




FROGSHEET

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A Waterfall Frog (Litoria nannotis) photographed during a recent frogging trip to Townsville. Photo by Jono Hooper.



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The QFS display at the Green Thumbs Garden and Plant Expo at the Ipswich Showgrounds on October 15th. Photo by Ashley Keune.



Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$9,229.58 due to a generous donation and workshop payment. Any donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible, and all are added to our [research grant fund](#), which is awarded annually

President's Report

HELLO AGAIN TO ALL OF our QFS members. I hope that everybody is keeping well and that you have all had some good weather in the last few months. It has been a busy time for the QFS recently, with most of our time spent preparing for our AGM, which took place on October 30th.

We have also had several displays in recent weeks. On October 15th we set up a display at the Green Thumbs Garden and Plant Expo at the Ipswich Showgrounds. Mickayla, Brett and myself volunteered at our stall for the day. This event had a lot of stall holders present and was well laid out. The day started off really well but unfortunately the crowds thinned out around lunch and it was reasonably quiet for the afternoon. We still got to speak with lots of people about frogs and frog friendly gardens and we took a few sales. It was lovely getting to spend some quality time with other committee members for the day. A big thanks to Brett and Mickayla for the assistance on the day and making it so enjoyable. If you would like to be involved in some way with workshops or presentations in the future, then please get in touch with us.

At our recent AGM we said goodbye to our current Treasurer Jennifer. Thank you so much for all you have done for the society over many years. You have been the President and the Treasurer during your long involvement with the Queensland Frog Society and you have gone above and beyond your role with the extra work involved in the Kroombit Tops Project for the last several years.

We will also be transitioning to a new Editor over the coming months. A massive thank you to Alice for all the hard work that you have put in as Editor. You have modernised the *Frogsheet* and created many great issues over the last two years. We have received lots of very positive feedback about the changes that have been implemented in the *Frogsheet* since you took it on. I wish both Alice and Jennifer all the best with their future endeavours.

If one of our members reading this thinks they would like to assist the Queensland Frog Society by becoming our new Newsletter Editor, please get in touch with us. We would love to hear from you!

And finally, thank you, Ed, for all the time you have invested into submitting an application to utilise the remaining funds of the Kroombit Tops Project. We are very proud to say that the expenditure of the remaining funds has been approved. As a result, members of the QFS will be given more opportunities to help assist with the Kroombit Tops Project for the next several months.

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

Warm regards,

Ashley Keune



Kroombit Tops Threatened Frog Project update

WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE Queensland Government, QFS' Kroombit Threatened Frog Project (a project funded through the state governments' Community Sustainability Action Grant Scheme) has been extended for another wet season.

Using leftover funds from our CSA grant, QFS will be undertaking further surveys and monitoring of threatened frog population (including populations of the critically endangered Kroombit Tinkerfrog and

Kroombit Treefrog) at Kroombit Tops National Park during the current (2022/23) wet season. These additional surveys will support efforts to recover the Kroombit Tinkerfrog, including the release of captive-bred animals to bolster numbers in the wild.

Keep an eye out for announcements regarding future surveys at Kroombit Tops in *Frogsheet* and on the QFS website.

Ed Meyer

QFS AGM 2022 summary

THE QFS AGM WAS HELD on October 30th 2022, again via Zoom. It was a successful and informative meeting and it was great to have many members attend.

Firstly, a big thank you to Mary-Ann Pattison, who chaired the QFS AGM for the second year running. You did a great job once again!

Congratulations to all the elected members of this committee for the next year. I am excited to be able to continue as the President of the QFS for another year and I look forward to working with the newly elected committee, our members and the community.

Other continuing committee members:

- Ed Meyer returned as the Special Projects Coordinator and was reinstated as our Vice President.
- Jenny Holdway was re-elected as the QFS Secretary.
- Jono Hooper was elected as our Events and Initiatives Coordinator once again.
- Desley Fricke continues her role as Minutes Secretary.
- Mickayla Heinemann stayed on the committee as an Ordinary Committee Member.

We are very excited to have a new member joining us on the committee! A warm welcome to Brett Malcolm, who has joined us as an Ordinary Committee Member. Brett has been involved with the society for many years and is extremely knowledgeable about all things related to frogs. It is great to see members join the committee, as it keeps the committee fresh and brings in new ideas.

Thank you to all of the newly elected committee members for investing some of your valuable personal time into the QFS for the next 12 months.

Following the AGM, our guest speaker, Sheryn Brodie, delivered a talk to members about how she utilised computer-aided methods to extract data from long-duration recordings that can be used to answer ecological questions. Sheryn explained that the data were used to show how various factors affect the chorusing of certain frog species. Sheryn's informative presentation was very well received and she took numerous questions afterwards from the attending members. Sheryn was the recipient of the \$1,500 QFS scholarship of the Ric Natrass Research Grant for 2022.

Ashley Keune

2022 events recap from our Events and Initiatives Coordinator

THANKFULLY IN 2022 WE COULD finally plan and attend events without the looming fear of more COVID-19 restrictions. Our President, Ashley, attended most of the events and invitations this year, as my wife and I welcomed our first child into the world back in February.

On March 18th, Ashley and Eva Ford of the MRCCC attended the Heritage Park Frog Survey with a group of school children. The group found several species including Stony Creek Frogs, Striped Marsh Frogs, Tusked Frogs and Great Barred Frogs.

On April 17th, Ashley gave a talk for the Toowoomba Bromeliad Society. It was a successful event, with about 25 people in attendance, and lots of questions from the audience. We received a generous \$100 donation for the Trust Fund and we sold several items.



Students and parents from Tewantin State School frogging in Heritage Park in Tewantin on March 18th. Photo by Ashley Keune.

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As winter arrived, we again found that sick and dead frogs were showing up in our backyards. I re-activated the online sick frogs report form, and, with the grateful assistance of Dr Ed Meyer, we were able to provide people with information on what to do if they found sick or dead frogs in their yard.

On July 8th–9th, several volunteers manned a stall at the popular QLD Garden Expo. Ashley, Julia and myself attended on the Friday; On Saturday, I manned the stall with Ollie Scully and Ryan Stone; On Sunday, Ashley worked with Eva Ford and Ryan. Saturday was very busy until about 2pm in the afternoon, with a lot of public engagement and an appearance from Pobbles, our large-than-life Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk. Pobbles wore a QR code on his back with the question 'Frog or Toad', and many people scanned the code with their phones to learn he was a frog. Our stall looked the best it ever has, helped out by the new banner and street sign. We sold many books, CDs and t-shirts and had to receive more stock over the weekend to keep up with demand. The Trust Fund received a welcome boost in donations as well. The public was really keen to interact with us and asked lots of questions.



Top: The Queensland Frog Society stall at the Queensland Garden Expo 2022. Bottom: 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.

On August 20th, Ashley delivered a presentation at the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee on frog facts, identifying local frogs, identifying toads, correct methods of removing toads and their eggs from the ecosystem, and how to make gardens more frog-friendly. Following morning tea, we moved outside and Ashley demonstrated how to build frog hotels and a frog pond on a small budget. The presentation and workshop were well received by the 20 people in attendance, and a generous donation of \$320 was given to the QFS for the day's activities.

The Green Thumbs Plant and Garden Expo at Ipswich on October 15th was attended by Ashley, Brett and Mickayla. All three really enjoyed meeting face to face! Crowds were fairly light, before becoming very quiet into the afternoon, which was a shame as there were lots of stall holders. Despite this, we sold several items and received a new family membership.

On October 18th, Ashley participated in the UQWA Seminar on job opportunities within the environmental sector. Ashley spoke about the role of the QFS and its committee members, and how we all have different careers, from ecologists to school teachers and passionate retirees. Ashley finished off by briefly talking about frogs and frog-friendly gardens. Overall the seminar was well received, and Ashley received several questions from the audience.

The final event of the year was the return of the ever-popular Kilcoy Frog Workshop, which was a sold-out event, and I presented on local frogs and frog-friendly gardens. After the 1-hour presentation, a light supper was provided before we donned headtorches and headed into the adjacent Yowie Park in search of unsuspecting frogs. The park is home to over half a dozen species and with the warm day we had, the frogs were out and about in search for food.

I'm very grateful to the many volunteers, and in particular to Ashley for his time and effort invested in the public events this year. A lot of work (and driving) goes into the events as we take great pride in speaking up for our native frogs and providing accurate and appealing information for the community to access. Here's to many more successful events in 2023!

Jono Hooper

Frogging around Townsville

NURSERY FROGS BELONG TO A GROUP of microhylids that occur in the Wet Tropics region of northern Queensland. The males guard their eggs in moist leaf litter/earth, inside which the tadpoles develop into frogs entirely within the egg (there is no tadpole stage outside the egg). Their habitat generally consists of rainforest in mid-to-high-elevation areas. Their most southerly distribution is just south of Townsville, where the endemic Mount Elliot Nursery Frog (*Cophixalus mcdonaldi*) occurs at, you guessed it, Mount Elliot, within Bowling Green Bay National Park. Another endemic species, the Hinchinbrook Nursery Frog (*C. hinchinbrookensis*), occurs off the mainland at Hinchinbrook Island. These two species were the main targets of a recent frogging trip that my friend Ben Revell and I embarked on.

We began the first stint of our week-long trip driving from Bundaberg to Eungella near Mackay, about seven hours in total. Our stop at Eungella would serve as a pitstop, as the next day we would travel another five or so hours to Bowling Green Bay National Park. Having arrived at Finch Hatton Gorge in Eungella National Park at about 10:30pm, we had a quick poke around for the threatened Eungella Torrent Frog (*Taudactylus eungellensis*) and any other critters, before settling down for the night.

We left the next morning at around 7am and arrived at the national park south of Townsville around 1:30pm. In typical Townsville fashion, it was hot and sunny! After cramming our cameras, batteries, headtorches, hammocks, and clothes ("the essentials") into our backpacks, we somehow managed to find space for limited food and some small bottles of water. We set off at 2:20pm, weighed down with very heavy packs.

Mount Elliot Nursery Frog

Now for some fun facts. The literature notes that the endemic nursery frog occurs from 900m above sea level (ASL). The carpark was at 35m ASL... The walk to the bottom of the falls on Alligator Creek (240m ASL) was 8km from the carpark. There were several creek crossings too, one of which was waist deep and I picked up a small gash on my foot as I waded through. The designated walking track ends upon arriving at the bottom of the falls, and from this point we began the ascent through scrub adjacent the waterfall. The track remained steep, with rocks peppered all along its

rough path, before opening out onto the waterfall rock face. Thankfully, the falls were restricted to narrow streams, and the absence of wet weather meant the rockface was generally not slippery. Still, I'm not a mountain goat, and so it made for a calculated and sketchy climb. The top of the falls is 470m ASL. At this point the sun had dipped below the horizon and we refueled, noting how little water we had left, and that there was still another 430m to have to climb that night before reaching the habitat of the frog.

And so, we ventured on into the evening. Alligator Creek is still mapped as a stream order 3 watercourse at this point (5 is the largest), and the numerous, decently sized waterfalls we encountered continued to hamper our progress. By this point I had run out of my bottled water, but the flowing Alligator Creek provided a constant source of delicious, clean water to maintain my hydration. We continued for another seemingly endless 1.5km, and were very pleased to find many endemic leaf-tail geckos on the surfaces of rocks and boulders during our ascent. The hours passed by and soon it was 10:30pm, about 4.5 hours since reaching the 'top' of the falls earlier on. At this point I was considering aborting our mission, given the time already taken and the return hike back to the falls after midnight. I was a short distance back from Ben as my mind churned. He had stopped to photograph something, which wasn't unusual, but then he very seriously exclaimed "I got one". I was lost for words, given we were only at about 760m ASL and my hopes of finding the frog had begun to fade.



Mount Elliot Nursery Frog. Photo by Jono Hooper.

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As I turned to retrieve my camera from my backpack, I noticed something dash across the leaf litter at my feet. It was a second nursery frog, though it quickly disappeared between the boulders. This species reaches 26mm in length and is generally a pale brown or tan colour. Now well and truly relieved to have found the frog we'd spent eight hours on the hike for, we got some photos, noted the altitude and created a waypoint of the location on Ben's GPS. On our way back, I spotted another nursery frog at 715m ASL.

It was at least 2am before we reached the hammocks that we had set up earlier. With only a few hours before sunrise, we promptly got in our hammocks, foregoing the small pleasure of clean clothes. It would be midday before we would reach the carpark, and the air-conditioning and cold soft drinks that awaited us.

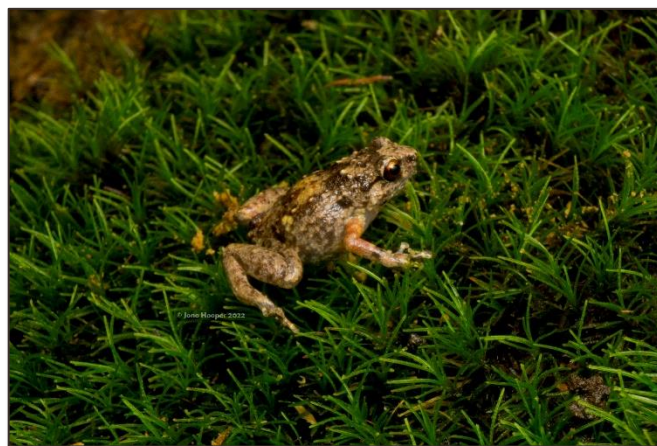
Hinchinbrook Nursery Frog

Upon reaching Townsville, we found some much-needed showers and a hot meal before stocking up on bottled water and heading to Lucinda, where we would depart by ferry the next morning for Hinchinbrook Island.

The Hinchinbrook Nursery Frog occurs in rainforest and heathland down to at least 300m ASL, but I'm told they can occur as low as ~100m ASL. We set up our main camp site before embarking on a 5km beach hike and arriving at Mulligan Falls several more kms later. From there, it was another 2.5km boulder hop up the creek to reach the prime nursery frog habitat. This was a much gentler gradient to traverse than Mt Elliot, with only a few small waterfalls and rockfaces to navigate. We reached our destination by 6pm, again using the crystal-clear flowing creek water to replenish what we had lost through sweating. Our clothes could have been wrung out at this point.

Whilst waiting for the last light to fade, the view looking out to the bay below was quite spectacular. It was soon dark enough to switch on our headtorches, and above the sound of the rushing water were the calls of the nursery frog we had come so far to find. The rainforest fringing the creek was dense, steep and riddled with lawyer vine, whose tendrils seemed to be ready to entangle us upon any poorly calculated move. We ended up finding several nursery frogs travelling up and down the near-vertical rock faces. This species is the same size as the *Cophixalus* we found two nights before, and most similar to the Southern Ornate Nursery Frog on the mainland. We snapped a few

photos and recorded the location, before escaping out of the rainforest back to the open creek to begin our descent. It must have been midnight before we got back to our hammocks, but this time we freshened up with a quick swim at Mulligan Falls.



Hinchinbrook Nursery Frog. Photo by Jono Hooper.

An unsuccessful search for *U. littlejohni*

The next morning called for another swim at the stunning Mulligan Falls before packing up and hiking the ~7kms back down to the ferry terminal.

The third target frog species of the trip was *Uperoleia littlejohni*, a gungan (or toadlet) species that occurs in drier woodland west of the tropical rainforests in north QLD. After a couple of walks near a tiny town called Paluma (1 hour from Lucinda) we headed a short distance west to where *U. littlejohni* occurs. Whilst there was plenty of standing water lying in shallow channels besides the road, our night search would reveal many other frog species except this one. A little disappointed, we headed back down the range to a large creek and popular swimming location in the hope to see the Waterfall Frog (*Litoria nannotis*) – See [image on front page](#). We had both seen this incredible threatened species before, and we were encouraged by how many we found upon arriving at this location.

The following day we made good progress and arrived in Bundy before 8pm. It had been a whirlwind frogging trip, with each of us walking well over 50kms to reach our target species. We were thrilled and relieved to have found both the endemic nursery frogs we had set out to find and punished our unfit bodies to achieve. But at the same time, we were both craving to be back home with our wives and kids.

Jono Hooper

From the secretary's desk

The early spring rains have obviously brought the frogs out, judging by the male choruses and the enquires I have received by phone and email. The main question I have been asked is how do I look after tadpoles that have been found in water bodies other than ponds? Worryingly, I have also received several questions about how to acquire tadpoles or frogs for new ponds. The answer to this is simple... current wildlife laws prohibit the movement of spawn, tadpoles and frogs to prevent the spread of disease, including chytrid fungus. If you have created a frog-friendly habitat and there are frogs nearby, they will

come to you! We have some good resources on our website about how to create [frog-friendly gardens](#). It's also not a good idea to move frogs, even from one suburb to another, because if the conditions are not quite right the frogs will likely die, migrate away from the area or interfere with frogs that already live there.

I look forward to more frog news during the warmer months.

Jenny Holdway

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

We look forward to many more events in 2023 - Keep a look out for more information! In the meantime, we hope you have a wonderful festive season and a great start to the new year!



A warm welcome to new QFS members!

Anne Yates, Ariane Urmenyhazi, Brigitte Blakeway, Colleen Smith, Michelle Dixon, Blair Caldwell, Jane Cusack, Danny Sarson, Thomas Frisby, Andrea Schafer, Clare Doherty, Natalea Lucano, Melanie Marriott, Soraya Cilento.

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