

Presidents report.

It seems an inevitable consequence of being a frog minded person that friends and family will inundate you with all kinds of weird and bizarre frog themed paraphernalia as gifts. I think the item that tops it for me this year is the statue of a gangly red tree frog complete with gold finger nails riding a motorcycle. This coming from someone who should have known better, fortunately children have less discerning taste and one of my daughters has kindly given it a home in her room and out of my sight. But it makes me ponder why do we create such junk? On a planet that is dying from consumption, human consumption of all its resources that is, we really ought to have more sense. This has prompted me to think of a new section for our Frog sheet. Who can send in a photo of the most disgusting, tasteless, pointless and insulting (to frogs) item that is frog themed? I will start with a picture of "red".

Onto more important things, the colder weather has certainly settled in and most frogs are doing the same. This is really the time of year the Frog Society can get the work that is not survey/camp related done. One important date to start putting aside in your diaries is the Annual General Meeting otherwise given the dreaded acronym: AGM. This will be held on the 16th of October at the usual time of 4pm. We are looking at creating a new job description "assistant secretary" to help share the workload of the secretary and help a new person get familiar with the job. Believe it or not despite being a pivotal force behind the QFS and secretary for the last 12 years Jenny does not want to do it forever. Like any community group the QFS is not about individual goals and achievements, but about ensuring that the groups goals and achievements can be continued into the future ad infinitum –or until the world ends. We will have our 20th anniversary dinner afterwards at the Griffith Environmental Centre, very nice food I'm told. As this is a special event I encourage all of our members to go. Invitations will be sent out later with the details.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A renewal form is enclosed in this Frogsheet. We value your membership and most importantly - **the frogs need you!** For both your and our convenience we now offer payment of subscription by DIRECT DEPOSIT either by internet or over the counter at your bank.

FROGSHEET BY EMAIL

We can send the Frogsheet by email (pdf of about 1MB) – or send you an alert by email that the newsletter is available to download (at your leisure) from the website. Send your email address to Jenny at gldfrogsgpond.net.au stating your preference.

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DIARY DATES

FROG HABITAT SITE WORKING BEES

Bowman Park, Bardon
from 8-10.30am. Aug 1st; Oct 3rd
Contact Phil or Jenny for more info

Grinstead Park, Alderley (off Shand St)
First Sunday every other month from 9-11.30am
Aug 1st; Oct 3rd. Contact Janet – 3355 1884
janwhite@bigpond.net.au

Carseldine Bush Crew

First Saturday every month 8am-9.30am.
Meet where creek crosses Dorville Rd. ALL
WELCOME. Contact James Hansen for more info.

QFS MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of month 7.30pm. Contact
Jenny for venue. ALL WELCOME.

June 5th – Logan City World Environment Day
(L.E.A.F.) – 10am-5pm, Griffith Campus, Logan Campus
Meadowbrook. QFS display and sales.

June 20th – Biodiversity Forum. 9am-3pm at Griffith
Uni – Nathan Campus. Harry Hines is one of the
speakers. Phone 3407 1469 to register by June 14th.

July 18th – Peaks to Point Family Day – Oxley Common
QFS display, sales and Popple

Sept 4/5th – SGAP Spring Flower Show - Toowong
Botanical Gardens

Oct 16th – QFS AGM – Eco Centre Griffith Uni – Nathan
Campus.

Nov 20th – Frog ID Workshop – Berrinba. Bookings
essential. Phone 3412 4859

FROG CAMPS

Please ring Rod so that we know you're coming and
for further details (eg bring water; camp cancelled)
QNPWS camp fees apply (\$4.85/person/night)

FROG HABITAT BUSHCARE

Contact us if you are doing bushcare in
Frog habitat and would like your working
bees listed in diary dates

Most of the Co-ordinators now hold the "Frogs of
Brisbane" Poster and you can pick up your FREE (to
members) poster from them.

CO-ORDINATORS AWARENESS RAISING

Are there fairs or community events coming up in your Areas? Why not put up the QFS display and do some Froggy awareness raising? You don't have to be an expert on frog identification or anatomy to get people interested in frogs. Get in touch with Jenny to arrange picking up the display, brochures etc.

SPONSORS

The colour heading on the Frogsheet has been kindly
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QFS PUBLIC TRUST FUND – RIC NATRASS RESEARCH GRANT

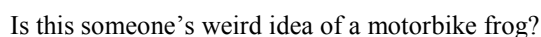
The QFS Trust Fund was created to help save frogs through education and research. It is now open to interested applicants. The purpose of the grant is to assist research into Queensland's frogs. The form and grant conditions can be obtained on our website www.qldfrogs.asn.au. The Public Trust Fund balance now stands at \$6916.18.

<p>NEW MEMBERS</p> <p>Susan Smalley, George Gornacz, Katrina Madigan, Kate Robertson, Corinne Renault, Desiree Kamandulis, Catherine Maitland, Emma Simon.</p>

Susan Smalley, George Gornacz, Katrina Madigan, Kate Robertson, Corinne Renault, Desiree Kamandulis, Catherine Maitland, Emma Simon.

Pobbles has been getting out a bit; he attended The Planting at the Woodford Festival site and was last seen at the Brisbane City Council Greenheart festival (held on the 16th May). Despite heavy competition from the Second Gateway Bridge opening (Seriously who can remember that other name?) and the Million Paws walk, the Greenheart festival was well attended by the public. I forgot to take my camera but there is a lot of photographic evidence taken by the public of Pobbles roving around. Interestingly children immediately recognised Pobbles as a frog, a few adults accused him of being a cane toad (shame on them) and we only managed to frighten a few of the little ones.

A sad addendum to what I thought would be a successful breeding event by the local graceful treefrogs (*L. gracilentus*) ended up with the puddles by the drainage ditch drying out within a week and the remaining water in the ditch taken over by *Gambusia*. A more successful breeding occurred in puddles alongside the railway in another park and many managed to get to a legged stage before those puddles too dried out. We even had joy out of the lunchtime chaos of kids jumping in and out of the water and catching them. Yes, I do inform the staff that they aren't toadpoles and that they are privileged to have frogs but not all of the teachers are that interested. So you can see there is still a lot of work to be done for our native frogs because even the little battles are hard won. Ornates (*Platyplectum ornatum*) breed in the local school at the same time, though I don't think they got much.



ASHGROVE REPORT

Now that it is a lot cooler, frog life in this area is quiet but no doubt the stripe-marshes will be around if there is some rain through Winter. This is an ideal time to do any maintenance to your ponds but do look out for any tadpoles that didn't reach maturity before the water temps dropped. Just have a bucket of the pond water ready to put them in while you refill, clean and repair and pop them back when the pond is ready again.

I visited the Year 1's at Wondall Heights State School recently and talked about the species in their area and what habitat frogs prefer. The students were very interest in the powerpoint presentation I put together, especially seeing the different parts of a frog.

The school does have a frog pond which is in need of some TLC as the garden has been re-landscaped, but they are a keen group so I know everything will be different by Spring

Jenny Holdway

LOGAN CITY

Here is the latest news on my frog habitat restoration project in Haven Road, Carbrook funded by Logan City Council Envirogrant. The native tubestock, including grasses, sedges, shrubs and trees are all growing rapidly. Some are over a metre tall. This is a great contrast from the weed affected condition of the site at the beginning of the project. The frog survey hasn't revealed any rare or endangered frogs, mainly Eastern Sedgefrogs and Spotted Marshfrogs.

Another Council funded restoration project is occurring at the Cornubia Wetland Reserve. In conjunction with this project, the Queensland University of Technology is setting up an acoustic sensor with solar panels to continuously record wildlife sounds, including frog calls. This sensor will operate for up to 3 years, automatically sending the sounds back to QUT's laboratories in Brisbane, where species lists will be generated from the sound data. This technology, developed by QUT eResearch Centre, is a world first and it has tremendous advantages over conventional fauna survey techniques because it runs continuously 24 hours a day.

Michael Kels

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Loads of Toads..... Courier Mail 29 March 2010.

Residents across north Queensland caught almost tonne of toads, or about 10,000 individual amphibians on Saturday night (28th March), for the second annual Toad Day Out.

The toads, which were handed in to organisers, were euthanased humanely in freezers and will be used for research and fertiliser, while their skin will be used in some instances to make wallets and golf gloves.

The biggest toad handed in was an 18.4cm giant – caught by a Cairns family – which weighed in at more than 500gms.

Fundraising for Qld Frog Society.



At the beginning of the year I was contacted by a section of the Queensland Police Service. This section, Policelink Project, picks a different charity each month to raise funds for and February was for Frogs.

I also took in some of our new posters for display to help bring a real froggy feel to their area. We supplied a posted, book and frog calls cd for the raffle and the sold frog cakes (don't they look yummy!), red and green frogs and had competitions to raise the great sum of \$366 which we gratefully received.

Jenny

'Extinct' frog species found alive after 30 years

By Greg Miskelly for The 7.30 Report - Thu Mar 4, 2010



Back from the dead: the yellow-spotted bell frog was thought to be extinct for more than 30 years. A species of frog has been found alive in the New South Wales Southern Tablelands, more than 30 years after it was thought to have become extinct.

New South Wales Environment Minister Frank Sartor announced this morning the discovery of a population of yellow-spotted bell frogs. The frogs were found in a remote creek on private property in the Southern Tablelands region.

NSW Fisheries field scientist Luke Pearce first spotted an unusually coloured bell frog late last year while conducting a native fish survey. He then alerted his colleague, David Hunter, a frog expert with the state's Environment Department. It was not until a field visit last month that the pair was able to return to identify the creature as the missing yellow-spotted bell frog.

Dr Hunter, who spends up to six months of the year monitoring remote frog populations, told The 7.30 Report's Rebecca Baillie the initial capture was a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"Luke and I went out to the site, did a frog survey, found one of the bell frogs - and it just so happened to be this yellow-spotted bell frog," Dr Hunter said. "This was definitely the most exciting moment of my career and I will be surprised if I repeat it."

He says the find highlights the important role that private landowners can play in habitat conservation.

"The property owner at this particular site is extremely excited about having this critically endangered frog species on his land, and is very much looking forward to working with us in collaboration towards the conservation of the bell frog," Dr Hunter said.

However he warns the survival of the yellow-spotted bell frog rests on its fragile creek habitat remaining hidden.

"We really don't want anyone going to the site, trying to capture the bell frog or photograph it, because that could introduce an unknown pathogen into the population and cause a problem," Dr Hunter said.

A tiny tadpole and frog collection has now been established at Taronga Zoo and there are plans to breed a safety population for re-introduction to the wild.

Scientists warn Australia still has more than 40 threatened frog species, all battling the impact of chytridiomycosis, a devastating fungal disease responsible for amphibian declines world-wide.

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"Fungus Devastates 'Chicken Frog" – <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7948124.stm>

"A Billion Frogs on World's Plates" – <http://news.bbc.co.uk/80/2/hi/science/nature/7845306.stm>

"Frogs Species Discovered in Elephant Dung" – Extracts from Herpdigest article by Jeremy Hance, mongabay.com 10 June 09. Photos, go to http://news.mongabay.com/2009/0610-hance_elephantdung.html

Explorers stumble on Pinocchio tree frog in Indonesian mountains

By Amy Dale , From: [The Daily Telegraph](#) May 18, 2010



The long-nosed tree frog is new species discovered by an Australian expedition /AP/National Geographic *Source: The Daily Telegraph*

- New species found by Australian scientists
- Long-nosed tree frog found in Indonesia . Researchers find several more species

EVERYONE has heard of the wide-mouthed frog, but the long-nosed tree frog is no joke.

Dubbed Pinocchio because of the unusual spike on its nose, the new species was discovered by Australian scientist Paul Oliver during an expedition to the Foja Mountains in West Papua in Indonesia in 2008.

Mr Oliver and his team have now revealed their incredible findings, which include a dozen new species of insects as well as never-before-seen mammals, reptiles and birds.

The frog's nose is adaptable and points upward when he is calling but then deflates if he is less active. Far from being buried deep within the greenery, the frog literally appeared right in front of Mr Oliver's eyes when he noticed it sitting on a bag of rice at his campsite.

Among the more freakish findings was a bent-toed gecko with intriguing yellow eyes and a gargoyle-like face, also found by Mr Oliver, who is a herpetologist at the South Australian Museum in Adelaide. He is also currently a PhD candidate at the University of Adelaide.

One of the more remarkable discoveries was the golden-mantled tree kangaroo, which has thrived in the forest environment.

The scientists had to overcome torrential rain and flooding while on their species search.

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QFS – Fighting for Frogs since 1990!
2010 A.G.M. and CELEBRATION

THIS YEAR IS A MILE STONE FOR QUEENSLAND FROG SOCIETY
20 YEARS SINCE OUR CONCEPTION.

**Please join us for an evening of celebration: Dinner and
Guest speakers (including a presentation by
Trust Fund Scholar, Natalie Hill) will follow the A.G.M.**

Mark your calendar NOW:

**Date: October 16th at the ECO Centre, Griffith University – Nathan Campus.
4pm for 4.30pm.**

An invitation will be posted to you in August.

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Popples in front of the QFS display the Greenheart Fair, 7th Brigade Park, Chermside on May 16th. Others featured are Julia, Sissura (junior editor) and some admirers. Pearl, who was inside the costume, said that she got a lot of interest but some thought Popples was a toad or gecko without a tail.

We would love to have a couple of other volunteers to wear the costume to ease the load on one person so, if you think you would like to have a go, please contact Pearl on pearl66@bigpond.com.au. A couple of guides are also needed to lead Popples not up the garden path.

As mentioned before, QFS was able to have Popples made through our successful State Government Community Gaming Grant application.

From the Editors Desk:

The cooler weather is now upon us and of course most of the frog activity is on the quiet side. The tadpoles in my pond aren't keen on the cold weather (like me).

I was fortunate enough to be given a "Zoo Parent Adoption" sponsorship this year as a gift and am now the proud "Zooparent" of Frogs. This sponsorship goes towards providing food and care. At present the Zoo is involved in a breeding program at replenishing declining numbers of Green and Golden Bell Frogs. Their info states that they have been doing this since 1995 and in the 2003/2004 summer alone, released almost 6000 tadpoles (YEEHARRR!!!). Hope someone has some luck with the Corroboree Frog. Apparently Melbourne Zoo is working on this.

I saw an article recently in our local newspaper about hordes of frogs forcing the closure on a key northern highway in Greece for 2 hours. The local police said that "millions" of the amphibians covered the tarmac near the town of Langadas, 20km east of Thessaloniki. They decided to close the highway after three cars skidded off the road trying to dodge the frogs.



These are some photos of my frogpond which overflowed after the rain we had earlier this year - it came halfway up the front yard (had tadpoles swimming around in the yard). The tree in the foreground is not far from the house. The water has now receded but the pond is still full, so hopefully it should last awhile.

'Til next time

Naomi

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*Dedicated to a
better Brisbane*

A BCC GRANT HELPED TO COVER THE PRINTING COSTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

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