




FROGSHEET

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The Queensland Frog Society stall at the Queensland Garden Expo 2022.



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*Citizen scientists! Submit your photos of frogs being bitten by flies to UNSW. More info on **Page 5**. Photo of a Mountain Stream Tree Frog bitten by Sycorax flies by Tim Cutaja/Australian Museum.*



**Thank you to
our supporters**

Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$8,151.18
Any donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible

President's Report

HELLO AGAIN TO ALL OF our QFS members. I hope everybody has been enjoying some lovely weather and that life is feeling very much back to normal the last few months. For those who have suffered hardships earlier in the year, I hope that your recovery is on track. If you are struggling, please reach out to somebody.

Just a few days ago, on the 8th, 9th and 10th of July, the QFS were part of the Queensland Garden Expo. It was great to be a part of the event again this year and we had a very successful three days. A big thank you to the Sunshine Coast Council for giving us the opportunity to be in the Living Backyard section of the expo. This event is always a great opportunity to spread the message about frogs in our environment and how to attract them to your gardens. We got to speak to lots of people that were wanting us to identify different frogs that they had found on their property. Lots of people also asked about how they can improve their gardens to make their gardens a more suitable habitat for frogs. It was great to be able to meet so many people throughout the expo and to help educate them about frogs.

Thank you to Jono and Jenny for playing such a vital role in organising our attendance at the event, and a big thank you to all of the people who volunteered over the three days. These people include Julia, Jono, Victoria, Ollie, Eva and Ryan. Without your support we would not be able to run such a successful stall! It was great working with you all at the Queensland Garden Expo, and I look forward to working with you again at other displays and workshops.

On June 25th I went down to the rainforest walk at South Bank, Brisbane to meet Panos Couros, who has created an immersive sound installation called AmphiSonic. The installation was being shown as part of 'Curiosity Brisbane' at the World Science Festival, described as a "celebration of science, art and technology". The work



The rainforest walk at Brisbane's South Bank and the temporary location of the AmphiSonic installation (June 24th–July 10th).

combined poetry and singing of First Nations artists, facts about frogs and frog conservation, pulses and beats of electronic music, and the mating calls of frogs. The result was a beautiful and relaxing piece of music/art. I was amazed at how well the music and singing complemented the frog calls, and it struck the perfect balance between entertainment and education. Most importantly of all, AmphiSonic made me slow down, listen, and appreciate what was around me. Thank you, Panos, for talking me through the making of this piece. It was lovely to meet you, and I wish you all the best with your future projects.

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

Warm regards,

Ashley Keune



Don't forget to renew your QFS membership!



<http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/membership-renewal/>



For enquiries: [qldfrogs \[at\] bigpond.net.au](mailto:qldfrogs[at]bigpond.net.au)

Right: Jono Hooper educating a capacity crowd on the "Frogs of SE Queensland and how to attract them to your garden" at the Queensland Garden Expo on July 9th.



The Making of AmphiSonic

Where it all began

I HAVE BEEN RECORDING FROGS in the wild for decades. The first ones that captured my attention were in Northern NSW, Bundjalung Country, where I spent many long hours in the Whian Whian State Forest, trudging through thick undergrowth at night trying to get as close to the frogs I was hearing to record them on my very simple recording device. Those ended up in a soundscape I produced for the Sydney Festival in 1992, played under the then walkway to the Sydney Opera House. Audiences would leave the opera and walk through an audio environment of Great Barred, Rocket, Perron's Tree and many other frogs, coloured with distant phrases of the opera they had just seen.

AmphiSonic is a direct descendent of that initial work and includes the sounds of frogs and other amphibious creatures recorded in various locations across the country, including Northern NSW (Bundjalung) and the Daintree Forest in Far North Queensland (Kuku Yalanji).



The property in Doon Doon. Photo courtesy of Panos Courous.

Most of the frogs that I have recorded that are in AmphiSonic though are from my many visits to a friends' property in Doon Doon, NSW that fringes the Nightcap National Park. There were two dams on the property, and these were the source of some of the most enthusiastic and raucous frog parties I have ever heard. So, every time I visited, I would spend hours recording them at all hours of the day and night.



Panos and his fellow musicians creating music at the property in Doon Doon. Photo courtesy of Panos Courous.

The elements of Amphisonic

Whilst on my friend's property in Doon Doon late last year, I received a call from Jay Younger, the curator of Curiosity Brisbane (which takes place as part of the World Science Festival in Brisbane) asking me to propose a sound work. I didn't have to think hard as I had a work already forming. I proposed an immersive soundscape of frog environments done with a technology called ambisonics, which allows a 3-dimensional placement of sound. To make this even more relevant to the science aspect of the festival, I pitched that the work would include the voice of Associate Professor Lee Berger, who did a lot of work around the discovery of the chytrid fungus and its threat to frog populations.

I also wanted to add a First Nations perspective, because through my long history of working with First Nations people I have learnt that astute observation of nature was key to understanding how to successfully coexist with country. I approached internationally recognised First Nations Poet Ali Cobby Eckermann with the idea to pen a suite of verses that engage with the intersection between the frogs, our waterways, the science around them and day-to-day human

Continued on next page...

interaction. AmphiSonic prompts us to really listen to the land, to begin to understand how our natural environment speaks to us, and to engage with it in a far more 'connected' way. Seeking wisdom from the original caretakers of our environment is paramount in achieving sustainable long-term engagement with our country, and coupling this perspective with a scientific approach provides the holistic understanding of our environment that will enable us to live harmoniously within it.

Finally, to round things off, I worked with a First Nations singer, Ursula Yovich, and a group of musicians called the Doon Doon Collective (Siyavash Doostkhah, Greta Kelly and Amanda King) to create a magical musical score that weaved through and around the frog sounds. We did this by jamming to the different frog environments and finding the music that came from within that space. We have also added a few new electronic species, just to keep the expert frog lovers on their toes.

Disaster in Doon Doon

While we were recording, the recent wild weather that caused so much devastation and flooding also produced a huge landslide where we were at Doon Doon. We watched a whole mountain side rumble its way down in front of us in the early hours of the morning, with huge boulders, 20-metre trees sheered from their roots, and an incredible amount of water, mud and debris raging down the hill destroying everything in its path. It was unfathomable and deeply horrific, even now in my memory.

Before the disaster though it seemed like the frogs knew something was up. The Great Barred frogs around the dam (which was now completely wiped out) were whop whopping very weirdly the two nights before the landslide, something I had never heard before in my years of listening to them. Unfortunately, I didn't record them, as it was raining very heavily. After the disaster, the Red Eyed Tree frogs that were previously living in bushes around the shed had moved to the area where the dam once was, and they seemed to be singing a very sad funeral dirge. I did record this, and it was

heartbreaking. Maybe I was imposing my own grief and trauma onto it, but it really did sound like a mourning song. I continued to record the frogs, and a whole section of AmphiSonic now remembers the landslide, the frogs that tried to warn us, and the ones who mourned them afterwards.



After the landslide: the site of the dam at the property in Doon Doon. Photo courtesy of Panos Couros.

Always listen to the frogs!

The landslide completely blocked access to the property at various points, both directly entering and further down the road. It took us 7 days to get out and my car and equipment was stranded there until just recently.

So, the lesson that we learnt, while recording the frogs and the music that accompanied them, was to always listen to the frogs. The frogs at Doon Doon seemed to know what was going to happen – a premonition or sense that many animals in the wild seem to possess. If you have ears, you can listen to what nature is saying.

AmphiSonic was commissioned by Curiosity Brisbane, curated by Jay Younger, and was part of the larger World Science Festival being run by the Queensland Museum Network. AmphiSonic ran between 8 am–8 pm from 24th June–10th July at the Rainforest Walk in South Bank, Brisbane. AmphiSonic is now available for touring.

Panos Couros

Send us your frogging photos and stories!

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.

New research needs photos of frogs being bitten by flies



A Common Mist Frog being fed on by a Sycorax fly. Photo by Jakub Hodáň

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES (UNSW) and the Australian Museum are developing a new technique to detect and protect Australia's threatened frog species. The technique involves analysing frog DNA in the blood of frog-biting flies, and its purpose is to help uncover the whereabouts of rare and inconspicuous frog species. To do this the researchers first need more information on which flies bite which frogs. They are asking for photos of frogs being bitten by flies, midges or mosquitoes, so search your collection and get submitting! You can find out more information and submit your photos [here](#).

Alice Carruthers

Long-term frog monitoring in the Mary

FOUR SITES ON SIX MILE, Cooroora, Belli and Cedar Creeks in the Mary River catchment (Pomona, Cooroy, Belli Park and Gheerulla) are surveyed twice during each frog breeding season to monitor the persistence and populations of Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*, endangered), Cascade Treefrog (*Litoria pearsoniana*, vulnerable) and Tusked Frog (*Adelotus brevis*, vulnerable). The sites have been monitored for the past 18 years through funding from the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Councils.

These species have maintained their presence at all sites, except the Giant Barred Frog at Cedar Creek, which has been absent for the past 3 years. However, at a last-minute survey in April 2022, Ashley Keune and I confirmed that this species had

returned to the site, likely due to the increased flows from heavy rains in January and February.

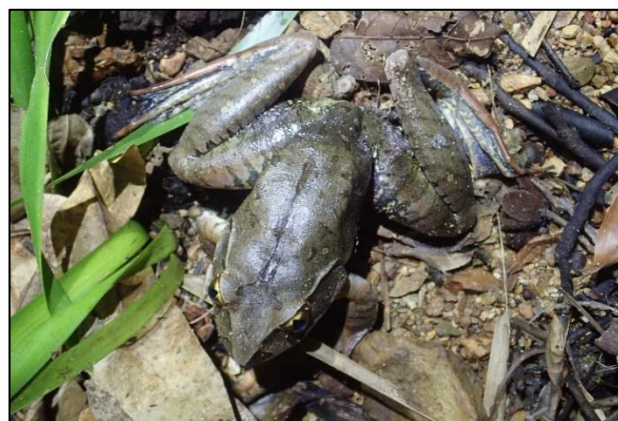
We collect facial photos from each side of all Giant Barred Frogs encountered to explore the possibility of recognising individuals. We have lots of photos, but have not found the time needed to catalogue and cross-check to test this theory.

Unfortunately, one of the frogs we encountered during the recent visit was a moribund female. The individual was collected, given care at Australia Zoo, but later died. She is now housed with the Queensland Museum collection awaiting testing for cause of death. If symptoms indicate Chytrid fungus it would be a first for any of the monitoring sites.

Eva Ford,
Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee



A healthy Giant Barred Frog in Cedar Creek, photographed during a survey in April 2022. Photo courtesy of Eva Ford.



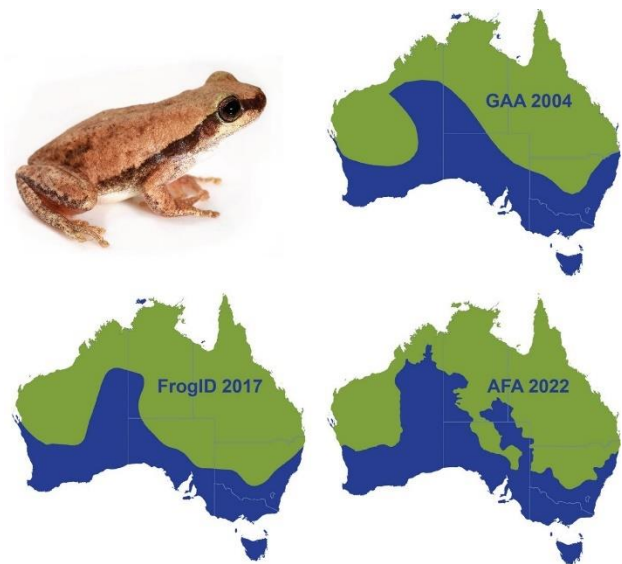
A sick Giant Barred Frog found in Cedar Creek in April 2022, which later died. Photo courtesy of Eva Ford.

Australian Frog Atlas launched

THE >650,000 FROG CALL RECORDINGS submitted to FrogID since its launch in 2017 have now helped generate the most detailed frog distribution maps ever created. These new maps, collectively called the Australian Frog Atlas, are available for all 247 frog species in Australia and are free to access along with the associated Geographic Information System files. It is hoped that providing open access to these detailed maps will help frog researchers and conservationists Australia-wide. All the citizen scientists out there will be able to find the updated maps in the FrogID app.

Click to find out more and access the [Australian Frog Atlas](#) and the [FrogID app](#).

Alice Carruthers



*The Red Tree Frog (*Litoria rubella*), and its distribution in Australia as mapped for the Global Amphibian Assessment in 2004, FrogID in 2017, and the new Australian Frog Atlas in 2022. Image by Jodi Rowley and Timothy Cutajar.*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

20th August, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Presentation at Bulimba Creek Catchment
Coordinating Committee

3rd–4th September

Off Grid Lifestyle Expo, Goomeri



**A warm welcome to new QFS
members!**

Tommi Mason, Evan Harris, Martin Hogan,
Ryan Stone, Barbara O'Connor, Anai Fien,
Marina Schwartz.

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