

FROG CALL



THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.

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NEWSLETTER No. 190 APRIL 2024

Litoria citropa Photo by Michelle Toms



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

Arrive from 6.30 pm or a 7pm start.

Friday 5 April 2024

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 5 APRIL 2024

6.30 PM Lost frogs seeking forever homes: Please bring your membership card or join FATS on the night and \$50 donation. **CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED** but bring cash for the raffle, unless you spend over \$10. 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.

7.15 PM Main speaker: Jenny O'Meara (Syd. Olympic Park Authority): Conserving Green and Golden Bell Frogs: challenging, delightful but sometimes confounding

Michelle Toms and Fabian Byers Feb Smiths Lake Excursion

Arthur White The Case of the Midwife Toad

9.30 PM Show us your frog images. Tell us about your frogging trips or experiences. Guessing competition **Credit cards can be used for raffle purchases over \$10, but we prefer cash**, frog adoptions continue, supper, relax and chat with frog friends and experts.

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GREENACRE OPEN DAY

The Greenacre site in the southwest of Sydney, was established in 2000, as a joint venture between FATS and Strathfield Council. The site was an abandoned conservation area and had to be cleared of vegetation and recontoured to create suitable Green and Golden Bell frog habitat. Once the habitats were established, Bell frogs were attracted to the site by the playing of Bell frog calls over loud speakers at night.

Since its creation, Green and Golden Bell frogs have continued to return to this site and have bred there each year. FATS is continually adapting the site to maximise the survival of young Bell frogs and to develop partnerships with surrounding land owners as we try to create frog dispersal corridors throughout the local area.



We were happy with the outcome of the Open Day and want the local people in the Greenacre-Enfield-Strathfield area to adopt the Greenacre site as their own conservation area. FATS will be involved in the management of the site for a number of years to come.

Arthur White



The site had been closed to the public and on Saturday the 20th of January 2024, we opened the gates to the public for the first time. We were not sure if anyone would turn up, but we did not need to worry. People were waiting at the gates in the morning to come in and see the site.

We had various displays available that explained the rationale of the site structure, the habitats that are provided, the progress of the Bell frog population in the local area and all sorts of details about the life history of Bell frogs. Fortunately, some Bell frogs were obliging and sat out for the visitors to see them. We had several demonstration stations around the site, each focused on one aspect of the biology of Green and Golden Bell frogs *Litoria aurea*.

As the Open day occurred in summer, the vast majority of people came in the pre-lunch session and very few came in the afternoon. This was probably good, as the helpers on the day were already a bit worn out by the morning's flurry of activity. The Open Day was so successful that we were contacted soon after by the Cooks River Alliance, an amalgamation of 7 Councils and 3 non-government agencies who were planning a Cooks River Festival in late March. They asked if FATS would re-open the site on Saturday the 30th of March as part of the festival. We agreed. They warned us to expect a larger turn-out on the day.

VALE JIM STOPFORD AND JEFF BANKS

We received sad news that Jim Stopford has passed away. Jim, along with Jeff Banks, who left us only a week previously, were prominent, active committee members of the Australian Herpetological Society AHS before forming the Hawkesbury Herpetological Society HHS. Jim was very active in WIRES in the 1980s and responsible for training countless members in snake handling. He entertained thousands of children during his school shows. Our thoughts are with Fran and the extended Stopford family. Jim has been a fixture of the society since it began and regularly came to meetings when he and Fran weren't travelling around the country. RIP Jim

It's with a heavy heart that we pass on the news of the passing of Hawkesbury Herpetological Society founder Jeff Banks. Jeff passed away recently. He hasn't been well enough to make it to herp society meetings for a few years but managed to get down to see a lot of HHS members at the last Penrith Reptile Expo. It was great to see his twinkling blue eyes. Society members will miss them at the next expo. Our love goes out to Jan and the whole family. RIP Jeff



FATS SMITHS LAKE FIELD TRIP NOVEMBER 2023



Bat Trappers

FATS has been going to Smiths Lake since 1993. During that time we have accumulated (and reported) large numbers of animal sightings to wildlife authorities.



Broad Palmed Frog Sugar Creek Nov 2023

At Smiths Lake, we visit some sites regularly, while we also have a large number of sites that we only visit opportunistically.



Bandy Bandy Snake Sandbar Quarry Nov 2023

In November 2023, a group of 23 hardy souls, ventured to Smiths Lake. Conditions were ideal. rain the previous week had filled the creeks and swamps and the prevailing hot and steamy

conditions were great for most animals. As a result, everybody saw new species and had a great time.



Male Turquoise Parrot

The warm nights meant that a lot of reptiles were out at night, as well as frogs. People were able to see a range of lizard and snake species up close, and get some great photos. The frogs were jumping and singing. At the Twin Fire Dams in Wallingat National Park, the frog chorus were so loud that some people had to move away from the dams to give their ears a rest.

Over 140 bird species were sighted, including wonderful views of Turquoise Parrots, These birds have been seen at Smiths Lake before but they are only an occasional visitor to the area. Sixteen frog species were seen, nine lizard and eight snake species were also seen.

The sightings didn't end on land. At Seal Rocks we swam with Green Turtles and on the last day, one of our members had the great fortune to see four Killer Whales (Orcas) from the cliffs near Seal Rocks. Everyone had a great time. This trip, the animal life was exceptional. But Smiths Lake never disappoints. **Article and all photos by Arthur White**

FATS AGM FRIDAY 2 AUGUST 2024

The FATS AGM will be held on Friday 2/8/2024, 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 and to submit items. We appreciate fresh ideas and **need new members on our committee**. No experience required. The committee meets 6 times a year. No task commitments or time expected of committee members, other than what you are able to spare.

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

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF FILM HIGHLIGHTING ROYAL NATIONAL PARK POLLUTION



See last month's FrogCall #189 and future updates.



SAVE KOSCI, SEND AN EMAIL TO YOUR MP

In the NSW parliament this week, we had a really important win for the wildlife and rivers of Kosciuszko National Park. In a very rare move, the Liberal party decided to split with the National Party to ensure Labor and the Greens could defeat a motion calling for an end to all culling of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park. The shadow Environment Minister, Kellie Sloane, and the former Environment Minister Matt Kean were strong champions in ensuring the Liberals took this principled position, and we thank them both for their support and dedication on this issue.

But this vote highlights that, just as we are on the brink of a wildlife revival in Kosciuszko National Park, a small but vocal opposition is mobilising to try to scare politicians into backing down. With Labor, the Liberals and the Greens all committed to urgently removing feral horses from the Snowies, an angry opposition are working with a few powerful media allies like Ray Hadley and sending a flood of emails to MPs.

Please [send a message to your local NSW Member of Parliament](#) to tell them you want them to stand up for our alpine rivers and corroboree frogs and continue to back the removal of feral horses. We've made it really easy for you to do this. Just [get our writing kit and personalise an email](#) to your local member. You don't have to be a great writer. Just a few sentences will do. https://invasives.org.au/how-to-help/take-action/keep-kosci-free-from-feral-horses/?utm_source=SE&utm_medium=ETT&utm_campaign=HORSES&utm_term=NSW&utm_content=3-24

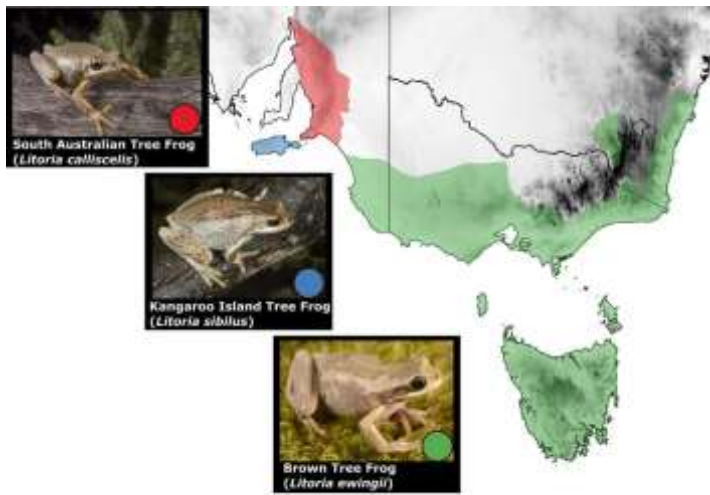
For too long the Snowy Mountains, including the habitats of vulnerable wildlife, have been trashed and trampled by feral horses. And for too long inaction and delay by successive state governments has caused feral horse numbers to grow out of control. We cannot let that ever happen again. Your voice matters. Andrew Cox P.S. Every year the NSW government fails to take effective action means more feral horses must be removed. Damage to landscapes, threatened species and Indigenous heritage will increase. And the cost to taxpayers will rise. [Tell your local MP to stay strong and keep supporting our national parks rangers to take action to remove feral horses and protect our native wildlife.](#)

Andrew Cox Invasive Species Council

SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW FROG EXPLAINERS REQUIRED

FATS has received a request to be at the Frog and Reptile Show on Monday and Tuesday 1 and 2 April 2024. The show is at the Home and Lifestyle Pavilion, Riverina Ave., Sydney Olympic Park Showground. We urgently seek Frog Explainers, especially on Monday 1/4, even an hour helps, to be at our FATS display. Mostly visitors want to tell you about their frog encounters. "Frog Ambassadors" require no experience. <https://wildexpo.com.au/eastershow/> Please email Kathy Potter Kathy@the-pottery.org if you can help.

LITORIA EWINGII SPLIT INTO 2 NEW SPECIES



Distribution of newly described frog species in south-eastern Australia.
Image: Tom Parkin
© Australian Museum

Led by Australian Museum's Thomas Parkin, new research published today reveals the Brown Tree Frog (*Litoria ewingii*) is not one, but actually three distinct species. FrogID's acoustic data played a role in scientifically describing the two newfound frog species: the South Australian Tree Frog (*Litoria calliscelis*) and the Kangaroo Island Tree Frog (*Litoria sibilus*). Your FrogID app should now be updated to reflect this exciting finding. Thank you for your recordings! Learn more in our science news blog: <https://australian.museum/blog/amri-news/whistling-frogs/>

BRICK PIT BELL FROGS



Brick Pit Ring

FATS conducts auditory surveys around the Olympic Precinct each year, but never in the old State Brickpit, a declared area of critical habitat for the Green and Golden Bell frog. The site has been monitored by SOPA (Sydney Olympic Parklands

Authority) staff and a few years ago they installed night cameras inside the pit. The camera revealed that there had been a big increase in the number of exotic Black Rats in the pits, and a decline in the abundance of Green and Golden Bell frogs. Black Rats are omnivorous (unlike most other rats) and will attack and eat other small vertebrate animals.



SOPA received grant money to initiate some rat control measures in the Brickpit. In order to assess the effectiveness of these measures it was decided to establish some Green and Golden Bell Frog activity data at six sites in the pit and to monitor these sites during the eradication and the rats.

It is hoped the data will show a slow recovery in Bell frog numbers as the rat numbers decline.

FATS was asked to help with the first of these monitoring surveys. A small group of six people ventured into the pit 29 January 2023 night. At each site we recorded all calling frog species and any sightings of Green and Golden Bell frogs.

I think that we all felt very special to be in the Brickpit, a site that is off-limits to the general public, FATS will continue to assist with these surveys.

Arthur White All photos are from SOPA Sydney Olympic Park Authority



Jenny Omeara

MUSHROOM SPROUTING OUT OF A LIVING FROG

Chinmay C. Maliye¹ and Lohit Y.T²

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Rao's Intermediate Golden-backed Frog, *Hylarana inter-media* (Rao 1937), is endemic to the Western Ghats of Karnataka and Kerala, India, above the Palghat Gap, where it is found in relative abundance (Biju et al. 2014)

At 1230 h on 19 June 2023, at Mala, Karkala, Karnataka, India (13.380833 N, 75.226667 E), in the foothills of the Kudremukha Ranges, we encountered about 40 Rao's Intermediate Golden-backed Frogs in a small roadside rain-



Figure 1. A Rao's Intermediate Golden-backed Frog (*Indosylvirana intermedia*) with a Bonnet Mushroom (*Mycena* sp.) sprouting from its left flank found on 19 June 2023, at Mala, Karkala, Karnataka, India. Photographs by Lohit Y.T.

water-fed pond. One individual perched on a twig had a distinct outgrowth on its left flank. A closer examination clearly revealed a mushroom sprouting from its side (Fig. 1). The frog was alive and moving. Mycologists later identified the mushroom to be a Bonnet Mushroom (*Mycena* sp.), which is known to be saprotrophic and occurs mostly on rotting wood.

Fungi are extraordinary organisms. They are generally saprotrophs or symbionts that facilitate nutrient cycling but many are parasites of plants and animals. In amphibians, the fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* is known to cause the disease chytridiomycosis, which has affected more than 700 species of amphibians across the world (Berger et al. 1998; Longcore et al. 1999; Lips et al. 2006; Fisher et al. 2020). Recent studies have shown that this amphibian killer is present in low levels in all of the frog hotspots across India (Mutnale et al. 2018).

To the best of our knowledge, never has a mushroom sprouting from the flank of a live frog been documented. The frog was not collected, so no prognosis is possible.

Acknowledgements

We thank fellow group members Naveen Iyer, Nisha B.G., and Asha S., who were present with us during this observation, and Mannapaapu Mane for the hospitality provided during our visit.

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at:

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/377805302>

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FATS 2024 FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION

The FATS members' Frog-O-Graphic competition opens on the 1 May and closes on the 31 August 2024. There is a newer category. Best "wild" tadpole/s or frog/s video. Maximum duration 30 sec, maximum file size 80 MB, maximum resolution 1080P. Format MP4. Wild frogs only, with no people visible ie frogs that are free to come and go including in back yards. No pet frog videos please. Send the link for file to be downloaded in an email to photos@fats.org.au

Categories:

- Best Frog Image,
 - Best Pet Frog Image,
 - Most Interesting Image
 - Best short video 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 page, our web site and other FATS publications. **Arthur White**

FATS NEEDS YOUR HELP

At the recent Annual General Meeting, I addressed those present to inform them of a dire situation facing FATS. The executive of FATS was re-elected without any new faces. This is not new - the same people get re-elected to the same positions year after year. A number of FATS councilors have been running the Society for more than 25 years. It is not good for any Society to have the same people in charge for a long period of time. While saying this, I acknowledge that the executive is very competent and willing- but they (and I) have been there too long.

I have asked the membership for a number of years now to consider stepping up and joining the executive. This request has not produced new blood. Quite the reverse, the members keep telling us that they are happy with what we are doing and for us to continue on. We have reached crunch time. A number of the executive (including myself) have indicated that they will stand down at the next AGM. If there are no people prepared to take up the vacant positions, the Society will fold. FATS is an incorporated society and must have a number of designated executive officers.

So this is a call for help and a warning. Societies survive through the input of its members and not through the input of the same people over and over again. Please think carefully about how you might help FATS. If you are worried about not being able to do the tasks at hand, don't. The outgoing executive will still be around to help you with the work and to show you the ropes. A new executive may choose to operate FATS quite differently to the present administration and may choose to drop a number of our current activities, or they may choose to add new ones.

The future of FATS is in your hands. As a member of FATS, you need to think carefully about how much you value the Society and whether you want to see it continue or not. IF you want to discuss any of this, feel free to contact any of the FATS executive (including myself). Be brave and do what you can for FATS. **Arthur White President 1999-2023**



FROGID HITS ONE MILLION FROG RECORDS!

We have amazing news to share. The FrogID dataset has reached one million scientific records of frogs! The milestone submission was of a Spalding's Rocket Frog (*Litoria spaldingi*) recorded near Cloncurry in north-west Queensland by a newcomer to FrogID, Elliot Leach. Lead Scientist of FrogID, Dr Jodi Rowley, describes the Spalding's Rocket Frog's unique call as a mix of a chicken and a lawnmower - listen to it on the FrogID app or webpage [here](#). Since FrogID launched in 2017, FrogID has been on an incredible journey, achieving an initial 100,000 records within the first 18 months and surpassing the one million mark just over six years later. More than 45,000 citizen scientists across Australia and a dedicated team of frog call experts have contributed to this significant achievement.



SPOTTED TREE FROGS RELEASED INTO VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY AFTER ZOOS VICTORIA BREEDING PROGRAM



Critically endangered spotted tree frogs are returned to Mount Beauty streams. *Supplied: Zoos Victoria*

Researchers have bred 800 spotted tree frogs from 26 they collected in north-east Victoria in 2021. They have released the first 70 of those frogs into the wild. Research is being done to make them more disease resistant.

Matt West was searching rocky, high-altitude streams when he came across his needle in a haystack. His team was part of a search for a tiny, vivid green, lumpy-skinned amphibian species which Zoos Victoria said had lost about half of its known habitat in the Black Summer bushfires. Dr West, who is the director of conservation company Wild Research, said the March 2021 searches of sites in north-east Victoria uncovered 26 critically endangered spotted tree frogs.



Zoos Victoria says spotted tree frogs have been affected by disease. *Supplied: Zoos Victoria*

Those frogs have formed the basis of a breeding program that this month celebrated the release of 70 back into the alpine environment. Dr West said some sites were still too dangerous to walk through in March 2021 and those working on the project were lucky a forest fire management crew was able to chopper them in. Staff from Wild Research, Zoos Victoria, and the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action made up the search party. The frogs were collected into small containers before being put into eskies and taken back in

a helicopter or car to Melbourne Zoo's Amphibian Bushfire Recovery Centre or Healesville Sanctuary's Threatened Amphibian Biolab. They have since bred 800 spotted tree frogs. Zoos Victoria threatened species biologist Deon Gilbert said this month's release at Mount Beauty of 70 juveniles from that breeding pool was incredibly heartwarming. He said it was a little bit overwhelming because the frog had been declining for a long time.

Mr Gilbert said the species was already considered critically endangered when the fires worsened its chances of survival. He said decimation of habitat by fire was far from its only threat. He and Dr West agreed that amphibian chytrid fungus and the introduction of non-native fish species such as rainbow trout, carp and redfin — which ate the frogs — were contributing to decline.



Deon Gilbert surveys quarantined spotted tree frogs. *Supplied: Zoos Victoria*

Dr West said research was being focused on ways to decrease non-native fish and ways to make the frog species more disease resistant. Mr Gilbert said it was a little bit harder to predict the outcomes of threats such as climate change but it highlighted the value of having decades of field research to navigate challenges that emerged.

Mr Gilbert said the work could be less than uplifting. [The fight is not over for the spotted tree frog as it tries to bounce back from the brink of extinction within the NSW Snowy Mountains.](#) He said breeding programs were the lifeline between extinction and survival in many cases. Despite the devastation, he said seeing the public and the government response to biodiversity and to the catastrophic impact of the fires had given him hope. The Spotted Tree Frog Project has received bushfire recovery funding from the federal and state governments, Zoos Victoria's bushfire emergency wildlife fund and a range of other foundations. Dr West said the frogs were a critical part of ecosystems as predators and prey. He said he hoped the work would put the species in a stronger position.

**Shared with FATS by Punia Jeffery
EXTRACTS ABC Goulburn Murray
By Anna Chisholm 21/2/2024**

POLLEN AS FOOD: EFFECTS OF CONSUMPTION ON TADPOLE GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, AND MOBILITY

Abstract The structure of many aquatic food webs is influenced by tadpole survivorship and duration of seasonal occupancy, which depend on tadpole diet. Pollen has been occasionally reported to occur in tadpole diets, and the available studies show that tadpoles have a strong preference for this supposedly nutritive resource. Thus, we aimed to test whether a diet composed of pollen from varied plant species would boost tadpole growth, development, and agility/mobility, compared to a regular artificial balanced and nutritive diet.



Kloh, J.S., (Jéssica Stephanie Kloh) Figueredo, C.C., Calaça, P. *et al.* Pollen as food: effects of consumption on tadpole growth, development, and mobility. *Hydrobiologia* (2024). Published 8/1/24
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10750-023-05439-5>



Tadpoles in initial developmental stages 25 and 30 grew more when fed with pollen, compared to artificial food and a mixture of both diets. Those initially in stage 30 advanced more developmental stages during one month when fed exclusively with pollen. Tadpoles fed with pollen moved longer distances in response to an aversive stimulus simulating a predatory attack than tadpoles fed with artificial food or a mixed diet.



Our results corroborate the hypotheses of pollen being a very important food source to aquatic consumers such as tadpoles, being likely to influence the structure of aquatic food webs through tadpole nutrition and modulation of growth/development speed, as well as tadpole ability to escape predators.

SYDNEY SCIENCE TRAIL 10-18 / 8 / 2024

FATS will be present at a variety of events in Science Week. The Australian Museum will celebrate National Science Week with an adventure full of family-friendly science programs and excursions for primary and secondary students, presented in collaboration with the Botanic Gardens of Sydney.

Events will take place at a variety of sites across NSW. Please email Events Coordinator Kathy Potter Kathy@the-pottery.org to register your interest in helping in Augsut at one of the FATS displays.

NSW FROG KEEPERS LICENCES

Please check with the NSW Department of Environment and Heritage for details of how to complete your 2024 amphibian licences due on 1 April. Licence renewals and record book details can be found on their web site and by calling them on the phone. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences/native-animals-as-pets/frog-keeper-licences>

FATS FIELD TRIPS WILL RECOMMENCE IN SPRING 2024

We hope you have enjoyed the 23/24 program. Thank you to Robert Wall for coordinating the FATS field trips over the last few years.

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 Easter Friday), June, August, October and December. **If the FATS meeting falls on Easter Friday, then the meeting will probably be one week earlier. Occasionally other meeting dates are changed. Please check our website and your emails for notices.** 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. Credit cards can now be used for raffle and other purchases over \$10.

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FATS ON FACEBOOK: FATS has over 4,890 Facebook members and visitors 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>



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NOWHERE IS SAFE FROM THE SPREAD OF FIRE ANTS.



A second fire ant infestation has been found in Northern NSW and a fire ant has been found in Tasmania! While it's a relief that Biosecurity Tasmania detected the fire ant in an Australia Post parcel, there's no guarantee the system is foolproof – it's the ants that make it through that are the problem. And as long as there are fire ants in any part of Australia, they can spread anywhere, including to your backyard or mine.

We're running out of time to prevent a life sentence with these tiny killers. You and I must act now to stop fire ants from marching all over the country. After years of delay, this is our last shot. We need an emergency response. If our governments don't ramp up their funding and action, fire ants will devastate our wildlife, agriculture and communities. Just like they continue to devastate parts of the U.S.



We've never been closer to a life sentence with one of the world's worst super pests. Fire ant eradication now sits on a knife's edge. We have one last shot to stop these tiny killers from devastating

our environment, agriculture and communities. Eradication cannot be allowed to fail. You are critical to that success. I need you to stand with us and demand an emergency response to this looming national disaster. Ensure government action and funding ramps up – in time – to stop the fire ant emergency. It is only because we stepped in that Australia still has a chance to stop these tiny killers.

Thanks to your help, we have ensured eradication efforts were not abandoned several years ago. Now we're leading the campaign to demand governments do what it takes to stop fire ants. They are paying attention but they've only provided half of the funds needed. This is a national emergency and it needs a full national emergency-level response!

It's up to you and I to ensure governments ramp up their funding and respond to this national emergency. You and I both know if we leave it up to governments, it will be the same old story: too little, too late.

We are running out of time. What you and I do now will determine if we succeed or fail. If we don't do everything we can to stop the fire ants, we will regret this moment forever. [Please back us with your donation.](#) We will demand governments respond to this red fire ant threat with a full national emergency-level action.

Already, successful eradications have taken place in Perth, Sydney and Gladstone over the last 10 years. The government-run program has a big job to do and it needs to be properly funded. Not only does it need to strengthen its efforts in Queensland, it must now urgently ramp up community education and engagement across the whole of northern NSW.

Fire ants will devastate our native wildlife. If they continue to spread, it's estimated that their deadly, relentless stinging will cause population declines in 45% of birds, 38% of mammals, 69% of reptiles and 95% of frog populations in south-east Queensland alone.

If they are allowed to spread across the continent, their economic impact will be greater than cane toads, rabbits, feral cats and foxes combined. Either we stop fire ants in their tracks now or they take over our backyards, beaches and parks. Either we stand up for nature now or we lose the battle for small native animals who will be their victims. This is a sliding door moment. This could be the moment that we will look back on and celebrate because we stopped one of the biggest threats to nature in Australia or it could be the moment we regret because we let fire ants spread over the continent.

Thank you for all that you have done to get us to this point. There's still time to eradicate fire ants. I know if we really put our minds to this immense task we can ultimately succeed. Yours for nature,
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Invasive Species Council <https://invasives.org.au/>