



FROGSHEET



Official Newsletter of the Queensland Frog Society Inc.

Summer 2014-15

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Welcome and thanks to our New Members

Douglas Family, Emily Cullinan & Judy Haines.

Featuring in this Edition...

Beating the heat but not disappointed P. 4.



Brand new QFS website

P. 5

Revamped 'Frogs of Brisbane' poster P. 5



President's Report

Following our October Annual General Meeting, I (Jono) am honoured to be elected President of the QLD Frog Society and excited about the contributions I can make to our members and QLD's frogs. Thankyou Dan for the work you put in to Presidency over the last three years in amongst your hectic work life, trpping around QLD and of course your family committments. I appreciate you taking on one of our Vice Presient positions to lend a helping hand with Presidential matters and serving on the Committee. I would like to warmly welcome Melissa Procriv to the second Vice-President chair. Melissa and her husband are fellow Sunshine Coast residents and already she has been proving her enthusiasm during our Mooloolah Frog ID workshop, assisting Jan in BBQ meal preparations and set-up/pack away jobs at the workshop. It is really encouraging to see a new face to the Committee and we all look forward to working with you over the coming year. I'd like to thank our former Vice-Predient, Jesse, too, for his work over several years in assisting Dan and contributing to Society meetings and decisions. Finally, but definitely not last we have Janece and Jenny, our ongoing Treasurer and Secretary to thank for their endless and tireless work with the money and day to day administration duties which keep the Society running. 18 years as Secretary is a long time, just short of my own age, so you must be doing a pretty fine job, Jenny! Please read further of our 2014 AGM inside this newsletter.

As the year draws to a close, I'd like to continue with acknowledgements. We are so excited about the work that our Area Coordinators do. Long-time Coordinator Bethlea Bell up in the Rockhampton region continues to actively involve herself and the community in frog related activities and events. She has formed many contacts that are often all too keen to assist how they can. Brittany Elliott on the Sunshine Coast is also green-keen to involve the community with frog awareness and eduction, as was shown during the QFS display she had during World Environment Day activites on the University of the Sunshine Coast campus. And whilst not yet meeting him, I've had the pleasure of talking over the phone to our new Bundaberg Area Coordinator, David Flack. He's got various ideas and looks forward to getting these off the ground, all to the benefit of our frogs. I apologise for missing out on any of our other Coordinators who have also taken initiative in actively promoting QLD's frogs through education, awareness and by getting out to do some frogging!

Finally, all of those serving on the Committee and as Area Coordinators wish you a Blessed Christmas over this special time of year and may you frogging adventures by safe and fruitful ones! Cheers,

Jono Hooper





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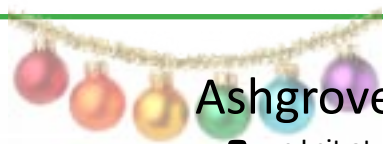


Thanks to QWaLC for our
free insurance

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
\$4,620.45.





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



The QLD Frog Society Inc. wishes you a Blessed Christmas & New Year

Ashgrove Report

As I sit at my computer I am listening out for sounds of the storm that has been predicted and I am sure all of you are hoping that finally we will get some worthwhile rain.

I can't remember the last time my garden and the areas around the local creek have been so devoid of frog calls. Occasionally the tusked frogs let me know that they are still around but to not have the striped marsh frog calling is strange. I only hope the brush turkey hasn't scared them all away when he decided to rearrange my garden into a mound.

As Secretary I have been kept occupied, after the AGM, by getting all the government's annual forms completed and sent off and generally tidying up. This week I gave my last garden club talk for the year and hopefully the gardeners have all gone home to plan for their ponds. QFS also had its display at the SGAP Spring Flower Show again which fits into the theme and, along with the Butterfly and other societies, the people can get suggestions for the plants which brings the wildlife.

I wish all members and friends have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to the chorus of frogs soon.

Jenny Holdway ■

From (one of) our Vice-Presidents - Mt. Mellum, Sunshine Coast

Despite the relative drought here for the past few months, there's been a wonderful chorus of Emerald-spotted Tree Frogs (*Litoria peronii*) and Tusked Frogs (*Adelotus brevis*) coming from our dwindling permanent dam. Even when it was still cold towards the end of winter, in August and September, and I was in a jumper and shivering, they've been taking advantage of any bit of rain, out there calling for mates in our residual large pond. The Eastern Sedge Frogs

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.

(*Litoria fallax*) have also been calling for as long. They've all continued over the past few



Emerald-spotted Treefrog (*Litoria peronii*)
Credit: M. Procriv

months and were joined by the Great Barred Frogs (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*) after 28mm of rain two days ago. Bleating Tree Frogs (*Litoria dentata*), in the foliage around our house, are also calling now, so all's good in the frog world at our place: they're surviving the drought. All we need now is for more rain to encourage some of the other species to join in.

Our neighbours, having run out of water for their vegetable garden, were coveting our dwindling pond water to pump over their vegies. Luckily, they were kind enough to ask our permission first, and we quickly offered them our garage shed tank water instead and told them why. We all averted the horror of frogs being sucked up and pumped out of the dam onto their vegies, and saved our last remaining permanent water frog pond from a premature dry out. Now the frogs have a home for as long as the water lasts, while our neighbours found an alternative water source for their vegies. Phew!

Cheers,

Melissa Procriv ■

A great AGM

Whilst 'great' isn't usually a word associated with AGMs, our annual October meeting was not far off. There were quite a few more people present than last year, and Lynette Plenderleight's presentation on her work with frogs in Karawatha Forest was very intriguing. Lynette's research looked at frog phenology and detectability (AKA a frog's lifecycle and what abiotic and biotic variables influence calling and breeding and often their detectability). One of the preliminary findings was frog activity is strongly associated with humidity, however

further research is necessary to gain a clearer understanding of weather influences on frog activity.



Lynette sharing on her research into QLD frogs
Credit: J. Hooper

As you have read earlier, the Society also has a new President and additional Vice-President. You can read of the full nomination and election proceedings [on our website](#). ■

Beating the heat but not disappointed!

The Frog Workshop on the Sunday 16th November, run by Mooloolah River Waterwatch & Landcare Inc., and the Qld Frog Society, the oppressively hot, dry conditions might have kept most potential attendees away, but Jono did a great job with Rod Pattison's power point presentation, using projection gear Jenny Holdway transported all the way from Brisbane, while Jan Kesby's hospitality was outstanding. The delight of finding frogs during our night spotlighting more than compensated for the unpleasant weather conditions; I've never before seen this arm of the Mooloolah River course so dry and exposed. It must have been the evening humidity, for the frogs emerged despite our pessimism. We encountered im-

mature Eastern Sedge Frogs around Jan's beautiful dam, but an even more



Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*)
Credit: J. Hooper

wonderful experience was finding, in the Mooloolah River bed, young Giant Barred Frogs (*Mixophyes iteratus*) quietly sitting along the edges of the few remaining scattered water holes. Tusked Frogs were also sitting in and calling from small residual ponds, hidden amongst tree rootlets exposed by the very low water level. For a final large Eastern Sedge Frogs were clinging to palm fronds around a pond in a neighbouring property. All in all, it turned into a special frog workshop in spite (or maybe because?!) of the drought and heat.

Here's to more rain for the frogs!

Melissa Procriv

Revamped Website now LIVE

The title says it all; we have a new website! Our new site has been created with user-friendliness in mind, as page navigation is now more direct and information can be searched for rather than sifting through pages until you have found what you're looking for. The site also appears more comfortable on 'smart' devices as the fluid site layout allows for pages to display neatly on various screen sizes.

We're also looking to include more comprehensive information of frog species distribution in the future, amongst other things, so keep checking back!



'Frogs of Brisbane' Poster Revamped

With thanks a grant from the Brisbane City Council, our Vice president, Dan has been busily redesigning our 20+ year old poster. Renamed 'Frogs of Greater Brisbane', this updated version features more species, a short but concise description of each, plus additional photos where

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!



variability exists within species. This has always been a great resource but now is even more comprehensive with excellent frog photos.

We hope to have the poster available in the coming weeks. These will soon be available from our Area Coordinators, but in the meantime we can post them to you for \$8 each.

Snake regurgitates live frog in Queensland

AAP | Cleo Fraser | 27th October, 2014

A frog has survived being swallowed whole and then spat out by a snake in north Queensland.

Zoologist and snake catcher Lauren Dibben says the one metre-long tree snake regurgitated the green tree frog in an attempt to make a quick getaway when she tried to remove it from a yard in Weipa, western Cape York.

"I just picked it up and then realised it was about to regurgitate something," she told AAP on Monday.

"I thought maybe it had eaten a rat but it then vomited out a green tree frog backwards. It just popped onto the ground and it was covered in spit and other snake stomach juices."

To her surprise, the frog then started to move.

"The frog then took a breath. So I rinsed it off and it pretty much looked like a brand new frog," she said.

"He sat there a little bit stunned and I think he went and sat somewhere quiet for a while."

Ms Dibben, who has been working as a part-time snake catcher for the past two years, believes the snake regurgitated its meal so it could make a quick getaway.

"I guess it's easier to do that on an empty stomach," she said, adding that she released the snake in nearby bushland after the ordeal last Saturday.

Ms Dibben says the frog may have survived because it can hold its breath for a long time and it's likely it had only been inside the snake for a couple of minutes.

It was also lucky because the snake wasn't venomous and eats its prey alive.

"I think the frog will survive but I think the snake was a bit disappointed he lost his breakfast," Ms Dibben said. ■

North Queensland angler stunned after finding frog in the throat of a fish

The Cairns Post | Daniel Meers | 4th May 2014

Talk about having a frog in your throat! A North Queensland angler was left stunned after he found a live green tree frog sitting inside the throat of a jungle perch he caught on the weekend.



Angus James began unhooking the fish to throw back in the water when he saw the frog, who leapt over his head to freedom.

"I was pulling the lure out of its mouth and there was this little frog staring up at me," he said.

"I was shocked. I thought it might have been grass at first, then it blinked.

"I always carry a camera so I took the pic and then he jumped out."

Angus, a professional field angler at Tackle Tactics, has become an overnight internet sensation.



Angus James caught a Jungle Perch in North Queensland and when he removed the hook he found a frog inside its mouth
Credit: A. James

New viruses 'killing amphibians' in Spain

BBC News | Rebecca Morelle | 16th October 2014

A deadly new disease has emerged that is wiping out amphibians, scientists report.

A number of viruses have been found in northern Spain that are killing frog, toad and newt species. Infected animals can suffer from ulcers on their skin and die from internal bleeding.

Researchers fear the strains, which belong to the Rana virus group, have already spread to other countries.

The study is published in the journal *Current Biology*.

Lead author Dr Stephen Price, from University College London, said: "Until the outbreaks, we didn't really know about this lineage of virus.

"But since these die-offs began, we've started to see them elsewhere - in China in giant salamanders, and it looks like they are emerging in places like France and



The viruses cause internal haemorrhaging and some animals have large open sores on their skin *Credit: S. Price*

could have a devastating effect on these already vulnerable animals.

The research was carried out by scientists at UCL, the Zoological Society of London, Queen Mary University of London, the Museum of Natural Science in Madrid, and the Picos de Europa National Park. ■

Crowd funding - free the frog

La Trobe University | 11th August 2014

La Trobe University's first crowd funding project has been launched on Pozible by Bert De Groef, AgriBio researcher and Animal Science lecturer.

the Netherlands as well."

Dead amphibians were first spotted in the Picos de Europa National Park, in Spain, in 2005.

An investigation by a team of researchers found that a range of new viruses were the cause.

Two of the viruses, called CMTV-like Ranaviruses, were infecting large numbers of animals.

What is unusual is that they can jump between a range of species, killing off frogs, toads and newts.

Dr Price said: "In the Picos de Europa National Park, we've seen major population collapses in three species: the common midwife toad, the common toad and the alpine newt. But we also found all the common amphibian species in the park were highly susceptible and experiencing disease and mortality.

"It is a pretty graphic disease with a high kill-rate. We've shown these viruses have caused simultaneous declines in several species of host."

The researchers believe the virus can even spread to reptiles.

"We recorded a snake that had been feeding on amphibians infected with disease, and it showed signs of the virus," said Dr Price.

Conservationists are especially worried about these new viruses because 41% of all amphibians already face extinction, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Another disease, called the chytrid fungus, has spread around the world, killing off many populations.

Scientists fear that if the new viruses spread, they

The funds raised will help Bert and his team to conduct pilot experiments investigating the damaging effects of a specific pesticide on Australian native frogs. This common pesticide is used to combat household pests and insect pests in orchards worldwide, however, it was shown to be present in streams in southeast Australia and it is suspected that it may interfere with the hormone balance of wildlife. It is feared that the presence of this pesticide in our environment could affect these processes in native frog species that are already under pressure from habitat loss, other forms of pollution and climate change.

These pilot experiments will provide Bert and his team with solid, scientific proof that will allow them to make a strong case with policy makers and other stakeholders to fund further research into this chemical, to look for sustainable alternatives and/or to adjust policies accordingly. Please help improve the life of our fascinating frogs and other critters! ■

Get Your Froglets Involved!

We are looking for a Junior Editor to create activities for the Junior Page in each Frogsheet newsletter edition.

Activities can include wordsearches, colouring in, crosswords, 'name that frog' or anything else which will educate our kids whilst having fun at the same time.

*Just send an email to
editor@qldfrogs.asn.au
to express your interest!*

Frotophraphy



Members Frog Photos

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



Eastern Sedgefrog
Credit: K. Robinson



Green Treefrog AKA 'Tank frog'
Credit: D. Parlbly



Ornate Burrowing Frog from the banks of the Fitzroy River
Credit: B. Bell



Female Stony-creek Frog
Credit: J. Wahry



Green Treefrog
Credit: B. Dixon

Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter!
Remember, we're always after member-contributed content.
**Deadline for Autumn *Frogsheet* contributions is
19th February, 2015**

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