



FROGSHEET

Official Newsletter of the Queensland Frog Society Inc.

Spring 2013

W: www.qldfrogs.asn.au | E: questions@qldfrogs.asn.au | Camps E: frogcamps@qldfrogs.asn.au |



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(Acting) President's Report

As our president Dan is away having a fantastic time in Africa, I'm filling in for the Presidents report for this edition. Well this short bout of warmer weather makes it feel like spring is already upon us, with the frogs already starting to call. It also marks the end of the QFS year with our up-coming AGM on the **14th of September**. I'd like to thank the Committee and area coordinators for all their hard work throughout the year as well as commend Jono on the terrific job he is doing with the *Frogsheet* and as our website manager. As always, we encourage members to get involved in any way they can, and seeing fresh faces on the Committee to bring forward new ideas into the Society are most welcome. You don't need to know about frogs as there are a variety of different tasks you could get involved with depending on what your interests are and what skills you have or anything you would like to learn more about. A highlight of the AGM will be Jono's presentation on his Honours research looking at how habitat fragmentation through the urbanisation of the eastern coastal areas is affecting our unique wallum frogs. We very much look forward to hearing about the results of his study.

It has been all systems go with the Society over the past few months, the Queensland Garden Expo weekend at the Nambour Showgrounds was a great success with many interested folk visiting our display and attending the presentation - many thanks to all who were involved in flying the QFS flag! Coming up during spring months we have events ranging from frog identification workshops, including the Mooloolah Frog ID workshop to presentations on threatened frogs for Threatened Species Week (2nd – 8th September). So keep an eye out for these events if you are interested, it's a great way to meet like-minded people and learn more about our wonderful frogs!

Hope to see you at the AGM if you can make it!

Jesse Rowland

Date Claimer

Please keep 14th September 2013 free for our QFS A.G.M, 4pm.

Venue: Downfall Creek Bushland Centre,
Rode Road, McDowall QLD.

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Continued →

Diary Dates

• QFS Annual General Meeting

14th September, 4pm.
Downfall Creek Centre, Bridgeman Downs

• Working Bee at Bowman Park.

22nd September, contact Phil for times

• Green Heart Fair

13th October, 9am – 2pm.
Carindale Recreation Reserve

• Mooloolah Frog ID Workshop & BBQ Dinner

17th November, 2pm - 8:30pm.
Mooloolah Public Hall then 2 Smith Dr for BBQ and frogging. Please phone Jan on 0407 641 327 to book.

QFS Management Meetings

7:30pm, 3rd 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, Ph: 3355 4134

Carseldine Bush Crew

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

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.

TOOWOOMBA/LOCKYER

Tim Kane - Email: timmykane@hotmail.com

From Jono

Hi Fellow Froggers,
We've had some very mild Winter days for a time of year when it's meant to be much colder - but I'm certainly not complaining. It's meant a few more frogs are making an earlier appearance than they otherwise would.

We've sure got a lot happening during Spring, two main mentionables are our AGM happening on the 14th September and our ever-popular frog workshop at Mooloolah. I'm looking forward to attending what will be my first QFS AGM and await to hear what that Honours student from university has to say...

We are very thankful to those who have and continue to support our Society. Your financial contributions allow us to continue speaking out for our cool frogs through presentations, publishing of brochures and other events. We've got plenty of neat ideas and it's only through your support that we can make these reality. Your input and feedback is always welcomed so please shoot us an email or letter as we'd love to hear from you.

Cheers!

Jono Hooper

Ashgrove Report

As usual at this time of the year (except for the ever eager striped marsh's) there isn't much to report on the froggy front but that doesn't mean the Society's life has not been busy.

We had another successful attack on the rest of the Maderia vine in our Bowman Park frog habitat which has been secretly growing away from our usual working bee sites. Some of the tubers where the size of a nice sweet potato so I have bought some home and, after some research, might cook them. When I was learning about native plants I remember the convenor saying that they were called "poor man's potato" and that is why they were introduced. Next working bee is September 22 at the David Ave site.

Through our Gmail account we were contacted by a independent journalist in Childers who wanted to do an article on the reconstruction of the storm water drains at Bowman Park – an area we now call "The New Creek". Of course I was very pleased that the word of this frog habitat restoration had gone so far, so I arranged to meet Ian Gorrie there to give him some information and pictures on the history of the work. Ian travelled down by tilt train and then by bus to the park and was pleasantly pleased with what he could see and almost unbelieving that the planting was only just over 13 years old. I am hoping he will notify

Continued...

Welcome and thanks to our New Members

Brittany Elliott, Sherry Prince, England Family, Kathleen McNally, Margaret Dean, Liz Smith, Philip Wallis, Charlotte Bates, Sean Morrow & Andrea Moreland.

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 **\$5,428.06**. 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.

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.

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**.

Give a Gift Card 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 to inform the Secretary of the deposit.

me when the article goes to print and to get some feed back from him. Jenny Holdway.



Bowman Park Spoon Drain pre 1999



Bowman Park 2013

Credit: Jenny Holdway

Wonderful Gift - Central Queensland Report

Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments (FRCC) is kindly donating a brand new gazebo to our Group with the QFS logo printed on it! This gazebo is worth quite a lot of money and will be a terrific resource for our organisation. FRCC has been really supportive of the QFS in recent years and I have worked extensively with Project Officer Shelly McArdle to educate the community about local frogs and how to create frog-friendly gardens. The gazebo will be officially handed over to our Group after the FRCC's Small Landholder Day this coming Saturday 17th August. If you'd like to be present for the handover, please let me know so that I can try to arrange a time that suits you.

Bethlea Bell

Mary River Catchment Report

Greetings from the northern sector. You would think that being closer to the equator we would have warmer weather than Brisvagas and environs. However, while we can't quite compete with Stanthorpe and Warwick (and

A Great Cause.

Would You like to be part of it?

Support through Membership!

Just a gentle reminder that renewal of membership is now due and we really do appreciate your support. If recent changes to the *Frogsheet* format or anything else has caused your loss of support, please contact Jenny and let her know.

nor do we want to) we do seem to have cooler temperatures and a better reason to stay in bed a bit longer in the mornings! August this year though promised to put an end to winter and the warmth quickly perked up the amphibious world in the Mary catchment. The calling has not gone unnoticed in conversation with those who care to partake of aural observations. Most have been asking 'Is this unusual for this time of year?' or 'What's going on with the weather?'

A couple of years ago my more obsessive personality traits decided it would be fun to record all the frogs heard from my house (10 acre property) every evening that I was home for 16 months, along with weather information such as temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, rainfall etc. While this information patiently awaits analysis it was useful to scan it for frogs that were active during the winter of 2010 and compare with those recently calling. Toughest it out in the coolest months were the Beeping froglet (*Crinia parinsignifera*), Striped marshfrog (*Limnodynastes peronii*) and Emerald-spotted treefrog *Litoria peronii*. The Eastern sedgefrog (*L. fallax*) was triggered by a slight increase in temperature (presumably) in August that year.

This August the Stony-creek frogs (*L. wilcoxii*) have been making an attempt at calling during the day even though night temperatures have

again plummeted. To my surprise I caught a pair in amplexus this week; a very cold August morning, in a fyke net while carrying out fish monitoring in Skyring Creek. Not our normal catch (see pic)!



Stony-creek frogs in amplexus Credit: Eva Ford

So as August runs out it is time for me to think about and plan for the coming warm weather and frog-breeding season. As part of my role as Catchment Officer with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee I will be soon preparing a survey and monitoring plan for September to March 2014. With funding from Sunshine Coast and Gympie Councils and the Department of Transport and Main Roads I will be monitoring four long-term and six short-term sites along the Mary and its tributaries and surveying waterways from Tiaro south to Maleny for new records of frogs. I wonder what the weather will bring this time – prolonged dry, massive floods? Not sure the Mary will appreciate that again! Eva Ford

NEW Computer Desktop Frog Wallpapers!

Have you checked out our cool desktop wallpapers for you to download yet? Find them on our website under the 'Downloads' link. And of course, they feature several of Queensland's amazing frog species. Stay tuned for more wallpapers as they become available! See instructions on our website to set your wallpaper. Click this [LINK](#) to go straight there!



Great Exposure at Expo

And no, I'm not talking about that objectionable expo in Brisbane either!

The QLD Frog Society once again setup our display at the QLD Garden Expo in Nambour held during the 5-7th July. The temperature was much nicer than last year, which was probably one reason for the constant flow of people and therefore interest and conversation at our display. We had many questions on identification of frogs and toads, and how to make gardens frog friendly. On many occasions people told us they'd been searching all over the grounds for our display, almost putting a tear of joy in our eyes... One of us helping on display also secured a presentation on frogs at a garden club later in the year. Our discussions with folk were also aided by the 'Living Backyard' garden display featuring a frog pond, created by landscaper Sean Morrow who also gave a few frog presentations in a nearby tent. We spoke to almost a thousand people during the three days, some under the watchful eye of an innocent-looking GoPro camera mounted to the tent frame. We almost ran out of several free brochures and sold quite a bit of material on sale, which was great, as were the new memberships. A few people though were instructed to rinse their mouths out after seeking ways of removing striped marsh frogs from their yard.

We had a very enjoyable time and are very grateful to everyone who offered their time to chat frogs at our display - you know who you are. Was also good to have our new Sunshine Coast Coordinator, Brittany, helping on her first outing with the QFS.



QFS Display tent in the Living Backyard Credit: J. Hooper



View from above: Crowds at our display Credit: J. Hooper

Clever Frog Makes Leaf Umbrella Because Getting Rained On Is Just The Worst

Here's what to do the next time you forget to pack an umbrella

Penkdx Palme, a 27-year-old photographer from Indonesia, found this intelligent little tree frog in his neighbor's garden, SWNS reported. Palme, who took up photography just six months ago, said the frog stayed under its leaf-umbrella for an entire 30 minutes.

The 27-year-old's amphibian snapshot first gained a little exposure in May, when he posted the photographs to National Geographic's Your Shot photo community.

"Just AMAZING," commenter Kaiwalya Limaye wrote. "Who says man is the only intelligent creature?"



Credit: Penkdx Palme / Newsteam / SWNS

Rediscovered “Extinct” Frog is Not Only Alive — It’s a Living Fossil

Gemma Tarlach | Discover Magazine | 4 June, 2013

Researchers were wrong about the Hula painted frog — twice.

The frog, once classified as extinct, has survived significant habitat destruction, and new analysis has revealed it is actually a living fossil more closely related to extinct animals of the Oligocene-Pleistocene eras than to the modern genus in which it had been placed.

According to an article published today in Nature Communications, Israel’s Hula painted frog was declared extinct in 1996, after not having been observed in the wild since 1955 despite



Discoglossus nigriventer or *Latonia nigriventer*? Source: Discover Magazine

a number of attempts. But recent observations have found the species alive and well — since 2011, 11 specimens of the frog, both alive and dead, have been found in its native Hula valley, including one adult female and four juveniles.

What’s more, the rediscovered frog is getting a new spot on the family tree. When it was first described in the early 40s, the frog was given the name *Discoglossus nigriventer*. But new molecular analysis of tissue samples from six of the specimens found since 2011 place the Hula painted frog in a sister group outside the genus *Discoglossus*.

Further analysis of the frog’s skeleton using scans of four individuals (one from 1955 and the other

three from 2011) revealed certain characteristics not otherwise found in the *Discoglossus* genus and, in fact, exclusive to the genus *Latonia*, which otherwise became extinct more than 10,000 years ago.

The Hula painted frog differs from other members of *Discoglossus* in ways even discernible to the naked eye, note the study’s authors. Among other distinctive characteristics, for example, all other frogs in the *Discoglossus* genus have a white abdomen, but the Hula painted frog has a black abdomen dotted with white warts.

The researchers argue that the Hula painted frog must be reclassified as *Latonia nigriventer*

to reflect its status as the only surviving species in the *Latonia* genus. Further, the study’s authors call for more aggressive conservation of the living fossil’s only known habitat, a single pond in the

Hula Nature Reserve in Israel. Much of the reserve has been drained and its swamp habitat destroyed since the frog was first described more than 60 years ago.

Although the Hula painted frog has shown impressive survival skills, outliving not only its nearest relatives but also severe habitat destruction, the article’s authors believe reflooding and restoring the reserve’s swampy environs may be the only way to ensure the amphibian doesn’t become extinct — again, this time for real.

Australian endangered species: White-bellied Frog

Dale Roberts (Winthrop Professor at University of Western Australia) | The Conservation | 6 June, 2013

The tiny White-bellied Frog lives in the swamps of south-west Australia. Perth Zoo

The White-bellied Frog (*Geocrinia alba*) is a tiny frog from south-west Western Australia, inhabiting a range of 130km² between Margaret River and Augusta. It was only discovered in the early 1980s and described in 1989.

Male White-bellied Frogs call from small depressions in wet soils during the breeding season. These wet areas are formed by seepages in swamps. The eggs are laid in



jelly in the same place. The eggs hatch in the jelly and develop into frogs without feeding, relying instead on the yolk in their stomachs.

The White-bellied Frog is one of four *Geocrinia* species found across south-western Australia's wetter forest systems. All have similar breeding biology. Its closest relative, the Orange-bellied Frog (*Geocrinia vitellina*) lives nearby.

Status

The White-bellied Frog is variously listed at different levels. It is listed critically endangered on the IUCN Red List and under the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation, and as endangered under the federal government's EPBC Act.

Whichever way you look at it the White-bellied Frog is a species at risk. Over 70% of likely habitat has been cleared and is now unsuitable for the frogs' specific breeding needs. Its range is heavily

fragmented, and movement between populations is low or non-existent. In most of them there are fewer than 10 frogs. It is no longer found in many of the places where this species was found in the early 1980s.

Threats

The main threats to White-bellied Frogs are activities that change their habitat, particularly the delicate seepages that they rely on for breeding.

Land clearing fragments the populations of frogs. It also modifies the structure of creeks. Slow-moving creeks with seepages are turned into well-defined channels which are unsuitable for breeding. Plantations of blue-gums have a different effect.

By lowering groundwater supplies they cause breeding sites to dry up.

Illegal marijuana crops, which use the same wet soils as the frogs,



Whilst certainly realising the social media 'craze' isn't for everyone, Facebook certainly makes available many opportunities to businesses, and non-profits like ourselves. So, please 'like' us to stay up to date and spread the word about our Society between newsletters. Our website is another way to keep informed.

have also disturbed the habitat. Adding chemicals and nutrients through fertilisers disrupts the growth and development of the frogs. Other agricultural impacts come from grazing, which destroys the seepages, and vineyards, which alter water supplies through damming.

Amphibian chytrid has been found in White-bellied Frog populations, and is widespread across south-west Australia. Strangely it doesn't appear to be responsible for declines in White-bellied Frogs.



White-bellied Frog tadpoles never leave the nest
Credit: Perth Zoo

Strategy

One of the early management strategies for the White-bellied Frog was to fence off the isolated populations from livestock, allowing them to recover and maintain healthy populations.

Fire is currently excluded from land managed by the Western Australian government, but proper fire management must eventually include burn-offs. Fortunately it appears the frogs can tolerate fire. Experiments show that even if fire reduces numbers locally they do eventually recover.

Perth Zoo has successfully reared frogs. Frogs were raised from wild-collected eggs and released near Margaret River in 2010 and 2011. Nests in the wild suffer from predation and rearing frogs gives the frogs a better chance.

The Zoo has also successfully bred White-bellied Frogs in captivity, a significant achievement given their breeding requirements, and five of these frogs were released at the Margaret River site in 2012.

In 2000 the state and federal governments purchased a large area of private land where a number of frogs were found. This was a major breakthrough for managing the frogs and their habitat.

Conclusion

There is an interesting epilogue to the White-bellied Frog's tale. In the 1960s and 1970s, before the frog was discovered, large areas of its range was cleared. Paradoxically this vegetation loss may have raised the water table, creating new habitat for the frog, and artificially expanded the range.

The current decline may partly reflect loss of those new populations that arose during land clearing. It goes to show that managing this species and water is a particular challenge in a region with diverse land uses.

Frotophraphy

Members Frog Photos

Have some neat frog photos you'd like to have displayed here? Email them to editor@qldfrogs.asn.au by the next newsletter deadline (see back page).



Graceful Treefrog

Credit: Maureen Jackson

Frotophraphy

Members Frog Photos



Green Treefrog *Credit: Nadine Andersen*



Eastern Sedgefrog *Credit: Maureen Jackson*



Green & golden bellfrog *Credit: Nadine Andersen*

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter!
Deadline for Summer *Frogsheet* contributions is
21st November, 2013

If undelivered, please return to
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Frogshop ORDER FORM

ITEM	Price (QFS Member)	Price (Non-Member)	Qty	Amount Enclosed
Frogs of South-east Queensland by Greg Czechura, Published by Qld Museum. 60 species are described. A great guide for everyone.	\$ 10.95	\$ 10.95		\$
'Attracting Frogs to your Garden' by Kevin Casey All about making your garden super frog-friendly. A real must for every frog lover!	\$21.00	\$25.00		\$
'Rainforest Frogs of the Wet Tropics' by Conrad Hoskins & Jean-Marc Hero. A complete guide to the 33 species found in the World Heritage rainforest of NE Queensland.	\$22.00	\$24.00		\$
'Amazing Facts about Australian Frogs and Toads' by Queensland Museum & Steve Parish. This book provides readers of all ages with an expert overview of Aust. Amphibians. Each page carries small easy to read blocks of text with vivid images.	\$23.90	\$25.90		\$
QFS Poster – 'Frogs of Brisbane' A colourful poster with life-size photographs of all frogs in the Brisbane area. Good for visual identification.	\$6.00 postage cost	\$14.50		\$
CD's - 'Australian Frog Calls' by David Stewart (please tick) <input type="checkbox"/> CD One – Sub-tropical East: 70 species between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Shoalhaven River. <input type="checkbox"/> CD Two – Tropical North-east: 67 species between the Tropic of Capricorn and Cape York Peninsula	\$24.95	\$29.95		\$
QFS T-shirt – Sizes: (please circle) Please place a tick beside your choice of shirt. <input type="checkbox"/> Cream shirt with large green logo on front S, L, XL <input type="checkbox"/> Bottle green with bright green logo on front S, M, L, XL	\$19.00	\$22.00	1	
QFS Polo Shirt – Sizes: (please circle) Cream shirt with green logo on upper left L , Dark Green with logo on upper left (65% cotton) S	\$22.00	\$25.00		\$
NEW T SHIRT – 'Frogs with Attitude' Sizes: S L Grey with rusty red frog drawings front and back	\$22.00	\$25.00		\$
Individual Membership New/Renewal (please circle)	\$15.00	\$15.00	1	\$
Family Membership New/Renewal (please circle)	\$15.00	\$15.00		\$
Junior Membership (to 17yrs) New/Renewal (please circle)	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.50		\$
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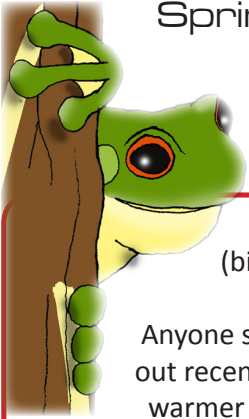
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NB: Postage is included in the price.

Please make cheques payable to

**Queensland Frog Society Inc
PO Box 7017**

EAST BRISBANE QLD 4169



Hey Kids
(big and small)!,

Anyone seen any frogs out recently due to the warmer weather? I've certainly enjoyed it.

Sharpen your pencils or uncap your pens and show us your coloured transformation of the frog in our logo. Or if you're really cluey, give it a go colouring in on the computer!

Have a look at the answers at the bottom of the page to last edition's questions too.

Cheers,

Jono Hooper

Did you know?

Not all frogs are green. Some are brown, grey, orange, yellow, white, dark red and even sometimes blue. Not all green frogs are called the green treefrog too. Some smaller green frogs are eastern sedgefrogs whilst others are called graceful treefrogs.

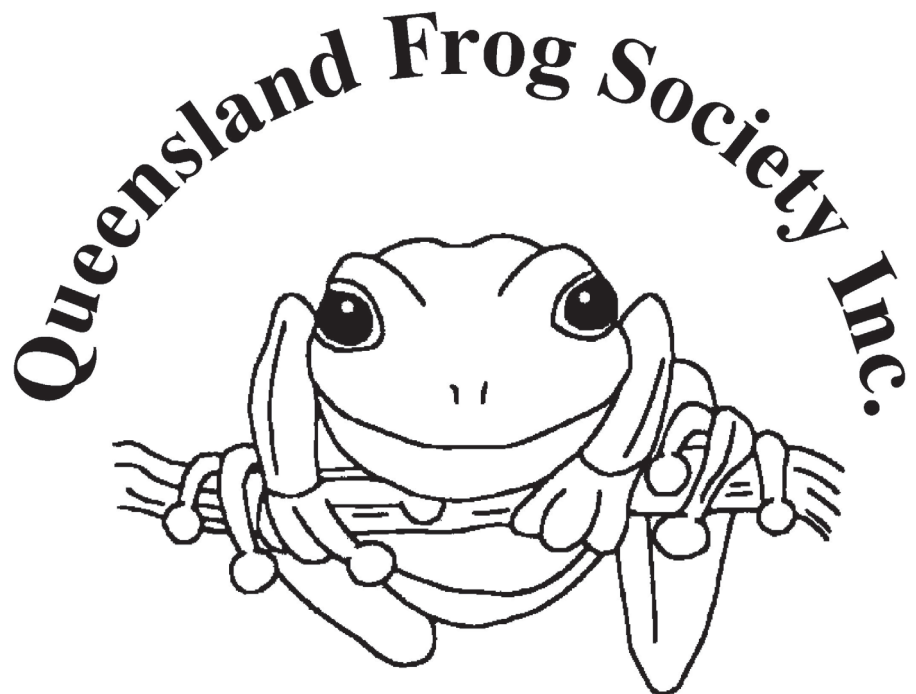
Got ideas?

If you have any activity ideas you'd like to see on the *FrogFun* page, please flick an email to me at jono_editor@qldfrogs.asn.au

FrogFun

"Colour Me - I'm feeling a bit off-colour"

What colours and designs can you come up with? We'd love to see them! Prizes will be awarded if we receive a particularly stunning entry. See our postal address on the front page of the *Frogsheet*, or email to my address at the bottom of this page.



Answers from Winter *FrogFun* Edition:

- Q1. How many species of frogs have now been identified in Australia?
C: 238
- Q2. What is the name of the latest Australian frog species to have been identified?
B: *Litoria kroombitensis*
- Q3. The State of Queensland has the most frog species than any other state or territory in Australia?
True
- Q4. What is the short name of the disease that has caused lots of frog deaths around the world?
C: *Chytrid fungus*
- Q5. Which is Australia's largest frog?
C: Giant Barred Frog