




# FROGSHEET

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

*Emerald Spotted Tree Frog (Litoria Peronii). Photo by Ashley Keune.*



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**Thank you to  
our supporters**

WEBINAR

## Tinkering with Tinkerfrogs

with special guests:





**POSTPONED**

Tune in to hear about the 25 year journey to save Australia's most at-risk frog species, the Kroombit Tinkerfrog! Question time to follow.

**New date to be advised.**  
Webinar held via Zoom Presented by 

**Public Trust Fund:** Total now stands at \$9,619.58  
Any donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible, and all are added to our research grant fund, which is awarded annually



## President's Report

**H**ELLO AGAIN to all of our QFS members. The weather has definitely cooled off the last few weeks during the night. This has seen many of the frog species disappear for the Winter and go into a state of torpor. Hopefully, with a drier Winter this year, we will not see a repeat of the frog die offs that have occurred throughout the east coast of Australia the last few years.

We are lucky enough to have our new Editor, Kayla, come on board with this edition of the newsletter. I wish Kayla a warm welcome from the Queensland Frog Society committee and its members. You have big shoes to fill, and once again, I would just like to wish Alice (our prior Editor) all the best and want to thank you for all the hard work you put into the Frogsheets in the last several years.

Coming up on the 7th, 8th and 9th of July we will be attending the Queensland Garden Expo once again. This is our biggest event for the year. As usual, the QFS display will be set up in the Living Backyard section of the expo and this is possible thanks to the generous support of the Sunshine Coast Council. We have most of the volunteers necessary for this event, but we are still looking for a volunteer to assist us on the Sunday. You will be with myself and another committee member, so you don't need any experience, just an interest in frogs. If you are interested, please get in touch with one of us via our email addresses on the back page of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there!

This year we were in a position to be able to give out two \$1,500 grants for research into Queensland frogs. This grant, known as the Ric Natrass Research Grant, comes from our Public Trust Fund and all donations into this account go towards the

investment in Queensland's frog species. Remember, donations over \$2 are tax-deductible! Now is the perfect time to donate, as the end of financial year approaches. Donations can be made into this account via a direct deposit and a link can be found on our website:

<http://www.qldfrogs.asn.au/ric-natrass-research-grant/>

The QFS has decided to start doing a few webinars throughout the year. This is a great initiative by our Events and Initiatives Coordinator, Jono Hooper. Our inaugural webinar on Tinkerfrogs, which was going to go through the 25-year journey of Australia's most at risk frog species, the Kroombit Tinkerfrog, was planned to go ahead on the 24th of May, but had to be postponed due to unexpected family hardships of two of our guest speakers. Our thoughts are with the families involved. This webinar will still go ahead in the future.

Don't forget that we would love to see more of our members joining us at our management meetings! If you are interested, please get in touch.

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

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

Warm regards,

**Ashley Keune**



## Editor's Introduction

Hello! My name is Kayla and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Editor of the *Frogsheets* newsletter. I thank Alice for showing me the ropes and I hope I can live up to the expectations! I have had an interest and love for frogs since I was a child and am excited to pursue this interest in my role as Editor and get involved with QFS where possible! I am currently studying a Bachelor of Law/Business (Marketing) and in my spare time enjoy hiking, taking my dog on adventures and reading.

## Tragic Loss: The Extinction of the *Mountain Mist Frog*

SINCE 1990, the Mountain Mist Frog has not been seen and unfortunately this is not from lack of trying on behalf of frog and nature enthusiasts.

Back in December 2022, the Mountain Mist Frog (*Litoria nyakalensis*) was declared extinct. This was, and remains, a major devastation. It also serves as a wake-up call.

The profound implications the continued extinction of species of frogs has on the natural world needs to be taken seriously. There is a pressing need for conservation action.

The demise of the Mountain Mist Frog came about due to habitat loss, weather extremes, and amphibian chytrid fungus. Let this loss not be in vain and use it to raise awareness about the importance of frog conservation.

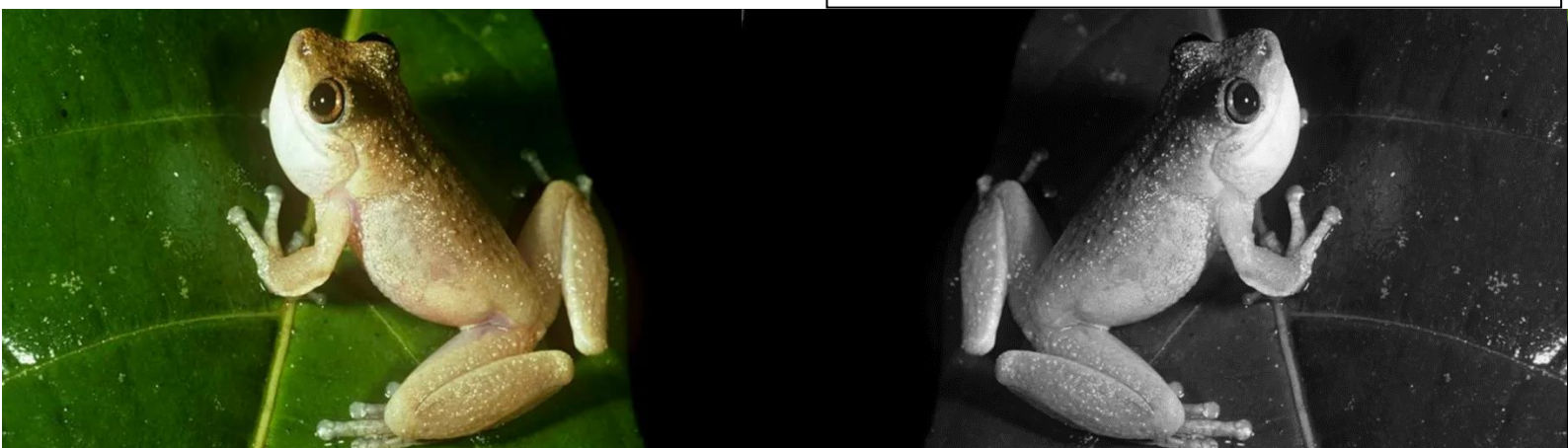
At the same time as the Mountain Mist Frog was declared extinct, several other species of frog's status was upgraded to critically endangered.

It is believed the reason several of these species, which consists predominately of mountain-top-dwelling species, will eventually be declared extinct is climate change.

*"As our climate warms, many mountain-nursery frogs which already live on top of mountains have got nowhere to go."* – Jess Abrahams, ACF.

The current government has committed to reducing emissions by 43% by 2030 which, if accomplished, would be a great achievement and assist in conservation of these frogs significantly.

Photo of *Litoria Nyakalensis*, Mountain Mist Frog. Taken by Stephen Richards.



### What Can We Do to Help Prevent This from Happening to More Species of Frogs?

1. **Create Frog Friendly Spaces:** Plant native vegetation, create water features such as ponds or miniature wetlands in your backyard, and avoid using pesticides or harmful chemicals that can harm frogs and their habitats.
2. **Reduce Your Carbon Footprint:** Embrace sustainable practices in your daily life by using, for example, energy efficient appliances, opting for renewable energy sources, reducing energy consumption, and choosing eco-friendly transportation options (when possible) such as walking, biking, or using public transport.
3. **Conserve Water:** Reduce your water consumption by fixing leaks, using water-saving fixtures, collecting rainwater for gardening, and practising responsible water usage habits such as shorter showers and turning off taps when not in use.
4. **Raise awareness and education:** Share information with friends, family and community members, participate in local conservation groups, and engage with policymakers/your council to support climate-friendly policies and initiatives. A great way you can do this is by volunteering at the Garden Expo on Sunday, 9 July 2023 (we need another volunteer, cough).





# Frogs Ditch Traditional Communication for a 'Hands-On' Approach

**T**HEY'RE GREEN (AND BROWN). They've got four legs. They hop. But...they don't make a sound? Introducing, *Hyperolius ukaguruensis*, a species of frog whose only method of communication appears to be via touch. The male frogs have spines on their throats which are suspected to be used as a sort of 'braille' for female frogs to recognise potential mates.



Photo of *Hyperolius ukaguruensis*. Taken by Christoph Liedtke.

This species of frog was discovered in Tanzania back in 2019 on a wildlife surveying expedition. It was, as described by Lucinda Lawson, conservation biologist and discoverer of the unique amphibian, "the wrong colour" of what she suspected was a different species of spiny-throated reed frog. After measuring the frog, DNA tests were ran and it was deemed genetically distinct.

All seven previously discovered spiny throated reed frogs are deemed vulnerable or endangered. As put by Dr Liedtke, a postdoctoral researcher, "Knowing how many species exist and where is critical to conservation", as is "having a diverse number of species to maintain healthy ecosystems."

*"If this one species goes extinct, nothing much happens. We just lose one more strand in the fabric of the ecosystem."*

*"But if you keep pulling out strands, the ecosystem becomes destabilized and the fabric unravels."*

– Dr Lawson.

## The Silent Epidemic: Alarming Spread of Lethal Fungus

**T**HE AMPHIBIAN WORLD is facing a grave danger – an insidious adversary known as *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) fungus. This relentless pathogen is spreading rapidly across Africa, causing havoc among amphibian populations. While the impact on African amphibians is concerning, it also serves as a poignant reminder of the risks faced by amphibians worldwide, including those in Australia.

Bd affects amphibians by attacking their skin, leading to a disease called chytridiomycosis, which leads to heart failure. In Africa, this fungus has become a cause for alarm as it infects various frog and salamander species. Flourishing in warm and humid environments, Africa provides the perfect breeding ground for this stealthy invader. With the movement of infected amphibians through global trade, the fungus has quickly spread to previously unaffected regions.

This leads to population declines and local extinctions, upsetting the delicate balance of ecosystems and potentially causing a ripple effect on other species. Some African frog species are already teetering on the edge of extinction due to the relentless spread of Bd.

While Australia has been relatively fortunate in terms of Bd's impact, the threat cannot be ignored. Stringent biosecurity protocols and monitoring programs remain in place to mitigate the risk however continued vigilance is crucial. Drawing lessons from the African experience, it is imperative to bolster surveillance, research, and conservation efforts to detect and respond rapidly to potential Bd outbreaks in Australia.

By understanding the impact of Bd and implementing robust conservation measures, we can work towards securing a brighter future for these remarkable creatures, both in Africa and across the globe.

## Executive Committee

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## A warm welcome to new QFS members!

Kayla Beaton, Chervil Ho, Anthony Molyneux

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

7-9 July 2023 – Garden Expo

PLEASE EMAIL [EDITOR@QLDFROGS.ASN.AU](mailto:EDITOR@QLDFROGS.ASN.AU) WITH ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN *FROGSHEET*

**DEADLINE FOR MID-WINTER *FROGSHEET* CONTRIBUTIONS IS  
27 JUNE 2023**