

# FROGSHEET

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

## BUNDABERG REPORT: FROGGERS FLOCK TO NOVEMBER WORKSHOP



Workshop attendees frogging in the evening guided by torchlight

**G**'day fellow frogaholics,  
We have had an interesting time around Bundaberg of late, with a couple of significant rain and storm events. We have had one event where around 300mm was dumped over a 24 hour period, and recently a destructive storm that passed through destroying many trees, bringing down numerous power lines, and tearing off a few rooves.

On the 20th of October, I was asked to speak at the Hervey Bay Library on behalf of the Wildlife Preservation Society on frogscapeing backyards. This presentation was very well attended with the every chair in the room filled, with some standing, and a few council botanic gardens staff sitting on the floor! The information was well received, and we sold a significant number of posters also. I was also asked by some of the council staff if I would be interested in talking to one of their volunteer groups which is really positive.

We recently held a Frog Identification Workshop here in Bundaberg, on the 4th of November as part of National Frog Week. This is the second of these workshops we have run here, with the first in 2015. Our 2015 workshop had around 60 attendees, but we smashed that out of the park this year with around 105 people attending the event! This was such an awesome response! Through the registration fees and merchandise sales, we have raised around \$700 for QFS! We started with a powerpoint showing representative images of all the local frog species, along with playing call recordings and a few videos recorded locally, to show those attending how to identify our local species. We then had a BBQ together, after which we headed to Barolin Nature Reserve near the Mon Repos Turtle Centre. Here, we located eight species including striped marsh frogs (*Limnodynastes peronii*), ruddy tree frogs (*Litoria rubella*), green tree frogs (*Litoria caerulea*), scarlet-sid-

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ed pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes terraereginae*), ornate burrowing frog (*Platyplectrum ornatum*), striped rocket frog (*Litoria nasuta*), eastern sedge frog (*Litoria fal-lax*), and of course the old cane toad (*Rhinella marina*). Ben Revell and myself have also previously recorded salmon-striped frogs (*Limnodynastes salmini*), dainty tree frogs (*Litoria gracilentia*), and spotted marsh frogs (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) at this location during a rain event. We had a variety of ages come along from young children right up to some senior citizens who all really enjoyed the workshop.

The workshop would not have been as successful as it was without the assistance of the Bundaberg Regional Council (BRC) and the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG). BRC supplied some of the food, the venue at no cost, along with a BBQ trailer to cook the food, and the P.A. system and projector. The council also put out a media release to advertise the workshop resulting in numerous articles in the local newspaper and a number of radio interviews on ABC Widebay and SeaFM. BMRG generously subsidised the cost of the workshop, covering 50% of the registration costs. This allowed us to charge half of the normal registration fee, which

brought it down to \$5 per person - five bucks for dinner and show is a bargain in anyone's book! Dean Collins from BMRG also came along on the day to support the workshop and to give away some freebies. I would like to personally thank both BMRG and BRC for their generous contributions. I would also like to thank our vice president Ben Revell for helping out with everything, from purchasing food to manning the registration table, and Wayne Schmid for doing all the cooking - you are both very much appreciated.

Thanks to all those who attended, and those who helped and supported the 2017 frog iden-



tification workshop. I look forward to doing it all again next year! Happy frogging! Dave ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep updated via our E-News Emails and Facebook

### Why not contribute?

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.

Please consider contributing to the next *Frogsheet* newsletter.

## FROG HABITAT WORKING BEES

**Bowman Park, Bardon**

8-11am - Contact Phil for more info or visit the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/bowmanparkfroghabitatgroup/>

## 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 **\$6,122.97** (+ \$304.77 since Spring 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

As the year is fast coming to a close the work in the Frog Society slows down a bit which is nice as this has been quite a busy year. There was quite a flurry of phone calls after the storms that came through a few weeks ago. These were mainly queries on how to identify frog tadpoles and I was quite surprised how many of them were related to tree frogs which is great.

Our AGM went well and the committee is nearly the same with an addition of one new member.

Lee-Anne Longton is now our Minutes Secretary and I welcome the extra help as well as a new voice when making decisions.

We were asked to hold a Frog ID workshop by the Moreton Bay branch of WPSQ and this was held at

CREEC on November 11th. There were about 70 participants which included quite a few children. It was well received and after a sausage sizzle and watermelon we went looking for frogs.

Unfortunately the night temperature was cool and the predicted showers didn't arrive but the eastern sedge frog (*Litoria fallax*) was out in good supply. There was also a couple of big green treefrogs at the building and a Beeping Froglet (*Crinia parinsignifera*) was calling near one of the lakes. I think everyone one went home with enthusiasm to go out frogging themselves.

I am going to spend some of this down time repairing

my garden after the scrub turkey tried to rearrange it for me and, after replanting, I am hoping for some good rain.

The last working bee at Bowman Park will be held on the first Sunday of December.

Thank you all our wonderful supporters and welcome to the new members. I do hope you all have a lovely Christmas time with your families and friends and remember this office is open 7 days a week.

Jenny Holdway



The froggers on their way to the first site for the evening

### 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!



# NEW JAGUAR FROG DISCOVERED ON ABANDONED HIGHWAY

© R De Fraga



Elaina Zachos |  
National Geographic |  
26 November 2017

**T**he spotted amphibian may already be at risk of extinction, a new study says.

Scientists have discovered a new species of tree frog in an unusual place—a stretch of abandoned highway in Brazil.

When herpetologists first heard male frogs calling in the Amazon rainforest, they suspected the unknown sound came from a species completely new to science. Rafael de Fraga, a herpetologist at the National Institute of Research of the Amazon, and colleagues later confirmed it via genetic analysis.

The team named the species *Scinax onca*, or the jaguar snouted tree frog, due to its spotted skin and the prevalence of big cats they found in the area.

“During the sampling expeditions we were also lucky enough to spot several jaguars,” says de Fraga, who noted the sightings unnerved some of his team.

But, he noted, “the highway is definitely more dangerous than jaguars [because] many people have died there by car crash or fallen bridges.”

The newfound frog is the 27th species of *Scinax*—the snouted genus of tree frogs—known from the Amazon Basin. There are more than 800 species of tree frogs worldwide. (Read about three warty toad species found in Brazil.)

The confluence of the Purus and Madeira Rivers where the frog lives are “very special from a biological point of view,” de Fraga says. That’s because it is home to a diverse array of species, including the

closely related *Scinax iquitum* tree frog.

## A Fleeting Find?

So far, not much is known about the newly identified creature, described in a recent study in the journal *Zookeys*.

The orange-eyed frog measures less than two inches and has a white groin with black spots. It’s also sexually dimorphic, meaning female frogs are larger than males.

De Fraga says the amphibian’s scratchy call sounds like a wood saw, and the male’s mating trill lasts a little over 100 milliseconds. (See more tree frog pictures.)

“[The discovery is] not a huge surprise, but it’s indicative of kind of a push within Brazil to understand the environment,” says Darrel Frost, curator emeritus at the American Museum of Natural History, who wasn’t involved in the study.

Although about one new species discovered in the Amazon every other day, species are dying out before they’re even identified. Amphibians, in particular, are disappearing at alarming rates, due to factors such as the deadly chytrid fungus and deforestation.

De Fraga suspects the frog is endangered and is further imperilled by plans to recover the derelict highway, which will likely lead to habitat destruction for several species.

“We are not totally opposed to the highway recovering, because many local people live completely isolated from basic resources such as hospitals,” de Fraga says.

“But it is rather disturbing to watch the region being converted into urban areas without any concern for the biodiversity that is being lost.” ■



# IS THIS LOVABLE POOCH THE ANSWER TO OUR CANE TOAD PROBLEM?

Lucy Hughes Jones |  
NT News |  
22 November 2017

© N. Thake - Edna the sniffer dog

**M**AN'S best friend has become a toad's worst enemy on Australia's third largest island.

She's loved for her fluffy ears, wagging tail and dopey smile, but one golden labrador is using her razor-sharp sense of smell to help combat the threat of cane toads in a remote Northern Territory community.

Specialist odour detection dog Edna has been deployed to Groote Eylandt where she's using her animal instincts to locate the distinctly smelly pests.

The pooch is the latest weapon in the fight to keep the pristine ecosystem cane toad-free and protect its unique native flora and fauna.

It's part of a collaboration between traditional owners and the company which runs a manganese mine on Groote Eylandt.

For the past year, Anindilyakwa land and sea rangers have teamed up with their four-legged friend to patrol the barges and airport.

Groote Eylandt is free of many invasive plants and animals found on the mainland, and cane toads have only managed to make their way to Groote Eylandt a handful of times over the past 10 years.

As a result, the island has abundant populations of the endangered marsupial known as the northern

quoll, mertens water monitors, and healthy numbers of the yellow spotted monitor, both of which are lizards.

"These animals have experienced significant declines on mainland Australia and Groote Eylandt is one of the last refuges for these threatened species," Anindilyakwa Quarantine and Biosecurity Officer Tom Lawton said. Mr Lawton said on average, rangers found toads in freight from other parts of the country once a year.

"If the toads are undetected they could do serious damage," he said. Mining firm South 32 is working with local industry and state and federal governments for the project, and is hopeful it can be adopted in other island communities.

"We're not aware of anyone else doing something in that space in the Top End. We'd definitely be happy to share our information," South 32 Environmental Specialist Megan Lewis said. ■

## RESEARCH GRANT CLOSING SOON

Applications for the \$1000 research grant to assist in studying QLD's frogs must be received by email by **10 February 2018** or postmarked no later than that date. Applicants will be informed by mid-March of the outcome of their application.

For further information, visit [www.qldfrogs.asn.au/ric-nattrass-research-grant/](http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/ric-nattrass-research-grant/)

# ‘URGENT RESCUE MISSION’ TO SAVE AUSTRALIA’S FROGS USING SMARTPHONE APP

Julie Power |  
*Sydney Morning Herald* |  
10 November 2017



© Jodie Rowley Cape York Graceful Treefrog (*Litoria bella*)

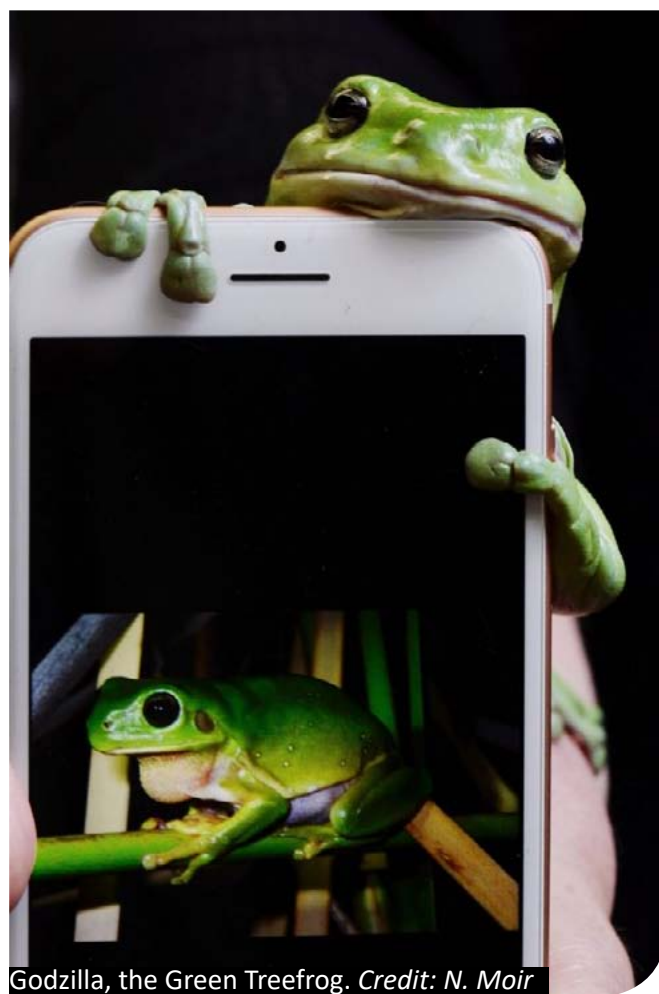
Like the stars of stage, screen and Sesame Street, the 25-year-old green tree frog called Godzilla was immediately ready for his croak up.

When Godzilla saw an iPhone at the Australian Museum this week, the male frog hugged it. It was an appropriate response given that a new smart phone app called FrogID is being described as an “urgent rescue mission” to save frogs that are vulnerable or endangered.

It’s part of a national citizen science initiative to count Australia’s frogs, which is being launched by the Australian Museum on Friday.

The app developed by IBM works a bit like the music identification and discovery app Shazam by recording male frog’s chirps, barks and croaks. After downloading the app and turning on the location to aid identification, all users have to do is hit record when they think they hear a male frog calling out to attract the females of its species.

The museum’s frog expert Jodi Rowley said frogs were often hard to identify by sight: some species look so similar that she sometimes has to inspect the front legs to find small differences. Like humans, each frog has its own “voice”, and a larger frog will sound deeper than a younger, smaller frog.



Godzilla, the Green Treefrog. Credit: N. Moir

Of the 240 native Australian species, four frogs are already extinct, five are critically endangered, 14 are endangered and 10 are vulnerable, said Dr Rowley, the curator of amphibian and reptile conservation biology.

"Frogs are an incredibly threatened group of animals," she said. "Globally it is 42 per cent of all species [that are threatened], which is faster than birds and mammals. And one of the major obstacles in preserving frogs is a lack of knowledge."

In Australia, an estimated 20 species of frogs have yet to be named or identified. There may even be cases where what is thought to be one species could actually be three. "That has huge conservation implications," she said.

Frogs are bio-indicators, and, like the canaries in the coal mine, they are often the first to perish when the quality of water deteriorates or from changes in their habitat.

Kathy Potter of the Frog and Toad Study Group lives with Godzilla and about 40 other frogs, which the educational group has saved or rescued.

"It is nice to see people doing things with frogs," she said of the new FrogID app. "It's usually pretty lonely out there. It is a really specialised kind of crazy."

Frogs were easier to find than most people thought, she said, adding they were everywhere.

"You don't have to go out into the wilderness and be the next David Attenborough ... you can go to your local oval at night, you find them in drains, you find them in gutters, any parkland with waters, a good thing to do with friends."

Dr Rowley is hoping citizen scientists may also find some frogs that have gone missing, such as the peppered tree frog, which was last seen in 1970s in NSW's Northern Tablelands and may be threatened with extinction.

"It is a little bit of a needle in a haystack because it is about two centimetres in body length [and lives in deep gorges]," she said.

"This is one species where it would be amazing if somebody out there recorded its call," said Dr Rowley who has been looking for it.

Download info available at [FrogID.net.au](http://FrogID.net.au)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a busy couple of months since the last newsletter. We had the AGM in September and the Committee has been re-instated, with the welcome addition of Lee-Anne, our Minutes Secretary. Following the AGM we have run two workshops in conjunction with local councils and fellow wildlife groups. Both workshops were very well attended as you would have read, and prove frogs are a popular talking point in the community.

As I write, next weekend (8, 9 and 10 Dec) a group of us will travel up to Goondicum Station for a two night frog camp, east of Monto. Those who RSVP'd in time are sure to spot a fair few of the dozen or more frog species following the recent downpours and flooding the property experienced. In addition, the food and brand new accommodation should ensure some very satisfied froggers! Stay tuned, as there was demand for a second camp next year.

What a blessing this rain has been! South-east QLD has copped a flogging and it's not over yet, with the return of La Nina conditions providing further rainfall.



I got out recently and snapped a fair few frogs singing in the rain.



*Litoria chloris* (above)  
and *L. caerulea* (right)

Cheers,

*Jon Hooper*





Something for you...

# Junior Frogologists

By Tim Williams, Junior Editor

## Bold & beautiful



### Draw me



1



2



3



4

There are over 3,000 species of frogs in every colour of the rainbow—from dull brown, to vibrant green, to neon cool! But why? It's all about one word ... SURVIVAL! Whether blending for invisibility or sporting tropical colours so bright they can be seen from afar—both are tactics to avoid being eaten! Colours exist for camouflage, change with daily temperatures, or to signal “stay away from my dangerous poison!”. Here we profile just a few of our favourites ...



*African Reed Frog*  
Home: Kenya



*Red-eyed Tree Frog*  
Home: Australia



*Andinobates dorisswansonae*  
Home: Colombia



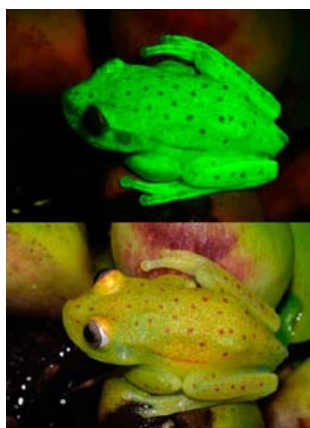
*Poison Dart Frog*  
From: Central & South America



*Crucifix Frog*  
From: Australia



*Ornate Horned Frog*  
From: Argentina



### World 1st ... Fluoro Frog!

In April this year, scientists made an exciting discovery—the glow in the dark Polka Dot Tree Frog (*Hypsiboas punctatus*) from Argentina. Its translucent skin allows the accumulation of biliverdin (a blue-green bile pigment). Under UVA light, the frog glows a bright and beautiful cyan fluorescence which is thought to help their visual communication.



## FROTOGRAPHY

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



Bleating Treefrog (*Litoria dentata*), Yarraman.



Northern Laughing Treefrog (*Litoria rothii*)

Credit: M. Gunther

## NEXT EDITION

Thankyou to those of you for contributing to this newsletter.

**Deadline for Autumn *Frogsheet* contributions is  
9 February 2018**

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

**SURFACE MAIL**



Frogsheet - Summer 2017-18  
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