

FROGSHEET

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ENDANGERED KROOMBIT TINKER FROG BRED IN CAPTIVITY FOR FIRST TIME AFTER 20 YEARS



Inga Stünzner and Paul Culliver | ABC News

The first metamorphosed Kroombit tinker frog in captivity after almost two decades of trying. Credit: M. Vella

After two decades of trial and error, a team of scientists has finally bred the Kroombit tinker frog in captivity in the hopes of preventing its extinction.

The frog is thought to number 200 at best and is found only in small patches of rainforest at Kroombit Tops National Park, a plateau about 70 kilometres south-west of Gladstone in central Queensland.

Dr. Ed Meyer, from the Queensland Frog Society, says the breeding plan was first hatched in the early 2000s when he and others became aware of the frog's decline.

There was little the team could do until they had the support of a zoo, and in 2008 the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the Gold Coast came on board with a dedicated frog-breeding facility.

It was then another 12 years of trial and error before this

hatchling.

"We've had our first tiny metamorph – a recently transformed tadpole – emerge from the tank," Dr Meyer said.

The largely nocturnal Kroombit tinker frog is difficult to



A captive Kroombit Tinker frog with eggs (red circle). Credit: M.Vella

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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 **\$5,378.41** (+\$1 since Spring edition)

breed because it is secretive and can be located only by its distinctive call that sounds like someone tapping a glass bottle.

“We’ve been looking for spawn and tadpoles since the mid-1990s, and despite intensive searches through the 2000s, we failed to find any,” Dr Meyer said.

The team finally had a successful spawning with the small number of frogs they had in captivity, which allowed them to observe the eggs and tadpoles of this species for the first time.

“This was a real thrill,” Dr Meyer said.

“We’ve got a fresh clutch that was laid a few days ago, so hopefully we’ll have a few more tadpoles and metamorphs that come through in the next few months.”

Leading up to this moment, the team had been developing breeding techniques using less-threatened spe-



The frogs are secretive and hard to find, which has made it very difficult to discover their breeding habits. Credit: M. Vella

It could take up to two years before the recently emerged froglet is ready to breed, and the team will hang on to a small number.

“Female tinker frogs are very difficult to locate in the wild because they don’t call loudly, so we’re likely to hang on to captive-reared female frogs especially,”

cies, including the Eungella tinker frog.

“We’re planning on raising our metamorph Kroom-bit tinker frogs through to adulthood and eventually release the captive-bred adults into the wild,” Dr Meyer said.

Dr Meyer said.

“It would be great to get numbers up into the hundreds, high hundreds and, at some point into the thousands, but whether that’s achievable, we just don’t know.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Unfortunately the COVID-19 situation and restrictions put an end to our planned events for 2020, but stay tuned via E-news Emails & our Facebook page as we hope to try again next year!

FROG QUESTIONS

Have questions about frogs or toads? Message us on Messenger/Facebook

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

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| • Valentine McDonald | • Amanda Weaver |
| • Marni Crofts | • Vern Williams |
| • Susanne Smyth | • Michael Cunningham |
| • Louise Beerens | • Dominique Potvin |
| • Emma Rosie | • Eric Vanderduys |
| • Joanne Piper | • Wendy Agnew |
| • Paula Adkins | • Samuel Morison |
| • Archie Maymann | • Geoffrey Heard |
| • Ben Hannay | • Coralie Daniels |

NEW PHONE NUMBER

The QLD Frog Society has a new phone number:

0491 140 720

Please disregard the old number. Thankyou.

FROGGING FOR FROG ID WEEK AT IPSWICH

‘day herpers, I’m Brett & I have been Jenny’s QFS Ipswich helper (Area Coordinator) for over a decade. It has been a pleasure.

About six years I started the Queensland Frogs Facebook group. It has seen my knowledge & enjoyment from frogs increase substantially. It has also led to a personal association with FrogID and the wonderful Jodi Rowley. The FrogID app is brilliant, and I made a commitment to give it a real crack when I got the time. This year the stars aligned with my rotating work roster (holidays) coinciding perfectly with FrogID Week.

I spoke to a few folks from QLD Frogs [Ed. Facebook group] & over a few weeks we organised 11 nights of herping. Several experienced herpers were approached & agreed to host a herpin’ night on sites that they recommended & had access to. Maximum numbers of 10 folks per night and it was posted to the FB group for anyone interested who wanted to attend. It has been pretty dry & we reconnoitred a few sites in the nights leading up to Frog ID Week. Some of the usuals like



Tusked Frog Credit: B. Malcolm

“Frog Hollow” in Karawatha were bone dry & therefore not an option.

We kicked off on Friday 6/11/20 with the lovely Danyelle Gleeson hosting several locals at Lake Manchester. We found seven different species including my first sighting of Stony-creek Frog *Litoria wilcoxii*. We discovered well established colonies of Eastern Sedgefrogs *Litoria fallax* & Broad-palmed Rocketfrogs *Litoria latopalmata* & *Litoria wilcoxii* in three separate ponds.



Happy Froggers gathered at Lake Manchester. Credit: D. Gleeson

Saturday the 7th saw Hunter McCall lead a full group of 10 herpers to two sites on Tamborine Mountain. The Brewery pond

was going off, with several Emerald-spotted Treefrogs *Litoria peronii* calling. The second site teased us with a few Tusked Frogs *Adelotus brevis* calling from the creek, but they were well hidden. There was a lovely gravid Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk *Limnodynastes terraereginae* who posed ages for photos. Both sites had well established Great Barred Frog *Mixophyes fasciolatus* tadpoles which was nice to see.

Sunday the 8th was pretty windy & we went back to Lake Manchester with Danyelle. More *fallax*, *wilcoxii*, and my first sighting of a Striped Rocketfrog *Litoria*



Stony-creek Frog Credit: B. Malcolm



Broad-palmed Rocketfrog Credit: B. Malcolm

and we found seven different species on the night. Tuesday a small group of us explored the small pond of Mt Nebo road. We were treated by a good number of both *Litoria peronii* & Laughing Treefrogs *Litoria tylerii* with several males calling from overhanging branches. Sean found a female *Adelotus brevis* who posed for a few photos before showing what great swimmers they are & disappeared into the darkness.

Wednesday, the Logan Legend Vincent Watego led a small but enthusiastic group into the eastern side of the Daisy Hill Koala Sanctuary. Unfortunately, it was a complete bust with no water under the boardwalks. A single Striped Marshfrog *Lim. peroni* & a single *Litoria fallax* is all that we found. Lots of knowledge and laughs were shared & it was great catching up.

Thursday 12th was Ric Nattrass reserve in Bellbird park. We found a huge Cane Toad *Rhinella marina* infested dam & spent the time netting & removing toad tadpoles for “Stepped Hypothermia”. A few cheeky Ornate Burrowing Frogs *Platyplectum ornatum* and the ever-present *Limnodynastes peroni* popped up to keep us amused.

As I was unavailable Saturday, Friday 13th we had two groups. Karawatha’s own Jill Fetchner leading one group into Karawatha & Danyelle Gleeson taking the last Ipswich group into Lake Manchester. Both groups had positive nights with lots of critters encountered for FrogID recordings.

Saturday the 14th I had a wedding, not a frog in sight ... bugger.

Sunday 15th, Mal Shaw hosted at Grinstead Park, Kedron Brook where I was amazed to see a colony of

nasuta. Monday the 9th saw Gillian Egan host us on her 2 acres in Greenbank. Gillian is an avid conservationist and has a well-established colony of *Litoria latopalmata*, *Litoria fallax* & Beeping Froglet *Crinia parinsignifera* in her small semi concreted dam. Gillian’s Latos always put on a show

Litoria wilcoxii living under the Shand Street bridge. Mal’s an accomplished Herper & “snake magnet”, of which he found two, a keel back & a pale headed snake. We also found a very shy male *Adelotus brevis* & got a few photos. Monday 16th, back at the wonderful Gillian’s Greenbank pond, we encountered



Frogger selfie Credit: D. Gleeson

seven species.

All in all, I had a great week. I enjoyed meeting some lovely Herpers, we experienced some exciting new sites, sighted & photographed three new species for me & submitted a whole lot of FrogID audio files.

Now if we only got some rain so the new sites can really show us what they have.

Brett Malcolm

PRESIDENT REPORT

Hello to all QFS members,

My name is Ashley Keune and I have recently been elected President of the QFS. I am honoured to have been nominated and elected as President moving forward into 2021. I have decided to take on this position this year, as I wanted to become more actively involved in the QFS with the aim of getting more people interested in looking after the environment, educating people about frogs and toads in general, as well as getting more people interested in frogging.

I have been involved with the QFS for approximately six years but have been involved with the occasional survey and some frogging and photographing with some current members for a few more years than that. For the QFS, I have contributed by helping with the display at the Nambour Garden Expo each year for

the last five or six years to help educate people about frogs and frog friendly gardens and to help answer any questions people may have. I have also done a few talks to different groups to educate people about local frog species including the Gympie Municipal Horticultural Society and some school talks.



Ashley Keune

My background is in teaching and have currently been teaching for 20 years. I live in the beautiful Mary Valley on a 45 acre rural property. I have

always had an interest in fauna and flora and photography but moving to this area is what triggered my love for frogs in particular. After moving to my property, I began hearing many sounds that I had never heard. After discovering the source of these sounds, I was amazed to see that most were made by frogs that I had never seen before. In total I have documented and photographed 25 species of frog on my property. I am very lucky to have this diversity of frog species on my own property.

A big thank you to Jennifer Singfield who has done a great job as the outgoing President and I wish her all



Broad-palmed Rocketfrog

Graceful Treefrog

© Ashley Keune

the best in her new role. I hope that I will be able to help the QFS continue to move forward in a positive direction and I look forward to being more involved and getting to know more of the members as time goes on.

Regards, Ashley Keune

BROOKFIELD REPORT

Hi all,

A working bee at Bowman Park was held on the 2nd December working under a COVID Safe Plan. Activities included:

1. Remedial work on the Kindy planting area. Finish moving mulch and in-fill planting. The plants have been maintained by regular watering by HB contract help and Rose (a new volunteer). Plants that were removed / under threat by a turkey were replanted and plant protectors used to limit further damage.
2. Recently planted Richmond birdwing vines were watered. These have been watered each week by volunteers, especially through the dry period. Kris (a new volunteer) has been very active in helping with this and is very interested in frogs at the Park.

The following wildlife species were sighted at the park:

- Tusked Frog was heard calling in the creek;
- Water dragons;
- Carpet python;
- Bush turkeys; and
- Numerous butterflies.

Erica, who has been volunteering with our group for a few years. Joined us after the QUT immersion working bee. She has relocated to Darwin. We wish her all the best in her new venture.

We also welcomed Jeff Lye, our new HB support officer who helped out during our last working bee.

Cheers, Phil

CAPE YORK TRIP & SOMERSET REPORT

Initially planned for late March, the Coronavirus pandemic rudely post-poned plans I had made with friend and fellow frogger Ben Revell to go frogging

at Cape York. Following the easing of restrictions, we decided to give it a red-hot go!

The trip would see us travel some 5000kms and spend some 70 hours on the road as I began at Kilcoy and travelled to Bundaberg to meet Ben. We then continued heading north for a dozen frog species we hadn't seen, some of which would require, as it turns out, lots of effort to find, given the still very-dry conditions as the time.

Having undertaken extensive research into each target species, their habitats and logistical challenges, we were both pretty keen to explore some very unique parts of QLD. Our trip took us to Eungella National Park, Black Mountain, Cape Melville, Iron Range and back down the coast, including a stop-over at Mt Elliott, practising good frog hygiene at each location. Unfortunately, due to some post-intensive frogging fatigue (PIFF) and a 14 hour drive the next day, we didn't make it up to the top of Mt Elliott as planned, for the southern-most known *Cophixalus* (nursery frog). To the right are some of our frog targets.

Since returning home, we'd only had two rainfall events at the time of writing, and no rain for the whole month of November. The Green treefrogs however can always be found foraging outside at night, having emerged from the frog motels I've made and other nooks and hollows. Counts of ~60 individuals are not uncommon on the 1 acre block out here, following very good breeding events nearby in February and March.

The most recent rainfall event of 33mm was enough to have at least half a dozen congregate and call around the pond I made, along with several Ornate Burrowing Frogs. Other species frequently seen include Naked Treefrogs, Bleating Treefrogs, Spotted Marshfrogs, Striped Marshfrogs, and occasionally a Striped Rocketfrog and Broad-palmed Rocketfrog. Despite hearing them in the distance, I'm yet to hear or record the 'staple' Eastern Sedgefrog and Graceful Treefrog on the property.

Keep any eye out on our Facebook page as from time to time I'll do a 'live' frogging event, whereby you can go 'frogging' from the comfort of your home without

the insects! (experiences may vary; I'm not liable if you get bitten by a mozzie inside your home).

Cheers, Jono Hooper



Eungella Tinker frog (*Taudactylus liemi*) Credit: J. Hooper



Melville Range Treefrog (*Litoria andirrmalin*) Credit: J. Hooper



Cape Melville Boulder Frog (*Cophixalus zwefeli*) Credit: J. Hooper



Cape York Graceful Treefrog (*Litoria bella*) Credit: J. Hooper



#qldfrogs

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



Striped burrowing frog (*Cyclorana alboguttata*) eating a Barking frog (*Limnodynastes fletcheri*) by @tylermonachino_wildlife'



Green-eyed Treefrog (*Litoria serrata*) by @jradbarnes



Southern Orange-eyed Treefrog (*Litoria chloris*) by @a.jphotographs

NEXT EDITION

Thankyou to those of you who contributed to this newsletter.

**Deadline for Autumn *Frogsheet* contributions is
18 February 2021**

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Frogsheet - Summer 2020-21
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PP424022/00619