




FROGSHEET

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

Cascade Tree Frog (Litoria pearsoniana). Photo courtesy of Ashley Keune.



In this issue



Pg 2 – President's report

Pg 3 – QFS at the Queensland Garden Expo 2022

Pg 4 – Large number of sick and dead frogs reported for a second year running

Pg 4 – Four frogs that lay eggs on land partitioned into new genus

*Newly hatched Anstisia rosea tadpoles. Anstisia rosea lays eggs on land, and is one of four related species that has recently been partitioned into a new genus. Photograph by Marion Anstis. Read more on **page 4**.*



**Thank you to
our supporters**

Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$8,373.08

Any donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible, and all are added to our **research grant fund**, which is awarded annually

Thank you to two members who recently donated \$25 & \$50!

President's Report

HELLO AGAIN TO ALL OF our QFS members. Since the middle of the year until the end of this year we are going to be kept pretty busy with our displays and presentations to groups within the community. In early to mid-July we had our display over three days at the Queensland Garden Expo, which was a huge success for QFS.

I was lucky enough to be able to conduct a workshop and do a presentation for the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee on the 20th of August from 10:00am – 12:15 pm. It was held at their lovely base at Carindale. The presentation was on frog facts, identification of local frogs by their calls, how to correctly identify toads, methods of removing toads and their eggs from the environment, and how to make gardens more frog friendly. After the presentation we had a lot of questions from the audience, which is always great to see. Then we all had a tasty morning tea, which was provided by the committee.

Following morning tea, I showed the group several ways to make frog hotels in the garden area, before demonstrating how to build a simple frog pond on a small budget. Approximately 20 people attended the morning, and the presentation and workshop were very well received. Once again, a huge thank you to Genevieve for making me feel so welcome at their facility in Carindale. We look forward to running another event at the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee later this year!

Events coming up in the next few weeks include a display at the Off Grid Expo (September 3rd and 4th). Last year this event was very busy for us and was a great day out for the people who attended at Imbil. This year the event has moved to a bigger site at Goomeri, so I am looking forward to this one being bigger and better than last year.

Soon after this event, on 15th October, we will have a display at the Green Thumbs Garden and Plant Expo at the Ipswich Showgrounds. This will be followed by a presentation on the 24th of November at the Kumbartcho Sanctuary, Eatons Hill, which Rod Pattison will be running.

I am also excited to announce the next Queensland Frog Society Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on Sunday, 30th October. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the society, you may like to nominate yourself for a role in the committee, which you will be able to do in the coming weeks. Alternatively, you may just like to attend the meeting to see what has been happening this year, and hear how our 2022 Ric Nattrass Research Grant recipient has been progressing with her research. Keep an eye out in your emails for more information over the coming weeks.

In the meantime, take care of yourselves, and look out for each other and the environment.

Warm regards,

Ashley Keune



QFS President Ashley Keune delivering a presentation and demonstrating how to build a frog hotel to an audience at the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee on 20th August. Photo courtesy of Ashley Keune.

QFS at the Queensland Garden Expo 2022

This year's QLD Garden Expo saw the return of near pre-COVID conditions, with more room available for our display in the Living Backyard section of the expo and the ditching of face masks! The weather for the three-day event was stunning (but cool!) and those of us volunteering at the display had been enthusiastically looking forward to the event.

Crowds on the Friday took a little while to ramp up, but from late morning onwards we were kept on our feet answering people's questions about frogs and toads. Our President, Ashley, brought along an example 'frog motel' to demonstrate how easy it is to provide treefrogs with a place of refuge in an urban landscape. This proved very popular, with many questions being asked about building frog motels. We did, however, need to reiterate that the frog motel alone would not be sufficient to bring in the frogs, and that people would need to provide frog breeding habitat to attract frogs to their yards.

On Saturday, there were scant opportunities to take a seat or finish our lunch, as the crowds and questions kept us busy for a solid 5–6 hours! During this time, I gave a presentation on Frogs of the Sunshine Coast and frog-friendly gardens, which was well-attended. Thankfully, we had three volunteers rostered on each day as we struggled to keep up with enquiries during this time. Sunday's crowds were lighter in comparison, but the volunteers remained busy.

Pobbles, a larger-than-life Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk, made his first appearance in three years on the Friday and Saturday, and often found himself posing for photos during his round of the grounds. This year Pobbles took with him a sign that read 'Frog or Toad?' and a QR code that when scanned, sent people to our website where they would learn he is in fact a frog!

We received several new memberships over the event and sold a record number of books (including several recent releases), CDs and other educational items. This was the first event we trialled a new EFTPOS payment facility via smartphone, which was largely successful. Our display was also much improved by the footpath sign advertising our research grant, and a large, colourful banner on the back wall of the marquee, allowing people to quickly identify us as the QLD Frog Society.

A big thanks to our President, Ashley, and members Eva, Julia, Ollie and Ryan for their valuable contribution of time helping at this event. Wendy from the Sunshine Coast Council was again fantastic in providing support and allowing non-profits like us to attend for free.

Jono Hooper



Pobbles the Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk outside the QFS display at the Queensland Garden Expo this year. Photo courtesy of Jono Hooper.

Large number of sick and dead frogs reported for a second year running

A YEAR ON FROM LAST year's mass frog die-off, and we have again seen an increase in the number of reports of sick and dead frogs for a second winter running.

"Pathological testing revealed that the die-off was most likely due to chytridiomycosis"

The results of pathological testing last year suggested that the die-off of green treefrogs and other native frog species during winter and early spring was most likely due to chytridiomycosis, a disease caused by the amphibian chytrid fungus, or Bd, which is an exotic fungal pathogen implicated in the decline and extinction of a number of native frog species during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

The large number of frog deaths attributable to this disease is likely due, in part, to cold weather in recent weeks and high rainfall in the run-up to winter – conditions favouring the growth and reproduction of amphibian chytrid fungus.

If you see a sick or dead green treefrog or other native frog species, please complete the [simple form on our website](#). This data is provided to the relevant authorities and is extremely valuable in helping to determine the cause(s) of the mass die-off event.

[Our website](#) also contains care advice for sick frogs with suspected chytridiomycosis, as well as photos and information about healthy frogs and frogs with conditions such as oedema, spinal deformity, chytridiomycosis, emaciation, hyperaemia, trauma/bone fracture/ breakage, and mandibular dystrophy.



A healthy Green Tree Frog. Photograph by Jono Hooper.

Four frogs that lay eggs on land partitioned into new genus

THE NEW FROG SPECIES IN the *Anstisia* genus, *Anstisia alba* (critically endangered), *Anstisia lutea* (near threatened), *Anstisia vitellina* (vulnerable) and *Anstisia rosea* (least concern), used to be part of the *Geocrinia* genus, which contains three other species. These seven frogs were grouped due to their shared characteristic of laying eggs on land. However, the eggs from frogs in the *Anstisia* genus develop entirely on land in a jelly-like pool created by laid eggs. On the other hand, the three remaining species of *Geocrinia* rely on rainwater to wash tadpoles into bodies of water. Frogs of the two genera can also be separated by call.

For species to be grouped together in a genus they need to share a common ancestor. While the physiological differences between the frog species described above have been known for a while, their

distinct evolutionary history has only recently been confirmed.

[Click here](#) to read more in the recent Guardian article.



One of the newly reclassified species, *Anstisia vitellina*. Photograph by Grant Webster/University of New England.

Executive Committee

PATRON – Dr Glen Ingram

PRESIDENT – Ashley Keune

Email: president [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

VICE PRESIDENT – Ed Meyer

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

Email: frogshop [at] qldfrogs.asn.au



A warm welcome to new QFS members!

Ross Kelly, Kristiaan Steinaus, Leonie Chapman, Hagar Anlezark, Loraine Korving, Marc Pierce, Kerri Miles, John Miles, Carla Martyn, Wayne Rohlf, Lesley Cupitt, Rebecca Gallagher, Coral Lovey, Cynthia Sorensen, Elizabeth Cole, Jess Grundy, Natalie McLeod, Jacinta McMahon, Sharelle Schulz, Chris Lenz, Briallyn Williams, Kathie Grigg, Leslie Cushion.



*A scarlet-sided pobblebonk frog in south-east Queensland.
Photograph by Ben Revell.*

Those with a *New Scientist* subscription may be interested in a [recent article](#) titled “**Pobblebonk frogs have a weird trick for surviving very acidic pools**”.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

3rd–4th September

Off Grid Lifestyle Expo, Goomeri

15th October

Display at the Green Thumbs Garden and Plant Expo, Ipswich Showgrounds

30th October, 2 pm

Annual General Meeting via Zoom
More details to follow!

24th November

Presentation at the Kumbartcho Sanctuary, Eatons Hill

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

**DEADLINE FOR MID-SPRING
FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS 27TH
SEPTEMBER 2022**