

FROGSHEET

www.qldfrogs.asn.au | questions [at] qldfrogs.asn.au | [f/qldfrogsociety](https://www.facebook.com/qldfrogsociety)

GOOD TIMES AT GOONDICUM: FROGGERS HAVE A FANTASTIC TIME ON CAMP



Rob (4th from front, right) and Nadia (far end of table), Nadia's parents, QFS Members and Jono enjoying second helpings.

On Friday 8th December, seven keen Members and QFS President Jono made the 5-6 hour drive out to a large cattle station near Monto. Goondicum Station is home to Rob and Nadia Campbell, two enthusiastic QFS members who own a 7000ha property at the head of the Burnett River. This is not your typical dry, desolate and barren cattle station though. The property, managed by the Campbells since the 1860s, sits on the crater of a prehistoric volcano, and as such means the cattle thrive on rich soil and above average rainfall. But that's not all; as you enter the property and several kilometre driveway, you'd be mistaken for thinking you were travelling through a nature reserve. Trees of various ages dominate the unique landscape whilst native grasses and understory plants have prevented mass soil erosion as is often a result of mass vegetation clearing.

The commercial imperative driving Goondicum Station is that paddocks with trees grow better-quality feed grasses than land that has been cleared. Better grass means improved nutrition, healthier cattle and increased profit margins. Trees also play a vital role in producing high-quality beef. The natural woodlands also offer animals refuge from sun and rain and attract the wildlife that leads to an all-round healthier environment. A low stress environment leads to the high quality of the 100% grassfed EU Brangus cattle produced by the station's Brangus bulls. No growth hormones are necessary because of the fruitful environment in which the cattle feed on.

Along the drive to the Campbell's home and our accommodation, various birds are seen and heard, as are many kangaroos along the way. Closer to the destination, as you drive up and over a rocky ridge, a group of

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Whiptail Wallabys are seen feeding on the native grasses. And as far as the eye can see, you are surrounded by the crater rim - all of it home to Rob and Nadia.

On arrival, we're warmly welcomed by Rob, a genuine man of the land, and his wife Nadia, a former Brisbane City lawyer who under unusual circumstances (it's a long story) met Rob who was defending the property from a troublesome quarry nearby. Nadia's parents and sister were also visiting to assist with the weekend's activities. The couple has been all hands on deck in the

last few weeks, building brand new guest accommodation for ourselves and future research trips etc, and had only the night before our visit, put on the finishing touches. Job well done!

Whilst the remaining members were arriving, Rob and I hopped in the Landcruiser and explored areas of interest on the property that we would later target to go frogging. Needless to say, we found a fair few spots. Once everyone had arrived, we got ourselves sorted and tucked into a very nice home made meal where



Brand new guest accommodation and Mount Goondicum pictured in the background

there was plenty of second servings to be had! Before long the sun had

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep updated via our E-News Emails and Facebook

Why not contribute?

This *Frogsheet* Newsletter has been produced for over 20 years, containing the much valued member-contributed content we have received! Your contributions make up a large part of the content of each newsletter and help to encourage others by sharing the positive and exciting experiences people have had in enhancing and protecting frog habitat, or simply sharing about the frogs people find on their own property or in their local area.

Please consider contributing to the next *Frogsheet* newsletter.

FROG HABITAT WORKING BEES

Bowman Park, Bardon

8-11am - Contact Phil for more info or visit the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/bowmanparkfroghabitatgroup/>

RIC NATTRASS RESEARCH GRANT

The QFS Trust Fund was created with the purpose to help save QLD frogs through education and research by means of this Research Grant, and now stands at **\$6,124.50** (+ \$1.53 since Summer edition)

STAY IN THE LOOP

If you have a newer preferred email address, please contact us and let us know.

HELPING HAND

We are always in need of an extra pair of hands to assist at community event display stalls. Many hands make light work, even if you can spare 30 minutes to help unpack and packup our display gear from and to a vehicle. Most of our displays are within the Brisbane area.

Please contact our Secretary if you can help us out.

set and we ventured out to the first location of the night; an ephemeral and seemingly mediocre dam to the untrained eye.

On arrival to the dam, our ears were treated to the chorus of over half a dozen frog species calling from the banks of the water. Species here included the Eastern Sedgefrog (*Litoria fallax*), Emerald-spotted Treefrog



Emerald-spotted Treefrog (*Litoria peronii*)

(*L. peronii*) (above), Naked Treefrog (*L. rubella*), Bumpy Rocketfrog (*L. inermis*), Broad-palmed Rocketfrog (*L. latopalmata*), Spotted Marshfrog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*), Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk (*L. terraereginae*) and Dusky Gungan (*Uperoleia fusca*). An exciting but not entirely unexpected find was the Green-striped Frog (*Cyclorana alboguttata*) (top left)! Needless to say, these species kept us occupied for a fair while and many of these were new species for most of the group. The abundance and diversity of species at this dam is not unlike what to expect around ephemeral (non-



Green-striped Frog (*Cyclorana alboguttata*)

permanent) dams and waterholes in rural and remote bushland and farms dams.

We then drove out to the headwaters

of the Burnett River itself, which crosses over the Campbell's long driveway. Here we were after the Stony-creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*) (below), and that's exactly what we found. The bright yellow males were a unique addition to the frogs we had already seen. There were of course a few snakes along the way too!



Stony-creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*)

During previous seasons, Rob and Nadia had recorded Salmon-striped Frogs (*Limnodynastes salminii*)

Can Someone Lend a Hand?

For many years now our Secretary of 20 years in the position has been faithfully setting up and pulling down our displays at various and numerous community events within and around the greater Brisbane region, with assistance manning the displays. However the time has come that she requires a hand in getting the display in and out of her vehicle. As a small Committee with several Committee members working full-time and/or not living within an hour of Brisbane, we're putting the call out to our members asking to lend a hand for such events. We just need a bit of help; which will be more appreciated than you'd think.

The reality is, if we're unable to get some help, attending community events and raising awareness

of our frogs becomes untenable. Not being able to interact with the community and provide answers and advice would be a great loss. With a bit of help we can continue to spread the word on QLD's frogs!



around their house and yard. These frogs are found out west (e.g. Dalby) and also plentiful around Bundaberg. We were hoping to find it during our two night stay at Goondicum, so I stayed up after we returned to our accommodation for the night, searching for this species with Rob and Mike, one of the Members on the camp. We found plenty of Green Treefrogs (*Litoria caerulea*) around the dwellings, but no Salmon-striped Frogs.

As already touched on, Goondicum Station and the crater on which it sits on is home to many other natural beauties, and this is what we would explore the next day. Nadia was particularly enthusiastic to show us the Bottle Trees growing on the station. This sounded cool, so we were driven out along some side tracks, up and over a few ridges and round a corner. Whilst I detest the movies, what we witnessed next was like something from a Jurassic Park scene.

Right along the side of a grassy hill were dozens of magnificent Bottle Trees, spanning a 180 degree view (below)! This was a completely different landscape to the dry bushland and scrubby creeks through most of the property. It was a scene that took our breath away! To the credit of the Campbells of generation before, these unique trees had been saved, and the lush green grass beneath them provides plenty of food for fattening up the cattle. The trees are estimated to be several hundred years old. After taking many photos, none of which did the scene justice, we headed off to see another natural wonder of the station, the impressive gorges cut through the crater rim, and the resident Brush Tail Rock Wallabys.

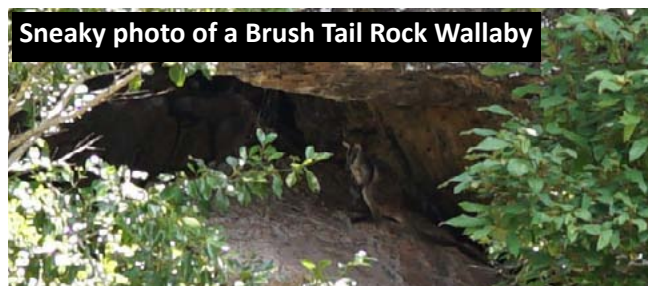
The three gorges we visited were impressive, the sheer size of two in particular left us in awe of just how much water must rage through when in flood. We were equally impressed at how the Brush Tail Rock Wallabys, of which we saw glimpses of several animals, manage to bound up near vertical cliff faces!



Looking up to the canopy of a bottle tree



Burnett River flowing through crater rim



Sneaky photo of a Brush Tail Rock Wallaby

This species is listed as Vulnerable at a Federal and State level, so it was assuring to witness them here where Rob and Nadia can ensure their habitat is no further degraded.

Following a picnic lunch and checking out the third smaller gorge, we retired to our barracks and gave our eyelids a rest. We awoke to some dark clouds build-



Bottle trees spread across the landscape



Green Treefrog (*Litoria caerulea*)



Striped Rocketfrog (*Litoria nasuta*)

ing on the horizon and hoped the storm would dump some rain to bring out the elusive Salmon-striped Frogs. Unfortunately, the storm veered away despite making a fuss with thunder and lightning. Under-terred, we visited several other dams and flooded areas and found the Striped Rocket Frog (*Litoria nasuta*), Ornate Burrowing Frog (*Platylpectrum ornatum*) and Cane toads (of course). A few more interesting finds were had, and despite more late night searching, no Salmon-striped Frogs. We retired to our accommodation that night though in awe of everything we had seen during the day.

We were very grateful to Rob and Nadia for organising so much to make this camp such a success, and for sharing with us the hidden gems and secrets of Goondicum Station!

Jono Hooper ■



Goondicum Creek flowing through crater rim

ASHGROVE REPORT

Unfortunately I haven't anything to report as I have been out of action with an injury to my back since early January. In periods of pain relief and help from my family I have kept the office working and Julia clears the PO Box which is the main thing.

Phil Bird advises me that the working bees at Bowman Park Barden will be on 11 March, 3 June and 5 August. Please do come along and join our small band in keeping a reconstructed bushland area going.

Jenny Holdway

RESEARCH GRANT AWARDED

The Trustees for the 2018 Ric Natrass Research Grant have awarded Alannah Filer the \$1000 grant for her research on the topic 'The distribution of the Australian acid frogs and an analysis of their competitive relationship with their associated sibling species'. Alannah will use the grant to purchase bioacoustic monitoring equipment for her ongoing field data collection.

As limited research has been done on the acid frogs, and their competitive relationship with their sibling species has not been scientifically quantified, Alanah's research aims to investigate this spatial and acoustic competitive relationship. This research will help fill a gap in scientific knowledge, and will aid in informing decision makers on the placement and maintenance of conservation areas and restored habitats, considering the possible effect of the sibling species on the calling behaviour and presence of acid frogs. We congratulate Alannah on receiving this grant and look forward to an update on her research later this year!

INJURED FROG “HOP-FULLY” BACK ON THE MEND AFTER HAVING LEG SLAMMED IN DOOR



Daniel Bateman |
The Cairns Post |
20 February 2018

© A. Rogers - A common tree frog, which Boongarry Veterinary Consultant Dr Annabelle Olsson has treated after it's leg was broken after it was slammed in a door

A green tree frog whose leg was accidentally slammed in a door will “hop-fully” live another day.

Boongarry Veterinary Services at Aeroglen has been treating the injured amphibian for the past week after its limb became fractured in a household accident in Redlynch.

After the common green tree frog’s leg was X-rayed, the fracture was strapped up with a tiny little splint made from silicon tubing.

It is now being medicated on pain relievers, and kept in a safe, moist container until it is fully healed and ready to hop back into the wild.

Veterinarian Dr Annabelle Olsson said the animal would have struggled to survive if it had not been brought into the clinic for treatment.

“The frog’s legs take a long time to heal naturally,” she said.

“It was very lucky.

“Because of the nature of the position of the fracture, it meant it was OK to be splintered, rather than requiring bone surgery, which would have been fraught with danger.”

The vet surgery, which was established in

1993, specialises in native wildlife treatment.

It is regarded as one of the busiest general practices in the Far North, treating — pro bono — up to 4000 wildlife cases each year.

Many of these are injured or sick amphibians, which have been safely released back into the wild. ■



Ben Coxworth |
New Atlas |
14 March 2018

TO DETECT FROG FUNGUS, JUST ASK eDNA

Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (Bd) is a deadly skin fungus that seriously threatens populations of frogs and salamanders around the world. There may be new hope for catching it early enough to limit amphibian fatalities, however, thanks to the analysis of what’s known as environmental DNA.

Called eDNA for short, environmental DNA is released as animals excrete bodily waste, slough off their skin, or otherwise shed bits of their genetic material into the environment. In previous studies, scientists have studied the eDNA content of water bodies to determine what types of fish were passing through, and to detect the presence of invasive clams.

In 2015, Washington State University grad student Colleen Kamaroff utilized eDNA analysis to find out if non-native fish had been successfully removed from lakes in California's Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park. One month after she collected her water samples, there was a Bd-caused mass die-off of endangered mountain yellow-legged frogs in three of those lakes.

"I was curious if Bd would be detectable at the lakes I took samples from even though there were no sick-looking frogs at the time," she says. "So I decided to run the eDNA samples I originally collected for the lake restoration project to test for the presence of Bd."

Kamaroff collecting samples in Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park

Sure enough, Bd eDNA showed up in samples from the lakes where the die-off later occurred, but not in samples from the non-affected lakes. Had wildlife officials known about it at the time, it's possible that preventative action could have been taken.

"If we can predict when an outbreak is imminent, we can proceed with management actions such as anti-fungal baths that kill Bd," says Colleen, who now works as a wildlife biologist at Yosemite National Park. "Mountain yellow-legged frogs in the Sierra Nevada have experienced a population decrease of over 90 percent in recent years. Environmental DNA could help save these frogs and other species of amphibians around the world from extinction."

Currently, the only other way of detecting Bd is to physically capture afflicted frogs and take skin swabs from them. ■

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The frogs have been singing these last few months! The rain has filled up dams, creeks, ponds, ephem-

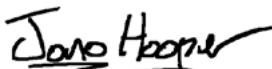
eral drainage lines and depressions which has allowed a whole suite of species to breed. I got out behind Woodford recently, looking for new Green-thighed Frog (*Litoria brevipalmata*) (below) locations. I found several, along with almost a dozen other species calling close by! Closer to home (literally) and we have had Bleating Treefrogs (*Litoria dentata*), Green Treefrogs, Striped Marshfrogs, Spotted Marshfrogs (bottom) and more recently an Emerald-spotted



Treefrog take up residence right beside the house. It took a few months for them to arrive after construction, but they are now happily roaming our external walls for insects. Too bad none have made their way to the pond I put in for them, yet.



We have also been kept busy with a lot of frog identification enquiries following all the rain. It's a good time to also refer to our 'Be Toadally Sure' campaign brochure for how to confidently identify cane toads from native look-alike frog species in your yard. Check out our [website](http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/log-a-frog-mapping-tool/). Don't forget too that you can log your frog records via your Member login details here - <http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/log-a-frog-mapping-tool/>

Cheers, 



Something for you...

Junior Frogologists

By Tim Williams, Junior Editor

Let's Get Crafty

Love frogs, cool with craft, why not whip up one of these groovy masterpieces! Sure fire fun for you and your frog fan club!

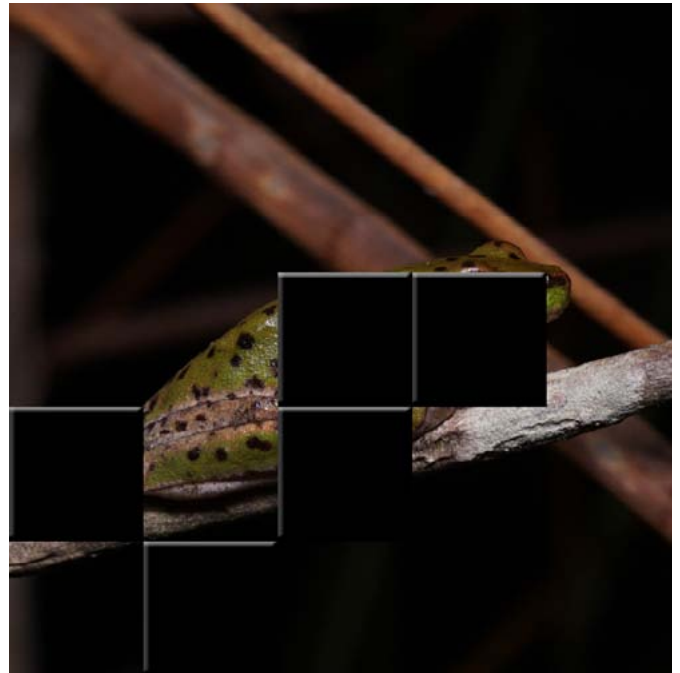


FROTOGRAPHY

Send your frog photos to editor [at] qldfrogs.asn.au or via Facebook by the next newsletter deadline.



WHO AM I?



The full picture will be revealed in the next newsletter.

NEXT EDITION

Thankyou to those of you who contributed to this newsletter.

**Deadline for Winter *Frogsheet* contributions is
13 May 2018**

If undelivered, please return to
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SURFACE MAIL



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