

FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP NSW Inc.
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NEWSLETTER No. 115 October 2011

Below: Arthur White with a Cane Toad he caught on Friday at Taren Point. Picture: Lindsay Moller. Sunday Teleg. 18/9/2011

Arrive 6.30 pm for a 7pm start.

Friday 7th October

FATS meet at the Education Centre, Bicentennial Park

Easy walk from Concord West railway station and straight down Victoria Ave. If walking, take a strong 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.

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.

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See story inside P3: Former president of FATS, Frank Lemckert, front line Cane Toad researcher at Forests NSW sent hopping.

Our newsletters can be emailed to you in colour as a pdf attachment. Interested? Email wangmann@tig.com.au

NSW NPWS amphibian licences must be sighted, to adopt frogs.

MEETING FORMAT Friday 7th October 2011

6.30 pm Lost frogs needing homes, White lips, Perons, Green Tree Frogs, Rubellas and Gracilentas. Please bring your FATS membership card and \$\$ donation. **DECCW amphibian licence must be sighted on the night.** Rescued frogs can never be released.

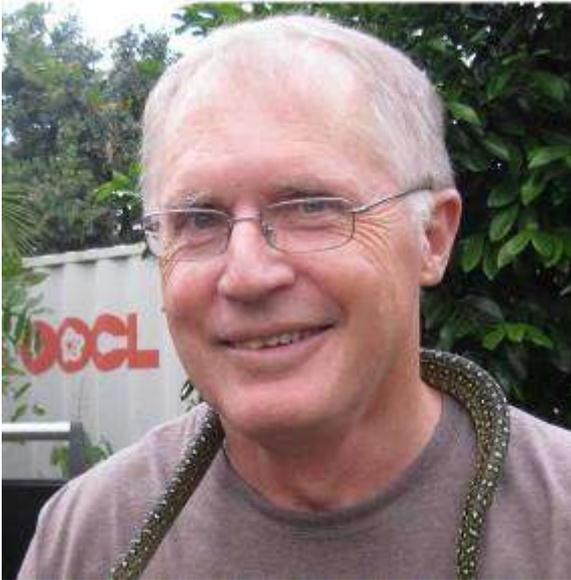
7.00 pm Welcome and announcements.

7.30 pm The main speaker is David Nelson
 "Frogging in Central Australia- deserts are no barriers to frogs"

8.30 pm Frog-O-Graphic competition results announced and People's choice winner vote conducted.

9.00 pm Show us your frog images, tell us about your frogging trips or experiences, guessing competition, light refreshments and a chance to relax and chat with frog experts.

FAREWELL TAD BOHDANOWICZ



FATS members were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Tad Bohdanowicz, a long-time FATS supporter and friend. He will be missed by all and family. Vale Tad.

FATS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Everyone who attends FATS functions will realise that FATS is a vibrant and strong organisation. Not only do we run a variety of activities but we also try to make them as enjoyable as possible. This works because FATS is blessed with having a great group of devoted members. We are financially strong, thanks to our long-standing Treasurer Karen White. Because we are so sound, we again offered student research grants this year and had two successful applicants: Jo O’Cock for her frog work in the Macquarie Marshes and Elisa Cabrera for her work on toads in the Northern Territory.

FATS held a number of community activities this year including a frog day for Pittwater Council, frog displays at the 5 Lands Walk on the Central Coast, frog activities at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Centre and Summer Hill and Croydon Public Schools Fairs. We had a stall at the Reptile and Wildlife Show at the Easter Show this year. We also undertook the Bell Frog auditory survey at Sydney Olympic Park. FATS ran classes at the “Science in the City” at the Australian Museum and is a member of the NSW Govt’s Advisory Committee on Native Animals, as well as the Task Force for Cane Toads in New South Wales.

In addition, Robert Wall organised a great series of field trips that are always well attended- so make sure that you get your name down as quick as you can after the trips are announced or else you could miss out. Monica, our editor, has been busy as always, putting out FrogCall, our flagship publication. It is a great credit to her and a wonderful means of getting frog news around. The December colour editions have become collectors’ items.

Many thanks to our other executive members: Wendy and Phillip Grimm, Marion Anstis, Andre Rank, Andrew Nelson, Lothar Voigt, Punia Jeffery, Alistair MacDougall, Vicky Deluca and Sheila Briffa. Each has contributed wholeheartedly and helped keep FATS alive and well. You will note that a new executive positions have been created: Face Book Administrator- we are investigating the use of Face Book as another way to communicate with members.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our members for making FATS such a great group to be in. People really make an organisation and FATS is the pick of the bunch. It is a joy to be President of FATS and to be involved with you all. **Arthur White**



THE WINNERS OF THE FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION will be announced at the October meeting. The selection of the People’s Choice Award will be conducted at the meeting. Fabulous prizes! Winner and runner up entries may appear in our December Frogcall and in other FATS publications.

THANK YOU MORAITIS AND OTHER VENDORS AT SYDNEY MARKETS

14 years of rescue services at the markets

<http://www.moraitis.com.au/howwestarted.aspx>



Since 1998 FATS has visited the Sydney Markets to rescue lost frogs. Back then FATS had received calls to say the frogs were arriving and had no-where to go. Their original location could not be identified and they could not be released elsewhere.

We would like to thank the vendors and workers, for their kindness to these little creatures. FATS receive calls most weeks to collect the free-loaders who have come on transport trucks from Queensland and northern NSW. At first there were about 200 translocated frogs yearly. Now, it is closer to a few each month, mostly in winter. We mostly see *Litoria infrafrenata* White lipped Tree frogs, *Lt. caerulea*, Green Tree Frogs, *Lt. fallax*, *Lt. rubella*, *Lt. peronii* and *Lt. gracilentata*. **MW**

FORMER FATS PRESIDENT AND TOP CANE TOAD FIGHTER, FRANK LEMCKERT TOLD TO HOP IT



Arthur White with a cane toad he caught Friday morning in Taren Point, South Sydney. Taren Point has an established Cane toad population which needs constant monitoring and culling of the population. Pictures above and below: Lindsay Moller



The man charged with stopping the march of poisonous cane toads through NSW has been given his own marching orders. Frank Lemckert, who has 20 years of experience in amphibian research, is one of 11 state government scientists to lose their jobs this week following budget cuts in the Department of Primary Industries.

The decision to sack the senior researcher comes as NSW faces a growing problem with the introduced pest - including the discovery of the state's first cane toad breeding ground at Taren Point in Sydney's south.

Other scientists to be shown the door in the shake-up include Hendra virus scientists at the Forest Science Centre in West Pennant Hills and the government's only expert in termite research, Martin Horwood.

Dr Lemckert told The Sunday Telegraph he was surprised his position had been axed after the government pledged not to cut frontline workers in its public service budget cuts and to only dump backroom bureaucrats.

Adding insult to injury, he said the redundancies followed the appointment of another top bureaucrat, Mark Paterson, to oversee the department, while retaining the former Director-General, Richard Sheldrake.

He said there had been no consultation process before his position was terminated. The 11 scientists have been given the option of applying for two available positions elsewhere in the department,

Ecological consultant Arthur White - who is battling the Taren Point infestation as part of the Frog and Tadpole Study Group - said the decision to terminate Dr Lemckert's position was "madness".

"You don't take out your frontline in the battle against cane toads," he said.

"Without Frank, cane toads can spread anywhere without anyone realising. We will be relying on volunteer organisations to monitor their spread - this has devastating implications.

"Toad populations will become so entrenched, we won't be able to do anything about them."

Primary Industries minister Katrina Hodgkinson said \$1.5 million would continue to be spent on forestry research, employing 22 staff.

Shane O'Brien, Assistant General Secretary of the Public Service Association of NSW, said there was no justification for cutting frontline researchers from the field.

Sunday Telegraph 18/9/2011, story Barclay Crawford, State political reporter
<http://www.news.com.au/national/top-toad-fighter-is-told-to-hop-it/story-e6frfkvr-1226140060400>



KU-RING-GAI WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL 2011
Photos by Phillip Grimm

A bright sunny day brought large crowds to the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Festival on Sunday 28th August where FATS had an information stall with frogs on display. Sheila Briffa (below) did a great job in her new role as Exhibition Officer. She recruited Stephanie and Peter, two experienced National Parks volunteers, to help Punia Jeffery (above) and herself with the dipnetting. Crowds of children and adults flocked to this ever popular event, while I manned the FATS display stand. Marion Anstis created a great PowerPoint which was presented by Lothar Voigt (below and top right), despite his two broken wrists. **Phillip Grimm**



O'REILLY'S AT LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK

Since first opening our doors, our 'Discovery Program' of guided activities have been an integral part of O'Reilly's commitment to sharing our love of Lamington National Park. Enjoy interpretive rainforest walks, 4WD bus tours, adventure activities and glow worm tours led by our experienced guides. Experience O'Reilly's famous Tree Top Walk, the first of its kind in Australia, providing a bird's eye view of the rainforest canopy.

<http://www.oreillys.com.au/>



Eco Rangers is a fun and creative experience for children to learn about the rainforest and its weird and wonderful inhabitants. 2011 marks 100 years since legendary pioneering ecotourism family. The O'Reilly's, first arrived in the rugged mountain wilderness of the Gold Coast Hinterland with a dream. The rest, they say, is history... <http://www.oreillys.com.au/uploads/OR%20DL%20Brochure%202010.pdf>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfyXOpq1YjA>



Black Mountain Frog harem photo George Madani
Cophixialus saxatilis

SAVE THE TIPNIS FOREST - MEDIA EXTRACTS
CHILDREN MISSING AFTER POLICE USE CLUBS TO CRUSH AMAZON PROTEST



MARCHERS INCLUDING CHILDREN AND BABIES DENIED ACCESS TO NEARBY WATER.

UN CALLS FOR ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND INDIGENOUS MARCHERS TO STOP.

<http://www.eldeber.com.bo/2011/2011-09-25/vernotaahora.php?id=110925200003>

A Bolivian deputy interior minister has resigned over a police crackdown on a march protesting a planned jungle highway that opponents say would despoil an indigenous preserve. The weekend crackdown backfired, and police were forced to release hundreds of arrested protesters.

PRESIDENT EVO MORALES HAS ANNOUNCED THE SUSPENSION OF THE BRAZIL-FUNDED HIGHWAY AND SAYS ITS FATE WILL LIE WITH VOTERS IN THE EASTERN REGION.

Mon, 26/9 Bolivia's Defense Minister Cecilia Chacon resigned after police violently broke up Sunday a protest by indigenous and environmentalists groups who were marching towards La Paz, against the construction of a government planned highway that would cut through the nature preserve **Territorio Indigena Parque Nacional Isiboro Secure, TIPNIS**, home to 15,000 natives.

<http://www.chron.com/news/article/Bolivian-official-quits-in-march-backlash-2190184.php#loopBegin>



The road is already under construction. Plans for a road through Tipnis have divided opinion in Bolivia.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-15065442>

...Hundreds of people set off last month from Trinidad to walk 500km (310 miles) to Bolivia's main city, La Paz, but were stopped at Yucomo, with about half the journey covered.

Bolivian police yesterday used teargas and truncheons to break up a march by hundreds of indigenous activists who oppose the construction of a highway they say will despoil a vast Amazon nature preserve. ... Witnesses saw about 500 police surround the protesters, including woman and children, just before dusk and set upon them with gas and clubs.

.....Environmentalists say the road, which will connect Brazil with Pacific ports in Chile and Peru, will mostly be of benefit to Brazilian commercial interests such as logging exporters while endangering a pristine nature reserve of 12,000sq km. The Isiboro-Secure Indigenous Territory National Park is home to 15,000 natives, who live off hunting, fishing, gathering fruit and subsistence farming. The natives fear that an influx of settlers (drug/coca farmers) will destroy rich natural habitats as a result of felling trees and polluting rivers. Edwin Alvarado, a spokesman for the Bolivian Environmental Defence League, believes the highway is a pretext for eventual oil exploration in the rainforest.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/police-use-clubs-to-crush-amazon-protest-in-bolivia/story-e6frg6so-1226147264028>

<http://www.skynews.com.au/world/article.aspx?id=666460&vId=> ...Injured children, disappeared mothers who didn't want to be separate from their children -This is not democracy...

BOLIVIAN POLICE ARREST LEADERS

Pagina Siete reports in its website: early this afternoon 25/9, police in light vehicles took a number of the TIPNIS leaders. Police threw tear gas and a number of indigenous people were arrested, among others, Celso Padilla and Fernando Vargas. Because of the gas, reporters could not see who else was arrested. Some children are missing, having escaped into the jungle. Bolivians are very angry about the police attack and proposed road through the TIPNIS forest. See English translation <http://www.la-razon.com/version.php?ArticleId=137995&EditionId=2662>

Map showing the blockade http://www.la-razon.com/MULTIMEDIA/PICTURESA RT/2011/09/23/20110923_36157.jpg

	01/07/10 – 30/06/11	01/07/09 – 30/06/10
Opening Balance	<u>\$26402.48</u>	<u>\$29207.48</u>
Income		
	\$ 1327.55	\$ 1239.08
	\$ 6715.00	\$ 5465.00
	\$ 1275.00	\$ 890.00
	\$ 2000.00	\$ 2000.00
	\$ 840.00	\$ 1201.00
	\$ 712.00	\$ 546.00
	\$ 1020.00	\$ 2420.00
	\$ 478.00	\$ 946.00
	\$ 530.00	\$ 1243.00
	\$ 950.00	\$ 618.00
Total Deposits	<u>\$15847.55</u>	<u>\$16568.08</u>
	<u>\$42250.03</u>	<u>\$45775.56</u>
Expenditure		
	\$ 4.00	\$ 6.00
	\$ 48.00	\$ 47.00
	\$ 1400.00	
	\$ 1307.20	\$ 528.50
	\$ 2972.82	\$ 1352.10
	\$ 1612.30	\$ 1074.75
	\$ 1269.17	\$ 72.60
	\$ 130.00	\$ 123.00
	\$ 456.00	\$ 902.00
	\$ 643.50	\$ 618.75
	\$ 456.37	\$ 1708.08
	\$ 3137.04	\$ 2918.88
	\$ 413.00	\$ 719.82
	\$ 150.00	\$ 4206.00
	\$ 620.00	\$ 640.00
		\$ 110.00
		\$ 1545.00
		\$ 2800.00
Total Expenditure	<u>\$14619.40</u>	<u>\$ 19373.08</u>
Closing Balance	<u>\$27630.63</u>	<u>\$ 26402.48</u>
TOTAL FATS ASSETS		
Cash in bank	<u>\$27630.63</u>	<u>\$ 26402.48</u>
Term Deposit	<u>\$37114.65</u>	<u>\$ 37114.65</u>
	<u>\$64745.28</u>	<u>\$ 63517.13</u>



FISH TANK DONATED TO FATS - FOR SALE EXCELLENT CONDITION - Perfect for Christmas



Large tank, stand, hood and light, 118 cm x 130 cm x 40 cm (H X L X D). Has been used as fish tank and terrarium. It has a 3D background. All in good condition except for a small part of the top of the hood that could do with a light sand and application of gloss finish. All offers considered. Pick up from Fiona at Putney. Make us an offer. Contact Monica on wangmann@tig.com.au or 0418 992 766

LAST FATS AGM & ORDINARY MEETING FRIDAY 5 AUGUST

Punia Jeffery welcomed everyone, made announcements and handed over to Arthur White to commence the FATS AGM. We thank the outgoing committee members and welcome our new committee. Sheila Briffa, Marion Anstis, Andre Rank, Phillip Grimm and Vicki Deluca have taken on new FATS committee roles. See page 11.

Arthur spoke about our eventful year and some of our absent members. Cairns Tropical Zoo's Reptile Department supervisor, Alex Mitchell was a regular visitor at FATS meetings, when he lived in Sydney, as a teenager. Alex is now at the Cairns Croc. Show see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3AFQzRdo_0 and http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2011/09/17/182695_lo-cal-news.html



Alex Mitchell Cairns Tropical Zoo's Reptile Department



After the AGM our main speaker was Michael McFadden from Taronga Zoo. Michael began working at Taronga Zoo in 2003. He is currently the Unit Supervisor of the Herpetofauna Division where he oversees the maintenance and husbandry of the Zoo's collection of reptiles and amphibians.



Michael works with the Zoo's amphibian conservation projects in collaboration with the State Government, including captive breeding and release programs for the highly endangered Southern and Northern Corroboree Frogs and Booroolong Frogs. These species have declined to the brink of extinction due primarily to chytrid fungus. More recently, he has been working closely with an insurance population of Yellow-spotted Bell Frogs, a species that was thought to have been extinct for over 30 years until their rediscovery in late 2009.

In recent years, Michael has also been sharing his knowledge of amphibian husbandry by assisting Amphibian Ark in instructing conservation and husbandry workshops in south-east Asia to build capacity for amphibian conservation programs in the region. These have included workshops in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, as well as an Australian workshop held at Taronga Zoo. The current focus of Michael's work is developing techniques to improve captive breeding and rearing success in threatened Australian frogs and reintroduction biology. Thank you Michael for your in depth presentation and great images. FATS is very fortunate to have such experienced guest speakers.

Long time active member of FATS, Peter Spradbrow, spoke about impressive Featherdale Park at Blacktown, where he is the education coordinator.

<http://www.featherdale.com.au/ImageGallery.aspx>



Peter Spradbrow Photo John Appleyard Parramatta Advertiser

Arthur White spoke about the stages of the Five Lands Walk he attended <http://www.5landswalk.com.au/> North Avoca and Davistown are two of only a few locations left where the Green and Golden Bell Frog continues to exist and breed. FATS provided advice on the day on what you can do to help preserve this endangered species. Come and join us in 2012.

02 4343 4444 or email info@5landswalk.com.au

Punia spoke about raising *Litoria gracilentia* and collecting food around the garden from bushes and eves for them. Arthur presented interesting images and talked to us about Japanese frogs. We are very privileged to hear Arthur's talks. They are always informative and fun. We finished the meeting with a raffle, supper and chat. MW

George Madani *Heleioporus inornatus* Whooping Frog



see <http://frogs.org.au/frogs/species/Heleioporus/inornatus/>

HERPDIGEST

HerpDigest.org (A Not-for-Profit Publication)
Publisher/Editor- Allen Salzberg

DR. LOUIS GUILLETTE - WINNER OF ONE OF THIS YEAR'S HEINZ AWARDS

Internationally recognized for his groundbreaking research on the impact of toxic chemicals on the reproductive systems of alligators and other wildlife, Dr. Louis Guillette is a pioneer in exhibiting how wildlife can function as sentinels for adverse environmental contaminant exposure. This work has made him a leader in the field of hormone disruption, a major public health threat that has emerged over the past two decades.

In the late 1980s, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state fish and wildlife officials in Florida asked Dr. Guillette to investigate the reproductive biology of alligator and why their populations were experiencing reproductive problems. He and his team discovered that agricultural chemicals contaminating lakes could cause ovarian and genital abnormalities by manipulating their hormones.

He later documented dramatic differences between alligators living in contaminated Florida lakes and those in clean ones, which had the highest percentages of successful births. Dr. Guillette also demonstrated that even low-level exposures to one or more contaminants during critical periods of fetal development can have lasting health implications.

These findings have convinced him that environmental contaminants are part of the reason we are seeing increases in human reproductive problems, such as testicular cancer, declining sperm counts and endometriosis. Despite intense industry criticism, Dr. Guillette has demonstrated unflinching courage in bringing his findings to the public, policymakers and the media.

Dr. Guillette is a professor and holds an endowed chair in marine genomics at South Carolina's Centers for Economic Excellence, at the Medical University of

South Carolina. He consistently earns high praise from his students, who cite his creativity in the classroom and laboratory, enlisting them to help capture alligators, turtles, frogs and fish, as the inspiration to pursue their own scientific careers. He is honored for his significant contribution to the field of reproductive biology and for inspiring a new generation to follow the pursuit.

The awards were announced September 13, by Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation, each carry \$100,000 for unrestricted use and a medallion. They will be presented at a ceremony on Nov. 15 in Washington, D.C. There are ten winners.

George Madani *Litoria chloris* Red-eyed Tree Frog



ONLINE DATING SAVES ENDANGERED FROGS

Press Release-www.AmphibianArk.org, 8/18/11

It is said that 1 in 5 new relationships now begins online. Amphibian Ark (AArk) asks, Why should people have all the fun? The global not-for-profit has launched a website called **FrogMatchMaker.com** ...Where frogs find their princes **www.frogmatchmaker.com** to facilitate relationships between potential sponsors and start-up amphibian conservation projects in need of resources. Assistance may be in the form of funding, specialized staff or training skills, or in-kind support in the way of equipment and supplies.

Amphibians need help because they are one of the most imperilled groups of living organisms. "For every one species of bird or mammal in trouble, there are two to three amphibian species on the brink of extinction" said Kevin Zippel, AArk Program Director. "The current amphibian extinction crisis is reminiscent of the disappearance of the dinosaurs, making it one of the greatest conservation challenges in the history of humanity."

"This web site currently includes 48 projects in 23 countries on three continents and can be searched by country, region, species, funding amount required, and by project type" said Kevin Johnson, AArk Communications Officer. "You can also browse new projects that have been added in the last 30 days or projects that have been added in the last 60 days. Using

FrogMatchMaker.com, donors have been able to easily locate amphibian conservation projects that are a good match with their organizations' missions, and provide appropriate support, to ensure the success of these vital programs."

Amphibians are important because they often play a keystone role in ecosystems, are indicators of environmental health, and they lead to discoveries of new medical compounds, including a substance that blocks the transmission of HIV.

A great example of a program that has benefited from FrogMatchMaker.com is the Lake Titicaca Frog Rescue Program in Peru. Thanks to the support from the Denver Zoo, the Cayetano Heredia University in Lima has established a rescue population of this Critically Endangered Frog. "If it weren't for the matchmaking work of the AArk, we probably would not have known about this project" said Tom Weaver, Area Supervisor of Tropical Discovery at the zoo.

The Amphibian Ark is tracking ~100 rescue programs run by partners around the world. However, it estimates that a total of 900-1000 species require rescue to stave off imminent extinction. FrogMatchMaker.com aims to help those species not currently in rescue programs.

Amphibian Ark was founded in 2006 by the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, the IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Its mission is facilitating partnerships that ensure the global survival of amphibians, focusing on those that cannot currently be safeguarded in nature. For more information, please visit www.AmphibianArk.org.

HerpDigest.org: The Only Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter That Reports on the Latest News on Herpetological Conservation, Husbandry and Science Volume # 11 Issue # 40 9/22/11 (A Not-for-Profit Publication) Publisher/Editor- Allen Salzberg

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF SCIENCE – HUBS BIODIVERSITY

A SUSPECTED PARASITE SPILL-BACK OF TWO NOVEL MYXIDIUM SPP. (MYXOSPOREA) CAUSING DISEASE IN AUSTRALIAN ENDEMIC FROGS FOUND IN THE INVASIVE CANE TOAD

Infectious diseases are contributing to the decline of endangered amphibians. We identified myxosporean parasites, *Myxidium* spp. (Myxosporae: Myxozoa), in the brain and liver of declining native frogs, the Green and Golden Bell frog (*Litoria aurea*) and the Southern Bell frog (*Litoria raniformis*). We unequivocally identified two *Myxidium* spp. (both generalist) affecting Australian native frogs and the invasive Cane toad (*Bufo marinus*, syn. *Rhinella marina*) and demonstrated their association with disease. Our study tested the identity of *Myxidium* spp. within native frogs and the invasive Cane toad (brought to Australia in 1935, via Hawaii) to resolve the question

whether the Cane toad introduced them to Australia. We showed that the Australian brain and liver *Myxidium* spp. differed 9%, 7%, 34% and 37% at the small subunit rDNA, large subunit rDNA, internal transcribed spacers 1 and 2, but were distinct from *Myxidium* cf. *immersum* from Cane toads in Brazil. Plotting minimum within-group distance against maximum intra-group distance confirmed their independent evolutionary trajectory. Transmission electron microscopy revealed that the brain stages localize inside axons. Myxospores were morphologically indistinguishable, therefore genetic characterisation was necessary to recognise these cryptic species. It is unlikely that the Cane toad brought the myxosporean parasites to Australia, because the parasites were not found in 261 Hawaiian Cane toads. Instead, these data support the enemy-release hypothesis predicting that not all parasites are translocated with their hosts and suggest that the Cane toad may have played an important spill-back role in their emergence and facilitated their dissemination. This work emphasizes the importance of accurate species identification of pathogens relevant to wildlife management and disease control. In our case it is paving the road for the spill-back role of the Cane toad and the parasite emergence.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0018871> Ashlie Hartigan¹, Ivan Fiala², Iva Dyková², Miloslav Jirků², Ben Okimoto³, Karrie Rose⁴, David N. Phalen¹, Jan Šlapeta^{1*}

1 Faculty of Veterinary Science, The University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, 2 Institute of Parasitology, Biology Centre, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, České Budějovice, Czech Republic, 3 Honolulu Zoo, Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, United States of America, 4 Australian Registry of Wildlife Health, Taronga Conservation Society Australia, Mosman, New South Wales, Australia

BIRD & EXOTICS VETERINARIAN GREEN SQUARE SYDNEY

Dr Alex Rosenwax, Dr Lee Peacock and the other professional staff at Bird & Exotics Veterinarian Green Square have been caring for some of our rescued frogs again. Seven white lips are having extra special attention. Thank you so much guys.

If your pet frogs have any ongoing problems they get wonderful attention there. We are noticing that worming



your rescued frogs may be essential. Please talk to your local vet or visit Dr Peacock for a consultation about your pet's health (02) 9319 6111 Fresh faecal samples are very useful in identifying any problems. MW

WHAT'S AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GARDEN?

HONEY BLUE EYED NATIVE FROG FRIENDLY FISH

I delivered 110 Honey Blue Eyes to Beach Aquariums 177 Glenayre Ave Bondi Beach. Same as the fish I took to the FATS meeting last year. Some FATS members may want to use natives in their ponds. The fish have spent all winter in my pond outdoors. Hope those that got them at the FATS meeting succeeded in breeding them as they are a protected species in QLD. Carlos Alonso kalonso64@yahoo.com



Litoria ewingi Southern Brown Tree Frog spawn
Joanna's pond Ferntree Gully Melbourne

See http://frogs.org.au/frogs/frog.php?frog_id=3

10 NEW FROGS DISCOVERED IN INDIA'S GREAT RAINFOREST

Ten new species of frog have been discovered in India's Western Ghats according to two new papers in *Biosystematica*. Although human populations have farmed in the Western Ghats for centuries, the new discoveries prove that the rainforest still holds many surprises. The Western Ghats lie along India's west coast and have been dubbed one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, but the rich wildlife is imperilled by rising human impacts.

Nine of the new species belong to the genus *Raorchestes*, a genus only found in the Western Ghats, which now includes 39 total species. The tenth species belongs to the *Polypedates* genus, which was discovered near tea plantations. One of the new *Raorchestes* frogs *Raorchestes manohari* was described in the paper in particularly effusive terms: "This is one of the most beautiful species with no resemblance to any of the described species of *Raorchestes* genus."



Raorchestes uthamani lives in reeds. Photo D.P. Kinesh 9 8 2011
http://www.greatnewsnetwork.org/index.php/news/article/10_new_frogs_discovered_in_indias_great_rainforest/ sent to FATS Facebook page by Barb Tyler



One of our FATS Facebook Friends, Tracy shared her photo of "Poseidon". He is 12.5cm long Green Tree Frog *Litoria caerulea* and a very big boy! Isn't he just gorgeous?

Protect tree frog

EARLY in 2009 a lone Peron's Tree Frog was heard calling in the Osborne Park, Lane Cove area.

It continues to call each year from December through to February/March, depending on temperature and rainfall.

Sadly, there had been no responding call, so it was very pleasing to hear two or more Peron's Tree Frogs calling earlier this year at Upper Stringybark Creek.

They are small tree frogs with a very loud unmistakable call coming from high in the trees.

According to Arthur White from the Frog and Tadpole Study Group (FATS), these particular frogs are dying out in the Hunters Hill area, therefore it is exciting to think they are moving into Lane Cove.

However, it is of concern to think their habitat could be at risk.

The proposal for high density development in the Batten Reserve area is of particular concern as it is just downstream from Upper Stringybark Creek and may well be home to these nomadic frogs in gardens or bushland, which is under threat of being cleared by up to 85 per cent if the inappropriate development goes ahead.

Sandy Coe
Greenwich

Letter to Editor, North Shore Times
4/5/11, From Phillip Grimm



Litoria peronii Perons Tree Frog From Gina

FROGWATCH HELPLINE 0419 249 728

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Please send articles for the FrogCall newsletter to 38 Albert Pde Ashfield NSW



Thank you to the many Frogcall supporters. Your articles, photos, media clippings, webpage uploads, Membership administration, mail-out inserts and envelope preparation is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to regular newsletter contributors, including

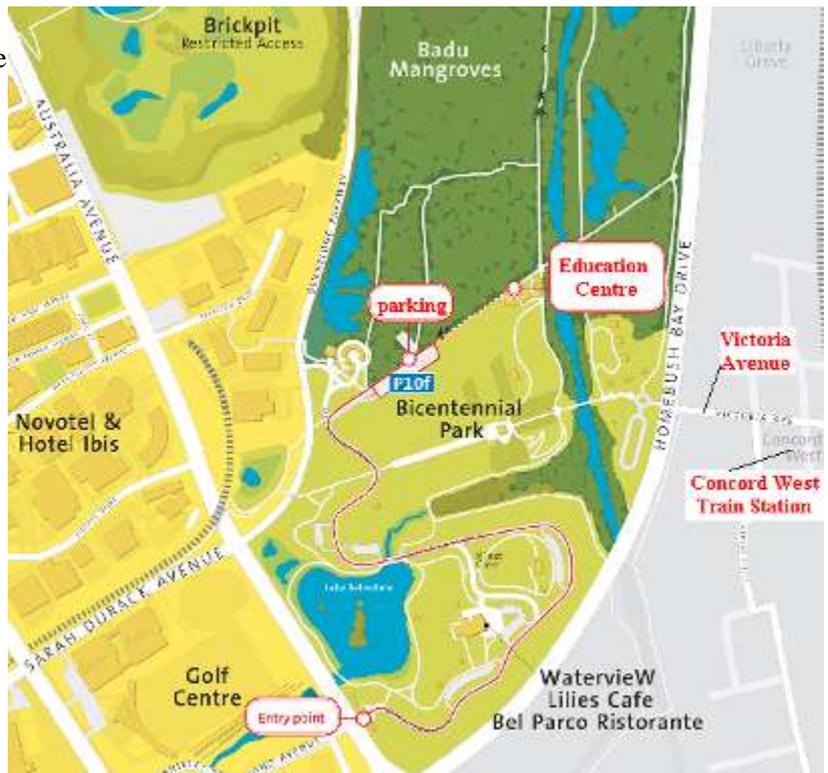
Lothar & Alice Voigt, Robert Wall, George Madani, Karen & Arthur White, Wendy & Phillip Grimm, Grant Webster, Marion Anstis, Andrew & David Nelson and Bill Wangmann.



FATS MEETINGS commence at 7 pm, end about 9.30pm 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. If entering from Bennelong Rd/Parkway. It's a short stretch of 2 way road. Park in the p10f car park (the last car park before the exit gate). See map.

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.

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.



FIELD TRIPS

Please 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.

15th October 6-30p.m. West Head, Ku-ring-gai National Park Leader: Grant Webster

Meet at the Duckholes Picnic Area, cnr of McCarrs Creek Rd and West Head Rd., Terrey Hills.

Research sites high in the canopy of Amazonian rainforests reveal an exuberance of biodiversity. This is mainly derived from an abundance of fruiting trees and high branches heavily festooned with epiphytic plant life ('*ep-e-fit-ic*' - *living on, but not parasitising a host plant*). Supplied with a constant source of moisture from tropical rains, these great towering heights have been described as one of earth's last great unexplored biological frontiers. Perhaps surprisingly, frogs figure prominently in the chaotic and sometimes overwhelming array of treetop fauna. Tonight we will look at some of the features of frogs and we will consider why some are superbly adapted to life in the wet treetops. We will also compare the ways in which tree frogs differ from their ground-dwelling relatives. Grant has spent considerable time travelling the state and studying our froglife. He has an exceptionally skilled eye for taxonomic detail and tonight will guide us through some of the subtle features to look for when examining frogs.

18th – 20th November Smiths Lake Camp-Out Leaders: Arthur & Karen White

Firewood collection is second only to woodchip production for timber consumption in Australia. It is, however, an industry that is largely unregulated and threatens many eco-systems. The removal of *senescent* trees ('*sen-es-cent*' ; *older, decaying, aging*) leads to the serious depletion of nesting hollows and vital wildlife refugia. Woody ground debris (from fallen logs, limbs & branches) remains at only 15% of pre-European levels. Removal of this vital resource threatens the habitat of many terrestrial/ground-dwelling animals. This weekend, we will look at how our forest and woodland environments are being compromised, and in particular, how frog and reptile species suffer as a result. Arthur and Karen's careers revolve around environmental consultancy and over many years they have built up a fine understanding of the fauna of this part of the NSW coast. Smiths Lake is a particular favourite of theirs. They know where to find all the most interesting wildlife! Cabin/dormitory accommodation & camping sites available. All kitchen facilities / utensils / crockery supplied. A **non-refundable** fee of \$14 p.p. per night applies.

Phone Arthur & Karen White directly on 9599-1161 for bookings & further details. Limit of thirty people applies.

3rd December 3rd 8-15p.m. Darkes Forest Leaders: Brad & Matt McCaffery

Take the Princess Hwy south, then take the Darkes Forest Rd turn-off. Meet 200 metres from the corner.

Often stretching like long green ribbons along rivers and creeks is the *riparian zone* ('*rye-pair-ee-an*'). Riparian eco-systems are vital for healthy aquatic environments. Trees and shrubs provide shade and help regulate water temperature. Roots and ground cover stabilise the banks, prevent erosion and the silting of waterways. Fallen logs regulate stream flow. Insects attracted to these zones provide food for frogs. These zones are known to often support a disproportionately large amount of biodiversity. Riparian corridors can also act as important dispersal routes for frogs, birds and other terrestrial animals. In this way, these corridors prove important in connecting isolated patches of native habitat. Tonight, we will look at the *riparian zone*, and in particular, some riparian frog species. Brad and Matt have developed an intuitive understanding of the ecological requirements of frogs, and tonight they will share some of their insights and will also explain how one can more easily find a sought-after species using an understanding of frog ecology.

4th Dec. 10 -3pm Australian Reptile Park, Somersby – Herp. Societies' Christmas Party Host: John Weigel

The ARP will hold its Interclub Christmas party on Sunday 4th December 2011 from 10 am to 3pm. **Please call them to confirm date and time of event.** This once a year get-together of the herpetological societies is an event not to be missed. Santa may visit and the big croc gets a Christmas treat. Us mere mortals may get a behind the scenes tour. Free entry to FATS members. Please take your current FATS membership card as proof of membership.

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 & by attending agree to; a release of all claims, a waiver of liability, & an assumption of risk.