

President's Report by Rod Pattison

I never get too excited when the weather forecast predicts rain but I was delighted and relieved to see 38mm in the rain gauge and the rain was still falling. With a family of four we average forty-seven litres per person per day. Given the statistics are showing that the four of us use about the same amount as one person on town water, I guess we're not doing too bad but there is always room for improvement. So long as my teenage daughters only spend four to six minutes in the shower what they are doing for the other one hour fifty-four minutes is a question mere males like myself will leave well alone. Considering our water usage and a water tank capacity of ninety four thousand litres one would think we were well equipped to survive prolonged periods without rain. Well, one would have to think again with this rain providing another last minute reprieve from buying a truck load of water. Global warming not only causes greater evaporation from both land and sea but also redistributes where rain falls. While the northern regions of Queensland are constantly in flood many western and south eastern regions are in drought. This pattern is world wide particularly in northern Africa. There is no argument, rain during the breeding season of amphibians is essential. Frogs cannot breed if there are no water-bodies to breed in. I have seen frogs lay in ephemeral pools that dry up even before the eggs have had a chance to become tadpoles and questioned was it part of nature's course or was it an act of desperation. I recently surveyed an area where Main Roads are once again putting a road through the middle of a delicate heath land. Cont'd on P3

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PATRON Dr Glen Ingram
PRESIDENT Rod Pattison 07 3264 6391
VICE PRESIDENT Pearl Symonds pearl66@bigpond.com.au
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	
President's report	1
Area co-ordinators & diary	2
Cane Toad Despatch	3
AGM & Renewal Time	4
Co-ordinator's reports	5-8
Know your district	8
Ark for frogs	9
Junior Page	10
Frogshop	11

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

COOLOOLA REGION

POSITION VACANT

GOLD COAST

Shane Ho – 5533 8125 (A/H)

GOONDIWINDI

Melissa Cundy 4671 7925
Melissac@qmdc.org.au

IPSWICH

Ric Natrass - 3288 4100
natrass@ine.com.au

LOGAN CITY

Michael Kels – 3287 6752

MOUNT GRAVATT

Janet Willoughby – 3343 3949
janet@codingo.net

PINE RIVERS

Shelley Mills - 3285 4652
shelleymills@westnet.com.au

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
bugsyklaire@yahoo.com.au

UPPER BROOKFIELD

Phil Bird
phil.bird@uq.edu.au

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

AGM

Saturday 15 September 4pm Downfall
Creek Bushland Centre, McDowall.

Sunday 5 August

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE GARDENS?

Displays by garden and environmental groups. Cooking demos by top chefs, guest gardening speaker. Redcliffe Botanic gardens. 10am to 3pm

QFS WORKING BEES

Frog Habitat site in Bowman Park, Bardon.
First Sunday every other month from 8 - 10.30am. August 5th, October 7th

QFS MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of month 7.30pm.
July 18th, August 15th, September 19th.

NEW MEMBERS

Fraser Coast Branch of WPSQ; Helen Wallace, Yvonne & Peter Robinson, Jane Mott Abernethy, Olaf & Elisabeth Heeremans, Lee Halasz, Neil & Ann Duggan.

THE QFS PUBLIC TRUST FUND

The QFS Inc may receive tax deductible donations of \$2 or more, property and bequests.

Your donations will assist with research education and helping to save our frogs.

Make cheques payable to

Qld Frog Society Public Trust Fund.

The current total is **\$5,758.86**

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

ASCOT PRINT & DESIGN P/L

Ph 3266 6666

President's report Cont'd from P1

It will have devastating effects on the habitat of the rare frogs that live in its acidic water. Species such as Striped marsh frogs (*Limnodynastes peronii*) can happily live in backyard ponds but it's impossible to duplicate a heath land in the backyard for species like the wallum froglet (*Crinia tinnula*). Amphibians are under great pressure from loss of habitat, chytrid fungus, global warming etc. With the election looming John Howard has only just released policies to combat global warming. It has only happened from relentlessly stating the facts over and over again until the political pressure has finally grown to the point of change.

Unfortunately there is no easier way to save our amphibian friends. I urge everyone to actively engage in conservation issues. The world is at a point where we can no longer afford to make any more mistakes. So talk to your neighbour, a friend or your local politician because it is only when enough people understand and agree that real political progress can be made.

It's AGM time again. As usual all positions are open. In-depth knowledge is not required. A love of frogs is all that is needed to be on the committee. Most of our current committee have now served for many years. The society must have a committee to manage its affairs, so if you can help you would be most welcome.

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

Rod.

CANE TOAD DESPATCH

There is ongoing debate about humane methods to kill Cane Toads.

This is from Paul Willett, Project Leader Animal Welfare Program, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

"The information I have is that only practical way of humanely killing frogs or toads is to put them into a freezer.

Physiologically frogs and toads are cold blooded animals and they reduce their metabolism as the air temperature decreases. **So killing them in freezers will be humane.** *However cooling in itself does not stop the toads feeling pain.*

Other euthanasia methods for toads (amphibians) are electrical stunning, decapitation by severing of the neck close to the head by using a sharp instrument, CO, benzocaine, tricane methane sulphonate (buffered MS-222, commonly used in fish and recommended for amphibians), pithing (requires expertise). ***But these methods are NOT recommended for lay people.***

Following methods are NOT acceptable: decompression, vacuum, hypothermia, hyperthermia, drowning, neck crashing, strangulation, nitrous oxide, cyclopropane, ether, chloroform, methoxyflurane, trichlorethylene, hydrogen cyanide gas, 2-Phenoxyethanol, urethane, use of neuromuscular blocking agents, ketamine, sedatives, magnesium sulphate, injectable anaesthetics such as alphaxolone and alphadolone, nicotine, strychnine, and narcotic analgesics.

Dettol apparently does NOT kill quickly. It can create large ulcers in the skin without killing."

Q.F.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This year the A.G.M. will be held on Saturday 15th September at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre starting at 4pm. If you would like to stay on for a meal, tables will be booked at the Everton Park Tavern, Everton Park for 6.45pm. A letter and notice will be posted out prior to the meeting. Please mark this on your calendar.

The Frog Soc always needs help with displays, talks etc. and would love to hear from members if you think there is a role for you.

You can become a co-ordinator without joining the committee - if your area does not have representation please think about becoming the co-ordinator for your corner of Queensland.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A reminder to members that membership renewal is due at the end of June. If your membership is due there will be a renewal slip with your copy of the Frogsheet.

Direct Debit can be arranged through the Treasurer if you find that easier.

To save postage you will receive your receipt and membership card in your next Frogsheet.

Thanks in advance to everyone who renews for your continuing support - membership numbers and subscriptions allow us to continue to help our native amphibians.

Thanks to Samford.Net for hosting our website free of charge.



CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORTS

SUNSHINE COAST REPORT

Just when you think the frogging season is finished, things start to happen again. I have had several Striped marshfrog nests in one of my frog ponds at the end of May, also the Dwarf tree frogs have started singing their little hearts out again. But the most curious thing has happened this morning (5th June). I went to pick up a few plastic bags from the table out in the pergola, and there amongst the bags was a Stony-creek frog. I know for sure it is a resident here on the Sunny Coast, but have never seen one around my home before. Maybe he came down in the last shower of rain.

I can also report that one of my environmental neighbours was recently enchanted by a green tree snake winding its way around her frog pond. This particular pond has been home to several tusked frogs, as well as tusked frog tadpoles. Nature has once again taken its course, as my neighbour reports she has not seen or heard the tusked frogs since the encounter with the snake.

Last year, through the grapevine, residents in the area found out about a proposed industrial site for the Bridges area. Bridges is just out of Yandina heading towards Eumundi on the old Bruce Highway. Since then, many residents and locals have banded together to try and stop the go ahead of this site. I have traversed several stretches of the creek and found and heard tusked frogs as well as sighting a tusked frog foam nest. So of course, being a frogger, with the help of a few of the Brisbane-based QFS members, we put together several letters regarding

environmental protection and practises to safeguard the water courses within the proposed 900 acre site. At present only a couple of the creeks within the site are to be buffered from any runoff. I see this as a gross oversight, as one of these tributaries meanders its way through the proposed industrial site and ends up in the Maroochy River. You know the river I'm talking about. The one at Bli Bli, the Cod Hole, Cotton Tree, Twin Waters. I recently spent some time in Sydney and did as all tourists do - I took a ferry over to Manly Beach. I must say it was a lovely beach to stroll along, but I was shocked to see signs along the beach saying "Do not swim in this area for at least 24 hours after heavy rainfall." I fear if we are not more vigilant with any new developments, we may also have these hideous signs along our beaches.

On a brighter note, I have had several Green Tree frogs this season to nurse back to health. Both frogs recovered and have been returned to their homes. Thanks to all the vets out there who give us their time to help our froggy friends. Cheers for now and may your water tanks overflow.

Trish.

P.S. When chasing up info on the Stony-creek frog the reference material I came up with listed the Stony-creek frog with two different species names. Upon investigation the following material came from the recently published edition of "Wildlife of Greater Brisbane" in an article written by Greg Czechura – "The Stony-creek frog known as *Litoria lesueuri* is now *Litoria Wilcoxii* because studies have determined that *Litoria lesueuri* is actually 3 distinct species, not one as previously thought". Mystery solved!

ASHGROVE REPORT

As I have been away for over six weeks I am not sure what has happened in this area but I was pleased to see some short showers the day after I returned.

I have travelled around the very green UK and did manage to see some different birds, plants and lovely red squirrels who are the native species being pushed out by the introduced grey squirrels. I didn't see any frogs this time but did see hundreds of tadpoles which hopefully were of the Natterjack (*Bufo calamita*) species as I believe this toad is endangered.

In Canada I saw so much fresh water that it was a bit too much to bear but at least we know where to go to get some. I was privileged to see Elks, Bison, Coyote and Humming Birds as well as the gardens and forests becoming green in their Spring and the many small birds that these areas support.

I did hear some frogs while driving in Elk Island Park but wasn't keen to get out of the car to find them as this park is unfenced and there was a herd of Bison not too far away.

On Sunday June 3rd, we held our working bee at Bowman Park and it was nice to see that the soil was damp and the new plants still powering on. Hopefully next working bee will see us improving the breeding sites of the Graceful Treefrog.

Jenny Holdway.

P.S. As I send my report to the Editor, I am listening to the wonderful sound of rain – yippee!!!!

LOGAN CITY REPORT

We have now installed a rainwater tank to keep the frog pond topped up although the drought seems to have silenced the frogs at the moment. Eastern Sedgefrogs used to be to be a frequent winter caller in our garden but this year the weather is either too warm or too dry for them.

Our next task to make the garden more frog-friendly is to repair the toad-proof fence that has fallen into disrepair. I have noticed that when toads are kept out there is a sudden increase in native frog calls. The natives fill the habitat niche very quickly. However, due to numerous holes in the fence and a broken gate, the place was overrun with cane toads last summer.

At the time of writing this report, a petrol tanker overturned on the Pacific Highway at Loganholme and spilled 38,000 litres of petrol into the creeks that form the catchment of the Loganholme Wetlands. This must have had an horrendous impact on local wildlife. According to the EPA, which is trying to clean up the spill, the petrol flowed up to 800 metres from the accident. This is disappointing after I campaigned so many years for conservation of the Loganholme Wetlands. I will investigate frog calls in the area after the next heavy rainfall. This might give some indication of how much damage has been done to the habitat.

Michael Kels

BOWMAN PARK REPORT **& *Ithaca Intact* launch**

Our June working bee was held on Sunday 3rd. Due to the SOWN launch of the *Ithaca Intact* project, it was a short working bee. Jenny and Anitra chipped weeds whilst Phil attacked the recalcitrant couch with spots of Round Up. Some of the larger trees are showing stress from the drought but a large number of the smaller plants are still thriving which is great. We are hopeful of obtaining Council assistance with laying matting in the pool to retain water later in the year. Our working bees are held every two months on the first Sunday of the month; next bees will be 5 August & 7 October.

After our working bee we enjoyed the official launch of *Ithaca Intact* with SOWN partnering BCC Active and Healthy Parks to run a Family Fun Day at Bowman Park. *Ithaca Intact* is an innovative project working to restore the entire length of Ithaca Creek in Brisbane's west over the next 3 years. The project is a partnership between SOWN (Save Our Waterways Now - the Enoggera Creek Catchment Group), Brisbane City Council, business and local community members.

Over 400 people attended the event and joined in the activities including rock climbing, circus skills workshops, face-painting and arts and crafts for the children. The event included stalls from local community groups, including Ashgrove Historical Society, and talks on native wildlife from Geckoes Wildlife and Phil Bird from QFS.

Phil gave a great talk on frogs and answered many queries throughout the day. The Frog Society/Bowman Park Habitat Group is one of the groups working

along Ithaca Creek.



The *Ithaca Intact* project presents a unique opportunity to restore the Ithaca creek corridor, which is an important wildlife refuge and flows from the foothills of Mount Coot-tha to meet Enoggera Creek at Red Hill. The creek provides an avenue for wildlife movement between the slopes of Mount Coot-tha to within 3km of the city of Brisbane at Red Hill. Already, portions of the creek are home to bandicoots, wallabies and many other species including the azure kingfisher and powerful owl. The water is rich with species such as Purple Spotted Gudgeon and Soft-spined Sunfish.

Ithaca Intact will be the first time the restoration of an entire creek has been attempted in the Brisbane area. The project will galvanise community to support the creek restoration on designated sites and private land through community education and awareness.

Ithaca Creek already has a number of dedicated community members working along its length. This project aims to link up all these groups and individuals and provide them with additional support to restore the wildlife habitat, remove key weed species and improve the water

quality and amenity of the creek for future generations. The project was initiated by locals, is community driven, and seeks to utilise the existing community groups and individuals along Ithaca Creek to achieve maximum on-ground outcomes for minimum dollars invested.

SOWN's *Ithaca Intact* Project involves:

- Working with locals on private land to restore riparian boundaries along creek lines;
- Working in partnership with Council to restore key riparian links on public land;
- Targeted removal of key weed species, including Cats Claw and Chinese Elm;
- Building and fostering knowledge and momentum within the community; and
- Attracting the attention and involvement of the wider community.

For more information on *Ithaca Intact*, call Melinda on 0437 637 932 or go to <http://www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au>

Anitra Ross and Melinda McLean

KEDRON BROOK FROG CENSUS

A training workshop will be held in September, hopefully in preparation for a summer full of rain and frog calls! To register your interest in the program contact Debbie Dolby on 3355 4134 or register online at http://www.kedronbrook.org.au/News_Store/080307B/080307B.html

(An initiative of Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network - description of project in previous Frogsheet or online)

BARDON, BOWMAN PARK AND ITHACA CREEK

Know your district

The hilly suburb of Bardon, on Brisbane's Westside, was named after Bardon Hill in Leicestershire, England, the highest point in that county. Brisbane's Bardon took its name from the heritage-listed sandstone Bardon House. It's one of the oldest landmarks in the area and was built by Joshua Jeays in 1863. In 1925, the residence passed to the Catholic Church. Turbal people first occupied the area and settlers recalled Murriss camping at Cobblers Flat, now known as Bowman Park.

Brisbane City Council library services say the area was surveyed in 1862 and, at a sale that followed, three buyers attended – Jeays, Francis Lyon and Edward Wyndham Tufnell. Public transport was provided in 1879 and in 1898 an electric tramline was built as far as Latrobe Terrace, Paddington. Governor Quentin Bryce lives in Fernberg, a heritage-listed house built in 1865 by J.C.Heussler, MLC, and bought by the State Government in 1910.

Ithaca Creek, a feature of the suburb, was named after the birthplace in Greece of Lady Bowen, wife of Queensland's first governor. The degraded creek is being restored as part of a Save Our Waterways Now project. It runs from the Taylor Range and the nearby Mount Coot-tha Reserve. The creek usually stops flowing in the winter but has permanent waterholes. It may have been why Chinese market gardeners worked land along the creek, selling their vegetables door to door.

edited version from original by Brian Williams - Courier Mail 2 June 2007.

Scientists seek Ark for threatened frogs

Friday Feb 16 11:08 AEDT

AP - The familiar melody of ribbits, croaks and chirps is disappearing as a mysterious killer fungus wipes out frog populations around the globe.

The phenomenon is being likened to the extinction of dinosaurs.

Scientists from around the world are trying to organise a worldwide effort to stem the deaths by asking zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens to take in threatened frogs until the fungus can be stopped.

The aim of the group called Amphibian Ark is to prevent the world's more than 6,000 species of frogs, salamanders and wormlike sicilians (**caecilians. Ed**) from disappearing.

Scientists estimate up to 170 species of frogs have become extinct in the past decade from the fungus and other causes, and an additional 1,900 species are threatened.

"This is the precedent of a disease working its way across an entire species on the scale of all mammals, all birds or all fish," said Joseph Mendelson, curator of herpetology at Zoo Atlanta and an organiser of Amphibian Ark.

"Humans would be absolutely stupid if they didn't pay attention to that."

Amphibian Ark wants zoos, botanical gardens and aquariums in each country to take in at least 500 frogs from a threatened species to protect them from the killer fungus, which is called chytrid fungus.

Each frog would get cleaned to make sure it doesn't introduce the scourge into the protected area.

The group estimates it will cost between \$US400 million and \$US500 million (\$A510 million to \$A640 million) to complete the project. It is launching a fundraising campaign next year to create an endowment.

The scientists say the amphibian collection is simply a stop-gap. It buys time and prevents more species from going extinct while researchers figure out how to keep amphibians from dying off in the wild.

Scientists aren't quite sure of the fungus's origin, but they suspect it might be Africa.

The African clawed frog, which carries the fungus on its skin and is immune to its deadly effects, has been shipped all over the world for research.

The fungus works like a parasite that makes it difficult for the frogs to use their pores, quickly causing them to die of dehydration. It has been linked to the extinction of amphibians from Australia to Costa Rica.

Last month, Japan reported its first cases of frog deaths from the fungus, prompting research groups to declare an emergency in the country.

On the Caribbean island of Dominica, the fungus has almost wiped out the mountain chicken, a frog species considered an island delicacy.

At Yosemite National Park in California, the mountain yellow-legged frog is close to extinction. The park has only 650 frog populations left, but 85 per cent are infected with the fungus and the growing quiet along the park's lakes is evident as many of the frogs are dying off.

Hi,
Enjoy this frogsheet!!
Gemma



Page

N W M S I L F S E T Z R X R H
V B P O B B L E B O N K I K S
F R O G R T Z Y Y N K B E P R
T M R A B N E E R G B E S D A
R A I E E V B D H I R P N N M
A N D Z S F D K T C E Y F K X
H A S P B X Z P A D Q K V H V
B P P H O J Z G E O D M L P L
N U B Y W L Y X H L R N G B Y
X D W G J T E F W X K C W L X
O D G G O I Z O Z A A E T F N
I L P B A S G E H E A Q O H R
O E G O X O S K Q X L B A G M
M X H G N C X F W D D J D U N
W U E S O D L M L P Q Z A C V

Can you find these words amongst the letters above?

Creek

Croak

Tadpole

Frog

Pond

Toad

Green

Puddle

Marsh

Rain

Pobblebonk

Ribbit

Frogs are members of the zoological class called Amphibia. Amphibians are cold-blooded vertebrate animals.

They are different from reptiles in that they don't have scales and generally

return

to water to breed. They are one of

three types

of Amphibians. Anura, also called

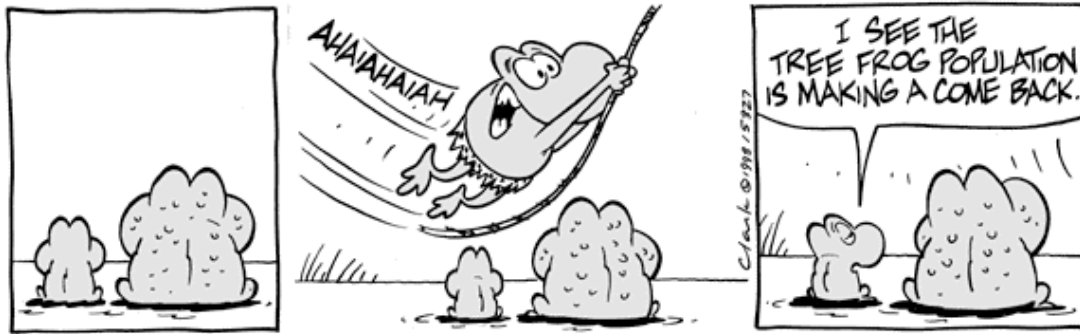
Salienta,

(frogs and toads), Caudata

(salamanders and newts) and

caecilians (worm-like amphibians).





thanks to all contributors to this issue. Send contributions to janwhite@bigpond.net.au. Just frog or environment stuff please - no sales-pitches - I have enough junk email as it is.

Jim Finn, the noted biologist, was stumped. He'd spent months studying the little green frogs in the Stradbroke swamp. The population, despite all efforts at predator control, was declining at an alarming rate. Finally, Finn went to the chemistry department at his college to see if anyone there might be able to help. Tom Trom looked into the problem, and came up with a solution. The little frogs had succumbed to a chemical change in the swamp's water, and simply couldn't stay coupled long enough to reproduce. Tom brewed up a new adhesive, made from a dash of this, a zoss of that, and most critically, one part sodium. "You mean?... " Jim said when told. "Yes," said Tom, "They needed mono-sodium glue to mate."

Pinched (and adulterated) from <http://allaboutfrogs.org/funstuff/jokes/chem.html>

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

Frogsheet - Winter 2007
Print Post Approved
PP424022/00619

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE PAID
AUSTRALIA