

FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP of NSW INC.

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NEWSLETTER No. 204 AUGUST 2026



Green and Golden Bell Frog *Ranoidea aurea* by Cassie Thompson

In this issue

- FATS August 2026 AGM and public meeting
- August meeting main speaker Thomas Mesaglio
- Previous main speakers Ewan Auld and Anthony Waddle
- Memories of Lothar Voigt and the Frogmobile
- Calendar of Events

Featured article

Paving Paradise
at Mt Hotham

by Nick Clemann

CONTENTS

PAGE

• President's Pad	3
• Membership information and August FATS main speaker: Thomas Mesaglio	3
• Cane Toad handbook, "The Waiting" vimeo by Karen Lips, Mt Macedon tragedy	4
• Previous speakers Anthony Waddle and Ewan Auld	5
• Marion Anstis' "Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia" book edition 3	5
• Environmental destruction at Mt Hotham By Nick Clemann	6 - 7
• Memories of Lothar Voigt and the Frogmobile	8 - 9
• AGM and FATS Frog-O-Graphic competition closes 31 August	10
• Calendar and events	10
• ARP BBQ 5/12, Frogs Vic meeting 5/8 and FATS Smiths Lake field trip 13-15/11	11
• FATS information and contacts	12

Join us at our next AGM and meeting

Date: Friday 7 August 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 Parkway 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, coffee and raffle

7:00pm Welcome, announcements and AGM

8:00pm Main speaker: Thomas Mesaglio (UNSW) "Hidden Treasure: exploring the tremendous biodiversity value of an urban bush remnant."

Arthur White (FATS):
"Are hybrid species good or bad?"

9:30pm Show us your frog images. Tell us about your frogging trips or experiences. Drinks and supper provided. Relax and chat with frog friends and experts.



PRESIDENT'S PAD

Hello frog friends and welcome to the August issue of the FrogCall newsletter.

While winter is slower on the frog front there are plenty of interesting things happening while we wait for the warmer weather to ramp up.

Firstly, you are invited to the FATS AGM and public meeting on Friday 7 August at Sydney Olympic Park. We are always looking for volunteers to join our ranks so if you have any questions about joining the committee please reach out, we'd love to have you on board. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, the talks are being recorded and made available on our Facebook page thanks to our Vice President Peter Vickery.

Keep an eye out for upcoming events including Science Week, the annual Christmas party at Australian Reptile Park, and FATS first announced field trip of the season to Smiths Lake. Also, our Frog-O-Graphic competition is closing soon so please get your entries in before 31 August, we love seeing your frog photos!

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate Marion Anstis on the release of her book, Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia, 3rd edition, which is a wonderful resource on Australia's amphibians. Well done Marion.

Hoppy reading, Michelle, President

THOMAS MESAGLIO - AUGUST SPEAKER



Dr Thomas Mesaglio is a botanist and naturalist at the University of New South Wales. Much of his current research focuses on biodiversity informatics and the Australian flora. He has published bushfire recovery, marine forensics, invertebrate taxonomy and natural history. He is an iNaturalist curator, site administrator for iNaturalist Australia, and regularly organises and leads BioBlitzes around Australia. Thomas has published four scientific books, and received the 2022 Eureka Prize for Innovation in Citizen Science.

When asked to consider biodiverse regions and habitats, most people think of coral reefs and remote tropical rainforests. But not many bring to mind small bushland patches in urban Sydney! Urban bushland remnants are crucial microrefugia for many animal species, both vertebrates and invertebrates, in areas that are otherwise highly developed and cleared of native vegetation. But outside a few charismatic groups such as birds and butterflies, these remnants bushlands are rarely protected or comprehensively surveyed to understand their fauna.

Thomas will explore the species he observed during hundreds of hours of surveying of Wategora Reserve along Duck River, a tiny remnant of a critically endangered vegetation community in southwestern Sydney. The talk will cover the importance of small urban bushland remnants in an increasingly disconnected landscape, the threats and the future. <https://rzsnsw.org.au/Wildlife-at-the-Watering-Hole>

FATS MEMBERSHIP

Student \$20

Single \$30

Family \$40

As a FATS member you receive FrogCall newsletters, access to free field trips and surveys, be part of supporting frog and habitat conservation including advocacy 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!

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

Account Name

Frog & Tadpole Study Group

BSB 082 001

Account No. 313 033 719

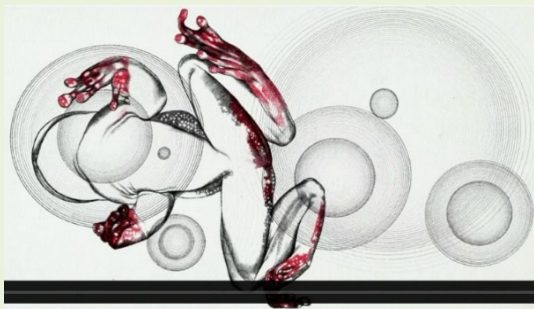
Membership renewal was due on 30 June 2026.

Payment is via bank transfer
(account details above).

At the meeting you can pay by cheque or cash.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

COSTA RICA "THE WAITING" VIMEO BY KAREN LIPS



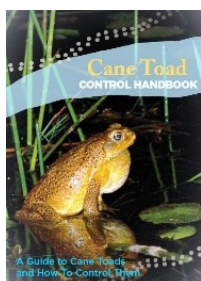
Karen Lips is researcher and lives for several years in a tiny little shack in Costa Rica to observe frogs. When she leaves the cloud forest for a short time and returns, the frogs are gone. All of them. Karen sets out to find them – and encounters a horrible truth. Mysterious deaths occur all over the planet and have a similar pattern. Why have so many species vanished? And what does it all have to do with us? **The Waiting** is the new animated documentary short film from the creators of the award winning **Kaputt/Broken** – The Women's Prison at Hoheneck (2016): Alexander Lahl, Max Moench, Hannes Schulze and Volker Schlecht. <https://vimeo.com/1036802517>

CANE TOAD HANDBOOK

The Cane Toad control handbook was written by BRRVLN and Clarence Landcare with assistance from the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust with additional support provided by North Coast Local Land Services. The towns of Kyogle and Casino are situated on the edge of the Cane Toad biosecurity zone. Cane Toads have now spread about 20km west of these towns into the Richmond Range. This represents the western invasion frontline in NSW

<https://www.brrvln.org.au/cane-toad-control>

Scan this QR
code to watch a
video of swarming
metamorphs.
(Video: S. Kaiser)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPmvOKQTEng> Cane Toad metamorphs swarming at the edge of a dam in northern NSW 2021. Footage by Shannon Kaiser. For more information on Cane Toads in Northern NSW visit the Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare Network Website. If you are undertaking cane toad control on your property please consider completing a [data sheet](#)



COOKS RIVER ALLIANCE LIMITED EDITION T SHIRTS

Grab a limited edition Backyard River t-shirt exclusively at [Reverse Garbage](https://reversegarbage.com)! These beautiful designs are the creation of Cooks River local, Pilar Basa (AI-free design). 100% of sales go to support the work of the Cooks River Alliance. Be quick! Available now at <https://tinyurl.com/mu8cp87t> <https://www.facebook.com/CooksRiverAlliance>



FLATTENED TREES AT MT MACEDON

Snow Gums, Alpine Ash, Dwarf Silver Wattles. The damage is done. Parks Victoria has cleared a patch of rare Montane Grassy Woodland in Macedon Regional Park. The reason given? Restoring the view line to the Memorial Cross. **The site was closed to the public. Independent ecologists couldn't get in. We don't yet know exactly what or how much has been destroyed.** What we do know is bad enough.

This woodland is rare. Only around 21 hectares survive across the whole of central and western Victoria. Dwarf Silver Wattles (threatened under state nature laws) were growing in the destruction zone and are likely smashed. Alpine Ash was listed as an Endangered ecological community under federal nature laws just three weeks before Parks Victoria began clearing. And Heritage Victoria has confirmed heritage laws were incorrectly used as justification for the destruction. **Matt Ruchel, Ben Gill and the team at the Victorian National Parks Association**

LAST FATS MEETING, JUNE 2026



Anthony Waddle spoke about the current trial field testing a field vaccine for chytrid in the Green and Golden Bell Frog. The lab studies look promising but it has yet to be shown to be effective in field conditions. Punia Jeffery gave a brief account of her recent encounters with frog ambassador, Lothar Voigt prior to his death. Arthur White provided an update on works at Greenacre.

FATS MAIN SPEAKER IN APRIL EWAN AULD - CHYTRID FUNGUS INFECTION INFLUENCES CALLING INVESTMENT IN MALE BROWN TOADLETS

[Ewan S. Auld](#), [Aimee J. Silla](#), [Phillip G. Byrne](#)

First published: 20/10/2025

<https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.72354> [Digital Object Identifier \(DOI\)](#)



Ewan S Auld

RESEARCH ARTICLE Ecology and evolution
Open Access This study was funded by a grant from the Australian Research Council, Discovery Early Career Researcher Award DE210100812 awarded to AS. The study was conducted while Ewan was in receipt of an Australian Government Research Training Program (AGRTP) Scholarship.

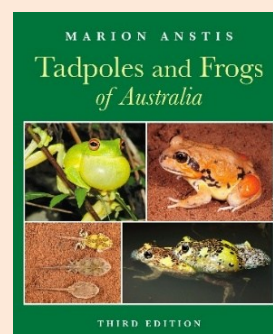
ABSTRACT (extracts) The sublethal effects of infection and disease on male advertisement behaviour remain poorly understood. The 'terminal investment hypothesis' proposes that infected organisms will increase reproductive investment

when their future reproductive prospects decline. Evidence to support this hypothesis has come from reports that some anuran amphibians respond to infection with the amphibian chytrid fungus pathogen by elevating calling activity. However, the generality of this response remains unclear, justifying studies in more anuran species. The aim of the present study was to provide a preliminary examination of the terminal investment hypothesis by investigating the relationship between chytrid fungus infection status and male calling behaviour in wild Australian brown toadlets *Pseudophryne bibronii*.

We found that infected males produced calls with more pulses compared to uninfected males. The association we report supports the terminal investment hypothesis and has the potential to impact host attractiveness, host fitness and disease transmission. Our findings join a small yet growing body of evidence that chytrid fungus impacts frog calling behaviour and more broadly, that pathogens modify host reproductive behaviour.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ece3.72354>

MARION ANSTIS' BOOK *TADPOLES AND FROGS OF AUSTRALIA*, THIRD EDITION



Michael Mahony, Marion Anstis and Hal Cogger at a talk given by Marion Anstis to Central Coast Herpetological Society at Ourimbah RSL on 15/5/2026. Marion spoke about the many name changes and new species that have been incorporated into the third edition of her book, *Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia*, which is now available for sale.

Photo taken by Wendy Grimm





THE UNFOLDING HERPETOFAUNA TRAGEDY AT MOUNT HOTHAM

Nick Clemann *Corresponding Author*
Handling editor Martin Predavec
Australian Zoologist (2026) 45 (1): AZ25056.

<https://doi.org/10.1071/AZ25056> **Abstract**

Climate change can be particularly devastating to species restricted to high elevations. Mount Hotham, one of Victoria's highest peaks, contains a remarkable cohort of threatened species. The area of habitat suitable for threatened reptiles and amphibians on and near Mount Hotham is small due to topography and elevation; these habitats have been increasingly destroyed, degraded and fragmented since winter-based recreational activities commenced in the 1920s. In this century, already small and fragmented habitat patches have been further cleared, degraded, and fragmented, leaving these species in a precarious position. Despite having monitoring sites for threatened herpetofauna on and near Mount Hotham for more than 20 years, my team and I have not been consulted about proposed destruction during pre-destruction impact assessments for the species that we monitor. Similarly, our publications containing specific warnings about further harms to threatened species' habitats in this area are often ignored in pre-destruction assessments. With patches of occupied habitat ever-shrinking due to this destruction, increasing pressure from climate change will make it very difficult and expensive to retain these species on and around Mount Hotham.

ARK WATCH ARTICLE JUNE 2026 |

Victorian National Parks Association

Nick Clemann, Senior Biologist, Herpetology at Zoos Victoria, says threatened plants and animals are being pushed to the brink by preventable habitat destruction in the Victorian Alps. Humans depend on other living beings. And those beings essential to our existence in turn rely on other beings.

We're all interconnected strands in the web of life.

But biodiversity is eroding at a rate unmatched since the event that wiped out dinosaurs 66 million years ago. In any rational evolutionary timeframe, this catastrophe's pace is frightening. Although there have been five mass extinctions in the history of life, this is the first time a single species has caused such an event. And that's us.

Twenty years of research

My research on Mount Hotham provides an example of preventable destruction of nature. Late last century I began surveying reptiles and frogs in the Victorian Alps. In 2005, I established monitoring sites across this region.

Colleagues and I monitor threatened reptiles and frogs. One way we do this is studying the genetic 'health' of populations. An emerging conservation paradigm, 'genetic rescue', involves us giving isolated populations a 'shot in the arm' by introducing genetic diversity from other populations.

This approach requires looking after genetic diversity in all populations. We can't genetically augment a population if diversity in other populations is lost before we start. In other words, the health of wildlife in one area is dependent on the health of wildlife in other areas.

Bulldozers in the bush

Several times we have arrived at our sites on Mount Hotham to witness machines destroying habitats of Critically Endangered wildlife like Alpine She-oak Skinks (*Cyclodomorphus praealtus*) and Alpine Tree Frogs (*Litoria verreauxii alpina*). Some sites have been damaged; others sit less than 40 metres from destroyed habitat.

One might presume that, to destroy habitats of threatened wildlife, the highest standards of evidence and expertise would be mandatory.

But many assessments of this destruction are conducted by ecological consultants paid by development interests. To assess properly, consultants need to seek the best information from those running monitoring programs. And – if operating competently and ethically – faithfully report and act upon that important information.

Failing to be directed by these experts means that assessments often do not truly reflect the consequences of the destruction.

Destruction facilitated by such assessments comes at an enormous cost to already threatened wildlife. The latest destruction (still underway early this year) in Mount Hotham Alpine Resort destroyed habitat not only for two Critically Endangered animals (Alpine She-oak Skinks and

Alpine Tree Frogs), but also for other threatened reptiles. This included an area of syntopy (two or more species living in the same microhabitat) between three *Pseudemoia* skinks, two of which are threatened. Such areas are critical to evolutionary relationships. The area destroyed is the only location where this relationship was known. This is a tragic loss.



Photo by Brad McCaffery Alpine Tree Frog

The client is pleased, nature is not

These losses are preventable. In a biodiversity crisis, it's not only essential that the best expertise and information is sought about consequences of habitat destruction – it's mandated by law. State nature laws specify 'the best practicably available information relevant to biodiversity' is given 'proper consideration' for any decision or process involving threatened wildlife. That includes wildlife on or near Mount Hotham.

So why are experts and publications excluded from pre-destruction assessments? During our over 20 years in the Alps, the number of eco-consultants has increased exponentially. Consulting companies are the largest employer in the biodiversity sector. Consulting is often the first job university graduates get. Competition is fierce. Consultants know if a client isn't happy with their advice, they can switch to various competitors.

Pleasing clients is not only the way to make money, but also how consultants make sure they keep making money. Some of the most knowledgeable ecologists in Victoria are self-employed consultants. But they represent a tiny proportion of the sector. Exceedingly few commercial consultants have spent significant time studying and monitoring reptiles and frogs so most are not authoritative experts.

There are powerful motivations to keep clients happy, which necessitates destroying habitats

where developments are planned. Minor concessions might be made. Initial plans slightly altered to make it seem like threatened wildlife are being considered. Dubious 'mitigations', such as relocating some animals may be recommended. The all-but universally condemned biodiversity 'offsetting' might be applied...

But these token concessions do little to mitigate the destruction. Some, such as relocating animals, can spread pathogens, trigger aggressive and territorial behaviours, and cause a lack of essential resources at release sites.

Although profits of developments go to individuals and companies, the eventual cost of trying to recover threatened wildlife is borne by the taxpayer. Not only does this destruction affect our own existence, we'll also feel these losses in our hip pocket. Effective recovery is undermined by genetic loss. Recovery is increasingly not only expensive, it's fast becoming improbable.

Signs of hope and an urgent reminder

The federal environment department is increasingly aware of assessments that bypass the best evidence and expertise. They're concerned threatened wildlife habitat continues to be destroyed, despite the protections intended in federal nature laws.

They continue to hold consultants to account for claims they make, and ask them to justify conclusions and recommendations. They can require literature reviews of proposed 'mitigations' and biodiversity offsetting that are hastening destruction of wildlife and habitats. And they are asking consultants to make sure they engage with, and follow, the advice of experts.



Sadly, further destruction of threatened wildlife habitat is all-but inevitable due to insatiable development. It's never been more important that decision-makers truly understand the consequences of the decisions they make. ***[This article adapted from the author's paper 'They paved paradise, put up a parking lot: the unfolding herpetofauna tragedy at Mount Hotham, Australia'. Australian Zoologist 45](#)***

LOTHAR VOIGT AND THE FROGMOBILE

Extracts from FrogCall 101 by Arthur White: In 1995 Lothar Voigt took over as President from Harald Ehmann. Lothar, in his mercurial way, set out to make FATS a household name. To do this, FATS needed to be seen and heard. Lothar started contacting schools, local councils, community groups, in fact anyone who would listen to him. Did they have frogs in their garden, did they want to learn about frogs, did they know about the global decline of frogs? Lothar arranged FATS to have stalls at the Easter Show, to do workshops at Council community days, to do displays at fairs, carnivals or at local parks. FATS was on the move.

Lothar remained as President for one year and was succeeded by Martyn Robinson. This move allowed Lothar to spend even more time on frog displays and community presentations, as well as letting loose his pent up need to write. Those of us who remember the old issues of FrogCall will undoubtedly remember the adventures of Claude the Frog.



Lothar Voigt 2008 Parramatta Eco Workshops

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/octobersun/2287864296/>

You can't keep a good man down. With one of his spare moments Lothar decided that FATS could really knock the socks off the general public if we had a mobile display trailer for frogs. He brought his ideas to the executive meetings and began to prepare plans for the trailer. Eventually, the plans were unveiled. It was a bold design with fold out sides and slide out frog ponds. The cost was a big drawback so Lothar set out to find a sponsor, which he did. Osram Lights came to the party and funding the purchase and fitting of the

trailer. For three years various FATS people spent time helping fit and refine the trailer, under Lothar's watchful eye.

In 2005, the Frogmobile was unveiled and in 2006 it was busy at various venues about Sydney. Again, FATS members rallied to act as Frog Interpreters, or simply to help set up the Frogmobile at each site. The Frogmobile was so heavily used that a section of FrogCall was devoted to detail the locations where it had been and where it was going next.



Frogmobile launch

Unfortunately, the lion's share of the work fell to Lothar who slaved himself to a standstill. While the Frogmobile was an attention-grabber, it was large, difficult to maneuver and required considerable set up time. These factors ultimately sealed the fate for the Frogmobile, for in 2007, when it was due for refurbishment, the decision was made not to spend more money on it. Lothar tried desperately over the next 12 months to find another backer and get financial support but this proved unsuccessful. So in 2008, we bade farewell to the Frogmobile. It was handed over to the RSPCA to be used as display trailer.

Brad and Matt McCaffery's dad and Wendy Grimm at Centennial Park



MEMORIES OF THE FROGMOBILE

Extracts from FrogCall 84: Lothar Voigt, the FATS Frogmobile and a band of many helpers, including Grant Webster, Brad and Matt McCaffery, Wendy and Phillip Grimm, David Nelson, Merinda and Rohan Voigt, Punia Jeffery, Arthur and Karen White, (and too many other to mention here) delighted thousands of visitors over the years. It travelled all over Greater Sydney including places like Ku-Ring-Gai Wildflower Gardens Wildflower Festivals, Baulkham Hills Council's Sustainability Fairs, Centennial Park Duck Pond, Warringah Council, World Environment workshops for schools, community days and Waterwatch workshops at Boronia Park. Channel 10, Totally Wild filmed the Frogmobile.

Brad and Matt McCaffery photo by Lothar Voigt



After six years in the sunshine, in the rain, well over 100 exhibitions and having shown its frogs and frog habitats to untold numbers of people, it was time to let go. Thank you for the beautiful large photos by Marion Anstis, Alistair MacDougall and Martyn Robinson's artwork. The Frogmobile went out with a splash to Leichhardt Council, five school classes, then Warringah classes, then Darling Harbour, then Bondi Beach – all in one week!



The Frogmobile never failed to attract a large crowd, young and old. Here it is at the 2008 Frog and Reptile Show, Castle Hill Showground. All made possible by our scores of devoted Frog Explainers.



Our last Frogmobile show was at Centennial Park by the Duck Pond where it all started.

CALENDAR

UPCOMING MEETINGS, EXPOS AND EVENTS

- **Sun 26 July** National Tree Day Hudson Pk Strathfield 9 – noon see Arthur White
- **Wed 5 August** 7.30pm Frogs Vic meeting
- **7 Aug** 7pm FATS AGM, talks & meeting
- **Fri 14 August** Sydney Science Trail expo begins Australian Museum
- **15 – 23 August** National Science Week
- **Sun 16 Aug** 11am - 3pm Science in the Swamp Centennial Park **HELPERS NEEDED**
- **Mon-Sat 17-22 August** Australian Museum 9.30 – 2.30 **HELPERS NEEDED**
- **18 August** ACTHA meets
- **19 August** Aust Herp Society meeting
- **19 Aug** Reptile & Frog group FNSSA (South Aust)
- **21 August** Macarthur Herp Society meets
- **22 August** Mt Annan Botanic Gardens
- **Sun 23 August** Western Sydney Parklands Science in the Scrub **HELPERS NEEDED**
- **29 Aug** Coastal Enviro Centre Open Day 9 - 2
- **31 August** Frog-O-Graphic comp. closes
- **7 September** Threatened Species Day
- **Sat 19 – Sun 20 Sept** Weekend in Wistaria 10-4 **HELPERS NEEDED**

- **Sun 20 Sept** Sutherland Council Bushcare Fair Kirrawee 9 – 3 **HELPERS NEEDED**
- **Sun 11 Oct** Sustainability Lane, Lane Cove 9 - 1
- **Sun 18 October** Penrith Reptile Expo
- **November** FATS recommencing field trips
- **13-15 November** FATS Smiths Lake field trip
- **Sat 5 December** ARP Herp Societies BBQ 10 - 3
- **2027** Illawarra Reptile Expo

FATS needs helpers especially at the August and September stalls. Please contact Kathy or David Potter, (see page 12) to offer help. FATS may be unable to attend some events, if helpers are unavailable.

Helpers are needed 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 AGM, RECORDED TALKS, COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Science Week 2025. Our Exhibitions
Coordinator, Kathy Potter regularly leads FATS displays and talks at the Australian Museum.



FATS 2026 FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Frog-O-Graphic competition closes on the 31/8/2026. Send email submissions to photos@fats.org.au Categories: Best Frog Image, Best Pet Frog Image, Most Interesting Image and People's Choice.

Include your name, that you are a financial member of FATS, identify the frog species preferably by scientific name (in the file name), location, if known, if it is a pet frog and your phone number. Max 6 entries per person. Max attachment size 6 MB

RECORDINGS OF FATS MEETINGS

Peter Vickery has uploaded Ewan Auld and Rhys Cairncross talks, to the FATS Facebook group.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FATSNWS/>
Our FATS website also has educational videos.
<https://www.fats.org.au/videos-and-sounds>

FATS AGM NOTICE 7PM FRIDAY 7/8/2026

The AGM will commence at 7pm on Friday 7 August 2026. FATS meets at the Education Centre, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay, NSW. Check the FATS website.

If you would like to ask any questions about joining the FATS committee, please call us. Contact our President, Michelle Toms at least 2 weeks before the meeting for further information or to submit items. We appreciate fresh ideas and need new members on our committee. No experience required. The committee meets 6 times a year and can attend via video or audio link. No task, commitments or time expected of committee members, other than what you can spare. See contacts details on page 12. **Michelle Toms**

PENRITH REPTILE EXPO Sunday, 18/10/2026. Hosted by the Hawkesbury Herpetological Society 9am-3pm Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre 30 Herbert Street, Cambridge Park, NSW



FROGS VICTORIA MEETS 7.30PM 5/8

Colin McHenry, University of Newcastle, is the main Frogs Vic Society speaker, Wednesday 7.30pm 5 August 2026 - upstairs at The Elgin Inn, 75 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, Melbourne, Victoria. Dinner and drinks are available to purchase from 6:30PM. All welcome. No RSVP necessary. Colin will discuss "The Golden Frog in the valley of coal: Conserving one of Australia's last great Green and Golden Bell Frog populations".

After several years of relative stability, however, the population has declined sharply since 2021. Having persisted despite disease and invasive predators, climate change now appears to be pushing the population towards a critical threshold. In response, a long-standing partnership between researchers, government and industry is building on this ecological understanding to develop a management toolkit designed to halt and ultimately reverse the decline. Dr Colin McHenry has spent more than a decade studying the Hunter River Estuary, Kooragang Island GGBF. His research explores the ecological processes that underpin the persistence of one of NSW's most important remaining populations and how that understanding can be translated into practical conservation. Frogs Victoria would appreciate your support.

<https://www.frogsvic.org/membership>

FATS FIELD TRIP TO SMITHS LAKE 13 – 15 NOVEMBER 2026.

Email white.kazzie@gmail.com Karen with a list the names of all people including children, you wish to book on the 13-15 November Smiths Lake field trip. State which night you will be arriving. This must be done by 1/10. Karen will advise you if your request has been successful. If this is the case, payment MUST be received IN FULL before the 20/10/26. Payment details will be included in the October FrogCall 205 or via email from Karen. We are sorry, but **NO** bookings will be processed without payment and the payment is **NON-REFUNDABLE**. Please be sure that if you book, you are certain that you can attend. This will avoid disappointment.

ARP BBQ 5/12 FOR MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN HERP SOCIETIES



The ARP Team

All Herp Society members are invited to the free entry, ARP annual BBQ on Saturday 10am to 3 pm, 5 December 2026. In 2025 about 60 people attended. The park received some great feedback and are delighted to welcome everyone back again. **If you and your family are planning to attend, RSVP sales@reptilepark.com.au by 16 November 2026 with the following details:**

Name and Phone number

Which herp society they are a member of

Number of adults and children attending

Any dietary requirements

This free entry and BBQ invitation is for financial members of any herp society and does not include additional friends or family.



<https://www.reptilepark.com.au/plan-your-visit/whats-on> <https://www.reptilepark.com.au/>



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, annually. 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. 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 free (in the evenings) 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 almost 7,000 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 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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