



FROGSHEET

Official Newsletter of the Queensland Frog Society Inc.

Spring 2015

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You're invited to the AGM!

**10am, 10th October 2015
at Downfall Creek
Environment Centre**

Election of new Committee,
Presentation by 2015
Research Grant recipient
David Benfer on Australian
Marsupial Frogs,
followed by lunch at
Stafford Tavern
(please RSVP to the Secretary)

Welcome and thanks to our New Members

Jasper Chong, Griffin Chong, Sandra
Tuszynska, Suzanne Norman, Peter
Crew and Len Watson.

Presidential Business...

Spring is here! And so are the calls of the Cascade Treefrogs (*Litoria pearsoniana*), Tusked Frogs (*Adelotus brevis*) and the Emerald-spotted Treefrog (*Litoria peronii*) to name a few. I have been trying to get out now whilst there is still water around before the El Nino sets in and dries up many of the breeding grounds for our frogs. In fact I'm wishing I was out side now instead of in front of my laptop. Ah well, the sacrifices one makes for the Society - pretty small in the scheme of things.

Our display at the QLD Garden Expo was well received, especially with the launch of our new and practical Cane Toad ID brochure, 'Be Toadally Sure'. A lot of work and Committee and expert input went into creating this resource, as we wanted it to achieve more than the existing brochures do. Without confusing the reader, the inside of the brochure simply points out each feature of a Cane Toad, forming a kind of 'check list' people can use when determining if they have a frog or toad they are identifying. This is aided by a large image of a Cane Toad. The outside of the brochure provides help on how to identify Cane Toad tapoles and young juvenile toads, and a summary of Cane Toads in Australia thus far, and an effective and humane control method to use. Check out our website to see the complete brochure!



Lastly I want to thank the outgoing Committee for serving the Society over the last year. I have genuinely enjoyed working with you all during this time and really appreciate the roles you perform in the Committee. Thankyou to Janece for fulfilling your role as Treasurer for at least as long as I've been involved with the QFS and I hope whoever steps up to this role in October can keep track of everything as well as you have done. Thankyou too Melissa; your role as Vice-President has been short but I did appreciate your input and enthusiasm for frogs and getting out to your restored property to check out the frog fauna!

I look forward to seeing as many of you who can make it to our AGM on the 10th October!

Cheers, *Jono Hooper*



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Brisbane City Council



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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 **\$4,769.26** (+ \$59.49 since Winter Edition)



Coming Up

QFS Annual General Meeting (AGM)

10th October, 2015
10am at Downfall Creek
Environment Centre, Rode Road
Bridgeman Downs

Mooloolah Valley Frog ID Workshop

15th November, 2015
2 – 8 pm. Phone Jan on 5494 5074 to book -
bookings are essential!

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
Contact James Hansen for more info at
jamna@powerup.com.au.

Working bees in frog habitat

If you are undertaking bush-care in
frog habitat and would like your work-
ing bee dates included above, please
email Jono at editor@qldfrogs.asn.au

Ashgrove Report

The August working bee at Bowman Park was cancelled due to our leader Phil falling prey to the flu but Janet, Mangan and I decided to do 2 to 3 hours there so the weeds could be thinned out before the (hopeful) spring showers. We managed to fill a large orange bag full of mainly *Dyschoriste depressa* seedlings and regrowth. Hopefully in time we will get rid of this terrible weed but it is a bit of a battle. Next working bee will be 4th October.

At home I am relining my larger pond as there is a leak somewhere. I can't complain though as the liner, which wasn't cheap, has lasted about 20 years. I am hoping that the rain gods will be watching and bring on some rain to then fill up the pond.

I have also been busy with our displays in Nambour – great as usual, and at the SGAP Flower Show.

Hope to see some of you at the AGM.

Cheers,

Jenny Holdway ■

Bundaberg Report

Today fellow frogaholics,
I have had my hands full recently with an expected (but very early) clutch of captive red-eyed tree frog (*Litoria chloris*) tadpoles. My male red-eyed tree frog started calling and amplexing one of the females one night in mid-August, and remained in amplexus for the next 24 hours or so. The following night we just happened to have a small storm here in Bundaberg, and this seemed to trigger egg-laying as when I woke up the following morning, I found over a thousand eggs in the water at the bottom of the enclosure. I am now busy caring for the offspring, until metamorphosis which should occur towards the end of September!

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.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to promote National Frog Week; a national awareness week to promote frog conservation and education in the first week of November. This year, NFW falls on Sunday 1 November to Saturday 7 November, 2015. National Frog Week (NFW) has been around since 1993, but in recent years has fallen by the wayside a bit. I have been canvassing many of the zoos, frog societies, rangers and scientists across the country to garner support for NFW and virtually everyone I have spoken to has provided me with their support in writing, even going so far as to offer their expertise with putting together a downloadable Frog Week Kit. I have even had my Grade 3 teacher offer to put together a kids activity book especially for Frog Week! Please mark NFW on your calendars, and if you are planning to hold an event, conduct a talk in a classroom, hold a workshop or have any news or resources regarding Australian frog conservation, please join the Facebook group I have created as a point of communication, ideas, resources and promotion for National Frog Week. The group is called National Frog Week Australia (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/801229443280759/>).

I'm also in the preliminary stages of putting together a local frog species poster for the Bundaberg/Wide Bay region with our local council potentially providing some of the funding. I hope to have this poster available for National Frog Week. I have some other ideas that I

am still working on, possibly looking at holding a frog identification workshop in Bundaberg



Naked Treefrog (*Litoria rubella*),
Woodgate, QLD Credit: D. Flack

during National Frog Week but I am still working on the details.

David Flack ■

SGAP Flower Show Display

This year QFS teamed up with the Pine Rivers branch of the SGAP at the Toowong Botanical

Gardens Auditorium and we were very lucky to have the use of these long display boards to place our very informative posters on. Bethlea Bell, our co-ordinator in Rockhampton, also sent posters and information on Central Queensland frogs which were placed on the other side allowing all of them to be viewed by visitors.

Pine Rivers made a frog friendly garden with a pond which encouraged many questions on how to attract frogs to



the garden and gave us the opportunity to foster an interest in our native amphibians. We were also able to give advice on plants suitable for ponds and gardens as the SGAP growers had many to choose from.

Nearly \$40 was placed in our donation bin, Fred, which will help the balance of the Trust Fund as well as sales of books, poster and CD which helps the Society. The "Be Toadally Sure" brochure was quite a hit so hopefully the public won't be collecting native frogs thinking they are juvenile cane toads.

Thank you to SGAP (now named Native Plants Queensland) for again inviting QFS to be part of their wonderful week-end.

Jenny ■

Getting down the Obi

Mary River Report

My first experience of Obi Obi Creek was doing a fantastic lilo ride from someone's farm around Maleny to where Skene Creek joins. My mates and I had such a thrilling day that we got more mates together a week later to show them what it was like. That event lasted about 50 metres before lilos were in tatters. The first party had lucked it – such is the fickle way of waterways and teenagers!

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!



Who would have thought that a few decades later I would again be visiting the Obi, this time discovering its human and animal inhabitants? Things have changed for the Obi since my first encounter; a large 'lake' now sits where our lilos once passed, farms have been split into smaller blocks, more people live in and frequent the towns within its catchment area. I can't say I had my environmental eyes on during the early 1980s so I can't tell you whether the vegetation or stream habitat values are different. Stream flows are of course altered due to the presence of Baroon Pocket Dam; minor floods don't always make it downstream and flows are more consistent due to environmental releases from the dam.

Early on in my role as Catchment Officer with the MRCCC, I set about seeing what could be found of the amphibious fauna in the Obi catchment. From 2003 to 2012 several surveys were conducted between Maleny and the Coolabine area on willing landholder's properties which appeared to have riparian vegetation with reasonable habitat



Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*)

Credit: E. Ford

values for the Giant barred frog; an endangered species and one of the target species of the Mary River Threatened Aquatic Species Recovery Plan (in draft). Puzzlingly, this species could not be found while several others (17 in fact) were making Obi their home.

Then in late 2012, Barung Landcare commissioned us to help set up a community monitoring program for the Maleny Community Precinct which involved doing some preliminary frog surveys along the Obi. And there they were! Not many of them, but males, females and juveniles were present. More surveys since, on foot and with the aid of acoustic monitors that could be left out for a few weeks, have expanded the current range of this beautiful, indicator species to a several kilometres downstream of Maleny.

So why are they not found along the whole length of the Obi? We assume they once were. The lake is not suitable habitat for a species that requires closed canopy over slow, deep pools with stable banks and



Highly disturbed section of the Obi

Credit: E. Ford

abundant leaf-litter. Upstream of Maleny the riparian vegetation is

not continuous; fragmented we call it. This creates long stretches of open country with little or no refuge for a large, ground-dwelling frog. Downstream of the dam the riparian vegetation mostly looks good until we get to the floodplain. Here there are many kilometres of weed trees and shrubs such as Broad-leafed and Small-leafed privets and Camphor laurel, often in narrow strips of only a few metres from the water. The density of these weeds indicates a system that has been extensively disturbed in the past. In more recent times we see an increasing infestation of Madeira vine; a destructive plant that smothers and kills trees.

So what to do? The MRCCC, Barung Landcare and the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group have excellent working relationships with many landholders along the length of the Obi who are protecting and restoring the riparian vegetation. This is the best foundation for recovery of the frog and our other threatened aquatic species that still manage to hold on in the Obi; the Mary River cod, Mary River turtle and Australian lungfish. However, we need to consider ways to return the Giant barred frog to places where they once lived and bred. One way is to aid natural dispersal up- and downstream from their current stronghold at Maleny through regeneration and revegetation of open and thin sections. It may work for the upstream reaches if connectivity is restored however, Lake Baroon to this species is as much a barrier as a desert is to us. Are relocations an option to consider? This requires discussion with experts and approvals, and would only work if there were a suitable source of frogs/tadpoles and if a large enough area of suitable habitat was available that could support populations and breeding. Further surveys particularly downstream of the dam, assessment and mapping of the extent of suitable habitat for the Giant barred frog are essential while we continue the momentum of habitat protection and expansion with landholders.

Eva Ford ■

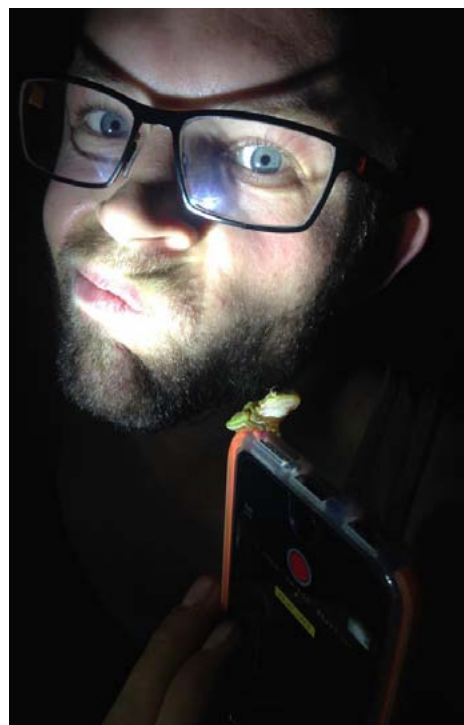
Jumping at the chance

Member Contributed

October last year I had bought a copy of the field guide to the wildlife of greater Brisbane by the QLD Museum. I made it my goal that I would attempt to find every animal in it. Always having a fascination with frogs I decided to start with them. Because how hard could frogs be to find? they sit on rocks and in trees and they are large and green

and sit in plain sight on my in-laws fence. Of course I knew there were more than just green tree frogs and I knew many of them were small and brown. But still. Shouldn't be too hard right? What I wasn't prepared for is the quantity we are blessed to have in SE QLD. There are 40 described species in the field guide (excluding cane toads and two species thought to be extinct). But I was hardly going to let the number slow me down.

It just so happened, the day after I bought the book a Spring storm blew in dumping heavy rain all over the countryside. Perfect. It had passed over late afternoon and was on its way out to sea by nightfall. Not knowing a whole lot about habitats I thought I would try a local waterfall on Mt Glorious I knew of. I rang my attractive friend Jeremy who I met in 2007 on a trip to Africa, he moved to Brisbane from Victoria. He is 24, and single for any young ladies out there who may be reading this. Jeremy enjoys a good photographing challenge and runs a small business doing wedding photography. He thought my proposal was unusual but neverthe-



Jeremy posing with a Cascade Treefrog perched on his phone

Credit: B. Revell

less he was keen for the adventure. While I was at his house I received a message from another friend Clare. I thought why not ask, not expecting her to be keen for a frog hunt expedition on a mountain in the forest, at night time on the slippery rocks. Clare replies "this is the best thing I've ever heard! pick me up on your way out!" And so we did.

After stopping for some lightning photos we drove to our waterfall. As soon as we got out of the car we could hear the chorus of frog voices drowning out the sound of the rushing water coming from below. They

were making quite a ruckus. We carefully navigated the slippery slope down to the falls and immediately were confronted with many bright green frog bodies all over the rocks. They were smaller than normal green tree frogs and they enjoyed leaping onto our

legs and trying to scramble up our shorts. It was an effort to stop them. We later identified them as



Southern orange-eyed Treefrog (*Litoria chloris*)
Credit: B. Revell

South-ern Orange eyed tree frogs (*Litoria chloris*). Also we found many male Stony creek frogs (*Litoria wilcoxii*) along with one large brown female I erroneously identified as a broad palmed rocket frog. It took me several weeks to correct that rookie mistake. And we found a few small frogs I couldn't identify immediately but, with the help of some connections with frog hobbyists I made over the next couple of days I found out they were cascade tree frogs (*Litoria pearsoniana*), which I was excited to find out was a near threatened species.

I was hooked on frogging from that day on. Jeremy hasn't come frogging again saying of the night "a frog is a frog" (which we all know how wrong he is, and this may cause any eligible young lady to see him as less suitable after my earlier wingman attempt), but my friend Clare has been a regular frogging companion. When she looks back on the night of our first frogging adventure she says, "when Ben first invited me along to find frogs I was more interested in being out under the stars and breathing in the crisp night air. But that night I realised that finding frogs is like uncovering clues to a never-ending mystery that you don't want to solve. When you lay eyes on a new species for the very first time you feel a rush and a sense that you have discovered something magical! It's definitely an addiction!"

Nearly one year on I have found twenty seven of the forty described species in the field guide, and two

outside of the Brisbane region that are not counted in the book. It has become a fascinating, educational hobby and a great way to make friends doing a friendly and fun activity together.

Ben Revell

Developers build a frog crossing at new housing estate west of Melbourne

Emily Power | *Domain.com.au* | 11th June, 2015

Is there a light at the end of the tunnel for the Growling Grass Frog?

Of all the facilities you'd expect at a new housing project, a tunnel for frogs to cross the road would be last – if at all – on the list.

But an endangered species of warty frog will have its own underground passage at an estate in Melbourne's west.

Two developers commissioned an eco study into the Growling Grass Frog around Tarneit, about 30 kilometres from the city.

After the re-search found no Growling



Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*)
Credit: Meuseum Victoria

Grass Frogs in the area, one the developers – of The Grove estate – decided to build a long, thin pipe under an intersection, to encourage the frogs to return to local waterways.

The developers hope the tunnels will prevent the critters from getting squished by cars on their pilgrimage back to a habitat at Davis Creek, via the Werribee River.

The frog tunnel is part of the first stage of Stockland's construction of The Grove – along with amenities for humans.

Developers are conscious of what people like in a new home, such as natural light, and it seems Kermit is

keen on the same.

A 100-metre-long pipe will carry water from one side of a major intersection to the other within The Grove, at Davis and Sayers Roads.

Stockland senior development manager Callan Ainsaar said the crossing was too far and dangerous for the frogs.

“So we have come up with two sets of tunnels with light wells, designed to cater for frog movements,” he said. “We’ve put in the light wells because frogs don’t like long, dark passages.”

Developers in Victoria are required to find ways to improve or protect the habitats of Growling Grass Frogs, which will help boost their numbers.

The frog is one of three threatened species protected by the state government’s biodiversity conservation strategy, which covers Melbourne’s four urban growth corridors.

The others are the Golden Sun Moth and the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

The Growling Grass Frog was long used by universities and schools for dissections, and for feeding snakes at the zoo, which contributed to a drop in its numbers.

The Grove will have 2500 blocks of land plus 54 hectares of parklands and recreational areas, and is expected to be home to about 6000 residents when completed.

Source: <http://www.domain.com.au/news/developers-build-a-frog-crossing-at-new-housing-estate-west-of-melbourne-20150611-ghlfpw/>. ■

Cane toad malformations recorded in Rockhampton

Jacquie Mackay | *ABC Capricornia* | 25th August, 2015

Bethlea Bell is passionate in her love for the environment and especially frogs where she’s a well known member of the Queensland Frog Society.

So when it came to doing a research project for her Bachelor of Environmental Science degree it was a good fit to look at the level of abnormalities in cane toads in the Rockhampton urban area as an indicator of environmental health.

What she found was levels of over 8% of the cane

toads in the four sites she surveyed had abnormalities, about 8 times higher than what you would expect.

Bethlea spoke with me earlier about her research, which follows on from a similar study conducted by her supervisor Dr Scott Wilson in the Gladstone region



Figure 4: An adult cane toad with two digits missing from the right forelimb.



Figure 5: Metamorph with the right arm still under the skin, although the left arm is fully exposed. Ventral view at left and dorsal view at right.

a few years ago.

Listen to the interview here http://blogs.abc.net.au/queensland/2015/08/cane-toad-malformations-recorded-in-rockhampton.html?site=capricornia&program=capricornia_breakfast ■

Frog in the pond: Removing frogs from tropical toilets is dry season’s ‘philosophical dilemma’

Emilia Terzon | *ABC News* | 28th August, 2015

Every year, as clouds disappear from the sky and front lawns turn brown, tropical frogs seek solace in a cool and wet place.

Unfortunately, sometimes this means a toilet.

“It’s the philosophical dilemma of the dry season,” said Graeme Sawyer from conservationist group, Frog-watch, on 105.7 ABC Darwin.

“What do you do with frogs in the toilet?”

Read the full story for helpful advice at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-25/frog-in-the-pond-removing-frogs-from-tropical-toilets/6722636> ■



Something for you...

Junior Frogologists

By Tim Williams, Junior Editor

Bon appétit



Can you believe **frogs use their eyes to help them swallow food**? When a frog blinks, its eyeballs are pushed downwards, creating a bulge in the roof of its mouth. The bulge squeezes the food and pushes it towards the back of its throat.



When Darwin's Frog tadpoles hatch, **the male swallows the tadpoles**. He keeps the tiny amphibians in his vocal sack for about 60 days, until he coughs them up as fully grown froglets.



Most **frogs have teeth**, although usually only on their upper jaw. The teeth are used to hold prey until the frog can swallow it.



A frog completely sheds **its skin about once a week**. After it pulls off the old dead skin, it usually eats it. Urgghh!

Frogs Word Search

S	T	Y	J	K	A	H	P	W	I	I	C	Z	B	T
G	N	A	E	H	T	T	M	A	G	R	N	U	T	U
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amphibians
bullfrog
croak
egg
frog
gills
goliath
jump

jungle
legs
leopard
metamorphosis
pond
tadpole
tree



Later dudes...



Frotophraphy

Members Frog Photography

Send your neat frog photos to editor@qldfrogs.asn.au
or via Facebook by the next newsletter deadline.



Eastern Sedgefrog (*Litoria fallax*)

Credit: E. Smith



Cascade Treefrog (*Litoria pearsoniana*)

Credit: J. Hooper

Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter!
Don't hesitate in contributing to the next edition.
**Deadline for Summer *Frogsheet* contributions is
12th November 2015**

If undelivered, please return to
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