




# FROGSHEET

<http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/> |  questions [at] qldfrogs.asn.au |  /qldfrogsociety |  @qldfrogs

*QFS volunteers lugging fencing materials used to construct a pig-proof fence at Kroombit Tops National Park.  
Pig-proofing Kroombit Tinkerfrog habitat on Page 3*



## IN THIS ISSUE



*Pg 3 – Pig-proofing Kroombit Tinkerfrog habitat*

*Pg 3 – Letter to the Editor: Feral animal control in natural ecosystems*

*Pg 4 – Mistaken identity: Can you tell a cane toad from an endangered frog?*

*Pg 5 – DIY cane toad tadpole trap*

*Pg 6 – From the Secretary's desk*



## QFS Annual General Meeting

2:00 pm, November 28th 2021, via Zoom

*Details sent via email – Please RSVP!*

*DIY cane toad tadpole trap. How to make and use it on Page 5*



**Thank you to  
our supporters**

**Public Trust Fund:** Total now stands at \$9,426.18

*Any donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible*



## President's Report

**H**ELLO AGAIN, ALL OF our QFS members. I hope that everybody is keeping well. The QFS event calendar has been filling up recently, and I was lucky enough to be able to deliver a demonstration at the Marchant Park Kindergarten on Sept 10th and set up a display at the Off Grid Expo in Imbil on Sept 11th–12th.

I received a warm welcome from the children and staff at the kindy, and I think I got as much out of the morning as they did. The children were very interested to learn about the lifecycle of frogs, and how to attract frogs to their kindy. They loved seeing photos of the different local frogs, and were surprised by their different calls. I was able to give them some advice on how to improve their frog pond and make their gardens more frog friendly. Overall, I had a great morning, and thoroughly enjoyed the snacks that were provided!

The next day the QFS set up a display at the Off Grid Expo in Imbil, where there was a big crowd of people all very keen to ask questions about frog ponds and hotels, how to make their gardens more frog friendly, and how they can support the QFS. We spoke with lots of lovely people over that weekend that share a vision for a world where people have less impact on the environment. A big welcome to our new members who signed up at this event, and a big shout out to Jono and Eva for volunteering at the stall.

A key topic I have discussed at recent events is how to tell the difference between frogs and cane toads, as well as how to remove cane toads from the



*QFS president Ashley Keune educating the next generation of frog lovers*

environment. If you want to brush up on your cane toad identification skills and understand how the toads are best managed, check out page 4 and 5 of this issue, where we've included some advice and links to further resources.

In other news, QFS will now hold its Annual General Meeting on Nov 28th. It will be held via Zoom this year to make it more accessible to all our members, and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. Our guest speaker

this year will be Mickayla Heinemann, University of Southern Queensland student and 2021 Ric Natrass Research Grant recipient, who will share with us her research on how methods for surveying frog populations can be improved.

At the last management meeting, the QFS committee decided to transfer \$5,000 from our general account into the Public Trust Fund, so that the Queensland Frog Society can continue to support student research into Queensland frogs. The Ric Natrass Research Grant of \$1,500 is currently given to one successful applicant each year. Applications for our 2022 grant are now open. If you are interested in applying, please visit our website for more information.

Take care of yourselves, and look out for each other and the environment.

Warm regards,

**Ashley Keune**





## Pig-proofing Kroombit Tinkerfrog habitat

**T**HE KROOMBIT TINKERFROG (*Taudactylus pleione*) is one of Australia's most threatened frog species. Found only at Kroombit Tops National Park, south-west of Gladstone, this critically endangered species faces a number of threats to its survival, including predation and habitat disturbance by feral pigs (see 'The problem with (feral) pigs' in the Mid-Autumn 2021 issue of *Frogsheet* for more information).

**"The critically endangered Kroombit Tinkerfrog faces a number of threats to its survival, including predation by feral pigs."**

In early September, a team of QFS volunteers travelled to Kroombit Tops to install a pig-proof fence around an area of tinkerfrog breeding habitat heavily impacted by pigs. Working in difficult terrain, QFS volunteers successfully constructed a 170-metre-long wire fence, weighed down with rocks and boulders to prevent pigs from accessing this important area of tinkerfrog habitat. The fence was constructed over 4 days by a team of 5 hardworking volunteers under the direction of Harry Hines of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. The construction of this fence was made possible by funding from a Queensland Government Community Sustainability Action Grant awarded to QFS for actions supporting the recovery of threatened frog species at Kroombit Tops.

Our next trip to conduct surveys and monitoring of threatened frog species at Kroombit Tops National Park will take place in the last week of November. If you're interested in joining us for this event, please contact our events and initiatives coordinator, Jono Hooper, via e-mail at: [events\\_intitatives@qldfrogs.asn.au](mailto:events_intitatives@qldfrogs.asn.au).

**Ed Meyer**



*QFS volunteers constructing the pig-proof fence.*



*The finished fence, with rocks and boulders weighing down the wire 'skirt'.*

---

## Letter to the Editor

### Feral animal control in natural ecosystems

DEAR EDITOR,

*I agree wholeheartedly with what Ed Meyer writes in "The problem with (feral) pigs" in the Mid-Autumn 2021 issue of Frogsheet. Experience around Surat, QLD showed us that the ribbed spike rush (*Eleocharis plana*) was predated on more than any other rush, as the feral pigs were after the large underground tubers. Research at Bunya Mountains National Park found that the threatened black-breasted buttonquail also falls victim to the activities of feral pigs.*

*The impact of feral pigs has gained increased media attention recently, but mainly from the perspective of agricultural loss, where control of feral pig numbers is currently left to landholders and local governments. While I agree with the control of feral pig numbers, I believe that we must approach this issue of feral pig control with a strong and cohesive environmental and animal ethics standpoint. No animal should suffer in pain or undue stress under our control.*

Continued on next page...



Methods often used to control feral pig numbers include trapping, shooting and baiting. Trapping involves luring feral pigs into a gated enclosure using food. In the open country, mustering and shooting from the air can be effective, while shooting from vehicles or on foot can be effective in smaller, accessible populations. Baiting is a common yet controversial method. In days gone by, arsenic, strychnine, and cyanide were deployed to combat feral animals. Nowadays, sodium fluoroacetate (1080) is often used. This chemical is derived from a Western Australian native plant aptly named the heart-leaf poison bush (*Gastrolobium grandiflorum*).

Trapped feral pigs can be despatched humanly by shooting, which is quick and effective (if done correctly). Baiting, however, can take time. Initial symptoms of 1080 poisoning (e.g., vomiting, anxiety, disorientation, shaking) quickly develop into frenzied behaviour with running and screaming fits, drooling, uncontrolled paddling, and seizures. This can last for up to 48 hours, depending on the dose ingested, until eventually the animal suffers complete collapse and death.

Inevitably, baiting the right or the wrong way is effective, but consideration should be given to other animals, feral and native, that might be exposed to deployed baits. Baits that are thrown out of a vehicle or dropped by air are available for any animal to pick up and eat. This is an extremely unethical practice, and while I have heard that native animals may not take 1080 baits, this may not be the case once baits are laced with meat or molasses. I have actually seen the deaths of crows and ibis after baits have been thrown from a vehicle. These birds are a pantropical species, which do not appear to know what 1080 is, much like our pets and domesticated stock.

In 2019, HOGGONE®, a new feral pig bait, was released. It results in a quicker and more humane death, and, when used with the companion bait delivery system, it is designed to limit exposure to non-target species. HOGGONE® seems to possess many traits that make it a safer alternative to other baits, but I still have my reservations as it contains a peanut-butter-like paste, and what animal doesn't love peanut butter?

**Martin, Ecologist**

Please email us with concerns about frogs or frog habitat in your area, and we will endeavour to provide you with advice and answer any questions you may have. We might also feature your email in our 'Letter to the Editor' section, as a way to raise local issues and contribute to wider environmental discussions.

## Mistaken identity: Can you tell a cane toad from an endangered frog?

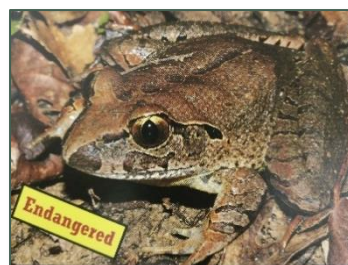
**Q**FS WOULD LIKE TO REMIND members to be extremely cautious when catching and disposing cane toads. Last year there were reports of endangered frogs being killed in a case of mistaken identity by people innocently trying to combat cane toads (read the full ABC story [here](#)).

There are several species of frog found in QLD that resemble and can easily be misidentified as cane toads. Harming native wildlife is illegal and can carry substantial penalties (particularly if harming endangered species). If ever in doubt, it's best to leave it alone.

Download our 'Be Toadally Sure' brochure [here](#) for a handy guide to identifying cane toads.

Cane toads are actually most easily controlled by the removal of eggs or tadpoles from water sources. The MRCCC's Eva Ford explains how to make a cane toad tadpole trap on the next page.

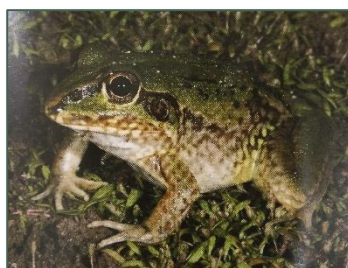
**Alice Carruthers**



Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*)



Great barred frog (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*)



Green-striped frog (*Cyclorana alboguttata*)



Scarlet-sided pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes terraereginae*)

## Making and using a cane toad tadpole trap from recycled items

**W**HEN THE CANE TOAD CHALLENGE came into being, the MRCCC were keen to avoid buying new plastic products to make traps. One of our members created a trap that uses recycled materials and doesn't require heavy lifting. We like to call it the 'Hannon Taddy Trapper'. If you make your own, please make sure that the container didn't previously hold anything that could contaminate the environment.

### 1. Collect your materials:

- 1 large plastic container
- 2 empty plastic bottles
- Bait (BufoTabs)
- Wire or string (to secure bait in place)
- Scissors
- Drill



### 2. Put the trap together:

- Cut a hole in either side of the container to the size of the plastic bottles. Cut the tops off the plastic bottles. These are the funnels that allow water and tadpoles to enter the trap.
- Cut a large round hole in the side of the container (this will become the top) and drill lots of small holes below this for drainage when removing the trap. Fix your bait to a wire or string near the back of the trap.

### 3. Install the trap (see photo on front page):

- Partially submerge the trap at the edge of a dam or creek (in still water only) so that the funnel entrances and bait are submerged.
- Secure the trap to a tree or stake. The trap must not move, or the trail of attractant that comes out of the funnels will be broken, and tadpoles will be confused!
- Leave the trap for up to 24 hours, checking for tadpoles when possible.



### 4. Emptying the trap:

- Drag the trap up the bank and turn upright so that most of the water (and not the tadpoles) runs out of the drilled holes. It is more manageable when not so heavy!
- Cane toad tadpoles are harvested live from traps, so empty the rest of the water out through a sieve or net to catch the tadpoles. Once harvested, transfer the tadpoles with a little water to a plastic bag or sealable container.
- Cool the sealed bag/container containing cane toad tadpoles (on ice or in the fridge) until tadpoles are non-motile (~1 day).
- Transfer to a freezer and leave until frozen solid. Be aware that dead cane toad tadpoles are toxic and, if left in the environment, may poison native predators. Be sure to bag and bin dead cane toad tadpoles along with used bait (BufoTabs).



*Eva Ford, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee*

For more information contact the MRCCC on 07 5482 4766 or via <https://mrccc.org.au/contact-mrccc/>

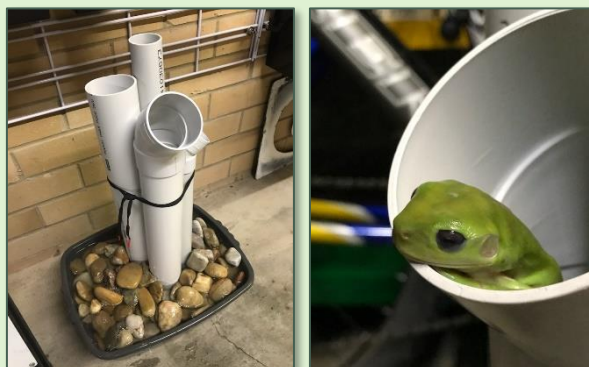


The cool-freeze method of tadpole euthanasia is approved by the University of Queensland Cane Toad Challenge unit. To find out more about the Cane Toad Challenge visit <https://imb.uq.edu.au/canetoadchallenge>



## From the Secretary's Desk

I received a message from a gentleman who was very concerned that his lovely green tree frog, Cyco, was not well. He had heard about the recent findings of sick and dead green tree frogs, but when I saw Cyco's photo I was able to say that the frog was just thin after being rested over winter. This is the frog hotel that Cyco happily lives in.



*A frog hotel and its resident green tree frog, Cyco.*

I have also had correspondence with a group who arranged a planting day in memorial of Tim Rice at Bowman Park, Bardon, with QFS coordinator Phil Bird. The family, along with other Baha'i community members, planted 260 plants on the day. In addition to the planting, a donation in Tim's name was made to the Public Trust Fund. The donation will be put towards our annual scholarships.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the AGM on October 30th!

**Jenny Holdway**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

**6<sup>th</sup> November, 9:30–11:00am** – Presentation at Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre (CREEC), Burpengary

**28<sup>th</sup> November, 2:00pm** – Annual General Meeting, via Zoom – details sent via email – **Please RSVP!**

## Send us your frogging stories and photos!

With the start of the wet season soon approaching we will begin to see more frog activity. Don't forget that we love to see pictures and hear stories of the frogs that you find in your area, so get in touch and tell us all about your frogging adventures!

## Executive Committee

**PATRON** – Dr Glen Ingram

**PRESIDENT** – Ashley Keune  
Email: president [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

**VICE PRESIDENT** – Ray Benfer  
Email: vicepresidents [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

**SECRETARY** – Jenny Holdway, Ph: 0491 140 720  
Email: secretary [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

**TREASURER** – Jennifer Singfield  
Email: treasurer [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

**EVENTS AND INITIATIVES COORDINATOR** – Jono Hooper  
Email: events\_initiatives [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

## Newsletter Editor

**Alice Carruthers**  
Email: editor [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

## Frogshop Sales

**Jenny Holdway** – Ph: 0491 140 720



## A warm welcome to new QFS members!

William Goulding, Graham Wallace, Peter Wilkinson, Louise Bonato, Scott Gelzinnis, Todd Warren, Kuyan Hoban, Matthew Ware, Arre Robison, Gina Angland, Shae Murray, Saskia Voss, John Maclean, Belinda Sale, Rod Edmonds, Grace Warwick, Ian Parsons, Juliet McLeod, Gay Cattermole, Jon Lintott.

PLEASE EMAIL [EDITOR@QLDFROGS.ASN.AU](mailto:EDITOR@QLDFROGS.ASN.AU) WITH ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN *FROGSHEET*

**DEADLINE FOR SUMMER *FROGSHEET* CONTRIBUTIONS IS 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**