




# FROGSHEET

Official Newsletter of the Queensland Frog Society Inc.

Autumn 2017

Web: [www.qldfrogs.asn.au](http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au) | Questions Email: questions [at] qldfrogs.asn.au |  /qldfrogsociety

## Content/Navigation

President's Report	1
QFS Contacts & Diary Dates	2
Coordinator Reports	3
Local & International News	5
Junior Frogologist	7
Frotography	10

## Welcome and thanks to our New Members

Cherie Crick, Deborah Lennon, Anne Aylward, Lesley Nichols, Ken Provataris, Sally Mather, Austin Critchlow, Cristie Starr, Shane Webb, Ruth Lupton, Crystal Bellert, Nicholas Wu and Daniel Gomez Isaza

with orange thighs. It was a great trip to begin the New Year!

Back home, the QFS has been particularly busy behind the scenes, with several big projects on the go with much appreciated help of some Members and the community. I look forward to sharing one of these with you now!



After three months of communications, building and refining, I'm excited to announce the launch of our 'Log a Frog' Online Mapping Tool, for exclusive use to our Members! This online tool allows members to add frog records to a database which will appear on a map, adding valuable information on where frog species are present and the extent of their populations. The facility also has the ability for admins to verify frog records; maintaining data integrity. But this isn't simply a mapping tool like many others. In the coming weeks/months we plan to roll out a Regional Ecosystem (RE) (vegetation community) mapping overlay, allowing us to 'predict', using the locations of current records, where we might expect to find new populations of species. This resource can be found by logging into our website using the login credentials found in emails received from us.

This resource could not have been developed without the initial idea from Michael Kels, a long time QFS member. He then got in touch with Melissa from SEQ Catchments, which had funding available to develop the online mapping tool for us, free of charge! The QFS Committee then provided guidance on important aspects of the mapping tool and features. So hop onto our website, or click this link to be taken directly to the ['Log a Frog' Online Mapping Tool!](#)

Cheers,

## President's Report

Hasn't it been dry?! Whilst this isn't particularly unusual for many places in Queensland, here on the Sunshine Coast it's the driest it's been in two and a half years. Over the Christmas break my wife and I got away up to the Wet Tropics where I had 15 species I was yet to find since my initial trip there a year ago. Thankfully, Cairns and surrounding areas had received very substantial rainfall and it was exciting to see the streams, creeks and low areas holding plenty of water! We met Ben, his wife and a friend there. It was Ben's first time to the Wet Tropics - which you'll read about inside! Of the 15 species on my list, I found 10; a satisfying total. Particularly exciting finds included the Javelin Frog (*Litotia microbelos*) - Australia's smallest treefrog at only 16mm in length (right-top), the Mountain Nursery Frog (*L. monticola*) - 20mm long and only found at 1,250m altitude on Mt Lewis (right-bottom), and the Orange-thighed Treefrog (*L. xanthomera*), similar to *L. chloris* but



---

## Executive Committee

**Patron** - Dr Glen Ingram

**President** - Jono Hooper

Mob: 0418 779 791

Email: [president@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:president@qldfrogs.asn.au)

**Vice Presidents** - Dan Ferguson

Ben Revell

Email: [vicepresident@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:vicepresident@qldfrogs.asn.au)

**Secretary** - Jenny Holdway

Ph: 07 3366 1868

Email: [secretary@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:secretary@qldfrogs.asn.au)

**Treasurer** - Jennifer Singfield

Email: [treasurer@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@qldfrogs.asn.au)

---

## Newsletter Editor & Web Admin

Jono Hooper

Email: [editor@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:editor@qldfrogs.asn.au)

---

## QFS Shop Sales

Jenny Holdway

Ph: 07 3366 1868

Email: [frogshop@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:frogshop@qldfrogs.asn.au)

---

## Postal Address

QLD Frog Society Inc.

PO Box 7017 East Brisbane,

QLD Australia 4169

---

## Area Coordinators

ASHGROVE

Jenny Holdway – Ph: 3366 1868

Email: [secretary@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:secretary@qldfrogs.asn.au)

BRIBIE ISLAND/CABOOLTURE

Pauline Fitzgibbon – Ph: 3886 934

Email: [fitztho@tpg.com.au](mailto:fitztho@tpg.com.au)

BRISBANE CENTRAL

Stefan Durtschi – Ph: 3891 6853

Email: [comlab@optusnet.com.au](mailto:comlab@optusnet.com.au)

BROOKFIELD

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

BUNDABERG

David Flack - Email: [litoria.chloris82@gmail.com](mailto:litoria.chloris82@gmail.com)

CHERMSIDE

James Hansen – Mob: 0427 827 443

Email: [jamna@powerup.com.au](mailto:jamna@powerup.com.au)

ESK

Jason Richard – Ph: 5424 2373

Email: [jason.richard@ecosm.com.au](mailto:jason.richard@ecosm.com.au)

GOLD COAST

Shane Ho – Ph: 5533 8125 (AH)

IPSWICH

Brett Malcolm - Mob: 0407 673 458

LOGAN CITY

Michael Kels – Ph: 3287 6752

Email: [nature@auswww.com](mailto:nature@auswww.com)

MARY RIVER CATCHMENT

Eva Ford - Mob: 0408 749 162

Email: [eva.ford@mrccc.org.au](mailto:eva.ford@mrccc.org.au)

PINE RIVERS

Rod Pattison - Ph: 3264 6391

Email: [rjpattison@hotmail.com](mailto:rjpattison@hotmail.com)

REDLANDS

Steve Homewood – Ph: 3824 0522

Email: [bhomewoo@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bhomewoo@bigpond.net.au)

ROCKHAMPTON & CENTRAL QLD

\*\*\*POSITION VACANT\*\*\*

SOUTH BURNETT

Wendy Benfer - Email: [raywendy.benfer@bigpond.com](mailto:raywendy.benfer@bigpond.com)

SUNSHINE COAST

Brittany Elliott - Mob: 0421 341 853

Email: [brittany\\_b\\_elliott@hotmail.com](mailto:brittany_b_elliott@hotmail.com)



QFS supported by the  
Brisbane City Council



Printers of our newsletter  
header and footer for free



Thanks to QWaLC for our  
free insurance

---

## QFS Public Trust Fund - Ric Nattrass Research Grant

The QFS Trust Fund was created with the purpose to help save QLD frogs through education and research, and now stands at **\$5,584.66** (+ \$172.61 since Summer ed.)



## Upcoming Events

### Ipswich Plant Expo

11 - 12 March 2017. Frog Display and sales.

### BCC Green Heart Fair

June 2017, Chermside.

### Queensland Garden Expo

7-9 July 2017. Nambour. QFS Display & Sales

### QFS Management Meetings

Every three months at 12pm Sunday, Caboolture BP south-bound rest stop. Next meeting 19 March. All welcome! Phone/email Jenny to register your attendance.

### 'Unofficial' Frog Camps

'Unofficial' Frog Camps returning this year. Members who tag along are responsible for organising their own camp permits, gear and their own safety. The QFS is not liable for personal injury. Once details of each upcoming camp are announced, you need to let Rod know if you're coming. Stay tuned for further details.

## Frog Habitat 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  
Contact James Hansen for more info at  
[jamna@powerup.com.au](mailto:jamna@powerup.com.au).

## 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 at [editor@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:editor@qldfrogs.asn.au)

## Ashgrove Report

There isn't much to report on this time as the froggy world has been fairly quite around here. I have had a lot of phone calls and emails to answer though and the queries range from "can someone come and relocate a toad I have in my garden" "how to look after tadpoles which are in my dog bowl" and some identifying toad or frog ones.

There was a working bee at Bowman Park on February 5th which Janet Mangan ran due to Phil not being available. Unfortunately I did not attend either due to a family gathering and, as I am now a great grandmother, I am sure you understand that going to see the babies is a must. Janet has sent through a short report which I have copied:

"On Sunday 5 Feb Anthony and I attended Bushcare at Bowman Park. The fan grass weed had encroached on our recent creek planting. We chipped out the fan grass and continued to treat cats claw. A few pieces of Madeira were bagged up from our planting near playground. Cobbler pegs and Dyschoriste were bagged from the frog pond." Janet.

I have some *Lomandra hystrix* plants to give away to anyone who can come and collect them. They are growing in my driveway and would be better around a pond or in a garden instead. Just email me for my address.

Jenny Holdway ■

## Volunteers invited to help detect new toad species

While everyone knows about the infamous cane toad, few are aware that another poisonous invader is on our door-step. The Asian Spined Toad (*Duttaphyrus melanosticus*) is regularly intercepted by quarantine authorities at our national border, hitching a ride in imported goods and luggage. Native to parts of Asia, the Spined Toad appears perfectly suited to coastal Queensland and could

## Changed your email address?

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

## Updated Diary Dates

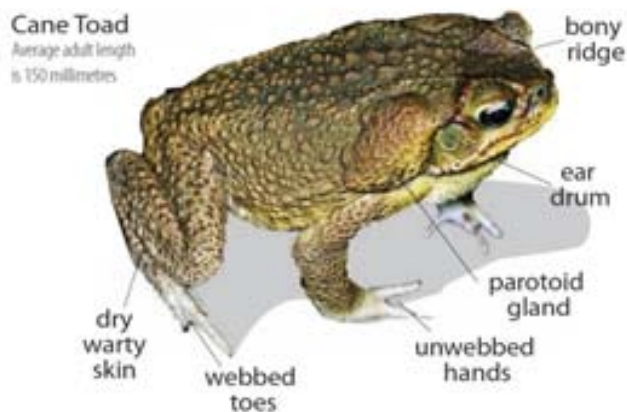
Please visit the QFS website and our Facebook page for updated and new events that arise between *Frogsheet* newsletters.

## Frogs are cool - Spread the word!

If you're a coordinator, why not set up a QFS display at a community event 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. Or you may like to help arrange a frog ID workshop which are a fantastic way to introduce your community to frogs.



become abundant here if it gets a chance. While the environmental impacts of this potentially invasive species are difficult to predict, they will be negative and will almost certainly put extra pressure on native frog populations.



## First Tropics Frogging Trip

The sky was looking good with a lot of dark, heavy low-lying cloud as we drove up the Bruce Highway during the last hour and a half before we reached Cairns. We'd had a disappointing time in Eungella and I hadn't seen any of the endemic frog species from that part of the world. I was keen to get out around Cairns that night. There was a lot of patchy rain about. Perfect for frogs.

I booked into the cabin, spent some time disinfecting my gear as not to spread any amphibian pathogens, then said goodbye to my wife and our friend who was travelling with us and headed out to Crystal cascades. The Australian lace-lid (*Litoria dayi*) was top of my list. I'd been tipped off of this location. I know they are considered an endangered species though so I didn't know how hard they would be to find. I met up with Jono on arrival, and we headed down to the creek with our head torches on. A little bit of eye shine on a rock gave a frog's location away. I went in to investi-

gate. I couldn't believe it. It was my lace-lid! I've never seen a cuter frog in my life with its petite form and oversized eye. The first frog I found in the wet tropics



Australian Lace-lid (*Litoria dayi*) Credit: B. Revell

was one of my endangered target species! We found several more individuals as we scoured over the rocks. I was hearing a different call as I was getting some photos of the lace-lids. I crossed the fast flowing creek only getting a little bit of water in my boots. I found the culprit. Another endangered frog on my target list. The common mist frog (*Litoria rheocola*). We had only been there for 15 minutes and already found two new species for me. A short tropical downpour send us scurrying for shelter to keep our camera equipment dry. We were back into it as soon as it passed. By 1AM I had totalled 12 species of frogs. 10 of which were new for me.

Staying up in the Cairns area for a week I went out every night trying to make the most of my time there. The whole trip was amazing but I'll give you some of my frogging highlights.

I had was the surprise find of the endangered waterfall frog (*Litoria nannotis*). A beautifully mottled frog that likes to live around the splash zones of waterfalls.



Waterfall Frog (*Litoria nannotis*) Credit: B. Revell

## NEW FROGS OF BRISBANE POSTER FOR SALE

Our newly revamped and expanded Frogs of Brisbane Poster is available!

This great resource is partly funded by the Brisbane City Council to whom we are most grateful.

### NEW Poster

Existing member who renews: Free poster (plus postage at \$10)

New member: Free poster (plus postage at \$10)

Additional poster to members: \$5 (plus postage at \$10) = total \$15

Non-member: \$5 (plus postage at \$10) = total \$15

### OLD Poster

Members/non-members: gold coin donation (plus postage at \$10)

Please contact our Secretary, Jenny, using the details on Page 2 to place your order, or come and say g'day at our QFS display at upcoming events and receive your poster minus shipping!



As it turned out I could find them in the same spots during the day or I would find them sleeping on wet branches overhanging the rapids. I'd have to say that these frogs have become one of my favourites.

The 3 hour drive from campsite to the summit of Mt Lewis was made worthwhile when Jono and I found the mountaintop nursery frog (*Cophixalus monticola*); an endemic species that can only be found above 1200m in altitude on Mount Lewis. What a remarkable creature. I left wondering why it has such specific requirements for habitat. I also left with a tick on the back of my head. It was also on that drive that we found the rattling nursery frog (*Cophixalus hosmeri*). One of Australia's smallest frogs. A fully grown male fit quite comfortably inside my wedding ring.



Rattling Nursery Frog (*Cophixalus hosmeri*)

Credit: B. Revell

I was lucky enough to meet a friend who had worked

on one of the last remaining sites for the critically endangered Kuranda treefrog (*Litoria myola*). He was generous enough to take me to his spot. The creek had flooded and the edges were quite treacherous. But we were encouraged to hear them calling as we got closer to the vegetation on the banks. It still took a while before my friend spotted one in the torch-light with his well trained eyes. I felt privileged to see what would be one of only a few remaining Kuranda treefrogs.

I could tell many more stories and highlights from what turned out to be the most amazing Australian road trip I have done. But it won't fit in this newsletter. We left Cairns and headed west into central Queensland before turning our sights back home to Brisbane. In total, for my whole trip I found 44 species of frogs. 28 of which were new for me. I'd have to call that a successful frogging trip!

Ben Revell

## Keep giant frogs safe in the garden

Ranger Clare Pearce | *Katherine Times* | 6 February 2017

The giant frog, *Cyclorana australis*, is a burrowing species of frog native to Australia that ranges from western Queensland right across the Top End to northern Western Australia.

These large frogs reach up to 100mm in length and can be variable in colour and patterning. Adult frogs



## NEW FROGS OF BUNDABERG AND FRASER COAST POSTER AVAILABLE

This great resource was funded by the Bundaberg Regional Council, Fraser Coast Regional Council, and the QLD Frog Society.

Existing **Bundaberg or Fraser Coast** member who renews:

Free poster (plus postage at \$10)

New **Bundaberg or Fraser Coast** member:

Free poster (plus postage at \$10)

Additional poster to **Bundaberg or Fraser Coast** members:

\$5 (plus postage at \$10) = total \$15

Non-member within **Bundaberg or Fraser Coast** region:

\$10 (plus postage at \$10) = total \$20

Please contact our Secretary, Jenny, using the details on Page 2 to place your order, or come and say g'day at QFS display in the Bundaberg or Fraser Coast region to receive your poster without postal costs!



range from grey to dull pink and green or more commonly brownish on their backs while the skin on their belly skin is white and finely grained. A dark brown streak starts from the tip of their snout and runs across their tympanum or ear and ends over their shoulder.

A similarly coloured bar runs under their eye and another runs the length of their upper jaw. The back of their thighs range from flesh-coloured to dark blue and their groin is a pale blue-green colour. Their rear toes have a small amount of webbing and front toes are free from webbing.

Giant frogs are common in and around gardens over the wet season, basking beside breeding spots or soaking in flooded areas. The males make a short 'unk' sound and can be heard calling from November through to February. Female frogs lay their eggs in clumps that will sink not long after being laid. Tadpoles are pale brown or dull grey and can get up to almost 7cm in length.

Many people get giant frogs confused with the introduced cane toad and great care must be taken when collecting toads in your garden. Cane toads have a

heavy brow ridge, warty skin and large poison-filled glands just behind their head. They are often seen sitting in an upright position and usually move with a distinctive low hop. Always make sure to identify your frogs properly as there are many like the giant frog

that can be mistaken for cane toads easily in the dark or when they are small.

There are many threats to frog populations around the world. Let's make sure that cane toad collection from around our garden is not one of them.

Brush up on your frog identification

this wet season and if you do decide to collect cane toads from around your garden please remember that like all animals cane toads feel pain and fear. Make sure you dispose of them humanely by putting them in a container in the fridge for an hour until they cool down and go to sleep and then into the freezer overnight.

Source: <http://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/4449418/keep-giant-frogs-safe-in-the-garden/>



Giant Frog

Credit: R. Francis



*Something for you...*

# Junior Frogologists

By Tim Williams, Junior Editor

## Super frogs



Did you know there are many methods frogs use to protect themselves from and fight off predators. Due to their small, weak physical nature, fighting back when attacked is rarely an option, so instead they may cleverly burrow, swell up, play dead, or use their skin colour to blend in or warn predators that they are toxic.



*Top photo:* The Reticulated Glass Frog is not only amazing for its transparency. If another male enters its territory and ignores the “chirped” warning, physical combat may ensue.

*Middle:* The Spencers Burrowing Frog (Central Australia) burrows in the earth and only emerges where there is significant water.



*Bottom:* Dart frogs are amazingly coloured and pack a powerful punch delivering enough poison to kill up to 10 adults.

***Watch out predators!***



## Snags for Dinner

Cane toads are a major threat to native wildlife, including frogs, but the “fight back” is underway. In Western Australia, Parks and Wildlife and the University of Sydney are making minced toad sausages as part of a wide-scale taste aversion conversation program. When eaten by native wildlife, the sausages cause vomiting and an aversion to the smell and taste of toads. The program aims to buffer potentially endangered species from toad poisoning and it is proving successful for quolls where 50-70% of quolls present in a population are taking the sausage and learning to avoid toads.



# Cane toad cull attempt to encourage animals to turn on each other

Amber Hooker | *News Corp Australia* | 13 February 2017

**A** canabalistic impulse has inspired a method to eradicate Queensland's most notorious pest. Cane toads, the legacy of a failed attempt to eradicate the cane beetle, have plagued Queenslanders since they were introduced in 1935.

But, The Morning Bulletin reports, the Rockhampton and Yeppoon communities could become part of a world-first attempt to fight the warty pests with its own toxins, using baits coated in a chemical released by eggs which attracts tadpoles from other hatchings.

"Cane toad tadpoles from one hatching are attracted to and feed on unhatched eggs, and we can hijack this behaviour to specifically target and capture cane toad tadpoles," University of Queensland's Institute of Molecular Bioscience professor Rob Capon explained.

Prof Capon and his team collected the toxin from adult cane toads, coated it onto air stones for controlled release, and placed these inside traps in monitored water bodies.

Greening Australia have just received their first batch of baits, and invite the locals to target public and private water bodies using these baits for the trapping of cane toad tadpoles and capture of adult cane toads.

The baits do not harm frogs and other native wildlife.



Cane toad tadpole trap with tarp on top  
Credit: Canetoadsinoz.com

Article from: [www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/cane-toad-cull-attempt-to-encourage-animals-to-turn-on-each-other/news-story/92ddb6dc2b69897929c6e204fe961913](http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/cane-toad-cull-attempt-to-encourage-animals-to-turn-on-each-other/news-story/92ddb6dc2b69897929c6e204fe961913)

Ed. note: The QFS has become an Affiliate Partner with Prof. Rob Capon's Cane Toad Challenge program and over the coming months we hope to share more details as we plan to work together to reduce cane toad tadpole populations. ■

## Rains Open Road for Toads

Peter de Kruijff | *The West Australian* | 23 February 2017

**V**olunteers fighting the relentless march of the cane toad say one of the biggest wet seasons the Kimberley has seen could give the pests' spread a boost this year.

Kimberley Toad Busters board member Gary Rethus said record-breaking rains and flooding had provided the perfect opportunity for toads to spread in river and creek systems.

"Cane toads have been known to raft on flood-induced flotsam for hundreds of kilometres," he said.

At the end of last year, the KTB said pastoral stations and other community members had reported toads downstream on the Drysdale River, in the Mornington Wilderness Park, the Carson River and the Fitzroy River.

KTB co-founder Dean Goodgame said the KTB had two unconfirmed sightings of cane toads near the Willare Roadhouse.

"Once the flooding eases in the Fitzroy the amount of water that will still be lying around will ensure the cane toad will make it to Fitzroy Crossing this wet season," he said.

The KTB says toads could make it to Kalumburu this wet season.

Department of Parks and Wildlife Kimberley regional manager Daryl Moncrieff said the toads had not yet reached Kalumburu but were around the King George River, well beyond Halls Creek and probably around Mt Barnett Station on the Gibb River Road.



"They do like to move along corridors," he said.

"We've kind of given up trying to finding a magic bullet to kill toads. Instead we're looking at preventing the effect of toads. We've got to learn to live with them before we can find that magic bullet."

The department has developed taste-aversion sausages made from cane toads to be tested ahead of the species' frontline with at-risk native species such as the northern quoll and certain monitor lizards not yet affected by the pest.

The sausages give native animals that ingest them a sick stomach to ward them off eating actual cane toads, which is often fatal.

Mr Moncrieff said if the trial of the sausages in the wild was successful, they could potentially be dropped from planes as the department does for fox baiting in the south of the state.

DPaW researcher David Pearson said the sausages would be tested in Mitchell River National Park and hopefully enough pockets of the quoll population would avoid the fate of its Queensland and Northern Territory cousins, which are now critically endangered.



Cane toad sausage

Credit: abc.net.au

To aid the cause, DPaW had a community barbecue and toad hunting night in Kununurra on Saturday. More than 50kg of toads were collected and will be turned into sausages.

The department hopes to hold more events and continue to receive toads from the community to further the project.

Source: <https://thewest.com.au/news/the-kimberley-echo/rains-open-road-for-toads-ng-b88390550z>

## 'Unofficial' Frog Camps Return 2017

Long time Member and former President, Rod, is inviting people along to go frogging on camping trips next year. Members who tag along are responsible for organising their own camp permits, gear and their own safety. The QFS is not liable for personal injury.

Once details of each upcoming camp are announced, you need to let Rod know if you're coming.

Stay tuned for further details!



## Memes

**WHEN YOU THE ONLY ONE IN THE ROOM  
THAT SEE THE ROACH.**



# Frotography

## Members Frog Photography

Send your neat frog photos to [editor@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:editor@qldfrogs.asn.au)  
or via Facebook by the next newsletter deadline.



Common Mistfrog (*Litoria rheocola*)      Credit: B. Revell



Broad-palmed Rocketfrog (*Litoria latopalmata*)      Credit: R. O'Brien

Thankyou to those who contributed to this newsletter!  
We love receiving Member & Coordinator-contributed content.  
**Deadline for Autumn *Frogsheet* contributions is  
18 May 2017**

If undelivered, please return to  
**QLD Frog Society Inc**  
**PO Box 7017**  
**East Brisbane, QLD 4169**

Frogsheet - Autumn 2017  
Print Post Approved  
PP424022/00619

**SURFACE MAIL**

**POSTAGE PAID  
AUSTRALIA**

