




FROGSHEET

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

Male and female Eastern Stony Creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*) Photo by Ashley Keune.



In this issue



Pg 2 – President's report

Pg 2 – Kroombit Tops Threatened Frog Project update

Pg 3 – Wanted: Newsletter Editor

Pg 4 – 2021 & 2022 frog mortality events

Pg 5 – February is for finding frogs!

Pg 6 – Mountain Mist Frog declared extinct

Ornate Burrowing Frog (*Platyplectrum ornatum*).
Photo by Sarah Grimish.



**Thank you to
our supporters**

Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$9,229.58
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 has had a lovely Christmas and New Year period. It is great to be able to spend some extra time with family and friends around this time, which I have been lucky enough to be able to do myself. The weather has been a little kinder in Southeast Queensland of late and it is great to see the wet season starting up in northern parts of Queensland. Hopefully the wet weather is spread a little more evenly around the state this year!

This is generally one of our quieter times of year in terms of displays and new memberships. As the year kicks off, we will be looking forward to getting out and about again to help educate and interact with the community, spreading information about frogs and frog-friendly gardens.

I'd like to thank Jim, our new Treasurer, for all the work he has put in over the last few months. It has been a good learning experience for Jim and he has been keen to learn new skills. Jim, we greatly appreciate the time you have invested into the Queensland Frog Society!

We are still looking for a new Editor to produce our newsletter, *Frogsheet*. Alice has been kind enough to stay on in this position for the last few months while we get another person to take on the role. We can't thank you enough Alice, for the great work that you have done and still continue to do with the production of our newsletters. If one of our members reading this thinks they would be able to assist the Queensland Frog Society by becoming our

new Editor, please get in touch with us! We would love to hear from you.

Several of our members, including committee members Brett and Mickayla, were lucky enough to get up to Kroombit Tops National Park in November for several days. The ground at Kroombit Tops was quite wet this trip compared to some other trips and as a result the leeches were out in force! The participants were still able to place some acoustic devices at several potential release sites, and other monitoring was also done throughout the park. There will be another trip to Kroombit Tops organised for a small group of participants in the coming months. Ed has provided a more detailed update below.

I would also like to invite any of our members to participate in our management meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of every second month. If you are interested in joining in with our Zoom management meetings, email one of us on the committee and we will add your contact details to the mailing list so that you receive the link to attend. We would love to have more of our members participate!

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

IN NOVEMBER 2022, A TEAM of QFS volunteers returned to Kroombit Tops National Park to undertake additional monitoring and surveys for threatened frogs as part of the Kroombit Threatened Frog Project – a project funded by a Community Sustainability Action grant awarded to QFS by the Queensland Government. On this trip, QFS volunteers assisted with the deployment of acoustic recording devices at potential release sites for Kroombit Tinkerfrogs being bred in captivity at Currumbin

Wildlife Sanctuary. The release of captive-bred animals into the wild is vital to the long-term survival of this critically endangered species in the wild. Acoustic recorders deployed at Kroombit in November 2022 will be retrieved from the field on the final QFS Kroombit Frogsearch in late February 2023.

Continued on next page ...

Data from acoustic recorders deployed at potential release sites will provide important baseline data on the current abundance of Kroombit Tinkefrogs, against which the success of the proposed captive release program can be assessed.

In the image on the right there are shots of some of the captive-bred animals being reared for release at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ed Meyer

*Some of the captive-bred frogs
being reared for release at
Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.
Photos courtesy of Currumbin
Wildlife Sanctuary.*



Wanted: Newsletter Editor for Queensland Frog Society



The Queensland Frog Society is looking for a new Editor to create our newsletters. Our current Editor, Alice, is happy to help with the transition by handing over old versions of newsletters, newsletter templates (Microsoft Word), plus other resources.

Newsletter Editor position details:

- Produce the QFS newsletter, which is currently created twice each season, and is sent out at the start and middle of Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring (total of 8 issues/year)
- The newsletter will mostly include information provided by the committee, but may also contain a few suitable scientific articles researched by yourself (often, links to articles are also provided by the President).
- Must have access to and the ability to use Microsoft Word or Publisher, or another suitable program of your choice.
- Submit a draft newsletter to the Committee for review/approval prior to publication.
- You will need to be a financial member of the Queensland Frog Society (arrangements can be made if you are not a member)

If you are interested or have any questions in relation to this position, please contact either:

- Ashley (President) at president@qldfrogs.asn.au
- Jenny (Secretary) at secretary@qldfrogs.asn.au or phone 0491 140 720

We look forward to working with you in the near future!

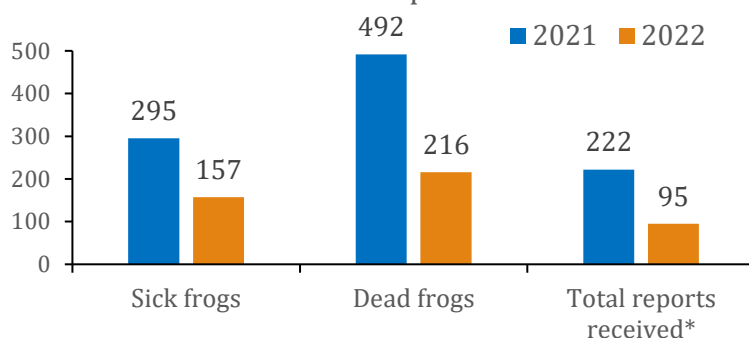
Number crunching the 2021 & 2022 frog mortality events

THE MASS EAST-COAST FROG MORTALITY event of 2021 returned for a second, consecutive year in 2022. Records submitted by the community have been analysed, summarised, and compared to the 2021 mortality event. Chytrid fungus, which causes Chytridiomycosis in frogs, remains the prime suspect for both mortality events.

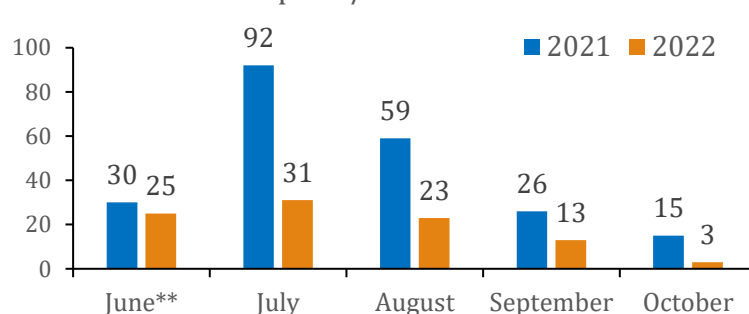
The top right-hand graph suggests the 2022 event was not as severe as the one in 2021, with numbers of sick and dead frog records considerably lower than the previous year. The overall number of reports received by the community was also much lower in 2022 vs 2021.

In a similar fashion, the bottom right-hand graph reveals the number of reports received each month in 2022 was generally much lower than in the corresponding months in 2021. Most reports were received in July in both 2021 and 2022, which may be because Chytrid fungus thrives during the coldest time of year. Other factors may also be involved, such as greater public awareness of frog die-offs in July of each year.

No. of records and reports – 2021 vs 2022



No. of reports/month – 2021 vs 2022



The map shows the distribution of reports received by the public to the QLD Frog Society[^]. Reports were received from similar northern and southern extents in 2021 and 2022, whilst more western reports were received in QLD in 2022.

Overall, data received by the QLD Frog Society indicates the 2022 frog mortality event was less severe than in 2021. This may be due to frogs surviving the 2021 event having a greater resistance to Chytrid fungus.

We would like to again thank the community for diligently providing these records and contributing to our understanding of these die-off events.



*Each report may have contained records of more than one sick or dead frog

**Receipt of records began part-way through the month of June 2021.

[^]Records received by other organisations are likely to show additional map coverage than seen here.

February is for finding frogs!

FROGS ARE EASY TO FIND DURING the warm months, especially when there's rain about, and the Mary River catchment and surrounds support over 40 frog species. However, about ¼ are vulnerable, endangered or have disappeared in recent decades, mostly due to loss of habitat due to swamp draining, vegetation clearing and weed invasion. Other pressures include feral animal predation, Chytrid fungus, and changes to our climate.

Frogs are key indicators of change in the surrounding environment, with shifts in species distribution and population dynamics sensitive to obvious (e.g., droughts) as well as more difficult-to-detect changes, such as declining invertebrate populations or increased predator presence (e.g., cats, which eat on average 44 frogs each per year [Woinarski, 2020]).

The **Find a Frog in February** (FFF) citizen science program invites the community to contribute to our collective knowledge of frogs and their local requirements. These records help us to determine 'normal' trends and to monitor for and understand changes. The information also helps us to manage the environment, in particular wetlands and waterways.

People of the Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast council areas are encouraged to get out and about to find frogs and submit their observations during February. Over the past six years, FFF frog finders have submitted 18,000 records across 1,370 locations, contributing to our knowledge of 33 species! Every record counts – even common species, such as the Green Treefrog, can be affected by changing environmental conditions.

Ways to send in your observations:

- You'll find the old-fashioned but comprehensive FFF record sheet on our website <https://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/> – complete it and send in for identification, verification and entry to the Queensland WildNet database.
- Use the iNaturalist app to submit records - join the app, then the 'Find a Frog in February' Project and submit your photos and recordings of calling frogs.
- Use the FrogID app and join the 'Find a Frog in February' group to submit your call recordings.

We offer these suggestions to help local frogs:

- Make your frog observations count – submit your photos and/or call recordings to FFF or a reputable database.
- Keep some areas 'messy' – logs and branches, leaf litter, rock piles, tall grass (a 'high-rise' structure provides homes for more beings than a single story dwelling).
- Provide water – ponds, dams, swamps, creeks, low areas that fill when it rains – all with a variety of vegetation and structures, even some bare spaces.
- Don't move eggs, tadpoles or frogs about – this increases the risk of disease spread.
- Keep pollutants out of the environment – chemicals travel easily in water flowing across land, along drains and through the soil profile. Soap is a frog's enemy!
- Promote the protection of waterways and water quality in your area.
- Consider protecting and reinstating wetlands (billabongs/swamps) that are grazed and/or have been drained or modified.
- Keep your cats indoors at night as they hunt frogs and other wildlife.
- Know the difference between cane toads and their frog look-alikes!

Frog workshop and night survey program (contact the MRCCC for more information: (07) 5482 4766)

Tewantin	Thursday 1 st Feb
Maleny	Friday 3 rd Feb
Peregian	Wednesday 8 th Feb
Cooloola Cove	Wednesday 15 th Feb
Maryborough	Friday 17 th Feb
Conondale	Tuesday 21 st Feb
Amamoor	Wednesday 22 nd Feb

Watch our website for more workshops in your area to help you increase your frog-finding skills. Contact findafrog@mrccc.org.au for more information, or phone (07) 5482 4766.



We look forward to hearing from you! Happy frogging from the Find a Frog in February Team.

Find a Frog in February is proudly supported by the Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa

Shire Council, Gympie Regional Council and the Fraser Coast Council, and delivered by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee.

Mountain Mist Frog declared extinct

QUEENSLAND'S MOUNTAIN MIST FROG (*Litoria nyakalensis*), once found across two-thirds of the wet tropics, has been recently declared extinct on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list. Last recorded in 1990, it is believed to have been driven to extinction largely by Chytrid fungus, but also possibly due to habitat destruction and climate change.

You can find more about the story [here](#), and more about the Mountain Mist Frog on the [FrogID website](#).



Mountain Mist Frog. Photo by Stephen Richards/FrogID/
Australian Museum

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 had a wonderful festive season and a great start to the new year!



A warm welcome to new QFS members!

Clare Doherty, Natalia Lucano, Melanie Marriott, Sorara Cilento, Sabine Wildman, Lesa Fazey, Felicity Lewis, April Gunning-Davis, Sharon Roberts, James Fountain, Claudia Amouzandeh, Kate Beskeen.

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 – Jim Carlton

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

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

**DEADLINE FOR AUTUMN *FROGSHEET* CONTRIBUTIONS IS
11TH FEBRUARY 2023**