



*Welcome to Spring.....*

**Presidents report.**

I really only have one thing to say to you “elections” that’s right we are reportedly over all of that campaigning and media hype. No seriously I’m talking about the great democratic process called the AGM. Yep there is voting and nominations but none of that campaigning, debating , polling and advertising disrespecting the other bloke/ or sheila. In fact the AGM is a gentle civilised affair where the running of a community group is handed over to a new set of individuals. All I can say is turn up if you can it’s a chance to get involved and participate in a good karma activity and afterwards we’ll have a nice meal and listen to a couple of guest speakers.

I went away recently to work as a volunteer vet at an Indian based ABC program at Ladakh which is the Himalayan part of Northwest India. ABC is a new acronym I’ve learnt for Animal Breeding Control, basically desexing. I was fortunate to be able to see a successful and well run program at work, since I have heard of horror stories from some of the other vets who volunteer for these things. The dogs were on the whole nice dogs which I think reflects the way they are treated by the society of people they hang around in. This was basically a Buddhist community with an increasing number of Islamic neighbours. (Continued page 3)

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**QFS SHOP SALES**

Jenny Holdway  
 07 3366 1868

The Queensland Frog Society is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year in September. Our Society is the longest running Amphibian group in Australia and started with a meeting at Downfall Creek in 1990. With a jam-packed schedule of upcoming events, there’s never been a better time to support the society and find out more about Brisbane frogs. Come and meet QFS’ new mascot “Pobbles” generously donated by a Qld Government grant. Pobbles will be appearing at most events.

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**FROGSHEET BY EMAIL**

We can send the Frogsheet by email (pdf of about 1MB) – or send you an alert by email that the newsletter is available to download (at your leisure) from the website. Send your email address to Jenny at [gldfrogs@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gldfrogs@bigpond.net.au) stating your preference.

## **AREA CO-ORDINATORS**

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## **DIARY DATES**

### **FROG HABITAT SITE WORKING BEES**

**Bowman Park**, Bardon from 8-11am  
Sept 12<sup>th</sup> @ “Frog Ck”. Sausage sizzle to follow.  
Contact Phil or Jenny for more info

**Grinstead Park**, Alderley (off Shand St)  
Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> Working bee. Contact Debbie Dolby  
3355 4134 or [ddolby@hotmail.com](mailto:ddolby@hotmail.com)

### **Carseldine Bush Crew**

First Saturday every month 8am-9.30am.  
Meet where creek crosses Dorville Rd. ALL  
WELCOME. Contact James Hansen for more info.

### **QFS MANAGEMENT MEETINGS**

Third Wednesday of month 7.30pm. Contact  
Jenny for venue. ALL WELCOME.

Sept 4/5<sup>th</sup> – SGAP Spring Flower Show - Toowong  
Botanical Gardens.

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> – QFS AGM – Eco Centre Griffith Uni - Nathan  
Campus

Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – Frog ID Workshop – Berrinba. Bookings  
essential. Phone 3412 4859

### **Please Note:**

The Diary Dates and Venues are also on the QFS web  
site which is constantly updated so please check  
between newsletters. Please let Jenny know of other  
suitable dates.

### **FROG CAMPS:**

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> Grumbarra – Mountain frogs.  
Nov 27<sup>th</sup> Cooloola region – Acid frogs  
Please ring Rod so that we know you’re coming  
and for further details (eg bring water; camp cancelled)  
QNPWS camp fees apply (\$4.85/person/night)

### **FROG HABITAT BUSHCARE**

Contact us if you are doing bushcare in  
Frog habitat and would like your working  
bees listed in diary dates

Most of the Co-ordinators now hold the “Frogs of  
Brisbane” Poster and you can pick up your FREE (to  
members) poster from them.



## **ASHGROVE REPORT**

As usual the frogs have been quiet for a few months except for a couple of striped marsh frogs who thought Spring had sprung early when there was a bit of rain and the temperature rose.

Our last working bee at Bowman Park saw us removing some early weeds, small clumps of rogue grasses and seeing to the new plants. Next working bee (September 12<sup>th</sup>) will be at the "New Creek" where we have spotted quite a few unwanted weeds such as cats claw and ochra. We would be delighted if you would like to help – please contact Phil Bird for details.

I have also been visiting schools to talk to Year 1's and they have been very knowledgeable as well as interested in the power point presentation I did.

**Jenny Holdway**

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### **New frog species identified**



New frog species found in the Flinders Ranges (Kaya Klop-Toker)

Here it is - the new frog species discovered in the Flinders Ranges of outback South Australia this month. The new Litoria species is tiny and can easily blend with its dusty, rocky surroundings.

Frog expert Mike Tyler says as soon as he was shown four specimens, he knew they were special. Professor Tyler says the frog's markings distinguish it from other species living in waterholes of SA's north-east.

"Perhaps an inch on the old scale. It is pale brown in colour, it has little discs on its fingers so that it can climb," he said. "Its back is freckled, it has these little little markings on it which is a feature which is unique to it and something that tells me that this is quite distinct from anything else."

It is the first frog species found in SA in almost half a century.



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/17/2929109.htm>

## Mining worries as frog species found

The owner of Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary says discovery of a new frog species is yet another reason to be wary of mining in the Flinders Ranges region of outback South Australia.

Scientists say it is the first new species to be identified in SA in 45 years. The species was found this month at Arkaroola, where Marathon Resources is involved in a uranium exploration project at Mount Gee.

Sanctuary owner Marg Sprigg says she is worried Marathon's initial drilling program could lead to it getting a full drilling licence later in the year. "I'm a geologist, I'm not against mining but I don't think you have to mine everywhere and there were a lot of geologists who put in submissions saying 'leave Arkaroola alone, it is too special, it's a brilliant geological teaching laboratory'."

Ms Sprigg says mining could prevent more unique species being found in the Flinders Ranges.

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Dear members,

I received an email from "Save Our Frogs.com" to say that the New Zealand Government has voted to protect the critically endangered Archey's Frog and Hochstetter's Frog who's last strongholds were faced with the threat of mining. 1,275 Save the Frogs supporters wrote letters to the NZ Government and Dr. Phil Bishop was the vocal supporter.

**Jenny**

### **New Zealand's Native frogs have been saved!**

In New Zealand, we originally had 7 [species](#) of [native](#) frog, but 3 are now extinct with only 4 native species remaining – *Leiopelma hamiltoni* (Hamilton's frog), *Leiopelma pakeka* (Maud Island frog), *Leiopelma archeyi* (Archey's frog) and *Leiopelma hochstetteri* (Hochstetter's frog).

The existence of each remaining species is threatened, with two species listed as [endangered](#). They are very difficult to find in their natural environments.

There are also 3 introduced species, all from Australia. These are the brown tree frog, the southern bell frog and the green and golden bell frog.

### **Nature of Science**

Scientists follow strict rules for classifying and naming species. Classifications and names may change over time as new information comes to light. New species are often named after the person who first discovered or described them. For example, Hochstetter's frog is named after the Austrian naturalist Christian Gottlieb Ferdinand von Hochstetter. Archey's frog was named after Dr Gilbert Archey.

All our native frogs are [endemic](#) and belong to a single [genus](#) – *Leiopelma*.



Picture 1 "[Archey's froglets on father's back](#)"

Scientists believe that the ancestors of our native frogs colonised New Zealand over 80 million years ago, when it was still part of [Gondwana](#). As a result, our native frogs have many unique features and life processes that are different to many other frogs:

- They don't have an external eardrum. Although they can make chirping sounds, they don't croak. Scientists think they use chemicals rather than sounds to communicate.
- They have round eyes instead of slits.
- They don't develop a long tongue attached at the front like most other frogs. Their tongue is attached at the back, so they open their mouth and lunge forward to catch their prey.
- 3 of the 4 species live and breed on dry land. Even the more aquatic species – Hochstetter's frog – can survive on dry land.
- The ones that live on dry land don't have a free-swimming tadpole stage. The tadpole stage happens inside the egg, and the young hatch out as froglets.
- Our native frogs lay a few large eggs, and very few die before becoming froglets.
- After the female frog lays her eggs, they're fertilised and then guarded by the male. Young frogs are carried around on their father's back until they are mature enough to survive on their own.

### ***Habitat and distribution***

[Fossil](#) evidence suggests that, before human settlement, our native frogs were widespread. They have now disappeared entirely from the South Island. They are found only in the upper half of the North Island and on a couple of offshore islands. The table below shows their current known [habitat](#) and distribution.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
<b>Hamilton's frog</b> 2009 conservation ranking: Endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground dwelling.</li> <li>• Prefers damp crevices between boulders.</li> </ul>	Stephens Island in the Marlborough Sounds.
<b>Maud Island frog</b> 2009 conservation ranking: Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground dwelling.</li> <li>• Prefers rocky areas in native coastal forest.</li> </ul>	Maud Island in the Marlborough Sounds. A small population was translocated to Motuara Island in 1997.
<b>Archeys's frog</b> 2009 conservation ranking: Critically endangered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mostly ground dwelling but can climb into bushes and trees when looking for food.</li> <li>• Prefers scrubland and forests in subalpine areas.</li> </ul>	Coromandel Peninsula and Whareorino Forest, west of Te Kūiti.
<b>Hochstetter's frog</b> 2009 <a href="#">conservation</a> ranking: Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only native species that prefers the aquatic environment.</li> <li>• Lives in damp areas on the edge of creeks and streams.</li> <li>• Can also survive on farmland and in non-native forests.</li> </ul>	

<http://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/Contexts/Saving-Reptiles-and-Amphibians/Looking-Closer/Native-frogs>  
 other sites to visit: <http://www.savethefrogs.com> ; [http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0526-hance\\_archeys.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0526-hance_archeys.html)

From the Editor's Desk:

Some welcome rain and quite a few layings in my pond – it's been very busy and noisy. Hope the eggs/tadpoles survive as the weather is still rather cool.

Had a juvenile green tree frog and adult orb weaver spider locked in "combat" recently. The frog had part of the spider in its mouth and the spider was locked onto the frog with its pincers. It appeared as though neither was prepared to let go first. I managed to separate the pair without any damage and they were last seen going on their merry (separate) ways. This is what happens when you try to bite off more than you can chew. Cheers til next time

**Naomi**

## Frog squad hunts missing creatures.....

Scientists are starting a world search for frogs that may not have croaked.

Teams of scientists hope to rediscover 100 species of lost amphibians – animals considered potentially extinct but they may be holding on in a few remote places.

Led by Conservation International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature amphibian specialist group, the search is in 14 countries on five continents, including Australia. It is the first co-ordinated effort to find such a large number of lost creatures and comes as global amphibians populations suffer a shocking decline.

More than 30 per cent of all species are threatened with extinction and many of the exotic creatures have not been seen in ages.

Queensland species on the presumed-extinct list are the southern dayfrog, southern platypus frog, Northern platypus frog, mountain mistfrog, northern tinkersfrog and sharp-snouted dayfrog.

In 2008, James Cook University student Robert Puschendorf found an armoured mist frog west of Port Douglas in north Queensland, thought to be extinct for 17 years.

Griffith University frog specialist Jean-Marc Hero said yesterday it was worth looking for all 6 species.

Professor Hero said Mr Puschendorf 's discovery showed there was still hope of finding these species although he was pessimistic about the gastric brooders." Puschendorf looked for frogs outside the range of their normal distribution so perhaps that's a better way", Prof. Hero said.

Conservation International spokesman Robin Moore said amphibians were particularly sensitive to environmental changes so they were often an indicator of damage being done to ecosystems.

"Rapid change that has taken place over the past 50 years – in particular climate change and habitat loss – has had a devastating impact of these incredible creatures" Dr Moore said.

"We've arranged this search...so we can get some definite answers. The problems amphibians face from habitat loss have been massively exacerbated by a pathogenic fungus, which causes chytridiomycosis, a disease that has wiped out entire populations of amphibians."

IUCN spokesman Claude Gascon said that the search was something never tried before.

Brian Williams, Environment Reporter Courier Mail -August 12, 2010.

More at [www.MONGABAY.COM](http://www.MONGABAY.COM)



*Two species of gastric brooding frog have not been seen in Australia since the mid-1980s. These frogs are of interest to researchers given their truly weird style of reproduction: females swallowed eggs and raised their tadpoles in their stomachs. When the frogs were ready to emerge they popped out of the mouth. Photo by: John Wombey provided by ARKive.*

**2010 A.G.M. and CELEBRATION**

**Brisbane Frog Society (now Queensland Frog Society was formed after Ric Natrass sent out invitations for a meeting to concerned scientists and amphibians enthusiasts. This meeting took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 1990.**

**By now you will have received your invitation to the AGM and Dinner and your company on this occasion will be appreciated.**

**If you do not wish to stay for the dinner we would love to see you at Meeting.**

**Guest speakers Peter Crofts (one of the past Presidents), Harry Hines and Natalie Hill, who is the 2010 Ric Natrass Scholarship recipient, will follow the A.G.M.**

**Mark your calendar NOW:**

**Date: October 16<sup>th</sup> at the ECO Centre, Griffith University – Nathan Campus.  
4pm for 4.30....Dinner 6.30  
RSVP by September 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**Got a Green Spot?**

This is a gentle reminder that renewal of membership is due and this might be your last Frogsheet.

The Society values your support and it is only through strength in membership that we can continue the work to help our frogs and their habitats.

If you have paid but not received your receipt and card, please contact the Secretary. Thank you to the members who have renewed.

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*Dedicated to a  
better Brisbane*

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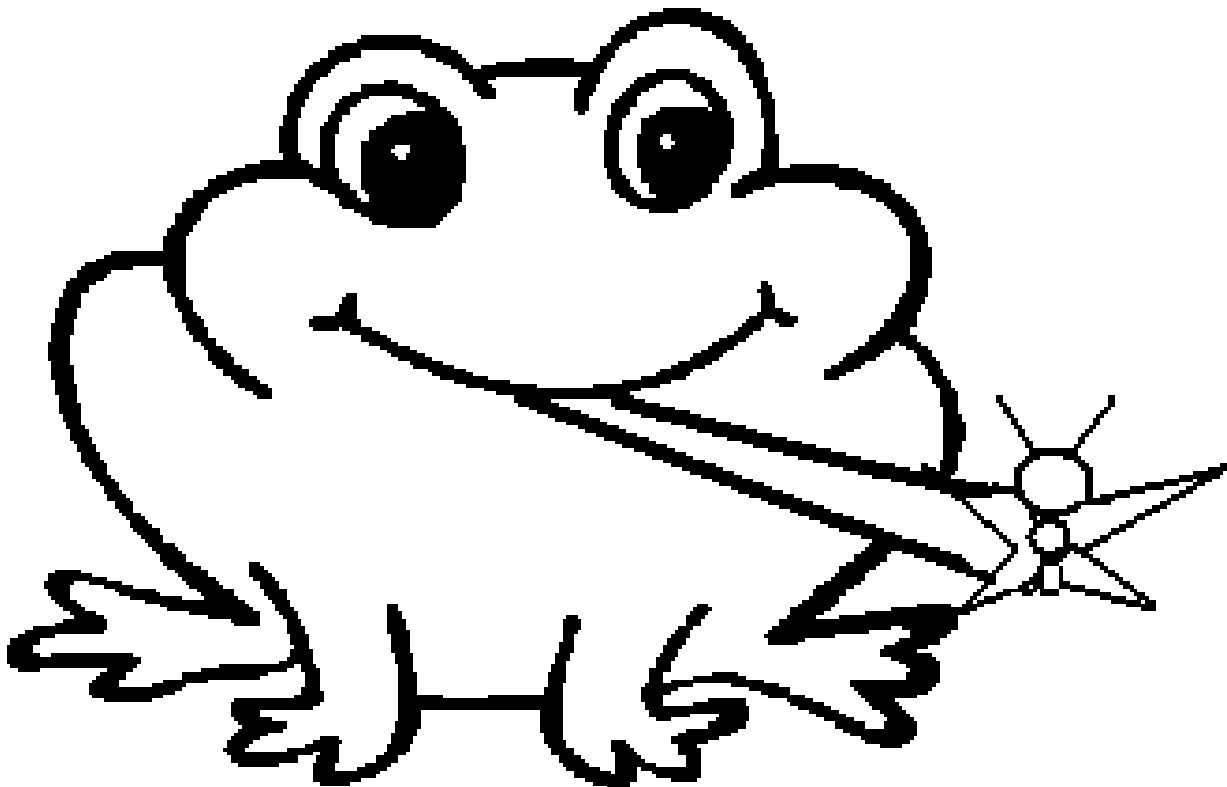
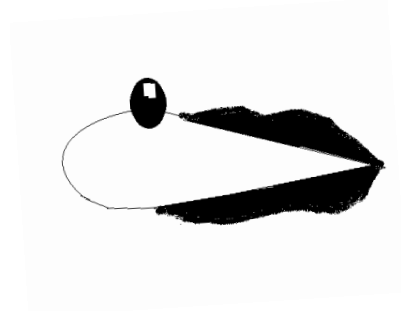
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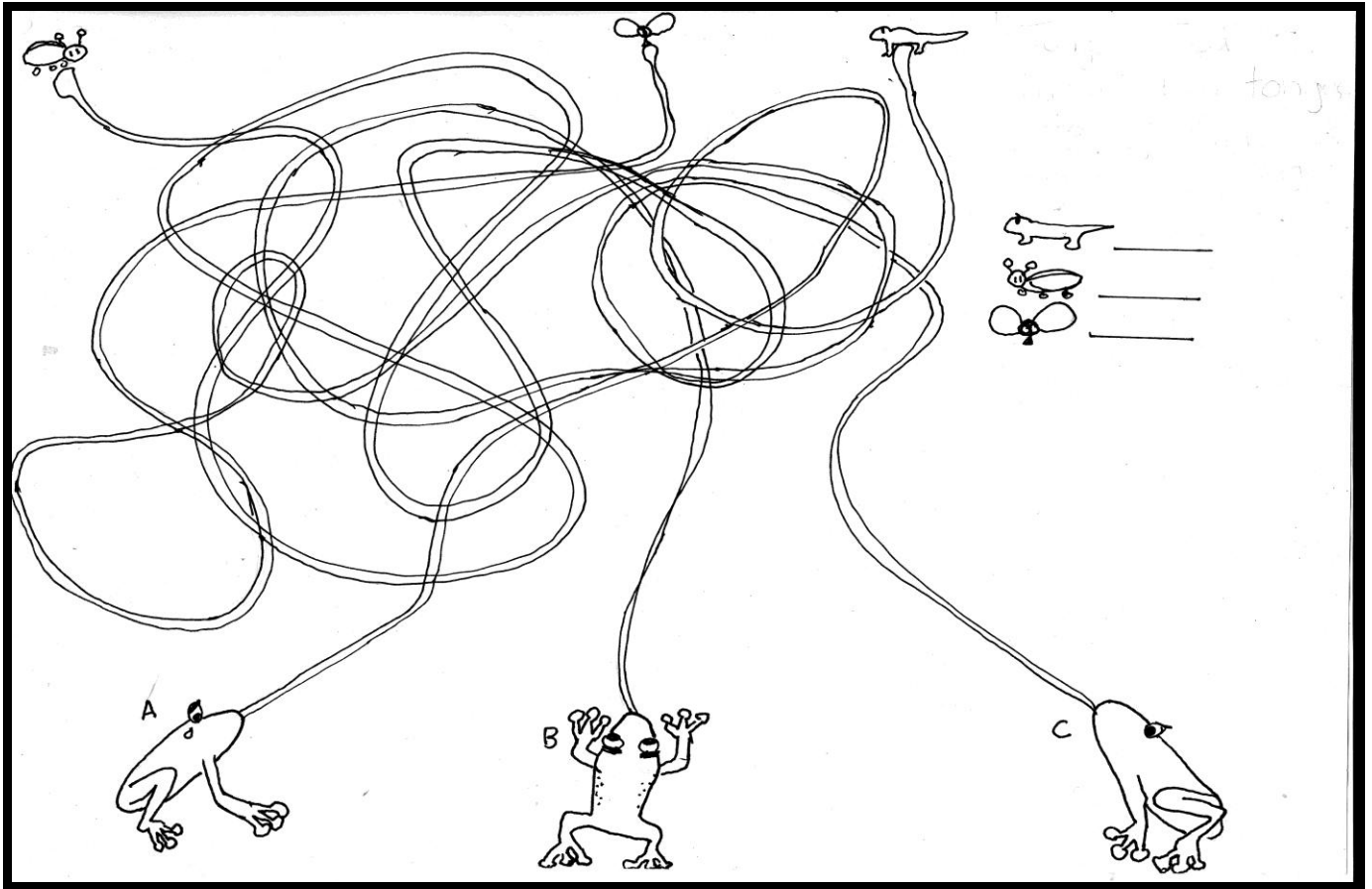
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# Frog activity page



***Colour the frog in any way you want***



### TONGUE TIED!

Can you help the frogs work out what they have caught? Place the letter of each frog next to the animal stuck on their tongue,  
You can colour the tongues in if you want!