

FROGSHEET

Official Newsletter of the Queensland Frog Society Inc.

Spring 2016

Web: www.qldfrogs.asn.au | Questions Email: questions@qldfrogs.asn.au |



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President's Business

have recently been reading many of the archived *Frogsheet* newsletters available on our website, and had a thrilling read of the many events, camps, coordinator reports and slightly animated President Reports from past presidents. One thing was clear; the QLD Frog Society of years gone by was a very active, exciting and enthusiastic group - all with the welfare of frogs at the top of their priority! We owe it to past presidents (Ric and Rod to name a few), committies and members for speaking up for frogs during the 1990s and 2000s and regularly engaging members on fun outings and frog surveys to learn about our important frog fauna.

Annual General Meeting
10am - 8 October, 2016
Karawatha Environmental
Centre
Followed by lunch from
12:15pm at the Diggers Services
Club. RSVP to Jenny - Page 2

Fast forward to 2015-16 and I would like to again thank our outgoing Committee for their work since our last AGM. Jenny has been very busy again as Secretary and supporting me in my role as President, particularly as we both transition to renewing memberships online. I also thank Ben and Dan for their assistance and involvement in initiating some new ideas. I thank Len too, for putting his hand up as Treasurer following our last AGM, and Jennifer too for her hard work since June as Len had to vecate the position early. Our next AGM is on 8 October at 10am at the Karawatha Environment Centre where we have several special guests speaking to us including Dr Rob Capon of the University of Queensland speaking on the successful cane toad tadpole traps he has developed. This will be followed by a short presentation by Harry Hines and Ed Meyer on the frogs of Karawatha Forst. I am very excited to hear all these experts share with us! Following the AGM, please join us for lunch at the Diggers Services Club, 42-48 Blackwood Rd Logan Central. Make sure you RSVP though (details to the left)!

Welcome and thanks to our New Members

Emma Kinnon, Stacey McLean, Michael Smith, Carl & Lorraine Jacobs, Rahima Farnham, Susan Blake, Tegan Berger, Karlina Indraswari, Vanessa Moscato, Astrid Stroessinger, Lisa Foo, and Simone Pfuhl

Unfortunately I have not been out frogging too much recently, however the last three months have been very busy as we transitioned to a new membership structure whilst also giving members the option to renew their membership details via our exclusive member area on our website. I thank you all for your patience whilst this method was ironed out, and for those who still cannot access this area with their username and membership number (password), please contact me to resolve lingering issues. In amongst all this I also joined several members at our displays at the QLD Garden Expo and CREEC Expo at Burpengary where several new members signed up and a good time was had.

Have a laugh (or cringe)

What goes dot-dot-croak, dot-dash-croak?

Morse toad

What's green and red?

A very mad frog.

Why did the frog go to the hospital?

He needed a hopperation.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM in October!

Cheers,



Executive Committee

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Jenny Holdway

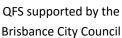
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Thanks to QWaLC for our free insurance

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 \$5,412.05 (+ \$129.1 since Winter Edition)



Area Coordinators

ASHGROVE

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Coming Up

IndigiScapes Bushcare Family Day Out, Capalaba

11 September 2016. Frog pond workshop.

S.G.A.P. Spring Flower Show. Toowong Botanical Gardens

17-18 September 2016. Frog display.

QFS Annual General Meeting, Karawatha Environment Centre

10AM, 8 October 2016. Great speaker lineup!

QFS Management Meetings

Every three months at 12pm Sunday, Caboolture BP south-bound rest stop. Our next meeting is in September. All welcome! Phone/email Jenny to register your attendance and to confirm which side

Frog Habitat Site Working Bees

of the highway we will meet.

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 working bee dates included above, please email Jono at editor@qldfrogs.asn.au

Ashgrove Report

inter is always a very busy time for me with renewals coming in and it is also the time when other organisation invite QFS to be at their day with the display - and this year has not been any different.

In June, BCC held a "Feast with the Beasts" Neighbourhood Day with groups putting up their display around the centre of Alderley which was very well attended.

July was the Queensland Garden Expo in Nambour which is run over three days. Again the Sunshine Coast Council helped out with a marquee and a good position and all of us who manned the display were kept quite busy.

Peaks to Points Festival at Oxley was also in July and Julia and I had the QFS display there too. Again that was a well attended day and we spoke to many on the advantages of making their gardens Frog Friendly as well identifying the frogs that they have in their gardens and surrounding areas.

August was the CREEC Expo at Burpengary of which we had beautiful weather! We also met some environmental officers from Moreton Bay Regional Council who were very keen on frogs - watch this space!

I have also given talks to school classes during this time and I have been to one of the smallest schools to the largest. At Mt Nebo State School I spoke to 20 prep to Year 2's students and they were very interested to hear about frogs that live in the mountain areas. Sheldon College have 100 Year 2's which were split up into two groups and I talked about the lifecycles of frogs and found them to be very knowledgeable.

The working bees at Bowman Park have been well attended and at this time we are concentrating on the removal of nasty weeds such at 'cat's claw' and 'Madeira vine'. As we remove patches of these and other weeds we fill the spaces with Lomandras, Dianellas, gingers

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.

and other small plants. The birdwing butterfly vines which are being planted through the taller trees are starting to settle in and hopefully there will be some good rain this summer to keep them going.

Jenny Holdway



Mary River Catchment Report: English Encounters

ollowing on from my winter edition news from above the equator, I am happy to say that I have at last enjoyed an encounter with a Natterjack toad *Epidalea* [Bufo] *calamita* (endangered) here in England. I was in the wrong place for sighting this species in Ireland as they are very isolated in the Kerry area, where they occur naturally and have been reintroduced. However, just yesterday (as I write) I went to help clear Broom and Blackberries (argh!) from around artificial breeding ponds for Natterjacks on the edge of Poole Harbour (middle south coast) where we found one sheltering under a slab of concrete. As you can see from the images, these pools are shallow and reflect the toads' use of temporary waters for breeding.



Breeding occurs between April and in warm, shallow pools in sand dunes and on sandy heaths. This area as you can see is highly managed farmland and this land use as well as forestry, expanding housing areas and the proliferation of said invasive native flora has brought about the loss of suitable habitat across the country. Like their adorable relative (!), Rhinella marina, they lay thousands of eggs in long strings. I was told that the eggs are heavily predated on by newts (next on my list!) so these are discouraged from the ponds. Other foes are predatory invertebrates that eat the eggs (Mayfly and Dragonfly nymphs especially) so aquatic plants and detritus are also excluded; an algae biofilm is allowed as the tadpoles have to eat something! I was surprised at the concrete of the ponds

however, in this sandy environment this essential to keep water around long enough for breeding and development.

Their distribution is restricted to Western Europe and isolated sites across the UK and Ireland. The site we worked had received translocated eggs and raised toadlets from a UK site back in the 1990s with great success over two seasons. This program was initiated by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust and approved by Natural England. There are many other translocation sites around England and Scotland and around 60 natural and translocation sites across the UK are monitored for population levels and breeding activity. This work depends on the coordination of the interest and good will of landholders and volunteers, so some of the sites are monitored very often and others very infrequently.

Of the three ponds at the site we worked on only one had successful breeding this season, and it was the most 'open' one. Some cover is provided by the pipes and concrete 'plates' under which the toads burrow into the sand during the day. In the fields rabbits leave their mark with burrows scattered around and the toads utilise these burrows for winter hibernation. Quite in contrast to conservation actions back in SEQ, heavy grazing and rabbits are strongly encouraged here!



Being a toad, this species 'walks/runs' and can't navigate obstacles easily. Recent movement studies have revealed that, when encountering 'viscous' surfaces of the kind created by forests, the toads are deterred from their trajectory decreasing the likelihood of them reaching an area suitable for breeding. Therefore our job was to make the approach to the ponds as much like a golf course as possible! The staff of ARC and diligent volunteers (human and bovine) will do their best to keep it that way in the future.

Eva Ford



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!



Find a Frog in February is a-go!

ebruary 2017 is set to be a month full of frog hunting fun for the residents of the Mary River catchment and adjacent coastal catchments as funding applications submitted to local councils and regional group by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) are accepted for support provision. The MRCCC is thrilled that the Burnett Mary Regional Group, Gympie Regional Council and Noosa Shire Council have all provided funding that will share in the development of material and delivery of the new citizen science program set to start next year. We now wait on the decision of the Sunshine Coast Council, and we are very hopeful. This will be the first time that we have been able to target the entire catchment and the coastal drainage systems that flow into the Great Sandy Strait with one of our programs, and the potential is huge for gathering new and exciting information about the distribution of frog fauna in this area. The MRCCC is hugely grateful for the support of so many partners including QFS, local Landcare and catchment care groups across the catchment (Noosa, Barung, Lake Baroon, Gympie), Harry Hines, WPSQ Hervey Bay; all of whom have helped to get us where we are with this program. February is set to be a busy month, not only for frog searchers but for MRCCC staff who will have the joy of receiving and processing

Eva Ford



many new records:)

Cane toad fight: Dry stretch may form natural barrier to stop incursion from north

Erin Parke | ABC News | 4 September 2016

handful of remote cattle stations could hold the key to stopping cane toads in their tracks in northern Western Australia, scientists say.

A team from the University of Melbourne has proposed a "waterless barrier" be created south of Broome, where the Great Sandy Desert comes within 80 kilometres of the coast, creating a natural bottleneck.

"We think we can stop the spread of toads here, by blocking access to about 100 dams in the region," researcher Darren Southwell said.

"We are really making the most of this landscape feature, where the Great Sandy Desert almost reaches the coast, so the cane toads really have to squeeze through this narrow bottle neck or choke point to reach the Pilbara and then continue spreading into Western Australia."

Since 2009, the cane toad frontline has been moving across WA's Kimberley region at a rate of around 50 kilometres per year.

Their westward expansion has been helped by the East Kimberley's plentiful river systems, and wet season rains.

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!



It is thought they could eventually get halfway down the WA coast, before the climate gets too cold, but to do so, they would have to navigate a relatively dry coastal corridor between Broome and Port Hedland.



"The length of the corridor is about 600 or 700 kilometres, and our model predicts that we can stop the spread of the toads by creating a waterless barrier around 80 kilometres long," he said.

"The idea would be to replace existing dams, by replacing them with leak-proof tanks, so we don't have surface water sitting out in the open."

The research has done two sets of fieldwork, mapping the existing dams, and talking to pastoralists about options for sealing them off.

Mr Southwell said the strategy was cost-effective, and one of the few left available to control the pests' spread.

They estimate it will cost a total of \$4 million to \$5 million over 50 years to create a workable barrier.

Development of north could hinder strategy

But not all are convinced the plan would work.

Corrin Everitt oversees WA's cane toad strategy for the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Ms Everitt said things are likely to change in the area in coming years, with increasing pastoral diversification and irrigated agriculture.

"I think we need to be mindful of what the future is in that area, in terms of agriculture and pastoralism, before we start investing a lot of money in something that looks good and sounds awesome," she said.

"I mean, everyone wants to stop toads, but I think we have to be cautious in terms of how much money we spend on something that may not be a forever thing.

"We just have to be careful, because that area is likely to change, and there will be diversification and cropping in that area, so it's not always going to be water-free."

Pastoralists appear open to the idea of a waterless barrier, but point out its hard to control the storm water that puddles and pools during the wet season.

Janice Bell, who runs Thangoo Station, was one of those consulted by the University of Melbourne team.

Final Reminder to Renew Memberships

Memberships expired on 1st July 2016 and we're very thankful to many of our members for continuing your support for the society. With your financial support and involvement we're able to more for our frogs!

If you're yet to renew, please don't delay any longer. Simply go to

www.qldfrogs.asn.au/membership-renewal/ and login with your username and password (member no.) included in all emails from us and pay by direct deposit, or fill in and send back your membership form you received by mail.

Please email all questions to

secretary @ qldfrogs.asn.au or phone 3366 1868.

Missing Renewal Details

We received a renewal on the 13 July 2016 from North Rockhampton but without a name referenced on the deposit.

If you made a renewal from this area around July, please contact Jenny on 07 3366 1868 or email

secretary @ qldfrogs.asn.au. Thankyou.

"I

think it's probably the most feasible way to stop them coming down the coast there, considering where they're coming from ... to do this stretch between Broome and Port Hedland would be one of the toughest stretches that I know of, for the cane toads to travel through," she said.

"I think the stations will be thinking about who's going to fund it, but as people who care about the land and about nature, it's certainly worth the effort to consult the pastoralists and see where industry can help out.

"In the wet season, you do have the billabongs which last up until about May at the latest, so that's a possibility that the cane toads could move into those, but they're usually dried up by November or December or whenever the rains come in."

Source: http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-04/cane-toad-barrier-gives-hope-in-battle-to-stop-pests-spread/7795342?pfmredir=sm

Riverland frogs to reap rewards of good rainfall and Murray River flows

Tom Nancarrow | ABC News | 24 August 2016

ood flows down the River Murray look set to do wonders for frog populations in South Australia's Riverland, according to one expert.

River flows coming into South Australia have significantly increased throughout the winter months, due to good rainfall and spills from Lake Victoria.

With some of these flows unregulated and therefore unable to be captured for irrigation purposes, the en-

vironment — such as wetlands and floodplains — will be major recipients.

FrogWatch SA's coordinator Steve Walker said revitalised habitats would provide a safe haven for the amphibious creatures.

"Many of these floodplains, when the water level rises and they spill out, provide areas where the frogs can breed where things like some fish cannot necessarily get in," he said.

"You have got a greater survival rate of the tadpoles, so those frog population numbers can increase.

"When the water levels drop and conditions get harsh again, there is enough of a population to sit it out through those periods."

Highest inflows in 20 years

Significant winter rainfall has seen a remarkable turnaround in water flowing down the River Murray, with July seeing the highest inflows in 20 years.

Manager of Water Resource Operations with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Jarrod Eaton, said the environment was one of the big winners.

"Generally with the higher flows coming down the river, it enables water to be pushed out through creeks, into wetlands, backwaters," Mr Eaton said.

"We can flush also some of the saline disposal basins along the River Murray.

"This flow event now provides some opportunities for us which we have not actually had over the last couple of years in terms of managing water for the environment."

SA is home to frogs not seen elsewhere

According to Mr Walker, frogs play a vital role in the River Murray ecosystem, with South Australia home to species rarely seen in other parts of the country.

"You have got eight species which are commonly found in the Riverland ... upstream of Walkers Flat, and they include a threatened species which is the southern bell frog," he said.

"Over the years it has been undergoing a major decline [but] still seems to be hanging on in parts of the Murray and parts of the south-east.

"We are quite lucky to still have them here in South Australia."

Mr Walker said while there was often negative stigma about the humble frog, they did play a vital role in the environment.

"Frogs are also very important because they eat a lot of the pest species that we do not like; things like flies, mosquito and spiders," he said.

"If we did not have frogs, there would be a mass increase in the populations of those creatures.

"If we can get the frogs in to try and control these pest species, the better it is for everyone."

Read more at: http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-24/riverland-frogs-to-reap-rewards-of-good-rainfall/7779834?pfmredir=sm

Frogs use ultrasonic calls to find mates near noisy streams

Anna Salleh | ABC News | 26 August 2016

Biologist Dr Sandra Goutte of Sorbonne University in Paris and her and colleagues studied the calls of a group of "torrent frogs" in Borneo, Indonesia, Malaysia, China and Cambodia.

They discovered the frogs all had higher pitched calls than most other frogs in the world, and a few species even had ultrasonic calls.

"You can see the frog calling but you cannot hear it," said Dr Goutte, who carried out the research for her PhD research.

"The call of torrent frogs has most probably been constrained by the environment they live in — which is the torrents — that are really noisy."

Back in Business!

We would like to say a very big thanks to Jennifer Singfield, for putting up her hand and filling in the vital role of Treasurer for our society. Jen has previous experience as a Treasurer and involvement with the QFS, and quickly proved to us she has a sharp eye for figures and how to balance books!

We thank her for sharing her time with the QFS.

Male torrent frogs generally put out mating calls while sitting in vegetation next to fast-flowing streams. Females lay their eggs on rocks and then the tadpoles thrive in the oxygen-rich waters nearby.

The problem is falling water makes a low pitched rumble of about 2 kilohertz that would mask the pitch of most frog mating calls, which are generally under 5 kilohertz.

Dr Goutte and colleagues measured the call pitch of 70 species of torrent frogs, that range in size from 2 to 15 centimetres in body length.

They found that, on average, most of the frogs had calls that ranged between 4 and 10 kilohertz.

A few species had calls that consisted of frequency above 20 kilohertz, which is in the ultrasonic range, above the human range of hearing.

For example, the hole-in-the-head frog (Huia cavitympanum), which is found in Borneo, has purely ultrasonic calls.

"As a result we don't hear anything, but the frogs do," said Dr Goutte.

While the large odorous frog (Odorrana graminea), a species found in China, had partially ultrasonic calls.

"We hear only a part of the call," said Dr Goutte.

Co-author Dr Jodi Rowley of the Australian Museum Research Institute said the calls of the large odorous frog vary in frequency from very low to extremely high — up to 44 kilohertz.

"They're much more like bird songs than most frog songs in their complexity and frequency modulation," she said.

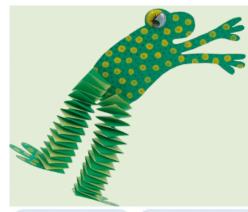
"There's only a few other frogs known to call ultrasonically and they are all torrent dwelling."



Make these cool dangly frog legs!

- 1. Cut four strips of green and yellow paper, 30cm by 2cm. Stick a green piece to the top of a yellow piece at 90 degrees to make an 'L' shape.
- 2. Fold one piece over the other in turn to make a concertina stack in alternating colours. Glue two other strips to the ends as you run out of paper making an extra long leg. Repeat to make a pair. (pic a)
- 3. Cut a body shape and two feet from green card. Place a wiggleeye on one side of the body and add dots of yellow paint with a cotton bud. (pic b)
- 4. Use a blue metallic pen to fill in the spaces between the paint with lots of smaller dots on both the body and the feet.
- 5. Gently stretch out the legs and glue the feet into the pockets at the end of the concertina. (pic c)
- 6. Fix the legs to the back end of the body in the same way so the frog looks like it's leaping away. (pic d)

http://www.patticrafts.co.uk/dangly-frogs-legs













What's hot!

Now trending...

Frog in a Pond Hot Chocolate! If you're feeling cool, try the latest hot trend from the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie. A guaranteed winner



Frotography

Members Frog Photography

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



Green Treefrog perched on toilet seat at rest stop

Yevette says "just a couple of photos I found amusing. My husband and I have been travelling through the outback and north QLD. We stopped at a rest area in the middle of nowhere and on entering the ladies toilet I noticed green frogs everywhere; on walls, window sills etc. In the second loo I found a frog on the toilet seat, not a redback, it looked quite funny so I took photos...also frogs in the men's and disabled toilets. Hope you enjoy.



Southern Oramge-eyed Treefrogs in amplexus

Credit: B. Revell



Thankyou to those who contributed to this newsletter!
We love receiving Member & Coordinator-contributed content.

Deadline for Summer Frogsheet contributions is

10 November 2016

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

Frogsheet - Spring 2016 Print Post Approved PP424022/00619 SURFACE MAIL

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