

FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP of NSW INC.

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NEWSLETTER No. 202 APRIL 2026



Winning image by Shane Gross. Western Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*) tadpoles in a lake, Vancouver Island, Canada.

THE NEXT FATS MEETING IS AT 7PM ON FRIDAY 10 APRIL NOT 3/4/26

In this issue

- FATS April 2026 public meeting
- Remembering Dave Stewart
- Past and future events, expos and field trips
- Interesting articles from around the world

Featured article

How I fell for frogs

By Garth Coupland

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Join us at our next meeting

Date: Friday 10 April 2026

Time: 7pm (arrive from 6.30pm)

Location: Education Centre,
Bicentennial Park,
Sydney Olympic Park,
Homebush Bay, NSW

How to get there...

By car: Turn left from Bennelong Pkwy onto Bicentennial Drive, then turn left onto Step Up Place and park in the P10f / Badu Mangroves carpark.

Public transport: It's a 10 minute walk from Concord West Railway Station. Walk down Victoria Ave then Bicentennial Park Pathway.

Note: The path to the Education Centre isn't well lit, so please bring a torch.

Everyone is welcome!

MEETING AGENDA

6:30pm Arrival, tea and coffee and raffle

7:00pm Welcome and announcements

7:30pm Speakers:

Ewan Auld Uni. of Wollongong
"Calling against the clock: amphibian chytrid fungus infection effects calling investment in male brown toadlets"

Rhys Cairncross

The impact of climate change and grazing on arid frogs.

Punia Jeffery: An Introduction to the wonderful world of axolotls

Fabian Byers Smiths Lake Field trip.

9:00pm Drinks and supper provided. Relax and chat with frog friends and experts. Show us your frog images. Tell us about your frogging trips or experiences.



PRESIDENT'S PAD

Hello and welcome to the FATS April newsletter.

Since our previous newsletter, summer seemed to get hotter and more humid. The lack of rain meant our February Smiths Lake field trip didn't yield as many frog friends as usual, however, the conditions were perfect for a swim in the lake and snorkelling at nearby Seal Rocks.

On the last day of summer, members joined our final field trip before the cooler weather sets in, at Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. The trip produced our target species the Giant Burrowing Frog, along with other frogs, reptiles, and mammals. Many thanks to our field trip leader, Rhys!

Our next public meeting will be held a week later than usual on **Friday 10 April** (due to Good Friday).

We hope to see you there! Sincerely, Michelle FATS President

AMPHIBIAN RETURNS

NSW amphibian licence returns (record books) for the 2025-2026 reporting period, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, are submitted online to NSW Environment and Heritage. Licensees must record all acquisitions and disposals of native frogs. Native Animal Keeper Licence fees for amphibians range from \$50 for one animal up to \$143 for 5-year licenses. You must only keep native frogs bred in captivity and acquired from a licensed breeder or dealer. Ensure all records of new pets or deaths are updated in your record book throughout the year. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences/native-animals-as-pets/frog-keeper-licences>

LAST FATS MEETING

Arthur White spoke about his Kakadu experiences, the role of FATS in the declaration of Wallingat National Park and Greenacre. Kienan Brown reported on the Homebush auditory survey - the biggest numbers of Green and Golden Bell Frogs for any survey ever. Very satisfying indeed. **Fabian Byers**

APRIL 2026 FATS MEETING

Rhys Cairncross will be speaking about the impact of climate and livestock grazing on arid frogs. The work is based around long-term (>30 year) monitoring within the Simpson Desert, Western Queensland. Using frog captures across this timeframe, he analysed the influence of rainfall, climate and livestock grazing on two commonly encountered arid frogs: the trilling frog *Neobatrachus sudellae* and the desert spadefoot *Notaden nicholli*. The research is from a journal article that is currently under review and will hopefully be published soon.

THE SWARM OF LIFE - FRONT PAGE IMAGE

The Natural History Museum, London's 2024, Wildlife Photographer of the Year was Canadian wildlife photographer, Shane Gross, with his image "The Swarm of Life" He snorkelled the lake on Vancouver Island for several hours. Any disturbed silt and algae on the lake bottom would have reduced visibility. To avoid this, he followed the trails cleared by beavers through carpets of lily pads on the surface. Every day, western toad tadpoles swim up from the safer depths of the lake, dodging predators and trying to reach the shallows where they can feed. The tadpoles start becoming toads between 4 and 12 weeks after hatching. An estimated 99% will not survive to adulthood. Those that do make it to adulthood face threats from roads, pesticides, herbicides and the chytrid fungus. www.nhm.ac.uk Forwarded to FrogCall by Peter Vickery <https://www.cnn.com/2024/10/09/travel/wildlife-photographer-2024-winners-scli-intl/index.html>

FATS MEMBERSHIP

Student: \$20

Single: \$30

Family: \$40

As a member you receive FrogCall newsletters, access to free field trips, meetings, frog surveys, other conservation and community events, and entry to the Frog-O-Graphic photo competition. If you aren't a member but would like to join, it's easy to sign up! Please complete the membership form on the website

<https://www.fats.org.au/membership-form>

Our bank account details changed in May 2025

Please delete the old details and use the details below or we won't receive your payment.

Account Name:
Frog & Tadpole Study Group
BSB: 082 001
Account No: 313 033 719

Unfortunately our bank has stopped accepting cheques. If this is your preferred method of payment please reach out to us.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

FATS thanks Julie Vinson-Radmore for her recent generous donation to our society. Without our members and supporters FATS would struggle to continue with our education, advocacy and frog conservation work.



GOOD LUCK DUA LEAPER: SCIENTISTS RETURN FROGS WIPED OUT BY FUNGAL DISEASE TO WILD

Researchers dig ‘spas’ and install ‘saunas’ in ACT wetlands to give green and golden bell frogs the best chance of survival Donna Lu Assistant editor, climate, environment and science 2/3/26



Anthony Waddle’s experiment helped frogs stay warm in winter and fight off infection. Photograph: Yorick Lambregts/Courtesy of Macquarie University

Scientists have reintroduced Green and Golden Bell Frogs to the Australian Capital Territory for the first time since the species became locally extinct four decades ago. The first cohort of 25 frogs was released on Tuesday morning, a milestone for conservation of the animals, whose numbers have been devastated by the chytrid fungal disease that has wiped out 90 amphibian species in 50 years.

Associate Prof Simon Clulow of the University of Canberra, one of the researchers who led the project, said it felt “quite incredible and really significant to return [the species] back to this region for the first time in almost 50 years”. “As far as we’re aware, it went extinct [in the ACT] by about 1981,” he said. The 25 frogs, released at Mawson Ponds, are about 14 months old and have been immunised against

chytridiomycosis, a disease caused by two fungal species. Tuesday’s reintroduction was the first of 15 releases at wetland sites around Canberra, which will total about 375 frogs. Each frog is microchipped and even named, with help from volunteers involved in the project. “We’ve had some creative ones,” said Dr Jarrod Sopniewski, a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Canberra. “We have a James Pond and Dua Leaper.”

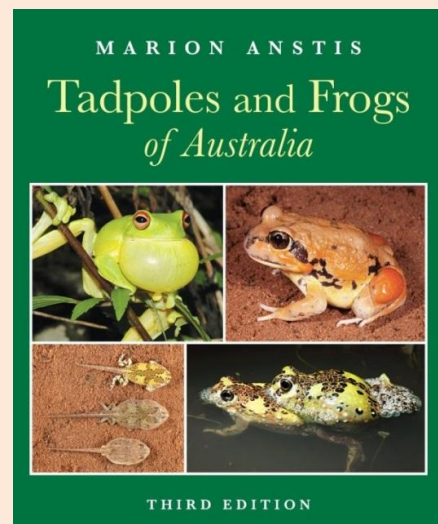
To give the amphibians the best chance of survival, the team has dug 60 “frog spas” – four at each wetland site – and also installed 180 “frog saunas”. The frog saunas and spas would “provide little pockets of disease refuge in the wetlands for the offspring that are eventually produced, because of course the offspring aren’t immunised”, Clulow said.

Frog saunas, in this case, perspex pyramids covering a three-level tower of black-painted bricks, are hoped to provide refuges for the frogs at temperatures lethal to the chytrid fungi. “The pathogen itself is quite susceptible to elevated temperature – it doesn’t like temperatures over 25C; 27 or 28C is quite lethal to it,” Clulow said. “A lot of Australian frogs prefer those temperatures. The Green and Golden Bell Frog likes to be about 30C.” Sopniewski said trial saunas had been installed for over a year in Canberra. “Even when the temperatures are barely reaching 10C here, we’re still, passively, getting into the high 20s on a sunny day.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2026/feb/03/green-and-golden-bell-frogs-return-act-wetlands-chytrid-fungal-disease>

TADPOLES AND FROGS OF AUSTRALIA

Marion Anstis’ third edition of Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia is due out soon. This is a major contribution to Australian herpetology! FATS looks forward to seeing it. <https://australian.museum/learn/collections/natural-science/herpetology/marion-anstis/>



DAVE STEWART

A landmark audio ambassador
for Australian Frogs. By Marion Anstis



Dave Stewart with his ex partner and friend
Sheena Gillman in 2013

So, in the years before FROG ID, how did we get to learn our frog calls?

Dave Stewart (1942 - 2025) came to our rescue!

I met Dave Stewart soon after he had produced his CDs of Australian Frog Calls from eastern Australia regions. He impressed me with his great enthusiasm for frogs and his determination to do them justice with good recordings. His enthusiasm was infectious, and I was very grateful to have his CDs of frog calls available when I was learning calls to help me with my field work on frogs and tadpoles.

He was a world-renowned wildlife sound recordist and his recordings became the gold standard for bioacoustics in Australia. Although he was primarily known for his work on recording Australian bird calls, his contributions to the study of frog calls were equally pioneering and substantial.

In Dave's childhood, he had a passion for collecting bird eggs, before he gradually developed an interest in developing his recording skills to record bird calls. He developed a vast library of bird calls and contributed all the sound recordings for the Morcombe & Stewart Guide to the Birds of Australia app. He also began to branch into frog call recordings, and this led to the production of specialised field guides and CDs, such as the 1999 album 'Australian Frog Calls (Subtropical East)', which documented dozens of species ranging from the Giant Burrowing Frog to the now extinct Southern Gastric-brooding Frog (*Rheobatrachus silus*).

From the 1960s to the 1980s, he worked with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, travelling extensively through remote regions including Cape York and the

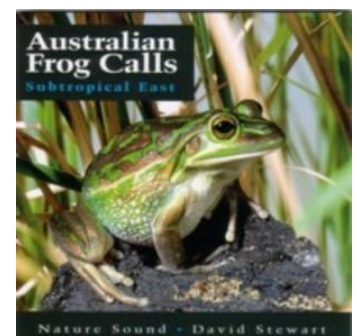
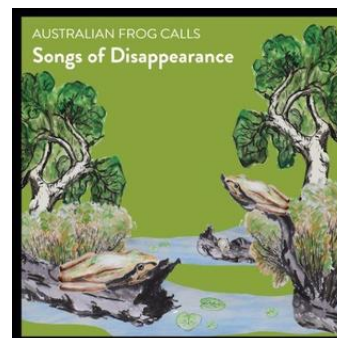
Kimberley, where he began documenting species. He was a digital pioneer and during the 1990s, he transitioned to high-quality digital recording, allowing him to build a massive library of clear, accurately identified natural sounds of birds and frogs.

Later, Dave published his own app, the first definitive collection of Australian birdsong presented by subspecies. And together with Conrad Hoskin, Stewart Macdonald and Gordon Grigg, Dave published a comprehensive app on the frog calls of Australia for which he provided all the recordings. It covered all known Australian frog species with photos, maps, and text and focused on the recordings of frog calls by Dave Stewart which are crucial for frog identification.

In the following projects Dave Stewart was instrumental in making frog calls accessible to both the scientific community and the general public.

- **The "Frog Calls of Australia" App**
- **"Songs of Disappearance":** Stewart provided the recordings for the 2022 album [Australian Frog Calls](#) (part of the *Songs of Disappearance* series), which featured endangered species and reached the top of the ARIA charts to raise conservation awareness.
- **Regional Surveys:** He produced specialized field guides and CDs, such as the 1999 album *Australian Frog Calls (Subtropical East)*
- **Legacy:** His digital collection, noted for its extreme clarity, has been lodged with the [Australian Wildlife Collection \(CSIRO\)](#) in Canberra and the British Library as part of Australia's national heritage.

Dave Stewart sadly passed away in August 2025 following a vehicle accident. He will be greatly missed by Australian froggers and birders, but his pioneering recordings will live on and he has no doubt set a precedent and inspired more recent developments in educational and scientific frog call research on Australian frogs such as the now highly popular FROG ID app, which has used some of his recordings.



HOW I FELL FOR FROGS!

By Garth Coupland

I emigrated from Britain to Queensland in 2012 and before my first trip to the 'Wet Tropics' a herpetologist friend in Brisbane told me of a location for an endangered frog that I had set my heart upon finding and photographing. He did not warn me that this would be a dangerous mission for the accident-prone fellow that I am. I get so focussed on seeing the creature and getting those in-situ shots that I fail to recognise, or ignore, the danger. Five, true, near-death experiences and numerous accidents are proof of this. But, I guess, that's what makes life an adventure!

I found myself alone, without a phone, at the location kindly divulged to me. It is a long way from anywhere, out in 'The Bush'. I had disinfected my footwear and equipment as the amphibian killer, Chytrid Fungus can be spread that way. I switched on my headtorch and headed into the night looking for the eyeshine of the gorgeous Waterfall Frog *Mosleyia nannotis*.



**Waterfall Frog *Mosleyia nannotis*
Tropical North Queensland**

This frog is found in the splash zones of waterfalls, in very shallow, fast running water, and often on vegetation at the edge of creeks that run through the rainforests of Tropical North Queensland and out of the mountains into the drier Eucalypt forest. Wherever it is found the habitat must be pristine and is always stunningly beautiful. I will always consider it a privilege to have been able to visit these places and to see these frogs.



Waterfall Frog *Mosleyia nannotis* TNQ



Waterfall Frog *Mosleyia nannotis* TNQ

I spot eyeshine by a waterfall. I am excited to the extreme at the prospect of seeing this rare species which is only found in this small region of the continent. But where is it? The eyeshine has gone. I search around and then see the eyeshine again in the same place. What's going on here? I get within a few yards and still cannot see it....but then I do! Unbelievably camouflaged, there it is, stuck to the vertical rock of the falls by using both the wide, tree frog discs on its fingers and toes and its belly. The eyeshine disappeared because I was looking directly at the frog's dorsal surface, thus missing the reflecting part of the eyes. There is a waterfall between the frog and me and the frustration of not seeing it close-up is immense. I get some distant shots and move on.

The night went well. I found more and more frogs as I clambered over the slippery rocks with potential precipitous tumbles into the tumbling waters of the creek.



Waterfall Frog *Mosleyia nannotis* TNQ

I secured many photos as portraits of the species and reference for perhaps one day creating a painting of one.

One particular frog was sticking to an absolutely vertical rock beside a waterfall with a long drop to a deep pool below. I reached the top of the rock and looked over. There he was, just below me. I lay on my stomach as I hung over the edge to take his picture with the foaming falls as a background. I don't really know what happened next but as I turned to climb down from this high point I slipped. I slid and bounced down the rocks feet first and luckily hit the ground in a stagnant pool in the streamside sand. Soaked, slightly

bruised but grateful, I headed for my car and went home, smiling in the glow generated by the successful completion of my mission and, possibly, a lucky escape from serious injury or death!

In 2019 I was with my daughter, Bridie, at another location in the mountainous rainforests near Cairns. We were night-spotting with head-torches for nocturnal creatures. I heard the call of a male *Mosleyia rheocola*, the endangered, Common Mist Frog, coming from deep within a small gorge formed by a creek. I was excited to see this frog again at a new location.

Like *M. nannotis*, this frog inhabits streamsides and creeks and the call of the males is distinctive. It is a sound that I will always associate with the dark, hot nights of Summer in this region. I have never found the species in the water or splash zones like *M. nannotis* but always on the vegetation by the water. I have found both species in creeks nearby each other but never found the two species together.



Common Mist Frog *Mosleyia rheocola* TNQ



Common Mist Frog *Mosleyia rheocola* TNQ

With my camera swinging from my neck I started to climb down the side of the gorge. My way was lit by my head-torch and there were tree roots and rocks everywhere. Again, I don't really know how it happened, but suddenly I was falling, head first, from about eight feet, onto the rocks below. I very much expected that I would be killed when I hit the ground.

Perhaps worse, receive horrific and agonising injuries. Time slowed almost completely and the terror was profound. I lay still for a while. I was alive but dreading the discovery of the injuries I must surely have received. I hurt everywhere and so slowly checked myself out. A massive swelling on my shin was not a compound fracture.



Common Mist Frog *Mosleyia rheocola* TNQ



Common Mist Frog *Mosleyia rheocola* TNQ

My camera lens had not smashed my ribs. A few cuts and bruises seemed to be the sum of the tumble and I climbed gingerly back up to where my poor daughter was waiting. It must have been absolutely awful for her to watch me disappear into the darkness like that. I visited the site in daylight and truly wondered how I did not die that night. The worst injury was a fractured wrist.

The frog kept calling throughout my misadventure and I never did find it.

The photos here were taken some years before, but as with all photos of other species taken in 'the field' there will be an adventure behind them. Stay safe!
All images by Garth Coupland



QUEENSLAND FROG SOCIETY EVENTS

Last year, Tewanin State School, the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, and the Queensland Frog Society participated in our fourth annual collaborative *Find a Frog in February* event on Friday, 14 February 2025. Fifteen registered students from Year 3 to Year 6, along with their parents and some siblings, attended the event at Heritage Park in Tewanin. This ongoing project will continue to involve the school for several years to come.

Prior to the survey, the registered children attended several educational sessions during play breaks at school. These sessions covered topics such as facts about frogs, identifying different nocturnal sounds, distinguishing various frogs by their calls and appearances, differentiating between toads and frogs, using data collection sheets, and safety requirements for the event.

The group of children, their parents, and I arrived at Heritage Park at approximately 6:30 pm, hoping to observe numerous frog species due to recent consistent showers and rain. Before commencing the survey, we conducted a quick safety briefing. At around 6:50 pm, we began our exploration of the park. Initially, we walked around the edge of the open grassy area before proceeding onto the designated paths and bridges within the park. We refrained from entering the bush areas to minimize disruption and enhance safety.

The park conditions were quite good, being relatively wet with warm temperatures and high humidity. We

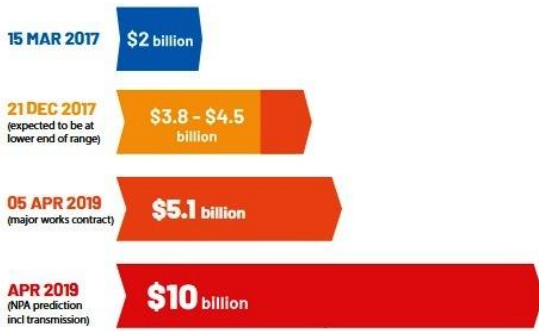
located five Striped Marsh Frogs and we also heard one calling from within the park. We also saw one Striped Rocket Frog, one Stony Creek Frog and one Great Barred Frog for the survey. Additionally, we heard 12 Eastern Sedge Frogs, 16 Tusked Frogs, and three Graceful Tree Frogs. Approximately 65 toads were also observed, indicating that their numbers have not increased during the last 12 months. This year was our most successful survey in terms of the number of species heard and seen in the park.

During our walk, we also observed various species of spiders, numerous insects, a juvenile Brown Tree Snake (we think after much discussion), native giant snails, several Giant Red-Legged Millipedes, a couple of Tawny Frogmouths and a few fish. The collected data will be used to monitor changes in species and population sizes at the park over the coming years. The variation in species and population numbers each year highlights the importance of long-term monitoring to accurately assess the biodiversity of any given habitat.



I commend the students who attended the event for their good behaviour and their enthusiasm. They represented the school admirably and contributed to the protection of the species residing at Heritage Park. It was gratifying to see both children and parents engaged in the survey and enjoying the natural environment. Congratulations to all participants, and thank you for the positive feedback from the involved families. **Ashley Keune**

1,000+ ACRES OF FORESTS BULL DOZED 10,000 HA PERMANENTLY IMPACTED SNOWY 2.0 COST BLOW OUT



Ever-increasing Capital Cost Estimates

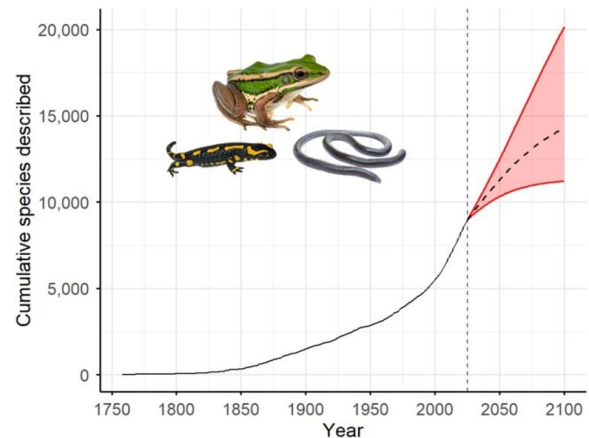
The Snowy 2.0 project will have a permanent, long-term impact on roughly 10,000 hectares of Kosciuszko National Park (KNP). It is totally inappropriate for construction works of such magnitude and environmental impact to be permitted within one of the most significant natural landscapes in Australia, with its delicate alpine and sub-alpine environments. Snowy 2.0 will permanently impact 10,000 ha of Kosciuszko National Park. Impacts include clearing a 10km long, 120m wide easement swarth through KNP for 2 side-by-side 330km transmission lines; building and upgrading 100km of roads and tracks and clearing 400ha at Lob's Hole along an 8km stretch of the Yarrangobilly River for an accommodation camp, construction site and rock dump.

14,000,000 cubic metres of excavated rock, some with naturally occurring asbestos and/or acidic, will be dumped in the Park, enough to cover a football field to a height of 3km. Unbelievably, 8,000,000 m³ will be dumped in Talbingo and Tantangara Reservoirs. Pest species including Redfin Perch, a voracious predator and Class 1 Noxious Fish, will be transported from Talbingo up to Tantangara Reservoir and thence throughout the Snowy Scheme and downstream rivers. The project has been approved and construction has commenced before the EIS's for the Main Works and transmission lines have been assessed, totally disregarding the environmental assessment process. 6 weeks after the Business Case was approved by the Government, the cost estimate was eclipsed by the first major contract to be signed at \$5.1 billion. The final cost, including transmission lines, could be as high as \$10 billion i.e. 500% higher than the original estimate of \$2 billion! This staggering amount exceeds the value of the whole of Snowy Hydro (\$7.8 billion). Snowy 2.0 could not cover the interest on its debt, let alone make a profit. **The economics simply don't stack up. Taxpayers shouldn't have to provide Snowy 2.0 with a \$1.38 billion subsidy. No information is provided to support the claim that Snowy 2.0 will reduce electricity prices.** The estimated

construction time has more than doubled since Snowy 2.0 was first announced, from 2021 to 2027. Snowy 2.0 proposes to only make minimal payments for use of Kosciuszko National Park during construction and operation! Irreparable damage to the precious alpine landscapes of KNP is reason enough to reject Snowy 2.0, let alone untenable costs, inappropriate taxpayer subsidisation, dubious renewable energy claims and complete lack of transparency. Snowy Hydro has failed to demonstrate that Snowy 2.0 is the best option for the nation's electricity storage needs. <https://npansw.org.au/.../10/SNOWY-2.0-fact-sheet-FINAL.pdf>

9,000 AMPHIBIANS DESCRIBED WORLDWIDE

As we reach 9000 described amphibian species worldwide, in 2/2026, it's time to think about the total predicted number of amphibian species on earth. To do so, the Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) has released an article from FrogLog, with predictions about the total number of expected species of amphibians, but also anurans, caudata and gymnophiona separately.



The **International Union for Conservation of Nature SSC ASG - [IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group \(ASG\)](#)** is a global, volunteer-driven network of over 300 experts dedicated to the conservation of amphibians. As part of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, they provide scientific expertise to prevent extinctions, assess species status for the Red List, and promote habitat protection. Their Mission is to stimulate, develop, and conduct scientific research to inform amphibian conservation actions. Their focus is to address the critical threats facing amphibians, with 41% of species currently threatened with extinction. They partner and work closely with the [Amphibian Survival Alliance \(ASA\)](#) and [Amphibian Ark](#) to implement conservation strategies. Their core activities are to provide the scientific foundation for the [Global Amphibian Assessment](#), which helps monitor and protect amphibian populations. The group is composed of researchers, conservationists, and experts from over 40 countries, enabling a coordinated, worldwide response. <https://www.iucn-amphibians.org/>

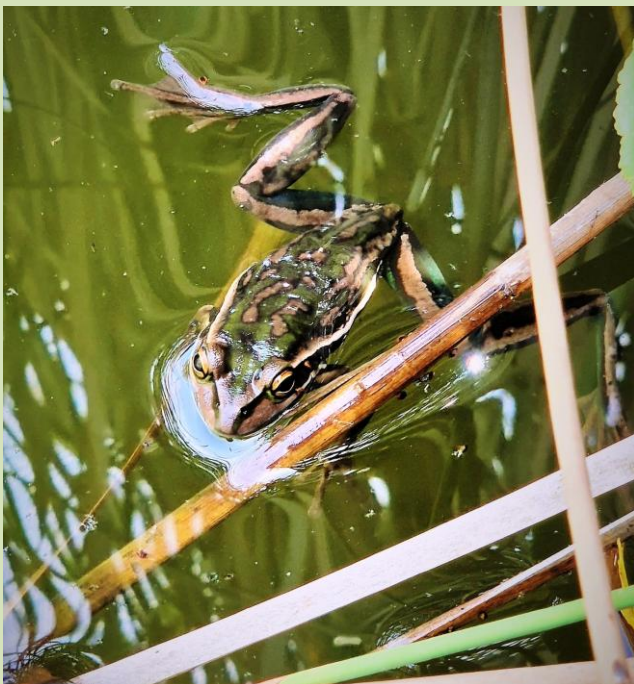
UPCOMING EXPOS AND EVENTS



- Sunday 12 & Monday 13 April: FATS at the Royal Easter Show
- Friday 15 May: Endangered Species Day
- Saturday 16 May: North Coast Herpetology Group Reptile Expo

FATS needs helpers at the Greenacre, Green and Golden Bell Frog conservation site. If you'd like to get outdoors and lend a hand, reach out to Arthur White at arfawhite@gmail.com
You may even see a frog or two!

FATS FIELD TRIPS, OPEN DAYS, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS



Our 2026/2027 field trips program re-commences in September 2026. Let Robert Wall know if you are hoping to attend a future trip. We would love photos and stories from any of our previous events.

Good news at Greenacre. Two successful Green and Golden Bell Frog spawnings, one in November 2025 and the second maturing now. **3 Photos above and below by Fabian Byers from recent working bee.**

Illawarra Reptile Society expo

April 2025

Photo by Michelle Toms



THE 2026 FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION

The FATS 2026 Frog-O-Graphic competition is under review. We are seeking expressions of interest to conduct it this year. It doesn't take very long to run the competition. Most of your time occurs between July and December. Please submit your interest to fatsgroupsw@fats.org.au

FATS WEST HEAD FIELD TRIP

FATS had a very successful night at West Head. Field trip leader Rhys Cairncross took an enthusiastic crew road cruising with the intention of trying to maximise coverage on a wet and sticky night - perfect conditions for frogs and reptiles. We made a stop just after Salvation Creek when Rhys spotted large eyeshine in the middle of the road. It could be nothing other than a Giant Burrowing Frog! We spent some time with this beautiful female crossing the road, making the most of wet conditions to look for a breeding male - likely one of the four calling from burrows not too far away.



Giant Burrowing Frog *Heleioporus australiacus*
All P11 photos by Rhys Cairncross

After getting photos of her in a threat display and helping her off the road we continued on, only to stop maybe 50 metres from where we originally pulled up. Rhys had spotted a small red frog on the road. Lo and behold, it was a Red-crowned Toadlet, the other target amphibian for the evening. Again, we stopped and spent time with this individual, again likely a female in search of a breeding male.



Red-crowned Toadlet *Pseudophryne australis*

We then wandered down the road to a depression in which we recorded the four Giant Burrowing Frogs calling and located one frog burrow, though we were very careful to not get too close and disturb it. The recordings were important as they were submitted to FrogID to help track the locations of this threatened frog. We continued driving after some time and found a sugar glider foraging in some Grey Gum. Then, as we kept cruising, we pulled up as in

front of us, separated by only 20 metres, were two snake-like reptiles.



Common Scaly-foot *Pygopus lepidopodus*

Rhys grabbed one, that turned out to not be a snake at all. It was a non-venomous Eastern Common Scaly-foot. Then, we headed off to inspect the other. It was a beautiful, mildly venomous, Brown Tree Snake. We spent some great time with these reptiles, with the Brown Tree Snake a 'lifer' for a fair few of the primarily frogging FATS attendees. As it got late and we drove on back to the gate we ended the night with a stunning juvenile Diamond Python. A rather friendly individual, it even climbed one of the attendees' arms as they took photos!



Juvenile Diamond Python *Morelia spilota spilota*

Other animals recorded were a mountain of Crinia froglets, mostly *Crinia signifera* but also some *Crinia parasignifera*. A Powerful Owl was also briefly spotted overhead by Rhys's lead vehicle but sadly it flew off before anyone else could see it. But, considering the night that was had, no one was complaining too much.



Brown Tree Snake *Boiga irregularis*

We look forward to the next Ku-ring-gai West Head trip and would like to thank Robert Wall for organising the details for it. Thank you to Rhys Cairncross for the wonderful photos, detailed trip information and exceptional field trip leadership.

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT WE DO

The Frog and Tadpole Study Group of New South Wales inc is a non-for-profit society run by unpaid volunteers, dedicated to community awareness, advocacy and the conservation of frogs. We are actively involved in monitoring frog populations, conducting field trips, exhibiting at community events, fairs and shows, and providing talks at local community groups. We have regular public meetings and offer student research grants, produce FrogCall newsletters and FrogFacts information sheets.

MEMBERSHIPS: Encourage your friends to become a member or donate. Donations help with the costs of frog rescue and care, the FrogWatch Helpline, student research grants and advocacy. Memberships are \$20 for students, \$30 single and \$40 family PA. Please be patient, it may take some time for us to confirm memberships. Visit our website if you'd like to get involved. <https://www.fats.org.au/membership-form>

EVENTS: If you'd like to have a speaker attend an event, exhibition, or community group (eg garden club, Probus group) please contact Kathy Potter our Exhibitions coordinator. If you are a member and would like to assist with talks and events please also reach out to Kathy.

MEETINGS: Our public meetings are held on the first Friday of every even month (February, April, June, August, October and December). **If the meeting falls on a public holiday (eg Good Friday), the date will move. FATS WILL MEET 10 APRIL 2026 (not 3/4).** Please check our website and your emails for notices. The meetings are informative, informal, topical, practical and free for everyone to attend. Visitors are welcome.

How to get there... By car: Turn left from Bennelong Parkway onto Bicentennial Drive, then turn left onto Step Up Place and park in the P10f / Badu Mangroves carpark.

By public transport: It's a 10 minute walk from Concord West Railway Station. Walk down Victoria Ave then Bicentennial Park Pathway. *The path to the Education Centre isn't well lit so please bring a torch.*

FACEBOOK: Our Facebook page has about 6,700 members and visitors worldwide. Posts vary from frog identification, husbandry, and health enquiries, posts about pets, gardens, wild frogs, frog ponds, research, new discoveries, jokes, cartoons, events, and habitats from all over the world. The page includes dozens of information files. Keep scrolling to see them all.

You are welcome to join us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FATSNSW/>

FROGWATCH, VOLUNTEER RUN, HELPLINE: We operate a frog rescue helpline 24/7 for lost and injured frogs in the greater Sydney area. Please contact the volunteer Frogwatch Helpline on **0419 249 728**. It may take some time for us to respond or arrange collection of rescued frogs, so please be patient.

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Thank you to the FATS committee, general members, FrogCall supporters, talented meeting speakers, Frog-O-Graphic competition entrants, event participants and organisers. Special thanks to those who contributed FrogCall articles, photos and media. New content for our newsletter is always welcome.
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