Official Newsletter of the Queensland Frog Society Inc.

Summer 2007

Home is where you make it...

Michael Kels' backyard pal.

See story page 4



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PATRON Dr Glen Ingram

PRESIDENT Janet White

VICE PRESIDENTS Pearl Symonds Rod Pattison

SECRETARY Jenny Holdway 07 3366 1868 qldfrogs@bigpond.net.au

TREASURER Karen Tibbits 07 3359 0658

MINUTES SECRETARY Jennifer Singfield

WEBSITE www.qldfrogs.asn.au

POSTAL ADDRESS Qld Frogs Society Inc. PO Box 7017 East Brisbane Qld 4169

NEWSLETTER Janet White janwhite@bigpond.net.au

QFS SHOP SALES Jenny Holdway 07 3366 1868

CONTENTS	
Diary dates	2
Presidents notes	3
Co-ordinators reports	4
Camps	5
Schools	6
Bowman Park project	6
Education	7
Upper Brookfield project	7
Kedron Brook census	8
Toobys Ck and Stuttering frog	9
Powerlines help frogs	10
Toe-wriggling toads	10
Backyard pond musings	11
Junior page	insert
Frog shop	insert

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 for download (at your leisure) from the website. Send your email address to Jenny at **qldfrogs@bigpond.net.au** stating your preference.

AREA CO-ORDINATORS

ASHGROVE Jenny Holdway - 3366 1868 qldfrogs@bigpond.net.au

BRISBANE CENTRAL Stefan Durtschi - 3891 6853 comlab@optusnet.com.au

CABOOLTURE/BRIBIE ISLAND Pauline Fitzgibbon - 3886 9340

ESK Jason Richard 5424 2373 JRichard@skm.com.au

GOLD COAST Shane Ho - 5533 8125 (A/H)

GOONDIWINDI Melissa Cundy 4671 7925 **Melissac@qmdc.org.au**

IPSWICH Ric Nattrass - 3288 4100 nattrass@ine.com.au

LOGAN CITY Michael Kels – 3287 6752

MOUNT GRAVATT Janet Willoughby – 3343 3949 janet@codingo.net

PINE RIVERS Rod Pattison 3264 6391

REDLANDS Steve Homewood - 3824 0522 bhomewoo@bigpond.net.au

SUNSHINE COAST Desley Fricke – 5493 0031 (Glasshouse) fricked@bigpond.com.au

Patricia Espin – 5446 7908 (North Arm) espin@iinet.net.au

TAMBORINE Claire Baker – 5545 1666 0418 722 550 bugsyclaire@yahoo.com.au

UPPER BROOKFIELD Phil Bird frogphil@gmail.com

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 2008**

Feb 29 Day of the Frog BBQ TBA

FROG HABITAT SITE WORKING BEES

Bowman Park, Bardon.

First Sunday every other month from 8-10.30am. February 3rd, April 6th.

Grinstead Park, Alderley (off Shand St). First Sunday every other month from 9-11.30am. February 3rd, April 6th.

QFS MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of month 7.30pm. Contact Jenny for venue. NO MEETING IN DECEMBER. January 16th, February 20th.

CAMPS

* **Feb 16-17** Harry's Hut, Cooloola NP.

(YOU MUST BOOK

ONLINE WITH QNPWS)

* Mar 15-16 (probably) Mt Barney

(accom TBA)

* Date TBA Out west somewhere.

Please register interest & we'll let you know if this trip goes ahead.

Please ring Rod 3264 6391 or Stefan 3891 6853 to let us know you are coming on any trip or if you need help with booking.

FAIRS

City Smart Neighbourhood Fairs (Green Days) 10am - 1pm.

Feb 24 Mulbeam Park, Beams Rd., Boondall.

May 18 Keong Park, Quandeine St., Stafford.

May 17 Caboolture Substainable Living Expo 9am – 3pm.

QFS display and sales at above fairs.

Apr 12-13 Qld. Council of Gardens Clubs Show with theme 'Focus on Frogs'. Frog Competition for Kids. Contact your local Garden Club http://www.qcgc.net/

WORKSHOPS

August 16 Frog Workshop – Kumbartcho Env. Centre. Contact Jenny for details.

NEW MEMBERS

Anne Dover, Judi Davis, Barbara & Patrick Franklin, Joe & Elizabeth Brunner.

FROG CROSSINGS

Is there a road in your area where you often see squashed frogs after they have attempted to cross?

Please let us know the location.

We plan to lobby for Frog Crossing signs for such areas.

Contact Pearl on

pearl66@bigpond.com.au.

FROG HABITAT BUSHCARE
Contact us if you are doing
bushcare in frog habitat and would
like your working bees listed in
diary dates.

QFS SCHOLARSHIPS

The trust fund was created to assist with helping save frogs through education and research. QFS is currently in discussions with our trustees and researchers about how to set up **scholarships for amphibian research**. With the money currently available this may take the form of, for example, scholarships of \$1000 available as funds allow or an annually available scholarship.

If you are interested please contact QFS.

The QFS Public Trust Fund balance now stands at \$6,962.47

LOST EMAILS

In mid November the computer crashed and about **400 emails to QFS were lost**. So if you are wondering why you haven't had a reply to a query that could be the reason. Please get in touch again!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S (MESSY) DESK

My thanks to the outgoing committee for their hard work over the past year. Oh, good, they're back! Thanks for coming back again - with minor adjustments to configuration!. I now have two hats, President and newsletter ed. Putting on editing hat, my thanks to Rod as president for always checking to see how I was getting on with the Frogsheet; whether I had enough articles or was tearing my hair out. Now I will be checking on myself! Please remember suggestions for content and format always welcome. Also, I don't want to hog all the good jobs (!) so if anyone else would like to edit Frogsheet please get in touch.

YEAR OF THE FROG - plans so far...

- International (LEAP) Day of Frog BBQ Feb 29 with Geckos wildlife, frog fancy dress competition and more (see inserted flyer please copy & distribute to friends; email us if you would like a digital copy)
- Pond +/or habitat tour late 2008
- Car stickers (thanks to Jan Edwards for that idea)
- *.. Limited edition t-shirt with a design by Gary Clarke of SWAMP-cartoon fame Celebration habitat planting at our bushcare site
- Some sort of 'Jump for Frogs' awareness-raising and fun jumping/leap-frogging competition

We are just checking on permission to use the phrase 'Year of the Frog' or whether there are strings attached, as officially it is a venture of the organisation Amphibian Ark.

amphibian ark 2008 YEAR OF THE FROG

Look out for their logo and check out their website at .http://www.amphibianark.org.

Management Meetings

Members are very welcome to come to management meetings or contribute items for the agenda before meetings. I would like to have guest speakers at some meetings to entice more members along. Suggestions please - especially from our experts.

AGM venue

Co-ordinator Michael Kels lamented missing the AGM and suggested that we could alternate the venue for the AGM between north and south sides of Brisbane. Great idea and we will do this. My apologies to all the members outside of Brisbane to whom this makes no difference!

On behalf of the committee, best wishes for a happy, safe, rainy and restive, festive season. Janet White

~~~~~ ~~~~~CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS~~~~~~~ ~~~~~

### ~ASHGROVE~

Even with the welcomed rain, the treefrogs in this area have been quiet possibly due to the low temperatures. The ground frogs don't seems to mind and I have recorded Tusked frogs calling in the Enoggera Creek near the sports ground. Bowman Park habitat group will be putting in some more plants on December 3 and I am sure we will see an improvement in the area after this rain. Hope to welcome some more members on the day.

Jenny Holdway.

#### ~LOGAN CITY~

We have several plastic watering cans for watering plants in our patio area. A few weeks ago I attempted to use one of the watering cans but the water wouldn't come out properly.

I peered inside to see what was causing the blockage and I saw a green tree frog sloshing around in the water. This frog now seems to have made a home out of the watering can (see photo on front page).

Every night, just after dark, he slowly comes out of the watering can and jumps onto a nearby rock. He sits there for several hours catching insects and then usually returns to the watering can by the following morning. We have taken several photographs of him. The photo shows him sitting on the rose of one of the watering cans.

Sometimes he disappears for a few days if the weather is very dry. When he comes back to the watering can we always know it means good rainfalls are coming. He's a great weather forecaster.

Michael Kels

#### ~SUNSHINE COAST~

The frogs here on the Sunshine Coast are having a favourable start to their breeding season with several good, heavy rainfalls over the past 6-8 weeks. And yes, I have donned the raincoat and gone frogging.

I received a phone call from a very distressed lady in mid October. She lives out at Ridgewood, west of Cooroy. It had just been announced that 60m high power lines are to be carved through the area and, of course, who would want that on their door step? I must say my curiosity peaked when a neighbour of hers claimed she had seen a Southern Dayfrog (*Taudactylus diurnis*) outside her shed about a month earlier. I arranged for a frog walk in the area and luckily it had been raining just a couple of hours earlier.

I didn't see any Southern Dayfrogs, but came across a Green Treefrog (Litoria caerulea), Emerald-spotted Treefrogs (L.peronii), Graceful Treefrogs (L.gracilenta), a large population of wallum froglets (Crinia tinnula), heaps of Eastern Sedgefrogs (L.fallax) and the biggest surprise of all the Tusked Frog (Adelotus brevis). My past experiences with the Tusked Frog here on the coast, have been finding just a small number of Tusked Frogs in any one area. Let me assure you that Adelotus brevis has a very strong hold out at Ridgewood! I visited one waterhole in the creek system that was teeming with Eastern Sedgefrogs and Tusked Frogs. I was truly delighted to hear the many calls of Adelotus brevis.

A good time was had by myself and the Ridgewood resident with a promise of having another frog walk in her area soon. We now also have a newly converted lover of frogs in the area.

Wishing everyone a happy, hoppy Christmas.

Cheers, Trish.

# RECENT QFS ACTIVITIES: CAMPS, SCHOOL VISITS, \*\*\*EDUCATION, & WORKING BEES\*\*\*

# FROG CAMPS SPRING 2007 PEACH TREES AND BINNA BURRA

In spite of the recent rain in Brisbane the camps at both Peach Trees (State forest near Jimna, about 100km NW of Brisbane) and Binna Burra (80km S of Brisbane, in Lamington National Park) were dry and neither area showed signs of having received any reasonable rainfall. Choosing a time and place for a frog camp is the easy part but making it rain to create the perfect condition for frogs to appear is a bit beyond us mere mortals. Of course there are plenty of other animals to see and there hasn't been a camp yet where we couldn't find several species of frogs and these camps were no exception.

Considering the time of year the night at Peach Trees was cold; white vapour clouds appeared after our every breath. Frogs were calling along the river and although timid we found *Litoria* pearsoniana, *L. fallax, L. rubella, L. wilcoxii, L. peronii, Adelotus brevis, Mixophyes* fasciolatus, and of course *B. marinus*. All things considered not a bad night after all.

Binna Burra camp was a highlight for me. On many occasions, over the past seven years, I have heard *Assa darlingtoni* (Marsupial Frog) calling but conditions were never quite right to find this elusive little camouflage expert. However, this time, after a lengthy period of patiently triangulating its call we finally found this amazing little frog. One of those magic times in a frogger's life.

Next it was off to visit the 2000 year old Beach Trees. The multiple trunks of these ancient trees looked quite eerie in the light of our head lamps. There is a species of orchid that only grows on these trees and you would have to wonder how **Cont'd p 6** 

Cont'd from p5 many countless thousands of other organisms also depend upon them for their survival. We finished off the evening with a short drive down the mountain to the water hole opposite the QNPWS rangers' house. There we found *M. fasciolatus , L. peronii, L. tyleri* and a frog that I have only seen once before – *L. revelata* (Whirring Treefrog). More magic to finish off the night.

The camps are a great way to learn about frogs. Different areas are chosen for their species of frogs - but we will endeavour to find places with accommodation as well for our non-camping frogging members.

So find some time to get away - love to see you on the next camp (see 'Diary Dates'). We are after suggestions for frogging hotspots to visit - especially out west. *Perhaps you'd like a survey of your property?* 

Rod Pattison

# CONSERVATION CLUB, ST PETERS JUNIOR SCHOOL, INDOOROOPILLY

A couple of months ago, I received an email from Abigail, a student, inviting me to her school's conservation club meeting. When we had settled on a date, Abigail was quite excited as it was close to Threatened Species Day and the students had been doing research on the day in class.

I arrived just before the lunch bell rang and was greeted by Abigail's mother who showed me to the classroom where the meeting was to take place. I had some time to chat with Abigail who is in Year 3 and I found out that she had start the club when in Year 2 and membership numbers usually ranged from 3 to 15. The play bell went and the room filled with about 40 students which put a big smile on Abigail's face. I was nicely introduced and then told that the club was one year old that week and the

invitation to me was to help celebrate.

Half an hour of questions and discussions went very quickly after which I presented Abigail with a couple of QFS posters and congratulated her on her good work. As the students made their way back to class they were each given a chocolate frog, bought by Abigail's mother, and a QFS brochure.

We need more 'Abigails' to start similar clubs: "Well done" to St Peters Junior School, Indooroopilly for their support to her.
Jenny Holdway (Jenny - apologies, this should have been printed in previous issue. Ed).

# WEST END PRESCHOOL

Last week I was invited to visit the West End Preschool to talk to the students about frogs and their habitats. The classes have been learning about amphibians and their 'homes' because one of the fathers had built three small wetlands plots in their playground. The students were to plant it out after my talk. They were quite knowledgeable on the subject and very interested in knowing what the plants were.

This will be an area that they will be able to watch with interest throughout their school years and I hope to revisit to see how it is going in the new year.

Jenny Holdway

#### **BOWMAN PARK HABITAT GROUP**

Our working bee on the first Sunday morning in October 2007 was very interesting. Robert Whyte from SOWN conducted a walk through the habitat area and deconstructed drain which now forms a creek we call 'Frog Creek'. We identified plants which were old favourites and saw new ones too. A lot of the planting from Australia Day 1999 has held up despite the drought.

Rob also pointed out the exotics that had escaped from the surrounding gardens and were flourishing in Frog Creek. The good news is that

we saw tadpoles in the creek so hopefully the recent rain allowed them to develop.

At our December bee we put in 20 trees and lomandras. The best bit was hearing a big green calling from the drain pipe (between the 2 habitats) just as the showers came over and gracefuls calling from the creek - bliss.

For the first working bee of 2008 (Sunday 3 February) we are planning a joint planting with SOWN (as part of the Ithaca Intact project: see **www.ithacaintact.org.au**). We will also plant around a new pool in the habitat site which will be given a bentonite liner. Presently water dries up within a few days but the liner should maintain a pool long enough to allow for the metamorphosis of tadpoles.

Anitra Ross, Phil Bird & Jenny Holdway.

## **EDUCATION: FROG VS TOAD IDENTIFICATION**

Kay Montgomery, Science and education co-ordinator for SEQ catchments has sent QFS a copy of a new teaching resource. The booklet and supporting resource kit (including taxidermied toad, laminated pictures, puzzles and MP4 with frog calls) has been developed in response to people regularly confusing native frogs with cane toads. With activities such as toad musters now taking place in N. NSW people all too frequently catch and kill native frogs (they are not so familiar with toads down there..ed) such as the Ornate Burrowing Frog. The booklet shows how to identify toads and also includes other information about amphibians.

The co-ordinator is seeking support from QFS (and others) to help develop a process/program to train/support teachers so they can get this information out to children and the community.

Jenny Holdway has had an initial discussion with Kay Montgomery and said that she will assist. If anyone else is interested in this program (or the booklet - there are 500 copies available for educators) - please contact Jenny or Kay on 3816 9714 or 0423826804.

# FROG HABITAT PROJECT, UPPER BROOKFIELD - PHIL BIRD

I am trying to encourage the local community to get together for community planting and survey events in a section of Council land (road margin) which borders Moggill Creek and extends to Upper Brookfield Road, in the upper area of Upper Brookfield. Frogs heard recently calling in the creek include Striped marsh frogs (Limnodynastes peronii), Tusked frogs (Adelotus brevis) and Beeping Froglets (Crinia parinsignifera).

To start the project I'm giving a talk on December 1<sup>st</sup> (readers - sorry we couldn't give you prior warning) at the Community Hall, Upper Brookfield. I will present what we do as The Queensland Frog Society, show slides of habitats and lead into what we did at Bowman Park. I will show how planting restores and rehabilitates a habitat suitable for survival of frogs, talk about chytrid and raise the issue (although not relevant out here) of backyard ponds.

I have some volunteers coming to plant on the 8<sup>th</sup> Dec and again on the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008, organised by Greg Siepens, the Moggill Creek Catchment Group coordinator. I will be conducting surveys throughout 2008 and will be distributing survey forms to people so that we can see where, and which, frogs can be found in this part of Moggill Creek and surrounding waterholes. While distribution maps cover the area, specific sites have not been identified.

| My contribution to an amphibian a |
|-----------------------------------|
|-----------------------------------|

Phil Bird

| ***** |
|-------|
|-------|

# FROG CENSUS - WPSQ KEDRON BROOK CATCHMENT BRANCH

Hi everyone,

We had a good gathering at the workshop on the evening of Wednesday 24 October with seventeen participants attending. Wildlife expert Adrian Caneris delivered an interesting and informative session on species known from Kedron Brook. Survey protocols, equipment and safety issues were also discussed.

We now own a special field recorder suited to recording frog calls on 24 bit Wave/MP3 stereo sound files. These can be stored on computers for further evaluation and comparison with reference sound spectrums of different species of frog. This will assist us to extend the depth of our surveys in the (hopefully) rainy season this summer.

The highlight of the night was the field component - of course. Even though Frog Creek in Grinstead Park was dry and there had been no rain for a couple of weeks the Common Green Treefrog *Litoria caerulea* was spotted at the entrance of a hole in a tall gum tree. Three Tusked Frogs *Adelotus brevis* were heard calling from Kedron Brook.

In late November or December we will be organising surveys targeting specific habitats along Kedron Brook. If anyone would like to attend these surveys please register your interest either on the Kedron Brook website

# www.kedronbrook.org.au/projects\_funding/frogs\_survey.html

or phone me, Debbie Dolby, on 3355 4134.

As you can appreciate the surveys will be of an opportunistic nature and therefore only short notice can be given.

Looking forward to a prosperous frogging season.

Debbie

HELP!! DOES ANYONE STILL HAVE MS Works?

Debbie would like to look at QFS records from Grinstead park. We have these on a disk but need someone with **MS Works** to open the spreadsheet/database which has a **.wdb** extension . Please get in touch if you can help.

# **KEEPING UP WITH COMMUNICATIONS**

Please get in touch if you have any ideas about additional ways for QFS to communicate with the community or membership especially **YOUTH**. For example, could you make a video or digital presentation for **YOUTUBE** about Queensland Frogs or QFS activities?

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

**ASCOT PRINT & DESIGN P/L** 

Ph 3266 6666



# TOOBYS CREEK, OURIMBAH, NEW SOUTH WALES & the need for regulators to enforce the ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION & BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT.

Phoenix (that's his full legal name), a disabled pensioner writes:-

I am suing Forests NSW. The case concerns the possible extinction of the southernmost population of the Stuttering Frog, *Mixophyes balbus*, in a logging operation in Toobys Creek ,Ourimbah. The destruction of rainforest habitat, water sources, and damaging other protected species is part of the court case.

Toobys Creek was once the largest area of Lowland Rainforest in the Sydney region. Many endangered species had found refuge in this Endangered Ecological Community. In 2004, the people of Ourimbah Community Incorporated (Central Coast) were horrified to discover that many hectares of native vegetation have been cleared (and are continuing to be cleared).

It is being argued that since the logging began, uniquely Australian endangered species such as the Stuttering Frog have disappeared from this once thriving place and that the effects of logging are disastrous for this unique frog - the siltation of breeding pools, opening the pond area to light, heat, drying winds, extra UV and extra predation. These extra stresses increase their susceptibility to disease. Only a few breeding populations remain for the frog. It is extremely important that any illegal and harmful logging is stopped before it is too late.

Are you able to go to the court in February 2008 to demonstrate support, by just being there?

The Ourimbah Community need an expert witness in conservation management or the Stuttering Frog to confirm the frog's significance. Can you assist?

Phoenix v Minister for Primary Industries and others is an action currently on foot in the Federal Court No 1938 2007. Mentioned on 25th October 2007 and adjourned to February, the International Year of the Frog - Leap Year 2008! (and potentially the international Day of the Frog 29 February). The Court is being asked to order FNSW operations out of Toobys Creek and to make a repair order to attempt to compensate for the damage to this beautiful habitat.

Please let me know if you can help,
Phoenix, Ourimbah Community Inc., PO Box 259 Ourimbah NSW 2258 Australia

Phoenix is ill in hospital at present so please email replies to toobyscreek@hotmail.com and deidrie@asecomputing.com
To keep up to date visit the blog at http://www.myspace.com/toobyscreek and info at http://www.frogsaustralia.net.au/community/search.cfm?
puid=6C53493F-0AF9-8984-08BC7A1D8444C2B5 and http://www.webaware.com.au/test/southernstutteringfrog/

# Can powerlines help frogs?

Courier Mail. Brian Williams July 12, 2007 SCIENTISTS are trying to figure out if clearings created for powerlines through rainforests may be helping frogs survive a deadly disease. In laboratories, scientists have noticed the potentially fatal fungus chytrydiomycosis is not nearly so deadly at temperatures of about 37C. But once the temperature drops to about 25C, the fungus becomes more potent. The fungus had proved deadly to higher altitude species.

Chytrydiomycosis is believed responsible for three species being wiped out but might be to blame for at least six extinctions.

"The idea is to look at small-scale but intensive disturbance to the frogs' habitat and monitor how it affects them," said Lin Schwarzkopf, of James Cook University's school of marine and tropical biology. There are no cases of population declines due to the disease in frogs that live in lowland rainforests. The project will examine why this could be.

"Higher, more variable temperatures and light levels and lower humidity seem to protect frogs from the disease," Professor Alford said.

"Small clearings being made for power line towers are likely to increase the exposure of frogs to such conditions, which could reduce their vulnerability to the disease.

"Our monitoring of the frogs will determine if the areas disturbed by tower construction are used by frogs and how."

# Toe-wriggling Cannibalistic Cane Toads

ABC Science Online's Anna Salleh and Reuters' David Gray. Jun 5, 2007

Cane toads wiggle their toes to lure their young, then eat them up in an act of cannibalism, Australian researchers say. They say the young toads move towards the adults, possibly mistaking the wiggling toes for a tasty morsel like an insect. Instead the youngsters themselves end up as the tasty morsel. But harnessing this cannibalistic behaviour may have some benefits, at least in Australia where cane toads are an invasive pest. Scientists say it could be the key to getting cane toads to eat themselves out of existence.

Professor Rick Shine of the University of Sydney and PhD student Mattias Hagman will report their findings in the journal Animal Behaviour. The researchers noticed that when baby toads are around adult toads, the adults start wiggling the middle toes on their hind feet. The baby toads appear to respond by hopping towards the adults. The researchers wondered whether this toe-waving is an adaptation for cannibalistic behaviour and set up an experiment to check. Toads were separated by clear glass and not allowed to eat each other because it would have gone against the rules of ethical animal experimentation. The researchers found that baby toads only move towards adults that wave their toes. "[The toe waving] seems to be beautifully designed to arouse the feeding responses of a small cane toad," Prof Shine said. "They

Con'td on page 11

cont'd from page 10

presumably think it looks like a small insect."

Prof Shine says two males mating with a female, which often drowns in such a situation, confirms that toads have evolved to be cannibalistic. (Don't understand the reasoning there - ed) This could be useful in trying to control them. Prof. Shine says males are most likely to cannibalise their young because they congregate around the ponds where females come to lay their eggs. But females tend to spend more time searching for food. This means they are harder to find but present a greater risk to native predators. While males are easier to find than females, Prof Shine says it could be helpful to keep them alive and focus on knocking off the harder-to-find females.

"We might end up with a group of toads that were very good at eating smaller toads," he said. Prof Shine also says outnumbering female toads with males would increase the number of female toads drowned by numerous males trying to copulate with them in the water. He says this selective culling could be combined with a parasite, from native frogs, that has recently been found to kill or stunt the growth of cane toads. "At the moment it's an idea, and we need to run trials trying to see how effective that's going to be because at the moment we don't know," he said. (edited version).

# Musings - Backyard ponds!

At the last management meeting, being the least experienced frogger of the group, I suggested organising a trip to visit successful backyard ponds, to see what works and why and maybe what doesn't. There was dissent (good for democracy) and this was Phil's later response:

Backyard ponds have no security of tenure and can be lost to development. Like bushland also, unless protected. That's why when frogs breed in parks and school yards these are important places to conserve, especially in inner city areas like where I lived at Ashgrove (ie the Bowman park project).

However, I think the argument about tenure could be made for any aspect of one's yard - treasured trees and shrubs that are habitat for birds, reptiles, invertebrates, fungi - these can all disappear under a dozer. Nevertheless, if my garden was destroyed tomorrow it would still have nurtured, over the past 15 years, generations of creatures. Their offspring have been able to disperse - maybe to other yards, maybe back to bushland. Surely that has value? So I solicited another frogger's view ~ who also had reservations! Her concerns are that creatures may be attracted to sub optimal habitat where, for example, they might become easy prey or not able to complete their breeding cycle.

Perhaps it is just matter of where to expend energy, in which case protecting natural habitat is obviously more important than making a pond. But love of nature is likely to begin in one's backyard, whether encountered as a child or later in life. At the moment I still support backyard ponds and hope to have an excuse to go and nose around other folks gardens...

What is your view?

Janet White

Hi, Enjoy this issue and the rest of 2007! Gemma

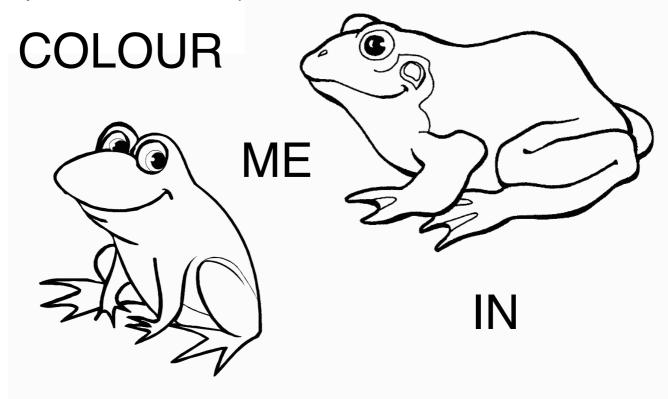


# **CONGRATULATIONS**

to Jamie Raveneau who won last issue's painting competition!!

# A bit about frogs...

Frogs are amphibians. What are amphibians? Amphibians form a class of vertebrates. Vertebrates are animals which have back bones which surround their nerve cords. Amphibians are divided into three major groups, or 'Orders'. Two of these, the FROGS (including toads) and the SALAMANDERS are found throughout the world. The third group, CAECILIANS, are limbless amphibians found only in the tropics. Frogs belong to the Class Amphibia, and rely on moisture to breathe, reproduce and survive.



# Frogs jumping on to the menu



E don't know what you do with them either, but seeing is believing.

A sharp-eyed reader spotted this among the grocery specials in *The Straits Times* in Singapore. Live bullfrogs (Tian Ji) \$2.50 each or three for \$4.50.

Apparently, you eat them, but first you have to skin them. Toad in the hole perhaps?

Gold Coast Bulletin Fri Oct 12,2007



Stuck for a CHRISTMAS GIFT? Check out our Frogshop. Kids Books, Identification guides, posters, CD with calls T-shirts.

How about a membership subscription for a gift?



Heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent something for the Summer issue. Please send contributions, comments, letters, observations to **janwhite@bigpond.net.au**. Autumn deadline March 22nd 2008.

If undeliverable, return to Qld Frog Soc Inc PO Box 7017 East Brisbane Qld 4169

Frogsheet - Summer 2007 Print Post Approved PP424022/00619 SURFACE MAIL

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA