

# FROGSHEET

[www.qldfrogs.asn.au](http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au) | questions [at] qldfrogs.asn.au | [f/qldfrogsociety](https://www.facebook.com/qldfrogsociety)



## TEAM EFFORT SAVES SCHOOL FROG POND

**D**uring 2016, the frog pond (above) at Crows Nest State School was identified as a safety risk and the decision was made to fill it in despite alternative solutions being identified. All school community members agreed that student safety was paramount but many believed strongly that a solution could be found which allowed the safety of students and the frog pond to coexist.

By the end of 2016, the pond was almost dry but there was still a very healthy frog population in residence. The decision to fill the pond was announced in the school newsletter in late November with safety and a shortage of funds for an alternative solution cited as

reasons. At this point, the resistance movement began!

Contact with the Queensland Frog Society in December, saw a local Crows Nest member, Bruce Lawrie visit the school to offer support. Thank you Bruce! The pond was given a 'stay of execution' until school returned in January. The pond was dry but the frogs would survive for the moment!

Several solutions were identified but involved significant expense. QFS offered to contribute \$100 towards a solution and another donation of \$100 was offered. Despite this start, the decision to fill the pond was reinstated. 'Friends of the Frogs' consulted the P&C at the next meeting. Once again, Bruce Lawrie attended...





## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**SECRETARY** - Jenny Holdway

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**TREASURER** - Jennifer Singfield

Email: treasurer [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gillian Paxton, Carl Moller, Susan Russell, Bruce Family, Mary Ann Martin, Jeannine Sewell, Angie McMillan, Mark & Karen Toomey, Rose Feely, Mike Donovan and Cesar Puechmarin

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### ROCKHAMPTON & CENTRAL QLD

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

### SOUTH BURNETT

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and provided information. Ultimately, the Principal wanted there to be no accessible water at all and so the only possible decision was to mesh the pond. P&C generously covered the cost while funds were raised. Our pond is safe!

Queensland Frog Society's expert advice and generous donation at a crucial moment was instrumental in postponing the destruction of the pond and thereby allowing us time to investigate other options.



The 5cm mesh allows smaller frog access whilst the sturdy metal legs support the structure about 15cm above ground level, allowing access to larger frogs. The structure is designed in 2 pieces with 4 removable bolts to allow access to pond for maintenance. The structure was designed and installed during school holidays by Bruce Bell from Property Management Products of Crows Nest for a very competitive price. We suspect Bruce likes frogs too! Lee



June-July 2017 - volunteers donated plants and mulched gardens

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Native Plants Qld Spring Flower Show**

16-17 September 2017. QFS Display

### **QFS AGM**

30 September 2017. Caboolture Regional Environmental Education Centre (CREEC), Burpengary. 10am. Guest speakers. BBQ afterwards.

### **QFS Management Meetings**

Every three months.

### **Frog Workshop and Evening Frogging**

3pm. 11 November. CREEC, 150 Rowley Road, Burpengary. Dinner included.

**Keep updated via our E-News Emails and Facebook**

## 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

## RIC NATTRASS RESEARCH GRANT

The QFS Trust Fund was created with the purpose to help save QLD frogs through education and research by means of this Research Grant, and now stands at **\$5,818.20** (+ \$112.31 since Winter edition)

## STAY IN THE LOOP

If you have a newer preferred email address, please contact us and let us know.

## HELPING HAND

We are always in need of an extra pair of hands to assist at community event display stalls. Many hands make light work, even if you can spare 30 minutes to help unpack and pack up our display gear from and to a vehicle. Most of our displays are within the Brisbane area.

Please contact our Secretary if you can help us out.



## ASHGROVE REPORT

Work at Bowman Park is continuing with the removal of rogue grasses and evasive weeds before, hopefully, of some spring rain. Native grasses and Lomandras have been put in their place to continue the low coverage for the critters that call it home.

A lot of my time has been taken up with renewals, new membership and the organising of the roster and display at the Brisbane Ekka.

We were invited by the RNA Display Committee to take part this year and we took up the challenge. We were in the basement of the Old Qld Museum which is celebrating its 140 year along with Birds Queensland, Queensland Finch Society and the Potted Plants competition. They supplied great poster boards and all we had to bring in were our tables, posters and brochures.

I don't know how many people we spoke to over the 10 days and there were times which were very quiet but we gave away over 300 of our original posters to children, educators and the general public who were interested in identifying the frogs at the properties. I

think people went away with positive thoughts and ideas on how to encourage the frogs in their area into the garden. Of course there were many questions and stories about toads.

With a 10 day roster to organise it was a challenge as we would have like 2 volunteers on each shift – 9am to 1pm and 1pm to 5pm. As you would be aware we did put our out requests for help with the inducement of a free full day pass but there were some time when just one person manned the display. Members from Bundaberg, Monto, Gympie, Glasshouse Mountains, Blackbutt, Gold Coast and Brisbane made up the team and I wish to thank them very much for their time and effort and hope they enjoyed it as well.

I think we will be asked to attend next year so I am putting out a very early request for interested members to keep the Ekka date in the back of their minds. I personally had to fill in at a shift every day bar one and with my other commitments this was very tiring. All efforts were made to make sure that anyone who was new to our display and maybe thought they would not be able to give out advice or to identify frogs had a member who was a bit more experienced on that shift as well and I think that went well.

Jenny Holdway

### Can Someone Lend a Hand?

For many years now our Secretary of 20 years in the position has been faithfully setting up and pulling down our displays at various and numerous community events within and around the greater Brisbane region, with assistance manning the displays. However the time has come that she requires a hand in getting the display in and out of her vehicle. As a small Committee with several Committee members working full-time and/or not living within an hour of Brisbane, we're putting the call out to our members asking to lend a hand for such events. We just need a bit of help; which will be more appreciated than you'd think.

The reality is, if we're unable to get some help, attending community events and raising awareness

of our frogs becomes untenable. Not being able to interact with the community and provide answers and advice would be a great loss. With a bit of help we can continue to spread the word on QLD's frogs!





## QLD GARDEN EXPO QFS DISPLAY: RAIN, SALES AND SHINE

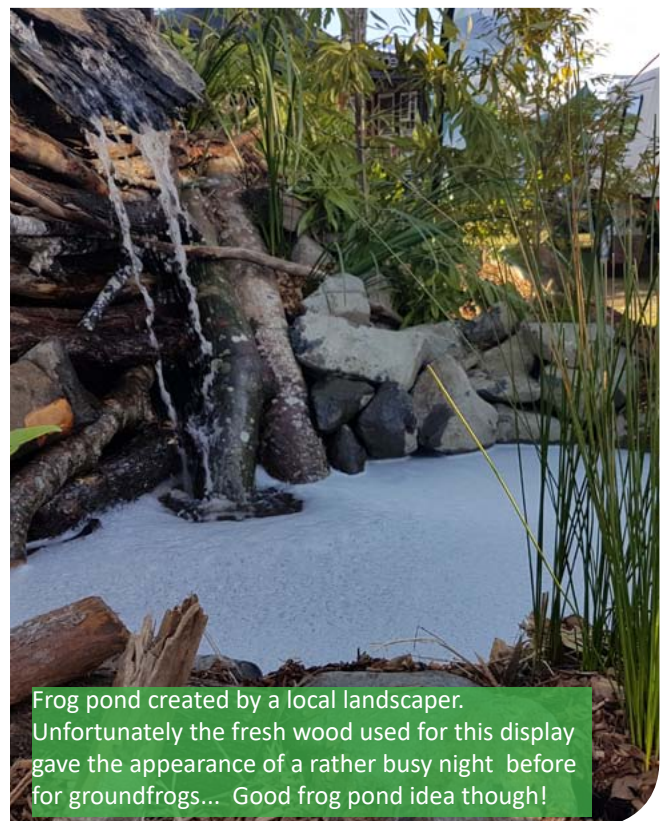


**T**he QLD Garden Expo was on again this year in July and was another great success, despite the miserable weather on the Friday. Our leaking tent and the waterways streaming through our display made for a soggy experience, however come Saturday morning the sun was shining and the sky was clear!

We had many crowds of people travel through the 'Living Backyard' section of the expo and we spoke to many of these green thumbs regarding cane toad identification, making gardens frog-friendly and "what is the frog that sounds like a dripping tap" question...

Seven new members signed up over the three day event and we sold close to \$500 in books, CDs, shirts and leaping frog toys, which was fantastic! Many free brochures made their way into people's hands, thanks to the financial support from members like you.

Special thanks to Jenny, Jill, Eva, Ashley and Jono for their assistance over the three day event.



Frog pond created by a local landscaper. Unfortunately the fresh wood used for this display gave the appearance of a rather busy night before for groundfrogs... Good frog pond idea though!



## FIND A FROG IN FEBRUARY - IT'S A WRAP



© Eva Ford - Shaun F. with endangered Giant Barred Frog

Conversations with landholders hold many gems of experience, wisdom and ideas. This was the case during an interlude with Teresa Cronin from Cooonoon Gibber during 2015 when she suggested that we start a program where the community can contribute knowledge of frog locations. What a great idea! And so the Find a Frog in February Citizen Science concept was born.

As we move on now from the first FFF I reflect on the excitement I had at running a program that would cover the whole Mary River catchment, and more (Burrumbidgee, coastal catchments and Noosa River). And one that brought together the support of local councils (Sunshine Coast, Noosa and Gympie) and our regional body; the Burnett Mary Regional Group. With a swift hand across the keyboard and a crossing of fingers, one by one these funding providers came through with support for a new program, never tested in this part of the world before. We acknowledge their trust in us.

In those heady days, only optimism and planning were in my field of view. That the weather should be included with animals and children as items not to be relied upon did not occur as a possibility. It always (well, nearly so) rains by the end of February and besides, how could we call it anything else?

January 2017 was spent frantically designing a logo, creating material and an interactive web page, advertising throughout the media world, groups, agencies, networks, schools and developing systems for handling the thousands of records we expected to come in.

Someone who shall not be named (me) decided it would be a fun idea to produce a video of instructions for frog finders. Yes it was fun, lots of fun! But it was very time consuming.

However, all can enjoy Jess and me sending our reputations into ruination in "Finest, Fantasticist, Flippin' Frog Finder in this Fair Land" at the 'video' link in our website; <http://mrccc.org.au/find-a-frog-in-february-citizen-science/>.

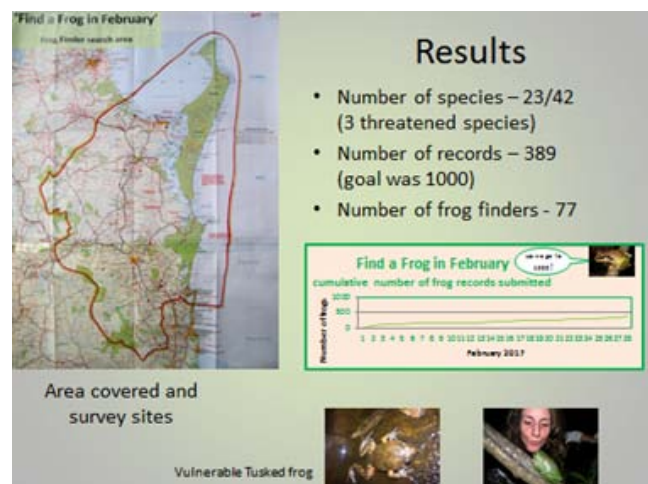
So February 1 came along, we spoke and wrote to the world as we know it and started to see frog records coming in. And, despite the record-breaking heat and dry of February,

here's what the wonderful catchment community contributed to our knowledge of frogs.

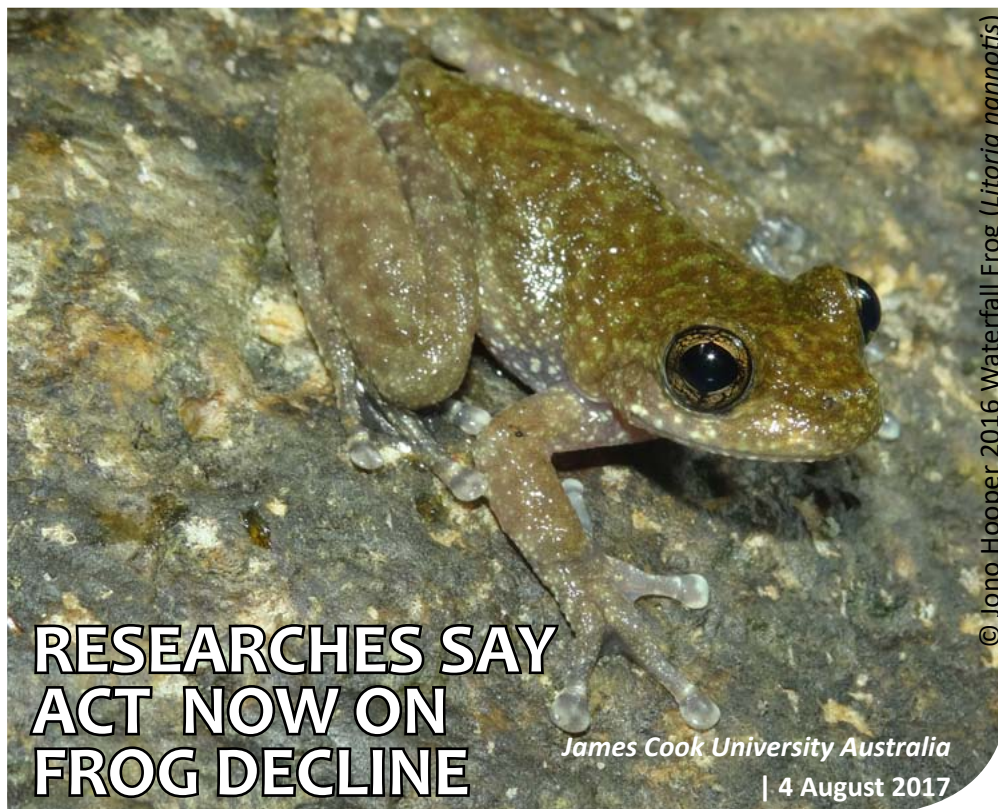
We can only imagine how many records would have come in should we have had just a whiff of water from the sky! It came in early March, a cruel blow, however, we have discussed broadening the time period for the next FFF in 2018 as the 'wet' season is not so predictable as it maybe once was. New name suggestions for January to March frog searching are most welcome ☺

Huge thanks to the many supporters: Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Shire Council, Gympie Regional Council and the Burnett Mary Regional Group. As well to our technical advisors, film crew, media and groups who passed on the word and of course to all the schools and other participants who joined in the night-time adventure. Look out for 2018 with the promise of rain!

Eva Ford







© Jono Hooper 2016 Waterfall Frog (*Litoria nannotis*)

## RESEARCHES SAY ACT NOW ON FROG DECLINE

James Cook University Australia  
| 4 August 2017

**S**cientists from Australia and the United States are calling for immediate, pre-emptive action to save the world's frog population.

Amphibians are under threat world-wide from a range of pressures, including disease caused by an emerging chytrid fungus. Many frog species have gone extinct, while others have undergone dramatic declines. But the scientists say a few refuges like New Guinea could save species if action is taken before the disease hits.

Dr Deborah Bower from James Cook University leads a commentary published today in the influential journal *Science*.

"We are used to hearing horror stories about frogs going extinct, and a global fungal disease has been a major player in these declines," she said. "But now there is an exciting window of opportunity to use our body of research to save species in places where the disease hasn't yet reached".

Professor Karen Lips from the University of Maryland said it had taken several decades after the declines were first detected before it was realised in 1989 that frogs were declining on a global scale.

"Partly because of a lack of information on frog populations, people at first found it hard to believe that there could be a disease causing mass, global extinctions," she said.

The scientists are now calling for rapid and concerted action to protect the remaining chytrid-free populations.

"Many places are still free of the amphibian chytrid fungus," Dr Bower said. "New Guinea, for example, contains six per cent of the world's frog species, and they have not been exposed to the disease. Pre-emptive intervention there could save entire species from extinction."

Dr Bower said actions should include:

- strict biosecurity measures around at-risk areas to delay the introduction of the disease;
- research and conservation actions to identify vulnerable species; and
- genome storage, assisted reproduction and captive breeding to help populations recover if the disease gets loose.

She said authorities in the US have avoided introducing a related chytrid fungus that threatened salamanders by using some of these measures.

Dr Bower said there was a unique opportunity to protect remaining wildlife refuges from chytrid fungi, by legislating to prevent importation of the disease, and developing early response plans.

"It is much easier and cheaper to conserve species before they are nearly gone. Acting now will save many of the world's frog species. This requires immediate collaboration among scientists, legislators, policymakers, managers, extractive industries and local landowners, together with commitment and funds."

Dr Bower said that proposition might be daunting, but by acting now to identify remaining frog refuges, document fauna, improve biosecurity, and plan contingency responses, both money and species could be saved long-term.

"It's better to spend a penny now in prevention than a pound later on a cure," she said. ■



James Cook University Australia  
| 15 August 2017

## WARM FROGS CAN BEAT DEADLY DISEASE



© Jono Hooper 2016 Green-eyed Treefrog (*Litoria serrata*)

**S**cientists from James Cook University say a disease that has devastated global frog populations can be slowed or stopped by relatively short increases in frog body temperature.

JCU's Professor Emeritus Ross Alford led a team whose research has just been published in *Functional Ecology*. He says the frog chytrid fungus has had severe effects on hundreds of species of rainforest amphibians around the world.

"Emerging fungal diseases have caused catastrophic global losses of biodiversity. And, while we know temperature is one of the most important factors influencing host-fungus associations, our knowledge of its effects is incomplete," he said.

The fungus thrives between 17-25°C and can be killed by temperatures above 29°C. It has taken a high toll on amphibian populations in mountain rainforests. But scientists in Professor Alford's group found that even in its ideal habitat, the fungus was greatly inhibited by short bursts of higher temperatures.

They noticed that a frog population in a dry forest survived a chytridi-

omycosis outbreak by perching on sun-warmed rocks, while neighbouring rainforest populations died.

PhD student Sasha Greenspan looked at the effects of pulses of warm temperatures in detail. "In the lab, we found the disease developed more slowly and frogs were less likely to die if we exposed them daily to four-hour heat pulses of 26°C or 29°C, temperatures that are common in rainforests. In fact, ten of eleven frogs exposed to 29°C heat pulses eventually cleared their infections completely," said Ms Greenspan.

"In practical terms, it means that a small-scale removal of trees or

large branches overhanging critical habitats such as streams might reduce disease in the short term. This would provide canopy openings that encourage the frogs to bask in the sun. It may even be possible to provide artificial heat sources," said Ms Greenspan.

She said that the scientists had only considered one strain of the chytrid fungus and other strains would have to be looked at to get a better idea of the disease's vulnerabilities. ■



Incubator lab where the experiments were conducted. Credit: Supplied



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's been a pretty dry old Winter that's for sure. On the Sunshine Coast we've had more bushfires than clouds in the sky, but thankfully no-one was injured or lost their life. You've got to have a lot of respect for our emergency services and volunteer fire crews.

Back in July I had the opportunity to travel to Perth with my wife for a work conference. I've never been to the other side of the country until then, where Perth takes the bragging rights as the most isolated capital city in the world believe it or not. So during the day I took the opportunity to scope out the city for the local frog species found on the Swan Coastal Plain. My transport options were limited to bus and taxi but largely just on foot; each day totalling between 15-25kms (no complaints I assure you!).

My desktop searches revealed eight species I had a reasonable chance of finding in the immediate area, largely thanks to two large protected parks; Kings Park and Bold Park. The eight species included recognisable names like the Motorbike Frog (*Litoria moorei*) (right) and the Turtle Frog (*Myobatrachus gouldii*), and other lesser recognisable names like the Quacking Froglet (*Crinia georgiana*) (left) and the Moaning Frog (*Heleioporus eyrei*). In contrast



to south-east QLD, Perth was experiencing a traditionally wet weather which of course helped my frogging cause. Unfortunately I was in-between ideal times for Turtle Frog activity, despite spending three nights hiking across both parks. But I did find the other seven species which wasn't a bad result. I'll just have to travel back to Western Australia I guess...

As you'll know by now, our 2017 AGM is just around the corner, or **30th September at 10am** to be exact. It will be held at the Caboolture Environmental Education Centre (CREEC) and followed by an easy BBQ lunch allowing more time for chatting afterwards. Our guest speaker will share with us about their research on acid frogs and bioacoustic monitoring at Bells Creek!

Thankyou very much to the outgoing Committee for your involvement and support of the QFS this year, for without you the Society could not exist, nor would the 'Log a Frog' mapping tool have eventuated, nor would the frog pond at Crows Nest likely still remain.

Thankyou to each of our Members for signing up or renewing your membership for this new financial year! Your membership is not taken lightly and we're continuing to explore ways to involve you in the Society.

We're keen to hear your thoughts too.

I look forward to seeing as many of you who can make it to our AGM, and let's hope the weather modelling of a wetter spring isn't far off!

*Jon Hooper*

### Don't be shy - contribute to the *Frogsheet* Newsletter!

This *Frogsheet* Newsletter has been produced for over 20 years, containing the much valued member-contributed content we have received! Your contributions make up a large part of the content of each newsletter and help to encourage others by sharing the positive and exciting experiences people have had in enhancing and protecting frog habitat, or simply sharing about the frogs people find on their own property. or in their local area.

However, if we don't hear from you, our Members, we are unable to share these stories. Please consider contributing to the next *Frogsheet* newsletter.



## FROTOGRAPHY

Send your frog photos to editor [at] qldfrogs.asn.au  
or via Facebook by the next newsletter deadline.



The familiar Emerald-spotted Treefrog (*Litoria peronii*) with the star-shaped pupil. *Credit: S. Grant*



A White-lipped Treefrog from a banana plantation at Mareeba with the rare blue colouration also found in Green Treefrogs. *Credit: K. Posma*

## NEXT EDITION

Thankyou to those of you for contributing to this newsletter.

**Deadline for Summer *Frogsheet* contributions is  
9 November 2017**

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

**SURFACE MAIL**



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