



FROGSHEET

Official Newsletter of the Queensland Frog Society Inc.

Autumn 2015

W: www.qldfrogs.asn.au | E: questions@qldfrogs.asn.au | Camps E: frogcamps@qldfrogs.asn.au |



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Presidential Business...

It has been a rather busy Summer for several of us in amongst organising frog ID workshops, printing and administrative duties of the new Frogs of Brisbane poster, replying to emails and messages through our website and Facebook page, and getting out for some well-worth frogging trips during the rainfall we've had. Thankyou for your patience whilst waiting for our replies to your emails and messages. Both Jenny and myself are still keenly looking forward to getting out to Blackbutt for our first workshop there, as we had to postpone the initial date due to flooding along the route to Blackbutt. And with regards to the much-awaited new poster, see Page 5 as to how you can claim your own!

Welcome and thanks to our New Members

Donna & Craig Tomkinson, Karen Hebron, Heath Green, Laura Grogan, Anita Green, Sandra Burton, Tim Williams, Andrew Dinwoodie, David Benfer, Watson Family & Fitzroy Basin Association

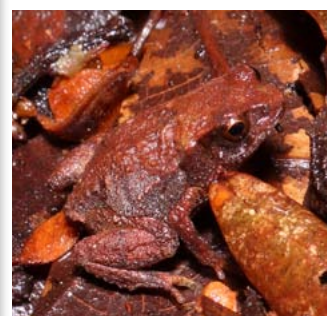
Recently, I have attempted to try and find a frog species each month that I haven't seen before. This is a great challenge as you get to explore and appreciate the huge diversity of frogs and their habitats here in South-east QLD alone. Over the October and November months I headed out and saw Fleay's Barred Frog for the first time at Conondale National Park, and our Marsupial Frog (below) at Kondalilla National Park. Then following Christmas and the New Year I headed out to Dalby with a friend and found seven of the Darling



Downs species which were plentiful after the recent downpours there.

These were the Greenstripe Frog, Superb-collared Frog (right), Rough-collared Frog, Wrinkled Toadlet,

Salmon-striped Frog, Common Spadefoot Toad and the Eastern-snapping Frog. These are all very cool frogs that live in harsher environments but



come alive during the wet season! Then in March I took advantage of a work trip down near Lamington National Park where Black-soled Frogs and Whirring Treefrogs were plentiful. It is really such an exciting thing to find a species you haven't yet seen and recognise the different habitats they inhabit.

I encourage you to try and get to some of these places and others closer to you to experience our amphibian diversity. However I do stress and encourage you to be mindful of not spreading disease between sites by giving your footwear and anything else coming into contact with water a scrub with frog-friendly disinfectant. And remember there is very little need to handle our frogs. Cheers,

Jono Hooper

Featuring in this Edition...

Frogs of London Creek Reserve

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2015 Scholarship Receipt

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New 'Frogs of Brisbane' Poster Price List

P. 5



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Thanks to QWaLC for our
free insurance

QFS Public Trust Fund - Ric Natrass Research Grant

The QFS Trust Fund was
created with the purpose
to help save Queensland
frogs through education and
research, and now stands at
\$4,624.52.



Coming Up

Ipswich Plant Expo

7-8th March, 2015

QFS Display and sale items

Green Heart Fair

31st May, 2015

QFS Display and sale items

QLD Garden Expo

10-12th July, 2015

QFS Display and sale items

QFS Management Meetings

7:30pm, 3rd Wednesday of every month

All welcome! Phone/email Jenny. H for location.

Frog Habitat Site Working Bees

Bowman Park, Bardon

8-11am - Contact Phil for more info

Grinstead Park, Alderley (off Short Street)

Contact Debbie Dolby for more info

ddolby@hotmail.com, Ph: 3355 4134

Carseldine Bush Crew

Cabbage Tree Creek, Carseldine

Contact James Hansen for more info at

jamna@powerup.com.au.

Working bees in frog habitat

If you are undertaking bush-care in frog habitat and would like your working bee dates included above, please email Jono at editor@qldfrogs.asn.au

Ashgrove Report

I now know that the brush turkey didn't scratch up my frogs into its heap which is a huge relief. With all the rain in the last month the tusked and striped marsh frogs have been calling happily and in some of the heavier falls, graceful treefrogs have made themselves heard.

The working bee at Bowman Park in February was attended by 4 people (Phil, Janet, Anthony and myself) and we concentrated on removing the young Madeira vines which had started growing after rain. Some of the hardest ones to remove were in the Lomandras growing along the walking path and time will tell us whether we were successful. Janet also worked on all the young *Dyschoriste* which are persisting but hopefully with time we will combat it.

Hopefully all the water coming down the "New Creek" has given it a good clean it out and that the pond at the other habitat is full of tadpoles.

Jenny Holdway ■

Ipswich Report

G 'day from the South Western burbs of Brissie.

How good was the recent rain we had? Perfect opportunity to get out chasing Brevies [Ed. Green-thighed Frog (*Litoria brev-*



Broad-palmed Rocketfrog (*Litoria latopalma*)
Credit: B. Malcolm

Changed your email address?

Please notify the Secretary of your current email address to avoid the risk of missing out on *Frogsheet* newsletters via email.

Updated Diary Dates

Please visit the QFS website and our Facebook page for updated and new events that arise between *Frogsheet* newsletters.

Frogs are cool - Spread the word!

If you're a coordinator, why not set up a QFS display at a community event and raise awareness of our awesome frogs? No expert knowledge is necessary, just a passion for frogs. Contact Jenny to arrange display and brochure pick-up. Or you may like to help arrange a frog ID workshop which are a fantastic way to introduce your community to frogs.

ipalmata]). A new friend of mine, Vincent, saw them two nights in a row, first night at Karawatha & second night at Daisy Hill. I was keen to get out for the third Night. Berinba was very quiet with about 7 species calling from a storm water back water but no Brevies. We headed to Daisy Hill & although again no Brevies, found a great rowdy group of [Ed. Broad-palmed Rocketfrogs] *Litoria Laptopalmata*'s doing their thing. What a gorgeous little frog they are. Daisy Hill had about 9 species on the night with the Great Barred Frog well represented. Was great to get out in it & hopefully there will be more of it now that we have a Facebook group for anyone to organise frog forays around the place. If you get the chance please look us up on facebook - it's called SEQ FROGS.

Brett Malcolm ■

Frogs of the Sunshine Coast Council's London Creek Environmental Reserve

We on the Sunshine Coast are very privileged (and fortunate) to have an environmentally progressive local council which actively balances development pressures with strategic preservation of our wonderful natural forests and fauna. Our Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) Environmental Levy is astutely managed to provide targeted support for a wide range of projects, particularly ones geared to improve wildlife corridor connectivity in the region.

In addition to supporting a wide variety of environmental groups (including the vibrant regional Land for Wildlife program), the SCC also purchases and manages key properties with high ecological value in our region. The London Creek Environmental Reserve, between Mount Mellum and Crohamhurst Forest Reserve, is a recent addition to this collection of conservation areas, and Energex is also contributing to revegetation (see: www.viewnews.com.au/council-and-energex-in-environmental-offset-agreement-458655/).

Inspection of a map (see: www.google.com/maps/place/Macdonalds+Rd,+Peachester+QLD+4519,+Australia/@-26.8252059,152.8918618,17z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x6b938613cdd028cf:0xbad479a463e628a8?hl=en) makes clear why this site was chosen – the upper catchment of London Creek, a major tributary of the Stanley River (which feeds into Somerset Dam and on into the Brisbane River), provides excellent connectiv-

ity with adjacent remnant forests and, according to a detailed fauna study and 'Frog habitat assessment and survey' by Ed Meyer, contains a wide array of fauna, including threatened and vulnerable species.

Most significantly, this detailed nocturnal and diurnal survey (carried out from late 2012 to early 2013) found the Endangered Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*) and the Near Threatened Tusked Frog (*Adelotus brevis*) at multiple sites along London Creek in this Reserve. A wide variety of other frogs were also identified, including the Southern Orange-eyed Tree Frog (*Litoria chloris*), Eastern Sedge Frog (*Litoria fallax*), Graceful Tree Frog (*Litoria gracilentata*), Striped Rocket Frog (*Litoria nasuta*), Emerald-spotted Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*), Southern Laughing Tree Frog (*Litoria tyleri*), Stony Creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*), Striped Marsh frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*), Great Barred Frog (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*) and Copper-backed Broodfrog (*Pseudophryne raveni*). Of course, the ubiquitous Cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) were there as well. Jono Hooper,

our Qld Frog Society President, participated in part of this survey, and he took this great photo of



a Giant Barred Frog during that time.

Although habitat in sections of London Creek was thought suitable for other species, such as the Endangered Fleay's Barred Frog (*Mixophyes fleayi*), the Near Threatened Marsupial Frog (*Assa darlingtoni*), the Endangered Southern Day Frog (*Taudactylus diurnus*), the Endangered Southern Gastric Brooding Frog (*Rheobatrachus silus*) and the Near Threatened Cascade Tree Frog (*Litoria pearsoniana*), evidence of these species was not found, despite intensive searching, and was thought to reflect either a very sparse population or a complete absence. Why the Cascade Tree Frog has been found downstream in the Cahill Scrub Bushland Reserve section of London Creek, but not in this upper section, remains unknown. The absence of the wet forest stream-dwelling Southern Day Frog, the Southern Gastric Brooding Frog and Fleay's

NEW FROGS OF BRISBANE POSTER FOR SALE

Our newly revamped and expanded Frogs of Brisbane Poster is now available to Members and Non-members. This great resource is partly funded by the Brisbane City Council to whom we are most grateful.

NEW Poster

Existing member who renews: Free poster (plus postage at \$8)

New member: Free poster (plus postage at \$8)

Additional poster to members: \$5 (plus postage at \$8) = total \$13

Non-member: \$10 (plus postage at \$8) = total \$18

OLD Poster

Members/non-members: gold coin donation (plus postage at \$8)

Please contact our Secretary, Jenny, using the details on Page 2 to place your order, or come and say g'day at our QFS display at upcoming events and receive your poster minus shipping!



Barred Frog during this survey was thought to reflect possible chytrid fungus infection (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*), or effects of last century partial clearing and logging in the area.

For us, this thorough frog survey and its findings of such a wide variety of native frog species, even if some of the more vulnerable species were either absent or sparse, is an inspiring finding. This is made even more special in the knowledge that this valuable Reserve, and others like it along the Sunshine Coast, are being preserved and managed to enhance the quality of life for all of us.

Melissa Procriv ■

2015 Scholarship Recipient

2015 Ric Nattrass Scholarship has been awarded to David Benfer, who is a PhD student at QUT.

David will use the \$1,000 to help pay for the 4 wheel-drive vehicle he needs to complete his research on the conservation ecology of the Marsupial Frog (*Assa darlingtoni*) in South-East Queensland.

Congratulations David and we look forward to your report on your research and the outcome. ■

Public Trust Fund Update

For a couple of years the donations to the Public Trust Fund Ric Nattrass Scholarship have dried up. Without these funds, we will no longer be able to offer students like David, Lynette Plenderleith

and Jonathon Hooper (to name a few) the opportunity to research our wonderful native amphibians and to protect them.

Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. You can use the order form to send donations to the Secretary, or alternatively the brochure will soon be available on our website.

Many Thanks,

Jenny ■

Limnonectes larvaepartus: Scientists Discover Tadpole-Bearing Species of Frog in Indonesia

Sci-News.com | 3rd January, 2015

The newly-discovered species of fanged frog, *Limnonectes larvaepartus*, from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi is the only frog known that gives direct birth to tadpoles, according to a team of herpetologists led by Dr Jimmy McGuire from the University of California, Berkeley.

Fanged frogs are so-called because of two fang-like projections from the lower jaw that are used in fighting.

They may have evolved into as many as 25 species on Sulawesi, though *Limnonectes larvaepartus* is only the fourth to be formally described. They range in size

from 2 to 900 grams. The newly-described species is in the 5-6 gram range.



“Almost all frogs in the world – more than 6,000 species – have external fertilization, where the male grips the female in amplexus and releases sperm as the eggs are released by the female. But there are lots of weird modifications to this standard mode of mating,” said Dr McGuire, who is the senior author of the paper published in the open-access journal PLoS ONE.

“*Limnonectes larvaepartus* is one of only 10-12 species that has evolved internal fertilization, and of those, it is the only one that gives birth to tadpoles as opposed to froglets or laying fertilized eggs.”

Limnonectes larvaepartus seems to prefer to give birth to tadpoles in small pools or seeps located away from streams, possibly to avoid the heftier fanged frogs hanging out around the stream. There is some evidence the males may also guard the tadpoles.

Dr McGuire first encountered this frog in 1998, the year he began studying the amazing diversity of reptiles and amphibians on Sulawesi, an island east of Borneo and south of the Philippines.

The island is a geographical hodgepodge, having formed from the merger of several islands about 8-10 million years ago.

“Sulawesi is an incredible place from the standpoint of species diversity endemic to the island as well as in situ diversification,” Dr McGuire said.

Although many vertebrate species have diversified on Sulawesi after arriving by overwater ‘sweepstakes’ dispersal, most – such as the flying lizards and black-crested macaque monkeys – have speciated in such a way that their geographic ranges are non-overlapping, with their ranges meeting like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle.

“The fanged frogs are special because they appear to represent a virtually unexplored adaptive radiation with many species occurring at the same sites but adapted to occupy distinct ecological niches.”

“We are really interested in understanding how much of Sulawesi’s in situ diversification was initiated on the paleo-islands, or if much or even all of the diversification was postmerger.”

Original study: Iskandar DT et al. 2014. *A Novel Reproductive Mode in Frogs: A New Species of Fanged Frog with Internal Fertilization and Birth of Tadpoles.*

PLoS ONE 9 (12): e115884; doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0115884

Welcome Aboard!

We are pleased to announce that young Tim has taken on the role of the Frogsheet Junior Editor! He will be in charge of providing an activity page for fellow young ‘froggers’ to complete in each edition of the Newsletter.

To contact Tim, please use the Editor email address found on Page 2 of this newsletter.

WE’RE AFTER YOUR FEEDBACK

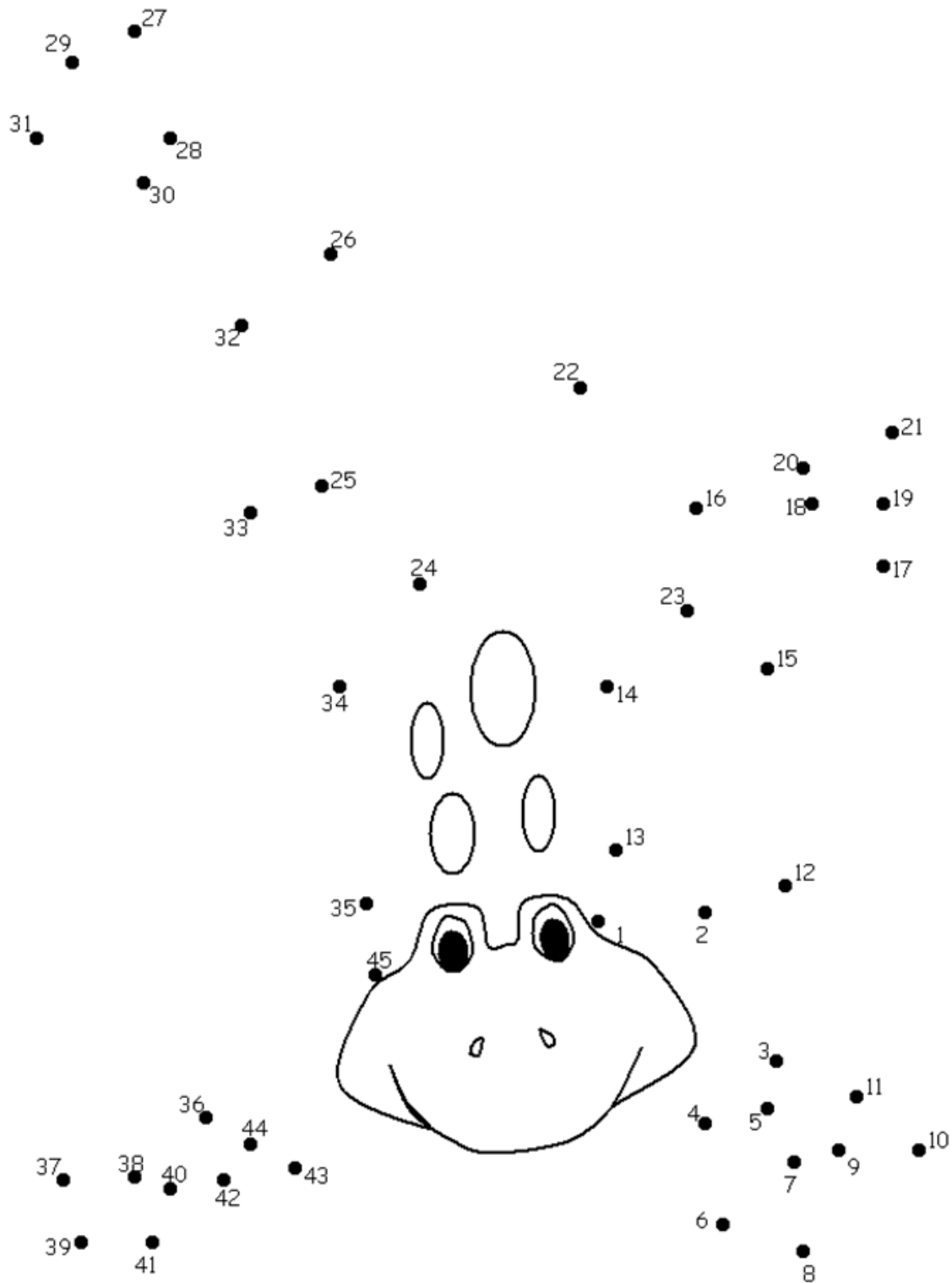
Rather than continue to do what we have always done, the QLD Frog Society is after your feedback on what we are doing and how we can improve as a Society to benefit our members and QLD’s frogs.

By clicking on the link below, you will be taken to a one minute survey. We’re after your responses, not who they are from so we have no way of knowing who you are.

www.qldfrogs.asn.au/member-survey/

Thankyou, and we look forward to receiving your feedback!

JUNIOR PAGE 65 TM



Frog Jokes

Q. What do you say to a hitch-hiking frog?

A. Hop-in!

Q. What do frogs do with paper?

A. Rip-it!

Fun Frog Facts

- Frogs drink water through their skin, not their mouths!
- A group of frogs is called an "army"

Frotophraphy

Members Frog Photos

Send your neat frog photos to editor@qldfrogs.asn.au or via Facebook by the next newsletter deadline.



Green Treefrog (*Litoria caerulea*)
Credit: D. Parlbay



Graceful Treefrog (*Litoria gracilentata*)
Credit: D. Tomkinson



Eastern Sedgefrog (*Litoria fallax*)
Credit: F.J Bourne

Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter!
Remember, we're always after member-contributed content.

**Deadline for Winter *Frogsheet* contributions is
21st May, 2015**

If undelivered, please return to
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