

FROG CALL



THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP OF NSW Inc

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NEWSLETTER No. 198 AUGUST 2025



In this issue...

- August public meeting
- Annual General Meeting
- Frog-O-Graphic competition
- Upcoming events - Science week

Feature article

*Johann Ludwig Gerard (Louis) Krefft,
Australian Museum Curator 1861-1874*

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Front cover: Gerard (Louis) Krefft, zoologist. Photo by Victor A. Prout, State Library of NSW 1869/70

Join us at our next meeting

Date: Friday 1 August 2025

Time: 7pm (arrive from 630pm)

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: 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, raffle tickets, frog adoptions (if available)

7:00pm Welcome and announcements

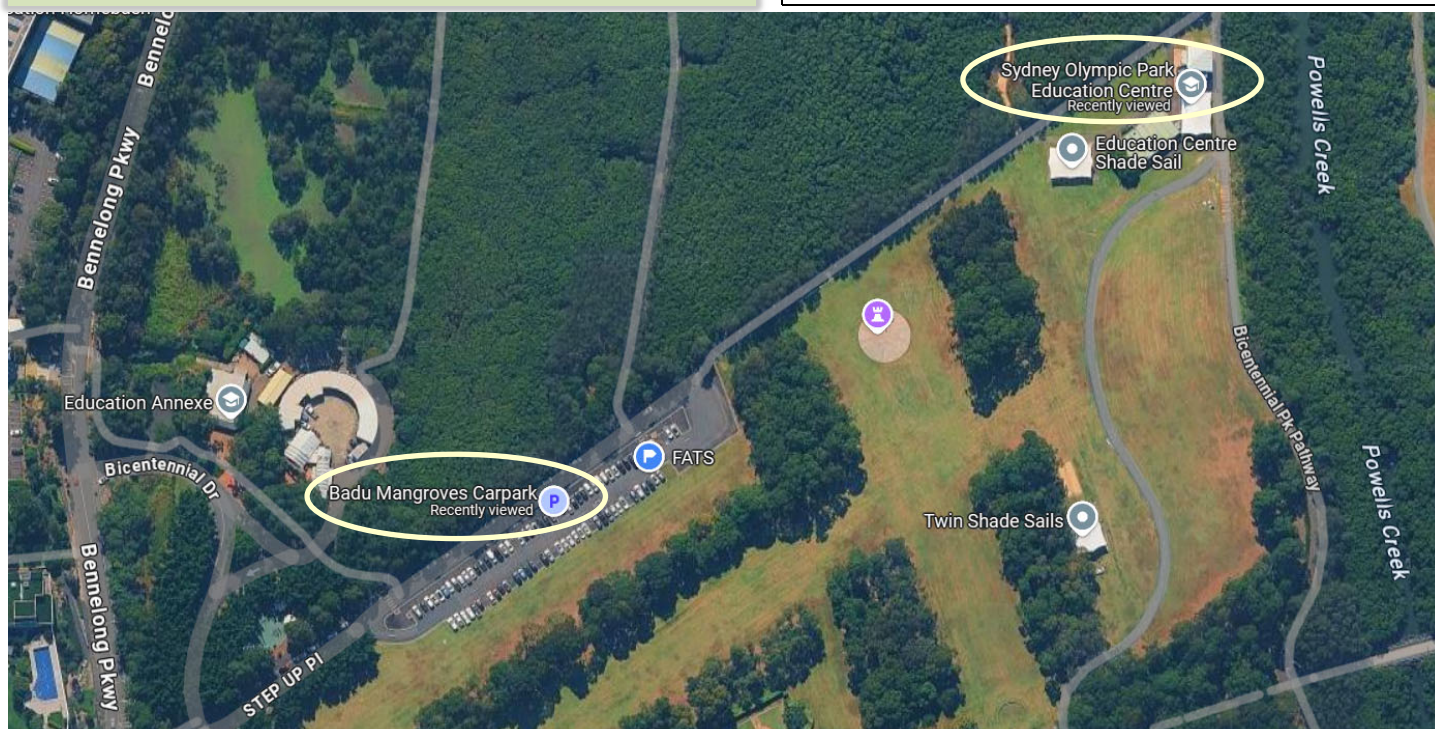
7:10pm Annual General Meeting

8:00pm Main speakers:

Kathy Potter: *"Borneo and beyond, a decade of talking about frogs"*.

Marion Anstis: *"Third edition of Frogs and Tadpoles of Australia"*

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

Winter has been a quieter time for our volunteers, with the focus shifting from field trips and exhibitions to all things admin.

Behind the scenes, the committee has been hard at work designing our new website, which will soon feature an automated membership system, including secure electronic payments. The new site will go live in the coming months, so keep an eye out for updates!

Arthur White continues to lead a dedicated team of volunteers at the Greenacre Green and Golden Bell Frog conservation site. A big thank you to Arthur and the team, and congratulations on securing a grant from Strathfield Council, with support from the Cooks River Alliance, to help keep the site in top condition.

If you haven't already, don't forget to enter our photo competition - we love seeing your frog photos!

To all our wonderful members who have renewed their memberships, thank you! Your support is truly appreciated and vital to continuing our work in frog conservation. If you haven't renewed yet, there's still time to do so to ensure you stay in the loop with our upcoming activities.

We'd love to see you at our next meeting and AGM on Friday 1 August.

Sincerely, Michelle Toms, President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION

The FATS Frog-O-Graphic photo competition is now open! There are 4 categories:

- Best Frog Image
- Best Pet Frog Image
- Most Interesting Image, and
- People's Choice.

Please submit your entries to photos@fats.org.au

In your submission please state:

- your name,
- frog species (by scientific name if known) and location - in the file name preferably,
- whether the image is a pet frog,
- your contact phone number, and
- confirmation that you are a financial member.

Entries close 31 August 2025!

Winners are decided by a panel of judges. The People's Choice category is voted for by everyone present at the October public meeting.

Maximum of 6 entries per person. Maximum image attachment size 6 MB each. Entries must be original and your own work. Only current financial members are eligible to enter. Entries may appear in FrogCall, FATS Facebook group, website & other publications.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

Student: \$20 Single: \$30 Family: \$40

As a member you receive FrogCall newsletters, access to 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>

If you are an existing member, and you haven't already, please renew your membership as soon as possible either via the website, bank transfer (details below), or at the next meeting.

Please note our bank account details changed back 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 AGM NOTICE

The FATS Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held immediately before the August public meeting.

Details: 7pm, Friday 1 August, 2025. **Location:** Education Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay, NSW

If you would like to ask any questions about joining the committee, would like further information, or would like to submit any nominations or other items for discussion, please contact us at fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au prior to the meeting. We appreciate fresh ideas and new members on our committee. No experience required. The committee meets 6 times a year. Those far away can attend via video or audio link. No task commitments or time expected of committee members, other than what you are able to spare.

WURRIDJAL FESTIVAL

Arthur White's talk June 2025 FATS meeting



The festival marks the start of a season when thousands of mullet, known as 'Wurridjal' in the Aboriginal languages spoken in the Sydney region enter the Cooks River during their pre-spawning migration along the east coast of Australia. For thousands of years the river was healthy and a source of food for Aboriginal people. Wurridjal Festival aims to reconnect communities with First Nations knowledge and care for Country.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b82RI0_ZnTA

<https://www.youtube.com/@CooksRiverAlliance>



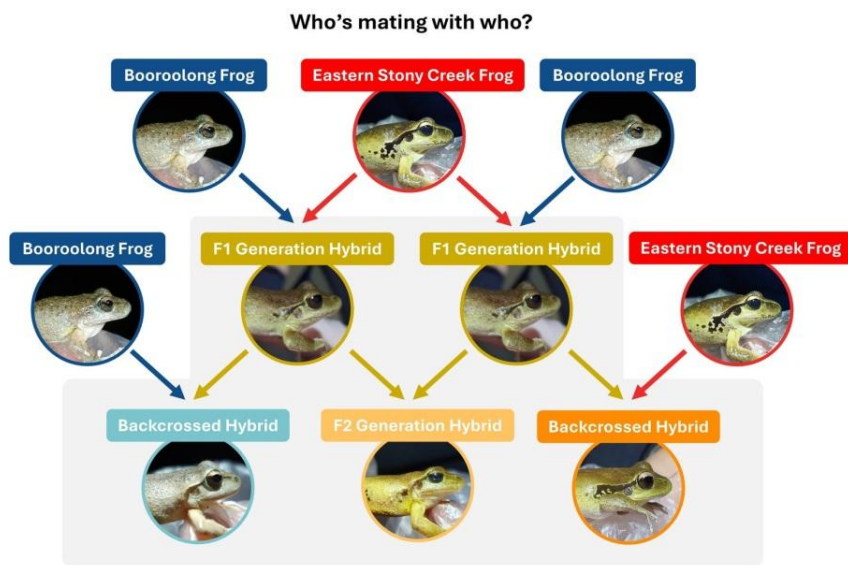
Many events were held including Weed Biological Control Field Day, Bushland Reserve (Corner of Hedges Avenue and Augusta Street, Strathfield). Learning about the targeted weed species and the biocontrol insect.

Nature Guided Walk by the Aboriginal Heritage Office. Ford Park, Strathfield South. Learn about the history of Aboriginal heritage sites and indigenous species. Green and Golden Bell Frog Open Day. Meet and learn about the iconic Green and Golden Bell Frog. Simply show up on the day at Greenacre.



Our Backyard River features nine portraits & films of local heroes on billboards, bus-stops and online throughout April. The photos and films have been created by award-winning photographer Nic Walker and filmmaker Brook Mitchell to inspire the broader community to play a role in shaping the future of the Cooks River. See Youtube links The Cooks River Alliance organised a photographer, who recorded podcasts as well.





HYBRID FROGS DISCOVERED:

A hidden threat to an endangered frog
by Dr Gracie Liu, Dr Jodi Rowley
23/6/25 extracts

The Booroolong Frog
Rhyaconastes booroolongensis and the
Eastern Stony-Creek Frog
Rhyaconastes wilcoxii can interbreed to
create F1 hybrid offspring.

F1 hybrids can breed with each other
(creating F2 hybrids)

and with both parent species (creating
backcrossed individuals).

Image: Gracie Liu © Australian Museum

Genetic data has revealed that the endangered Booroolong Frog is breeding with a more common species, the Eastern Stony Creek Frog. Hybrids of these two species were hiding in plain sight, often showing few physical signs of being different to their parents. The frequency of hybridisation was surprising, and we must now consider the risks that hybrids may pose to our threatened species.

Hybridisation occurs when different species breed and produce hybrid offspring.....In some cases, hybridisation is harmless or even beneficial, introducing new advantageous traits. Because of this, hybridisation can be an important evolutionary force. But it can become a serious problem if the hybrids are very successful – for example, if they consistently outcompete the parent species for food, space, or other resources.

Recently, we detected hybridisation between the threatened Booroolong frog (*Litoria booroolongensis*) and the more abundant Eastern Stony Creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*), two Australian stream frog species. This discovery has important consequences for how we manage Booroolong Frog populations.

While the Eastern Stony Creek Frog has been doing quite well and is often locally abundant across its eastern Australian distribution, the Booroolong frog has declined dramatically in recent decades. Today, the Booroolong Frog continues to face threats from habitat modification, disease (notably, the amphibian chytrid fungus) and predation by introduced fish, and now its genetic future could be further compromised by these interbreeding events. Our findings highlight the need to consider the threat of hybridisation to the already threatened Booroolong Frog. To do this, we need to accurately identify hybrids across the range of the species and monitor their impacts on local populations. Unfortunately, knowing whether an individual is a hybrid or not is not as simple as just

looking at it. By using genetic tools, we can ensure that hybridisation doesn't continue to slip under the radar and unknowingly contribute to the decline of the Booroolong Frog or other threatened or range-restricted species. There could be many more undocumented cases of hybridisation among frogs, and it is important that we explore this possibility. Dr Gracie Liu, Scientific Officer, Herpetology, Australian Museum Research Institute. More information Liu, G. & Rowley, J.J.L. (2025). Hybridisation as a Potential Extinction Threat to an Endangered Australian Frog. *Ecology and Evolution*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.71494>

Acknowledgements This research was conducted under Australian Museum Animal Research Authority 19-02, NSW Scientific License Number SL102294, and Forest Permit RES100024. We thank staff at the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Kanangra (Oberon) and Abercrombie Caves offices, Forestry Corporation of NSW, Hume Forests, and landholders for providing access to sites. Thank you to Steve Donnellan for discussions on genetic analyses; Steve Donnellan, Martha Crump and Kirsten Parris for feedback on earlier manuscript drafts; David Coote and David Hunter for site advice; Philip Spark for sharing his knowledge on the northern *Litoria booroolongensis* populations; and Philip Topham, Thomas Heffron, Nikolas Desmet, Robert Shore, Christopher Portway, Maureen Thompson, Nadiah Roslan, Timothy Cutajar and Kaitlyn O'Brien for their assistance in the field. Additional thanks to Philip Topham for reviewing photos of *L. booroolongensis*, *L. wilcoxii* and their hybrids. We thank the Australian Wildlife Society and Lily W. Müng Endowment for supporting this project. G.L. was supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship. https://australian.museum/blog/amri-news/hybrid-frogs-discovered/?fbclid=IwY2xjawLJ0eBleHRuA2FibQlxMQBicmlkETF5aWdtOllmldVTXRJSkhUAR4D4nHIE3eu891Am8UzxOZZkCL6RvKdLLp_xpMRIYIL1wDvTQERJAPCR8jn-Q_aem_mwzxDQEK7btGFXEJaaf23g

JOHANN LUDWIG GERARD (LOUIS) KREFFT, 1830–1881

Gerard (Louis) Krefft was ahead of his time in many respects. He was one of the few Australian scientists to accept and propagate Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Krefft's diverse contributions had considerable and far-reaching significance, and he was responsible for elevating the Australian Museum to its place in the international world of science.

Australian Museum's portrait Johann Krefft



Yesterday we visited the grave of Johann Ludwig Gerard Krefft, a man who's life work I absolutely admire. Krefft was one of Australia's first and most influential palaeontologists and zoologists. He is classed as the father of Australian herpetology and many known species are connected with his name. He was the curator of the Australian Museum for 13 years until he got unceremoniously kicked out as he supported Darwin's 'Origin of Species'.

On 21 September 1874, two prize fighters (on behalf of the trustees of the museum) kicked in the door of his apartment and office and he was physically removed from the Museum by carrying him out onto the street in his office chair. The chair is now on display in the museum and leaving/retiring curators get carried out on this particular chair in tradition of Krefft's eviction.

Krefft wrote and self published 'The Snakes of Australia', the first definitive book on this group of animals. Krefft's text was accompanied by the striking artwork of Helena and Harriet Scott. I am very proud to own one of these books, especially as it's one of

the few hand coloured ones. It's my favourite and the most valuable book in my collection. It was sad to see Krefft's grave so neglected and unmaintained. We came back to work a bit on it.
Heino Noelke



Left The museum door they kicked in to evict him.
Right The chair he was sitting in when carried out onto the street.



Krefft died from congestion of the lungs 19/2/1881.

He was buried at St Jude's Church of England cemetery Randwick, Heino Noelke visited 11/2024 and again to clean the grave (page 7) in early 2025.



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Article written by Heino Noelke Slacks Creek Queensland 4127 mob: 0475 562 297
web: www.radoa.com.au



The cleaned grave

**Extracts from Australian National Uni
written by Martha Rutledge and G. P. Whitley:**

Kreffft built up the Australian Museum's collections and won international reputé as a scientist. Among his many correspondents were Charles Darwin, Sir Richard Owen and A. C. L. Gunther of the British Museum, Professor Agassiz in America and many learned German scientists. Krefft was one of the few Australian scientists to accept Darwin's theory of evolution and disseminate his ideas in the 1860s. He became a councillor of the Royal Society of NSW, a fellow of the Linnean Society of London, a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London and a member of several European scientific societies. In 1869 he was made a knight of the Crown of Italy.

In 1866 Krefft explored the Wellington caves and publicized their fossils. His most notable discovery was the Queensland lungfish, which he named *Ceratodus forsteri* after William Forster and named a giant devil ray after the Duke of Edinburgh. In some 200 articles Krefft described many species. His more important publications include *The Snakes of Australia* (1869), his description of the lungfish in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1870 and *The Mammals of*

Australia (1871). Some of his observations on animals have not been surpassed and can no longer be equalled due to settlement spread. A capable artist, he depicted scenery, Aborigines and animals of the Murray River and wrote many illustrated articles for the *Sydney Mail*. Devoted to the museum's interests, Krefft had clashes with some of the trustees, notably (Sir) William Macleay, Dr James Cox, Captain Arthur Onslow, Alexander Scott and Edward Smith Hill, most of whom were building up private collections sometimes at the expense of the museum. In December 1873 several specimens of gold were stolen from the museum and various rumours involved Krefft. In 1874 a Legislative Assembly select committee inquired into the working of the museum.

The evidence was conflicting, but in its report the committee recommended the dismissal of Krefft. He appealed to Henry Parkes to send the attorney-general or another minister to the monthly meetings of trustees. On 16 June, at a special meeting with no ministerial trustees present, the trustees set up a subcommittee to inquire into Krefft's behaviour. The twelve charges ranged from drunkenness to disobeying the trustees' orders. Krefft sought help from Parkes who replied: 'You have been much to blame for indiscretion & in some cases disobedience ... I have great respect for your undoubted ability & am truly sorry that you should be involved in such a disagreeable difficulty. I trust and believe you will be able to dispose of the charges preferred against you which as explained to me are in many respects frivolous. But you must learn to keep a cool temper & a respectful bearing even to gentlemen who may be opposed to you'.

Kreffft refused to defend himself until shown the charges and evidence collected by the subcommittee. However, the trustees found Krefft unfit to be curator and dismissed him. He denied that they had such power and barricaded himself inside the museum. Late in August he was forcibly ejected by Hill for the trustees and some of his property taken. Krefft sued Hill and was awarded £250 damages; Judge Cheeke ruled that the trustees had no power to dismiss the curator. In 1875 Hill sought a retrial but the judges differed on the trustees' power of dismissal. Judge Hargrave criticized the trustees' behaviour as 'altogether illegal, harsh and unjust' while Judge Faucett believed Krefft's 'conduct justified his dismissal'. In 1876 parliament voted £1000 to Krefft for arrears of salary until July when his dismissal was finally confirmed by the governor-in-council. The Robertson government refused to pay unless Krefft signed a bond renouncing all claims against the government and trustees. In vain he appealed to the Supreme Court to compel the treasurer to pay. The *Cumberland Times* commented that, since the treasurer, attorney-general and chief justice were all trustees, 'unconscious prejudice, resulting from the circumstances of their position, must certainly have biased their decision'. In 1877 Krefft sued the trustees for medals and property detained in the museum and was awarded £925 and refused to compromise when they offered to return his belongings with only £200.

The museum affair demoralized Krefft and destroyed his livelihood. Many of his research papers remained unpublished and his collections were damaged and muddled. **This article was published: in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 5 1974 online in 2006 <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/kreffft-johann-ludwig-louis-3972>**

PHYLOGENOMICS INFORMS A GENERIC REVISION OF THE AUSTRALO-PAPUAN TREEFROGS (ANURA: PELODRYADIDAE)

[Stephen C Donnellan](#), [Michael J Mahony](#), [Damien Esquerré](#), [Ian G Brennan](#), [Luke C Price](#), [Alan Lemmon](#), [Emily Moriarty Lemmon](#), [Rainer Günther](#), [Paul Monis](#), [Terry Bertozzi](#), [J Scott Keogh](#), [Glenn M Shea](#), [Stephen J Richards](#) *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, Vol 204, Issue 2/6/2025, zlaf015, <https://doi.org/10.1093/zoolinnean/zlaf015>

Abstract The generic level classification of the Australo-Papuan hyloid family Pelodryadidae is contentious and unstable. The major issue is the lack of a well resolved and comprehensively sampled phylogeny for the family's 233 species, that are placed presently in only three genera. One of these genera, *Litoria*, comprises most of the species and has long been regarded as paraphyletic. We present a molecular phylogenetic framework for a revision of the family's generic level classification that is based on taxonomically comprehensive mitochondrial and phylogenomic scale DNA sequence datasets. Our analyses provided a well-resolved phylogeny and in combination with comprehensive morphological, acoustic, and life history data provide the basis for recognizing a total of 35 genera for the Pelodryadidae. We also identified a largely Melanesian clade that represents a rapid recent radiation comprising a number of phenotypically distinctive crown groups. Geographically, Australia and Melanesia each host 13 endemic genera and share another nine genera. Our classification provides a stable generic taxonomy for the Pelodryadidae and gives it a functional value for the wide range of scientists and community members who are concerned with biodiversity science and legislative conservation management. https://academic.oup.com/zoolinnean/article-abstract/204/2/zlaf015/8169202?redirectedFrom=fulltext&fbclid=IwY2xjawLBtRRleHRuA2F1bQlXMQBicmlkETFOa3UxSUJ6WUpLcEdWZnJFAR5RJV-jJNVq6mPk85JuUb7LWdhpsfsBAC0yMgGZAXbVOJzUAS6mcAJE551Wfw_aem_QiSHPjxzEk931IUEJ_UPAQ&login=false FATS will include a further article on the reclassification of Australian and Papuan tree frogs in our December newsletter.

TREE FROG NEWS

A major revision of Australo-Papuan tree frogs (Pelodryadidae) published by Donnellan et al. 2025 is an impressive body of work providing much information on the evolutionary history of our tree frogs and proposes a massive overhaul of the scientific names of Australian frogs. From the two familiar genera of Australian tree frogs (*Cyclorana* and *Litoria*), this revision proposes 22 genera for the 122 Australian tree frogs currently recognised — a massive leap!

This shake-up of our tree frogs gives us a better understanding of the evolutionary history of Australian frogs, and which frog species are most closely related to each other.

In this revision, frog species in each proposed genus are more closely related to each other than those in other genera, so the new names are a better indication of who is related to whom in Australian tree frogs. However, this is a significant reclassification of scientific names, particularly as a change in the genus name of a species may have flow-on effects on the whole species name (as the species name — the caerulea in *Litoria caerulea* — has to "match" that of the genus). For example, *Litoria meiriana* changes to *Mahonabatrachus meirianus* under the proposed taxonomy.

Suggested taxonomic changes of this scale take time to be scientifically "settled on", and are often prone to change, with new information coming to light. The criteria for what a genus should be (versus, for example, a subgenus) are also less clear than for a species and are often hotly debated. While the relationships of species are scientifically determined, where to draw the line between genera is more of an informed opinion. This flux can result in confusion as to what to call something or what species someone refers to, as well as having flow-on implications for legislation (ie. threatened species lists). For example, the four most recently scientifically described species in Australia are not part of this revision and therefore don't have a "new" proposed name. Learn about classification:

<https://australian.museum/learn/species-identification/ask-an-expert/what-is-classification>

1.3 MILLION FROGID RECORDS

The Australian Museum's FrogID project has officially reached an incredible 1.3 million frog records! The submission that pushed us over the line was a Green Tree Frog, recorded by Karen Gardner from Atherton, Queensland. This milestone is a testament to the amazing efforts of more than 47,000 people who have submitted FrogID recordings from across 39% of continental Australia. Together, you've helped build an unparalleled database of frog biodiversity — a vital resource for conservation, research, and understanding our environment.

Thank you to everyone who's contributed to this remarkable achievement! Our frog call experts have been working hard to reduce the backlog and it's getting smaller each week. We truly appreciate your patience. If your submission is part of an urgent biodiversity report, please don't hesitate to contact us directly. Thank you for being part of the FrogID community and helping to better understand and conserve Australia's frogs.

calls@frogid.net.au <https://www.frogid.net.au/>

**ALPINE TREE FROGS *LITORIA VERREAUXII ALPINA*
INFECTED WITH CHYTRID FUNGUS
BREED MORE, STUDY FINDS**

By Adriane Reardon



The Alpine Tree Frog is triumphantly breeding, despite being infected.

Photo Unimelb, Tharaka Deepal

New research shows Alpine Tree Frogs infected with chytrid fungus are breeding more than uninfected frogs. The study has also found that infected male frogs appear more attractive to females and have better quality sperm. Researchers are keen to see if other frog species affected by the deadly disease display similar habits. University of Melbourne research has found males infected with chytrid fungus breed more often. The study found the infection could make males more attractive to females. "Our research shows infected animals are increasing their breeding effort and ultimate output," lead researcher Laura Brannelly said. "That increased breeding is able to offset the mortality that the disease is causing, which is allowing the population to survive."

The frogs inhabit eight known spots in the New South Wales and Victorian alps, but the population size at each of these sites is unknown. Dr Brannelly has been studying the creatures for 12 years. "The alpine tree frog is really adorable and such a dramatic frog," she said. "They have giant personalities for such a tiny animal." They are considered endangered in NSW, critically endangered in Victoria and vulnerable by the Commonwealth. Chytrid fungus is a major threat to the species because it is highly infectious and attacks parts of the frog's skin, affecting its breathing ability. The disease, which was detected in the late 1990s, has impacted frog populations around the world, including Spotted Tree Frogs and Southern Corroboree Frogs which also live in alpine country.

University of Melbourne researchers studied Alpine Tree Frogs at Mount Hotham and found males produced more sperm at a higher quality when infected. The study found infected males participated in 31 per cent more breeding events than uninfected frogs. "The frogs are actually producing more offspring when they're infected," Dr Brannelly said. "These animals are able to persist in some way due to increased reproduction which is weird and counterintuitive." The study found infected male frogs also increased their colour display, appearing with brighter yellow throats, likely making them more

desirable to females. Researchers believe their stronger colouring and ability to produce higher quality sperm suggests the species is putting more effort into boosting its population than developing immunity. "When they're infected, they're not putting a tonne of effort into fighting the disease," Dr Brannelly said. "Instead, they're reproducing so the next generation can persist." However, a higher breeding rate does not necessarily equate to a growing population. Rather, researchers believe the population is plateauing. The peer-reviewed study, [published in Open Biology](#), found that increased breeding was not a silver bullet for other threats such as climate change, bushfires and drought. "All of their eggs are in this one basket, literally," Dr Brannelly said. "That pond is where all of their eggs are and if a fire rips through or the pond dries out before the frogs are able to come out, that can be very detrimental to the population. "So while breeding seems to be helping them persist and survive right now, it's probably not a long-term strategy."

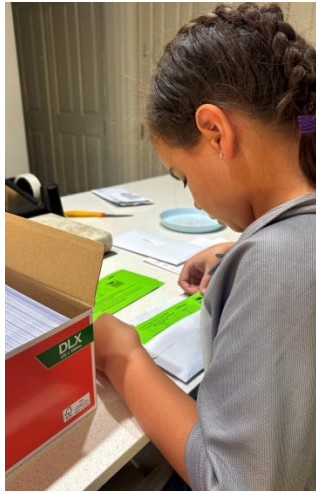
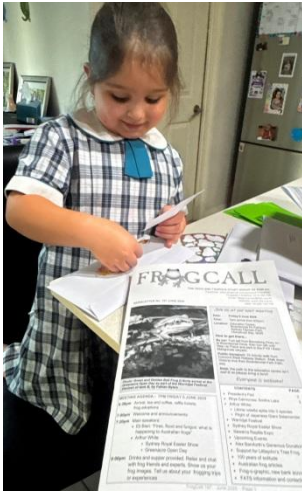


Infected male Alpine Tree Frogs are more attractive to females.

Photo by Unimelb, Tiffany Kosch/Corey Doughty

Forty-one species added to Australia's threatened list: The new research has excited others in the field, including Zoos Victoria's senior biologist herpetology, Nick Clemann, who has been studying frogs since the late 1990s. A number of animals, plants and an entire ecosystem were added to Australia's extinction watch list in 2024. He said the Alpine Tree Frog used to exist in many more sites between Mount Baw Baw and Kosciuszko National Park, but the disease "changed the game in all the wrong ways". "It's been lost from a large part of its range, particularly in Victoria, so there's barely a handful of sites left where it persists," Mr Clemann said. Mr Clemann said the new "fascinating" research may help explain why some frog populations could persist despite the disease, while others could not. "Any information that can help us understand is something we can potentially weaponise against the fungus to try and keep the animals in the landscape," he said. "It's another piece to this puzzle." **28/5/2025 Extracts**
https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-05-28/alpine-tree-frog-chytrid-fungus-university-of-melbourne-study/105268614?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_share_d&utm_source=abc_news_web

YOU HAVE FROG MAIL



FATS had some new help sending out the June newsletter to all our wonderful members. The printing, folding, addressing, stamping, and mailing of FrogCall is no small task, and has long been done by our dedicated editor Monica Wangmann. The helping hands of some of our youngest members, Olivia and Azalea D'eau, made sending out the June Frogcall that much easier. Some of you may have even received some extra stickers on your envelope! Thank you for your time girls, it's much appreciated!



HUGE VOTE OF THANKS TO MICHELLE TOMS for making sure that FATS were at the Easter Show and to all of the helpers as well.



Above right Peter Harlow-former Head of Serpentaria at Taronga Zoo



Chris Williams-head of the Aust Herp Society.

A SMALL POND MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE

In a quiet suburban backyard in the Illawarra, a small frog pond is helping to give the local frog population a boost. Luke and Zoe Goodsell have created a welcoming haven for local frogs and are now carefully monitoring the water for signs of life. Not long after the pond was built and surrounded by plants, tadpoles and frog eggs began to appear. Luke and Zoe included rocks and logs within and around the pond, giving young frogs an easy way to leave the water once they grow legs and are ready to explore life on land. Creating a frog-friendly space doesn't require a huge garden - just a little planning, some water, and a love for local wildlife. If you're thinking about making your own pond, consider adding native plants, shallow edges, and places for frogs to hide. You might be surprised by how quickly nature responds!



UPCOMING EVENTS

It's National Science Week from Saturday 9 to Sunday 17 August 2025!

Science week events:

- **Sat 9 August** - Family Community Day at Australian Museum. More info available [here](#)
- **Sunday 10 August** [Science in the Scrub](#) at Western Sydney Parklands
- **Wednesday 13 August** - The Science Social at Australian Museum. More info available [here](#)
- **Saturday 16 August** - Family Community Day at Australian Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan. More info available [here](#)
- **Sunday 17 August** [Science in the Swamp](#) at Centennial Park

Other upcoming events:

- **Sunday 10 August:** Penrith Reptile Expo and Family Fun Day
- **Sunday 14 September:** Illawarra Reptile Expo
- **Sunday 30 November:** Herpetological Societies BBQ. The Australian Reptile Park will host the Herpetological Societies BBQ. **RSVP by 10/11** to sales@reptilepark.com.au with name, phone number and number of people attending for catering purposes. Australia's BEST Tourist Attraction! Awarded Gold in 2023 www.reptilepark.com.au

FIELD TRIPS

31 October - 2 November

Smiths Lake Camp-out

Leaders: Karen and Arthur White

Smiths Lake needs no introduction to FATS members. It is our most popular fieldtrip, and there is always a rush to secure places. Please email Karen at white.kazzie@gmail.com and include the names of all people (including children) you wish to book for, how many nights you will be staying, and which night you will be arriving. Booking must be done by 3 October 2025. Karen will advise you if your request has been successful. If this is the case, payment must be received in full before 13 October. The cost is **\$25.00 per person, per night**. *Please note: bookings will not be processed without payment, and payment is non-refundable, so please be sure that if you book, you are certain that you can attend.*

BSB 082 001 Account No. 313 033 719 Account name: Frog and Tadpole Study Group

There are no field trips this winter, however there's always a need for helpers at the Greenacre Green and Golden Bell Frog conservation site. So 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!

FIELD TRIPS NOTES

Rain is generally ideal for frogging, however in the event of uncertain conditions ie storms, hazardous rain, strong wind, bushfires, etc. phone Robert on 02 9681 5308 to confirm the field trip is going ahead. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear enclosed shoes that can get wet (gumboots are preferable), torch, warm clothing and raincoat. Please be judicious with the use of insect repellent as frogs are sensitive to chemicals. All fieldtrips are strictly for members only. Newcomers are 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.



FATS NEEDS YOUR HELP AT OUR EVENTS

We are always looking for opportunities to talk to the community and promote the message of frog conservation, however we need volunteers. If you're available to assist at one of our upcoming events, please contact Kathy Potter our exhibitions coordinator: kathy@the-pottery.org



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, running the FrogWatch Helpline, student research grants, and advocacy. Memberships are available from \$20 for students. 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 meeting date will move. 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.

FACEBOOK: Our Facebook page has over 5,450 members 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.

FROG ADOPTION: Rescue frogs are occasionally at our meetings and available for adoption. Please contact us if you wish to adopt a frog. A donation of \$50 is appreciated to cover care and feeding costs. We must sight your current NSW NPWS amphibian licence. A pet frog licence can be obtained from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences/native-animals-as-pets/frog-keeper-licences>.

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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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