

# FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.  
 Facebook page: Frog and Tadpole Study group of NSW - FATS  
 Email: fatsgroupnsw@hotmail.com  
 PO Box 296 Rockdale NSW 2216  
 Frogwatch Helpline 0419 249 728  
 Website: www.fats.org.au  
 ABN: 34 282 154 794

NEWSLETTER No. 120 August 2012

Ben Brown *Litoria aurea*  
 Green and Golden Bell Frog



Arrive 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

FATS meet at the Education Centre,  
 Bicentennial Pk, Sydney Olympic Park

Easy walk from Concord West railway station and straight down Victoria Ave. If walking, take a strong torch (Apr - Oct).

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. Or enter from Bennelong Road / Parkway.

It's a short stretch of two way road.

Park in p10f car park, the last car park before the exit gate. See map p12.

FATS will conduct our AGM from 7 pm to 7.30pm.  
 Our usual meeting will follow.

### MEETING FORMAT Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2012

**6.30 pm** There are only a few lost frogs needing forever homes this month. Please bring your FATS membership card and cash \$30 - \$50 donation. NSW NPWS amphibian licence must be sighted on the night. Rescued frogs can never be released.

**7.00pm** Welcome, AGM and announcements.

**7.45 pm** George Madani is the main speaker - Borneo

**9.00 pm** Show us your frog images, tell us about your frogging trips or experiences, guessing competition, continue with frog adoptions, supper & a chance to relax and chat with frog experts.

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## LAST FATS MEETING 1 JUNE 2012

**D**avid Nelson presented a stunning account of the wildlife of Borneo. There were gasps and squeals of delight throughout the talk as David put up one startling image after another of bizarre frogs, lizards, mammals, insects and plants. Everyone was on the edge of their seats waiting for the next image to appear.

David narrated the antics of four young Australian males- all animal-mad- loose in the jungles of Borneo. As you can imagine, every animal within range was chased, stalked or enticed towards the camera. Some had to be hand caught first- not all of the animals appreciated having their photographs taken and inflicted bites and scratches galore. Still no animal was spared from these tarzans who didn't know which way to turn as every tree, bush, rock or log held an assortment of fantastic animals to behold.

When David finished his presentation, the crowd exhaled and called him a "lucky bastard". Everyone was envious of the exploits and the sights.

But it is not over yet. Part 2 of the Borneo story will be given by George Madani at the next meeting. Can George top this effort? I asked David that question and he said that George had some pictures and stories that were even more amazing. How is that possible? Come to the meeting and find out. **AW**

### Tasmanian Tree Frog *Litoria burrowsae*



Photo by George Madani

## LIFE IN THE PARK

**L**ife in the Park for 2012 will be held on Sunday 16 September. All FATS members are very welcome. The event will take place between 2-4pm and speakers will be presenting on frogs, birds and estuarine creatures. Jennifer O'Meara Parklands Ecologist Sydney Olympic Park Authority link unavailable at time of printing. Please check website in August  
[http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/our\\_park/environment/biodiversity](http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/our_park/environment/biodiversity) and  
[http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/our\\_park/environment/biodiversity/frogs](http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/our_park/environment/biodiversity/frogs)



Green Tree Frog *Litoria caerulea* Photo Vicky Deluca

## FATS AGM NOTICE FOR 3RD AUGUST 2012

**T**he FATS AGM will be held on 3rd August 2012, commencing 7pm. FATS meet at the Education Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park. If you would like to ask questions about joining the FATS committee, please give us a call. There are a diversity of roles within the committee to accommodate your interests, skills and available time. You only need to devote whatever time you can spare. New committee members help develop fresh ideas and keep our organization interesting and fun. No previous experience or qualifications are required. Please contact our secretary Wendy Grimm or myself for further information. **Arthur White**

## FROGCALLS CAN BE EMAILED OUT AS A PDF FILE

**L**et our editor Monica know, via email, if you would like the current and/or ten back copies of FATS Frogcall newsletter emailed to you. Email [wangmann@tig.com.au](mailto:wangmann@tig.com.au) The digital colour newsletters are pdf file attachments are less than 2.5 MB in size, sent automatically to your email address six times a year, if you like. Current size is 1.2MB and getting smaller. We also have a variety of word documents on frog husbandry that can be emailed out. **MW**

## IS YOUR FATS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OVER DUE?

**F**ATS membership renewals were due in June. Please check inside your Frogcall envelope, for enclosed reminder notice.

Members who joined since 20 January 2012 (usually 1 February) remain financial until 30 June 2013. For the rest of us...could you please pay as soon as possible. Memberships can be paid by cheque in the mail, at FATS meetings or direct debit bank transfer

BSB 082 342

Account name: Frog and Tadpole Study Group

Account number: 285 766 885

When using direct debit you need to identify yourself by name if there is an option or FATS membership number (on your notice). Please Email Karen White at [1arthur@tpg.com.au](mailto:1arthur@tpg.com.au) to advise that you have just banked the membership fee, how you identified yourself and how much you paid. Thanks MW



Photo by Ben Harrington  
*Litoria tyleri* Tyler's Tree Frog

## FROG ADOPTIONS HOW IS YOUR NEW PET FROG GOING?

**W**elcome again to all the new members who have adopted a frog. For both new and long term members, please don't be shy if you are having difficulties with your new pet. Illness can happen quickly. Let us know if you have had any health problems you can't resolve or a death (hopefully not). Your best chance to save a sick frog is taking them immediately to a vet. If you are near Waterloo Sydney, then Lee Peacock at 1 Hunter Street is a very good vet. Always call ahead to ensure there is a specialist vet ready to see your little friend. Most vet clinics usually have someone who specialises in reptiles, birds and/or exotics and their years of training will usually provide the initial help you need. I hope to compile a list of specialty and publish it in Frogcall in the near future. If you have come across a vet who specialises in frogs, please let us know their name, contact details and address. MW

## FESTIVAL OF WILDFLOWERS, KU RING GAI

26 AUGUST 2012 FATS needs your help

**O**ur frog group are well represented at this major and fun event. The Festival of Wildflowers has drawn larger crowds every year and we need assistance at the frog stall and at the dip netting for tadpoles activities.

Please contact Wendy Grimm by return email if you are able to help us and make yourself known to her at the next FATS meetings in June. MW

## FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION 2012

**A**ll Fats members are urged to start taking lots of frog photos, indulge in frog drawings or frog art and submit up to six entries in the competition. You might win fabulous prize and have your entry included in next year's Fats calendar. There are separate prizes for frog images, frog artwork, most interesting frog images at both senior and junior levels. In addition, there will be a People's Choice award that will be decided at the October meeting.

To enter you need to submit a medium quality electronic image of your entry to Arthur White at [1arthur@tpg.com.au](mailto:1arthur@tpg.com.au) Entries close on the 31st of August. For junior members, please also state your age along with your contact details. Arthur White

# FROG STREET JAPAN



## POISON PILL THE LATEST WEAPON AGAINST TOADS

**T**he pesky cane toad, which has played havoc with native species, could soon be facing death by its own poison. Native tadpoles are repelled by the cane toads' poison, but cane toads themselves are attracted to it. Now, the University of Sydney's Professor Rick Shine says work is underway to manufacture a poison pill to target the rogue tadpoles. "We're hoping that we can come up with a relatively non-toxic pure form of the chemical that'll last for a long time," Professor Shine said. "It'll be safe to use [and] it'll make it a lot easier to go and catch those cane toad tadpoles from that pond down the road." Professor Shine says the poisons have multiple applications.

"It turns out that the toad's poison is, sort of, the major chemical signal that cane toad tadpoles use to find out that another cane toad has laid eggs in the pond," he said. "They come racing across to find these new eggs to kill them, so that they don't have any competitors." The poison is extremely venomous, and once extracted, is placed directly in the pests' homes. "It's incredibly poisonous stuff, but it's pretty easy to get a little bit of material that looks a bit like toothpaste," Professor Shine said. "If we put [the poison] secretion in a trap, a funnel trap, a minnow trap, we catch tens of thousands of cane toad tadpoles very, very quickly. "The beauty of it is that the native tadpoles are repelled by this chemical and so they go the other direction."

The process of extraction currently involves manually extracting the cane toad poison, but Professor Shine says the research has the backing of the Australian Research Council to create a pill from the toxic substance. "We're working with the University of Queensland with some chemists there. And we're hoping that we can come up with a relatively non-toxic, pure form of the chemical that will last for a long time, that will be safe to use." Professor Shine concedes "there's no way in the world" cane toads can be eradicated from Australia. "[It's] too much work, too many people, too many billabongs," he said. "But if there's a particular area we really care about that has high conservation value, then I think it's a really effective way to stop cane toads breeding." **Environment reporter Conor Duffy** <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-06-13/poison-pill-the-latest-weapon-against-toads/4067352> forwarded to Frogcall by Andrew Nelson

## COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2012/2013 SPRING / SUMMER FIELDTRIPS PROGRAMME!

**S**pring is just around the corner and FATS members everywhere are pulling out their headlamps and dusting off their gumboots. For the uninitiated, every Spring and Summer, FATS conduct monthly fieldtrips around the Sydney region. We take in frogging sites that may be exceptionally rich in variety, have an interesting mix of species, or may simply represent the froglife of a particular habitat type. Our fieldtrips are led by our more expert FATS members and are free.

No experience is necessary, nor are any of our trips arduous. All you need is a torch/headlamp, and shoes that can get wet. It is a wonderful and safe way to experience our frogs in the wild, learn about them and enjoy a balmy evening outdoors. Look for our field-trips announcements in this issue. Members need to book first, and remember to confirm in the final days whether the trip is going ahead (sometimes we cancel fieldtrips if there are bushfires, swollen creeks etc). **SO ALWAYS CHECK BEFORE DRIVING TO A SITE!!**



**Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Gardens – dip netting**



## WHAT'S AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GARDEN?

Trish's "Froggy" who has been touring in a campervan. He has been with them for some months now, but they don't know where they picked her up. They now have a solar light to attract insects for her so she doesn't have to work so hard every night. (message from Ross) Peron's Tree Frog, also called Emerald-spotted Tree Frog, *Litoria peronii*.



Striped Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes peroni* sneaks into Lindsay's Cremorne bedroom



Lindsay's grandson Zac, with his visitor in Cairns. Not that rare but a lovely example of a *Litoria infrafrenata* White-lipped Tree Frog



"Kermit" *Litoria fallax* rescue Photo by Johnny

Monica Wangmann, a bowl full of Striped Marsh Frog tadpoles, Kermit's cousin and a White lip visited 40 very bright and well behaved year 2 children at St Vincent Primary School, Ashfield last week. The children asked loads of excellent questions and had a wonderful time talking about frogs. Thank you teachers especially Mrs Mcrae for asking FATS to visit the school.



## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FIREFLY AND A GLOW-WORM?

**R**emember the glow worm puzzle from last edition? .....Tricky as these are common names. The general breakdown is this. There are two types of glowing insect in Australia

(1) a genus of fungus gnats in the genus *Arachnocampa* - related to the famous insects of the Waitomo caves in New Zealand and they live in much the same way and

(2) a number of genera and species of beetles in the family Lampyridae.

Now the confusion starts. The adult beetles are called 'fireflies' despite the fact that they are obviously beetles. Like all beetles they pass through a grub and pupal stage much like a butterfly does. The beetle larvae however are predatory on small snails and slugs in Australia and they glow as well particularly when hunting and feeding. People call these larvae 'glow-worms'! Both fireflies and glow-worms are thought to be distasteful or even poisonous and most animals reject them as food and they glow brighter when threatened. I suspect this is why the frog rejected the firefly as food.

The glowing fungus gnat adults - which are true flies - are called a fungus gnats or a glow-worm gnats while it's their elongated glowing maggots which are also called glow-worms. These glow-worms, with the use of a sticky thread web, catch insects attracted by their pale blue light.

In addition some of the lampyrid beetles have females which 'don't grow up' in body shape but retain the larval form and breed as larval shaped adults. These are also called glow-worms while the more typically shaped beetle males are called fireflies.

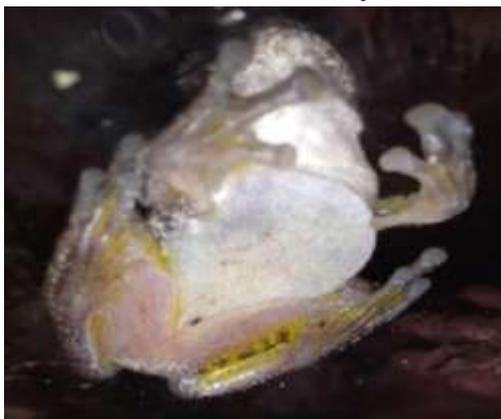
NOW you know why scientists prefer scientific names to common names! **Martyn Robinson , Australian Museum**



**Blaxland garden - Photo by Rosie**  
*Litoria verreauxii*. Whistling tree frog



*Litoria peronii* Peron's Tree frog  
Found by Nick's daughter on a hand railing outside  
Woolworths Dee Why



## HERPDIGEST

### BRING YOUR OWN CHOPSTICKS

**D**isposable chopsticks are made largely from old growth forests that are clear-cut in the search for the perfect straight-grained wood. Poplar, Spruce, Birch, and Aspen are the most commonly used tree species in disposable chopstick production. China produces roughly 63 billion chopsticks a year, half of which are used in China; of the other half, 77 percent go to Japan, 21 percent to South Korea and 2 percent to the United States. This equates to approximately 3.8 billion trees felled annually in China. A moratorium in China to protect dwindling lumber resources forced the Chinese to rely heavily on their neighbour, Russia. Being timber-rich, Russia was the perfect place for the Chinese to export lumber, until they raised their export tax from 5% to 25%. As a result, disposable chopstick prices are increasing.

To combat the massive deforestation in China, a push has been made by conservation groups to utilize reusable or washable chopsticks, and in 2006 the "Bring Your Own Chopsticks" movement (BYOC) was developed in parts of Asia (Gardner, 2010), helping raise public awareness and eventually galvanizing legislative action. In 2007, China imposed a tax on wooden chopsticks. In 2008, the Beijing Olympics committee banned disposable chopsticks during the torch relay. In 2010, China's Ministry of Commerce issued a warning about impending government restrictions to disposable chopstick manufacturers.

<http://www.rockethub.com/projects/7853-chopsticks-for-salamanders> This problem is not confined to Asia; it is now encroaching on the United States and Canada as well. HerpDigest.org Volume # 12 Issue # 26 6/22/12 Need a daily fix of herp news ? go to HerpDigest;s Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/HerpDigestorg/130624001610> and hit like

**Chris's *Litoria peronii* Peron's Tree Frog**  
**Appin NSW south of Sydney**

## NEW SPECIES OF FROG NAMED AFTER PRINCE CHARLES

**A**mphibian Ark, a group which works for the survival of endangered frogs, newts and salamanders, decided to name a new species of stream frog *Hyloscirtus princecharlesi*, in recognition of British heir Prince Charles' conservation efforts.

Legend has it that only a kiss from a princess can transform a frog into a prince, but a rare Ecuadorian amphibian has taken on a noble title thanks to conservation scientists.

Amphibian Ark, a group which works for the survival of endangered frogs, newts and salamanders, decided to name a new species of stream frog *Hyloscirtus princecharlesi*, in recognition of British heir Prince Charles' conservation efforts.

"It is endangered and needs to be protected in the wild. Its rainforest habitat is under threat due to the impact of farming," said a spokesman for the conservation group. "It's fairly unusual to name a new species after someone but this is seen as something special in honour of the Prince," he added.

Charles said he was "very touched" by the gesture, and vowed to redouble his efforts to help defend the world's rainforests. He was presented with a glass replica of the brown and orange frog by Luis Coloma, the Ecuadorian scientist who discovered the amphibian four years ago. "That's wonderful, I will treasure that," he said of the gift. "I shall battle even harder now." Coloma said Charles had been "a very active campaigner to save tropical rainforests". "The frogs live inside the forests and he has been using frogs as symbols for his campaign, so he's like a leader in this fight," he added. **AFP 6 July 2012 AFP, IoL SciTech Herpdigest Volume # 12 Issue # 29**



# FROGS OF THE SYDNEY REGION



## Introduction

Sydney has a wide variety of habitats that suit a diverse range of frogs. Although our city region has nearly all been disturbed or greatly altered by humans, there are still over twenty different species of frogs that can be found in and around the city limits. This poster introduces you to most of them. Apart from the Red-crowned Toadlet, all these frogs are also found outside of the Sydney region. Seven are ground frogs that do not normally climb and don't have discs on their fingers and toes, and the remainder are tree frogs, some of which are climbers and live in trees, the guttering and pipes around houses (or even toilets) and others which have adapted to living on the ground. Depending on their need to climb, they have larger or smaller discs on their fingers and toes.

Some frogs are threatened, such as the unique Red-crowned Toadlet known only from the Sydney Basin, and others are in decline as a result of habitat loss and/or a disease known as 'chytrid' (pronounced kitrid) fungus, that is specific to frogs and is sweeping through many populations all round the world. Despite this, some frogs are still quite common, and although they may have come in contact with this fungus, they appear to be much less affected by it.

The four frogs you are most likely to see in gardens, bushland or semi-rural areas where there are ponds or dams, are shown here in the top row of photographs. The first two are ground frogs, and being the most common, they are likely to be the first to colonise a frog-friendly garden pond.

The next two are tree frogs and like more bushy suburbs or semi-rural areas where there are trees and dams.

To help you get to know our frogs, the snapshots below show what an interesting variety of frogs we have, and you can learn more about helping frogs survive in Sydney by visiting the FATS website (see below) and coming along to meetings and field trips to see live frogs. The Frogs Australia Network website <http://frogsaustralia.net.au> has a wealth of information about frogs from around Australia and also includes many recordings of their calls to help you identify them. Another useful website is [www.frogs.org.au](http://www.frogs.org.au) produced by the Amphibian Research Centre.



## 4 Common Frogs



Upto 75 mm

### Striped Marsh Frog

*Limnodynastes peronii*  
Very common around most areas of Sydney still and if you have a garden pond you are likely to have it come to breed. It has a fairly pointed snout and is brown with darker stripes and blotches and sometimes a pale cream stripe down the middle of the back. The familiar short 'tock' call of this frog can go all night and they lay a foamy white mass of eggs which floats.



Upto 30 mm

### Eastern Froglet

*Crinia signifera*  
One of our smallest Sydney frogs and also one of the two most common species still found in many suburbs. It is very variable and can be brown, rusty red, grey, yellow or dark brown with or without darker stripes or smaller markings. Sounds a bit like a low pitched cricket when calling and likes any small or larger pond, creeks, dams, swamps etc.



Upto 32 mm

### Dwarf Tree Frog

*Litoria fallax*  
A very small green tree frog with a white stripe along the side of its head and very common in farm dams, plant nurseries with ponds and water plants on display and some suburban gardens with ponds all around Sydney. It likes to sit on tall reeds, where it is very well camouflaged.



Upto 90 mm

### Peron's Tree Frog

*Litoria peronii*  
Quite a large grey-brown tree frog usually with some darker mottling, and tiny green specks if you look closely. It has lovely big silvery eyes with a fine network of dark veins visible and large discs on fingers and toes. Its loud laughing call (likened to a maniacal cackle), is easily recognised, and it is still fairly common in gardens in bushy areas around Sydney, as well as in rural or semi-rural suburbs with large dams to the north and west or south-west to the mountains.



Upto 47 mm

### Green-Thighed Frog

*Litoria brevipalmata*  
A chocolate brown, ground-dwelling tree frog with lime green thighs. Rarely encountered, it hides under leaf litter, in forests around Urimbah and further north of Sydney. Patchy distribution in wet coastal forests, and north to SE Qld.



Upto 110 mm

### Green Tree Frog

*Litoria caerulea*  
A well-known favourite frog, large and green with big toe discs. Sometimes has a few white spots. Still found in the outskirts of Sydney, e.g. Windsor, Dural and some northern and southern suburbs, but much less common in most suburban areas. Likes to live in toilets or down pipes, where its very loud, low-pitched call echoes.



Upto 70 mm

### Red Eyed Tree Frog

*Litoria chloris*  
Beautiful large green tree frog with a bright yellow belly, striking orange-red eyes and large discs on fingers and toes. Found in Gosford region and further north. Likes rainforest and moister areas.



Upto 58 mm

### Blue Mountains Tree Frog

*Litoria citropa*  
A stream-dwelling frog with a green and dull gold back and brick red thighs. It likes rocky stream areas and is found south of Sydney in the Woronora River catchment, Royal National Park and other sites, north of Sydney in the Watagan Forest and west of Sydney in the Blue Mountains



Upto 45 mm

### Bleating Tree Frog

*Litoria dentata*  
A small brown tree frog with a broad darker brown band down its back and an extremely loud high-pitched bleating call. Found near Liverpool and further west, the Gosford area and may turn up in suburban gardens near bushland or farmland.



Upto 42 mm

### Freycinet's Frog

*Litoria freycineti*  
A mottled brown ground-dwelling tree frog with a pointed snout and small warts on its skin. It is a very good jumper with long hind legs and likes swampy areas, rocky creeks and coastal heathland in the Helensburgh area and further south, as well as in less built-out bushland areas north of Sydney.



Upto 45 mm

### Dainty Tree Frog

*Litoria gracilentia*  
Another beautiful, green tree frog with reddish eyes, a yellow belly and purple thighs. It is related to the Red-eyed tree frog, but smaller and likes coastal forest and semi-cleared farmland in the central coast and further north.



Upto 45 mm

### Jervis Bay Tree Frog

*Litoria jervisiensis*  
A medium-sized brown tree frog with a dark stripe on the side of its head. It likes dams and swamps with permanent water and tall thick reeds. Found at Kurnell (but will need habitat protection to survive there), south of Sydney round Darke Forest and other coastal sites north and south of Sydney.



Upto 42 mm

### Broad Palmed Tree Frog

*Litoria latopalmata*  
A pale beige ground frog with a dark stripe along the side of its head (may have a few darker markings), yellow under its legs and smooth skin. Very good jumper and found near dams on larger rural or semi-rural properties just north and west of Sydney, as well as a broad distribution mainly in NSW and Qld.



Upto 63 mm

### Stoney Creek Frog

*Litoria lesueuri*  
A medium to large ground frog that is usually brown with a dark stripe along the side of the head and may have some smaller dark patches on the back. Males calling at night can be quite yellow. They are good jumpers and like rocky creeks, but will also breed in farm dams in semi-rural areas. Streams in the Woronora Catchment and similar south of Sydney, and in the forests to the north, as well as the Blue Mountains and adjacent areas



Upto 70 mm

### Litt lejohn's Frog

*Litoria littlejohni*  
A medium-sized pale grey-brown tree frog usually with a darker band down the back, some indistinct mottling and reddish-orange thighs. Now much less common, likes small creek lines and swamps or dams to the north and south of Sydney in heath or bushland and also the Blue Mountains.



Upto 40 mm

### Litt lejohn's Frog

*Litoria phyllochroa*  
A small green frog that is mainly found along creeks, but as most of these are now polluted around Sydney, you are lucky if its quaint soft call is heard in your garden. Still around in some lush moist gardens in the northern and southern suburbs and parts of the Blue Mountains, and in the absence of creeks it will breed in ponds or dams.



Upto 100 mm

### Giant Burrowing Frog

*Heleioporus australiacus*  
A large endangered black or dark grey burrowing frog with a broad head and big grey eyes. Males have sharp black spines on their fingers. They burrow in sandy soil beside small creeks and sometimes dams, and their eggs are hidden in the burrows until they hatch. They have a soft 'owl-like' call and are now rarely seen except in a few bushland areas around the city outskirts to the north and south where water in the creeks is unpolluted.



Upto 100 mm

### Eastern Pobblebonk

*Limnodynastes dumerilii*  
A large brown burrowing frog with a yellow throat, yellow patches along the sides and a thick raised yellow stripe on the sides of the head below the eye to the arm. They have a raised gland on the top of each leg and big brown eyes. Found less often now, they will breed around dams and creeks in bushland or semi-rural areas and have a distinctive call like the twang of a banjo resonating in the bathroom.



Upto 47 mm

### Spotted Marsh Frog

*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*  
A medium-sized ground frog that likes swamps, ponds, dams and even flooded ditches. It has a pale grey back with numerous darker blotches and often a pale cream stripe down the middle of the back. Around Sydney they are more common on the Cumberland plain areas of Camden, Campbelltown, Penrith, Windsor etc. but are very common across much of eastern Australia.



Upto 30 mm

### Red Crowned Toadlet

*Pseudophryne australis*  
A small, very special, endangered frog unique to the Sydney region. It is grey with a distinctive red-orange triangular patch on the head and red stripe at the bottom of the back, as well as some reddish tubercles over the back. The belly is strikingly marbled with black and white patches. They are still found in bushland areas around Sydney, associated with bush rock and small temporary creek lines.



Upto 32 mm

### Dusky Toadlet

*Uperoleia fusca*  
This small ground frog gets called a toadlet because of its glandular skin, but it is not a toad. They are still found in some areas around Sydney, but prefer grassy dams in semi-rural or woodland areas rather than suburban gardens. They have orange-red flash colours in the groin and numerous small darker markings on the back.



Upto 32 mm

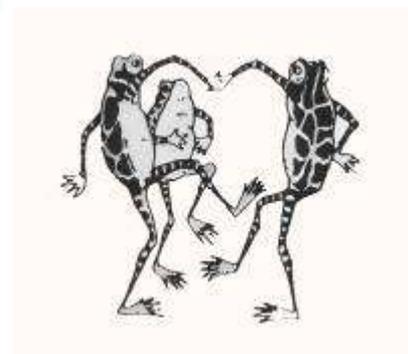
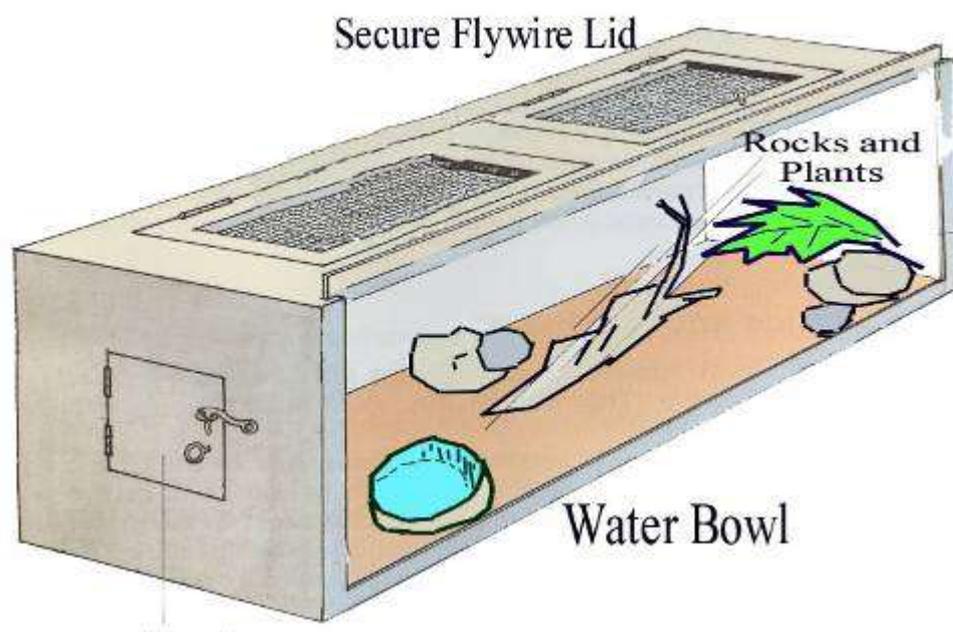
### Litoria verreauxii

A small light brown frog with a divided darker brown band down the back, dark stripe along the side of the head and red over the inner surfaces of the hind legs with pale yellow and a few black spots in the groin. Found around dams and ponds to the south, north and west of the CBD, still turns up at times in some suburban gardens, found at Kurnell, Windsor area and many other bushland or semi-rural areas nearer to Sydney and further out, but not as common as it once was woodland areas

# How to Look after Your New Frog

Frogs kept in captivity have special needs:

You must have a well-sealed cage for your frog. Frogs can fit through spaces smaller than their own body. They have a skeleton made of cartilage (not bone). If there are gaps, the frogs will escape. Captive frogs must never be deliberately released. Although frogs from the Rescue Service have undergone a period of quarantine, they may still be carrying diseases.



Frogs must always have access to clean water. They dry out and die quickly if they cannot sit in water when they need to. Tap water is OK for frogs but not tadpoles. You must change the water at least once a week.

Do not tip old frog water on the lawn or into pot plants. Flush it down the toilet or sterilise it before pouring it down the drain. Solid wastes should be disposed of with the garbage.

Frogs are most active at night. Don't worry if they are quiet or hide during the day.

Frogs need to be able to hide. There must be rocks, wood, plants or some shelter in the cage for them to hide in.

Frogs can drown. They have lungs not gills. Always make it easy for your frog to get out of its water bowl.

Frogs eat moving food, such as live crickets and cockroaches. These can be bought from pet shops or you can start up your own insect culture. Frogs will ignore dead or non-moving food.

Frogs need to be fed often during spring and summer and less often during winter. On warm days they can be fed each day or every two days. In winter they may be fed once a week or every ten days.

Frogs can overheat. Do not leave their cage in full sunlight. Always have a cool area in the cage. The lid of the cage should permit air flow to cool the cage. Secure flywire lids are good for this purpose.

If you have a tropical frog species, you might need to heat the cage during winter.

Do not mix frog species in the one cage. Some frogs are toxic to other species. Do not put frogs that are very different in size together, the smaller one will get eaten.

If your frog is sick, call the frog Help Line 0419-249-728. Not many vets have experience with sick frogs.

If you don't want your frog any more or you can't look after it, return it to Frog Rescue. You must **never** release captive frogs.

**Frog and Tadpoles Study Group of NSW Inc.**

**Arthur White January 2001.**



**Photo by Ben Harrington *Litoria peronii* Perons Tree Frog**

**INSURANCE DISCLAIMER** FATS has public liability insurance for its various public functions. This insurance does not cover FATS members; it covers the public and indemnifies FATS. We are currently checking with insurance firms to see whether a realistic group policy can be organised to cover FATS volunteers and people who attend field trips.

**FATS MEETINGS** commence at 7 pm, (arrive 6.30pm) and ends about 10pm at the Education Centre Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay and are usually held on the first Friday of every **EVEN** month February, April, June, August, October and December (but not Good Friday). Call, check our web site or email us for further directions. Easy walk from Concord West railway station and straight down Victoria Ave. Take a strong torch in winter. By car: Enter from Australia Ave at the Bicentennial Park entrance and drive through the park (one way road) turn off to the right if entering from the main entrance or enter from Bennelong Rd/Parkway. It's a short stretch of 2 way road and park in p10f car park (the last car park before the exit gate). See map p12

We hold 6 informative, informal, topical and practical free meetings each year. Visitors are welcome. We are actively involved in monitoring frog populations, other field studies; produce the newsletter **FROGCALL** and **FROGFACTS** information sheets. All expressions of opinion and information are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as an official opinion of the Frog and Tadpole Study Group Committee, unless expressly so stated. 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

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Special thanks to regular newsletter contributors, including  
Lothar Voigt, Robert Wall, George Madani, Karen & Arthur White, Wendy & Phillip Grimm,  
Grant Webster, Marion Anstis, Andrew & David Nelson and Bill Wangmann.

## **FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728**

### **FATS CONTACTS**

		<b>phone</b>	<b>email</b>
Arthur White	President	ph/fax (02) 9599 1161	lARTHUR@tpg.com.au
Andre Rank	Vice President		wylee_ec@hotmail.com
Wendy Grimm	Secretary	(02) 9144 5600	wagrimm@tpg.com.au
Punia Jeffery	Chairperson	(02) 9969 1932	punijeffery@yahoo.com.au
Karen White	Treasurer	ph/fax (02) 9599 1161	lARTHUR@tpg.com.au
Andrew Nelson	Membership Officer	(02) 9411 6068	awnelson@optusnet.com.au
Vicki Deluca	Publicity Officer	0408 231 447	delucax6@optusnet.com.au
Sheila Briffa	Exhibitions Officer	0411 344 231	sheila99@tpg.com.au
Robert Wall	Field Trips Coordinator	(02) 9681 5308	rjw2008@live.com.au
Marion Anstis	Web Associate	(02) 9456 1698	frogpole@tpg.com.au
Phillip Grimm	Web Master	(02) 9144 5600	phigrimm@tpg.com.au
Lothar Voigt	Committee Member	(02) 9371 9129	lothar@virginbroadband.com.au
Monica Wangmann	Editor	(02) 9797 6543 0418 992 766	wangmann@tig.com.au



## FIELD TRIPS

**P**lease book your place on field-trips; due to strong demand, numbers are limited (ph. 9681-5308). 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 final days, whether the field-trip is proceeding or has been cancelled. Phone Robert on ph. 9681-5308.

**8 Sept 8-00 p.m. Castlereagh Nature Reserve. Leader: Peter Spradbrow.**

**Meet at the Shell Service Station, Richmond Rd, Berkshire Park, (opp. Windsor Downs Estate). It is between St Marys Rd. and Llandilo Rd., Berkshire Park.**

The First Fleet constructed the first sawpits at Botany Bay for the milling of local timber on 21 January 1788. When the site of settlement shifted to Sydney Cove, orders were given to dig fresh pits on 26 January, 1788. The felling of timber thus became associated with the growth of Sydney from its earliest days. In no time at all, the extensive waterways of Sydney Harbour proved a convenient means of both accessing forests and transporting logs at a time when labour and animal ‘muscle’ in the colony was scarce. As ‘convenient’ sites became progressively exhausted, outlying sites like Castlereagh were eventually gazetted as timber reserves. Castlereagh for many years was selectively logged, and eventually became a nature reserve. Tonight we will look at the froglife of this reserve and we will contemplate the wildlife that ‘might have been’ if authorities had only been more prudent in setting aside native forest/wildlife reserves in the Sydney area. Peter has had a long association with wildlife and with the public education of wildlife issues. He has a fine reputation in herpetological societies and throughout the broader natural history world. Tonight will show us his ‘backyard’ at Castlereagh.

**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 field trips are strictly for members only - newcomers are however, welcome to take out membership before the commencement of the field-trip. 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.**