

# FrogSheet

# Highlights

Autumn 2000

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## BRISBANE FROG SURVEY RESULTS

### *Litoria alboguttata* Greenstripe Frog

No records and to date none recorded in Brisbane area. Appears very rare east of the Toowoomba escarpment. Are the historical records correct? If so, it is extinct within the Brisbane area. A very distinctive frog that our froggers would surely notice. Advice on near sightings to Brisbane needed badly.

### *Litoria brevipalmata* Green-thighed Frog

Karawatha Forest is the stronghold with several populations in the 11 to 30 range, Berrinba records a small population. Since the survey a single male located in Raven Street Reserve, Macdowell, N Brisbane. This needs constant monitoring. Is it an introduced isolate? An unconfirmed report from Mitchelton. We all know little about this seductive chocolate neon delight. Dr. Jean-Marc Hero is

conducting a radio frequency study of these elusive secretive crawlers. Our society has donated funds to this project. Where do they hide between heavy spring and summer rains? We are not sure of vegetation associations. National Park status for the Karawatha area must be obvious. This work will add greatly to our understanding of these wonderful frogs' habitat requirements. We look forward to the findings. We appeal for restraint and non-disturbance of the area and avoid transect and tag marks, please no close approach to this species.

### ***Litoria freycineti* Wallum Rocket Frog**

No observations during survey on Brisbane mainland or Moreton Island. Since, confirmed sighting by Robert Ashdown, on north Moreton Island. Good to confirm previous suspected sightings. It appears to be a disturbed Wallum area frog, a sand-based opportunist, acid tolerant, makes use of tyre track runnels. In competition with Striped Rocket, found in much lower densities, dominance may be in ratio of 30 to 1. A research project in itself. A rare and vulnerable frog. It is evident that a watchful eye is required on Moreton, Fraser, Stradbroke, Bribie and Cooloola sandlands. All areas outside the protection system should be notified.

### ***Litoria nasuta* Striped Rocket Frog**

Ranked 14 in observation level, were found in 16 survey areas, represented in 13.5% of regions. Massive populations on Moreton; could be the island's most common vertebrate. It is found there by all possible freshwater habitats; except soaks completely surrounded by large expanses of sterile sand dune. Even found by shallow pans within the range of salt laden spray - hence the description, *Litoria* or beach frog. Large populations of 100 plus, located in Murarrie and Heathwood; in the 11 to 30 range, Burbank, Lota, Mackenzie and Parkinson. Since the survey we confirm significant numbers in the Tinchy Tamba, Boondall Wetlands reserves and Lytton. Isolates since observed in the Brisbane Forest Park where it appears to be rare. Prefers lowland coastal wetland, is out competed in the hilly woodlands by Broad-palmed Rocket by a ratio of a possible 30 to 1. Extensive flat periodically flooded grassland and wallum areas are critical habitat types. We need no further loss of this land type within Brisbane. A frog not tolerant of urbanization. I am surprised by its absence from many areas.

### ***Litoria latopalmata* Broad-palmed Rocket Frog**

Ranked 10th in observation level, recorded in 23 areas, representing a presence in 19% of region surveyed. Biggest single population of 31 to 50 in Berrinba, colonies of 11 to 30 located in Anstead, Brisbane Forest Park, Burbank, Carole Park, Karawatha Forest and Parkinson, with smaller groups in Forest Lake. Predominately an open woodland species, that within the area appears to exhibit greatest densities on hilly terrain with rocky or stony substrates. Outside the Brisbane reserve system its future is not secure. The need to preserve Brisbane southern band of woodland and forest remains critical. This frog was found to be absent between the Brisbane and Pine River, very strange; any populations in this area should be notified.

### **Gordon Frost**

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**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE  
ENDANGERED SPECIES  
PROTECTION ACT 1992**

**(ONLY AMPHIBIANS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED FOR THE FROGSHEET)**

From The Australian Jan 21, 2000

Adding to 'Part 1 - Species that are endangered'

'Schedule 1 Listed species'

*Litoria castanea*, Yellow-spotted Treefrog

*Litoria rheocola*, Common Mistfrog

*Mixophyes fleayi*, Fleay's Barred-frog

*Mixophyes iteratus*, Giant Barred-frog

*Pseudophryne corroboree*, Southern Corroboree Frog

*Spicospina flammocaerulea*, Sunset Frog

Adding to 'Part 2 - Species that are vulnerable'

'Schedule 1 Listed Species'

*Heleioporus australiacus*, Giant Burrowing-frog

*Litoria littlejohni*, Littlejohn's Treefrog

*Litoria olongburensis*, Wallum Sedgefrog

*Litoria piperata*, Peppered Treefrog

*Litoria raniformis*, Southern Bell Frog

*Litoria verreauxii alpina*, Alpine Treefrog

*Mixophyes balbus*, Stuttering Frog

*Pseudophryne covacevichae*, Magnificent Broodfrog

*Pseudophryne pengilleyi*, Northern Corroboree Frog

*Taudactylus pleione*, Kroombit Tinker Frog

Deleting from 'Part 2 - Species that are endangered' and adding to 'Part 3 - Species that are presumed extinct' of 'Schedule 1 Listed Species'.

*Rheobatrachus sulus*, Gastric-brooding Frog

*Rheobatrachus vitellinus*, Eungella Gastric-brooding Frog

*Taudactylus acutirostris*, Sharp-snouted Day Frog

*Taudactylus diurnis*, Southern Day Frog

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## BOWMAN PARK DRAIN DECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

A concrete spoon drain at Bowman Park, Bowman Parade, Bardon has been removed and replaced by a series of rock lined ponds and planted with local trees, shrubs and grasses. The idea originally came from an article in Habitat Australia. The Australian Conservation Foundation was contacted for further information on the Restoring the Waters Project at Clear Paddock Creek, Sydney. (Habitat Australia, 1995:23,11) Using the same concepts, an approach was made to Councillor Judy Magup, Toowong Ward for the Bowman Park drain to be removed. While the council was supportive there was no policy on the removal of drains and no money. Together with Don Cain, a civil engineer, we persisted in presenting the proposal to council through formal applications and as seminars and workshops. In 1998, the project was put up for NHT funding with support from Waterways, BCC. While this did not gain NHT funding it did receive funding in the BCC 1999 Waterways budget. So persistence at last paid off for the Queensland Frog Society Inc. \$170,000 was allocated in the 1999 Waterways Program budget. The drain was removed in December 1999 and the majority of the project will be completed in March 2000.

The new creek system is a series of ponds lined with rocks or clay forming waterholes and riffles. The banks of the "creek" will be planted with native trees, shrubs and grasses to encourage re-

colonization by native fauna, particularly the frogs that breed in this park. Frogs breeding in the vicinity are Green Treefrogs (*Litoria caerulea*) and Graceful Treefrogs (*Litoria gracilentata*) in a grass-lined swath in the Park, while the creek supports breeding of Stony Creek (*Litoria lesueuri*), Eastern Sedge (*Litoria fallax*), Tusked (*Adelotus brevis*) and Striped Marsh (*Limnodynastes peronii*) frogs, as well as toads (*Bufo marinus*).

A successful planting day was organised by the Bardon Community Association on Australia Day with Council workers, members from 15 different community groups and local residents helping to plant 4000 plants.

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## TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING))))

Perhaps I can console myself with the fact that quality, not quantity, is the important attribute in life or is it that too much of a good thing can only end up being bad for you? Well if I kept dining at O'Reilly's guesthouse much longer I guess the latter statement could have been true. But no matter how I slice it, coming home to Melbourne after spending Frog Week at O'Reilly's just kind of leaves you a little flat, or perhaps I should say fat (the food was not only plentiful but so scrummy)! No, I'm afraid it's not much use, as much as I love my little toadlets (*Geocrinia victoriana* & *Psuedophrene semimarmorata*) my meagre handful of local species (and you really have to know where to look and be prepared to travel) pales when compared to the diversity of Lamington National Park. Well at least Victoria is now up to 35 species, which I believe places it marginally ahead of Lamington National Park on the tickers list.

But I have digressed from my original intent of writing about Frog Week at O'Reilly's only to wallow in self-pity. You see it all began when we landed at Coolangatta airport on the Saturday morning only to find it rainy and overcast; how exciting! We are a strange bunch aren't we, only those with green blood in their veins look out at those dark clouds and see a silver lining. Well silver wasn't exactly the colour more like red, black and yellow spots in the shape of a cross if you know what I mean. It was settled and seven hours later we drove into a very wet Chinchilla (somewhere in the middle of Queensland) and a very enthusiastic Queensland Frog Group field trip - what a coincidence!

Well I'm sure somebody from the Queensland Frog Group will be writing a piece on that fieldtrip so I will move on, which incidentally is a rather nasty habit Rob Morgan has. You see a large part of the night was spent driving along the dirt roads looking for frogs. Once spotted some, or everyone (depending on the frog and what stage of night it was) jumps out of the car to have a look. Here is a word of advice when travelling with Rob - never stray too far from the car and always get back in before he does - enough said. Well that was probably what the Police thought after they pulled us over. Let me paint the picture - 3am, dirt road in the middle of no-where, raining and here is a 4-wheel drive crawling along the road, full of people with spotlights - it's obvious really when you think about it - frogging of course. I can't understand why the Police doubted Rob's explanation.

Anyway after a few hours restless sleep dreaming about all those great Crucifix Frogs and a marathon photographic session we were back on the road to O'Reilly's guesthouse adjacent to Lamington National Park for the start of Frog Week - surely it can't get any better than this? How wrong can somebody be? Five days later and some 30 or more species on the tickers list (and they tell me conditions weren't great for frogs - talk about rub it in) provided me with many highlights.

Not the least of which was Harry Hines's find of a Masked Mountain Frog's (*Phyllorhina loveridgei*) tadpole nest or seeing the egg nests of Fleay's Barred Frog (*Mixophyes fleayi*). Perhaps it was Orange-eyed Green Tree Frogs (*Litoria chloris*) spawning (a common sight around those parts they tell me - I tried unsuccessfully not to look too excited) or was it the chorus at Rose & Joe's dam (was that seven species or eight, I can't remember now). No, probably the highlight was sharing the experience the small bunch of dedicated froggers who, it seems, make this pilgrimage on a regular basis (well when you're on a good thing stick to it). All this while under the guidance of such people as Woo and Peter O'Reilly, Harry Hines (Dept. of Environment), Craig Streatfeild (Griffith University), Ed Meyer (University of Queensland) and Dave Stewart (Nature Sound).

Looking for a little slice of froggers heaven, then I couldn't but recommend Frog Week at O'Reilly's!

**Craig Cleeland**

Healesville Sanctuary

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