

# FROGSHEET

[www.qldfrogs.asn.au](http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au) | questions [at] qldfrogs.asn.au | [f/qldfrogsociety](https://www.facebook.com/qldfrogsociety) | [@qldfrogs](https://www.instagram.com/qldfrogs)

## QFS SECURES CRUCIAL FUNDING FOR KROOMBIT TOPS FROGS



**Kroombit Tinkerfrog. Credit: E. Meyer**

**Kroombit Tops escarpment. Credit: E. Meyer**

**W**e are excited to announce the QLD Frog Society has been successfully awarded a Community Sustainability Action Grant by the QLD Government for three threatened frog species!

Over \$70k has been allocated for three years of surveys and monitoring of the critically endangered Kroombit Tinkerfrog, endangered Kroombit Treefrog and vulnerable Tusked Frog at Kroombit Tops east of Biloela to assess their current population status and install pig exclusion fencing.

These efforts support the recovery of these threatened

species and address a number of key conservation/management issues relating to recovery of threatened frog species at Kroombit Tops (as identified in the Recovery Plan for Threatened Stream Frogs of South-east Queensland).

These surveys funded by the grant will guide management and conservation of these species and their habitat and assess the effectiveness of past recovery/management actions in halting and/or reversing declines in these species.

As predation and habitat disturbance by feral pigs represent a significant threat to remaining populations of the critically endangered Kroombit Tinkerfrog, the construction of pig-exclusion fencing around areas of sensitive breeding habitat will also be covered by the grant to reduce the impact on this species. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) will provide support

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## RIC NATTRASS RESEARCH GRANT

The QFS Trust Fund was created with the purpose to help save QLD frogs through education and research by means of this Research Grant, and now stands at **\$6,553.27** (+ \$568.95 since Spring edition)



for the delivery of these actions funded by the grant.

The first round of surveys is currently being undertaken over the 2nd - 6th December 2019 by a small group of volunteers led by Harry Hines and Dr Ed Meyer, who have both been surveying threatened frog populations at Kroombit Tops for many years. Both men also provide invaluable advice and support to the Kroombit Tinkerfrog captive husbandry program at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.



Kroombit Treefrog. Credit: E. Meyer

Due to the current drought and rainfall deficiencies, conditions are not ideal for surveys of all three target

frogs, in particular the Kroombit Tinkerfrog. Therefore the main aim of the first round of surveys is the deployment of acoustic monitoring equipment (Audiomoths) which will remain in the field for several months to capture tinkerfrog calling activity. This data will then be retrieved and analysed by trained volunteers.



Tusked Frog. Credit: E. Meyer

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**No upcoming events. Keep updated via E-news Emails and our Facebook page.**

## FROG QUESTIONS EMAIL

Our Questions email address is again regularly monitored. For any questions regarding frog and toads not already answered on our website, email questions [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

## FROG HABITAT WORKING BEES

### **Bowman Park, Bardon**

First Wednesday and Sunday of each month, during the morning. Contact Phil for more info and/or visit <https://www.facebook.com/bowmanparkfroghabitatgroup/>

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Michael Cooper, Sandra Rygier, Simone Hayden, Sandy Banfield, Joanne Hill, Christina James, Alison Crow, Sarah Gall, Gordon Campbell, Terry Walker, Hunter McCall, Greg & Janice Wellgard, Andrew & Melinda Lau, Jake Thomson, Clare Lynch, Coen Hird, Kai Devereau, Mickayla Heinemann, Callum McKercher and David Clark.

## QFS CHRISTMAS WISHES

From the entire QFS Committee, we wish all our valued Members a blessed Christmas and safety for your travels and festivities. May the New Year be a wet one!



Stay tuned via our Facebook and Instagram feeds and E-news emails for updates as the project progresses, and remember there are still plenty of volunteer opportunities both in the field and from your home. The next FrogSearch is anticipated for late February-early March.

summary of the volunteer opportunities available are provided below.

Jono Hooper 

To express your interest in volunteering, please go to <http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/kroombit-frogsearch/>. A

Role	What's involved	Time commitment	Requirements
Undertake field surveys and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel to Kroombit Tops National Park</li> <li>Camping at Kroombit Tops National Park</li> <li>Undertaking nocturnal surveys along wet forest streams and gullies in steep/hilly terrain at Kroombit Tops National Park</li> <li>Deploying automated recording devices along wet forest streams and gullies in steep/hilly terrain at Kroombit Tops National Park</li> </ul>	6 days (minimum of 4 days for QFS volunteers receiving fuel subsidy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 years or older (*volunteers aged 13-17 years may assist with field surveys only with the approval of QPWS and if accompanied by a parent or guardian in the field)</li> <li>Current QFS membership</li> <li>A reasonable level of fitness is required to access survey sites</li> <li>Volunteers will need to provide their own personal-protective equipment (PPE), including sturdy footwear, long-sleeved shirts and pants, gators and a sunhat.</li> <li>Volunteers assisting with field surveys will also need to bring a tent, sleeping bag and bright headtorch (&gt;200 lumens) of their own.</li> <li>Preference will be given to volunteers with bush navigation skills, familiar with the operation of GPS units.</li> </ul>
Field survey support team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel to Kroombit Tops National Park</li> <li>Camping at Kroombit Tops National Park</li> <li>Operation and monitoring of radio traffic at barracks (relaying messages and fielding emergency calls)</li> <li>Assist with food/meal preparation</li> <li>Drop off/pick up field teams</li> </ul>	6 days (minimum of 4 days for QFS volunteers receiving fuel subsidy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current QFS member</li> <li>Previous experience operating 2-way radios an advantage, but essential</li> </ul>
Pre- and post-survey logistical support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributing/gathering volunteer forms</li> <li>Organising food for field trips</li> <li>Organising vehicle hire</li> <li>Co-ordinating transport for volunteers</li> </ul>	As much or as little as you're prepared to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be over 18 years old</li> <li>Current QFS member</li> </ul>
Field data collation, verification and entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collating and verifying data from field surveys</li> <li>Entering data from field surveys into an electronic database</li> </ul>	As much or as little as you're prepared to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic computer literacy</li> <li>Experience with Access database an advantage, but not essential</li> </ul>
Analysis of sound recordings from automated recording devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing recordings from automated sound recorders deployed at Kroombit Tops National Park</li> <li>Identifying and documenting frog calls captured by sound recorders</li> </ul>	As much or as little as you're prepared to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic computer literacy</li> <li>Familiarity with sound analysis software (Audacity) an advantage, but not essential (*training in call identification using Audacity will be provided by QFS)</li> </ul>
Construction of predator fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel to Kroombit Tops National Park</li> <li>Camping at Kroombit Tops National Park</li> <li>Erecting/installing pig-proof fencing around Kroombit Tinkerfrog habitat</li> </ul>	5-7 days in mid-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be over 18 years old</li> <li>Must have a high level of fitness and be willing to help lug fencing materials/equipment up and down steep hills</li> </ul>
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisting with reporting to DES</li> </ul>	As much or as little as you're prepared to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic computer literacy, including familiarity with Microsoft Word and Excel</li> <li>Must be over 18 years old</li> <li>Current QFS member</li> </ul>

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I start my first President's Report knowing that all Queensland Frog Society members have a shared horror of and sadness about the devastation of the recent bushfires on the Eastern Coast of Australia. There really is not much I can say as I know we all feel the same way and we all hope that this coming summer will not be as bad as we fear.

On to mundane matters – At our recent AGM we shuffled around the deck chairs plus picked up two new committee members - Ed Meyer and Hunter McCall. Welcome aboard both of you. Thank you to them and everyone else for staying with us.

Jono Hooper – has stood down from the President position to become our Events and Initiatives Coordinator – a role he thought up all by himself – so we are all curious where this will take us. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Jono for his dedication and perseverance as our President for this past five years. Jono has managed to keep us all together with a smile on his face - while at the same time undertaking personal life milestones such as becoming married, buying a new house and establishing a native garden! I also wish to thank his wife, Bethany for her support of Jono and hence QFS while undertaking the previously mentioned milestones with Jono. Thank You to you both.

Also, a Big Thank You to Jenny Holdway – our Secretary of twenty-two years. Jenny has been Queensland Frog Society's stalwart committee member. Always there to pitch in whenever required and keeping QFS ticking over. She has kept QFS up to date with all the things that secretaries have to do plus running the displays and keeping an eye on all of us to be on time with our various assignments. Thank You Jenny. QFS would not be the same without you.

For those who do not know me – I have been a member of QFS for a couple of decades and on the committee a couple of times. For the past ten years I have spent most of my time in Houston, Texas – a surreal experience. I only met one cane toad there – in my backyard early one morning. He was actually a cute little fellow and disappeared before I could photograph him. He looked nothing like his monstrous Queensland cousins. I will just share with you one

amusing incident in Houston. I was clicking away with my knitting group mates one afternoon when they all started complaining about the recent invasions of coyotes in the bayous – apparently a new phenomenon. I innocently asked what the problem was about coyotes – thinking it was along the lines of them howling all night keeping everyone awake – when they informed me that they all had to keep their cats inside at night now as the coyotes would tear them to shreds. Everyone had a friend who had lost a cat this way. I somehow managed to maintain a straight face and sympathize without dropping a stitch.

By the way, if anyone wants to contact me about any frog issues or knitting patterns – please do not hesitate to do so – on my email ([president@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:president@qldfrogs.asn.au) or mobile 0438 690 359.)

All the best to everyone for the Holiday Season – I do hope that we and most of Australia has a lovely wet Christmas. (One can but hope.)

Jennifer Singfield ■

## ASHGROVE REPORT

I am sorry but nothing has been happening around this area to report on due to the relentless dry and hot weather. I am hoping the weather forecast is right and there will be some good falls mid January but that is a bit late for some of our frogs. No doubt you are keeping you ponds topped up and hope you have had some success with your resident amphibians. I have heard there have been some good reports but not like other years.

As I pen this the sky has opened up and I have had a heavy shower of rain so I have my fingers crossed there is more to come.

I take this opportunity to say Thank You for being supportive members and hope you have had a good year. Happy Christmas and hope we have a wetter New Year.

Jenny Holdway ■



# MARY RIVER CATCHMENT REPORT: FEBRUARY IS SPECIAL - SO ARE OUR FROGS

**A**nd they are especially special in February each year when the annual Find a Frog in February (FFF) citizen science frog search activity gets underway. The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) launched this program nearly 3 Februarys ago to give people an opportunity to contribute to our collective knowledge of frogs and their whereabouts, so that we can better manage their habitat.

Frogs are highly sensitive to the condition of their surroundings; habitat features, water quality, chemicals in the air, humidity and temperature, and are recognised as good indicators of environmental health. One third of frogs worldwide are at risk of extinction due to factors such as habitat loss, disease, changes to water supply and the impacts of exotic species. In our local area we have lost two species; Gastric brood frog (*Rheobatrachus silus*) and the Southern day frog (*Taudactylus diurnus*), since the 1970's and six more have joined the 'threatened' list. One of these; the Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*) has its stronghold in the Mary River catchment and we want to make sure that they, and all the other frog species, maintain healthy populations here.

Looking for frogs is an activity for the adventurous and

concerned members of our community. It takes a little time out of the house in the evening with a headlamp or torch, and a phone or camera. A little more time to record what has been seen or heard and then send that through to the MRCCC.

What do we do with it? All information is entered into a large state database called WildNet where it can be stored safely and accessed by researchers, planners, decision-makers and naturalists, and be drawn on when assessing sites for development or other impacting activities.




**Young froggers photographing a Giant Barred Frog during FFF at Pomona this year.**  
**Credit: E. Ford**

Over the past 3 years around 4100 records of 27 species have been submitted through the Find a Frog in February program from 286 locations. It's a fantastic contribution from the community

of the Mary, Burrum, Noosa River systems and Coastal catchments from Peregian to Burrum Heads. Each year the Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Shire Council, Gympie Regional Council and Fraser Coast Regional Council all pitch in to help the MRCCC to coordinate the program and process the incoming information. This is a great demonstration of consolidated commitment to protect our natural environment.

In 2020 there will be workshops, Frog Hops (progressive frog survey nights along creek systems) and setting up of long-term frog monitoring sites at schools and community environment groups sites.

Jump into the pool of contributing froggers and find our amphibian friends next February! See [www.mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/](http://www.mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/) for all the information you need or call the MRCCC on 07 5482 4766.

Eva Ford 



**Emerald-spotted Treefrog (*Litoria peronii*).**  
Credit: V. Moscato

## GOLD COAST BIOBLITZ REPORT

**T**he first of three Gold Coast bioblitzes got underway over the weekend of the 2-3 November in the Austinville Valley. What is a bioblitz, you ask? It's a period of flora and fauna surveys undertaken during a defined time period, generally 24 or 48 hours, and incorporates surveys led by experienced team leaders in their field of expertise, including plants, moss and fungi, birds, reptiles, mammals, bats, crayfish, fish, invertebrates and of course, frogs. The Gold Coast Catchment Association put on a well executed event and as the frog team leader, I couldn't



**Stony-creek Frog (male).** Credit: J. Hooper

have asked for much better weather conditions (all things considered whilst in a drought, of course).

I arrived on the Friday night before the blitz began the next day, and after the team leaders briefing, I ventured out to the survey site to familiarise myself with the area and frog species we'd likely encounter the following night. An afternoon storm meant the leaf-litter was wet, which was all the encouragement the Australian Marsupial Frogs (*Assa darlingtoni*) needed. I was welcomed with their calls echoing through the night forest. I pulled myself away from the leaf-litter and made my way down to the creek, which would be our survey site the next night. The creek was flowing - ok, maybe trickling, but the stream frogs were still active. Stony-creek Frogs (*Litoria wilcoxii*) were rather numerous, particularly large females. There were a few Cascade Treefrogs (*Litoria pearsoniana*), including juvenile frogs. Southern Orange-eyed Treefrogs could be heard in



**Cascade Treefrog calling.** Credit: J. Hooper

the distance, and a few sighted along the creek, and I was later informed that most have opted to congregate around several ponds and other forms of permanent water at a neighbours property instead!

The next day brought intermittent showers; enough to get very wet in, as I found out, but it doesn't seem fair to complain when the rain is such a blessing. The showers would also make for decent frog survey conditions that night with the group of citizen scientists who'd signed up for the survey. QFS member and friend Ollie made the drive down to help out on the survey, and I also caught up with several other froggers who I'd either met in person or knew of online.

Whilst surveying with a group of people presents its chal-



allenges, sharing my passion and knowledge of frogs with others is something I never tire of. And so after beginning the night with a quick chat on frog hygiene protocol, and spraying everyone's footwear, we embarked on our survey. The low-flow stream made traversing without gumboots pretty easy, and I was

soon scrambling down notes on the abundance of Stonycreek Frogs we found. Other species included last night's haul

plus Great Barred Frogs (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*) and Tusked Frogs (*Adelotus brevis*), plus a few obligatory Cane Toads. The shower activity held off long enough to complete our survey, before piling back onto the shuttle bus to base camp at 11pm.

The night wouldn't be over yet though, as another mate, Ollie and I decided to head off to another area to try find the Red-backed Broodfrog (*Pseudophryne coriacea*) and the Black-soled Frog (*Lechrodus fletcheri*). We'd received a tip-off about these two species occurring higher up in the valley, though we would only find a Copper-backed Brood-

frog (*P. raveni*) during our search (which was mostly a steep climb up a mountain track).

Over the course of the weekend we found a decent haul of frog species, despite the below-average weather conditions leading up to the event. It was

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ing in the section of creek we surveyed. The event organisers did a great job of keeping us all safe and fed, and I look forward to the next bioblitz in the Numinbah Valley next year!

Jono Hooper



**Australian Marsupial Frog amongst the leaf-litter. Credit: J. Hooper**



**Copper-backed Broodfrog. Credit: J. Hooper**



# DROUGHT AND BUSHFIRES STOPPING FROGS FROM MATING

28 November 2019 | Tim Barlass | Sydney Morning Herald

In the words of the children's song, "Froggie went a-courtin', and he did ride".

But in the last year, froggie's courtin' endeavours have been severely curtailed by the drought and also by bushfires, research led by the Australian Museum shows.

FrogID Week 2019 resulted in 24 per cent fewer frog recordings and 29 fewer species of frogs detected compared to the previous year.

The research also revealed that the green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*) has all but disappeared from Greater Sydney, where the number of frog species was down from 19 to 16.



Green Treefrog. Credit: J. Hooper

In Greater Melbourne, recordings were down from 501 to 283 although the number of species recorded remained the same at 10.

The report states: "Both the lower number of frogs calling overall and the fewer number of frog species calling is largely explained by the lack of rainfall and ongoing drought throughout much of Australia.

"Frogs only call when they want to breed, and if frogs are not calling, they are not breeding."

Of the bushfires it adds: "Fires in the rainforests of

northern NSW are likely to have impacted threatened rainforest frog species found in only small areas - these include the tiny pouched frog (*Assa darlingtoni*) [with] two recordings last year and none this.

"These frogs are not adapted to fires and their ability to survive such high-intensity fire events, particularly combined with drought, is unknown."

The big "losers" of FrogID Week 2019 were frogs across northern Australia, yet to experience the wet season, including the green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*) with 80 per cent fewer recordings this year, and the striped rocket frog (*Litoria nasuta*), with no recordings.

The widespread eastern banjo frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) which is found in NSW is one example of burrowing frogs that rely on rain even more than most frog species. The number of recordings was down 63 per cent on last year.

Dr Jodi Rowley, an amphibian biologist, said that the areas where there was the least amount of rain equated to the least number of frog recordings.

"If we don't hear a frog, it potentially means that they are hiding," she said. "It is very energetically expensive for frogs to call, frogs yelling out to girls also attracts all the predators that eat them.

"If there's no water and there's no likelihood that they are going to breed successfully they will not call."

She said it is only the males that call and the different calls mean that the female can identify that a potential partner is the right species.

She added: "These results are pretty dramatic. Frogs are an incredible indicator of environmental health, weather and climate.

"Building a backyard pond is a great way to support the common species. Frogs often like messy habitats. The reason the green tree frog has almost disappeared from Sydney may be that we don't like the kind of places they like to breed in.

"Take care of your local creeks and streams and let a little bit of messy frog habitat remain." ■



## #qldfrogs

Each newsletter will feature a selection of photos by our keen Instagram followers who tag their QLD frog photos with #qldfrogs! Tag yours to be featured here.



**Stony-creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*)** by  
@sonnyroyalphoto



**Eastern Sedgefrog (*Litoria fallax*)** by @krunchfrog



**Australian Marsupial Frog (*Assa darlingtoni*)** by  
@jonohopper92

### NEXT EDITION

Thankyou to those of you who contributed to this newsletter.

**Deadline for Autumn *Frogsheet* contributions is  
20 February 2020**

If undelivered, please return to  
**QLD Frog Society Inc**  
**PO Box 7017**  
**East Brisbane, QLD 4169**

**SURFACE MAIL**



Frogsheet - Summer 2019-20  
Print Post Approved  
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