

PRESIDENT REPORT by Ric Natrass

Spring...and as I type the rain is falling. Let's hope for a big summer. Frog populations battered by chytrid fungus need good breeding conditions if they are to survive. This will be my last "From the President". It's time for me to slide away and make room for some new ideas. I want to thank all members for their continued support of the society and especially the executive and area coordinators for their extra efforts. There have been some considerable achievements in the past four years. The cause of dreadful extinctions and declines has been pretty well sorted out and we have some very sharp and hard-working researchers to thank for the progress made in this regard. In Queensland they are Prof Rick Speare, Keith McDonald, Harry Hines, Ed Meyer, John Clarke and Jean-Marc Hero. No one is certain how the chytrid story will end and much of the effect will be out of human hands, however there is still the serious threat from habitat destruction and while humans can do a lot about that - the will just isn't there. We will see the Tugun bypass *bypass* the humans and run over the frogs and one (and the best) of only two populations of Green Thighed Frogs in Pine Rivers is about to go under houses, because, to provide the breeding space for the frogs would mean a serious reduction in profit for the developer. And doesn't that just make you weep? We can be grateful that the Queensland Government made the right decision not to allow the sale of frogs in pet shops, but we had to lobby hard to avoid that potential disaster. Wouldn't that have been great? "Help swirl the chytrid around ladies and gentlemen - buy a pet frog today!" Frogs arrived before the dinosaurs and have survived to the present. They deserve better than to be annihilated by big fat roads and yet more houses. You can help just by maintaining your concern and your membership in this society - please do just that! Cheers Ric Natrass.

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

Diary Dates



Oct 16/17

QFS Camp Out to Goomburra. Phone Stefan on 3891 6853 or Rod on 3264 6391 for info.

Nov 13/14

QFS Camp Out to North Stradbroke Island. Please confirm with Rod or Stefan as prior bookings are required for barge etc.

Dec 11

QFS Christmas Get Together. An informal gathering at Minnippi Parklands, Tingalpa from approx. 3.30pm. BYO BBQ dinner and drinks. Phone Jenny on 3366 1868 for further info. QFS posters will be available for new members.
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



New Members

The Queensland Frog Society Inc. welcomes the following new members:

Christine Hosking
Emily Thomson
Elizabeth Snow
Pamela Elliott
Gregory O'Brien
Paulina Streten
Anna McNally
Trevor & Lynette Matthews
Joy & John Gard
Tammy Johnston
Rowena Langan
Ian Gorrie
Margaret Walsh

Coordinators Reports

Gold Coast

Hello fellow members, my name is Shane Ho and I have recently taken on the position of co-ordinator for the Gold Coast. My partner Karen and I have been members of QFS since January 2001. We are also members of Wildcare with Karen being the Treasurer and Macropod Co-ordinator and surprise surprise, I am the Frog Co-ordinator.

As I'm sure is the case for other members, becoming a froggy person isn't something that I had planned on doing but more something that just happened. It all came about when we moved into our house at Burleigh Waters. We received a letter from a relative of the old couple that had owned the house previously, explaining how they loved the little frogs that lived in the garden, particularly in the grapefruit tree. Of course we had to go out and have a search and you can imagine how surprised we were to eventually find one (*Litoria fallax*). Neither one of us had seen a frog for many years. Plans to remove the grapefruit tree were put on hold and we started to spray it with water regularly.

Things continued like that for a while and then one day when it poured with rain an old concrete laundry tub that had been sunken into the garden filled with water and there was a chorus of approx. fifty frogs. From the occasional sighting of one or two frogs we were quite surprised to see so many but the happiness was short lived. Unfortunately the tub was not very good at retaining water so it seemed that all the frogs' hard work had been in vain. Subsequently there were several attempts to raise 'rescued' tadpoles that ended in tragedy. We obviously needed help and with a bit of searching discovered that there were two frog groups in SE Qld, QFS and RANA. At that stage RANA were holding monthly meetings at a local Gold Coast school. Seeing that this was a lot easier than driving to Brisbane, off we went to the next meeting with our container rescued tadpoles, about fifty, to be identified. Judy soon had us on the right track with her advice and wouldn't you know it we were soon raising tadpoles through to metamorphosis successfully, very exciting indeed.

It seemed that we had officially metamorphosed into froggy people. Well the leaky tub and the grapefruit tree had seen better days so it seemed that we had no choice but to do away with them but of course they got upgraded. A permanent pond was built and frog friendly plants were incorporated into the surrounding garden. It also didn't take long before other froggy changes started happening. Large pots that had neglected plants in them were soon emptied and sealed and now contain water plants. The bare spot under the mango tree where the grass just wouldn't grow is now amass with bromeliads. Large drums and bathtubs were placed to gather rainwater from both the patio and shed. Of course there are also the mandatory plastic clamshells that get strewn around as well. Is it just me or do we all have untidy yards because the frogs say they prefer it that way?

While all this was happening we also became members of Wildcare and are involved in rescue and rehabilitation of native animals. I care for the frogs and turtles, while Karen predominantly cares for macropods (kangaroos, wallabies, pademelons) and koalas. In my roll as the Frog Co-ordinator I have taken frogs into care that have been sick or injured. Some of the injuries to frogs were caused by things such as, being squashed in doorways and brick piles, going through driveway gate rollers, cat and dog attacks, being sprayed with pesticide.

Of course unfortunately some of the frogs were beyond repair and required euthanasia but there were also some happy endings as well, here are a few. 'Slash' was found at a school with a cut leg and was kept as school project until the teacher finally realised that they weren't helping and that he was getting worse, he healed up reasonably despite the initial set back.

'Black Beard' was squashed in a doorway and had a badly haemorrhaged eye and injured foreleg, he looked like he could do with an eye patch and a hook but we couldn't find a pirate vet, so with a bit of care his eye cleared up considerably and he regained sufficient use of his arm.

'Louie' like his namesake Louie the Fly was unfortunate enough to get a dose of insecticide, luckily the only damage was external but these days he is a two tone, brown sides with a green top.

Frog activity has been slow through winter. In our yard there has been a Tusked frog (*Adelotis brevis*) start to call recently from the pond, a few Sedge frogs (*Litoria fallax*) have started to let out reluctant calls from the mango tree and the few tadpoles that had wintered over are getting tired of swimming about waiting for the weather to warm up. With all the fires of late one in particular went through the Carrara flood plain, we have friends whose house backs onto it and I know that there are definitely Sedge and Striped Marsh frogs in there so I will be interested to see how they fared and will be keeping an eye on that one.

Also the other night we took a koala out to Nerang Reserve for release. I was surprised to hear Sedge frogs (*Litoria fallax*), Emerald Spotted tree frogs (*Litoria peronii*) and Common Eastern froglets (*Crinia signifera*) all calling out as though it were a rainy summer night.

We are currently in the process of selling our house and will be moving to acreage at Tallebudgera Valley, which will be better suited to caring for the animals. I am looking forward to finding out what species of frogs will be there. Hopefully whoever buys our current house will also like frogs and continue to keep a home for them.

Any local members should feel free to introduce themselves and I also look forward to hearing from other members if I can be of any assistance.

Coordinators Reports (continued)

Ashgrove

Well the ponds are clean and ready for the fabulous summer we are going to have! You might think I am dreaming but you do have to have a dream while the dry and windy weather sticks around! On the odd days, I do hear the Tusked frogs and Striped Marsh, but I think they are just trying out their voices to see if they still work.

As Secretary, I have been quite busy over the past three months with phone calls and email enquiries on all aspects regarding frogs and the Society. I am away for a few weeks recharging my batteries for another busy year and will be back in the office from the 3rd week in October. Happy Frogging!

Jenny

Cooloola

For the first time in one and a half years, we've had to have water delivered. And being the optimist that I am, I only ordered one load and low and behold, today it's raining....Yay!!! No frogs were heard through Winter – however since this rain, there's bit a bit of noise from the pipes (Green treefrogs) and water hole and my husband Bill said he had to dodge them on the roads on his way back from Brisbane.

Also pleased to mention we saw an echidna down at the creek about a month ago. It was great to show the boys and sit and watch him quietly going about his feeding antics.

We've also recently spotted a large carpet python weaving its way up a shovel..... (unsuccessfully of course) to get up into the shed roof.

Leanne

GOT A GREEN SPOT?

This is just a gentle reminder that your membership is due and that this might be your last Frogsheet. Please ignore this reminder if you have posted yours recently.

The Society values your support and it is only through membership numbers that we can continue the work to help our native frogs.

Thank you to the members who have renewed. We do have many members who have supported the society for over 5 years and some for as long as 14.



This photo of the Nutterjack Toad was emailed to us by Janet White. Its at Powfoot on the Solway Firth, Scotland.

If you have any interesting pics, please send them to us by post or email the newsletter ed. (addresses page 1)

FROG JOKES

Q Why did the frog cross the road?

A To see his flat mate!

.....

Bill is walking down the street with a frog hanging out his pocket.

Fred saw Bill and asked "Why do you have a frog hanging out your pocket?"

Bill replied "I'm taking it to the zoo."

Next day Fred sees Bill walking down the street again with the frog hanging out his pocket.

So Fred comments "I thought you said you were taking the frog to the zoo."

Bill replies "Yeah I did, and today we're going to the movies."

Got any frog jokes? Send them to us by post or email the newsletter ed (addresses page 1)

Secretary's Snippets



QFS Christmas Get Together

Join us for an informal gathering at Minnippi Parklands, Tingalpa on **Saturday 11 December** from around 3.30pm.

BYO BBQ dinner and drinks. Phone Jenny on 3366 1868 for further info. QFS Posters will be avail for new members.

The wonderful colour heading on the Frogsheet has been printed for QFS free of costs by

ASCOT PRINT & DESIGN P/L

Phone 3266 6666

Have you seen a sick or dying Frog?

Mass mortality events from the chytrid fungus occur this time of year, particularly months of July through to September.

BE ALERT AND REPORT ANY FINDINGS TO QFS!!!



QFS Trust Fund

The balance now stands at \$4,846.19

Many thanks to those who have contributed to the fund.

Donations Accepted

The Queensland Frog Society Inc. may receive tax deductible donations of \$2.00 or more, property and bequests. Your donations will assist in research, education and helping to save our frogs. Cheques may be made payable to: **Qld Frog Society Public Trust Fund**

Frogs in Chorus *By Banjo Paterson*

The chorus frogs in the big lagoon
Would sing their songs to the silvery moon.
Tenor singers were out of place,
For every frog was a double bass.
But never a human chorus yet
Could beat the accurate time they set.
The solo singer began the joke;
He sang, "As long as I live I'll croak,
Croak, I'll croak,"
And the chorus followed him: "Croak, croak,
croak!"

The poet frog, in his plaintive tone,
Sang of a sorrow was all his own;
"How shall I feed my spirit's fire?"

And the solo frog in his deepest croak,
"To fire your spirit," he sang, "eat coke,
Coke, eat coke,"
And the chorus followed him: "Coke, coke,
coke!"

The green frog sat in a swampy spot
And he sang the song of he knew not what.
"The world is rotten, oh cursed spite,
That I am the frog that must set it right.
How shall I scatter the shades that lurk?"
And the old man bullfrog sang, "Get work,
Work, get work,"
And the chorus followed him: "Work, work,
work!"

The soaring spirits that fain would fly
On wings of hope to the starry sky
Must face the snarls of the jealous dogs,
For the world is ruled by its chorus frogs.

3rd National Conference for Frog Groups

By Jenny

Holdway

This was held in Sydney at the Australian Museum on July 31 August 1 and Rod Pattison and Jenny Holdway represented the Queensland Frog Society.

There were representatives from groups in other States as well as the Scientific Advisory Panel and the Educational Working Group. We were all given time on the first day to give a presentation and some of the speakers brought the audience up to date on their on-going programs, as well as new educational programs. Rod Pattison discussed the changes in Queensland to the Wildlife Conservation Act, as we thought it was important that other States be kept up to date on law changes.

The second day was focused mainly on the development of a national frogs network, which possibly will be named "Frogs Australia Network". Martin Harris, the Conservation Project Manager, said "it is anticipated that this network will be an independent organization, supporting frog conservation actions across Australia. It is important that a national network be owned, operated and built by the frog community and its stakeholders".

The whole group was shown the website being developed and it was apparent that this website will be a great tool for the 'new' frog enthusiasts, teachers and the very informed. In groups, we discussed other ideas for improvement and I am sure the Webmaster will use our suggestions.

The conference was the formal conclusion of the "WWF Frogs! Program" and the start to the new "Frogs Australia Network". It finished with a question and answer time with the Scientific Advisory Panel who have now completed their long task of cataloging the status of all the Australian native frogs. One message from the panel was quite clear – there is a need to continue surveying, especially in some remote areas, as the frog species and numbers are not known.

Not all the discussions were in a formal situation, as much information was gained by talking to the frog experts during the coffee breaks and meals. Martin ran a well thought out, but low-key conference and I am sure everyone went away with ideas for their frog group. Once the website is up and running, we will place the web address in the Frogsheet.

PS: Harold Cogger will be updating his Reptiles and Amphibians book in the near future – keep an eye out for it.

If undeliverable, return to
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Frogsheet – Spring 04
Print Post Approved
PP424022/00619

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