

Presidents Report

The beginnings of the winter are already here with some very cold overnight temperatures already! This has made most of the frogs disappear, finding somewhere cosy to spend the winter, but there are several winter breeding frogs. Strangely, some of our species, such as the vulnerable Wallum froglet (*Crinia tinnula*) do choose to reproduce during the cooler months of autumn and winter. But on the whole, most of the species in Queensland breed during the warmer months of the year.

During these colder months the QFS has a lot less incoming calls, e-mails and Facebook enquires and identification questions. This gives us a little more time to consider other projects, so over this winter I'd like to look at the future direction of the QFS and how the society can best contribute to the conservation of our wonderful amphibian friends. This will include what you as members of the society would like to see the society doing and also what you would like to gain from being a part of the society. Of course our future directions will still revolve around the original aims of the society, which was formed back in 1990. If you'd like to you can refresh your memory of the aims of the frog society by visiting our website.

(continued page 3)

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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 qldfrogs@bigpond.net.au stating your preference.

UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS PLEASE

If you have changed your email address lately, the Secretary would be delighted if you would let her know

FROG HABITAT BUSHCARE
Contact us if you are doing bush-care in Frog habitat and would like your working bees listed in Diary Dates.

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DIARY DATES

FROG HABITAT SITE WORKING BEES

Bowman Park, Bardon from 8-11am
Contact Phil for more info

Grinstead Park, Alderley (off Shand St),
Contact Debbie Dolby – ddolby@hotmail.com
Phone 3355 4134

Carseldine Bush Crew – Cabbage Tree Ck, Carseldine

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**

Please note:

The Diary Dates & 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.

July 6, 7 & 8 – Nambour Garden Expo, Showgrounds Nambour

Sept 15 – **QFS AGM**, Downfall Ck, McDowall

Nov – Frog ID Workshop – Mooloolah. Phone Jan 0407641327

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A renewal form is enclosed if your membership is due.

We value your support and most importantly,
the frogs need you !

We now offer DIRECT DEPOSIT for your convenience

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

CO-ORDINATORS AWARENESS RAISING

Are there fairs or community events coming up in your areas? Why not put up the QFS display and do some froggy awareness raising? You don't have to be an expert on frog identification or anatomy to get people interested in frogs. Get in touch with Jenny to arrange picking up the display, brochures etc

NEW MEMBERS

Michelle Kraatz, Linsay Hensel, Bob & Larelle Black, Paul Bambrick, Jacqueline Heath, Emma Barry, Amanda Lawrence, Laura Fett, Cathrine Bartley, James Rees, Lynden Nicoll, Corinne Lawless, Faye Chandler, Rose Maree & Rahyne-Lee Wright

SPONSORS

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QFS PUBLIC TRUST FUND – RIC NATTRASS RESEARCH
GRANT

The QFS Trust Fund was created to help save frogs through education and research. It is now open to interested applicants. The purpose of the grant is to assist research into Queensland's frogs. The form and grant conditions can be obtained on our website www.qldfrogs.asn.au. The QFS Public Trust Fund balance now stands at \$6004.16. This year's successful applicant for our grant was Lisa Stevenson who is studying at JCU. Lisa will be researching "How does frog thermoregulatory behaviour influence vulnerability to the amphibian chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* in Australian tropical rainforest?" We look forward to reading the results later this year.

(President's report continued from page 1)

So stay tuned in the coming months as the committee is planning to send out a questionnaire designed to collate your ideas and opinions. So please do provide some feedback as this is your opportunity to help shape the Qld Frog Society and how we go about saving our frogs in the future. And as always feel free to contact us to become involved in activities and projects that we have happening.

I look forward to hearing some new and fresh ideas!

Dan Ferguson

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ASHGROVE REPORT

No doubt your garden is as quiet as mine and a walk along the waterways in this area is void of the lovely call of the eastern sedge, tusked and striped marsh frogs for now. At Bowman Park the upkeep of the habitat continues as these areas are used by many of the public, large and small, interested in not only frogs but dragonflies, turtles, lizards of all descriptions and of course the many species of birds that are supported by such a space.

Our display still goes out to different areas to continue the aims of the society and to have that 'one to one' interaction with the public. We have been invited back to Nambour Garden Expo in July and I lost count of the number of people who visited our display last year, so hopefully we will be talking to as many this year. If you are able to give some time to help during these 3 days, please contact me.

Jenny Holdway

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Hi everyone

The Queensland Frog Society has been quite busy making presentations for various organisations and setting up displays for numerous events in recent times. In the past week, we've sung with children jumping on lily pads at the Under 8s Romp in the Park, informed pet owners of the delights of frogs in their garden at the Million Paws Walk and educated Ergon Energy's Green Team about local frog species. The "Frogs of Central Queensland" brochures have been so popular that they've run out and a new batch of 500 has been printed, kindly donated by John Bell Mowing. There are still quite a number of "Frogs of Central Queensland" posters left as these are not handed out quite as freely.

Quite a few Queensland Frog Society members are actively attending meetings and supporting events, which is fantastic! Every little bit helps to educate the community about our wonderful frog species and empower them to conserve amphibians in their own backyard.

One of the frogs that we enjoy seeing in Central Qld is the Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes terraereginae*). This is my all-time favourite frog because it looks like a big chocolate drop with delightful orangy red markings. Harry Hines took the photos below of this beautiful frog. I love it so much that I had it painted on my face at the recent Wetlands Day at Emu Park. Thanks to the amazingly talented Maria for that gorgeous portrayal!



Now that most frogs are in hibernation for Winter, it may be a good opportunity to mulch the yard and tidy up the pond for next wet season.

Until next time,

Happy frogging ... or hibernating,

Bethlea Bell, Rockhampton & Central Qld Coordinator

Kroombit Tinkerfrog – a quick update

This is just a quick update on the critically endangered Kroombit tinkerfrog (*Taudactylus pleione*) from the summer of work just past. In late November 2011 Harry Hines conducted a Frogsearch at Kroombit Tops National Park, the only known location for the Kroombit tinkerfrog, with other QPWS staff and volunteers. The results from this survey were a little concerning for all involved with the research and monitoring of this species. After five nights of surveys only 9 tinkerfrogs were recorded at 2 sites, with no frogs heard calling from our site with the previous highest count. Automated recorders at two reliable sites for the tinkerfrogs failed to record any individuals in the weeks leading up to Frogsearch.

These very concerning results prompted a return visit, just prior to Christmas, with a team of five people. The results of this visit were much more pleasing! There were single frogs calling at each of the two sites where call recorders had been deployed and the call recorders were picking up their calls very clearly. This tells us the previous lack of calls on the recorders was not due to technical issues but rather the frogs simply weren't calling! A number of other sites were also surveyed during this quick two night visit, with a total of at least 24 individual tinkerfrogs calling at six sites. The plateau sites where the tinkerfrogs were historically known were also resurveyed, but once again there were no tinkerfrogs to be heard – the last record on the plateau was Feb 2008, despite a LOT of survey effort at known historic sites and adjoining streams over these past 3-4 years.

In addition to the survey work an additional two Song Meter call recorders were deployed so that there is now automated call recorders at four locations. The Song Meters record a minute every half hour, around the clock, so they will provide very valuable information on the diurnal and seasonal calling patterns, and greatly enhance our ability to survey and monitor the species. The team is in the process of developing an automated system of analysing these recordings, as vast quantities of data can be generated by such frequent recordings.

Harry would like to thank all those who assisted with FrogSearch and the follow-up work this year (2011); the Fitzroy Basin Association for their ongoing financial support (survey costs and purchase of Song Meters) and to the Zoo and Aquarium Association of Queensland (who have provided funds for Song Meters and their analysis).

The QPWS staff at Kroombit have also been working hard to help protect the tinkerfrog as there has been a concerted effort to control feral pigs with a noticeable decline in the extent and severity of pig damage in frog habitat areas. There has also been some planned burning (aerial ignition) in the area to provide some protection, from wildfire, to the sensitive habitat in which the tinkerfrog inhabits.

Thanks to Harry Hines (QPWS) for all of the information that has gone into this update - keep up the great work!

Dan Ferguson

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Tree frogs avoid drying out with own water supply

New Scientists issue 2829 - 12 September 2011

GREEN tree frogs never get parched in Australia's dry season; they just supply their own water.

Chris Tracy at Charles Darwin University in Darwin wondered why *Litoria caerulea* ventured out of the tree hollows they hide in into the cool night air. "Frogs usually become sluggish when the temperature drops," he says.

His team found that when the frogs returned to the humid hollows they became 0.2 grams heavier. By cooling down outside, the frogs forced moisture in the hollows' air to condense on their skin, of which they could drink 60 per cent.

This water boost "could mean the difference between surviving the dry season or not", says Tracy.

Ribbit! Frog species found in New York City has a croak of its own

By **Shelby Lin Erdman**, CNN Radio March 18, 2012



Scientists say the new leopard frog species, which is currently unnamed, has a "peculiar croak."

Amid the skyscrapers, sidewalks and subways of New York City, scientists have discovered a new species of frog within view of the Statue of Liberty. In fact, the researchers who discovered the frog say the center of its range is Yankee Stadium in the Bronx.

The newly identified animal is among more than a dozen distinct leopard frog species. While it's fairly common to find new species of animals in the remote wildness or in rain forests, to discover one in marshes and ponds within an urban area such as New York is nothing short of amazing, according to Leslie Rissler, program director with the National Science Foundation. "The species is completely distinct," said Rissler, part of the team of scientists that found the species. "It has a very small range and it was quite a surprise to find a new species in New York City."

Researchers used DNA testing to find this so-called cryptic species, which is one species hidden within another. Researchers basically stumbled across the new frog, Rissler said, adding the discovery is "extremely rare." "We were doing a study on a related organism, the southern leopard frog, in my lab at the University of Alabama and another colleague contacted us to say we have these frogs that look like southern leopard frogs, but they don't quite sound like southern leopard frogs, can you add some of these to your genetic analyses? We did and that sort of began the study."

Scientist Jeremy Feinberg at Rutgers University first noticed the new amphibian sounded different from the northern and southern leopard frogs and that it had "weird-sounding calls." Feinberg said the frog had a "peculiar croak." It didn't have the "long snore" or "rapid chuckle" other leopard frogs have. The new frog had a "short, repetitive croak."

Feinberg says he knew from the get-go there was something odd about the frog. "When I first heard these frogs calling, it was so different, I knew something was very off." The DNA analysis proved him right. The species is so new it doesn't even have a name yet. And Rissler said there won't be any naming contests for this new amphibian, either.

"I think some people would like to name it, who knows, Staten I, a lot of things to do with New York City," Rissler told CNN. "However, we have to go back to these different museums, find the exact voucher specimen that was used for these other species and, if there is an old name that's available then we will use that name because that's the proper way to do it, rather than taking bids on who wants to name the new frog in New York."

POSITION VACANT

Sadly, our Junior Editor is unable to carry on this position due to other commitments.

We are hoping that another creative member would like to submit quarterly, an interesting or fund page for the Frogsheet.

Please contact the Secretary for more information.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON BRIBIE ISLAND.

A scientific paper co-authored by Harry Hines and Dr Ed Meyer (two frog experts well-known to QFS) was recently published on the frog fauna of the dune islands in the South-east Queensland (SEQ) region, with a particular emphasis on Bribie Island. The paper is comprehensive in filling in some of the large knowledge gaps associated with frog species inhabiting SEQ's renowned sand islands. It reviews existing information and provides new data on the distribution and ecology of amphibians occurring on these islands. This work is based on numerous surveys and monitoring of frogs which started in 1996.

As a result of this fieldwork and other sources of information used to compile the frog species lists, 15 native frog species have now been confirmed on Bribie Island. Interestingly, this is the same number of species which call North Stradbroke and Fraser Island home. Of these species, three threatened wallum (or acid) frogs, namely *Litoria olongburensis* (wallum sedgefrog), *Litoria freycineti* (wallum rocketfrog) and *Crinia tinnula* (wallum froglet), are found across most of Bribie Island. They occupy the extensive freshwater wetlands (or wallum wetlands) present on the island and are uniquely adapted to breed in the acidic, low nutrient water associated with these habitats. In addition, the paper draws attention to the intriguing ability of *Limnodynastes terraereginae* (scarlet-sided pobblebonk) on the island where it has been recorded breeding in the acidic water (pH of 3.5 and less) alongside the wallum frogs - something which most frog species cannot tolerate!

While significantly adding to the limited amount of published material on frogs of the dune islands, the paper is also important in discussing management issues in relation to the conservation of the frog fauna on Bribie Island. See below for the full reference of the publication:

Hines, H. B. and Meyer, E. A. (2011) The frog fauna of Bribie Island: an annotated list and comparison with other Queensland dune islands, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland*, 117 : 261-274.

Jesse Rowland



Litoria olongburensis (wallum sedgefrog).
Photo by Harry Hines.



Litoria freycineti (wallum rocketfrog). Photo by Harry Hines.



Ed Meyer conducting a monitoring survey of *Litoria obongburensis* on Bribie Island. Photo by Jesse Rowland.



From the Editor's Desk

The grass at our place seemed to have taken on a mind of its own (gone feral I think). Whilst mowing, I discovered quite a few baby *Litoria fallax* (eastern sedgefrogs) & *Limnodynastes peroneii* (striped marsh frogs), as well as adults, hiding in the long grass. I had to walk through the grass and clear them out as best I could before using the ride on mower (the things we frog fanatics do). I'm glad though, that some frog species seem to be doing quite well in certain areas.

The pond at our place was still noisy until the last lot of rain which caused the temperature to drop – no noise in the pond now. There were even green treefrogs out on the back landing. It seems as though the weather is unpredictable now.

Don't forget the Society is looking for a new Junior Editor. I am sure there a quite a few younger members who would be able to do this extremely well.

From our house to yours – hope you and yours are well.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 22ND AUGUST 2012

Til next time

Naomi

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