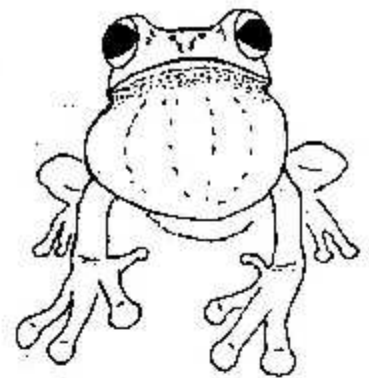


# FROG CALL

Newsletter No.3 of the *August 1992*  
**FROG & TADPOLE STUDY GROUP** : a special interests  
group of the **AUSTRALIAN HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.**  
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## THE GROUP LEAPS FORWARD

The Frog & Tadpole Study Group (FATS G for short) is now a special interests group of the Australian Herpetological Society Inc. following our decision last meeting to accept the AHS invitation to join. See the Minutes later in this newsletter. This move provides many public liability and related benefits due to the AHS's protection through incorporation.

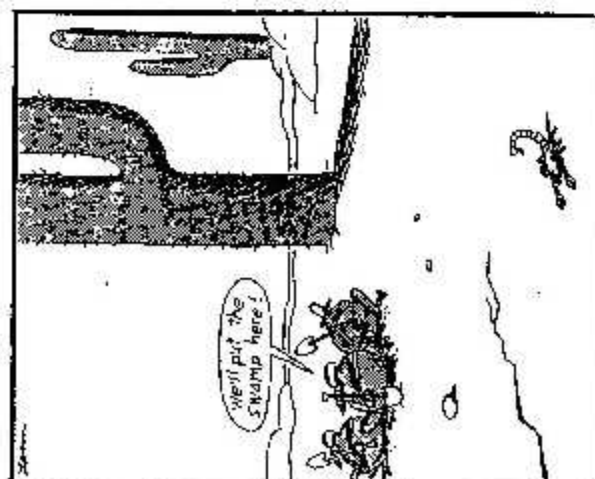
Our co-representatives on the AHS Executive Committee are **LOTHAR VOIGT** and **HARALD EHMANN**. **MARK WILSON** is also on the Committee as the AHS Displays Officer, so we are well represented.

CONGRATULATIONS to the newly formed Victorian Herpetological Society's Frog Group under the stewardship of **GERRY MARANTELLI**. We wish them well!

## WHERE DO I START, HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Not sure how to get into frog studies? Here are some possibilities!

- \* Talk about your interests and experiences at the meetings. Seek out experienced and skilled people. Assume they are there to talk and be asked questions.
- \* Get skills from workshops, courses, other experienced workers.
- \* Offer to go on field trips to help out.
- \* Give feedback on your experiences at meetings during discussion times.
- \* Write a short article for the newsletter, give a short talk on your study and experience.
- \* Write a short or longer paper on your work for publications in Herpetofauna: THE Australasian journal for private herpetologists.
- \* Allow yourself reasonable time (a season) to measure your own progress.



Frog pioneers

### PROTECTION IN NSW

All species of frogs (incl. eggs and tadpoles) in NSW are protected, except the Cane Toad (contrary to last FATSG Newsletter).

- \* The licensing system for frog keepers and students of captive frogs is still being finalised by NP&WS. We are awaiting their advice.
- \* The NP&WS licences for frog field workers are now available. A licence is essential for any species on Schedule 12.

THE LATEST ON OUR FIELD WORK FUNDING APPLICATION is that the granting body will not decide until about early September. Our application is to work on species which are known to be or suspected to be in decline or at risk in NSW. A recently updated list of these species will be available at the next meeting.

THE DECLINING AMPHIBIAN POPULATIONS TASK FORCE (DAPTF) is an international body set up to look into disappearing frog species: it also publishes the newsheet Froglog - the second issue arrived recently and will be available for you to see at the next meeting. There will also be copies of a DAPTF questionnaire at the next meeting for you to register your interest in declining frog populations. An Australian Region Working Group of the DAPTF has also been formed. MICHAEL MAHONY has accepted the position of NSW Co-ordinator, and HARALD EHMANN the position of Amateur Co-ordinator.

THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF AUSTRALIAN AMPHIBIANS is in a draft-for-discussion form and a copy will be available for you to comment on at the next meeting. The draft does not (as yet) include some of the species which seem to be declining in NSW, and it will be of interest to many of you.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED to work on the services that FATS Group members and associate receive: preparing the short report of meetings, preparing the Newsletter, mailing, refreshments catering for meetings and that "frog-in-the-throat" issue - raising funds to pay for it!

We also need to set some membership charges or a donation system to cover costs of mailing and refreshments. Lets discuss these issues at our next meeting.

DISCOUNTS ON THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS are available and the bigger the order, the bigger the discount! A leaflet on the offer is enclosed. We will try to make up a big bulk order (20% off) for FATSG members and associates at the next meeting. So if you want any of the books at a good discount turn up at the meeting (with a cheque book!).

THE NEXT MEETING will be held on Monday 24 August at 7:30pm (refreshments) for an 8:00pm start. Our feature presentation will be by KAREN THUMM and JACQUI RECSEI on their favourite frog, the Red-capped Toadlet. They will outline what is known about its natural history and distribution, and will include their own significant field experiences in their presentation.

See you at the frog pond (= meeting)!! Associates who have not responded to the "we're here - are you out there and interested?" call in the previous newsletter will be deemed to have moved on to another inaccessible pond. So keep your calling site by confirming your interest by writing or by visiting the pond or by a phone call!!!

*Harald Ehmann*  
Convenor

ref(frogcall)

CHORUS RECORD OF F.A.T.S. GROUP MEETING

Frog and Tadpole Study Group, 34 present, 14th April, 1992

7.30pm

Refreshments served, informal discussions.

8.00pm

Start of meeting. Apologies received from Gunther Schmida, David Millar. Members introduced themselves with their name, interests, and a recent F.A.T.S. experience.

Mail received: FROGLOG from USA.

The Group's Future Committee met on 16.3.92. Harald Ehmann reported. Possibility of funding for field work was one factor for the urgency. The funding submissions were explained. The advantages and disadvantages of being a Special Interest Group of AHS were outlined by Lothar Voigt.

Comments were sought from meeting. These included:

With a large portion of current AHS members present we need to ensure this is not a foregone conclusion. It was agreed there was no vested interest/bias. We need the protection of an association.

The process would take about the month: The AHS AGM (May) would decide on the proposal. A Postal "ballot" would give us time to think it over. It was felt we should make a bid for funding, and we should proceed.

The motion for accepting AHS invitation (L. Voigt, S. Gow) was voted unanimously in favour.

We will have our own newsletter, full members of the AHS will also receive the AHS Newsletter and Herpetofauna. Persons participating in official field work need to be AHS members to ensure public liability insurance is effective.

AHS subscription fees - \$7.50 Junior, \$18.00 Full, \$25.00 Family

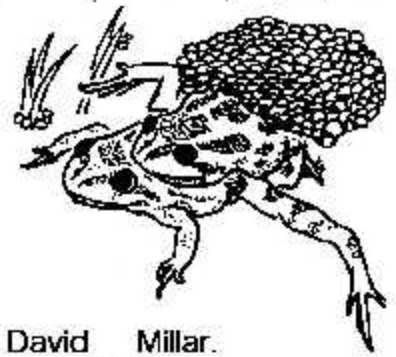
Status of Protected Frogs in NSW

Harald reported NPWS is at present having difficulty with the Interim Act. NPWS would not be likely to prosecute reasonable study activities. They will inform us of progress.

Mike Mahony: If a licence issued, Animal Ethics Committee may be notified and subsequent inspections in housing and husbandry could occur.

Martyn Robinson suggested forming a library. Trish Wilson agreed to be librarian. Peter Jones raised the issue of obtaining food for frogs. LaTrobe University can supply crickets @ 10¢ each. Taronga Zoo could supply housefly pupae (supply now difficult).

The next meeting 2-3 months from now.



Presentations:

1. Merinda Voigt spoke about growth of tadpoles of Limnodynastes peronii and possible reason why development is inhibited by artificial stresses and constraints. See her Herpetofauna paper, 1991.
2. Shane Gow talked about normal development Litoria alboguttata after a successful spawning in a plastic bag. Maximum length 90mm. Pigmentation of limb buds not observed until toes developed. 80 days for 4 leg development and 2 weeks for full metamorphosis. He raised the problem of using untreated tap H<sub>2</sub>O from Sydney - bouancy problem occurs and large losses result. After stopping untreated H<sub>2</sub>O changes, problem disappeared. Out of 150 tadpoles, 10 frogs metamorphosed. Took 110 days to metamorphose - too long for a desert frog due to overcrowding and low temperature. Full report in Herpetofauna, 1992.
3. Steve Kum Jew - Cyclorana platycephala live specimens in plastics bags were passed around. Details of collection of adults and tadpoles used in the breeding attempts were given. First attempt was by placing pair in fridge crisper. Male called - Amplexus attempted - axillary, no spawning. Frogs were allowed to bury in blacksoil mud. More specimens collected. New attempt at spawning male stimulated to call while aeration applied. No spawning. Frogs burrowed down again. 15th February, 1991, a mix of frogs allowed to bury and some which had been kept active were tried. Frogs allowed to bask. A loop tape was used. Amplexus occurred on 16th February, no spawning. 17th February, male amplexed female which had been active all year and was small - a spawn of 1,700 eggs. A large number were fertile. Tadpoles fed a variety of food including cat pellets, lettuce. They ate each other too.
4. Martyn Robinson - Litoria dahlli and Cyclorana platycephala used to demonstrate underwater feeding. Cyclorana novaehollandiae control. NB: Both have opposable thumb C.platycephala - hands, reduced tongue, large vomerine teeth all assist in underwater feeding. Hands grab food, take it out of mouth, rotate it and then replace it in mouth for swallowing. L.dahlli use a lunge method.

Both species will catch fish. Both L.dahlli and C.platycephala will be a very aggressive to each other by lunging at each other. C.nov. will sit in upright stance on say a rock to supposedly increase field of view. Uses tongue more than feet. Platycephala - wholly aquatic feeding, Dahlli less so, eating both on land and water. Novaehollandiae is a wholly terrestrial frog.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm and informal discussion and refreshments continued until 10.40pm. Minutes by DAN WOTHERSPOON, MARK WILSON, STEVE KUM JEW and HARALD EHMANN.

SKIDS LIST

ref(fr&tad.grp)

FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP

The frog species in New South Wales which are known to be or suspected to be in decline or at risk:-

Status Species

- 5 Litoria aurea (A.White, D.Spiteri, K.Smith, G.Schmida, W.Osborne, D.Millar, M.Mahony, P.Johnston, H.Ehmann)
- 3 Litoria booroolongensis (M.Mahony, H.Ehmann)
- 1 Litoria brevipalmata (G.Schmida, H.Ehmann)
- 6 Litoria castanea (M.Wilson, W.Osborne, M.Mahony, H.Ehmann)
- 4 Litoria piperata (M.Mahony, J.Ehmann, H.Ehmann)
- 5 Litoria raniformis (W.Osborne)
- 5 Litoria spenceri (W.Osborne, M.Mahony, H.Ehmann)
- 3 Litoria subglandulosa (M.Wilson, H.Ehmann)
- 1 Crinia tinnula (M.Wilson, A.Manning, H.Ehmann)
- 5 Mixophyes balbus (M.Wilson, A.White, G.Schmida, M.Robinson, D.Millar, A.Manning, M.Mahony, H.Ehmann)
- 4 Mixophyes fleayi (A.White, A.Manning, M.Mahony, G.Ingram)
- 5 Mixophyes iteratus (A.White, G.Schmida, A.Manning, M.Mahony, H.Ehmann)
- 3 Philoria loveridgei (A.White, M.Mahony, H.Ehmann)
- 3 Philoria sphagnicollis (M.Mahony, H.Ehmann)
- 4 Pseudophryne corroborae (W.Osborne)

fleayi

All other species are known to be or thought to be holding their own. Field workers/informants in order reverse alphabetical in parentheses .

Status Code

- 6 gone
- 5 serious decline
- 4 decline definite, but not yet quantified /fully assessed
- 3 suspect decline, to be confined or stable
- 2 probably okay
- 1 false alarm