



FROGSHEET

Official Newsletter of the Queensland Frog Society Inc.

Winter 2016

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



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Welcome and thanks to our New Members

Names will appear in the next
edition.

We are in Urgent Need of a Treasurer!

We require a fill-in Treasurer as
of July, until at least the 2016
AGM. Basic requirements, basic
duties. See Page 8 for details.

Presidential Business...

We had our first frogging night of the year in April on the Sunshine Coast. Despite the dry conditions, we still found several species, including four endangered frogs. Find out which species they are on Page 3! These frogging nights serve two purposes; 1) by engaging with our Members (you!), encouraging you to get out and about at night to see your local frog species, and 2) to undertake continual frog surveys of your local areas which over time, may develop trends in species numbers and diversity. Stay tuned for the next frogging night (weather dependent). If you would like a frogging night in your area, just shoot me an email!

The other area I have been putting time towards is developing a Member exclusive log-in facility on our website which will contain content restricted to our Members. Initially, this will include new editions of this quarterly *Frogsheet* newsletter but overtime we plan to provide more helpful information and tools for you to access, including a Member only forum group. If there is something in particular you would like to see on the website, please let us know via email (see addresses on Page 2).

Moving away from the admin desk, I had a few chances recently to go frogging following the rainfall events on 1st May and 4th June. As the weather has been cooling down, the target species that Ben (one of our Vice-Presidents) and I were looking for was the Great Brown Broodfrog (*Pseudophryne major*). It'd been a while since I'd seen this elusive winter-breeder, and Ben was yet to see the species. The night before, Ben had been to the Boondall Wetlands and found them.

The following night we travelled to Narangba and soon found a chorus of the species hidden amongst a paddock of mown grass saturated by the rains. The male frog guards the eggs laid in moist leaf-litter, while the tadpoles partially develop in their eggs until rainfall washes the eggs into nearby water. The tadpoles quickly develop in time to leave the drying water body.



Cheers, *Jono Hooper*



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QFS supported by the
Brisbane City Council



Printers of our newsletter
header and footer for free



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 **\$5,282.94**
(+ \$87.68 since Autumn Edition)



Area Coordinators

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Coming Up

BCC Neighbourhood Event, Alderley

11am – 2pm 17th June. Frog display.

QLD Garden Expo, Nambour

8th, 9th, 10th July 2016. Frog display & sales.

CREEC Expo, Burpengary

27th August. Frog display & sales.

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

17th-18th September. Frog display.

QFS Management Meetings

Quarterly at 12pm Sunday, Caboolture BP south-bound rest stop. Our next meeting is in June.

All welcome! Phone/email Jenny to register your attendance and to confirm which side of the highway we will meet.

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

First frog night attracts many FROGS

We held the first frogging night for the year on the 16 April. Several members travelled to Cooroy from as far as Tin Can Bay and Brisbane. Once introduced to each other, we began making our way along the local creek. Despite only a few people turning out, they were not left dissatisfied.

We immediately found an endangered Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*), and soon after we found a Stony-creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*). Sitting out on a bank was another Giant Barred Frog, this time a juvenile who had recently emerged from the water where it grew up as a tadpole. By the end of the night we had found another two Giant Barred Frogs. These frogs aren't as dependent on rainfall as are many other species, so long as there are still some deep pools of water in the creek.

We plan on having another frogging night in June, likely in the Brisbane area. We are also keen to see frogging nights occur in other areas too! Please contact your local Area Coordinator, or email the Editor if you have several people keen for a frogging night near you!



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.

New Book Review: Frogs of the Gold Coast

Frogs of the Gold Coast book was launched on May 28th by the Loders Creek Catchment Assn.

QFS co-ordinators for the Gold Coast attended and very kindly sent me a copy of this book which is packed with good photos.

Each page on a species has six photos illustrating different colour variations, tummy marking etc. Also included is the status, distribution, identification and habitat of each species, so when you are going frogging around this area hopefully you will be able to survey the frogs in your area.

RRP \$10.00. Unfortunately there is no information on how to buy this book but contact Jeannie at jeanniefw@hotmail.com for further information.

Jenny Holdway



Mary River Catchment Report: Irish tales – tall but true!

Greetings from Ireland, from where I can successfully maintain my work status with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee and my coordinator status with QFS! I could maintain my absence from Australia as a secret except I feel that I would like to share my exciting frog news

from across the globe. Here it is – I have seen a frog in Ireland! In fact I have been privileged to see all life stages of the one and only frog species that resides in Ireland; *Rana temporaria* (Common frog), a widespread species listed as an internationally important species that has successfully adapted to agricultural land-draining ditches that have resulted from the draining of wet land including natural ponded habitats. As I puff



out my chest over getting close and personal with this species, I must

admit that there is also a toad; *Epidaleia calamita* (Natterjack toad) that is classified as endangered in Ireland, and is way harder to find. Hence, I have not seen it – yet! Maybe next issue I will be

lucky enough to have something to report on that one. I hope not to report on *Bufo bufo* (Common toad) that was introduced to Ireland in very recent times.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council has initiated an on-line citizen science program called 'Hop to it frog survey' to receive sightings of the Common frog (website - <http://www.ipcc.ie/help-ipcc/hop-to-it-national-frog-survey-irelandcard/>). As there is only one species likely to be seen by people in this country,



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

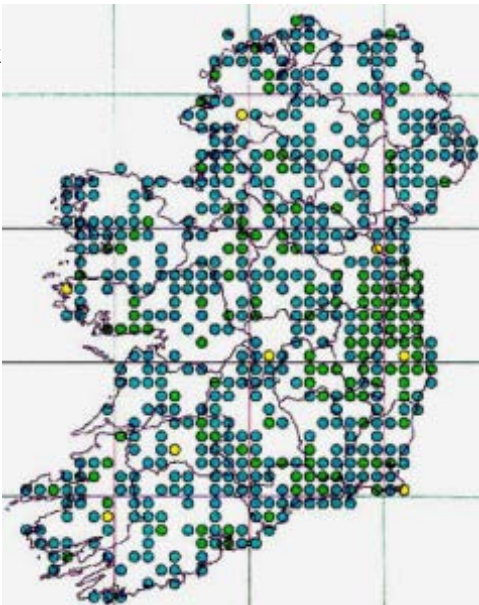
OLD Poster

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!



and because the Natterjack toad is so distinct from the frog (warty skin, yellow dorsal line and paratoid glands), life is pretty simple for those with the job of verifying the information that comes in.



Their coverage of sightings across the country is very comprehensive (see map), reflecting the widespread distribution of the human population as well as the vast effort put in by people. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if we could attain a searching coverage such as this for our state?!

So this is the perfect Segway to introduce you to a new program that will be starting in the Mary River catchment in south east Queensland in 2017 for the first time. The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee is securing financial support to develop a program where all residents within and visitors to the catchment can send in their sightings (photos, audio recordings of calls and/or comprehensive descriptions – all collected without need for handling of frogs) to

the MRCCC so that they can be verified and entered into the state database, WildNet. We call it 'Mary River – Find a Frog in February' and will be sending out information and invitations far and wide across the catchment early in 2017. We are aiming for complete coverage of the catchment from the wet hinterland, dry western sub-catchments and the coastal wallum of the eastern and lower catchment, so that our knowledge of frog distributions can be increased many-fold. Through this program, which the MRCCC aims to hold annually, the whole catchment community can contribute to the protection of populations and habitats.

Eva Ford

[Ed. Note: The QFS endorses this program and encourages our Members to be involved]

Trial traps hit toad tadpoles hard on Bribie

Kyle Zenchyson | *Sunshine Coast Daily* | 4 February 2016

A METHOD for controlling cane toad populations has been proved successful following a trial on Bribie Island in December last year.

Traps were laid at Freshwater Creek after a Woorim resident reported seeing a large amount of toad tadpoles to the Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association.

BIEPA president Diane Oxenford said the creek "was

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!



just black with tadpoles”, which prompted them to contact the council who liaised with University of Queensland molecular science professor Rob Capon.

A Moreton Bay Regional Council spokesperson said council assisted Mr Capon to capture cane toad tadpoles from Freshwater Creek as part of his research project.

Mr Capon and his team have been conducting research on ways to cull the invasive species for years and concluded chemical control at the tadpole stage showed the most promise.

This was the basis for the Freshwater Creek trial that involved extracting a specific pheromone within the toxins coating the eggs, which enabled the research team to specifically trap the tadpoles.

Ms Oxenford said, “the result was astounding”.

“Within minutes you could see the tadpoles being attracted to the traps,” she said.

It is estimated more than 17,000 tadpoles were removed in this effort, leaving just a handful of tadpoles in Freshwater Creek.

The research team is now looking to implement wider application of this technique.

Mr Capon said the research is encouraging, but is only effective in still-water areas and is very labour intensive to set and remove the traps.



“We are continuing research to see if it might be possible to modify the toad’s makeup so that the venom it produces is non-poisonous,” he said. “If we can achieve that, then toads will be able to be attacked by all the predators in nature like snakes and lizards and crows... that will bring the toad population under control.”

The poisonous toads were introduced in northern Queensland in 1935 and it is now estimated numbers have exploded to over 200 million after migrating to West Australia. ■

Source: <http://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/trial-traps-hit-toad-tadpoles-hard-on-bribie/2920728/>

Upcoming Changes to Membership Fees - July 2016

Following on from discussions and a motion at the 2015 AGM, and positive member feedback, our Membership Fee structure has been altered to provide more suitable options for members, to better reflect current costs and align ourselves with other environmental non-profit organisations in Australia.

\$10 joining fee (fee waived at QFS displays)

- Junior (inc. Primary school)
\$10 membership/renewal;
- Student (High School, TAFE, Uni)
\$15 membership/renewal;
- Adult
\$20 membership/renewal;
- Family
\$25 membership/renewal;
- Corporate/Schools
\$50 membership/renewal;

Things to note:

- Membership remains annual (July to June).
- A free Frogs of Greater Brisbane poster (or if available a poster specific to your area) will still be issued to new members.
- Current members will only pay the revised renewal fee when they renew.
- If membership lapses for a period of over 1 year, another joining fee is charged. As we have done previously, several reminders will be sent for membership renewals before your Membership expires.

In addition to the proposed increases in costs, we are also ramping up opportunities for member involvement with the Society this year. Furthermore, we are planning to make membership sign-up and renewal easier and streamlined.

These fee changes will come into affect from **July 2016**.

Please email all questions to
president@qldfrogs.asn.au or write to our PO Box.

Flying leap for wounded Mt Isa frog

Daniel Bateman | *The Cairns Post* | 3 June 2016

A frog made a giant flying leap from Mount Isa to Cairns for lifesaving treatment after it was nearly mowed to death.

A FROG made a giant flying leap from Mount Isa to Cairns for lifesaving treatment after it was nearly mowed to death.

A woman mowing her lawn accidentally injured the common green tree frog, leaving it with a nasty gash

on its back.

She turned to local wildlife carers, who then contacted the Cairns Frog Hospital.

To fly the injured amphibian from the Outback to the coast, the hospital received the generous assistance of Cairns- based animal transportation experts Dog-Tainers, and Rex Airlines.

The wounded animal has been in care in the Edmon-ton hospital for six weeks, and due to be flown home soon.

Hospital founder and president Deborah Pergolotti

said the frog was lucky to survive.

"Usually when frogs get run over by lawnmowers, it's blend-city," she said.

"But for whatever reason, this little guy escaped with only had a bad gash on his back."



A green tree frog prepares to be flown back to Mount Isa after it suffered an injury from a lawnmower. Founding president of Frogs Save Inc and Cairns Frog Hospital Deborah Pergolotti, prepares to check the frog in for the flight.

Source: JUSTIN BRIERTY

She said the extent of the frog's injuries were quite serious and on arrival it was also found to be infested with several parasites.

"He's actually going to be retained in captivity for a bit, once he gets back to Mount Isa, to make sure he's ready go back into the wild," she said.

"There's a bit of damage to one eye that may be permanent, so we're a little nervous about how he will do in the wild with only one eye."

The hospital, which opened 17 years ago, has rehabilitated about 2800 frogs received from as far and wide as Gladstone and Weipa.

Source: <http://www.cairnspost.com.au/flying-leap-for-wounded-mt-isa-frog/news-story/5c810b6d6a2a90b86b7335172c49ff8c>

How toads stick a landing every time: Amphibians have a heightened sense of balance to perform mid-air acrobatics

Richard Gray | MailOnline | 1 June 2016

They are hardly the gymnasts of the animal kingdom

Taking on the Treasurer

Our currently sitting Treasurer, Len, will be away for 12 months beginning mid-July this year. Therefore we're seeking someone to step into this role until at least our AGM in October. Len will be able to complete the end of financial year tasks so whoever takes on Treasurer will have a clean slate from July.

There are few requirements for this role and you certainly don't need to have previous experience as a Treasurer. Minimum role requirements are:

- Between 30 and 60 minutes per week
- Access to a computer
- Knowledge of how to use Excel spreadsheets and BPAY and how to fill out cheques.
- Two signatures on all payments so no possibility of making a wrong payment
- A Westpac customer number but this is easy to obtain - just take your driver's licence to a Westpac branch and they can set you up then and there.

Without a Treasurer our Society cannot operate.

Please contact Jenny or Jono via phone/email as per addresses on our contact page if you would like to help. Thankyou.

and are better known for their gluttonous appetites than their acrobatic ability.

But it seems cane toads are surprisingly agile creatures with an uncanny ability to stick a landing no matter what surface they hop on.

Biologists have discovered the amphibians, which can grow up to six inches long and have become an invasive pest in some countries, have a heightened sense of balance to help them land.

Read more at: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3618308/How-toads-stick-landing-time-Amphibians-use-heightened-sense-balance-perform-mid-air-acrobatics.html#ixzz4Ay5IfGOg>



Something for you...

Junior Frogologists

By Tim Williams, Junior Editor

Cool frog facts

Faster than a speeding bullet, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound... No, not Superman. It's SuperFrog!



Many frogs can jump 30 times their body length. Some smaller tree frogs can jump 50 times their length. That's the equivalent of you jumping the length of a football field, without a running start!



The Indian Skipper Frog has broad feet enabling him to run across the water for several metres.



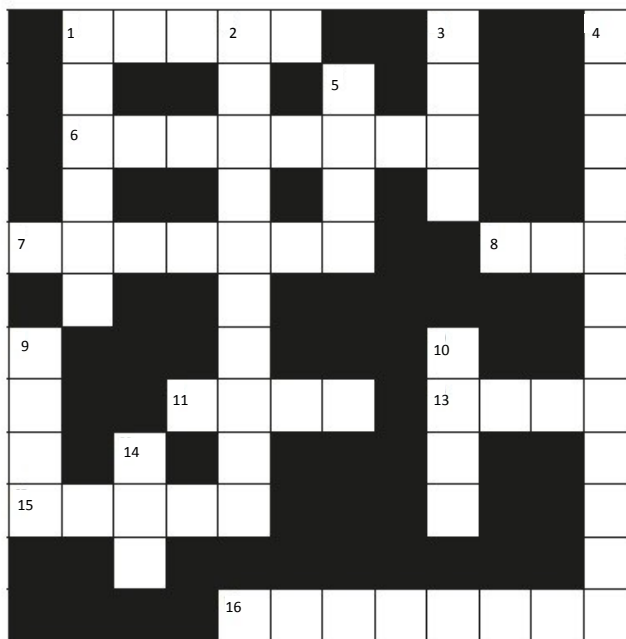
The Red Legged Running Frog has short slim hind legs unsuited to jumping, however he moves with a running gait using his two hind legs alternatively.

Across

1. A sound frogs make (5)
6. ARF's Operation (4,4)*
7. Frogs are very good at ___ (7)
8. Opposite of cold blooded (3)
11. Only ___ (4) frogs can call
13. Frogs like calling in the ___ (4)
15. Where treefrogs can be found (4)
16. When a male and female frog are together breeding (8)

Down

1. Some frogs can change ___ (6)
2. Group of animals frogs belong to (10)
3. Frogspawn (4)
4. Many frogs live on cloud covered ___ (8,4) in the wet tropics.
5. 2008 Year of the ___ (4)
9. A group of toads (4)
10. A group of frogs (4)
14. Season frogs like to breed (3)



<http://naturale.com.au/common/download/frog-word.pdf>



*See <http://arf.net.au> for clue

Fly frog fly!!!

The Wallace Flying Frog has extremely large feet with fully webbed toes that expand to a large sticky disk. There are flaps of skin on the lateral margins of the frog's limbs and across the tail region. With sticky digits splayed, the limbs outstretched, and flaps spread, the Wallace Flying Frog can fly a considerable distance.



Frotophraphy

Members Frog Photography

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



Emerald-spotted Treefrog *Credit: D. Tink*



Naked Treefrog

Credit: J. Beale

Thankyou to those who contributed to this newsletter!
We love receiving Member & Coordinator-contributed content.
**Deadline for Spring *Frogsheet* contributions is
11th August 2016**

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

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