

FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP of NSW INC.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FATSNSW/>

Email: fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au

Frogwatch Helpline 0419 249 728

Website: www.fats.org.au

ABN: 34 282 154 794

NEWSLETTER No. 201 FEBRUARY 2026



Kathy Potter, FATS Exhibitions Officer at the Australian Museum, Science Week 2025

**THE NEXT FATS FREE PUBLIC MEETING IS AT 7PM FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY
NB THE APRIL FATS MEETING IS ON FRIDAY 10 APRIL (NOT 3/4/26)**

In this issue

- February 2026 public meeting
- Environmental and Sustainability Award to Arthur White
- Past and future events, expos and field trips
- Interesting articles from around the world

Featured article

Caddo Lake

By Garth Coupland

CONTENTS

PAGE

• President's Pad	3
• Announcements	3
• Arthur White's Environmental Sustainability Award and FATS membership information	3
• Marion Anstis <i>Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia</i> , FrogID paper, Riverstone Wetlands & Events	4
• Charles Darwin day, Anti-Cancer drug research in Japan	5
• Caddo Lake, by Garth Coupland	6 - 7
• What the Duck, Amazon Frogbit invasive weed	8
• FrogID, A Toad's journey home, ACT reptile and frog field guide & new Brazilian frog species	9
• Past and future events	10
• FATS field trips	11
• FATS information and contacts	12

Join us at our next meeting

Date: Friday 6 February 2026

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: 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!

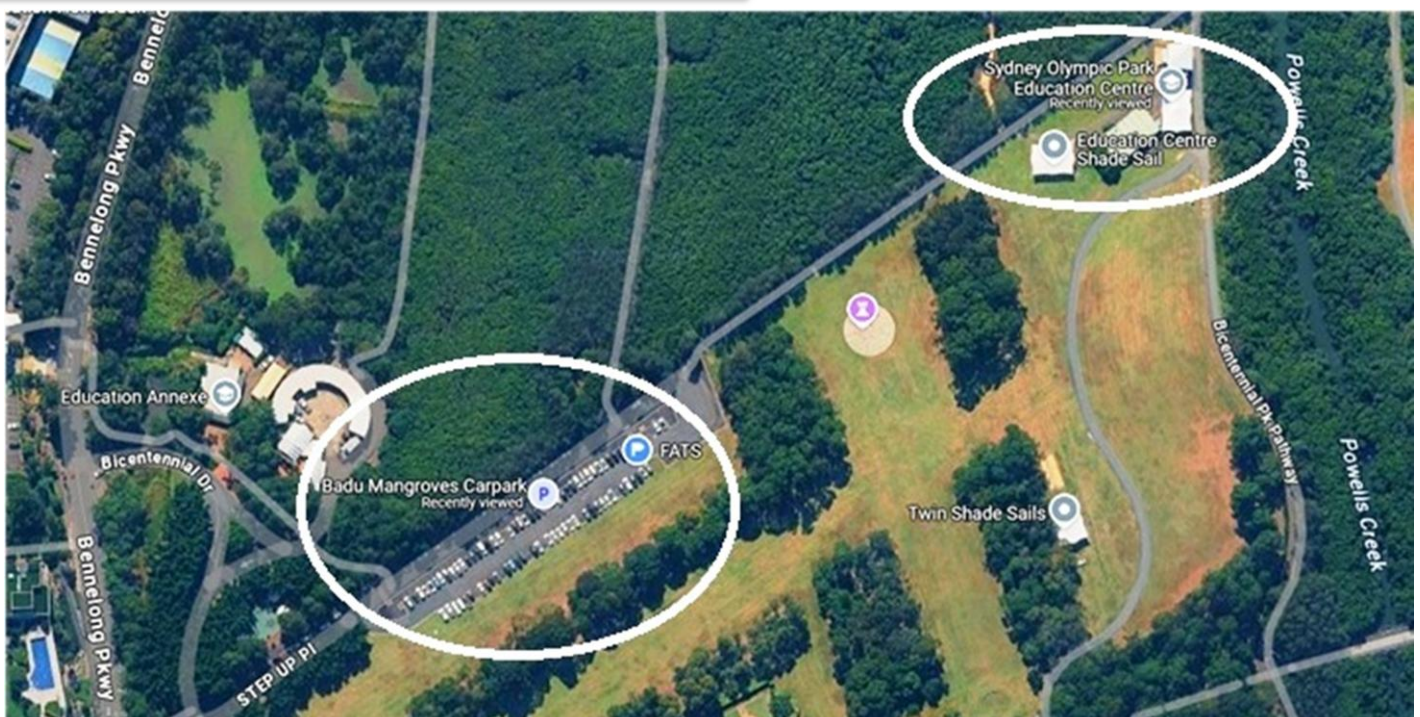
MEETING AGENDA

6:30pm Arrival, tea and coffee and raffle tickets

7:00pm Welcome and announcements

7:30pm Main speakers: Rhys Cairncross talking about "The impact of climate and livestock grazing on arid frogs". Arthur White is speaking about celebrating the 25th anniversary of the creation of Wallingat National Park. The park FATS helped to create. Arthur will update us on the Greenacre Site.

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 first FrogCall newsletter of 2026. We hope you've had a wonderful and relaxing Christmas and New Year break filled with family, friends, and frogs!

Here at FATS our volunteers have kept busy over the summer working at our Green and Golden Bell Frog conservation site, Greenacre and completing auditory surveys at Sydney Olympic Park. We held our biannual field trip to Smiths Lake and kicked off our 2026 field trips with a successful visit to Watagans National Park.

Upcoming events include our first public meeting on 6 February, further auditory surveys, ongoing work at our Greenacre site and February field trips to both Smiths Lake and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. Thanks for your ongoing support. Sincerely, Michelle

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD TO ARTHUR WHITE

Arthur White led a team of FATS volunteers to transform an overgrown land block into a conservation site for protecting frogs in the midst of industrial Greenacre. The iconic Green and Golden Bell Frog (GGBF) was previously prolific across its range in New South Wales but is now considered endangered. Open days at Greenacre are regularly educating the local community about this special fauna of the Cooks River catchment.

GGBF are especially vulnerable to Chytrid fungus, which has also devastated amphibians globally in recent decades. The Greenacre ponds include some salty, brackish water to help the GGBF resist Chytrid. Other innovative features are nets to prevent interference from birds and separation of tadpoles and predatory adult GGBF. The partnership between FATS and Strathfield Council is in its sixth year. The Greenacre GGBF site has now hosted a few successive generations of tadpoles, as well as being a valuable community resource for education in conservation.

Frog Conservation in the Middle of Industrial Greenacre, River News and Updates, Our Backyard River, The Cooks River at

<https://ourbackyardriver.com.au/river-news-and-updates/>



FATS Vice President, Peter Vickery accepting the Environmental Sustainability Award on behalf of Arthur White.

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>

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.

Our bank account details changed in May 2025

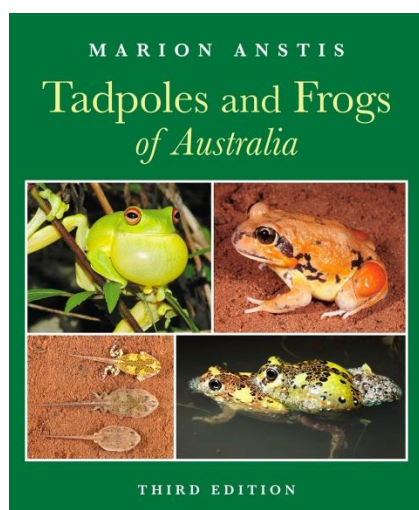
Please delete the old details and use the details below or we won't receive your payment.

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!

TADPOLES AND FROGS OF AUSTRALIA BY MARION ANSTIS - FRONT JACKET



Marion Anstis' 3rd edition book of *Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia* published by New Holland, will include all the new tree frog genera. It should be available for purchase in March 2026. It includes an extra 21 new species, 23 new genera and two new sub-species! The total number of species (including sub-species and the Cane Toad) in Australia has now risen to 267! The new taxonomy for the tree frogs is used. Although it might take some getting used to, the frogs are now grouped according to likeness, eg the red-eyed tree frogs are in the same genus and the green tree frogs are all together.

Marion was greatly aided by many wonderful photographers who allowed her to include some of their photos. There are many hundreds of photos of frogs, tadpoles, eggs, metamorphosed froglets, plus tadpole and mouthpart drawings. It has literally been her life's passion to produce! If you wish to be notified of the arrival date, please message Marion with your email address. She will add you to her growing list!

FATS EVENTS, EXHIBITS AND TALKS

The FATS committee wish to thank Kathy Potter and family for their continued conduction of several FATS exhibitions every year eg March 2025 Penrith Reptile Expo, Illawarra Reptile Society Expo and Macarthur Herpetological Society talk in September 2025. August and September are always busy, due to Frog Week and Science Week. We couldn't have done it without the many regular helpers including Karen and Arthur White, Punia Jeffery, Peter Vickery and son Matthew, Michelle Toms, David and daughter Harriet Potter. Apologies if I missed you.

FATS is sometimes undermanned at exhibits and events. We would appreciate our members reaching out to the Potters and offer help.

Arthur White talks at many community events. He recently presented talks at Eastwood Garden Club and Macarthur Herpetological Society. Many auditory surveys are conducted at Sydney Olympic Park, led by Arthur, including future ones in early 2026.

FROGID: CITIZEN SCIENTISTS PROVIDE VALIDATED BIODIVERSITY DATA ON FROGS OF AUSTRALIA

Jodi J.L. Rowley, Corey T. Callaghan, Timothy Cutajar, Christopher Portway, Kathy Potter, Stephen Mahony, Dane F. Trembath, Paul Flemons, and Adam Woods. Australian Museum Research Institute, Centre for Ecosystem Science, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales, Natural Sciences and Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Corresponding author, e-mail: jodi.rowley@austmus.gov.au

Abstract: There is an urgent need for comprehensive global biodiversity data, particularly for highly threatened taxa such as frogs. Some of the most dramatic frog population declines, globally, have occurred in Australia, but logistical difficulties of surveying frogs (i.e., the large size of Australia and remoteness within it) have limited our knowledge of biodiversity. Citizen science projects have recently facilitated the collection of broad-scale biodiversity data, but the application of citizen science data collection to frogs has lagged behind other taxa.

Citizen science projects targeting frogs have been successful in collecting occurrence data, but typically rely on species identification via user-submitted photographs. Photographs of frogs can be difficult to identify to species and may also inadvertently encourage handling of frogs.

We developed FrogID, an expert validated biodiversity database of frog occurrences in Australia, reliant on acoustic validation. FrogID uses smartphone technology, allowing participants to submit recordings of calling frogs, providing a biodiversity database with geo-referenced frog species records, and a digital collection of frog calls. In a short time, FrogID has allowed us to collect data on rare and threatened frog species, document the decline of native frog species from parts of their range, and detect invasive species, including native species that have established populations outside their native range. In this paper, we introduce FrogID, including technical details, highlight preliminary findings, and identify potential future uses of the data.

Herpetological Conservation and Biology 14(1):155–170. Submitted 25/10/2018 Accepted: 31/1/2019 Published 30/4/2019.

RIVERSTONE WETLANDS THREATENED

The 10 hectares of Riverstone Wetlands support vast flocks of migratory waterbirds. It is slated to be bulldozed for industrial estates. The wetlands are visited by migrating bird from as far away as New Zealand, Korea, Japan and Russia. Over 190 international migratory shorebirds and 400+ nomadic waterfowl cram into this tiny habitat. <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/ppr/under-exhibition/marsden-parknorth-precinct>

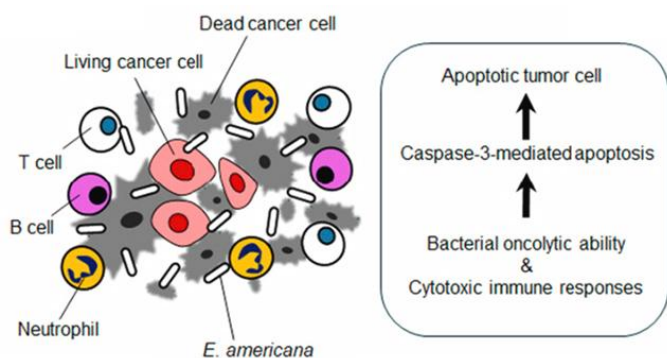
POWERFUL ANTI-CANCER DRUG INSIDE JAPANESE TREE FROG

26 December 2025 By David Nield (extracts)

Scientists have discovered a promising new approach to fighting cancer in the gut bacteria of a Japanese tree frog, with one strain completely shrinking tumours in mice, with no severe side effects. The Japanese tree frog (*Dryophytes japonicus*) wasn't a lucky find. We know amphibians and reptiles rarely develop cancer, and researchers from the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology wanted to see whether transferring gut bacteria from frogs to mice might have any anti-cancer effects.

A total of 45 different bacterial strains from frogs, newts, and lizards were shortlisted for testing, with 9 strains showing notable tumour-fighting capabilities. The most impressive of the bunch was the frog bacteria, *Ewingella americana*. "These findings suggest that gut microbiomes of lower vertebrates harbor numerous uncharacterized bacterial species with exceptional therapeutic potential," the researchers write in their published paper.

Frogs and other reptiles may add to that arsenal in time by providing another source of potential cancer therapeutics. "Our findings demonstrate the vast untapped potential residing within diverse microbial ecosystems and highlight the critical importance of biodiversity conservation efforts in advancing medical science and therapeutic innovation," the researchers conclude.

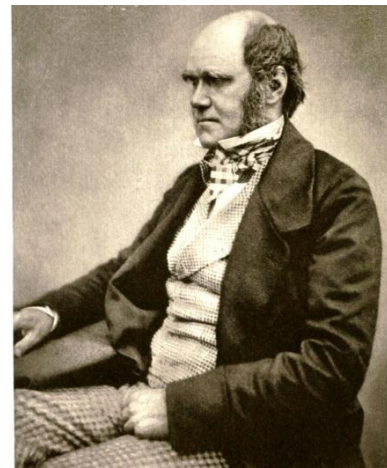


The research has been published in *Gut Microbes*.

CHARLES DARWIN DAY - 12 FEBRUARY

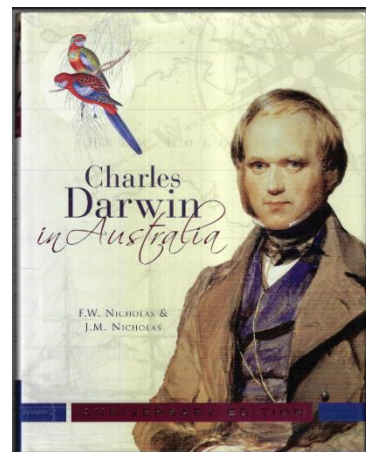
The Origin of Species was written by Charles Darwin 167 years ago. He transformed the way we see the natural world. One of the places that helped him realise his revolutionary theories was Australia. Darwin arrived in Sydney on board HMS Beagle in 1836, part of a five-year surveying voyage. He travelled from Sydney to Bathurst on horseback, exploring the diversity of Australian animals in the Blue Mountains.

It was on this journey that Darwin began to question Creationism for the first time.

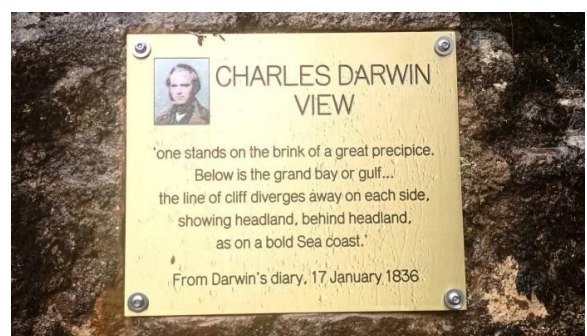


Charles Darwin Photo Maull and Fox 1854

Puzzled by the ecological niches between species in Australia and Europe, Darwin sowed the seeds for what would become his ground-breaking work, two decades later. Darwin corresponded with the Australian Museum's Curator, Gerald Krefft, in a series of letters in the 1870s. Krefft worked hard to promote Darwin's theories in Australia.



The 190th anniversary of Charles Darwin visiting the Blue Mountains NSW occurred on 17 January 2026. Darwin's brief visit to Sydney is mentioned in Emeritus Professor Frank Nicholas book "*Charles Darwin in Australia*". The panoramic views of Charles Darwin Walk at Wentworth Falls, follows the path Darwin took from the Weatherboard Inn at Wentworth Falls, since demolished, to the view across the Jamison Valley, which greatly inspired Darwin. Find out more about Darwin and his trip to Australia here: <https://bit.ly/3xe48Cs> Extracts from the Australian Museum Facebook page.



GARTH COUPLAND
NATURAL HISTORY JOURNAL
Caddo Lake, Texas 18 March 2015



Caddo Lake swamp habitat

Certain places, and moments in those places, remain as defining moments in my life. This can be for many reasons that lie on the continuum of suffering to joy. Today's entry in my journal was one of complete joy.



Caddo Lake, Texas

Caddo Lake is the largest, natural lake in The Southern States and straddles the Texas, Louisiana border. It is a wilderness area of open water and Cypress swamps with the classic 'French Moss' dripping from the trees.

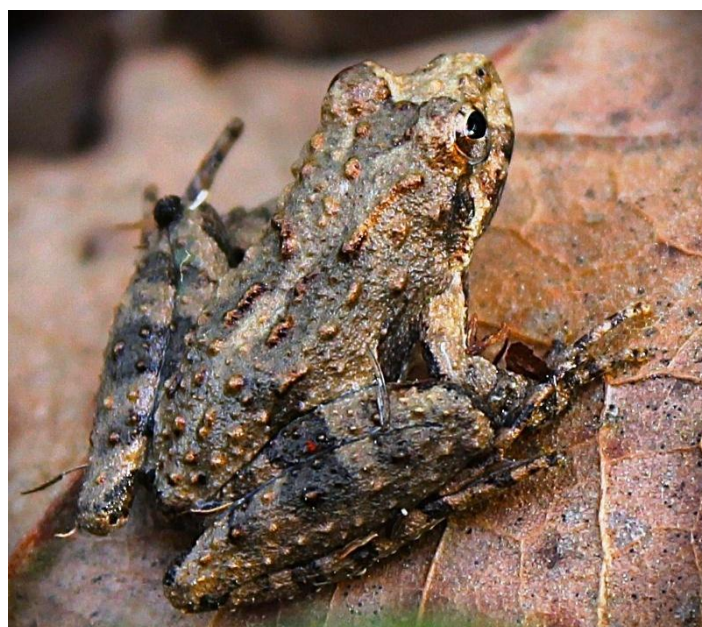


Green Frog *Lithobates clamitans*

This entry concerns a solo head-torching expedition into the swamps at night after two days of daytime exploring and researching the area. I had found so much already and had fallen deeply in love with Caddo Lake.



Young Woodhouse's Toad *Anaxyrus woodhousii*



Blanchard's Cricket Frog *Acris blanchardi*
above and below



The woods were filled with new birds, mammals, butterflies and reptiles. The aquatic environment had produced wonderful turtles in abundance. This night I was after FROGS!



Green Tree Frog *Hyla cinerea*



Caddo Lake

I had been warned by locals that I should be extremely careful with a torch at night. Deer hunters may object to me disturbing their poaching or consider me to be a poacher. I was told that they might shoot first and probably not bother with asking questions later! Thus, the excursion was undertaken with some trepidation. This, however, heightened the sense of satisfaction and achievement once I got back to my motel alive!



Cope's Gray Tree Frog *Hyla chrysosceles*



North American Deermouse
Peromyscus maniculatus

I found 6 species of frog that I had never seen before and an extra treat of a bush-climbing rodent. The photos show the species found that night and are captioned.

When my light illuminated a White-tailed Deer I became quite worried but thankfully I saw not a human soul that night; which was excellent news.



White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

This was the third night of a 10 week, 10,500 mile, Western American road trip and yet was the best herpetological experience of that adventure.

I will remember it forever.

Southern Leopard Frog
Lithobates sphenoccephalus



All photos by Garth Coupland

INVASIVE AMAZON FROGBIT WEED FOUND FOR FIRST TIME IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

By Fiona Broom (extracts)



Highly invasive Amazon Frogbit discovered in the Northern Territory. *By Alicia Kaylock*

An aggressively invasive aquatic weed, Amazon Frogbit *Limnobium laevigatum* has been found in the Northern Territory. The weed poses a risk to drinking water, wildlife and agriculture.

It is one of the "world's worst weeds" that can threaten drinking water supplies and clog irrigation channels has been discovered in Darwin. It is a fast-growing, floating aquatic plant that can grow half a metre deep in rivers. The Frogbit was spotted in a social media post from someone living in Darwin's northern suburbs.



Clearing waterways of Frogbit can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. *Elliot Dunn*

Frogbit was brought into Australia decades ago as an ornamental. It has smooth, round leaves about the size of a 10-cent coin, and occasional small white flowers. The Invasive Species Council said a lot of people thought it looked quite nice. Dense Frogbit infestations will rot in the water, which weed specialists say poses a risk to drinking water supplies. There are so far no reports that the weed has spread beyond the Darwin fishpond. Stronger regulation was needed to stop Frogbit from being sold or traded. **Thanks Margot Pickering for the article 22/7/2025**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2025-07-11/amazon-frogbit-weed-found-darwin-fishpond-water-supply/105517872>

FUNGI RESEARCH – WHAT THE DUCK?

Aussie scientists are using fungi for plastic breakdown (like in 2023) to citizen science mapping Australia's hidden fungal networks (2024), new species discoveries (2025), fungi's role in climate solutions (2022), medicinal potential (2025), and even gold-accumulating fungi (2019), featuring experts like Dr. Tien Huynh, Dr. Jasmin Packer, and Dr. Toby Kiers across shows like *Ockham's Razor*, *Nightlife*, and *The Science Show*. Their coverage highlights fungi's vital role in ecosystems, building materials, waste management, and potential medical breakthroughs, encouraging public participation in discovery.

What the Duck?! Dr Ann Jones explores the mysteries of nature on the ABC Listen app (Australia). You'll learn more about the weird and unusual aspects of our natural world in a quirky, fun way with easy to understand science.

Key Themes in ABC Fungi Research:

- **Environmental Solutions:** Fungi breaking down plastics (Sydney Uni) and their critical role in soil health and plant partnerships (mycorrhizae).
- **Biodiversity & Discovery:** Highlighting new Australian species and the vast underground networks (SPUN project).
- **Future Materials:** Using fungi to create sustainable building materials and textiles.
- **Health & Medicine:** Exploring fungal compounds for medicine and the danger of poisonous varieties like the Death Cap.
- **Citizen Science:** Encouraging public involvement in identifying and mapping fungi.

Featured Programs & Experts:

- ***Ockham's Razor*:** Explored fungi in future materials with Dr. Tien Huynh (RMIT).
- ***Nightlife & Big Ideas*:** Covered the global SPUN project and general fungal importance with guests like Dr. Toby Kiers (Vrije Universiteit) and Dr. David Johnson.
- ***What the Duck? (Podcast)*:** A recent series delved into mushroom facts, toxins, and future potential. **It mentions frog killing Chytrid fungus.**
- **Experts:** Jasmin Packer (Uni of Adelaide), Dr. Tien Huynh (RMIT), Dr. Toby Kiers (SPUN), and citizen scientists like a retired doctor discovering new species.

Ann Jones, Presenter / Producer **Rebecca McLaren, Producer** **Hamish Camilleri, Sound Engineer (extracts)**

FROGID NEW RESEARCH

As we head into our ninth year of FrogID, we're incredibly grateful for the growing number of submissions contributed by tens of thousands of people across Australia. The project continues to demonstrate how powerful citizen science can be for understanding and conserving our biodiversity. A new FrogID study led by Grace Gillard reveals that private properties are doing much of the heavy lifting when it comes to understanding our frogs. The team found that 86% of submissions came from private land, meaning these areas are actually better sampled than public reserves. In total, 45 frog species had more than 70% of records from private land, including the Endangered Sloane's Froglet, which had 96% of records from private tenure. This species has been monitored with FrogID by the dedicated Sloane's Champions since 2017, increasing our understanding of its habitat needs and demonstrating the value of long-term community participation.

With protected areas covering only around 10% of NSW, and most frog records coming from outside the reserve system, understanding biodiversity on private land is essential for improving conservation outcomes. Together, these findings highlight the crucial role private lands play in conserving Australia's frogs, and the incredible contribution of people recording frog calls in places scientists often cannot easily access. Thank you for being part of FrogID and helping transform our ability to understand, monitor, and conserve frog biodiversity.



ACT REPTILES AND FROGS FIELD GUIDE

Image Bridget_Lunn

Brian La Rance, Wes Read and Bridget Lunn launch their new book, *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Frogs of the ACT*. The guide is a comprehensive photographic resource covering the ACT's herpetofauna, featuring identification keys, natural history notes and taxonomic summaries. Their story began in 2019 with nothing more than field notes and photos, growing steadily until they were approached in 2022 about turning their work into a published book, resulting in an incredible field guide featuring **62 reptiles and 17 frogs**. Remarkably, only **15 species** in the guide were not photographed within the ACT an extraordinary achievement.

A TOAD'S JOURNEY HOME

Researchers show that the cane toad is capable of long-distance homing in a wild environment. Spatial navigation constitutes a key ability for animals, yet amphibians remain underexplored. Studying amphibian cognitive abilities and their neurobiology is key for the understanding of vertebrate cognitive evolution. Recent studies have elucidated that amphibians are successful navigators that likely use multimodal sensory information and that spatial encoding may depend on a preserved hippocampal formation and other cortical and septal structures similar to mammals. In a novel study, Shaykevich et al. show that the cane toad is capable of long-distance homing in a wild environment and that this recruits cortical structures, such as the medial and lateral pallia, and the septum.

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2025.0525>

NEW SPECIES OF BRACHYCEPHALUS

Brachycephalus are miniaturized diurnal frogs inhabiting the leaf litter of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, mainly in montane areas. The genus includes 42 currently recognized species, 35 of which being described since 2000.

This study describes a new species of *Brachycephalus* from the *B. pernix* species group discovered at Serra do Quiriri, Santa Catarina, Brazil. It is distinguished by 18 characters including snout-vent length 8.9–11.3 mm for males and 11.7–13.4 mm for females, general bright orange coloration of the body with small green and brown irregular points, and advertisement call including note groups (two notes per group, with 1–4 pulses per note). Phylogenetic data indicate that the new species is closely related to *B. auroguttatus* and *B. quiririensis*, which also occur at Serra do Quiriri. A review of diagnoses among species of the *B. pernix* group is provided.

We propose classifying the new species as Least Concern. Serra do Quiriri experienced semi-arid periods in the Quaternary, with forests likely occurring at lower altitudes. As the climate became wetter, these forests expanded upward as cloud forests, forming patches amidst grasslands, leading to speciation by allopatry (microrefugia) of *B. quiririensis*, *B. auroguttatus*, and the new species. This process continues, with recent observations of *Brachycephalus* colonizing newly formed cloud forests at high altitudes. We propose the creation of the Refúgio de Vida Silvestre (RVS) Serra do Quiriri to protect this and other endemic species, without requiring government acquisition of private land. M. R. Bornschein, M. R. Pie, et al. 2025. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0334746 10/12/2025 novataxa.blogspot.com/2025/12/brachycephalus.html

UPCOMING EXPOS, EVENTS AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS



(left) Our unstoppable FATS Exhibitions Officer, Kathy Potter.

- **Monday 2 February 2026:** World Wetland Day
- **Monday 2 February:** Women and girls in science Day
- **Tuesday 3 March:** World Wildlife Day
- **Saturday 14 March:** Action for Rivers Day
- **Friday 20 March:** World Frog Day
- **Saturday 21 March:** Day of Forests
- **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!

FIRST FATS FIELD TRIP OF 2026 - WATAGAN NATIONAL PARK



In January we held our first field trip of 2026 visiting the Watagans National Park. It was the hottest day of the summer which progressed into a very warm night.



We saw lots of frogs (including all three target species) and due to the warm weather also encountered three snake species - a green tree snake, golden-crowned snake, and two Stephen's banded snakes.



We were in search of the three species of barred frog that call the Watagans NP home - Great Barred frog (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*), Giant Barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*), and Stuttering frog (*Mixophyes balbus*).



A lot of creatures were out and about, and we wrapped up the night sighting a bandicoot, a ringtail possum, and a greater glider.

Michelle Toms

FIELD TRIPS

Please book your place on fieldtrips. Due to strong demand, numbers are limited. Be sure to leave a contact number. Regardless of prevailing weather conditions, we will continue to schedule and advertise fieldtrips, as planned. It is **YOUR** responsibility to re-confirm in the last few days, whether the field trip is proceeding or has been cancelled. Phone Robert on 02 9681 5308

8.30pm Saturday 28 February West Head Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park Leader: Rhys Cairncross

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE

Meet at the Duckholes Picnic Area in West Head Road, near the corner of McCarrs Creek Rd, Terrey Hills.

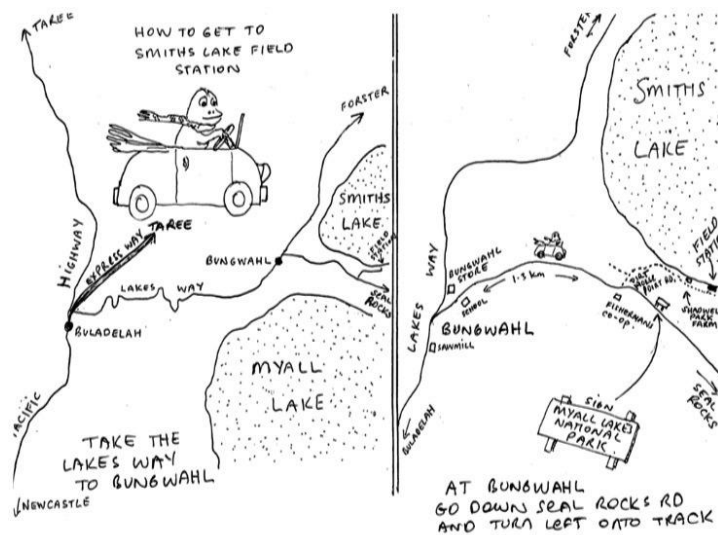
Strategies for "waiting out" unfavourable conditions or conserving energy are common in the animal world. Some mammals, and only mammals, hibernate for long periods of time. Body temperature is lowered to maintain a dormant state, thereby conserving valuable energy. Most famously, bears wait out the harsh winter months until the Spring season affords greater food opportunities. Torpor is a similar energy-saving strategy, but is maintained only for a shorter period, usually on a nightly or daily basis. Torpor is found widely across a range of smaller mammals such as micro-bats. It is also common amongst small birds living in high, cold mountainous environments. Frogs use the slightly different strategy of aestivation (*"as-ti-va-tion"*). Frogs, particularly those of the arid region, remain motionless for long periods of time, only to emerge when conditions are suitable. Frogs, it seems, unlike bears, are rather aware of their surrounds at all times. Tonight, we will look at the subtle differences between *aestivation*, *hibernation* and *torpor*. Rhys will discuss, with his specialist knowledge of our arid frogs, how these energy-saving strategies permit animals to survive in hostile environments from which they would otherwise be precluded.

Rhys is currently undertaking his PhD and works as an ecological consultant. Tonight, he is taking time off from his monitoring work with the arid frogs of the Simpson Desert to show us his favourite frog site in Sydney. Rhys is also an experienced wildlife photographer and will answer any questions on taking better frog photographs.

Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 February

Smiths Lake Camp-out

Leaders: Karen and Arthur White



There is always a rush to secure places. Please email Karen white.kazzie@gmail.com and list the names of all people including children, you wish to book for. State which night you will be arriving. This must be done by 9/2. Karen will advise you if your request has been successful. If this is the case, payment **MUST** be received **IN FULL** before the 16/2/26. Pay to

Frog and Tadpole Study Group
BSB 082 001 Account 313 033 719
\$25.00 per person, per night.

We are sorry, but **NO** bookings will be processed without payment and this payment is **NON-REFUNDABLE**. So please be sure that if you book, you are certain that you can attend. This will avoid disappointment. Please **do not** ask for exceptions to be made to either our payment-first or non-refundable payment rule.

Smiths Lake needs no introduction to FATS members. It is our most popular fieldtrip.

In the event of uncertain frogging conditions e.g. prolonged drought, hazardous or torrential rain, bushfires etc., please phone 02 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! Observe all directions that the leader may give. Children are welcome, however young children 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 fieldtrips are strictly for members only. Newcomers are welcome to take out membership before the commencement of a fieldtrip. 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.

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.

NB: 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 6,600 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.

COPYRIGHT: Material from FrogCall newsletters MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED without the prior consent of the writer, photographer, editor or president. Permission from FATS and/or author/s must be obtained prior to any commercial use of material. The author/s and sources must be fully acknowledged. All expressions of opinion and information in FrogCall are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as an official opinion of the committee, unless expressly so stated.

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.

	FATS COMMITTEE	
Position	Name	Contact
President	Michelle Toms	fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au
Vice President	Peter Vickery	fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au
Treasurer and Public Officer	David Potter	0413 210 789 or david@the-pottery.org
Secretary and Membership Officer		membership@fats.org.au
Chairperson	Fabian Byers	fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au
Webmaster	Hugh Speck	fatsgroupnsw@fats.org.au
Exhibitions Coordinator	Kathy Potter	0403 919 668 or kathy@the-pottery.org
Field Trip Coordinator	Robert Wall	02 9681 5308 or rjw2008@live.com.au
FrogWatch Helpline and adoptions	Luc Streit	0419 249 728
Editor	Monica Wangmann	monicawangmann@gmail.com
General committee members	Rhys Cairncross, Punia Jeffery, Kienan Brown and Peter Spradbrow	