



FROGSHEET

Official Newsletter of the Queensland Frog Society Inc.

Summer 2015-16

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



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Welcome and thanks to our New Members

Frank Shipp, Roslyn Mitchell,
Joanne Kurtz, Glenn Wardrope,
John & Hadie Macleod, Pamela
Liddell, Jolita Burneikis, David
Russell, Jamie Norgrove, Jaye
Spence, Ann Gardiner, Carly Sugars,
Zane Norris.



Presidential Business...

What a great time of year Summer is, when after good rain the creeks, dams and ephemeral bodies of water are alive with frog choruses! I'll share some of my recent trips and finds later, but first we have an AGM to review.

Many of us met at the Downfall Creek environmental education centre on the 10th October for another busy AGM and two presentations to follow. We were very excited to have two new members join the Committee, following the retirement of the Treasurer and second Vice-President chair. We welcomed Ben Revell as our new Vice-President. Ben has recently 'seen the light', discovering how cool our frogs are. He gets out often looking for frogs and brings much enthusiasm with him. Following the AGM, we were pleased to announce Len Watson as taking up the role of Treasurer. Len has previous experience dealing with finances and we appreciate him putting up his hand for this position. The Society couldn't function without him! Jenny and Dan resume our previous roles as Secretary and Vice-President, respectively. Thankyou both for your continued work, and I am honoured to be re-elected as President.

Following discussion of business matters, we were intrigued to listen to our Rick Nattrass research grant recipient, David Benfer, speak about his latest research into the Australian Marsupial Frog (*Assa darlingtoni*) (right). Through the deployment of pitfall traps, acoustic songmeters and active listening, David has been gaining valuable insight into the ecology of this species and the areas they inhabit. His research allows us to better understand this species and what effective management actions can be applied to protecting the future of this very unique species.



Following David's presentation, we were given an update in the work at Bowden Park to date, particularly the efforts involved in transforming a lifeless spoon drain into a corridor of ponds and vegetated banks providing ample habitat for frogs, insects and many other native fauna. The idea for this project was conceived by Phil Bird, longterm QFS member (and now life member - for more on that visit Page 4.)

On a less serious note, I've been tripping around a little with Ben in search of the Red and Yellow Mountain Frog (left), Eastern Banjo Frog and the Red-backed Broodfrog. We found them, eventually! Cheers,

John Hooper



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Thanks to QWaLC for our
free insurance

QFS Public Trust Fund - Ric Nattrass Research Grant

The QFS Trust Fund was
created with the purpose to
help save QLD frogs through
education and research, and
now stands at **\$5,144.08**
(+ \$1,374.82 since Spring



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Coming Up

Mooloolah Frog ID Workshop (proposed)

January 2016

Register your interest with Jan (0407 641 327)

Ipswich Garden Expo

12th-13th March 2016

Green Heart Fair

29th May 2016

QLD Garden Expo (Nambour)

8th, 9th, 10th July 2016

QFS Management Meetings

Quarterly at 12pm Saturday, Caboolture BP Sth/bound rest stop

All welcome! Phone/email Jenny to register your attendance.

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

The warmer weather and the good rains have bought out the frogs. I was pleased to hear the Tusked frog calling from Enoggera Creek again as this site is prone to flooding but they must just hold on tight until the water settles down again.

Our working bee at the 'New Creek' site in Bowman Park went very well and I think we planted about 80 plants. These were a mixture of grasses, small shrubs and butterfly host plants which will also create a good habitat for the frogs. We received a good bundle of plastic guards which we used to protect the new planting as they are near a walkway and will also catch the water from rain showers.

The next working bee should be on the first Sunday in December.

Jenny Holdway

Bundaberg Report

+ National Frog Week Wrap-up

Good day fellow frogaholics,
It has been a busy time here since my last report. You may remember in my last report, that I mentioned that my pet red-eyed tree frogs (*Litoria chloris*) had spawned and that I was caring for their tadpoles. Well now I have got about 30 or 40 metamorphs that I am looking after - and they are so small!

I have also had my hands busy with promoting National Frog Week (Sunday November 1st to Saturday November 7th), and organizing our Frog Identification Workshop we held here at Bundaberg. The National Frog Week Australia Facebook group now has a touch under 300 members, and it would be great to get as many frog enthusiasts, teachers, scientists, zookeepers, etc to join so we can further promote Frog Week. Na-

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.

tional Frog Week this year had a great response, with a number of activities undertaken at various places. Some of these activities included frog identification workshops, info talks, and static displays. We also had a greater number of people interacting and promoting Frog Week through social media. Next year, I hope to undertake some further promotion and see if some of the larger zoological institutions and societies are willing to participate.

The first Bundaberg Frog Identification Workshop that we held here on the 7th November was a huge success! We were expecting to have about 20, maybe 30, people attend but we ended up having around 60 people, ranging in age from 1 to 83! We held the workshop at Baldwin Swamp, where we could conduct the powerpoint presentation, cook the barbecue dinner and spotlight for frogs all at the same location. We also raffled off a White-Lipped Tree Frog (*Litoria infrafrenata*) t-shirt that Tie Eipper from Our Animals Our Earth (www.ouranimalsourearth.com) donated to raise funds for Frog Week. Sue Firinne was the winner of the shirt and we raised \$122 in ticket sales for the QLD Frog Society Trust Fund. We had 12 new members join the QLD Frog Society through the workshop also - welcome guys! In total, through workshop registrations, the raffle, donations and memberships, we raised around \$500 for QFS! Well done to all those who participated! We even made the news on the local WIN News television show. The workshop was held in partnership with the Bundaberg Regional Council, with their environmental officer Carl Moller playing an integral part of the operation - organizing sound systems, projectors, some of the food and the council media release. Carl also assisted on the day - cooking, emceeing and leading the group around Baldwin Swamp that night to try and find some frogs to identify. Thanks again Carl, you were a great help.

As part of the frog workshop, we also launched the "Frogs of Bundaberg and Fraser Coast" poster which was sponsored by Bundaberg Regional Council, Fraser Coast Regional Council, and the QLD Frog Society.

This poster was produced by Mike Swan from Australian Nature Signage, and covers 12 of the most common species in the Bundaberg and Fraser Coast regions. We plan to sell these for \$10.00 each (\$5.00 for QFS members) with the money raised going to the QFS Trust Fund. New local members of QFS would get this poster for free as part of their new membership.



On the Baldwin Swamp tour part of the workshop, we did not find too many frogs that night. The scheduled rain for that day decided to come the next day unfortunately, but we still managed to find a small handful of striped marsh frogs (*Limnodynastes peronii*), eastern

sedge frogs (*Litoria fallax*) and a solitary coastal carpet python (*Morelia spilota mcdowelli*). We did find many, many cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) that night too.

After asking around, we had no negative criticisms at all about the workshop we held, with a number of people asking when the next one would be! After being told that I plan to run the workshop again at the same time next year, one couple said, "Nope, we can't wait that long - you'll have to do one sooner!"

Happy frogging!

David Flack

Early Bird Recognised for Contribution to QLD Frogs

It was with great pleasure that Jono and I presented Phil Bird with a Life Membership certificate at the AGM.

Phil has been a member since the Society's conception and throughout that time has instigated workshops, surveys and applied for grants so we have the means to further the Society's aim of "*Fostering an interest in our Native Amphibians*".

Phil's enduring legacy will be the development of the frog habitat near David Avenue in Bowman Park

NEW FROGS OF BRISBANE POSTER FOR SALE

Our newly revamped and expanded Frogs of Brisbane Poster is available!

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 \$10)

New member: Free poster (plus postage at \$10)

Additional poster to members: \$5 (plus postage at \$10) = total \$15

Non-member: \$5 (plus postage at \$10) = total \$15

OLD Poster

Members/non-members: gold coin donation (plus postage at \$10)

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!



(around 1995) and in 1998 Phil started negotiating with the BCC for the removal of what was a concrete storm water spoon drain. The plan was to reconstruct the drain into a series of ponds and riffles which occur in natural stream formations. This work has since been under taken and today the whole area is covered in tall trees, shrubs and grasses/reeds which provide a home for many, many creatures.

Phil continues to work in these areas with planned working bees.

Jenny Holdway ■

Update on Frogs of Australia smartphone app

We were quite excited to see (and for some of us meet) the man renowned for recording the calls of many QLD frogs; David Steward. David has long been known for his 'Australian Frog Calls Sub-tropical East' frog calls CD, published by his company Nature Sound. David is great to talk to and quiz about all the frogs and calls he has come across



Terrific Boost to Trust Fund!

The QFS Public Trust Fund has had a wonderful boost to its balance. One of our members has deposited a very generously donation of \$1,000.00 and David Flack (co-ordinator in Bundaberg) has deposited \$335.80, the proceeds of a workshop he held during National Frog Week.

Many thanks to both of you and do remember that donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

over the years.

He was also involved in the creation of the excellent smartphone app 'Frogs of Australia', which provides species profiles, images and calls of almost all 238 Australian frog species. The app is available at \$25 for iPhone devices.

We've been told the Andriod version is definitely coming, but may not be available until the first half of 2016 (fingers crossed anyway!). In the meantime, for most of us who have Android devices, adding the frog call files from CD to your smartphone is the second-best option. This CD can be purchased from our FrogShop at a discounted rate for members. Please see the attached FrogShop form for details. ■

Smaller quacking frogs find mating success in larger populations, UWA study finds

Roxanne Taylor | ABC News | 2nd November 2015

NEW FROGS OF BUNDABERG AND FRASER COAST POSTER AVAILABLE

This great resource was funded by the Bundaberg Regional Council, Fraser Coast Regional Council, and the QLD Frog Society.

Existing **Bundaberg or Fraser Coast** member who renews:

Free poster (plus postage at \$10)

New **Bundaberg or Fraser Coast** member:

Free poster (plus postage at \$10)

Additional poster to **Bundaberg or Fraser Coast** members:

\$5 (plus postage at \$10) = total \$15

Non-member within **Bundaberg or Fraser Coast** region:

\$10 (plus postage at \$10) = total \$20

Please contact our Secretary, Jenny, using the details on Page 2 to place your order, or come and say g'day at QFS display in the Bundaberg or Fraser Coast region to receive your poster without postal costs!



If you are a male in Albany, you do not have to be the strongest in the group to get the girl: if you are a frog, that is.

A study by the University of Western Australia (UWA) has found weaker frogs are more successful at mating when they are in larger populations.

The study of Australian quacking frogs was conducted in swamps near Albany during the 2013 and 2014 breeding seasons.

UWA evolutionary biologist Bruno Buzatto said while frogs with stronger forearms were more successful in smaller groups, that was not the case in high density populations.

“Despite the fact that stronger frogs would win more fights and get more matings normally, that would only really happen when the densities were low,” Dr Buzatto said.

“As soon as there were lots of frogs around and lots of competition, that advantage of being stronger just vanished and little weaker guys started doing even better.

“The system becomes really chaotic when there’s lots of frogs around so it’s only in low densities that being strong is really worth it.”

Dr Buzatto said the frogs mated in group sex situations.

“Frogs are external fertilisers which means males grab the female and they both release their gametes, so their eggs and sperm in the water,” he said.

“In this species there’s a really interesting thing which is called multiple male matings, where several males grab onto the same female and everyone spawns at the same.

“So what happens there is that in high densities, the little guys start doing very well in those multiple male matings, so it seems like the strong guys cannot fight every competitor off and keep the females for themselves.”

Dr Buzatto said the next step of the research was investigating whether the sperm of the weaker or stronger frogs involved in the mating sessions made it to fertilisation.

“It’s possible that the bigger and smaller guys differ in how much sperm they can release and the sperm of different males will compete for fertilisation in the water,” he said.

“So we’re collecting the eggs and doing paternity analysis and try to understand after the mating occurs, which males are the ones that actually are the

fathers of the offspring depending on the densities and how strong they are.”

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-02/smaller-male-quacking-frogs-have-more-luck-group-sex-study/6900974> ■

Three frogs officially croaked on extinction list

Daniel Bateman | *The Cairns Post* | 22nd September 2015

AUSTRALIA'S threatened species commissioner went hunting for frogs in Kuranda's rainforest last night, but there are four amphibians he would have been very lucky to find.

The State Government has declared three species of frogs extinct in the wild, and upgraded the conservation status of the Kuranda tree frog (*Litoria myola*) from near-threatened to endangered. The southern gastric brooding frog (*Rheobatrachus silus*), sharp-snouted torrent frog (*Taudactylus acuti-rostris*), and Mt Glorious torrent frog (*Taudactylus*



Kuranda tree frog (*Litoria myola*) Credit: A. Payne

diurnus) are all now extinct in the wild.

A Department of Environment and Heritage spokesman said the total populations of Kuranda tree frogs was now estimated to be less than 1000.

Kuranda Envirocare president Cathy Retter said the organisation escorted threatened species commissioner Gregory Andrews on a frog-hunting tour last night, during his tour of the Wet Tropics this week. She said the change in the Kuranda tree frog's status would allow the organisation to attract funding to preserve its habitat.

Source: <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/three-frogs-officially-croaked-on-extinction-list/story-fnihsrf2-1227538872370> ■

Australia's only frog hospital in need of funding to increase awareness of amphibian plight

Mark Rigby | *ABC News* | 28th October 2015

Running Australia's only hospital for frogs should be rewarding work, but for Cairns Frog Hospital founder and president, Deborah Pergolotti, increasing amounts of sick and injured frogs and limited public interest in the organisation presents more challenges than rewards.

“The public doesn't want to see frogs in distress; they don't want to see the animals that we deal with,” Ms Pergolotti said.

“That makes it very difficult for us to build a profile as all we have to show people are these horrible frogs that are doing so badly because of what's happening to them.”

Ms Pergolotti has battled to keep the frog hospital open since its inception in 1998 and has managed to do so from the confines of a number of rented houses in the suburbs of Cairns.

For the past seven years she has run the rescue and rehabilitation facility from a small red-brick home in a residential area rarely inhabited by wild frogs.

“What we do is viewed as very important work but we just don't have very many resources within our group,” Ms Pergolotti said.

“We would like to meet with other people who do have resources, who are very keen on conservation in general and hopefully very keen on frog conservation.”

The ultimate goal for the organisation is to re-establish itself in a more rural setting where “happy,

healthy frogs” are easily found and can be used to highlight the issues facing Australia’s native amphibians.

“We need to be in a place where healthy frogs are so we can actually take people on walks and show them the sorts of animals they want to have in their backyards,” Ms Pergolotti said.

“Then we could come in the backdoor and say ‘Here’s what’s happening with frogs and this is what you can do to prevent this from happening in your area.’”

Monitoring the decline of Queensland’s frogs

Despite its name, the Cairns Frog Hospital takes in animals from all over far north Queensland and has cared for around 3,000 adult frogs in its 17 years of operation.

“We’ve seen them come in with flesh-eating ulcers, very bad parasite problems, problems with protozoa,” Ms Pergolotti said.

“We’ve even seen quite a few cancer cases which is actually quite disturbing.”

Even more disturbing to Ms Pergolotti is the increase in the number of sick, diseased and sometimes deformed frogs being found along Queensland’s populated coastline — something she attributes to an increase in chemical use in and around people’s homes.

“Houses are using a lot of chemicals, particularly termite treatments and other things to get rid of roaches, or things that are used on cats and dogs,” she said

“So anywhere there is development we are losing our frogs, anywhere that is downstream of no development at all still has healthy

frog populations.”

Despite the difficulties they face, Ms Pergolotti said she and the team of volunteers at the Cairns Frog Hospital were determined to continue monitoring and rehabilitating frogs, and offered some advice to those lucky enough to still have frogs living in their neighbourhood.

“The rule of thumb is: if you

see a frog out in an easily-seen spot, an open spot during the day, then something is wrong with it,” she said.

“[When a frog] is obviously not trying to hide itself and is sitting completely out in the open, it doesn’t matter what it looks like at that point, there’s something going on with that animal and it would be good to have a look at it.”

Ms Pergolotti said anyone who came across a sick or injured frog should take steps to remove it from danger and contact Frog Safe (Cairns Frog Hospital).

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-10-27/frog-hospital-searches-for-funding/6888226> ■





Something for you...

Junior Frogologists

By Tim Williams, Junior Editor

Help me find my way home for Christmas...



Link each frog pictured below to the star where he lives.

For example:



Japanese Tree Frog



Graceful Green Tree Frog



Vietnamese Mossy Frog



Gray Tree Frog



Purple Frog



Pacman Frog



Limosa Harlequin Frog



Moor Frog



Alaskan Tree Frog



Yellow Tree Frog

**Merry
Christmas**



Frotophraphy

Members Frog Photography

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



Stony-creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*) found in the toilet block at Charlie Moreland Camp Ground, Jimna State Forest *Credit: National Park Odyssey*



Emerald-spotted Treefrog (*Litoria peroni*)

Credit: N. Anderson



Tusked Frog (*Adelotus brevis*)

Credit: N. Anderson

Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter!
Don't hesitate in contributing to the next edition.
**Deadline for Autumn *Frogsheet* contributions is
28th January 2016**

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