




FROGSHEET

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Male and female Stony Creek Frog. Photo by Ashley Keune.



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A Striped Marsh Frog being rescued from opportunistic birds at a habitat rehabilitation site in Indooroopilly. Photo courtesy of Steven Cameron. Read more on [page 3!](#)



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President's Report

HELLO AGAIN TO ALL OF our QFS members. We are now heading into our warmer and wetter months with the first storms coming through much of the state recently and with summer quickly approaching we can expect more frogs to be active. Hopefully this wet season we do not see the same severe flooding that we saw in many areas throughout the state and the rest of the country during the first part of this year.

Unfortunately, the QFS display at the Off Grid Expo at Goomeri on September 3rd and 4th did not eventuate. In the week prior to the event, I had a few reoccurring health issues that stopped me from being able to take all the gear up to Goomeri to set up our display and to help man it for the weekend. It was with sadness that I had to make the decision to not attend, as we did not have enough notice to get other members to take on the event for us. We do look forward to being invited back to the event next year.

We are now looking forward to our next displays, which include the Green Thumbs Garden and Plant Expo at the Ipswich Showgrounds on 15th October, as well as the QFS presentation on 24th November at the Kumbartcho Sanctuary at Eatons Hill.

Approaching very quickly is the Queensland Frog Society AGM, which will be held on Sunday 30th October via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend this meeting and we would love to see you there. If you want to become more involved in the QFS, you may like to take on a role in the committee. If you are interested, don't forget to get your nominations in! We are also looking forward to having Sheryn Brodie, our 2022 Ric

Natrass research grant recipient joining us at the meeting to give us an update on the research she is undertaking as part of her PhD at James Cook University.

Over the last several months we have seen a large amount of sick and dead frogs once again on the eastern seaboard. It is unfortunate to see this occur in two consecutive years but, with a bit of luck, as the weather starts to warm up we will see fewer sick and dead frogs. Remember you can do your part by reporting any of these sightings on [the simple form on our website](#). This data is valuable in helping to determine the cause and distribution of the mass die off by the relevant authorities.

I must say I am looking forward to getting out to do some frogging again in the coming weeks. I was able to take a quick road trip out west recently to Longreach. At each location I camped at along the way, I heard a few frog species in good numbers during the night, some of which I was not able to identify myself. At some stage in the next six weeks I will also be doing a follow up survey with some of the children from Tewantin State School at Heritage Park. With the warmer weather we should be able to see several species that we didn't locate on our last survey.

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

Warm regards,

Ashley Keune



Cedar Creek Giant Barred Frog tested negative for chytrid

DURING SURVEYS IN APRIL 2022 in the Mary River catchment, Ashley Keune (QLD Frog Society) and Eva Ford (Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee) found a moribund female at Cedar Creek (See 'Long-term frog monitoring in the Mary' in the Mid-Winter 2022 issue of *Frogsheet*). Thankfully, the frog tested negative for amphibian chytrid fungus. If positive, it would have been a first for any of the monitoring sites (Six Mile, Cooroora, Belli and Cedar Creeks).



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

Challenging frog habitat: From weedy eye-sore to rehabilitation zone

A FORMERLY UNLOVED DRAINAGE DITCH, home to a noisy population of Tusked Frogs and Striped Marsh Frogs, has been transformed into a frog-friendly rehabilitation zone. The run-off area that drains directly into Witton Creek in Indooroopilly is an allocated rehabilitation site for a team of nine conservation trainees gaining work skills and an accredited qualification with Challenge Employment and Training. The traineeship is funded through the QLD State Government 'Skilling Queenslanders for Work' program, and this current crop are already showing promise as the next generation of bush regenerators in Brisbane.

Fed by run-off from the Western Freeway the waterway is constantly moist. Without any maintenance, it became over-run with the succulent weeds *Callisia repens*, *Tradescantia flumenensis*, the ever-thriving *Dyschoriste depressa*, and a coverage of Glycine, making it difficult to navigate. Due to the wetland nature a foliar herbicide treatment was not an option, nor was brush-cutting due to the succulent



A Tusked Frog found after the weeds were removed. Photo courtesy of Steven Cameron.



Moore Park on Russell Terrace, before (top) and after (bottom). Photo courtesy of Steven Cameron.

nature of the weeds. With a group of nine, hand-weeding was a viable method, and some larger Glycine was treated with cut-stump herbicide methods to ensure long-term control. Over 10 m³ of weed waste was removed and placed at a different area on site to be solarised under black plastic.

The discovery of a large population of Striped Marsh Frogs and Tusked frogs reminded the group that they were not just removing weeds, but frog habitat. The trainees were unfortunately quite traumatised watching the kookaburras and butcher birds feeding heartily, with dozens of exposed frogs being taken. Although at least half a dozen were caught and rehomed in remaining weed cover before they were taken by predators. A timely reminder that weeds are habitat too.

The presence of such a healthy frog population gave cause for urgent action in the form of a designated and signed 'Refuge Area'. This was cordoned off directly on the waterway to ensure some habitat remained.

Continued on next page...

Planting of wetland species was also expedited to get the frogs' replacement habitat growing as quickly as possible.

In total, 490 wetland species were urgently planted, with Brisbane City Council providing a number of mature 200 mm pots of sedges and rushes to speed up the regeneration process. Further in-fill plantings are planned for October. Habitat Brisbane and Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network providing all required materials, including plants, jute squares and a water tank for watering. Under the guidance of Phil Bird from the QLD Frog Society, the trainees additionally created a series of frog ponds to hold standing water for longer periods, with the hope of providing breeding conditions for species that need it. The high clay content in the soil made it a suitable medium, with large rocks, sticks and logs used to solidify and provide 'bush infrastructure'. The ponds, while still a work in progress, have withstood their first significant rain event (50 mm) and are proving effective for their purpose.

Steven Cameron

Project Supervisor – Challenge Employment and Training



Trainee with weed waste placed under black plastic to be solarised. Photo courtesy of Steven Cameron.



Frog pond after its first significant rain event. Photo courtesy of Steven Cameron.

Frog news from around the world

Chernobyl tree frogs have undergone a process of rapid evolution

In 2016, several Eastern Tree Frogs (*Hyla orientalis*) with an unusual black tint were found close to the damaged nuclear reactor in Chernobyl. The species normally has a bright green dorsal coloration, although occasional darker individuals can be found as a result of higher levels of melanin in the skin.

Between 2017 and 2019, researchers analysed the dorsal skin colouration of more than 200 male frogs captured in 12 different breeding ponds distributed along a wide gradient of radioactive contamination. They found that 'Chernobyl' tree frogs have a much darker colouration than those captured in control areas outside the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. It is hypothesised that frogs with darker colouration at the time of the accident, which normally represent a minority in their populations, would have been favoured by the protective action of melanin. Read full story [here](#).



*Colouring gradient of the Eastern Tree Frog (*Hyla orientalis*) in northern Ukraine. Photo by Germán Orizaola/Pablo Burraco.*

Goliath frogs seen in Equatorial Guinea for the first time in almost two decades

MORE THAN 10 GOLIATH FROGS (*Conraua goliath*; endangered) were spotted during a survey along the Benito River in Equatorial Guinea, the first confirmed sightings in almost two decades. The sightings were made by field researchers from the University of Bristol and Bristol Zoological Society, who worked in partnership with local guides and INDEFOR-AP, the national park service of Equatorial Guinea. Read more [here](#).



Left: Student Sam Hurley and local guide Benito Ona Obama; Right: Goliath frog found in Monte Alén National Park, Equatorial Guinea. Photos from Bristol.ac.uk



Male and female tapir valley tree frog in amplexus.
Photo by David Vela Muñoz.

Tiny new tree frog species found in rewilded Costa Rican nature reserve

THE TAPIR VALLEY TREE FROG (*Tlalcohyla celeste*) was found in the 8-hectare wetland of Tapir Valley Nature Reserve, a rewilded former cattle ranch that adjoins Tenorio Volcano National Park. The co-owner of the private reserve searched for the frog for six months after hearing a shrill call along the edge of the wetland. The frog is approximately 2 cm long, and was named in honour of the local river, the Rio Celeste. Read more [here](#).

New frog breeding and research facility at Melbourne Zoo

THREE OF VICTORIA'S RAREST FROG species have breeding habitat at the new Amphibian Bushfire Recovery Centre, the first dedicated disease-controlled amphibian facility in Australia. The Spotted Tree Frog (*Litoria spenceri*), Watson's Tree Frog (*Litoria watsoni*) and Southern Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*) have all suffered from population decline in the wild, exacerbated by the 2019–2020 summer bushfires. The species are also threatened by amphibian chytrid fungus disease. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).



A Spotted Tree Frog, one of the species given a lifeline by new breeding and research centre at Melbourne Zoo. Photo by Department of Environment and Primary Industries on [Flickr](#).

Fleay's Barred Frogs developed natural resistance to amphibian chytrid fungus

RESEARCHERS AT THE SOUTHERN CROSS University in Queensland have found Fleay's Barred Frogs in northern New South Wales and south-east Queensland that developed a natural immune response to the amphibian chytrid fungus. By figuring out how the Fleay's Barred Frog develops this natural resistance, scientists hope to help other species impacted by the disease.

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



Fleay's Barred Frog. Photo by David Newell.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

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



A warm welcome to new QFS members!

Anne Yates, Ariane Urmenyhazi, Brigitte Blakeway, Colleen Smith, Michelle Dixon, Blair Caldwell, Jane Cusack, Danny Sarson.

Executive Committee

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