

Vice President's Report

President Dan Ferguson has again been called 'out bush' to conduct further research into frogs and their habitats. His work certainly helps our Society stay up to date.

The Management Committee has been working hard to fulfill our aim of encouraging and fostering an interest in frogs. Numerous displays have been held at venues such as the Queensland Bird Fair & Expo, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary's May Festival and Brisbane City Council's Green Heart event at Chermside. Pobbles, with many thanks to Pearl Symonds, always makes a hit especially with the kids. As well as answering the varied questions from the public, it's always great when a member of the Society steps out of the crowd and says 'hi'.

Information sessions have also been held with school groups such as Queen of Apostles Yr 4's, Jenny Holdway has been outstanding in doing these presentations as well as the public displays and that's on top of excellently handling the mammoth job of secretary. The committee is currently preparing an informative colour brochure to hand out at the displays. It is also examining the viability of setting up a Facebook page.

Although winter is approaching, people are often surprised when told to inspect their garden soon after dark with a torch. Frogs are still out there!

Victor Eckhardt

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**UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
PLEASE**

If you have changed your email address lately, the Secretary would be delighted if you would let her know

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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 qldfrogsgpond.net.au stating your preference.

FROG HABITAT BUSHCARE

Contact us if you are doing bush-care in Frog habitat and would like your working bees listed in Diary Dates.

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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 Ck, 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.

June 5th – Logan Council L.E.A.F. day. Griffith University Logan Campus. QFS display & Pobbles

June 26th – Bellbowrie Community Event, Booker Place Pk Bellbowrie 10am-2pm

July 8, 9 & 10th – Qld Home Garden Expo – Nambour. Talks, displays & Pobbles

Aug 28th – Kamartcho Festival – Environmental Centre, Eatons Hill. 11am-3pm

DATE CLAIMER

Please keep September 24th free for QFS's A.G.M. at Downfall Creek, McDowell.

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

Bayside Ck Catchment Group, Patrick Kelly, Tazia Gaisford, Brian Maley, Lisa Maloney, Paul Millar, Wilkinson-Reed Family, Michelle Little, Meepa Lokuge, Ron & Diana Hasted, Teresa Gambaro, Phillip Wilkinson, Marion Hempfing

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.

The QFS Public Trust Fund balance now stands at \$6635.50

ASHGROVE REPORT

The last couple of months have been quiet on the frogging front and I am sure they are enjoying a rest after such a wet summer. I had a lot of excited callers phone to tell QFS that their frogs were back after years of not hearing them so we can hope that the species numbers will have increased.

Working Bees at Bowman Park, Bardon have been successful in clearing the weeds which have also grown at a great rate. I have included the words of our hard working leader below.

3/4/2011

"We had a very successful working bee today. For people who weren't able to attend, we weeded part of "Frog Creek" just near the playground along a 20-30 metre stretch. We removed approx 2m3 of weeds which included (as per the SOWN "weeds to whack"): small infestation of cats claw, *Canna indica*, *Dyschoriste depressa*, *Megathyrsus maximus* (Green panic) a sizable infestation of *Setaria palmifolia* (Palm Grass), a well established vine of *Solanum seaforthianum* (Brazilian nightshade), I think *Acetosa sagittata* (Turkey Rhubarb) and my favourite weed to hate *Anredera cordifolia* (Maderia vine) growing and covering two Brown pines (*Podocarpus elatus*). I recall planting these with Brian Sait back in 2003.

In addition it was encouraging to see regeneration of Deep Yellow wood and from a wonderful example of Orange Thorn (*Pittosporum multiflorum*) with lots of babies sprouting underneath. May the frogs be with you, Phil Bird."

Jenny Holdway

What the Qld Frog Society has been up to in the Rockhampton area lately

Thanks to a growing band of dedicated and enthusiastic supporters and helpers, it was a very exciting "Frog Season" for the Qld Frog Society in the Rockhampton area. The seemingly endless rains allowed frogs to breed and have their offspring grow to maturity at a much greater rate than usual. There were also many losses as frogs were washed down the creeks and rivers and some into the ocean. I had many reports of Green-striped Frogs surviving this ordeal and the attached photograph was taken by Lyndie Malan of one that ended up on the shores of Great Keppel Island (off the coast of Yeppoon)!

The Qld Frog Society set up numerous educational displays throughout the Summer at local Markets and events and also ran specific programs for a primary school class, Under 8s and Homeschoolers. We are building up a local resource base, with the help of local photographers. This includes a "Frogs of Rockhampton" brochure, a "Frogs of the Rockhampton General area" brochure, CQ Frog Catalogue on Facebook which can be viewed by anyone at

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?pid=31847415&l=c417b19a0a&id=1474899518> and a "Rocky Frogs" colouring-in booklet. If you'd like a copy of either of the brochures or colouring-in booklet, I'm more than happy to send or email one to you.

Throughout the Summer, I fielded countless questions about frogs via email, Facebook and face-to-face encounters. Many people sent me photos of frogs to identify as well. I really loved this "Frog Counselling" and look forward to more of the same.

Autumn and Winter are very quiet for frogs around here as they seek a place to while away the cool, dry days. We don't have too much planned at this time but once Spring has sprung, a series of Frog Identification Workshops are being planned for the local community. My attendance at a similar workshop many years ago was the catalyst for my current passion for local frogs and their conservation.

Bethlea Bell



Green-striped frog that wanted a holiday at Geat Keppel Island.

Pobbles telling people about Save the Frogs Day at Currumbin.



Pobbles was to be seen wandering around at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on May 1st to promote froggy awareness for the annual "Save the Frogs Day" (April 30th). Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is currently the only Queensland wildlife park or zoo to be actively involved in the Amphibian Arc project.

At the "Frog Box" due to the commitment of Natalie Hill one of their wildlife keepers, they have successfully bred and reared *Taudactylus liemi* in a effort to understand more about the captive husbandry of the *Taudactylus* species.

Natalie Hill was the recipient of the QFS Ric Natrass scholarship last year and the camera set up for which the money was partly used to fund can be viewed by the public at the "Frog box". Pobbles is very grateful for being invited along to this wonderful place that has been helping Australians endangered frogs.

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“Bring Us Your Frogs”

This is an article that was sent around to QFS members last month and we have included some sections of it as it is quite interesting. It reminds us that Australia isn't the only country having to deal with a feral amphibian species. Also it questions the effectiveness of eradication when it is only directed at killing the feral "pest" when all the other threatening processes removing native species are not addressed. This article does not necessarily reflect the views of the Society but it is food for thought. You can read the rest of the article on <http://www.hawaiiancoqui.org/>

BRING US YOUR FROGS: Why Frogs "Belong" in Hawaii

April 29, 2011 is International Save the Frog Day.

Why save the frogs?

Besides being beautiful, fascinating, a source of medicinal substances and essential for healthy ecosystem function, frogs are canaries in the environmental coal mine. They are sensitive to pollution and climate change. And their numbers are declining at extinction rates. That's bad news for the rest of us living in the coal mine. Clearly, we need to change our ways. But change is difficult for a culture to accept. Until people are dying at the rate of frogs, nothing will alter our bad cultural behaviours.

So the next best thing to do is trying saving the frogs. We may not be able to stop pesticide and herbicide use, or end the deforestation and development of wild areas, or stop all the industries and lifestyles that contribute to climate change. But we can catch frogs where they are declining and find new, healthier places for them to live. We might not have the political and economic clout to stop multinational corporations from exploiting and altering the world's environments. But we can help refugee species flee the destruction and avoid extinction.

There are places on the planet that can serve as sanctuaries for these refugees. One place, in particular, stands out as one of the best – Hawaii.

If you move frogs from one place to another that already has frogs, the immigrants will compete with the natives, and you can possibly lose native frog populations. Hawaii, however, has no native frogs, or any native reptiles, amphibians, land snakes, or lizards. What better place to introduce frogs? Lots of insect pests to eat, warm and humid conditions, and few predators. If we wanted a sanctuary for endangered and threatened frogs, this is the place. But wait. Can we just move a species from one part of the planet to another? Won't it become invasive and cause damage?

It is this question that is keeping frogs from finding new homes. According to current trends in environmental thinking, species “belong” where they are “native”. You’re not supposed to move them to places where they “don’t belong”. When it comes to frogs, the Hawaii government has said they clearly “don’t belong”. Of course, there are already frogs and toads in Hawaii, which were brought by environmental managers for insect control decades ago. Back then species were introduced deliberately to enhance biodiversity and provide needed environmental services, such as pest control, or to serve as a food source. The environment was seen as a garden for us to plant and inhabit as we saw fit.

That has all changed. Now the goal of managers is to kill introduced species in order to preserve and restore native ecosystems as they had existed prior to western contact centuries ago. They won't get rid of the people, or the agriculture, or the chemical spraying, or the bulldozing, or the deforestation, or the development, or the intercontinental shipping, or the industries and energy policies that help cause climate change. It's hard to change these aspects of the culture. But you sure can kill things that "don't belong". What was called "exotic" or "immigrant" is now called "alien" or "invasive". We have gone from an open immigration policy to a bio-xenophobia.

The author Sydney Ross Singer is a medical anthropologist, biologist, and author living on the Big Island of Hawaii. He is an outspoken defender of the Hawaiian coqui frog, has created Hawaii's first coqui frog sanctuary, and has been featured on Animal Planet, PBS Nature, BBC radio, and Univision. He is co-author of *Panic in Paradise: Invasive Species Hysteria and the Hawaiian Coqui Frog War* (ISCD Press, 2005). His website is www.HawaiianCoqui.org

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Canaries in the Pond

Frogs need moist areas or free-standing water for their eggs and tadpoles to survive and develop. They are also site-loyal. These characteristics mean that frogs, like the famously sensitive canaries carried in the coal mines to detect lethal gas levels, can serve as an early warning. They could be the canaries of climate change!

Global forecasters predict a pattern of wet regions becoming wetter and dry regions becoming drier, with increases in the frequency and severity of extreme temperature days. Locally, predictions include a decrease in low and moderate rainfall and longer periods of drought interspersed with more frequent heavy rain and potential flooding. Are our natural landscapes and wildlife population resilient enough to survive?

A study in Karawatha Forest is developing a predictive model to identify key frog breeding sites, investigate the effects of climate change and identify currently sub-optimal breeding habitats and the conditions under which they could become key breeding locations.

Complementing this research are hands-on programs such as Bowman Park frog habitat project.

In the early 1990's, at a time of burgeoning public interest in all things froggy, Phil Bird joined the Queensland (then Brisbane) Frog Society. As he focussed on surveying frog species and locations, it became clear that frogscape yards were only part of the habitat picture. It was obviously important to protect and develop long-lasting habitat in places like Council parks.

Phil's local park at the time was Bowman Park in Bardon, along Ithaca Creek, with some remnant forest, large swathes of mown lawn and patches of ephemeral water.

The ephemeral water didn't suit every park user. I known frog breeding site on the nearby grounds of Ithaca Primary School was filled in and grassed over following health concerns. When the green treefrogs were observed there in amplexus (breeding behaviour) that summer, even though their pool no longer existed, Phil and others recognised the importance of maintaining habitat. Without intervention, that local population could die out.

Working with local councillors, frog advocate Ric Natrass and Habitat Brisbane Officer Jenny Leask, Phil and his colleagues began reclaiming frog habitat by removing concrete lining from drains, installing boulders and planting vegetation such as lomandras that discourage cane toads while encouraging locally-native species. Within a few years, the great barred frog (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*) was added to the existing count of six local frog species.

"It's standing the test of time" Phil says of the project after several years of drought and recent good rainfall. "Our species list is about the same as 10 years ago. We still hear green treefrogs calling, although we are not sure they are still breeding. We'd like to see a deeper pond that can hold water for four to six weeks, to ensure the tadpoles have time to mature. However, since the revegetation project, we've seen ducks breeding in the park. Habitat is not about protecting just one species."

Council's Wildlife Conservation Action Statements (WCAS) provide guidelines for protecting locally-threatened stream-dwelling or temporary water frog species, tusked frogs, wallum froglets and others. Habitat groups are encouraged to consider these guidelines in planning their revegetation project.

South East Queensland is home to a reported 53 species of frogs, with 36 species recorded in Brisbane. Through habitat regeneration projects, we can help ensure that out frogs have plenty of good things to say about their environment.

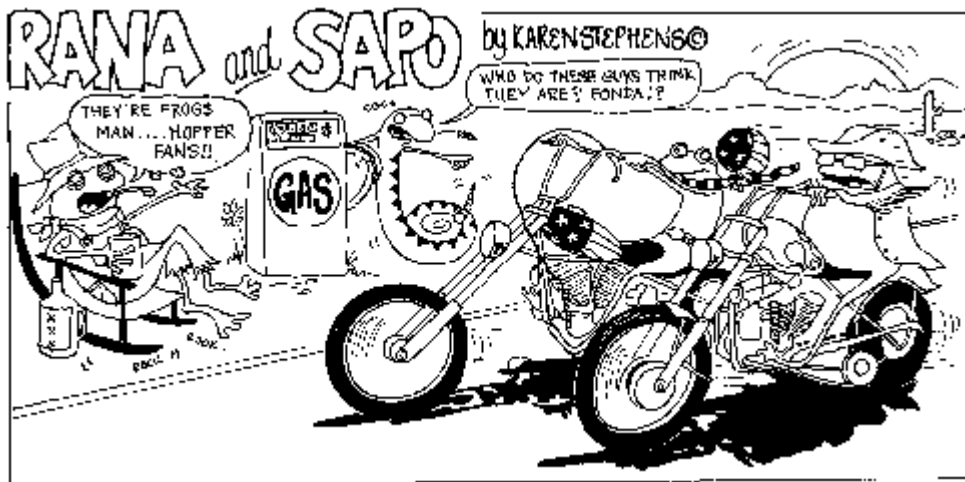
Article printing in Autumn 2011 Regenerator.



Working group at Bowman Park



Results a few years after



Member Karen Stephens has painted many Traffic Signal Boxes in Brisbane over the years. This one is a replacement after the floods and Karen is happy with her artwork. You can see it on the corner of Hyde & Fairfield Roads, Fairfield

oooOOOOooo

Animals come alive in atlas.....

Scientists are developing an online encyclopaedia of all Australia's living things.

The Atlas of Living Australia is being set up to build a better picture of Australian animals and plants and already holds more than 23 million records, including fauna and flora, information, maps and photographs . This is a work in progress.

To search go to www.ala.org.au

My thought are I hope they get more amphibian records onto it as 2 recordings of Tusked frogs in Brisbane City seems odd.
Jenny

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
A renewal form is enclosed if your membership id due.
We value your support and most importantly, the frogs need you!
We now offer **DIRECT DEPOSIT** for your convenience.

From the Editor's Desk:

Well it looks as though La Nina is going to leave us alone for a little while – although scientists can't actually predict what is going to happen next year. They have to wait to see what the Pacific Ocean is going to do – warm up or cool down (is this the Southern Oscillation Index?). I sincerely hope we don't have to go through what we did earlier this year for quite sometime. People need to get themselves back on track – although that could be sometime. Some of our fellow Queenslanders are still doing it tough.

The impact on our other wildlife would have been very extreme as well. There were reports from some conservationists and carers who were worried that wombat burrows might have been flooded as well as our echidna population not doing too well.

I had a call from a lady in Rockhampton during the flood, who had discovered a Striped burrowing frog (*Cyclorana alboguttata*) on the beach at Yeppoon. This poor thing apparently had been washed down the Fitzroy. Fortunately it wasn't too bad – just a bit "shellshocked". This river is, I think, the second largest catchment area in Australia after the Murray/Darling.

All quiet on the frog front at our place – in hibernation – I'd really like to join them.

At this point, I realise I'm digressing, but I have to admit that one of the beauties of living in or near the bush (or out of town areas) is you get to meet quite a variety of our native wildlife. We've had goannas, skinks,, echidnas (ever tried removing ticks off these guys – that's fun), channel bill cuckoos, black cockatoos (occasionally – but I would like to see them more often), red-bellied black snakes, brown snakes (not too often thank goodness), tree snakes, carpet snakes, keelbacks (which love tadpoles and frogs – had to do quite a few relocations - the frogs come first), different species of spiders and ants, microbats, wallabies, tawny frogmouths, freshwater turtles, birds of prey and the usual crows, magpies, peewees. Oh, and the cane toad – eekkkk!!! Being involved with the local wildlife carers group also gives me the opportunity to see other wildlife (eg bettongs). Love it!!!

From our house to yours – hope you and yours are well.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 22ND AUGUST 2011

Til next time

Naomi

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



*Dedicated to a
better Brisbane*

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