

# FROGSHEET

*Litoria cooloolensis*, Credit: Jono Hooper



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*Litoria fallax*, Credit: Ashley Keune



**Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$11,338.98**

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 our QFS members. I hope you are all doing well? It is hard to believe that we are more than half way through the year already. With that, the days are now starting to get a bit longer day by day again, which will nice to be able to get a bit more work done before dark.

It certainly has been a colder Winter at night this year through much of Queensland but overall for the Winter so far, the days have been glorious with mostly clear skies and warmer conditions. A little bit of rain would be nice though as it is dry around the state in lots of places.

I would like to personally thank Kayla for the high-quality newsletter that she produced for her first Frogsheet for the Winter Edition. The Frogsheet looked great and had lots of interesting articles in it. The committee look forward to working with you during your time as Editor.

Also a big thank you to Jono as well. Jono has done an excellent job getting our online donation facility up and running on our website over the last few months. It is now active so if you wish to invest in Queensland's frog species by donating to our Public Trust Fund, this money will be used for the Ric Natrass Research Grants for 2024.

On the 7th, 8th and 9th of July the QFS were part of the Queensland Garden Expo. We had a very successful three days and it was great to be involved with the event again this year. A huge thank you to the Sunshine Coast Council for giving us the opportunity to be in the Living Backyard section of the expo. The Queensland Garden Expo is our biggest event for the year and is always a great opportunity to spread the good word about frogs in our environment and how to attract them to your gardens. We were able to speak to numerous people that were wanting us to identify different frogs that they had found on their property. Lots of people also inquired about how they can improve their gardens to make it a more suitable habitat for frogs. It was lovely to be able to meet so many people during the three days at the expo that have an interest in frogs and support the work that we do.

A big thank you to all of the people who volunteered and helped our stall be so successful again this year at Queensland Garden Expo. It was great working with many of you over the three days and I look forward to working with you again in the future at other displays and workshops. Thank you, Jono and Jenny, for doing the behind the scenes organising for the event, as well as all of our important volunteers who helped us work at the stall over the three days. These people included Julia, Jono, Simone, Kayla, Desley and Ryan. Without your support we couldn't run a successful stall at these events.

Also, keep an eye out in your emails about our inaugural webinar on Tinkerfrogs. This webinar is being reorganised and will be going ahead very soon. People who were attending the initial webinar will have first preference to be included in the new date for the webinar.

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

Regards  
Ashley Keune





# Secretary's Report

The Public Trust Fund balance now stands at \$11,338.98. There is still one scholarship to be paid out for this year.

Thank you to the members who have generously donated using our new on-line service. As you know this fund is helping with research on frog survival and this year we awarded the grant to 2 applicants.

We have also had a very generous donation by a person just using their name as the depositor.

A tax deductible receipt can't be issued without knowing the address as well so I am hoping this person will get in touch with me.

Jenny Holdway. Secretary.

## Brazilian Tree Frogs Rewrite the Pollination Playbook

*"We observed individuals entering large flowers and leaving covered in pollen without destroying the flower structures"*  
- Carlos Henrique de-Oliveira-Nogueira

*Xenophyla truncata*, Credit: Carlos Henrique de-Oliveira-Nogueira

In a world-first, frogs in Brazil have been documented (potentially) pollinating flowering plants. Whilst further research into this species is required before they can officially be declared 'pollinators', this is an exciting discovery as it is the first time this behaviour has been observed in amphibians.

"Most frog species are carnivorous in their adult phase," explained de-Oliveira-Nogueira. While some frogs are known to nibble on plant matter, the opportunistic nature of *X. truncata* sets it apart, proving its adaptability by consuming both insects and plants, seizing every available opportunity for sustenance. Might these exceptional frogs have finely tuned their feeding strategies to synchronize with their floral counterparts? The potential for such remarkable adaptations unveils a realm of possibilities, rekindling our awe for nature's limitless creativity and the countless marvels yet to be unveiled.





## Hidden in plain sight: New tree frog species master the art of bird poo camouflage

In the lush swamps and forests of Papua New Guinea, a fascinating revelation has emerged—the discovery of five previously unknown species of tree frogs, each with its own intriguing characteristics. Led by Australian scientists from the Queensland Museum, South Australian Museum, and Griffith University, this remarkable find showcases the extraordinary biodiversity thriving in the mountainous regions along New Guinea's central range.

*"New Guinea boasts the highest number of frog species on any island worldwide, with many species found nowhere else,"* explained Dr. Richards, underscoring the unique biodiversity of the region.

*Litoria haematogaster*, Credit: AAP



Interestingly, scientists have observed that unlike many tree frog species, these newfound varieties lay their eggs outside of water. One species, *Litoria naispela*, takes this behavior to a new level, with its tadpoles thriving in water collected within tree hollows—a truly remarkable adaptation. But that's not all—*Litoria naispela*'s juveniles possess coloration and patterns strikingly similar to bird droppings, believed to be a form of defensive masquerade, offering protection from potential predators.

## Leap into action: Creating a frog friendly garden in SEQ

As we reach the midway point of winter and catch a glimpse of the approaching spring, it's time to embark on a journey of preparation, ready to awaken your backyard in anticipation of a vibrant and frog-filled Spring! By planting frog-friendly plants, you not only enhance the beauty of your outdoor space but also provide a safe and inviting habitat for these fascinating amphibians. Frog-friendly plants offer a myriad of benefits, from providing shelter and breeding sites to attracting a diverse range of insects that serve as a delectable food source for frogs.

Some frog-friendly picks to get you started:

**BLECHNUM SPICANT**



**GREVILLEA SPECIOSA**



**FICINIA NODOSA**







## A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Hisela Brown

Naomi Daunt

Jay Bull

Genevieve Robey

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

**2-3 September 2023**

Off Grid Lifestyle Expo



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

DEADLINE FOR SPRING FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS **14 AUGUST 2023**