

President's Report

Well another year has almost leapt on by with the AGM and more importantly the celebration of 20 years of the Frog Society held back in September, along with Christmas lurking just around the corner! A great time was had by all at the celebration with special thanks going to the three guest speakers.

At the AGM I was elected to the position of President, a slightly unexpected event that is all very new to me! Luckily, the rest of the committee are all experienced hands at running the Frog Society, so rest assured the society is in good hands and we're already planning some interesting little projects for the coming year. We're looking into producing some new educational material including a revision of the book, Frogs of Brisbane and surrounding areas, produced by the Qld Frog Society over 10 years ago now. There are also plans to put together a brochure of the frogs of Brisbane. It isn't all about Brisbane though! We have a dedicated self confessed frog lover, Bethlea Bell looking to start a branch of the Qld Frog Society in Rockhampton and to begin to produce local educational materials on frogs of central Queensland. These are just a few of the things planned for next year so if you have some new ideas or would like to get more involved give Jenny or myself a call or e-mail. With many different areas to get involved with we should be able to find something froggy right up your alley!! **(Continued page 3)**

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FROGSHEET BY EMAIL

We can send the Frogsheet by email (pdf of about 1MB) – or send you an alert by email that the newsletter is available to download (at your leisure) from the website. Send your email address to Jenny at gldfrogs@bigpond.net.au stating your preference.



*The Committee
would like to thank all members
for their support through the year
and wish you all a VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW
YEAR*

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DIARY DATES

FROG HABITAT SITE WORKING BEES

Bowman Park, Bardon from 8-11am
Contact Phil for more info

Grinstead Park, Alderley (off Shand St),
Contact Debbie Dolby – ddolby@hotmail.com
Phone 3355 4134

Carseldine Bush Crew –Cabbage Tree Creek, Carseldine

First Saturday every month 8am-9.30am
Meet where creek crosses Dorville Rd. **ALL WELCOME.** Contact James Hansen for more info.

QFS MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of month 7.30pm
Contact Jenny for venue. **ALL WELCOME**

Please note:

The Diary Dates & Venues are also on the QFS web site which is constantly updated so please check between newsletters. Please let Jenny know of other suitable dates.

FROG CAMPS

Jan 23rd – Frog ID workshop – Mooloolah
Phone Jan on 5494 7653 to book

Feb 12th – rescheduled Cooloola Camp. **NOTE** - phone Rod 1 week before as it will take some organizing.

Mar 12th – Crows Nest Camp. Phone Rod for details.

Please ring Rod so that we know you're coming and for further details (eg bring water; camp cancelled) QNPWS camp fees apply (\$4.85/person/night)

FROG HABITAT BUSHCARE

Contact us if you are doing bushcare in Frog habitat and would like your working bees listed in diary dates

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

CO-ORDINATORS AWARENESS RAISING

Are there fairs or community events coming up in your areas? Why not put up the QFS display and do some froggy awareness raising? You don't have to be an expert on frog identification or anatomy to get people interested in frogs. Get in touch with Jenny to arrange picking up the display, brochures etc

NEW MEMBERS

Mallory Smith, Lella Woolnough, Karen Stephens,
& Ivan Aird, Brittany Miller, Keith Bannerman,
Erinn Osmond

SPONSORS

The colour heading on the Frogsheet has been
kindly printed free of charge by

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QFS PUBLIC TRUST FUND – RIC NATTRASS RESEARCH GRANT

The QFS Trust Fund was created to help save frogs
through education and research. It is now open to
interested applicants. The purpose of the grant is to
assist research into Queensland's frogs. The form and
grant conditions can be obtained on our website
www.qldfrogs.asn.au. Next deadline for funding from
the Trust Fund will be 12th February, 2011 for the study
of frogs.

The QFS Public Trust Fund balance now stands at
\$7523.77 thanks to a very generous member.

(President's report continued from page 1)

Anyway, a bit more about me, as your new President, given I probably haven't met many of you.....yet! I've always had an interest in herpetofauna (frogs and reptiles) and am lucky enough to have a job doing what I love! I'm currently working as a Senior Ecologist for the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) where I work on a range of research projects relating to how various management (fire, grazing, etc) influences wildlife. My work takes me into the field quite a lot, in fact as I write this I'm also packing for a long field trip that will wrap up with a week at Kroombit Tops National Park, continuing some long running research and monitoring of the Kroombit Tinker Frog (*Taudactylus pleione*).

On that, I look forward to the coming year and wish everyone and their families a very happy Christmas and New Year! Happy frogging over the break – the weather has been great so far for frogs!

Dan Ferguson

ASHGROVE REPORT:

With all the rain we have had I have had a lot of reports on frog activity in this area which is good. The fact that there have been follow up rains has meant that the ponds at Bowman Park, Bardon have kept full and the tadpoles I saw will have a good chance to develop into frogs.

I visited St Ignatius School, Toowong and talked to the Year4's. This was followed up with an excursion by the students to Bowman Park and I showed them a picture of what the area used to look like before the drain was taken out. They looked for pond life, discussed the habitat and what other animals lived there too and one student found some striped marsh spawn. I also visited the Year1's at St Columba School, Wilston and found the students very enthusiastic about frogs and very well informed.

Hope you all have a Great Christmas and look forward to another interesting new year.

Jenny Holdway.

CHERMESIDE:

The Chermeside frogpond (Seventh Brigade Park) has filled early this year and has already attracted Graceful Treefrogs, Green Treefrogs and Eastern Sedgefrogs. Last summer, the pond re-filled a second time round and the water stayed long enough for tadpoles to develop fully. Just before Easter, I counted 50 young treefrogs within a 20m radius of the pond, mostly Graceful Treefrogs. There were also Eastern Sedgefrogs and Green Treefrogs. It was great to see that a number of the frogs travelled from the frogpond to the safety of the long grass on the banks of Downfall Creek (away from park mowers).

I have been working on providing additional plant cover around the frogpond throughout the year and it began to look quite ornamental (although some weeds have rapidly emerged with the recent rain). It looks like we're in for a wet summer, so hopefully the water level will support an even better breeding season this time and I'm awaiting the return of all of the species previously recorded in the park.

In Carseldine, there has also been a lot of frog activity, starting with the September Spring rains. I have heard Tusked Frogs and Broad-palmed Rocketfrogs calling along Cabbage Tree Creek. There have also been Green Treefrogs, Graceful Treefrogs and an Ornate Burrowing Frog calling in parkland adjacent to the Carseldine Railway Station (& Fitzgibbon estate). Closer to home, the Striped Marshfrogs have emerged again around my backyard ponds.

James Hansen



(Photo courtesy QFS) The QLD Frog Society is pleased to announce that our new mascot, "Pobbles" the Pobblebonk Frog (courtesy of the State Govt. grant) now has his very own webpage on our site! Simply hop along to our website (listed below) and click on "Meet Pobbles" on the homepage to be directed to all the latest news regarding Pobbles, QFS and to also learn some fun, froggy facts! Pobbles' page will be updated regularly so be sure to check back and see how our favourite amphibian is doing. You might just learn something aswell!

The website is www.qldfrogs.asn.au

S. Hicks

A Great AGM.....

This year's AGM was a great success and a wonderful way to celebrate our 20years. Dr Glen Ingram (our Patron), Dr Jean-Marc Hero, Harry Hines and his wife, Jo and Past Presidents: Peter Crofts, Ruth Wait and Rod Pattison were among the 30+ people who attended. Once the business side of the meeting was over, Harry Hines (DERM) gave a presentation on some of the work the Society has been and is involved with and how we have jointly helped the advancement of amphibian knowledge scientifically and educationally through the years. QFS Scholarship recipient, Natalie Hill, gave a power point presentation on her work at Currumbin. She has set up a captive husbandry & breeding program for the Eungella Tinker Frog (*Taudactylus* genus) to see if they will breed in these conditions and hopefully, down the track, the more threatened species will be saved. "The Frog Box" can be viewed if you visit Currumbin.

Thank you to everyone for making this a memorable night and to Stefan Durtschi for the photos.



Dr Glen Ingram doing the honours .



The cake!

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Bad news, good news.....and more of the same...

Story number one:

Whilst walking through the Toohey forest last spring, visiting a favorite spot known as the Mayne Reserve quarry, we were dismayed to find that Brisbane City Council had constructed several drainage channels that would prevent water gathering in an area that had always been a prime frog breeding habitat. In addition, they intended to fill many of the ditches and ruts used by the frogs with crushed rock.

This quarry is a unique spot, normally dry and fairly flat, surrounded by cliffs that pour with waterfalls when the rain is heavy, and continue to seep water for some time afterwards. If rain is heavy and continuous, the whole bottom of the quarry can become a lake, and there are depressions that hold water for sufficient time for the tadpoles to complete their development. Frogs that have been documented breeding there include the Green Treefrog (*Litoria caerulea*), the Striped Marsh frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*), the Graceful Treefrog (*Litoria gracilentia*), the Clicking froglet (*Crinia signifera*), the Ornate Burrowing frog (*Opisthodon ornatus*), and both the Great Brown and Copper-backed Broodfrogs, (*Pseudophryne major* and *P.ravenii*).

We contacted the Council, and alerted them to the issue – to our surprise they were extremely concerned and helpful, they said they had no idea of the impact that these fairly minor alterations would cause and equally no idea of the significance of this site to the resident frog population. On our advice they offered to raise the height of the track through the quarry to reduce the effect of the drains, to deepen one of the main ponds so that it would hold water for longer, and to remove metal debris from another pond to improve the water quality. They also provided reeds and sedges for planting around the new pond, which have since grown very well and are now covered with seed heads.

These works were carried out in record time, and allowed a successful breeding season last summer at least for the Green Tree frogs – they have recently spawned again as have the Striped Marsh frogs.

Sadly no Clicking froglets have been heard either this year or last. The shallow seepage areas around the perimeter provided perfect habitat for these small frogs and, whilst they are winter breeders, an odd individual will often call on an overcast summer day. Similar observations apply to the Broodfrogs, and it may be that their populations suffered badly through the drier years.

Overall though a good success story, and hopefully one that will continue throughout the wetter summer that is predicted.



The new improved pond.



Waterfall pouring into the quarry.

Story number two :

The Whites Hill Reserve consists of both a large remnant bush area, and sports fields that were constructed when the original refuse tip was decommissioned. There are channels and ditches around the sports fields, and one in particular was the best known inner city breeding site for the Great Brown Broodfrog, *Psuedophryne major*. These small frogs live permanently in the soil, leaf litter and debris of such gullies, spawning in the moist surroundings and waiting for the rains to submerge the eggs. Fully formed tadpoles then swim free into the puddles where they complete their metamorphosis. Knowing this, it was with considerable shock that we found one day that this ditch had been scraped bare by council machinery, removing the entire surface. Vegetation, soil and frogs all consigned to a dump somewhere with no chance of survival.

Once again we reported this destruction of significant habitat, and once again the reaction was of concern, pleas of ignorance, and offers to try to repair the damage. Council officers from the Department of Environmental Management (Water & Environment), Department of Biodiversity and from those who had done the work met with us and walked the whole area. They discussed ways that future problems could be avoided, outlined future works that are planned and asked for input that could potentially improve the habitat for the frog population – which also includes many of the other species previously mentioned in the Toohey forest area.

As an initial gesture Environmental Management funded two hundred plants and provided volunteers who helped us plant them a couple of weekends ago, to try and start some restoration of the area. They also organised equipment and deepened several selected places that hold water well and are known frog breeding spots – two of these already have tadpoles in them.

It's not all good news however, the damage done will take many years to repair, and it is unlikely that the Broodfrogs can re-colonise this particular spot. There are also many weeds around the sports fields, rubbish left from events held there, siltation issues and a significant cane toad population to contend with.

Looking to the future, Council have expressed considerable interest in providing signage for known significant frog habitats especially in areas that could be in danger from future works, and also in developing mapping of such areas that would then provide them with easily accessible data and hopefully prevent such unintentional destruction in the future.. They have requested ongoing input from the Qld Frog Society to provide the relevant information required. Whilst the intention and goodwill is currently at a high level we intend to keep up the pressure, but.....already there are some inklings of problems as to who would fund what and as to how to actually achieve the desired resultWatch this page !



The scraped-out ditch at Whites Hill.

Stefan and Julia



ONE of the world's smallest frogs was discovered in Borneo, scientists said today.

The pea-sized amphibian was found living in the distinctive flask-shaped pitcher-plant near a mountain in Kubah National Park, said researchers from the University Malaysia Sarawak. Dr Indraneil Das and colleague Alexander Haas tracked down the micro species from their distinctive dawn call of "harsh rasping notes that last for a few minutes with brief intervals of silence".

"We heard the calls of this frog, and we knew the calls of all frogs in the area, and this was different. At first we couldn't see it, but eventually we found it, and I had to trap the frog in one of my baby son's clean white diapers in order to really see what it looked like, it was so tiny," Dr Das said. The frog measures just three millimeters as a tadpole and grows to about nine to 11mm as an adult. It belongs to the Microhylid family of frogs, all of which are under 15mm in length.

"For biologists, this is a curiosity. This just shows how much more there is left to discover in the jungles of Borneo. It's just the tip of the iceberg," said Dr Das. He is set to lead a team into the jungles of Indonesia and Malaysia next month to search for a supposedly extinct toad last seen in 1922, as part of a global project to rediscover 100 species of "lost" amphibians.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/world/worlds-smallest-frog-the-size-of-a-pea/story-e6frf7lf-1225910856666>



GOTCHA: The African bullfrog with its mouse prey. Picture: Barcroft Pacific

THIS danger mouse met a sticky end when crossing the path of the voracious African bull frog. The pimply and veiny behemoth has the self-satisfied air of one who takes pleasure in eating a hearty meal, even if it is a live rodent struggling for survival. These carnivorous amphibians have an aggressive temper, can jump 4m and have tooth like projections called odontoids, which are said to feel like broken glass when the bellicose beasts close their jaws.

'They are huge predatory frogs that sit and wait for animals to pass by,' said 30-year-old Dan Garrick. 'They are stimulated by movement and will lunge at pretty much anything that comes within range, including this unlucky mouse. The mouse will die of suffocation or even shock before digestion. If the prey item is too big, the frog can simply disgorge its stomach and wait it out for the next meal.'

'Despite their unsavoury dining habits they are devoted parents and will guard spawn and tadpoles from predators. 'They even excavate pools to ensure their brood doesn't dry out.' African bullfrogs, or *Pyxicephalus adspersus* in Latin, prey on insects, rodents, birds and are even known to become cannibalistic and overpower other frogs. A single individual **can** weigh up to two kilograms, reach 24 cm long and grow a watertight cocoon to stop itself from drying out in the unforgiving African sun.

African bullfrogs are found throughout southern, central and eastern Africa and are second only in size to the almighty goliath frog from the Cameroon.

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/special-features/mouse-down-in-the-mouth-frog-style/story-e6fgr19l-1225948248056>

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Black spined toad is a bigger threat than cane toad, say officials



The black-spined toad, which hails from Asia, poses a huge threat to Australia and is potentially more damaging than cane toads. Picture: AQIS Source: Supplied

QUARANTINE staff want people returning to Australia from visits to Asia to be on the lookout for toads in their shoes. Not just any old toads but warty, black-spined critters that have the potential to become established in Australia.

The amphibians nearly as big as their cousin the cane toad also love to sneak into hand luggage and hide in and around shipping containers. They also are known as the common asian toad and have a nasty reputation as an invasive species, having spread closer and closer to Australia since the 1920s. Black spined toads compete with native frogs and toads for food and habitat and can carry exotic parasites or diseases. Like cane toads, they also secrete poison from glands in their backs to ward off predators.

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service northern region scientific manager James Walker said yesterday about 20 toads had been found in the past decade although it was not clear if any had slipped through. "They certainly haven't become established in Australia," he said.

Mr Walker said as the toads migrated south through Asia from China, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Indonesia and West Papua, the risk increased to Australia. "They travel well (on ships)," he said. "They are very tough and can handle sitting for long periods. They do not need much water for a long time. They are fairly large and have good energy reserves, allowing them to travel". Mr Walker said the prime time for them to be on the move was the wet season and it was relatively simple for inbound travellers to check luggage and shoes for the hitchhikers.

In May two were found at the Cairns port in the hold of a freight ship that had travelled to Cairns from West Papua. [AQIS](#) officers also found the toads in Sydney in 2007 and 2008, including on a flight from Thailand when one was found in a shoe. About six have been found in shoes in the past two years. Thailand has been the main country of origin, particularly when shoes are left outside accommodation and then packed away. They also have been found in shipping containers from Fiji and Indonesia.

Courier Mail 9/11/2010

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Frog enclosure to give away.
Size: 1000mm wide x 900mm high x 500 deep
(not including the top or base)
Contact Mark Champion – work 3836 0477
A/H 3266 3730 for more details & pick up
address.

From the Editors Desk:

Rain, rain glorious rain. Ponds and dams are full, rivers and creeks are running again. The "nightlife" around my pond have been very noisy so here's hoping there will be lots of tadpoles. Toads are back – so it looks as though "toading" is back on my late night agenda.

From our house to yours - **HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A VERY FROGGY CHRISTMAS AND A HOPPY NEW YEAR.** 'Til next time

NEXT DEADLINE: 11TH FEBRUARY 2011

Naomi

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A BCC GRANT HELPED TO COVER THE PRINTING COSTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER



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better Brisbane*

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