

PRESIDENT REPORT by Rod Pattison

As predicted the society is busy with post Christmas frog business. We still have quite a few stalls, workshop/talks to do before the summer breeding season draws to a close.

Due to the lack of recent rain, the frog count on the mount Barney camp was well down compared to previous years. We had an enjoyable time socialising and cooling off in the local water hole. I am looking forward to the O'Rilleys camp later this month. You will have noticed in the previous frog sheet that the society now had a minute's secretary. Jennifer Singfield is a welcomed addition bringing a broad range of knowledge on many environmental issues and a passion for wildlife. Her help will relieve some of the burden of our secretary Jenny Holdway who spends much of her time on the society's business. Many thanks to Jennifer - your assistance is highly valued. A recent workshop/frog talk at the Caboolture Regional Environmental Education Centre was highly successful and completely booked out. This indicates a continued interest by the community in the wonderful world of frogs.

The southeast Queensland regional development plan has now been out for a month. If you live in the S.E. corner of the state and community workshops are being held please take the opportunity to attend. The south eastern part of the state is earmarked for major development with huge implications for our amphibians.

QFS is still unable to report on the outcome of the Green thighed frog habitat at Joyner. However I am pleased to report that things are looking positive for the colony at this time. Council has accepted and acted on our development objections and far from throwing up the proverbial brick wall, the owner/planners are looking at modifying their development plans to accommodate the breeding site. I have an on site meeting with the planner and their surveyor in the near future. At this stage we couldn't ask for anything more with all parties working on ways of saving this rare and beautiful frog.

Until next time keep those headlamps shining and good frogging to all.

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Most of the Co-ordinators now hold the “Frogs of Brisbane” poster and you can pick up your FREE (to members) poster from them.

Diary Dates



- Mar 19-20** QFS camp out to O'Reilly's. Please confirm with Rod or Stefan as bookings are required.
- April 10** Green Day – CJ Greenfield Park, Freeman St, Richlands. (This date may change to April 22 – please contact Jenny for info) 10am – 1pm
- April 17** Green Day – Parkland, Gowan Road, Stretton. 10am – 1pm.
- May 15** Green Day – Kalinga Park, Park Ave, Wooloowin. 10am – 1pm
- May 22** Green Day – Ducie Park, Ducie St, Darra. 10 am – 1pm.
- June 4** Qld Frog Society Co-ordinators Get Together. 10am – 3pm. Brisbane Forest Park.

New Members

The Queensland Frog Society Inc. welcomes the following new members:

Mark Klimek
Greg and Heather Chamberlain
Maroochy Waterwatch Inc
Peach Family
Carswell-Hamilton Family
John Bird
Alexandra Lindsay
Ronald Burke
Leah Henderson
Gartshore Family
Sue Jackson
Donna & Peter Flynn
Jim and Roseanne Warren

ASHGROVE

The summer has really bought out the frogs and I am sure the numbers will have increased. The tusked frogs seem to be calling from quite a few water bodies in this area and I am hoping this is an indicator that this frog is holding its own.

I certainly hope your frogs have been very busy as well.

With my other hat on as Secretary, this summer has been one of the busiest for sometime. Is it heartening to know that the native amphibians are now the concern of the general public and frog lovers alike. The amount of phone calls/emails we have received have kept me in the 'office' for quite a few hours per day and now, with the digital camera era here, I have had quite a few requests to identify frogs that haven't been seen for a few years. Wonderful!!

Jenny Holdway

COOLOOLA

It has been great to see and hear the wonderful chorus in and around the pool during summer – (not from the children singing!)

A real recent delight was to be awakened by a Green tree frog and a python in our bedroom. WOW!

Cane toads seem to be breeding well in our dam, going by the long drawn out "trilling" at night.

Due to family commitments, we don't get out and about as much as we used to, or would like to; so I have contacted Eva Ford from the Mary River Catchment Committee who has agreed to submit anything of interest in our area to the frogsheet as it occurs. Thanks Eva – muchly appreciated.

Last summer we received 530mm of rain compared to this year, being a total of 376mm. Last year we experienced a couple of flash floods with 108mm one night in Feb and 130mm one night in March. This February we received a total of just 35mm. Here's hoping it's on its way.....

As I write this, I can hear the call of the Eastern sedge frog down at the waterhole in our back paddock. The toads in the dam have stopped calling. Besides that – silence!

Leanne



Frogs Australia Network

A New Web Site not to be missed.....



Date: *Tuesday 15 February, 2005*

By: Dale Roberts

The Frogs Australia Network has been established as a result of a series of national conferences of frog groups and scientists over the past four years. With no other network like it in existence, we endeavor to bring together a cohesive, national focus to frog conservation by helping to unite frog community groups, programs, enthusiasts, related organisations and researchers alike, across Australia.

The network aims to establish itself over the coming years, providing a comprehensive 'portal' that showcases the efforts of frog conservation across Australia and directs you to the right source of information and people.

Log on to the site at www.frogsaustralia.net.au

Membership is encouraged for all those interested in frog conservation, from community, industry and government. Becoming a member will provide you with access to a cohesive national network of scientists, frog groups and interested individuals working together to come up with practical and sustainable conservation solutions.

Member Benefits include:

- A cohesive national network of frog groups and interested individuals that can better work together as a united and coordinated entity and with greater influence
- A vehicle for sharing, cross referencing and accessing information and educational resources
- Promotion of local issues on a national scale
- Showcasing your frog related activities by submitting a profile
- Frog conservation and planning tools of the network website
- Access to expertise including a wide range of leading herpetologists and scientists across the country

Membership is free and it is easy to join. As the national network grows, so does the collective voice for the conservation and greater protection of Australian frogs. We look forward to seeing the network develop into the future.

Regards,

Dale Roberts
Chairperson of Frogs Australia Network

In December I was able to attend the 10th Frog week at O'Reilly's guesthouse for most of the week. We had great wet weather which no doubt was disappointing for other guests but very exciting for the froggers.

Woo O'Reilly began the week by introducing our leaders and gave us an overview of the frogs of Lamington National Park. I have attended 3 Frog Weeks and I have never seen as many species. *Litoria Chloris* were out in full force and we had to step over them on the path near their pond. Dr Ed Meyer University of Queensland was able to capture some great photos of them in amplexus.

Ed and Harry Hines Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services kept us entertained with frog calls, we even had a frog call off and the staff made a lovely cake in the shape of a frog. The week had a combination of presentations with plenty of field trips to put newfound knowledge into practice. Dr Marc Hero Griffith University gave us an overview of the history of global frog declines and threats, including Chytrid fungus, currently facing amphibians.

Dr Michael Cunningham University of the Free State, South Africa introduced us to two spectacular areas of the Cape Fold Mountains on the southwest tip of Africa and the Drakensberg Ranges in eastern South Africa. Michael's presentation enabled us to learn about the species diversity, genetic diversity and conservation of the frogs in these areas. Interestingly Michael was at the first Frog week.

Our leaders were always patient with the attendees adjusting accordingly to our knowledge level. We had an enthusiastic 12 year old attending with his grandfather who had never really taken much interest in frogs and it was great to see this gentleman patiently coming out with us until quite late, some evenings, all for his grandson's benefit.

So after plenty of good food, great lectures, fantastic wet weather, plenty of field trips and 26 species later, I went home to start saving for 2005.

Desley Fricke
Co-ordinator for Sunshine Coast

Ed Myer has added the list of frogs found and his highlights:

<i>Litoria caerulea</i>	<i>Crinia parinsignifera</i>
<i>Litoria chloris</i>	<i>Crinia signifera</i>
<i>Litoria dentata</i>	<i>Kyarranus loveridgei</i>
<i>Litoria fallax</i>	<i>Limnodynastes ornatus</i>
<i>Litoria gracilentia</i>	<i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>
<i>Litoria latopal mata</i>	<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>
<i>Litoria pearsoniana</i>	<i>Limnodynastes terraereginae</i>
<i>Litoria peronii</i>	<i>Mixophyes fasciolatus</i>
<i>Litoria nasuta</i>	<i>Mixophyes fleayi</i>
<i>Litoria rubella</i>	<i>Pseudophryne coriacea</i>
<i>Litoria tyleri</i>	<i>Uperoleia fusca</i>
<i>Litoria wilcoxii (formally lesueuri)</i>	<i>Uperoleia rugosa</i>
<i>Assa darlingtoni</i>	<i>Uperoleia laevigata</i>

A total of 26 species!

Highlights of frogweek would include the following:

- (1) Ample rain (as opposed to near-drought conditions in 2002/2003);
- (2) Raucous choruses and nightly spawning of *L. chloris* at the pond outside unit 60;
- (3) All three SEQ *Uperoleia* species together at the one site in the Canungra Valley (and the ensuing confusion as to which *Uperoleia* was which);
- (4) Normally tranquil Cainbale Creek turned into a raging torrent following 100 mm rainfall overnight.
- (5) *Mixophyes fasciolatus*, *Litoria peronii*, *Uperoleia fusca* and *Litoria peronii* in amplexus / spawning at Rose and Jo's dam on the last night;
- (6) Spontaneous chorusing in the bus (dubbed the 'wet boot') on the way back to O'Reilly's;
- (7) The desert bar.

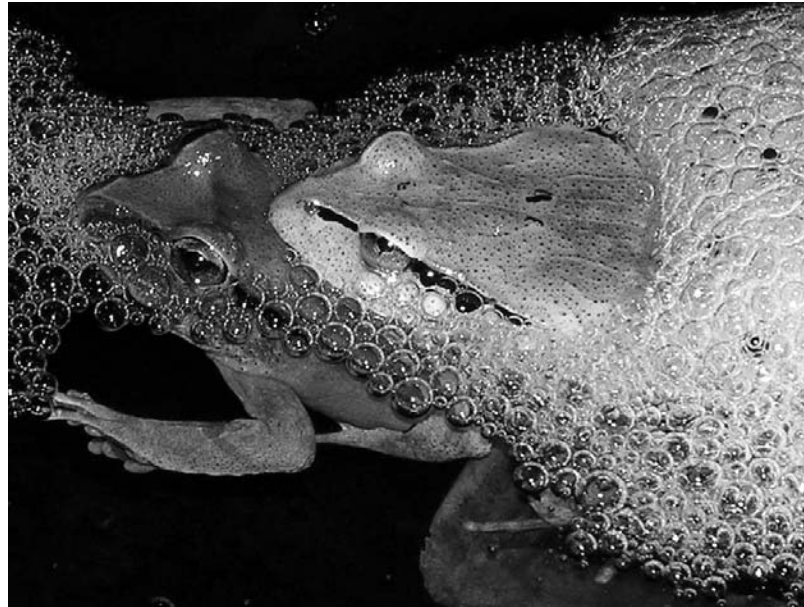
PHOTOS NEXT PAGE

O'Reillys Frog Week 2004

photos by Ed Meyer



Litoria dentata



Lechriodus fletcheri



Litoria chloris

If you are among 99% of the population living along the east and northern coast of Australia then “KILL! KILL! KILL!” will be your chant. If however you are among the minority, or of the species *Bufo marinus*, then ‘Do not kill’ will be your faint cry.

Bufo marinus, commonly known as the cane toad, is one of the few species that evokes strong feelings of disgust in the hearts of many Australians. These feelings may well be warranted as the creature undertakes its insidious crawl across the landscape to parts of our country we would prefer they didn't take up residence. It is also a very unattractive beast with baby-poo colouration, lumps and bumps, eyes that remind us of the headmaster from hell and a hard, unfriendly expression. To add insult to injury the cane toad is also highly poisonous at all stages of its development, (except when it first emerges), it breeds at an incredible rate and is near impossible to eradicate.

The cane toad does breed prolifically; however just 0.5% of individuals will survive the journey from egg to adult. Many of our native species are learning how to dine on adult cane toads such as:

- Keelback (or freshwater) snake
- Some turtles
- Monitors
- Ibis
- Crows
- Some raptors (hawks etc)

Anecdotal evidence suggests that cane toad populations are diminishing in South-east Queensland and that those remaining are smaller than in the past, are often emaciated and ill of health. Some theories are that the toads are being constrained by natural processes such as disease, predation and reduced food sources. It's difficult to be certain but nature does have a way of controlling population levels of any species to a level that can be sustained in the long term.

Research into control through disruption of metamorphosis through genetic changes is being carried out at a university in Canberra. Use of such methods of control has obvious risks for our native frog populations and is not being implemented at this point in time.

While I am not a fan of the cane toad I am strongly opposed to wonton cruelty towards them and question the validity of killing them at all. It is possible to carry out a program of control on one's own property but cease for a short period and numbers will rise to previous levels very quickly. Swerving to 'pop' those on the road may be satisfying but there are many cases of mistaken identity as some of our native species can take on the outline of the cane toad to a masterful degree. One of these is the Giant barred frog which is an endangered species – is it worth it?

It appears that for now at least the cane toad is here to stay. I leave the decision to kill or not to kill to each individual but would like to ensure that people realise that cane toads do have feelings and sense pain like any vertebrate animal. Dettol, bleach and salt are cruel and painful ways to die.

If you are embarking on a control program, prevention of breeding in your dam or pond is a good control method – use barriers (toads will not travel through long grass)- the barrier can be made by mass planting of native grasses and reeds eg. lomandras (listen for the cane toad calling – it sounds like a small engine or generator). Toad spawn (eggs) may be removed from the water and left out to dry.

To be sure of their identity toadpoles are jet black on the top and underneath – the tadpole body shape is like a kite and their tail is no longer than their body. They school together at the water's edge. The spawn (eggs) are laid in continuous strings of jelly around vegetation in shallow water.

Please spare a thought for the despised cane toad – they are not here by their own choice but by ours.

Secretary's Snippets

NEW WEBMASTER

Unfortunately, Mark Sanders is unable to continue as Webmaster for the QFS web site. We wish to thank Mark for all the work he put into updating and improving the site that (judging by the phone calls and emails the Secretary gets praising our site) is appreciated by the public.

David Singfield, son of our Minutes Secretary, has put up his hand to take on this role and I am sure he will bring another new dimension to the site. Thank You David.

If there is anything that you, as members, think needs to be changed or added to the web site, please send your suggestions to the Secretary.

The committee also wishes to thank Samford Net for hosting our site free of charge.

Websites

www.frogsaustralia.net.au

See article on page 5

QFS Trust Fund

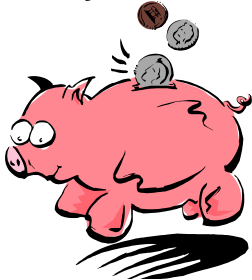
Thank you to Denis Taylor, R. Lechte
D. Goodwillie



Balance is now \$4,976.19

Donations Accepted

The Queensland Frog Society Inc. may receive tax deductible donations of \$2.00 or more, property and bequests. Your donations will assist in research, education and helping to save our frogs. Cheques may be made payable to:
Qld Frog Society Public Trust Fund



*The wonderful colour heading on the
Frogsheet has been printed for QFS free of
costs by*

ASCOT PRINT & DESIGN P/L
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CONGRATULATIONS!

and well wishes

Shelley & Dan

(Our Pine Rivers Co-Ordinator)

On the birth of your newest
addition, Tiaan

(weighing a healthy 8lb 7oz)

IT'S A BOY!



Unfortunately, my personal commitments and lack of time have meant declining assistance with a few community projects, displays and talks over the last year or so. As this is my first report for about 12 months I will start with 2004 events.

Two talks were given to schools and information passed on to people enquiring about sick frogs, ponds, and frog, tadpole and egg identification.

I attended the revamp opening of the Gladstone State High School (Biology department) ponds. Recommendations put forward were taken on board and major work was carried out to provide a friendly habitat for native flora and fauna species. The ponds now also provide a much friendlier learning environment for students.

A workshop held for the Gladstone Toadbuster group targeted frogs most 'at risk' of being killed due to misidentification. Members of the group were able to test their identification skills at the end of the evening and were surprised by how easy it can be to misidentify native species for cane toads. Special thanks must go to John Clarke, Harry Hines, Kylie Joyce, and John McCabe all of QPWS for their support leading up to the workshop and providing me with ethics cover under the Naturesearch program.

A phone interview about the increase in frog numbers after rain was given by me, as part of a story a local newspaper company were doing on frogs. Quite a large article with various sources of information was published. Unfortunately part of the information (unknown source) published was incorrect.

John Clarke with a little input from me has put together some information addressing local issues and will hopefully help counteract some of the misleading information around. Hopefully this information will be available soon.

John Clarke is also nearing the completion of his Masters on the Kroombit Tinker Frog (*Taudactylus pleione*). John's research will give a better understanding of the habitat requirements and calling behaviour which will help with implementation of the *Taudactylus pleione* recovery plan.

A workshop is being planned for the new season so keep an eye out for the dates in the next Frogsheet or your local paper. Please contact me if you'd like to help out with the workshop.

Coordinator/s wanted to take over this area at the end of the year as I will be moving to Armidale, NSW. Anyone interested in taking over or sharing the area, please contact me on 49782630. Information will be supplied to help you get started and you won't be alone as John Clarke is willing to continue his support.

Keep smilin'
Jodi ☺

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