

Presidents Report

It has been another busy and wet start to the year! The frogs are happily breeding with all this rain, although the one disadvantage to it being so wet is that access to good frogging areas can be difficult! The Conondale National Park frog camp had to be postponed (see the rescheduled dates in this Frogsheet) due to flooded creeks blocking access to the campground. Hopefully, with all this rain around the rescheduled camp will be productive for many of the interesting frog species found in the area – head on up for a good weekend! The wet weekend wasn't lost for some of us however, as Rod went for a trip down to Girraween and Jesse, Eridani and I did some frogging locally, including at Karawatha Forest where we netted 11 species in quick time; including the green-thighed frog (*Litoria brevipalmata*)!

With all the frogs out and about breeding we've had an influx of "what frog is this" enquiries via e-mail and our new Facebook page – check it out if you haven't already!

Bethlea, our Rockhampton/Central Queensland coordinator has been busily working away on her "Frogs of Central Queensland" project, producing a poster, brochure and other educational materials. Well done Bethlea, you've produced some great products!

Enjoy the wet summer weather! Happy Froggin

Dan

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QFS SHOP SALES

Jenny Holdway
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A huge welcome to Emmanuel Robert Hansen weighing 3.365 kg. Parents, James & Amber & baby are doing well. James is our Chermside co-ordinator.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

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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 qldfrogsgpond.net.au stating your preference.

FROG HABITAT BUSHCARE

Contact us if you are doing bush-care in Frog habitat and would like your working bees listed in Diary Dates.

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IPSWICH

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DIARY DATES

FROG HABITAT SITE WORKING BEES

Bowman Park, Bardonia from 8-11am
Contact Phil for more info

Grinstead Park, Alderley (off Shand St),
Contact Debbie Dolby – ddolby@hotmail.com
Phone 3355 4134

Carseldine Bush Crew – Cabbage Tree Ck, Carseldine

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**

Please note:

The Diary Dates & Venues are also on the QFS web site which is constantly updated so please check between newsletters. Please let Jenny know of other suitable dates.

Mar 17th - Display & sales at Whites Hill State College Fete
12-4pm .

April 29th – Indigiscape Frog Day. Steve – demo on how to build a frog pond.

May 27th - BCC Green Heart Day, 7th Brigade Pk, Chermerside. 9am-2pm. QFS Display & sales

June 3rd - Logan City World Environment Day, Logan Campus, Meadowlea. QFS Display & sales

FROG CAMPS:

Mar 17-18: North Shore Beach Camp – Lake Freshwater
Lake Cooloomera – North of Noosa
Please ring Rod – 32646391 so we know you are coming and for further details (eg bring water, camp cancelled)

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

UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS PLEASE

If you have changed your email address lately, the Secretary would be delighted if you would let her know.

NEW MEMBERS

Louise Stevenson, Lumsen Family, Newsome Family, Lynn Mcallister,, Judith Corbet, Michael Lewis, Jennifer Robinson, Leonie Hall, Lisa Berlin, Judith Gilmour, Melissa & Paul Prociv, Jonathon Hooper, Mervyn & Sue Holmes-Holding, Ashley & Sharon Nicholson, Barbara Slater, Lori Poffenroth.

QFS PUBLIC TRUST FUND – RIC NATTRASS 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 QFS Public Trust Fund balance now stands at \$6888.15

SPONSORS

The colour heading on the Frogsheet has been kindly printed free of charge by

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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

ASHGROVE REPORT

I do hope that your gardens have been alive with frogs' calls over the last couple of months. Judging by the number of calls and emails I have received they have been very active all over Brisbane and Queensland which is good to hear.

The Bowman Park working bee concentrated on planting out more sedges and lomandras at the pond's edge to help stop the cane toads from spawning there. There has been reports of lots of frog calls from that area which is pleasing as now the water will stay long enough for the tadpoles to develop and repopulate. We also had to remove some wattles which had blown over and they have been placed by more young trees. A duckling was having a great time swimming around before it's parents came back to claim it.

I had a lovely visit to New Farm State School where they have developed a piece of their land into a small city farm with some vegetables, herbs and hens. The Year 2's come down once a week to help with clearing the paths, see to the hens and to check on the tadpoles in the frog pond. 2 mums volunteer their time to supervise the students and collect the eggs etc for the tuckshop where they are turned into good food. It would be great if all schools were able to have such a space as the student had such a good time and I would imagine, be very helpful with their learning.

Jenny Holdway.

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Successful ID workshop – Mooloolah.

Mooloolah Waterwatch group held their annual 'Identifying Frogs' workshop with Rod Pattison conducting the session. There was a lot of interest this year and the numbers were capped to 35 with a few others going on a waiting list for the next one. The workshop finished at 5pm and we all went to Jan's place where she and her volunteers put on a very nice BBQ dinner.

As darkness approached, we all walked to near the train lines where Rod found 2 lovely specimens of the Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iterates*) for everyone to look at. Then back to Jan's dam where there were *fallax* of many sizes, a striped marsh and the call of a tusked frog (always elusive). We then walked down to a neighbours where there were quite a few Laughing Treefrogs (*Litoria tylerii*) and a few Emerald-spotted (*Litoria peronii*). There were 4 QFS members amongst the group and 2 new members joining on the day. The next one is scheduled for November so keep an eye open for the date if you would like to take part.

Jenny Holdway

Caboolture/Bribie Island Report

Well I am sure everyone has experienced the same bumper tadpole season like me. I have had a season of non stop breeding of the striped marsh frog and have heard calling in nearby gardens the graceful treefrog and beeping froglet. I am also happy to have heard nearly every day or evening the tusked marsh frog in my pond. To date it seems a little lonely, so I hope a mate will turn up soon. My kids have learnt a lot about tadpoles this year and have enjoyed keeping a couple of tadpoles in a tank until they are ready to jump on their own.

I have received many calls and emails from people far and wide including Tin Can Bay, Narangba, Wamuran, asking various questions primarily about tadpoles like:

1. How do you tell a frog tadpole from a toad tadpole or
2. I have frogs that have breed in the pools of water in my backyard – will they survive or should I scoop them out!

Do you know the answer to these???

Here are my simple tips to distinguish Toads from Frog Tadpoles:

1. Toad tadpoles are silky dark black
2. Toads swarm or school together, whilst frog tadpoles swim individually and
3. Toad eggs are laid in a string.

In terms of concern about water drying up where tadpoles I have suggested that the frogs should know what they are doing, and (I am reminded by Rick Natrass's answer to this same question) if they don't then that individual isn't very smart and should be bred out!!! However to those who were concerned, there is nothing wrong with using the same water to "rescue" some tadpoles, as long as you keep as close as possible the same conditions where they bred.

I have also helped a fellow concerned about a frog injury in Rockhampton. I do hope the frog made it ok! If there are people who know of vets that do assist frogs who are injured it might be a good idea to let the coordinators know.

Mark Thompson & Pauline Fitzgibbon

CHERMSIDE & SURROUNDS

Over Summer I made some brief stopovers by the Chermside pond in Seventh Brigade Park. The banks surrounding the pond are now clothed with dense foliage & the water level stayed throughout the season. The pond is proving to be an attractive breeding site for the local Eastern Sedgefrogs, Green Treefrogs and Graceful Treefrogs with a welcome chorus on stormy Summer nights. There were also dozens of (estimated) one to two year old treefrogs leaping about in the surrounding streets and parkland during the stormy weather on one summer night. On my last visit in the daytime, I counted 90 newly emerged tree froglets on the plants surround the pond!

Closer to home, I rejuvenated a pond in the back garden just in time for the Summer storms. The pond is now more of a mini-creek or a series of waterholes and is so far attracting the Tusked Frogs, Graceful Treefrogs and Striped Marshfrogs

James Hansen

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FROG CAMP:

Unfortunately the first Frog Camp for the year at the Conondales was a no-go as access to the park was closed due to flooding. But 5 intrepid froggers could not be put off that easily and another venue was found thanks to info from a now Tenterfield frogger Janet White. Girraween was chosen as it had been quite dry the last few visits but this time it had been raining and that was expected to continue. An opportunity not to be missed.

Eastern Gungans (*Uperoleia laevis*) were heard off and on from the leaf litter around the edges of the camp area day and night. An Eastern Banjo frog (*Lymnodynastes dumerilii dumerilii*) was the first frog seen, even before we had left the camping area and the Painted Burrowing frog (*Neobatrachus sudelli*) see photo also put in an appearance just before the walking track began. Very vocal Clicking froglets (*Crinia signifera*) dominated the granite rocks and pools around the creek.

One pool in particular attracted many pairs in amplexus while nearby similar pools were devoid of any frogs, highlighting for me that there is more to a frog choosing a pool for breeding than because it looks similar from our perspective.

Beeping froglets (*C. parinsignifera*) were also calling. Other frogs seen in the creek side habitat were all Litoria the Emerald Spotted (*L. peronii*), the Bleating (*L. dentata*) and the Stony-creek (*L. wilcoxii*).

A small dam across the road produced a different suite of frogs. There were numerous Eastern Sedgefrogs (*Litoria fallax*) posted on the reeds but they were eerily silent, not a creeek was heard, while the Striped Marsh Frogs (*Limnodynastes peronii*) popped away from beneath. A beautiful pale brown colour morph of the Sedgefrog was conspicuous among the green cousins. The Whistling Tree Frog (*L. verreauxii verreauxii*) was heard calling from the trees and more Eastern Gungans were also heard. This brought the number of species seen or heard to eleven with eight species in the creek side habitats and four around the dam habitat (one being found at both).

With many thanks to Rod Pattison for sharing his knowledge and his dedication to these frog camps and to the other happy froggers who made the week-end a friendly and memorable one, I am looking forward to next camp and seeing some of the old faces (some not so old) and some new ones. Happy frogging!!

Debbie Dolby



Brown morph of the Sedgey



Neobatrachus sudelli

Update from Rockhampton and CQ Area

“Frogs of Central Queensland” Education Project launch

This project was officially launched on 12 February, after lots of hard work to prepare the new “Frogs of Central Queensland” brochures and posters. I sincerely thank Xstrata Coal for their generous donation towards this project, the wonderful photographers Harry Hines, Dan Ferguson, Lyndie Malan and Ben Champion whose work features in the posters and brochures, and the fantastic frogs who made it possible.

The new resources feature 18 of Central Queensland’s frogs, with all 50 included in the brochure.



Ruddy tree frog *Litoria rubella* – photo by Dan Ferguson



New Holland Frog *Cyclorana novaehollandiae* – photo by Bethlea Bell



Brown striped marsh frog *Limnodynastes peronii* – photo by Lyndie Malan



Chubby gungan *Uperoleia rugosa* – photo by Ben Champion



Eastern sedge frog *Litoria fallax* – photo by Harry Hines

The new “Frogs of Central Queensland” resources are gradually being distributed throughout the region and some organisations are also booking the Qld Frog Society for meetings, workshops, displays and events.

[Queensland Frog Society Meetings](#) are being trialled in Rockhampton this year on the 2nd Sunday of every 2nd month. The first meeting will be on 11 March – 4pm; Topic “Frog identification”, Environment Centre, Livermore St, Rockhampton. Other meeting dates for 2012 are 13 May, 8 July, 9 Sept, 11 November; same time and venue.

☺**Bethlea Bell, Rockhampton & Central Qld Coordinator, Queensland Frog Society** ☎**4933 1591 / 0428 394 525**

✉**john_bethlea@bigpond.com**

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Green frog tries to eat a red bellied black snake in Queensland.



Picture: Bestmann Imagery. Source: The Daily Telegraph

ROWAN Bestmann photographed this phenomenal struggle between a seemingly defenceless green tree frog and a vicious red bellied-black snake in his home in Maryborough, Queensland.

He said the struggle continued for just under one hour. "It's definitely a battle of the titans," he said. "The frog had started eating the snake, but the snake hadn't given up it was still wildly writhing around, so the frog was having to hop this way and that to make sure it didn't lose its meal."

While Bestmann is revelling in the wilder side of nature since moving onto the property last month, he said his wife and mother in law didn't share his enthusiasm.

"My mum in law actually discovered the frog eating the snake," he said. "I was inside and she was putting the washing on the line. Suddenly I heard this great shriek and I ran out to see if she was OK she was beside herself. "My wife isn't so keen on the snake life here either."

Bestmann captured the shot on a Canon EOS-1D Mark IV and vowed to continue documenting the wild life in his backyard. "I've been amazed at the international reaction to this photo and I'll definitely be taking more photos in the future Queensland is an adventure playground."

Rare frog found living the high life

Brian Williams *The Courier-Mail* February 20, 2012 Picture: HB Hines



BIT CROAKY: The high-altitude discovery of Fleay's barred frog at Springbrook National Park after 40 years has scientists excited.

THE endangered Fleay's barred frog has been found at high altitude in Springbrook National Park rainforest for the first time in 40 years. The find is important because high-altitude frogs have been dying out around the world and scientists hope the discovery may be a sign the species is returning.

Griffith University's Associate Professor Jean-Marc Hero stumbled across two specimens at midnight when looking for the great barred river frog at 840m. "All the finds have been much lower," Prof Hero said. "It's important because, around the world, most of the amphibian declines have been at high altitude. This shows they are returning to higher places, which is a good thing." The two specimens were males in reproductive condition and were found in land adjacent to a block bought through a Federal and State government buyback scheme.

State Environment Minister Vicky Darling said 705ha had been bought and was being added to the park. "This is the very reason we are protecting Springbrook," she said.

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Rare tree frog euthanised at Zoo Atlanta
February 19, 2012



Rabb's fringed limb treefrog

Zoo Atlanta officials say a rare tree frog whose species is now believed to be extinct in the wild had to be euthanised after a decline in his health.

The Rabbs' fringe-limb tree frog was believed to be one of the last two of its kind left on earth.

Zoo officials said on Friday the frog was put down to prevent suffering and to preserve genetic material for research. The species was identified by Zoo Atlanta herpetology curator Joseph Mendelson during a 2005 trip to Panama.

Mendelson says a pathogen known as the amphibian chytrid fungus has been killing off frog species in the wild. The last known member of the Rabbs' fringe-limbed tree frog species lives at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

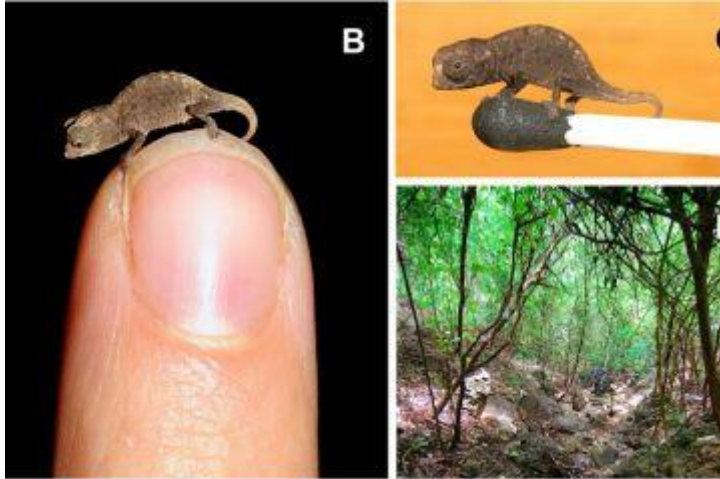
AP: Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/rare-tree-frog-euthanised-at-zoo-atlanta-20120218-1tge9.html#ixzz1msP6sZQN>

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT -

Brookesia micra, world's smallest chameleon, discovered in Madagascar

Scientists in Madagascar have discovered a previously unknown species of chameleon, *Brookesia micra*, believed to be the world's smallest.

Jessica Phelan February 15, 2012 10:07 : www.globalpost.com



Brookesia micra chameleons live in the remote forests of Madagascar. The juveniles are small enough to fit on the head of a match.

Scientists have discovered a new species of chameleon, *Brookesia micra*, believed to be the smallest in the world.

The tiny lizard, native to Madagascar, measures less than 30 millimeters fully grown – and when young, it is small enough to stand comfortably on the head of a match.

It was found by a team of German and American scientists, who described their discovery in the PLoS ONE journal.

The miniature chameleon lives on the forest floor by day and crawls into low branches to sleep at night, they say, which is when the researchers spotted it. Dr Frank Glaw of the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, who led the expedition, told the BBC he and his colleagues scoured the forest at nighttime during the wet season, using torches and headlamps to spot the rare lizards as they roosted.

They were seen only in one remote islet in Madagascar's uninhabited Nosy Hara archipelago, which the scientists suggest provide the explanation for their small size. In a phenomenon known as island dwarfism, species confined to islands commonly evolve into miniature versions of their mainland cousins, possibly due to limited resources and pressure to reproduce faster.

The specificity of their habitat also means that the species is extremely vulnerable to extinction if the forests it lives in are threatened, Glaw warns.

Brookesia micra is one of four new species of chameleon they documented on their expedition to Madagascar, which is home to nearly half of the world's 193 known species of the reptile.

The country is known for its many rare species of giants – including giant lemurs and tortoises – as well as dwarfs, such as the world's smallest primate, the mouse lemur, and some of the tiniest known frogs.

Brookesia micra, too, shares the island with the world's largest chameleons, which can grow to almost 70 centimeters long.

Cat – bird – frog tug-of-war!

I live in the Beenleigh QLD area, a few days ago my wife and I heard our cat growling at something outside so we went to investigate and we found it was having a tug of war with a large green frog that was eating a bird! YES EATING A BIRD???

Now I am definitely no frog expert but I didn't think frogs ate birds. Anyway I thought

I would share this one with your community and would be interested in hearing some feedback!

Sender's name withheld.



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From the Editors Desk:

Well, some more rain and then some more. Frogs have been still busy in our area with layings in water beside the roadways and also other waterways. My pond is still very busy and thankfully it is full so when the dry weather does arrive, there'll be enough water for the tadpoles to metamorph before it dries out.

Still have a visit from the occasional red-bellied black which absolutely loves frogs - also my favourites – carpet snakes.

I have to admit that I'm a chameleon fan and kind of wish I had a house full of them – unfortunately local wildlife laws and having domestic animals put a stop to this.

I note with great sadness, the plight of Rabb's treefrog. Humankind has made such a large impact on our environment.

What a pity there was no intervention before the species was put into this situation. What about captive breeding??

Surely a few specimens could have been caught in the wild and bred in captivity (eg Corroboree frog) and then released back into protected habitats.

As always chytrid gets the blame, but I wonder if this is the case in these situations. Our frog populations worldwide are affected by **ALL** manmade chemicals, including medical contaminants (eg hormones). Also clearing of rainforest and jungles does not help.

'Til next time – may your ponds be always full.

Naomi

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