




FROGSHEET

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*A subadult Kroombit Tinker Frog (*Taudactylus pleione*) bred in a captive breeding program at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the Gold Coast. Photo credit: Harry Hines. **Read more on Pg 3/4***



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*A Slender Bleating Treefrog (*Litoria balatus*) seen from underneath a leaf. Photo credit: Jono Hooper.*



**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 TO ALL OF our QFS members. I hope that everybody is well and is keeping safe and healthy, and is successfully navigating the interesting start to 2022 that we've had with several state borders reopening.

With the relaxing of some restrictions, as well as the fact that lockdowns are much less likely now, organisations are reaching out once again to ask us to help educate the community about frogs. Throughout this year we hope to attend a variety of events and deliver presentations to lots of different groups, and we are excited to be able to get more directly involved with the community again. If you are reading this and would like to help out with any events or presentations, get in touch with us and we can add your name to our volunteer list.

The last month has seen us all out frogging for Find a Frog in February, which is a citizen science program delivered by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) that enables the community to help close knowledge gaps that exist for our local frogs. It covers the Mary, Noosa and Burrum River catchments and coastal areas from Peregrine to Burrum Heads, including Fraser Island. If you live in these areas, I hope you've been getting involved! The more people that get out and do a frog search, the more information that is gathered on the distribution of frogs in these areas. If you're interested to learn more about Find a Frog in February, please visit the [MRCCC website](#).

In late February I had planned to take a small group of children from the Tewantin State School and their parents out to a park in the Noosa area to participate in the Find a Frog in February initiative with Eva Ford from the MRCCC. The children had received several

lessons on frogs as part of a project club for a few weeks prior to the planned search, but in the end the floods put the trip on hold, and we will be heading out in March instead. This will be an ongoing project for the school over several years, and this continuing data will help to monitor the changes in the species and the size of the populations at this park.

If you want to help gather data on frog distribution during the other months of the year, or if you don't live in these areas but you still want to do a frog search when February rolls around, you can still get out and about and submit frog call recordings with the FrogID app. FrogID uses frog calls to identify species because many frog species are difficult to distinguish by their appearance. The call also provides information about the breeding season and breeding habitats of frogs. By recording a frog call with the FrogID app, you provide a unique, time-stamped and geo-referenced audio recording that allows scientists to help understand and conserve Australia's unique frog species.

Don't forget that if you are interested in joining in with our Zoom management meetings, which are held every second month, email one of us on the committee and we will add your email to the list so that you can receive a link to attend. It was great to see several new faces at our last meeting!

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

Warm regards,

Ashley Keune



Upcoming Kroombit Frogsearch: Expressions of interest

IN APRIL THIS YEAR, QFS will be running the last of our Community Sustainability Grant-funded trips to Kroombit Tops National Park to conduct surveys and monitoring of the critically endangered Kroombit Tinker Frog and Kroombit Treefrog. If you are interested in joining us for this trip, contact our events coordinator (Jono Hooper) via e-mail at events_initiatives@qldfrogs.asn.au.



A calling male Kroombit Tinker Frog. Photo credit: Ed Meyer.



Long-term impact of the 'Year of the Frog' public awareness campaign

BACK IN 2008, AMPHIBIAN ARK (AArk) launched the Year of the Frog public awareness campaign in partnership with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Species Survival Commission (IUCN SSC) Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, and the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group. The campaign was developed in response to the global amphibian crisis, and it aimed to raise awareness of continued declines in frog populations worldwide and raise funds to support amphibian conservation.

The campaign was to be delivered primarily by zoos and wildlife parks across the globe. Those that are accredited by relevant peak bodies, such as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in the USA and the Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) in Australasia, have long played a key role in research, public education and wildlife conservation.

Long-term successes of the Year of the Frog campaign

Fast-forward >10 years, and researchers in the UK and New Zealand conducted a study of 43 zoos from 14 countries (all of which participated in the Year of the Frog) to determine how the campaign influenced amphibian conservation efforts in the long term. Their findings were recently published in a scientific paper called *'Zoos and amphibian conservation: Evaluating the impact of "The Year of The Frog" Campaign'* in the journal *Zoo Biology*.

"The Year of the Frog increased financial support for amphibian conservation and increased awareness of the amphibian extinction crisis"

Overall, the researchers concluded that the Year of the Frog campaign was a success. It achieved its goals of increasing financial support for amphibian conservation and increasing awareness among zoo communities of the amphibian extinction crisis. Only 50% of the surveyed zoos said that the main driver for increased interest in amphibian conservation was the Year of the Frog campaign. However, of the remaining zoos, the vast majority said the interest of the keeper staff in amphibian conservation was the primary driver, indicating

that awareness of the threat to amphibians had increased.

Key areas of improvement following the Year of the Frog campaign

The study found that after the campaign, the number of amphibian species kept in zoos doubled, with an increase in the number of both native and exotic species on display, in captive breeding programs and in husbandry research (although exotic species dominated before and after the campaign). There was a particularly large increase in the number of exotic and native species in husbandry research (393% for exotic, 167% for native).

"Zoos should increase ex situ conservation efforts due to the imminent threat of extinction for many amphibian species"

Despite the campaign's successes, the increased investment in amphibian conservation was mainly focused on *in situ* conservation (conservation of amphibians in their natural habitats). The authors of the study in question thought that while this was indeed a positive step, zoos should also substantially increase *ex situ* conservation efforts (conservation of amphibians outside of their natural habitats e.g., using captive breeding programs), due to the imminent threat of extinction for many amphibian species.

The ongoing role of zoos and wildlife parks in amphibian conservation

Zoos and wildlife parks remain instrumental in driving public awareness of threatened species, raising funds for crucial conservation programs and driving *in situ* (and *ex situ*) conservation programs.

Focusing on Queensland, there are currently 22 zoos and wildlife parks that are accredited by the ZAA, with many of them now running captive breeding programs for a variety of species on the brink of extinction. A great example of a local wildlife park championing education and conservation is the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) on the Gold Coast.

I'm sure you're all familiar with the Kroombit Tops threatened frogs project at QFS, and the work that Ed Meyer and many volunteers have been doing

Continued on next page...

over the past couple of years to conduct frog surveys in the area and protect breeding habitat for the Kroombit Tinker Frog. The CWS is also actively involved in conservation of the critically endangered Kroombit Tinker Frog (*Taudactylus pleione*) via a captive breeding program. Frogs bred at CWS will be used to reinforce existing populations and re-establish populations in areas where they are now extinct. You can find out more about the role of QFS and CWS in Kroombit Tinker Frog conservation in the article 'December 2021 Kroombit Frogsearch: Our wettest (and leechiest) so far!' in the Mid-Summer 2022 issue of Frogsheet.



Female Kroombit Tinker Frog at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.
Photo credit: Ed Meyer.

Reflecting on the past, looking to the future

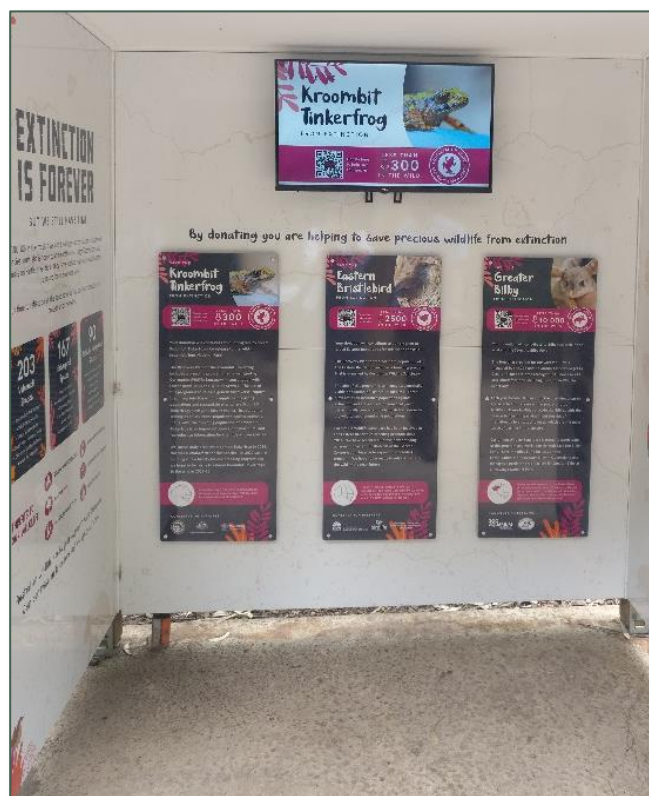
On a recent visit to CWS I walked through the engaging and educational 'extinction trail', which includes information about ancient and recent extinctions before presenting a call to action to help several species now teetering on the edge. This trail, a permanent and relatively large feature of the park, is an indicator of our increasing concern for the planet and its many inhabitants.

According to the study results above, the fact that amphibians are a substantial part of today's conservation conversation could well have something to do with the Year of the Frog. It's great to see a local wildlife park continuing to drive public awareness of the amphibian extinction crisis and spearheading the conservation of a critically endangered species. I wonder where we will be in another 10–15 years' time?

Alice Carruthers



Frog conservation and research facility at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the Gold Coast. Photo credit; Alice Carruthers



Educational booth located at the end of the 'Extinction trail' at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the Gold Coast, with call to action to help species close to extinction. Photo credit: Alice Carruthers.

Send us your frogging photos and stories!

Now the wet season is here we will 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!



Frog news from around the world

New rainfrog species in Panama is named after Greta Thunberg

A RAINFROG OF THE GENUS *Pristimantis* was found in the rainforests of the Majé Mountain range, Panama about 10 years ago, and after comparing to other frogs in the *Pristimantis* genus (of which there are >570), the frog was confirmed as a new species. Physical features that make this frog unique include its prominent black eyes, contrasting upper lip and larger head.

Naming rights were recently auctioned off by the Rainforest Trust, and the winner named the new species after Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg.

You can access the full scientific description of the species [here](#), and read a news article about the discovery and naming of the frog [here](#) (includes photos!).

Genome of the European common frog has been sequenced

THE GENOME OF THE EUROPEAN common frog (*Rana temporaria*) has recently been sequenced by the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in the UK, a global leader in genomics and genetics research. Scientists hope that analysing the genome of this frog will enable a better understanding of its immune response to amphibian diseases, such as those caused by amphibian chytrid fungus and *Ranavirus*. Read the full scientific article [here](#).

Chytrid infection negatively impacts overwintering in Blanchard's cricket frog

A RECENT US STUDY FOUND THAT exposure to trematodes (a type of parasitic flatworm) and chytrid infection substantially affects metamorphosis and survival of Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris blanchardi*), although the key finding was that chytrid infection alone resulted in a significantly higher chance of death during overwintering compared to frogs without chytrid.

Vulnerable periods, such as metamorphosis and overwintering, can increase the susceptibility of frogs to new diseases. The researchers concluded that death during overwintering as a result of chytrid infection could be responsible for the recent declines in Blanchard's cricket frog populations in the US.

Bioacoustics course, Brisbane, 16–18th March

QFS ARE CURRENTLY USING ACOUSTIC recorders as part of the Kroombit Tops threatened frogs project to record calling activity during the wet season. If you're familiar with these devices (perhaps from volunteering at a previous Frogsearch) and want to know more, the upcoming training course run by Frontier Labs may be of interest to you.

The 3-day course is called '**designing effective bioacoustics studies**' and will be delivered by Ted Pedersen on 16–18th March 2022. More details, including costs, accommodation and necessary equipment, can be found on their website at: <https://www.frontierlabs.com.au/study>.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

8th–10th July

QLD Garden Expo, Nambour Showgrounds

3rd–4th September

Off Grid Lifestyle Expo, Goomeri

From the Secretary's Desk

What an interesting summer it has been. Through many phone calls and emails I have chatted with people who care about their frogs and want to make sure the ones in their area stay safe.

One caller had left out a Tupperware container on her 2nd story unit patio and it collected some rain water. To her surprise and delight she found little tadpoles swimming around, and so she started feeding them with lettuce and keeping them safe from birds with a screen over the container. When I received the call the tadpoles were ready to leave (see photo), but she was worried they wouldn't be able to get to the ground to feed. The photos showed that they were treefrogs - possibly *Litoria rubella* (Naked Treefrog) - so would be able to climb down to safety.

Another caller, John, phoned worried about his long-time house guest, a green treefrog, who lives happily in one of the rooms in the house during the day and comes down at sunset. A dark mark appeared on the frog's back and John didn't know what to do about it. Judging by the photo, the frog looks quite healthy so I asked QFS Vice President Ed Meyer to advise on what John should do. Ed thought that contact with a chemical may have caused the mark and so advised John to just observe the health of the frog. John was quite relieved and so far all is well with his friend.

I do hope you have all had a good summer and please remember that you can contact us if you have a query or a story you would like to share.

Keep safe,

Jenny Holdway



A naked tree frog safely leaving the proverbial nest



John's house guest under close observation.

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

**DEADLINE FOR MID-AUTUMN *FROGSHEET*
CONTRIBUTIONS IS 28TH MARCH 2022**



A warm welcome to new QFS members!

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