latest ‘clean-up’ has only taken place to the [intersection of McKell Avenue and Lady Wakehurst Drive.](#) Coal waste and sediment has been seen much further downstream and the EPA have not provided any justification as to why that intersection was chosen as an arbitrary cut off point for remediation.



14 August 2022, at the confluence of Camp Gully Creek and the Hacking River, with black coal sediment running into the Hacking. Photo: Bob Crombie



Dying frogs – the frog shown in the upper right photo was found in the Hacking River on 6 Dec 2022, after the ‘clean-up’ was completed. The frog shown directly above was found on 19 November 2022. The frog to the right on 10 September.



8 September - the Hacking River at Red Cedar Flat, kilometers down from the confluence of Camp Gully Creek. Photo: Gary Dunnett EO, National Parks Association

Since the most recent pollution events Sutherland Shire Environment Centre members with higher degree qualifications in science and ecology have carried out surveys of the impacted areas. Dr Chad Beranek and freshwater ecotoxicology researcher Shannon Kaiser have found dying frogs in waterways downstream from the mine. Frogs found in those areas had a diminished body condition compared to frogs in nearby control sites (streams nearby not impacted by the mine pollution). Other independent local researchers led by Dr Andrew Brooks carried

The [National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974](#) requires national parks to be **managed in a manner that protects the integrity of ecosystems for future generations.** This means: Conserving biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem function, protecting geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena, and maintaining natural landscapes conserving places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value and significance.

The Metropolitan Colliery has shown it is unable to align its operation with requirements of the NPW Act. It has been unable to protect the ecological integrity of the RNP. This makes a strong case to cancel the license altogether.



9 September 2022,
Camp Gully Creek, Sue Higginson MLC
Photo credit: Dr Catherine Reynolds

2. Option two: Tighten and amend the license

If you believe it is reasonable for the mine to keep operating in this location, a second option is for you to ask that the Peabody Metropolitan Colliery pollution license be **tightened to ensure only clean treated water is released into Camp Gully Creek, and no pollutants or waste material.** All points made above are still relevant, and can also be mentioned if you decide to call for the license to be tightened.

Please request that **Full Emergency Disaster Recovery Plans** are established. **No** preventative measures were put in place this year to stop the coal fine sediment waste flowing down the full length of the Hacking River. Remediating this damage, clearing away the fine coal sediment has proven extremely difficult, if not impossible. The EPA and the NPWS have both noted clean-ups can cause further damage to the river ecosystem. If there has been a pattern of previous undisclosed pollution events **how can the EPA ensure this does not happen again?**



10 April 2021
Coal waste at Camp Gully Creek near the confluence of the Hacking River.
Note the fine coal sediment. The force of the water running through this area in times of rain lends credence to a conclusion that this is not old or historic coal waste material.
Photo credit: Ian Hill

As is, the current EPA licence has allowed Peabody's Colliery to pollute Camp Gully Creek, and from there on the Hacking River. The Colliery is currently only required to collect samples once a month when wastewater is being discharged. When it disposes of wastewater to Camp Gully Creek the mine is only required to meet the following criteria: oil and grease; 10 mg/L; pH 6.5-8.5; total suspended solids; 30 mg/L. If you chose to ask that the pollution license be amended, not cancelled, **please ask for tighter limits and tighter monitoring for salinity, pH and turbidity.** The Colliery should be required to **measure water**

quality continuously in all wastewater discharges, as well as in the creek, both upstream and downstream of the mine. This monitoring **should occur in real time.** The license is tightened so that there are **discharge limits reducing the disposal of metals** in the coal mine wastewater (i.e. aluminium, nickel, zinc, barium, strontium and lithium etc) which act to damage or compromise the health of the creek. The license should ensure **no coal fine sediment is allowed to be released into the creek.**

Camp Gully Creek and the Hacking River should have ongoing assessment of ecological health to ensure that the mine does not impair aquatic biodiversity. The Colliery should be required to fund quantitative biological monitoring of Camp Gully Creek using wastewater sensitive biota (e.g. macroinvertebrates) with a study design that includes reference sites in the Hacking River catchment and locations in Camp Gully both upstream and downstream of the mine.



16 September 2022, at the historic Audley Pleasure grounds. Photo: Bob Crombie

This monitoring should occur at least every three months in order to provide an assessment of any ecological impact and the trajectory of recovery. **With the election coming up in March this is our best chance to put pressure on politicians, to tell them how you feel, and to persuade them to change their stance.** To date there's been a noticeable silence on the part of some aspiring and existing politicians re this issue. **Please ask them to speak up and protect the Royal National Park, not Peabody.**

Heathcote Candidates:

Lee Evans MP (Liberal): Heathcote@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Maryanne Stuart (Labor): Maryanne.Stuart@nswlabor.org.au
Cooper Riach (Greens): heathcote.state@nsw.greens.org.au

Miranda Candidates:

Eleni Petinos MP (Liberal): miranda@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Simon Earle (Labor): Simon.Earle@nswlabor.org.au
Martin Moore (Greens): miranda.state@nsw.greens.org.au

Cronulla Candidates:

Mark Speakman MP (Liberal): cronulla@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Labor party TBC
Catherine Dyson (Greens): cronulla.state@nsw.greens.org.au

The video taken 29/3/22 shows the Hacking River a few hundred metres south from the [Jersey Springs picnic area](#) in the RNP. About 1.5km north of the Audley Weir precinct. **The mining operation has now adversely impacted two major water catchments: the Woronora Reservoir and Hacking River catchments. Enough is enough. If you have any questions please contact Dr Catherine Reynolds: catherine@ssec.org.au**

TIME TO GET LOUD

The Invasive Species Council is concerned by today's announcement from the NSW government that there has been a 30% increase in the number of feral horses degrading and trashing the Snowy Mountains in the past two years. This is despite a year of action to reduce numbers by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service under the government's 2021 [management plan](#) which aims to reduce feral horse numbers to 3,000 by 2027.

The government survey of wild horse populations in Kosciuszko National Park, using best practice scientific methods, found that the feral horse population has increased by 4,434 from 14,380 in Spring 2020 to 18,814 in Spring 2022. Data released by the NSW government [today](#) also noted that 525 feral horses were removed from Kosciuszko National Park between July and December 2022, an increase of 191 on the 334 removed in the first half of 2022 (total removal of 859 in 2022).

'This alarming rise in feral horses trashing and trampling Kosciuszko National Park should be a red flag for those in the government who care about the environment and are concerned about the future of the Snowy Mountains,' said **Invasive Species Council advocacy manager Jack Gough**. 'Our sensitive alpine regions have not evolved to cope with thousands of heavy, hard-hoofed feral horses damaging streams and wetlands and degrading vegetation.

'The future of unique wildlife such as the corroboree frog and sensitive alpine wildflowers and the headwaters of the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers are at stake if horse numbers are not brought down rapidly.

'The increase of nearly 15% per year in the past two years is consistent with previous growth rates in the absence of adequate controls. This suggests that the NSW government is falling short on their promise to significantly reduce feral horses in the Snowy Mountains to 3000 by 2027.

'While we understand that, after years of inaction, initial control efforts would be slow to ramp up and appreciate that there was a small increase in the rate of removal in the second half of 2022, the rate is nowhere near what is needed to start to reduce numbers and protect this unique landscape.

'To save the Snowies, whoever wins the upcoming NSW election will need to ensure there are resources and commitment to turn this around. 'We are pleased to [hear](#) that the National Parks and Wildlife Service intends to commit additional resources to the management of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park in response to these disappointing numbers.

'With the population at this level, culling by highly trained professionals using protocols reviewed by the RSPCA is the only viable way of reducing feral horse numbers and saving our unique Australian forests, rivers and the native animals that live there,' said Mr Gough.

<https://invasives.org.au/media-releases/sharp-rise-in-feral-horse-numbers-a-red-flag-for-the-snowy-mountains/>



THE 2023 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

FATS will be at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show. We have a display on the last 2 days, White Pavilion

Sunday 9 am – 7 pm 16/4 pythons, frogs and geckos and

Monday 9 am – 6.30 pm 17/4 lizards, frogs and geckos

Established in 2011 this is now one of the biggest frog and reptile competitions in Australia as well as one of the most popular amongst all Show visitors. Non-venomous snakes, lizards and a range of frogs are judged on appearance and breed standard, so they are certainly not your common garden variety lizards! <https://www.eastershow.com.au/explore-plan/animals/frog--reptile-show/> **MAP: See page 12 MW**

2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show Entry for Frogs, Lizards, Geckos & Pythons



- Your name
- Mobile number
- Postal address
- Type of animal/s entering
- Photo of animal/s
- If you are 16yrs or younger

Email your entries to:

wildexpo@austwildlife.com.au



Marie Callins 2022

PENRITH REPTILE EXPO 2023

Family fun day wrapped in reptiles will be held on Sunday from 9 AM to 4 PM 26 March 2023 at 30 Herbert Street Cambridge Park Penrith. This expo has something for everyone: Australian and Exotic Reptiles on Display Reptile Shows all day Live Reptiles for sale Learn how to get a license and care for a reptile pet Join a Herpetological Society to meet other reptile lovers Reptile Accessories for Sale Reptile cages, books and toys Entertainment for the whole family Children 4 and under free. Tickets: At the door or use the link below for Eventbrite tickets.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/penrith-reptile-expo-family-fun-day-wrapped-in-reptiles-tickets-475550543477?fbclid=IwAR2c2yBF4NjHYNMpl5B73cCFkY6mXRmlD0YGhwIOdpJPWIFDoiTK-GhR39o>

More information can be found at 0423 895 405 Colin or email hhs.expo@gmail.com



The reverse of the photo reads "Foundation members of the first Herpetological Society of Australia expedition 1951. Left to right Bill Hosmer, John Dwyer, Ken Dwyer. Photo: courtesy of David McPhee."

AUSTRALIAN HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Come along at 7 pm on Wednesday 22 March to hear Neville Burns talk about his life working with reptiles. Nev will have his expanded and updated edition of "A Gift From the Snake That Bit Him" available on the night. Many said that his last talk at the society was one of the most entertaining talks they'd ever attended. Monthly meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of every month, at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Mitchell Theatre 280 Pitt St, Sydney <https://ahs.org.au/> Next meetings: 26 April 7pm monthly meeting Reptile Autopsies - Live on Stage (But Dead) with Dr Michelle Dalli and 28 June 7pm meeting Official Book Launch: Field Guide to the Reptiles of The Northern Territory with Dr Chris Jolly

FROGID WEEK 2022 OVER 32,000 FROG RECORDS FOR RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

FrogID Week has once again rapidly gathered data for frog conservation, receiving more than 3 frog records per minute and gathering more than 32,000 frog records from over 4,600 concerned citizen scientists. The Australian Museum's annual FrogID Week event produces a fundamental dataset for understanding and conserving Australia's unique frog species. Australia has 246 native species of frog, many

of which are in decline. One of the biggest impediments to frog conservation is lack of knowledge on these small and elusive animals. FrogID is the Australian Museum's national citizen science project that aims to help address these knowledge gaps, allowing anyone with a smartphone to record and submit frog calls through the free FrogID app. By building a robust year-on-year dataset, repeat FrogID Week events form a vital component of frog conservation in Australia and enable scientists and land-managers to detect trends and changes in frog populations over time.

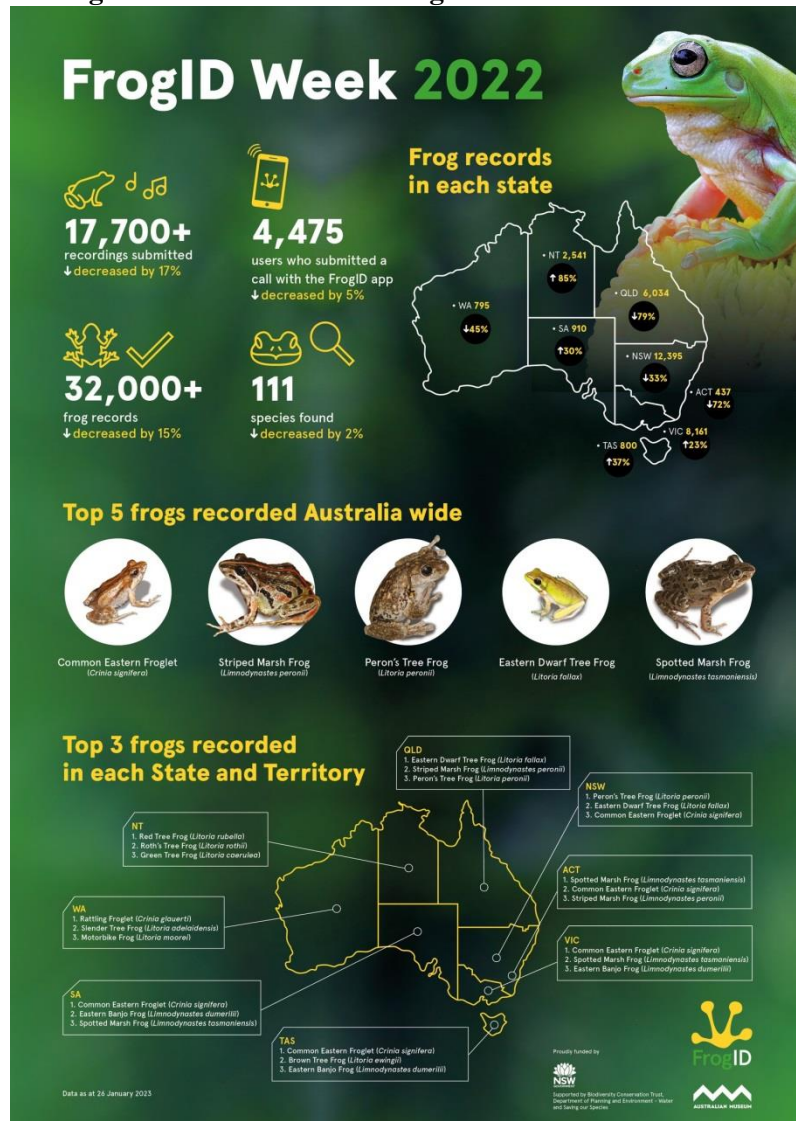
An incredible **111 frog species** were recorded during FrogID Week 2022, representing just under half (45%) of all frog species in Australia. Frogs recorded during FrogID Week 2022 include the Endangered Fleay's Barred Frog (*Mixophyes fleayi*) from the ranges of northern New South Wales, and the Critically Endangered Kuranda Tree Frog (*Litoria myola*) from the wet tropical rainforests of north Queensland.

Threats impacting these species include disease, damage to habitat from feral animals, urban development, and drought. Every FrogID recording adds value to our understanding of frogs in Australia and what is required to better protect them.

by Nadia Roslan 24/2/2023 extracts from

https://australian.museum/blog/amri-news/frogid-week-2022/?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FrogIDeNewsFebruary2023&utm_content=version_A&promo=1676

FrogID Week 2022 results Image: © Australian Museum



FROG SAFE, FROG HOSPITAL QUEENSLAND

It is the end of another year - a tough one for us, but we are still here doing the best we can to help frogs survive! If you are local and have time, perhaps you might consider coming by to lend a hand. The work here never stops.



We wish you a peaceful New Year focused on what means the most to you. Turn off the news and spend time in nature. Be mindful on the roads. Do something for someone in need. Meditate with the intention that year will be better. Cheers, Deborah, Tony and Romi Frog Safe committee 07 4068 9402 frogsafe@westnet.com.au https://www.frogsafe.org.au/about_fdr/frog_hospital.shtml

PLAY SCHOOL LOGAN'S ADOPTED FROGS



Logan's episode of Amazing Animals -Amphibians is available to watch on ABC iview Play School Through The Windows Full episode. You can see a shorter screen recording on our FATS Facebook page. Logan adopted these lovely Green Tree Frogs Litoria caerulea from FATS.

<https://www.facebook.com/annemarie.butt/videos/542257827741383?idorvanity=195517897165936>
<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/play-school-through-the-windows>



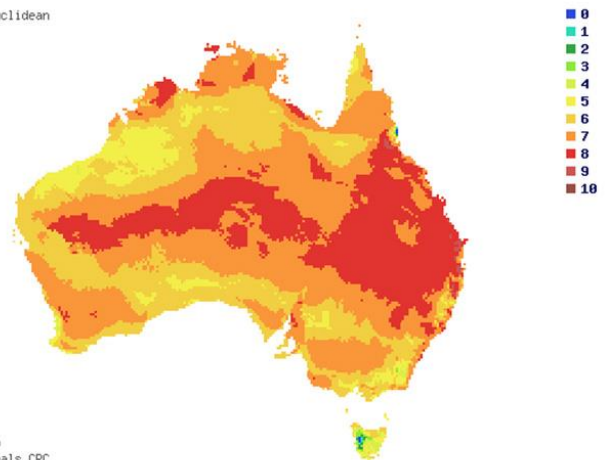
RED FIRE ANTS



For 18 months it has been sitting on a desk ... the report that could save Australia from a life sentence with red fire ants. This critical review of the southeast Queensland infestation details what's needed to stop these killers from spreading across Australia. We already know the report calls for an urgent boost to funding from all governments to protect our small ground dwelling animals and pets from being killed by swarms of hundreds of thousands of tiny killer ants. And we know we are running out of time.

Fire ant potential occupation based on rainfall & temperature comparisons to known overseas occurrence. Higher numbers represent greater climatic suitability.

Algorithm: Euclidean



I'm sure you're in furious agreement — the public deserves to see this report. Red fire ants in southeast Queensland were found just 12km from the NSW border. And every month we delay we risk them spreading, further, whether it's 10km, 20km or even more. The greatest danger is their spread by human movement, so new outbreaks could arrive in Sydney, Melbourne or Adelaide at any time until we have eradicated the source.

The next few months are crucial as state and federal budgets are being decided — I need your urgent help to ensure the release of this report and secure additional funding to ramp up Australia's national fire ant eradication program. **Andrew Cox, CEO, Invasive Species Council** andrew@invasives.org.au https://invasives.org.au/donate-red-fire-ants/?utm_source=MC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feb-23&utm_term=E2&utm_content=Ants

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 7/4/2023**), June, August, October and December. **OUR APRIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 31 MARCH 2023.** 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 4,400 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, George Madani and Punia Jeffery.



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FIELDTRIPS

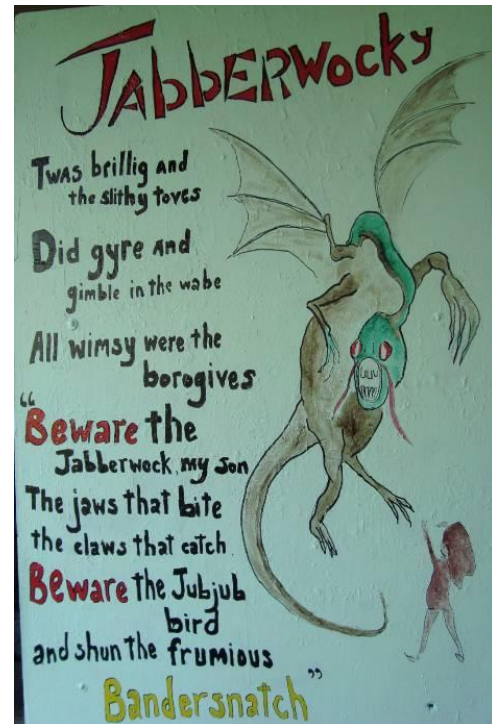
Our FATS fieldtrips program is over for this Spring / Summer season. The 2023/2024 Spring / Summer season re-commences next September. Look in the August and October FrogCalls for announcements and further details about OUR future outings. If there are any enquiries regarding fieldtrips, please just get in touch. R.W.



SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2023 FROG & REPTILE EXPO
FATS WILL BE AT THE PET PAVILION ON SUNDAY 16/4 & MONDAY 17/4



FATS FIELD TRIPS
TWICE A YEAR TO SMITHS LAKE
ARE NOT TO BE MISSED!



Smiths Lake Artwork by Arthur White and Barbara Bohdanowicz



FATS' POPULAR LIVE FROG DISPLAY

