




FROGSHEET

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An Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog (Litoria fallax) seen on the Melaleuca boardwalk at Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area, Gold Coast. Photo: Alice Carruthers



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Five years of FFF! – Pg 5

A summary of 2017–2021, and what you can do in the other 11 months of the year!

QFS President Ashley Keune delivering a presentation for the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, November 6th 2021



**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

HELLO AGAIN, ALL OF our QFS members. I hope that everybody is keeping well and has had some of the good wet weather that has been around much of the state this Spring.

I was lucky enough to be invited to the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee at Carindale on November 6th to do a presentation on frog facts, frog identification, and how to make gardens more frog friendly. After the presentation we went outside and I demonstrated how to build frog hotels in a few different ways, as well as how to build a simple frog pond. You'll find a quick tutorial on how to build an above-ground frog hotel below. The event in Carindale was sold-out, and it was very well received. A huge thank you to Genevieve for making me feel so welcome. We look forward to running the workshop again in early 2022!

After the workshop I went to meet a keen group of students from the Brisbane Montessori School at Fig Tree Pocket. The students had been learning all about frogs during the few weeks prior, so it was great to be



QFS President Ashley Keune demonstrating how to build a basic frog pond for the Bulimba Creek Catchment Committee, November 6th 2021

able to assist them on their walk. The weather was great, with showers the day before and the odd sprinkle of rain throughout the day. On the walk we were lucky enough to see a Striped Rocket Frog (*Litoria nasuta*) and numerous Stony Creek Frogs (*Litoria wilcoxii*, including one large female and many males. We also got to hear some Eastern Dwarf Tree Frogs (*Litoria fallax*). The kids were very excited to see the frogs, and I think the parents probably had as much fun as the kids!

Other members have also been out and about spreading the good word on frogs and the work that we do. Ed Meyer did a presentation on acid frogs for the Native Plants Sunshine Coast Group on November 7th in Maleny, and Jono Hooper did a talk for the Moreton Bay Regional Council and a presentation in Kilcoy in conjunction with the Kilcoy Landcare Group. All of these events had good audience numbers and were very successful for both us and the people who attended. A big thank you to all of our members who get out and about in their own time to help support the Queensland Frog Society.

If any members are reading this thinking that they would like to be involved in some way with workshops or presentations, then get in touch with us. We would love to hear from you!

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

Warm regards,

Ashley Keune



How to build a frog hotel

BUILDING A FROG HOTEL IS a great way to support certain species of frog (e.g. tree frogs), whose habitat is under threat due to increased urbanisation. A frog hotel won't attract frogs to your garden, but it will provide a hide out for frogs that already reside on your property. If you've had frogs popping up in inconvenient places (such as your toilet!), you might want to think about building a frog hotel to provide an alternative space outdoors that they can utilise for shelter. You'll find a 'how-to' on the next page!



QFS President Ashley Keune (+ extra pair of hands) building an above-ground frog hotel



Above-ground frog hotel

Materials:

- Several different lengths and diameter of PVC pipe (2–6 pipes; not too short, as the frogs like dark places for refuge)
- A vessel (e.g., a medium-to-large heavy pot or bucket)
- Enough gravel and/or soil to almost fill the vessel
- A few plants (check out these [native plant species](#) for frog-friendly gardens)
- Rain or tap water (optional, although you will need small amounts to water the plants)

Step-by-step instructions:

1. If adding water, seal up any holes in the bottom of your pot using silicone sealant [stones or gravel will not give a water-tight seal])

2. Arrange the pipes vertically in the vessel
3. Fill the space around the pipes with the gravel/soil until the pipes are supported
4. Plant your plants around the pipes
5. Add water (if using), but do not fill above the top of the soil/gravel
6. Place the frog hotel in a location that is cool, dark and as moist as possible, e.g., in a shaded area or dappled light

Plants are a great addition to a frog hotel as they keep the soil healthy and provide additional habitat for the frogs. If you're going to be keeping your hotel topped up with water, make sure you choose plants that don't mind having 'wet feet'.

Over the next few months, we will be adding step-by-step guides on other types of frog hotel (yes, there are others!), as well as top tips and advice, to our website. Keep your eyes peeled for updates!

Amphibians in the news

Unsuccessful search for Eungella gastric-brooding frog, but still hope for the species?

A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS TRAVELLED to north Queensland in a final search for the Eungella gastric-brooding frog (*Rheobatrachus vitellinus*), which was last seen in the wild in the late 1970s or early 1980s. The trip was unsuccessful, although scientists did record sighting of other critically endangered frogs, including the Eungella day frog, the Eungella tinker frog and the tusked frog, two of which are not found anywhere else in the world. There are incredible efforts currently underway to bring the gastric-brooding frogs back from extinction, using frozen samples of the last of the species in captivity.

Read the full **ABC** story [here](#).

New species of tadpole-carrying frog discovered in Northern NSW

A NEW SPECIES OF FROG has been discovered in the Wollumbin National Park (formerly Mount Warning National Park) in northern NSW. The new species, named *Assa wollumbin*, is one of only two in Australia known to carry the developing tadpoles on its body. The species is also one of only four frog species worldwide where the males take the primary parental role. The frog is one of nine threatened species being studied in the area in the aftermath of the 2019–20 bushfires, and due to the small population it is expected to meet the criteria for being listed as critically endangered.

Read the full **Guardian** story [here](#).

Australia's loudest frog is actually three different species

FORMERLY THOUGHT TO BE a single species, the bleating tree frog (*Litoria dentata*) has been divided into three separate species, due to differences in appearance, call, and genetics. The 'original' species, which is found in north-eastern NSW to the NSW/QLD border, is now known as the robust bleating tree frog. The two newly described species have been named the slender bleating treefrog (*Litoria balatus*), which can be found in QLD, including Brisbane, and the screaming tree frog (*Litoria quiritatus*), which is found from Taree, NSW, south and into Victoria.

Read the full **Australian Geographic** story [here](#), or listen to the **ABC Radio** interview [here](#).



A brief 2021 recap from our Events and Initiatives Coordinator

WITH THE GENERAL EASING OF COVID-19 restrictions this year, we were excited to finally be able to plan and execute many workshops and attend several community events. Our first workshop was held at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve in collaboration with Sunshine Coast Council, where I presented a talk on cane toads, including their history in Australia, physical characteristics and impact on wildlife, as well as debunking the many myths that exist. Julia, our Cane Toad bait coordinator also attended to field enquiries on the supply of baits.

In July, several of us attended the QLD Garden Expo with our display. Inclement weather did deter the crowds, but we still spoke to many people and were encouraged to receive 15 new members over our three days there. Our 'street appeal' was improved by a new sign promoting the Kroombit Frogsearch project we're undertaking at Kroombit Tops National Park.

Come Spring, several of us were busy attending and speaking at even more events. We were invited to attend the inaugural 'Off-grid Lifestyle Expo' at Imbil, held over a weekend in September. The few of us who attended from QFS were kept extremely busy responding to the crowd's enquiries and questions. The event was a great success, and really put the small hinterland town of Imbil to the test at keeping up with the influx of visitors over the weekend. A week later I presented another talk, *Threatened frogs of the Blackall Range*, at Mary Cairncross, which was attended by several locals. I'm grateful to Sunshine Coast Council for hosting us each time.

October rolled around and finally, after many, many attempts to organize a frog workshop (each one scuttled by COVID-19), the Kilcoy frog workshop finally happened! The event was so well attended we had to start a waiting list. Brisbane Valley-Kilcoy Landcare put on a fantastic event, providing a light meal afterwards before we all headed down to Yowie Park to find ourselves a ~~yowie~~ frog! Several QFS members and committee members also attended the event and together we found six frog species in the park. Following the event, there was

lots of positive feedback, and word on the street is there may be another one before the end of the year.

In November, I had the pleasure of speaking at another workshop organized by Moreton Bay Regional Council. The topic was local frogs and creating frog-friendly gardens. This event was also packed out, which is always encouraging given the effort put into the presentation and distance travelled to attend. I was asked many questions about frogs following the talk, and am very appreciative of our Caboolture area-coordinator, Pauline, and her daughter, who both attended to lend a hand.

Over the last few months, we have been designing a large banner to hang at displays for increased visibility and to catch the eye. The banner was approved by the Committee, and features a selection of several frog species in the foreground, with a sunset lighting up the horizon behind a silhouette of bushland. Keep an eye out for this banner at future events!

Finally, back in July we brought to the attention of our members and broader community the steadily increasing number sick and dead frogs being found. We provided an online form where anyone who had seen a sick or dead frog could report their observation. Within 24 hours of making this available, we received over 50 submissions. In the weeks that followed, we, like other organisations, received hundreds more records, including photos to help us identify what may have been impacting these frogs. The symptoms largely suggested that Chytrid fungus, which causes a lethal disease that has been implicated in the decline of frogs worldwide, was back with a vengeance. We're very grateful to the community for providing their records, and in doing so, valuable data on the extent of the die-off event and which species were impacted.

Looking ahead to next year, my wife and I have our first child on the way, so I'll be a little less active in this role. I want to thank those of you who have helped us at these events during the year, and I encourage you to volunteer in 2022!

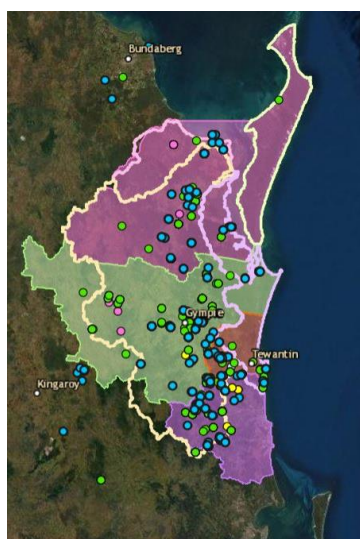
Jono Hooper

Five years of Find a Frog in February



Your Environment
Levy in action

LOOKING AT OUR FIRST FIVE years of data it is very clear that the number of people involved in FFF is, logically, a reflection of the prevailing weather conditions in January and February of each year. It's pretty hard to find frogs when they are in hiding or not making a noise. The table at the bottom of the page shows the number of participants, frog records, species, etc., from 2017 to 2021. Our first year was the hottest and driest February on record – what a great time to start a frogging program!



Locations searched during Find a Frog in February 2019–2021.

We initially started FFF to help increase and broaden efforts into looking for and recording the frogs that can be found in the Mary River and nearby catchments. The map to the left shows the locations searched over the past 3 years, so I think we can say that it has certainly worked well!

Each year, everyone at the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) gets very excited about connecting with more and more members of the community, particularly in areas where we carry out other projects, such as waterway rehabilitation. We've found that all kinds of people join in with FFF, from highly experienced froggers to young kids on their first night-time expedition.

As someone who has been finding and recording frogs for years, one of the things I find truly fantastic

is the huge numbers of frogs that can gather en masse in response to a species-specific environmental trigger. In this part of the world, we really are privileged to live in an area of high species richness and density. Over the past five years of FFF I have heard many people wonder about the seasonal variation in frog sightings, and the ability of frogs to 'disappear' when the breeding and foraging season is over. During the cooler months, many frogs will go into a state of hibernation or torpor. This means that even though we may not see them year-round, we still need to be conscious of how we manage water bodies and waterways, as well as the land and vegetation that support their food source and provide the refuge they need to survive the winter. FFF only lasts for one month, but the MRCCC encourages the community to continue to look for frogs and to provide suitable frog habitat throughout the year, and to look after the ecosystems that we share not only with frogs, but with life in its many wondrous forms.

We are privileged to be able to continue offering our services to the community of the Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast areas thanks to the on-going funding provided by the respective councils each year. To run FFF we need sufficient funds for promotion, providing frog workshops and surveys, getting schools and bush care groups set up with monitoring sites, receiving and processing incoming records, mapping and storing data for safekeeping and future reference, sending out the beloved frog field guides or Boomerang Bags to first-timers, and of course reporting the findings each year. To read this year's FFF report (and previous ones) go to <https://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/>.

Eva Ford, MRCCC



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Frog Finders *	76	142	77	343	102	740
Surveys	70	218	127	221	155	791
Survey sites	61	128	90	141	124	544
Frog records	390	2358	1368	2892	1355	8363
Species	22	23	22	28	31	32
Threatened species	3	4	2	5	6	6

Find a Frog in February stats from 2017–2021. * Solo surveyors only; does not include workshop survey attendees.



Male and female Stony Creek Frogs (*Litoria wilcoxii*) in amplexus, Coles Creek, QLD



Stony Creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*), Coles Creek, QLD



A warm welcome to new QFS members!

Barbara Edwards, Kelly Gray, Catherine Nolan, Shirley Fittkau, Teresa McKay, Ross Brooker, Kate Wall, Gabrielle Skinner, Steve Semple, Lisa Wesener, Aidan Smith, Tony Kirk, Dennielle Hoskins, Peter Hofstetter, Tienna Stephenson, Laura Billing, Greg Verrills, Stephen Scott, Alicia Perritt, Abi Peach, Rachael Robins, Stephanie Cotterill, Madison Newbery, Nola Macaulay, Lynelle Stewart, Philip Griffin, Stefan Thielemans, Donna Webster, Sue Cawcutt, Anne Kemp, Gillian Walker.

Send us your frogging stories and photos!

Now the wet season is here 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

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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.

PLEASE EMAIL EDITOR@QLDFROGS.ASN.AU WITH ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN **FROGSHEET**

DEADLINE FOR MID-SUMMER FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS 28TH DECEMBER 2021