

FROG CALL

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP of NSW INC.

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NEWSLETTER No. 205 OCTOBER 2026



Photo by Damian White *Mixophyes fleayi* Springbrook Gold Coast Qld

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FATS talk, August 2026

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Join us at our next meeting

Date: Friday 2 October 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 free 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 Frog-O-Graphic People's Choice Award

8:00pm Main speaker: Grant Webster
will talk about Survival and Speciation through the Shifting Sands of Time: glacial-interglacial cycles drive rapid diversification in "mesic" myobatrachid toadlets - the forgotten frogs along flourishing branches.

Fabian Byers will present: Changes in frog activity - Smiths Lake, November and February.

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 October issue of FrogCall!

We are very happy to see spring arrive, and with it, some warm weather, calling frogs, and field trips!

FATS has popped up at numerous events over the past couple of months, led by our dedicated Exhibitions Officer Kathy Potter. Science week was a busy one and we met lots of keen frog enthusiasts at Australian Museum, Western Sydney Parklands, and Centennial Park. Keep an eye out for more upcoming events including the annual herpetological groups' Christmas party BBQ at Australian Reptile Park.

Please check out the back pages of this issue for details on upcoming field trips including how to book.

Our next public meeting is on Friday 2 October. We hope to see you there.

Hoppy reading! Michelle, President

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 via bank transfer, PayPal or Credit Card.
At the meeting you can pay by cheque or cash.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

FATS WEBSITE NEEDS HELP

Do you have any skills in web site design or upgrading? The FATS website is in need of a re-fresh. If you have the time and the skills we would appreciate hearing from you. Contact our President Michelle and let her know that you might be able to help. The current web site is old and does not present a very good image of FATS. Perhaps it can be improved with a few simple design changes, perhaps it needs major surgery. If you can assist, please help us out. **Thank You. Arthur White**



Photo by Karen Russell *Chlorohyla chloris*

*FATS extend a huge thank you
for the very generous donation
from Stewart Summers.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AUDITORY SURVEYS AT SOP NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

FATS have been doing auditory surveys for Green and Golden Bell frogs at Sydney Olympic Park for nearly 30 years. Auditory surveys are a quick way to determine the whereabouts of a frog species. If you would like to come along and listen to nightly frog calls at Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush, contact Arthur White. email arfawhite@gmail.com

The surveys will start at dusk (about 8.00 pm) and go for about 3 hours each night. The surveys will run on the nights of the Wednesday 18 and Friday 20 November. The surveys are repeated on Wednesday 9 and Friday 11 December nights.

Come and join us. This is a good way to learn a few frog calls. **Arthur White**

2026 FROG-O-GRAPHIC COMPETITION

The FATS Frog-O-Graphic photo competition for 2026 has closed! Winners are decided by a panel of judges and announced at the 4 December 2026 FATS meeting. The People's Choice category is voted for by everyone present at the 2 October FATS public meeting.

LAST FATS MEETING

What a great August meeting! Thomas Mesaglio was astonishing. Arthur White was his usual informative and personable self. The company cordial, with a few new faces, some of whom became FATS members there and then. Overall, a great FATS meeting. **Fabian Byres**

UPDATING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIAN FROG DISTRIBUTIONS: V4 OF THE AUSTRALIAN FROG ATLAS

Author, Grace Gillard 11 August 2026 - extracts

From the Alexandria Toadlet to the Yellow-spotted Bell Frog – we're on the mission to understand where Australia's 260 frog species are distributed. Version 4 of the Australian Frog Atlas is now released and [ready to download](#), with exciting new updates to our knowledge of frog distributions!

Frogs are one of the most threatened vertebrate groups globally, with 42% of all known species threatened with extinction. The vital first step in knowing how best to conserve species, is knowing where they're distributed. For frogs, who are generally small-bodied and secretive, this knowledge can be hard to come by, leaving us wondering – where exactly do frogs live?

Atlas of understanding In 2022, the Australian Museum released the first version of the [Australian Frog Atlas](#) – highly detailed distribution maps of all Australian frog species, largely informed by audio recordings of male frog advertisement calls from the Australian Museum's [FrogID](#) project. The quantity of data gathered by people across the country is rapidly increasing each year, with nearly 1.5 million records of frogs now available to improve our knowledge and understanding of frog distributions. So, four years on from the original publication of the Australian Frog Atlas, we're introducing Version 4 of the Atlas, with an exciting array of new updates, including newly described species, changes to many species' names, additional data fields, and massive range extensions in some of the most remote parts of the country!

We've updated the known distributions of 76 species. Citizen science data is revolutionising our understanding of biodiversity and species distributions, particularly in remote areas of Western Australia and Queensland. Not only have FrogID users been contributing to improving the spatial sampling coverage of FrogID (nearly 44% of the country covered) but check the current spatial sampling map [here](#)).



Major range extensions, include the Small Toadlet (*Uperoleia minima* – inset: Ian Bool), the Blacksoil Toadlet (*Uperoleia trachyderma* – inset: Bob Elliot), and the Glandular Toadlet (*Uperoleia glandulosa* – inset: Renee Catullo), with new range extension highlighted in red. Image: Jodi Rowley. © Australian Museum

This past year has seen the formal description of two new frog species in Australia – the Gobakula Frog (*Callulops gobakula*), and Koeypad Frog (*Choerophryne koeypad*). A 2025 study of the tree frogs of Australia and New Guinea has seen changes to the scientific names of 74 species, including the addition of 20 new genera. For the first time, we've indicated established populations outside of native ranges on the maps, as seen in some of our 'hitchhiker' species, such as the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog (*Drymomantis fallax*), and Graceful Tree Frog (*Chlorohyla gracilentia*). We've incorporated the common name used by FrogID as an additional field.

The Australian Frog Atlas is [available to download](#) as an Open Access resource. We thank the Citizen Science Grants of the Australian Government and IBM Australia for funding and resources to help build the FrogID App; the generous donors, the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Queensland Museum, SA Museum, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and WA Museum as FrogID partner museums; the many Australian Museum staff and volunteers who make up the FrogID team; and, most importantly, the thousands of citizen scientists across Australia who have volunteered their time to record frog calls with FrogID. <https://zenodo.org/records/21404590>
Cutajar, T.P., Portway, C.D., Gillard, G.L., and Rowley, J.J.L. (2022) Australian Frog Atlas: Species' distribution maps informed by the FrogID Dataset. *Technical Reports of the Australian Museum, Online* 36: 1-48.
<https://doi.org/10.3853/j.1835-4211.36.2022.1789>.



ECOLOGICAL HAZARDS OF COAL MINE WASTEWATER

Impacts on water quality and amphibian disease susceptibility Journal of Hazardous Materials Advances

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hazadv.2026.101413>

This project began after I was alerted to coal mine wastewater being discharged into the Royal National Park, with sick and symptomatic frogs found downstream of affected sites. As someone who is passionate about amphibian conservation, I began a collaboration and led a study investigating how the wastewater might be affecting frogs and their habitat. After many late nights trudging through the bush, a great deal of collaboration, plenty of statistical learning, and several rounds of scientific review, the research is now ready to be shared with the world.

We found that coal mine wastewater substantially alters stream water chemistry. It increases pH, electrical conductivity and temperature, while decreasing oxidation–reduction potential—meaning the water is shifted away from its natural state. We also found that frogs called more frequently at wastewater-exposed sites. There could be several explanations for this, including the possibility that environmental stress increases reproductive effort.

Most concerningly, frogs at exposed sites had higher infection loads of the amphibian chytrid fungus, a pathogen associated with severe amphibian declines and extinctions around the world. This relationship appeared particularly strong in green stream frogs. Our findings highlight the need to include biological indicators—such as amphibian health, behaviour and disease burden—in water-quality monitoring and wastewater-discharge regulation.

This work would not have been possible without the many enthusiastic volunteers, students, colleagues and professors who contributed their time, knowledge and support. I'm immensely

grateful to everyone involved. **Author links open overlay panel** Shannon W. Kaiser ^a, Chad T. Beranek ^b, Grant C. Hose ^{a c}, Andrew P. Allen ^a, Bob B.M. Wong ^d, Anthony W. Waddle ^e, Madeleine L. Holmes ^a, Levi Brown ^{a f}, Glen Betts ^g, Lauren Crofts ^h, Culum Brown ^a

- Mine-exposed streams had higher EC, pH, temperature, and lower ORP.
- Frogs downstream carried higher *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* loads.
- Sick or dead frogs occurred only at mine-exposed sites.
- Male *Dryopsophus phyllochrous* showed highest pathogen loads.
- Wastewater exposure increased amphibian disease risk.

Abstract Coal mine wastewater represents a complex mixture of hazardous materials, including dissolved salts, metals, and suspended solids, which can exert chronic ecological and physiological stress on aquatic life. While its impacts on water quality are well recognised, consequences for amphibian health remain largely unexplored. We investigated the environmental hazards of coal mine discharge in the Royal National Park, Australia, by surveying 47 stream sites, comprising 22 exposed and 25 unexposed sites, for water chemistry, amphibian abundance, and infection by the pathogenic fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd). Exposed sites had significantly higher pH, electrical conductivity, and temperature, and lower oxidation-reduction potential than unexposed sites. Infection intensity was significantly higher in *Dryopsophus phyllochrous* at exposed locations, where symptomatic and dead frogs occurred exclusively downstream of mine discharge points. Frog calling activity was greater at exposed sites; however, the number of frogs seen and body condition did not differ between exposed and unexposed sites. These findings suggest that coal mine wastewater may create a coupled chemical-biological hazard in freshwater systems, with altered stream chemistry coinciding with elevated wildlife disease risk. Our results highlight the need for water-quality monitoring and discharge regulation that considers biological effects, including disease outcomes, alongside physicochemical thresholds.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2772416626004079?via%3Dihub>



ARE HYBRID SPECIES GOOD OR BAD?

Talk by Arthur White August 2026

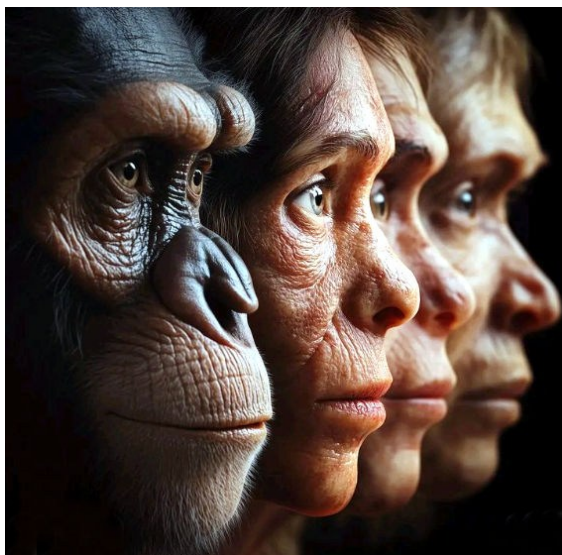
A hybrid species is the offspring of two different species or subspecies. These can occur naturally in the wild or through human intervention. Hybridisation can produce some unusual results: sometimes the hybrids have features that are more useful than either parent eg mule: A mix between a horse and a donkey. These animals are very strong and are useful pack animals. Sometimes the hybrids have a genetic mismatch resulting in a weakness or sterility eg liger: A mix of a male lion and a female tiger. These are some of the biggest cats in the world but they are sterile. You can only hybridise animals that are relatively close genetically to each other.

If you try to cross species that are very different from each other, there are too many mismatches in their DNA, resulting in an inability to fertilise, organ failure or death.

Hybridisation can occur naturally between two closely-related species or sub-species, or it can occur artificially through human cross-breeding trials. It results in a fusion of characters from the two genetically-different parents. Speciation is the evolutionary process that tends to shape species so that they are better able to survive in their habitats. Speciation tends to make organisms more specialized, more efficient.

Hybridisation tends to dilute specialised genes creating a less specialised organism.

Species formation (speciation) happens when a population of animals or plants splits into two. These groups remain separated in different environments, and slowly evolve different genetic features. Eventually, their genes have been altered so much that they cannot breed with each other anymore. At this point, we recognize each group as a different species. Thus, our understanding of a species depend on the absence of breeding between populations.



Prior to 1830, the general opinion was that species were static i.e. once formed, they could not change. However, once fossils were discovered and correctly interpreted, static species could not exist. The fossil record showed continual changes in species over millions of years.

Our species is evolving and changing fairly quickly. Genetic changes that occurred only a few million years ago have set us on a course of rapid change whereby: Our heads are becoming larger relative to our body size. Our faces are becoming flatter ie. our noses will flatten, our lower jaw will recede. Our teeth will stop erupting, starting with the hindmost molars first. We will continue to lose body hair.

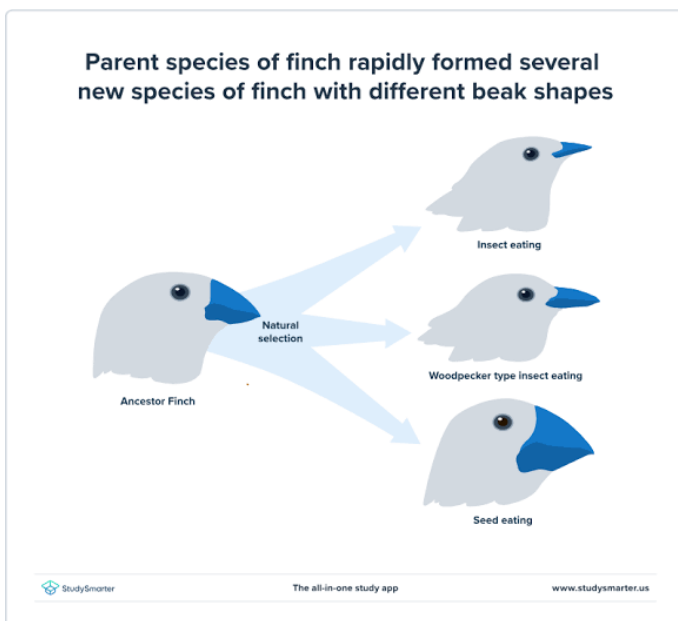
Does evolution produce a chain of species leading up to the climax species? Yes and no. Yes, it produces a number of transient species during the course of evolution of the organism. No, it does not produce a direct line of species. Because evolution is driven by natural selection, the characteristics needed to survive change with time (because habitats change over time). This results in a zig-zag chain of species to the modern-day species. The term "missing link " was first coined in the 18th century but became fashionable amongst the media in Victorian times. It assumed that there was a direct line of species leading to the perfect being (God). In Victorian times, human fossils were scant and there were enormous gaps in our evolutionary history. The missing link idea was used to propose an intermediate fossil between humans and the other apes. In reality, there are many missing links. Many species have existed and become extinct in the slow evolution of modern species (including humans). In modern anthropology, the concept of a single, definitive "missing link" between apes and humans is considered a myth. Evolution is a branching tree, not a straight line, and scientists now use the term "Last Common Ancestor" (LCA) to describe the point where humans and chimpanzees diverged roughly 6 to 8 million years ago.

One of the biggest hurdles for scientists was to explain how species could change. What were the mechanisms? What drove the process?

Charles Darwin wrote "On the Origin of Species" in 1859 and was instantly condemned by some religions. In his book, he outlined the evidence for species change and proposed a mechanism for this change (which did not involve a supreme being). In his attempt to explain evolution, Darwin showed that many species have changed over time (as demonstrated by fossils), and that the direction of change did not appear to be random ie. there is a something directing the course of evolution. He was able to show this using beak anatomy of finches on the Galapagos Islands.



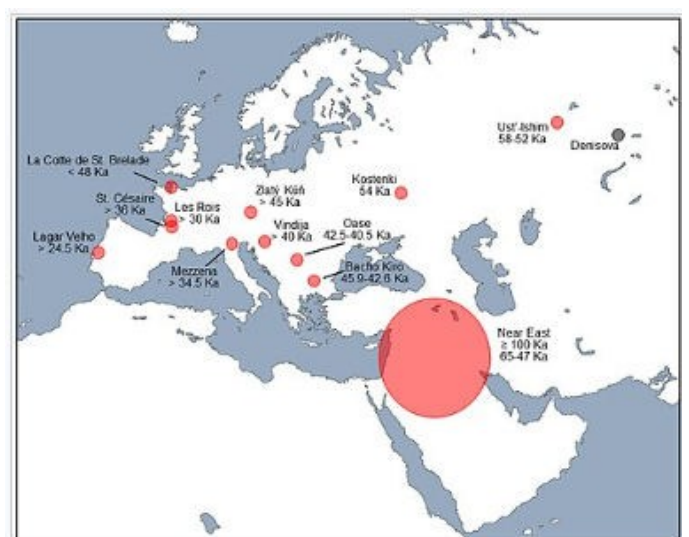
The Galapagos Islands are a relatively recent group of islands, created by volcanoes emerging from the sea floor and spewing out lava (about 3 million years ago) which cooled and formed land. This land was later inhabited (accidentally) by mainland animals and during their time in the Galapagos these animals and plants changed so that they were unable to breed with their mainland parents.



Natural selection is a natural process, whereby organisms, with inheritable feature that improve their survival chances and improve reproductive success produce more, environmentally fitter young. The survival of any species is due to the traits they inherited from their parents. If they inherited favourable traits, this group will continue to reproduce and pass on these traits to their offspring.

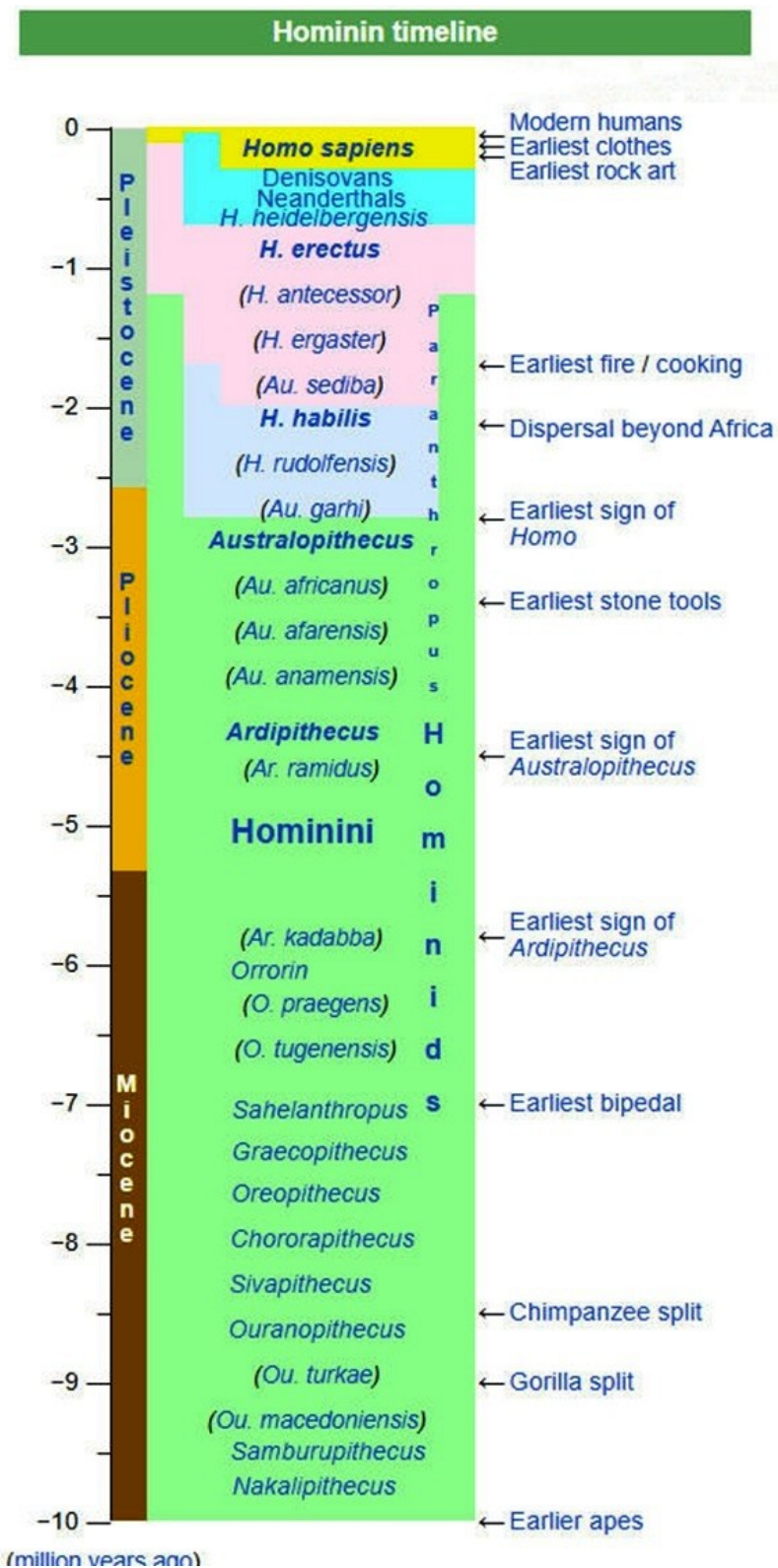
Other organisms that did not receive these favourable traits are less competitive, less likely to survive and less likely to reproduce. This process is what we called "natural selection".

Where do hybrid species fit in evolution? Up until recently, hybrid species did not have a place in our understanding of evolution. This was because evolution should have been driven (by natural selection) to create fitter and fitter species. **Hybridisation changes the direction of evolution. But is this good or bad?**



Map showing the areas of *Eurasia* and date ranges in which *Homo neanderthalensis* (an archaic human group) and *Homo sapiens* (the only extant human group) are estimated to have produced *hybrids* with each other. Data is based on analyses of *human fossil samples* at the indicated sites.^[1]

In the wild, hybridization is fairly common, both in animals and plants. So, if it is so common, does it have a place in evolution? In the last 30 years we have only realised that humans (*H. sapiens*) are a hybrid species-but with who? It was only when genome sequencing became possible that ancestral DNA could be found and recognised in Human DNA. We are *Homo sapiens*. Our species evolved in Africa and some members of our species left Africa about 75,000 years ago to enter Asia and Europe.



To their surprise, there were already human species resident in these areas (as a result of earlier migrations out of Africa). Did they fight with these other species? Probably.

Did they mate with them? Yes. All modern human populations outside of Africa today carry approximately 1–4% Neanderthal DNA. But hybridisation did not end there. Modern humans have adaptive sequences introgressed from archaic humans, which provided a source of advantageous genetic variants that are adapted to local environments and a reservoir for additional genetic variation.

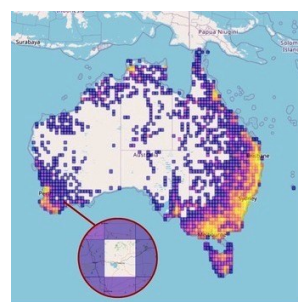
Adaptive introgression from Neanderthals has targeted genes involved with keratin filaments, sugar metabolism, muscle contraction, body fat distribution, enamel thickness, and oocyte meiosis, as well as brain size and functioning. In addition, enhanced function of the immune system and greater resistance to disease was inherited from neanderthals. The Tibetan people received an advantageous *EGLN1* and *EPAS1* gene variant, associated with haemoglobin concentration and response to hypoxia, for life at high altitudes from the Denisovans. Other populations to retain Denisovan DNA have altered blood functions including greater oxygen carrying capacity of their blood.



Hybridisation is now recognized as a valuable way to increase genetic variation between populations of related organisms. Having greater genetic diversity allows the species to evolve much faster in response to changing environmental conditions, or allows them to adapt faster to new environments (eg during migrations).

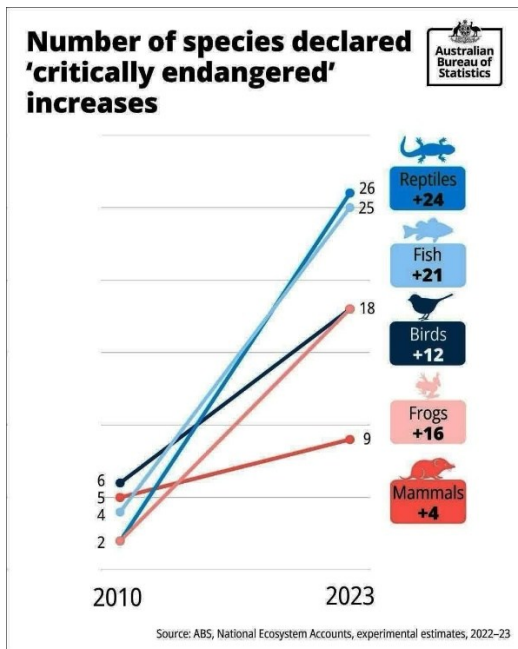
Arthur White FATS Hybrid talk 8/2026

FROGID - FILLING IN THE GAPS



Filling data gaps in the wheatbelt region of WA

The south-west Western Australia Wheatbelt is one of Australia's most under-recorded regions for frogs. Thanks to recordings by **Steven Lofthouse** and others, six of the ten most recently added FrogID grid cells have come from this region, helping improve our understanding of how frogs persist in landscapes shaped by agriculture and other land uses. FrogID records now cover more than 43% of continental Australia, but some areas, including around **Dumbleyung WA**, are still missing frog records. Can you help us reach over 50% coverage across Australia?



SNOWY 2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

The Snowy 2.0, with an estimated 42 billion dollar blow out, has caused significant environmental damage and compliance issues within Kosciuszko National Park. Construction threatens sensitive species, including the critically endangered stocky galaxias fish, smoky mouse, Booroolong Frog, and Murray crayfish. Tunnelling and connecting waterways risk spreading noxious fish species (like redfin perch) and aquatic diseases between the Talbingo and Tantangara reservoirs. Underground excavation is predicted to cause major watertable drawdown (exceeding 50 meters in some areas), which can dry up local alpine creeks and alter groundwater-dependent ecosystems. Millions of tonnes of excavated rock — some containing potential acid-forming minerals have been placed in or near active storage reservoirs, raising water pollution concerns.

CITIZEN SCIENCE SHOW PODCAST #065

Meet Emeritus Professor Michael Mahony, frog scientist, conservation biologist, and one of Australia's leading voices on amphibian conservation. He's discovered 20 new frog species. He's built a genome bank made of frozen frog sperm. And he's held, in his own hands, every single Australian frog species that's gone extinct in the last 40 years.

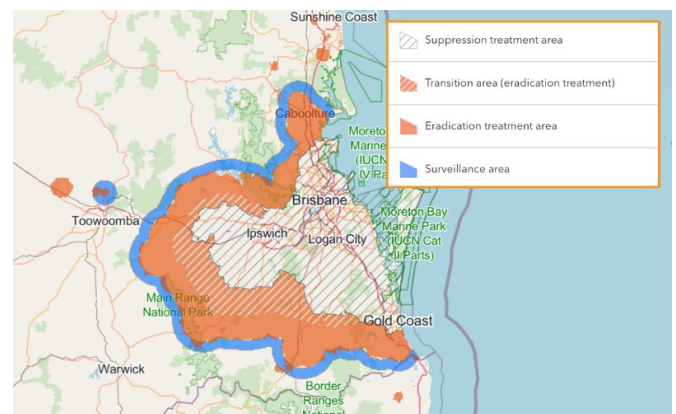
Michael shares: How a university genetics assignment led to a bizarre chromosome discovery. The disease that's driven 7 Australian frog species extinct since the 1980s. Why some desert frogs can survive underground for up to SIX YEARS. How citizen science (and a very clever app) is helping save Australia's frogs. The mystery of the hip pocket frog, the species that stole his heart. This one is full of jaw-dropping frog facts you won't believe. Listen now on Spotify and Apple Podcasts <https://shows.acast.com/citizen-science-show/episodes/065-professor-michael-mahony-frog-science-cryopreservation>



Photo by Stephen Mahony

RED IMPORTED FIRE ANTS

Australia is on the verge of doing something remarkable: eradicating red imported fire ants. Don't want to see that chance thrown away



The National Fire Ant Eradication Program has started treating the core of the infestation after years of pushing back its edges, and an independent review found it's on track after its first year of full funding. The lesson is simple: when this program is funded properly, it works. The national funding agreement ends in 2027. If fire ants become established, they'll cost Australia over \$2 billion a year and do lasting damage to our farms, our communities, our pets and livestock, and our native wildlife. This is a national problem. Almost all of mainland Australia is suitable for fire ants, and they spread through soil, freight and floodwaters, so every state and territory has a stake in getting this right. Ask government to commit to long-term, national funding to finish the job. We've come too far and invested too much to stop now.

Please don't let them repeat the mistakes of the past. <https://invasives.org.au/how-to-help/take-action/2026-fire-ant-petition/>

MEETINGS, EXPOS AND EVENTS

- **Sun 11 Oct.** Sustainability Lane, Lane Cove 9-1
- **Sun 18 October** Penrith Reptile Expo
- **Saturday 31 Oct.** Royal Nat.Pk FATS field trip
- **13-15 November** FATS Smiths Lake field trip
- **Friday 6 to Sunday 15 November** Frog Week
- **Nov. & Dec.** GGBF surveys & habitat restoration
- **Sat 5 December** ARP Herp Societies BBQ 10-3
- **2 February** World Wetland Day
- **Sat. 6 March 2027** Victorian Herp Soc Expo
- **2027** Illawarra Reptile Expo
- **5 June** World Environment Day

FATS needs helpers. Please contact Kathy Potter, (see page 12). We may be unable to attend some events, if helpers are unavailable. Some of the



PENRITH REPTILE EXPO Sunday, 18/10/2026.
Hosted by the Hawkesbury Herpetological Society

FROGID DATASET 7.0 IS HERE!

It brings together *over one million* verified frog records. Built from recordings submitted by over 45,000 FrogID contributors across Australia, Dataset 7.0 reflects our most up-to-date understanding of Australia's frogs. This release incorporates the latest accepted tree frog taxonomy, newly described species, including the Gobakula Frog (*Callulops gobakula*) and Koeypad Frog (*Choerophryne koeypad*) from the Torres Strait, and thousands of additional expert-verified records collected since the last dataset release. Shared with state, territory and federal wildlife atlases across Australia, along with the Atlas of Living Australia, the FrogID dataset is an important biodiversity resource that contributes significantly to our understanding of frog distributions, supports biodiversity research, informs conservation planning, and contributes to environmental decision-making across Australia. This is only possible thanks to the thousands of people who have contributed recordings to FrogID. **Explore Dataset 7.0 and keep recording with FrogID. Every call counts!**

annual fairs and expos FATS is invited to attend include: Weekend in Wistaria Parramatta Park, Willoughby Fauna Fair, Bushcare Fair Biddy Giles Reserve Kirrawee, Coastal Enviro Centre Open Day, Sustainability Lane at Lane Cove, Mt Anan Botanic Gardens, Royal Easter Show Sydney, National Tree Day Hudson Park Strathfield, Illawarra Reptile Expo, Western Sydney Parklands, Sydney Science Trail, Science in the Swamp Centennial Park, Science in the Scrub, Science Week and various events including at the Australian Museum.

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!



Science in the Swamp, Centennial Park
Karen White above Kathy Potter below



FIELD TRIPS

Please book your place on field-trips. 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 all monthly field-trips, 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.

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 7-30PM ROYAL NATIONAL PARK LEADER: ARTHUR WHITE

Access to the Royal National Park is via the Waterfall entrance. Drive down to the Hacking River causeway and turn right (south), proceed 200 m to a parking area beside the river. We will be looking at frog sites on the Upper Hacking River, Bola Creek and Toonoom Brook. In the early days of Sydney, several green spaces were set aside for the crowded, urban slum-dwellers of the city. It was thought that this would provide an affordable day of rest and recreation for the city's less privileged residents. These urban fringe reserves, with close proximity to the city, often with lovely views, and importantly, on land considered superfluous to the city's needs, were administered by the "Scenic Views Board". This name perhaps underlined the primary focus of these reserves. They were for the quiet enjoyment and passive recreation of man, their purpose was not wildlife conservation. These parks, nonetheless, became the precursor to our present-day National Parks system, and almost accidentally, have become important refugia for Sydney's wildlife. Tonight, Arthur will show us some of the important frog species that take refuge in these areas.

FRIDAY 13 to SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER SMITHS LAKE LEADERS KAREN & ARTHUR WHITE



Rawlinsonia revelata Smiths Lake

Smiths Lake Camp Out needs no introduction to FATS members. It is our most popular fieldtrip, and there is always a rush to secure places. Please email Karen white.kazzie@gmail.com and list the names of all people including children, attending. State which night you will be arriving. This must be done by 15 October. 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 **BSB 082 001 Account 313 033 719 Account name: Frog and Tadpole Study Group \$25.00 per person, per night.** This payment is **NON-REFUNDABLE**.

10AM to 3PM SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER ARP BBQ FOR AUSTRALIAN HERP SOCIETIES

All Herp Society members are invited to the free entry, Australian Reptile Park annual BBQ on Saturday 10am to 3 pm, 5/12/2026. The park is delighted to welcome everyone again. **RSVP** sales@reptilepark.com.au by 16/11/2026 with the following details: **Name and Phone number, Which herp society they are a member of, Number of adults and children attending and Any dietary requirements.** This BBQ 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/>

In the event of uncertain frogging conditions e.g. prolonged/severe drought, hazardous and/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! Please observe all directions that the leader may give. Children are welcome, however please remember that 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 FATS members only. Newcomers are welcome to take out membership before the commencement of the 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, 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 P10f / Badu Mangroves carpark (which are free in the evenings).

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 6,900 members, worldwide. The group hosts additional enquiries and comments from local and international visitors, as well. 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 **Frogwatch helpline 0419 249 728**. It may take time for us to respond. Please be patient. **For frog rescues, contact WIRES 1300 094 737**, your state's frog rescue groups or wildlife rehabilitation licence holders.

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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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