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## In this edition...

President's Report	1
Coordinators & Diary Dates	2
Coordinator Reports	2
Society News & Happenings	5
Local & international News	6
Frog Camp Report	7
From Jono	8

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## President's Report

Welcome to the first edition of the *Frogsheet* for 2013! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and are all now enjoying the rain and the frogs that have come with it! I hope all of our members are safe and managed to avoid all the damaging flood waters too.

This will be the last hard copy newsletter you will receive so please make sure your e-mail address is correct in our members section of our website or contact Jenny to update it with her if you haven't already. All future *Frogsheets* will be delivered via e-mail to allow much more content and to reduce the cost of both printing and time to fold and mail out. Plus we are reducing our impact on the environment by reducing our paper use. These savings can then be redirected into frog conservation activities! So we appreciate your patience while we get everything in place. Please let us know if you don't end up with the next *Frogsheet* too and we'll make sure we fix the problem!

Attending a recent Australian Society of Herpetologists conference I was happy to see a number of students and researchers working on a range of frog related projects. There is a lot of research and recovery work happening on the threatened Green and Golden Bell Frog in an attempt to stop its decline and help the populations recover.

Professor Rick Shine is also working on investigating the ethics of using the fridge and then freeze method for the euthanasia of cane toads. As we all know there has been a lot of debate over the ethics of this technique so it will be great to finally get a definitive answer on whether this is a humane way to euthanise cane toads! As the results of this become known the frog society will make sure we keep you all informed.

Enjoy the great frogging conditions!

Dan

Look out for the new  
'Frogs of QLD' book  
review in the next  
*Frogsheet*!



## Area Coordinators

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### SUNSHINE COAST - VACANT (SEE TOP PAGE)

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### UPPER BROOKFIELD

Phil Bird - Email: [frogphil@gmail.com](mailto:frogphil@gmail.com)

## SUNSHINE COAST AREA COORDINATOR POSITION VACANCY

We are looking for an Area Coordinator for this area! Please contact Jenny. H for more info if you're interested.

### Diary Dates

#### BCC Green Heart Day

2<sup>nd</sup> June - 7th Brigade Park, Chermside. QFS display and sales.

#### Logan City World Environment Day

2<sup>nd</sup> June - Logan Campus, Meadowlea.

#### Mooloolah Frog ID Workshop

17<sup>th</sup> November (date TBC).

#### QFS Management Meetings

7:30pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month  
All welcome! Phone/email Jenny. H for location.

### Frog Habitat Site Working Bees

#### Bowman Park, Bardon

8-11am - Contact Phil for more info

#### Grinstead Park, Alderley (off Short Street)

Contact Debbie Dolby for more info  
[ddolby@hotmail.com](mailto:ddolby@hotmail.com), Ph: 3355 4134

#### Carseldine Bush Crew

Cabbage Tree Creek, Carseldine  
8-9:30am, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month  
Meet where creek crosses Dorville Road -  
All welcome!  
Contact James Hansen for more info.

E. Graceful Treefrog (*Litoria gracilentia*)

### Updated Diary Dates

Please visit the QFS website for updated and new events that arise between *Frogsheet* newsletters.

### Working bees in frog habitat

If you are undertaking bush-care in frog habitat and would like your working bee dates included above, please email Jono  
[editor@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:editor@qldfrogs.asn.au).

## Ashgrove Report

Finally there was something for the frogs to sing about and around this area the nights were filled with choruses from graceful, eastern sedge, tussock and marsh frogs. Unfortunately it has continued...

been a while since the big greens have made their presents known.

I have also been keeping an eye on the planting that was done at the frog ponds in Bowman Park. This was a joint effort between Brisbane City Council (BCC) and QFS and the aim is to try and keep the toads out of the water. Unfortunately, due to the long spell of very hot weather, 75% of the plants have died but the holes are still there so replanting can be done.

I am very excited to report that I heard a tusked frog calling in this area for the first time.

Jenny Holdway

## Rockhampton and Central Queensland Report

### Duckpond Environmental Reserve

**A**long with the Capricorn Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Rockhampton members of the Qld Frog Society have been planning to survey the local Duckpond Environmental Reserve for frog species. We secured just over \$100 in funding from Rockhampton Ergon Energy's Green Team for this project, which has been used to purchase a set of head lamps. Various volunteers also have

continued...

### Farewell to our paper *Frogsheet* - going electronic as of next edition!

Thank you to the members who have updated their email addresses so that they receive the Winter edition via email. The secretary has completed the email mailing list using the emails on the data base and hopefully they are correct. Members without internet access will receive their *Frogsheet* by mail as usual.

Please contact the Secretary if you have any concerns.

#### Why is the *Frogsheet* going electronic?

Printing and mailing of our quarterly *Frogsheet* has come to be a large financial and administrative strain on our small society. For this reason we are phasing out printed *Frogsheets* (**by NEXT EDITION (Winter 2013)**) and moving to electronic format. Benefits of this new format will enable inclusion of more *Frogsheet* content and colour, whilst saving on print and postage costs with membership and donations being re-directed to the purchase of new displays, equipment and funds. We request that all members please ensure we have your current email address by emailing our secretary Jenny Holdway at [secretary@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:secretary@qldfrogs.asn.au) so that you don't miss future editions. For any members that do not have email, could you please notify Jenny on 3366 1868 or write to our postal address found on the front page and we will ensure that you still receive your hard copy.

### Welcome and thanks to our New Members

Rosemary Preater, Kai-ishya Thompson, Skot Biner, Amelinda Hall, Saluay Hall, Lyndie Malan and Stacy Archer.

### QFS Public Trust Fund - Ric Natrass Research Grant

The QFS Trust Fund was created with the purpose to help save Queensland frogs through education and research and now stands at **\$6,359.75**. 2013 applications have now closed but get in early for 2014! The form and grant conditions can be obtained on our website

[www.qldfrogs.asn.au](http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au).

A. Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes terraereginae*)

### Changed your email address?

Please notify the Secretary of your current email address to avoid the risk of missing out on *Frogsheet* newsletters from **WINTER 2013**.

### Want to help spread the word?

If you're a coordinator and have a fair or community event in your area, why not set up the QFS display and raise awareness of our awesome frogs? No expert knowledge is necessary, just a passion for frogs. Contact Jenny to arrange display and brochure pick-up.

### Thanks

The colour *Frogsheet* heading and footer cover has been kindly printed free of charge by **ASCOT PRINT & DESIGN Pty Ltd**.

## Gift Cards for any occasion!

We now offer gift cards for all occasions! For a donation of over \$5 to the Queensland Frog Society you can choose from four frog photos to have on your own printed card which we will send to you. There is a space for your own personal message to the person you are gifting it to. Below is an example of one of the photos, with the words on the reverse reading:



'This card represents a donation to the Queensland Frog Society (QFS) that has been made on your behalf. QFS is a non-profit community organisation that promotes the conservation and appreciation of all of Queensland's fantastic frogs. The money donated to QFS will be put to one of our many conservation activities including our research scholarship grants.'

Words on front of card reads: 'Someone has made a contribution to frog conservation on your behalf!'

The frog photos to choose from are:

Southern red-eyed treefrog (*Litoria chloris*); Holy cross frog (*Notaden bennetti*); Fleay's Barred-frog (*Mixophyes fleayi*) and Orange-thighed frog (*Litoria xanthomera*). You can donate by either a direct deposit to our account or by sending a cheque/money order to our postal address (address on page 1).

Account details are: Westpac Bank - Annerley Branch; BSB: 034 046; Account No. 13 43 4. Please send an email to [secretary@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:secretary@qldfrogs.asn.au) to inform the Secretary of the deposit.

digital cameras and sound recording equipment for use during the surveying.

Early in the season I watched every heavy cloud formation develop and drift away, wondering if it would ever rain enough to bring out the frogs. The drought dragged on and nearly all hope was lost ... Finally, on 23 January, the rain began ... and continued for four days, thanks to ex-TC Oswald. Most sites around Rockhampton measured over 800mm of rain during this time and I've heard reports of up to a staggering 1500mm! As such, the Duckpond site quickly grew from a small swamp, creek and lake into an endless inland flood plain. Access to the site was limited once the rains began and is impossible at the moment.

However, a couple of surveys occurred before the water rose too high and we've positively identified the following amphibians at the site:-

Greenstripe frog *Cyclorana alboguttata*

Green tree frog *Litoria caerulea* – very strong presence

Eastern sedge frog *Litoria fallax* – very strong presence

Northern laughing tree frog *Litoria rothii* - very strong presence

Ruddy tree frog *Litoria rubella*

Cane toad *Rhinella marina*

Once the flood waters finally recede we can resume the surveying. Rockhampton area boasts 32 different frog species and I expect a few more of them inhabit the Duckpond site.

Happy frogging,

Bethlea Bell, Rockhampton & Central Qld Coordinator

Ph. 4933 1591 / 0428 394 525

Email: [john\\_bethlea@bigpond.com](mailto:john_bethlea@bigpond.com)

## Caboolture/Moreton Bay Report

Hello fellow froggers.

In my part of the world I have had lots of fun with frogs. As most of us over summer holidays, I was lucky to be outdoors camping at Jimna Peach Trees (outside of Kilcoy). I had a great time there with lots of wildlife - kangaroos,



bandicoots etc, but the frogs were awesome! I recorded the Great Barred Frog (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*), Eastern Sedge Frog (*Litoria fallax*), Stoney Creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*), Tusked Frog (*Adelotus brevis*) and the mighty Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*). My family got involved and we were able to take some pictures (not easy when frogging on your own!) Enjoy the pictures!

showed how they are happy up above the ground!

I have also had a couple of calls about sick frogs and answered general questions.

Pauline

## Mooloolah Frog Workshop proves popular

We had a great turnout to the second frog workshop at Mooloolah on the 10th of February, the first of which was booked out! Around 30 adults and kids turned up to learn about their local frogs and how to identify them by sight and call. Afterwards we had a great BBQ dinner at Jan Kesby's place before heading out to go frogging around her's and a neighbour's property. Recent flooding on the Mooloolah River had scoured much of the leaf litter away and we were unsure as to how many of the endangered Giant Barred Frogs (*Mixophyes iteratus*) we'd find in the otherwise popular area.

Turns out our concerns were not to be as we found seven Giant Barred's and heard a few calling. There was excitement as everyone got to see the endangered frog and take its photo. After such excitement we crossed the road to a neighbour's property where Laughing Treefrogs (*Litoria tylei*), Emerald-spotted Treefrogs (*Lit. peronii*) and Eastern Sedgefrogs (*L. fallax*) always

F. Striped Rockfrog (*Litoria nasuta*)



Male Stony-creek Frog Source: Pauline Fitzgibbon



Giant Barred Frog Source: Pauline Fitzgibbon

On another matter, I was lucky enough to attend the Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society celebrating 50 years conference late last year. One of the topics discussed was how to make wildlife more accessible to people. Traditionally environmental education starts with birds. I think frogs also provide a great platform for learning about what is needed to sustain wildlife. My kids are celebrating our abundant supply of striped marsh frogs (*Limnodynastes peronii*), by "rescuing the tadpoles" and small froglets from our old bath tub and moving them to our frog pond. They are also understanding that there are many frog calls, and follow me around the garden looking for frogs. I was recently pleasantly surprised to find the Green Tree Frog (*Litoria careala*), on the roof! It wasn't quite a tree, but it also



D. Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*) Source: Jono.H

seem present, and indeed they were! Amongst the activity we found a spider ready to devour an unfortunate Eastern Sedgefrog and two other Sedgefrogs engaged in some territorial activity as they were climbing over each other.



Eastern Sedgefrogs

Source: Jono Hooper

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and a big thanks goes to Rod, Jenny and Jan for organising the evening.

Jono Hooper

## New species of flying frog discovered in Vietnam

AFP, 16 January, 2013

**H**elen's Flying Frog was first discovered by Jodi Rowley, an amphibian expert from the Australian Museum in Sydney, in 2009 during a field trip to the forests fringing the city.

Rowley initially thought the tree-dwelling flying frog, so named for the huge webbed feet that allow it to glide or parachute across the forest canopy, was a familiar species when she saw it sitting on a log beside a path.

It was not until a later trip, when she saw a specimen of the original type of frog in another part of Vietnam, that she realised her creature was something quite different.

Molecular analysis confirmed Rowley's suspicions and she had the honour of naming the new species *Rhacophorus helenae* or Helen's Flying Frog after her mother, who had recently been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

### Surprising find

She says the "big, impressive" species, which is 10 centimetres long was a surprising find in the low-lying evergreen forest surrounded by rice paddies

on the fringes of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's most populous city.



*Rhacophorus helenae* (Helen's Flying Frog)

Source: Jodi J L Rowley/Australian Museum

"What's rare about this discovery in particular is the fact that I found the lone individual less than 90 kilometres from the middle of Ho Chi Minh City, one of the biggest cities in Southeast Asia," says Rowley.

Researchers are now working to establish whether Helen's frog is endangered...Rowley says there were real fears for its survival.

"We are worried particularly because it is a lowland forest and it's the same kind of forest (as where) the Javan rhinoceros went extinct in 2011 as well. Habitat loss is a huge issue," she says.

### Article taken from:

AFP (2013) 'New Species of flying frog discovered in Vietnam'. *ABC Science*, 16 January, 2013, accessed 12 February 2013, <<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2013/01/16/3670547.htm>>.

## Saving Amphibians in Germany - 2012 Visit

Story courtesy of FATS N.S.W

Rainer Enke spoke about his trip to Germany in 2012. There are some frogs and toads in Germany that follow predictable movement corridors, unlike most Australian frogs that tend to move in any direction. To avoid mass fatalities on the



roads that the native German toads cross, authorities have set up vehicular detours in the evening from 8pm to midnight. This is to help toads that have a well known winter resting area and well known summer breeding site cross from either site.



The most common toad (*Bufo bufo*).



Newer roads include underpasses.

Left is a photo of the long drain-like barriers that stop toads wandering from the forest onto roadways. Volunteers collect the toads that have come to cross the road

but have been unable to climb over the barrier. Toads are placed in buckets and taken by volunteers safely to the summer breeding ponds on the other side of the road. Six months later, at the beginning of May, the fences are moved to the other side of the road and volunteers again collect the toads in buckets and take them back to the forest side of the road.



The measures the Germans go to to protect their toads.

## 2012 QFS Burrum Coast Camp Report 2013

In November last year, QFS camp organisers decided to do something different and hold a frogging camp further north, closer to the central Queensland coast. The distance did not seem to deter eight intrepid froggers from attending the camp at Burrum Coast National Park (east of Childers).

It was a slow start on the Friday night in terms of frog action, as the Park was quite dry and looked as though not much rain had fallen in the preceding weeks/months. Nevertheless, the first night of exploring saw a few frog species out and about such as *Litoria caerulea* (green tree frog) and *Platyplectrum ornatum* (ornate burrowing frog). Come the next day and the skies opened up in the afternoon and did not cease! It was fantastic timing as many frogs were active later that night. At least ten species of amphibian were detected during the trip.

On multiple occasions, we heard and got great views of *Crinia tinnula* (wallum froglet) (pictured). This threatened wallum (or acid)



frog is close to the northern limit of its range at Burrum Coast NP. Sharp-eyed frogging folk also located *Litoria rothii* (northern laughing tree frog)



with their head-torches, as well as *Litoria inermis* (bumpy

rocket frog), *Litoria rubella* (naked tree frog) (pictured) and *Litoria nasuta* (striped rocket frog). Other wildlife spotted throughout the Park included the elusive frilled-necked lizard, eastern grey kangaroos and white-bellied sea-eagles seen soaring over the campsite.

Thankyou to everyone who attended and a special thanks to Dan Ferguson and Rod Pattison for helping to organise the camp. Keep an eye out for upcoming camps, all welcome.

Till the next one, happy frogging!

Jesse Rowland

C. Emerald-spotted Treefrog (*Litoria peronii*)

## From Jono

**H**i Fellow Froggers,  
I hope you've all had a great Christmas and enjoyed the break.

Well, for the most part, hasn't this rain been awesome! Our thoughts and prayers though have been with those who've been greatly affected by the flooding and freak cyclones.

I took up every opportunity to get outside and go frogging to see what was also taking up the opportunity - and I wasn't disappointed with what I found! My frogging adventures are on my blog - [www.froggingaround.com/blog](http://www.froggingaround.com/blog). The contrast in conditions was incredible as just a week before the flooding I was frog monitoring with Eva Ford at a couple of sites, many of which were bone-dry. Then over the weekend they'd disappeared under water!

The second QFS frog workshop was a great success with both the number of people that attended and the number of frogs we found afterwards - more photos on my blog.

I'd like to encourage all members to submit news/

photos/anything of interesting they'd like to share with fellow froggers, to make this newsletter even better! We'd love to hear from you and the frog activity happening in your yard! Please email items to me at [editor@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:editor@qldfrogs.asn.au). Please email photos as separate image files.

Lastly, please remember to email Jenny with your current email address, or advise her that you'd still like to receive the *Frogsheet* newsletter via mail. This is really important as we don't want anyone missing out on our future newsletter editions. So far we've only had around half a dozen people let us know of their preference (thankyou to these people).

Cheers!

*Jono Hooper*



Above is a photo of a white-lipped treefrog (*Litoria infrafrenata*) appearing from behind a picture frame taken by Frances where he was staying at Daintree Village at the time. Nice photo Frances!

Source: F. Cottrell-Dormer

**Thanks to everyone who contributed  
to this newsletter!  
Deadline for Winter *Frogsheet*  
contributions is  
23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013**

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