




FROGSHEET

Official Newsletter of the Queensland Frog Society Inc.

Winter 2017

Web: www.qldfrogs.asn.au | Questions Email: questions [at] qldfrogs.asn.au |  /qldfrogsociety

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Welcome and thanks to our New Members

Lyndall Marshall, Maree Clancy, Mimi Cox, Karl Buderus, David Lahey, Lukas Rokic, Lisa Barry, Lisa Del Riccio, Chris King, Farnborough State School, Josh Healing, Jacinta Hodnett, Richard Corner, Rebecca Freese, Marcia Sarovich and Andrew Maitland



President's Report

Since the previous *Frogsheet* newsletter Rockhampton to the QLD/NSW border copped a drenching! There were few traffic lights or street lights on of the evening ex-cyclone Debbie passed by the Sunshine Coast, but once the wind calmed down I got out to do some long awaited frogging!

I stopped by a gully in a newly-listed National Park on the lookout for the Green-thighed Frog (*Litoria brevipalmata*) (below), and I was not disappointed! There was a strong

chorus of these fascinating frogs, joined by equally strong choruses of Graceful Treefrogs (*L. gracilentia*), Green Treefrogs (*L. caerulea*), Scarlet-sided Pobblebonks (*Limnodynastes terraereginae*), Beeping Froglets (*Crinia parinsignifera*) and some Laughing Treefrogs

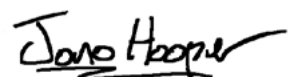
(*Litoria tyleri*). Two nights later however and the species composition had completely changed! It demonstrates the short breeding opportunity that many frogs have after solid rainfall; an opportunity made even more important with the increasing pressure of habitat loss to contend with. Elsewhere on the Coast and the Wallum Sedgefrogs (*L. olongburensis*) and Wallum Froglets (*C. tinnula*) (left) were calling strongly.



The next few months are typically very busy for the QFS, and this year will be no exception. We'll be at the QLD Garden Expo in Nambour again on the 7-9 July; always drawing a large crowd with many questions, donations, sales and new members signing up! Plus a whole lot of fun. The in August we take on the challenge of attending the Brisbane EKKA for 10 days from 11-20 August! This will be our first display at the EKKA, so if you plan on going, please stop by and say G'day! Thankyou to the many members who have volunteered their time to cover a shift or two or three during this event.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that annual membership is up for renewal at the end of June. Thankyou for your membership this financial year, and I hope that you have enjoyed being a part of the QFS and having access to member-only content! We're always keen for helpers too, many hands make light work! To renew your membership, please visit <http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/membership-renewal/>. Simply login to the page using the username and password provided on emails from the QFS, enter your details then pay via Direct Deposit or bank cheque.

Cheers,





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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 **\$5,705.89**
(+ \$121.23 since Autumn ed.)



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Upcoming Events

Queensland Garden Expo

7-9 July 2017. Nambour. QFS Display & Sales

Brisbane EKKA

11-20 August 2017, QFS Display.

Kumbartcho Festival

27 August 2017, 11am-3pm

Native Plants Qld Spring Flower Show

16-17 September 2017. QFS Display

QFS AGM

30 September 2017. Caboolture
Environment Education Centre, Burpengary.
10am. BBQ afterwards.

QFS Management Meetings

Every three months.

Frog Habitat 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

Except for this area's regular working bee at Bardon, frog activity has been quiet most probably due to the fairly dry weather we experienced. Of course this was interrupted by 3 rain events one which turned my backyard back into a natural waterway (see photo). This excited the striped marsh frogs in the area and since then their choruses have been wide spread.



I can report that the office has been very busy and I am jotting down some of the other activities we have been involved in:

- Completing new membership applications.
- Having the QFS display at Wild Koala Day at Petrie and Hillbrook School Sustainability Day.
- Answering many emails and phone calls.
- Starting to organise for the Nambour Garden Expo in July.
- Organising a roster for the Brisbane Ekka display in August. Some days still need filling so please let me know if you are able to help out for 4 hours – a free pass available.

Jenny Holdway ■

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.

Fred the frog, rescued from a Coffs dunny, celebrates 40th

Aaron Langmaid | *The Daily Telegraph* | 22 May 2017

F life begins at 40 Fred the green tree frog has no plans on croaking it.

And the secret life of what could be Australia's oldest amphibian is one ribbiting tale - rescued in 1977 by a three-year-old who would grow up to be an animal advocate and TV vet.

Chris Humfrey found the frog climbing the walls in a Coffs Harbour toilet block while on holiday and raised him as his own ever since.

He said the life expectancy of the common tree frog was about 20 years in Australia's northern rainforests. But Fred has easily leapt ahead of all scientific expectations from the leafy confines of his comfortable terrarium in Melbourne.



Such has been his longevity, he now ponders the loss of the three wives he has outlived; Fredreika, Shirley and Maude.

These days he leads a less conventional lifestyle with his fourth wife Rose.

They attempt to breed most years," Mr Humfrey said. "But I think Fred is firing blanks."

Perhaps that is a good thing for the proud froggy who has fathered too many tadpoles to count.

With glandular skin, Mr Humfrey said frogs were an indicator of the health of the environment around them with many slowly disappearing from along Australia's eastern seaboard.

But even with the urban spread of humans, green tree frogs have been able to adapt. Clever males are

known to climb inside drain pipes so their loud croaks are amplified, increasing their chance of finding a mate.

Mr Humfrey said frogs of all species remained an "untapped medicine cabinet for mankind" providing cures for human disease and illness.

"We need to protect them," the vet said.

Source: <https://www.coffscostadvocate.com.au/news/fred-the-frog-rescued-from-a-coffs-dunny-celebrate/3180620/>

Smithsonian Scientists Release Frogs Wearing Mini Radio Transmitters Into Panamanian Wilderness

Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute | 1 June 2017

First Release Trial To Help Pave the Way for Reintroduction Programs for Critically Endangered Frogs

Ninety Limosa harlequin frogs (*Atelopus limosus*) bred in human care are braving the elements of the wild after Smithsonian scientists sent them out into the Panamanian rainforest as part of their first-ever release trial in May. The study, led by the Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Project, aims to determine the factors that influence not only whether frogs survive the transition from human care to the wild, but whether they persist and go on to breed.

"Only by understanding the trials and tribulations of a frog's transition from human care to the wild will we have the information we need to someday develop and implement successful reintroduction programs," said Brian Gratwicke, international program coordinator for the rescue project and Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) amphibian conservation biologist. "Although we are not sure whether any of these individual frogs will make it out there, this release trial will give us the knowledge we need to tip the balance in favor of the frogs."

The Limosa harlequin frogs, which were released at the Mamoni Valley Preserve, have small numbered tags inserted under their skin so researchers can tell individuals apart. The scientific team also gave each frog an elastomer toe marking that glows under UV light to easily tell this cohort of frogs apart from any

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

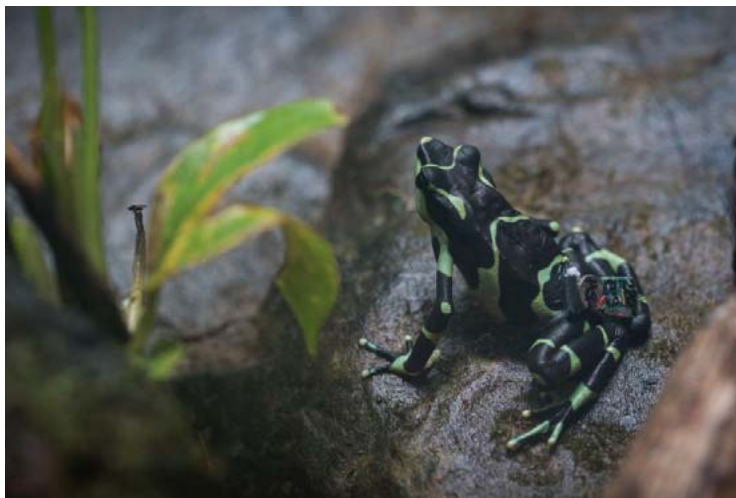
Members/non-members: gold coin donation (plus postage at \$10)

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!



future releases. Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation doctoral student Blake Klocke is currently monitoring the frogs daily at the site, collecting information about survivorship, dispersal, behavior and whether the warm micro-climate in the area provides any protection against disease.

The study is also looking at whether a “soft release” boosts the frogs’ ability to survive. Thirty of the newly released frogs spent a month at the site in cages, acclimating to their surroundings and foraging on



leaf-litter invertebrates. Eight of these frogs, and eight that were released without the trial period, are wearing miniature radio transmitters that will give Klocke and the team a chance to look at differences in survival and persistence between the two groups. The researchers also collected skin-bacteria samples from the soft-release frogs to measure changes during their transition from captivity to the wild.

“The soft release study allowed us to safely expose captive-bred frogs to a more balanced and varied diet, changing environmental conditions and diverse skin bacteria that can potentially increase their survival in

nature,” said Angie Estrada, Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech and a member of the team leading the soft release, which was funded through a Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) grant. “It allowed us to monitor health and overall body condition of the animals without the risk of losing the frogs right away to a hungry snake.”

Limosa harlequin frogs are especially sensitive to the amphibian chytrid fungus, which has pushed frog species to the brink of extinction primarily in Central America, Australia and the western United States. The Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Project brought a number of individuals into the breeding center between

2008 and 2010 as chytrid swept through their habitat. The Limosa harlequin frogs in this release trial are the first captive-bred generation of the species and only part of the rescue project’s total insurance population for the species.

“After all the work involved in collecting founder individuals, learning to breed them, raising their tadpoles, producing all their food and keeping these frogs healthy, the release trial marks a new exciting stage in this project,” said Roberto Ibáñez, in-country director of the rescue project and STRI scientist. “These captive-bred frogs will now be exposed to their world,

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!



where predators and pathogens are ever-present in their environment. Their journey will help provide the key to saving not only their own species, but Panama's other critically endangered amphibian species."

Article from: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/news/smithsonian-scientists-release-frogs-wearing-mini-radio-transmitters-panamanian-wilderness>

MEMO FOR MEMBERSHIPS

As we enter the new financial year, many of our supporters memberships are up for renewal. Aside from donations, and the limited number of sales we make, your membership is the only significant source from which we can continue to operate as a Society and educate the community about our frogs.

You will have received a renewal notice via either the mail or email. Renewals can be done easily via our website. Please don't hesitate in securing your membership for another year and supporting QLD's frogs.

Thankyou!

Frogs are calling: restored waterways show results for amphibians

Southern Cross University Community News | 9 May 2017

Native frogs appear to be thriving in restored waterways around Rocky Creek Dam after Whian Whian Landcare members and Southern Cross University researchers used automated recording devices to capture a diversity of amphibian calls.

Now the community research partnership project's protocol for the restoration of riparian areas, incorporating best management practice around frog consideration and protection, is being taken up by other Landcare groups and landholders.

The project was led by Emma Stone of Whian Whian Landcare and Dr David Newell, Dr John Grant and Rosalie Willacy in the University's School of Environment, Science and Engineering.

The team recorded and identi-



Emma Stone at Rocky Creek near Dunoon



Something for you...

Junior Frogologists

By Tim Williams, Junior Editor

Whacky defences

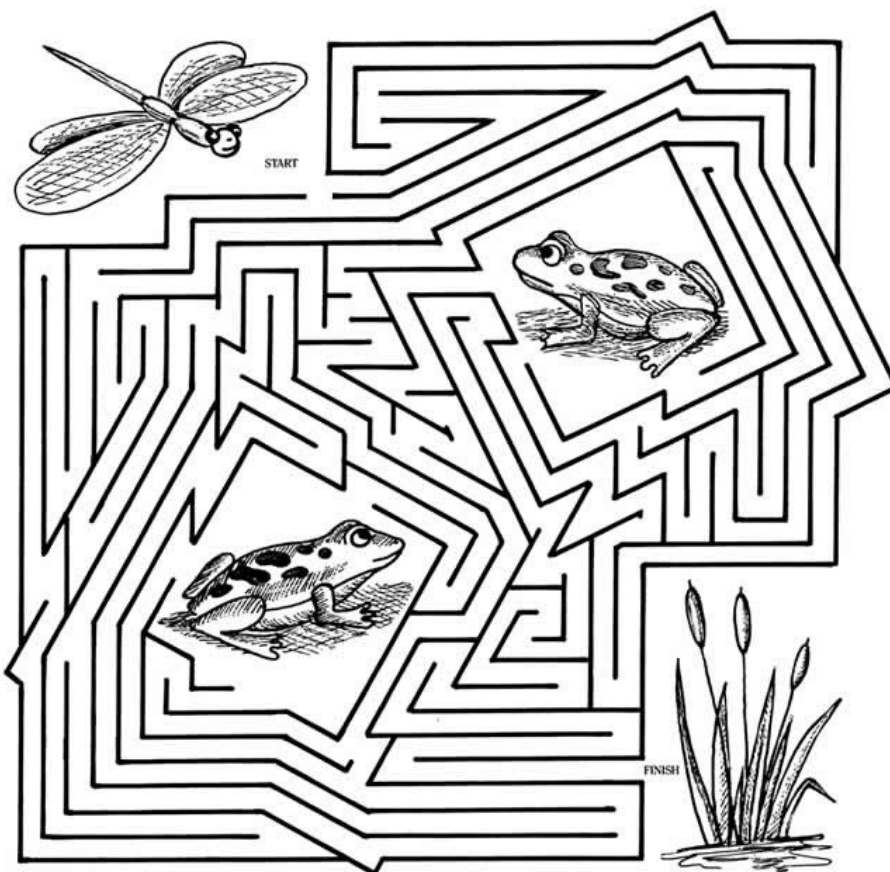
Frogs use lots of strategies to defend themselves from predators, including camouflage, poison and burrowing. But have you ever heard of anything as crazy as this?



Meet Wolverine

(Hairy Frog or *Trichobatrachus robustus*).

When breeding, this male Central African frog develops thin strands of skin along the sides of its body that resembles hair. These strands, in theory, allow the frogs to take in more oxygen while they watch over their eggs. But what's really compelling is this frog's ability to crack its own toe bones and push them through their skin to form sharp claws, great for warding off would-be attackers. Weird, but true!



Dixie Dragonfly has to fly past two hungry frogs to get safely to his home in the reeds. Help Dixie get to his home, but watch out for the frogs.



Meet 4 Eyes

(False-Eyed Frog or *Physalaemus nattereri*).

You've heard how teachers have eyes in the back of their heads! This guy has eyes in the back of his bum! When frightened, this incredible South American frog spins around, puts his head down and bum up, revealing a surprising face with rather large eyes. Predators are frightened away by what appears to be a large mysterious creature staring at them. But there's more. He also has a back up weapon and can release a smelly, sticky substance from glands in the false eyes. Cool, huh?

fied frog calls in riparian sites that were re-planted 20 years ago through to two-year-old sites and sites that were degraded and impacted by dense weed coverage.

Emma said the results – including three threatened frog species found in a two-year-old regenerating Landcare site – were encouraging.



“We were able to plot species diversity in varying conditions.

“We found greater frog species richness in the native regenerated areas of 20 years. We also found an encouraging range of frog species in sites of recent restoration works. It was a positive sign in that even two years on from restoration works there appears to be a positive impact on the frogs. We are comfortable our efforts are enhancing habitat for frogs.”

The project team worked primarily with landholders and the Landcare community to install the recording equipment in a range of sites in the Rocky Creek and Branch Creek areas.

“The community listened to the tracks recorded and matched the calls recorded with different frog species,” said Emma.

“Now other Landcare groups are interested in the research model and in doing similar surveys of frog species in their river restoration works.”

The University loaned the equipment to the Landcare team, cross-checked the identification records and provided knowledge and expertise at a community forum.

“This is a case of ‘if you build it they will come’,” said Dr David Newell of the riparian restoration works.

“Many of our native frogs that live along streams require forested habitats and features such as deep layers of leaf litter. Food sources are also important. In our subtropical climate we get to see the results of plantings relatively quickly and this project has shown us that with a bit of time the frogs will move in.

“Restoring degraded riparian areas is a great thing to do for native fauna and it is also good for your soul.”

The catalyst for the project, which started in 2014, was a classroom discussion when Emma was a student enrolled in the Bachelor of Indigenous Studies, majoring in Sustainability, at the University’s Lismore campus.

“Dr David Newell inspired me to develop a project based on a discussion about what impact river restoration works might be having on frogs in the waterways and whether frogs could be an indicator for the health of that environment.”

The project team was recognised at the 2016 Southern Cross University Excellence in Engagement Awards with an award in the Engaged Research category.

“The award has definitely inspired not just our Landcare group but others to engage in on-ground works as well as assess the impact of those works by having an applied research project alongside it,” Emma said.

Article from: <http://discover.scu.edu.au/2017-03-march-april/frogs-thriving-in-riparian-restoration-along-rocky-creek/> ■

‘Cane-toad-smart’ quolls to be bred in the Northern Territory

Steven Schubert | ABC News | 21 May 2017

An experimental technique that trains native animals not to eat cane toads is being trialled on an island off the Northern Territory coast.

Thirty-five northern quolls have been taken to Indian Island, 41 kilometres west of Darwin to test the theory.

Cane toads are partly responsible for the northern quoll being placed on the endangered species list.

University of Melbourne PhD candidate Ella Kelly said the quolls hailed from Queensland, the NT, and those bred from parents from the two areas.

The cane toad has been in Queensland for more than

70 years, but less than half that time in the Territory.

As a result, Queensland quolls have better adapted to the pest, Ms Kelly said.

“Queensland quolls are toad-smart, which means they avoid cane toads as a prey item,” she said.



“We’re hoping that these toad-smart quolls can help us improve the management of these threatened populations in the NT and Western Australia.”

Ben Phillips from the University of Melbourne said the introduced quolls have also been trained to avoid cane toads by being fed small pieces of toad laced with a chemical that makes them sick.

“It’s exactly the same response as when people drink too much alcohol and feel really sick; they will often not be able to stand the smell of that particular drink anymore,” Dr Phillips said.

It is hoped the introduced quolls will breed and train their young not to eat the toads.

Indian Island was selected because it is infested with the poisonous pest, and the project is being run with the help of the Aboriginal Kenbi Rangers.

Ranger John “Mango” Moreen said he had seen the cane toad population explode on the island in recent years.

“The first time I came out here five, six, seven years ago, there was no cane toad on this island,” he said.

“When this mob came out here ... there were cane toads everywhere.”

Mr Moreen said he was confident the quoll training would work: “It will, they’ll survive on this island.”

Ms Kelly said if it does, it could potentially be adapted to suit other species.

Article from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-21/cane-toad-smart-quolls-to-be-trained-in-the-northern-territory/8544956>

Contribute to the *Frogsheet* Newsletter

This *Frogsheet* Newsletter has been produced for over 20 years, containing the much valued member-contributed content we have received! Your contributions make up a large part of the content of each newsletter and help to encourage others by sharing the positive and exciting experiences people have had in enhancing and protecting frog habitat, or simply sharing about the frogs people find on their own property, or in their local area.

However, if we don’t hear from you, our Members, we are unable to share these stories.

Please consider contributing to the next *Frogsheet* newsletter.

Memes



Frotophraphy

Members Frog Photography

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



Northern Laughing Treefrog (*Litoria rothi*) Credit: T. Blann



'Lester', foreground, a very happy, healthy Green Treefrog living with fellow Green Treefrogs at Biloela, CQ.
Credit: L. Swift

Thankyou to those who contributed to this newsletter!
We love receiving Member & Coordinator-contributed content.
**Deadline for Spring *Frogsheet* contributions is
17 August 2017**

If undelivered, please return to
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