

# Frogsheet Highlights - Winter 2000

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Doleful weather for my local frogs, where did the electric rains and downpour go?

Significant events over the past quarter.

- GST and its probable inflationary factor caused the society much concern, the debate continues. The society will try to keep our tax costs to a minimum, hopefully we keep additional costs to members low.
- Frog Symposium 2 - Another great opportunity to advertise our commitment to the welfare of frogs through science and social ecology. Preliminary planning is in progress and we expect to have details available in the next issue, January 2001 is the target month.
- RANA, 6th May- The hand of friendship extended and a common concern for the environment expressed; proposed a greater union of conservation groups to use our collective strength to effect change. I have invited their members to our field camps to enjoy our unforgettable frog hunts.
- Celebration, 10 years old and the AGM coincide in September. A dinner party of sorts will follow after the meeting.
- The ethic of no transportation of frogs for other than sound scientific reason, is now a central tenant of our society.

- The seminar on frog pathology in August in Cairns should provide some further insight into why some species are particularly prone to extinction. A frontier area of science, with little funding and even less scientific knowledge.
- The programs of reform that we envisage, require a high input of human capital; in short we need more people to assist the society, please consider volunteering your services.

**Gordon Frost**

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## Co-Ordinators Reports

### **Pine Rivers**

The phone calls have gradually decreased over the last month or so with the weather becoming cooler. Have had a couple of calls from schools in that time wanting tadpoles. Our pond in John Bray Park looks like it will be a success as there have been froglets emerging already. We have also had the Council erect a small fence to keep the bikes out - but I'll have to request no mowers too. Had a phone call today from Karen Lowe about doing re-vegetation around the pond but have yet to talk to her.

I am going to have Shelley Mills helping with the job of Area Co-Ordinator and she has her report following this. We both met this morning with Helen Webster of Mungarra Reserve Management advisory Committee and she showed us an area of concern on the Reserve. The area must be a wonderful habitat for the frogs there, so we will talk more to David Dwyer about this.

**Laraine Dodd**

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Talking with our local councilor (David Dwyer) and expressing concerns I have for a number of frog breeding areas has lead to monthly meetings to discuss the local councils plans for work to be carried out in some of these sites.

A number of local residents, frog society members and Councilor Dwyer met together in March and April to talk about things relating to frogs. One being the area of Water St and Mac's Lane Kallangur where five species of frogs have been observed from November last year. Laraine and I had seen on one occasion hundreds of tadpoles (no toads) in temporary pools around Water St and also in the

backyard at a house in Mac's Lane. Residents at this house were unhappy with water sitting in their backyard and wanted the council to correct the problem of poor drainage. David Dwyer had said that the Frog Society would be contacted if any work on correcting the water drainage problem was to be carried out, as this would affect the tadpoles of the Graceful, Ornate, Striped Marsh, Green Tree and Tusked Frogs. Sadly no-one called to say when work was to be done and the result was the death of almost all of the tadpoles. A large trench was dug behind the fence, this drained water from the yard very well and the next day there wasn't a drop to be seen.

David Dwyer advised me that the trench had been dug too large and it fell on private land so now there are large mounds of dirt which have filled the trench. So the frog population in this site have been badly affected. The Councilor has assured me that something will be done to provide temporary pools again for the frogs to breed.

Osprey House Environmental Centre has requested the help of the Frog Society to improve an existing pond area. The problem being water not holding for the tadpole cycle. It is hoped that the pond be functional for the summer breeders later this year.

Mungarra Reserve is the next meeting place where we will look at a proposed pond site. It has been said that frogs breed fine just the way things are, so as a group we are interested in any future plans the local council have and how they may affect frogs living in this reserve.

At a Main Roads old quarry site, eight species of frogs have been recorded. The site was used as a dumping ground for old cars, fridges, chemical drums, etc, but has been cleaned up, fenced off and Greening Australia has planted many trees. Frogs found at the site are Beeping, Clicking, Sedge, Graceful, Striped Rocket, Naked Treefrog, Striped Marsh, Chubby Gungan and Sandy Gungan.

**Shelley Mills**

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## Central Queensland

Although the frogs have been very quiet with the cool nights, I have had an overwhelming response from people wanting more information. So far I have given four talks to schools and one talk to a kindergarten. The children have shown great enthusiasm. Here is a bit from one of the schools I attended. Clinton State Primary School (Gladstone district), Grade 1S - Green Frogs, enjoyed learning about frogs. Some of the things they liked most were:

- the story;
- how toads eggs are in long strings of jelly;
- how frogs eggs are in a clump; how frogs have four fingers and five toes;
- how a frogs tongue pops out.

Grade 1S - Green Frogs have received permission to put in a small pond. Well done Green Frogs.

Boyne Island Eco-Fest is on Sunday 4th June where I will set up a small display. A frog species list is now available for this district, thanks to John Clarke (from QPWS). The finishing touches are being put to a Central Queensland plant species list for in and around ponds.

Our first ID workshop is planned for around October. Dates will be available closer to the time. I'm looking forward to getting new members in this district so we can become active froggers and learn together.

**Jodi.**

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## **Gold Coast**

Hello to everyone, I'm Sue, the new coordinator for the Gold Coast. Not only new coordinator but new member also. With some help from Jenny and Dawn I hope I'll be of some help not only to the frogs but also to the society. I met Jenny for the first time last week when I accompanied her to Coomera State School where she gave a talk to some of the pupils. The kids were really into it and well informed)which brings me to another point. I received a call from the Bird Sanctuary recently, they were concerned about spawn and tadpoles being moved about in the name of education, and the subsequent frogs being released into areas other than their origin. Particular concerns about spreading fungal disease, but also homing instinct and whether these activities were in fact appropriate. She mentioned ideas about getting info to the schools regarding this. Could I suggest that anyone who is aware of school kids doing this make some mention to the teachers or children involved, it's a start. I would love to hear from any local members so please feel free to give me a call.

Till next time, bye.

**Susan Sinclair**

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## **Boonah Trip Report - April 8/9**

The Boonah Campout was situated on a beautiful 400 acre property approximately 17km south of the Boonah Township on the Boonah/Rathdowney Road. It consisted of a very unique diversity of vegetation and landscape including rocky sandstone escarpment, dry eucalypt forest, riparian gullies and open farming pastures.

Being very dry, we didn't expect to see or hear many frogs, but that still didn't deter our determination to find something. Between the four of us, being Gordon Frost, Rod Patterson, Joanna Morgan and myself, we managed to locate 12 species, 2 of these were Striped Marsh and the Great Brown Broodfrog which were calling. The other 10 were found in and around the homestead where the owner, Sheila Adams gave us a quick tour to show us all the frog hide-outs.

Overall the property has great potential to pick up at least 26 species, so we will organise a return trip when it warms up around October/November. We have also been informed by Sheila that there is a good population of the rare Green Striped Frog found on the property.

The total list of frogs on the property include:

- Emerald-spotted Treefrog
- Green Treefrog
- Bleating Treefrog
- Naked Treefrog
- Eastern Sedgefrog
- Broad-palmed Rocketfrog
- Stoney-creek Frog
- Great Brown Broodfrog
- Clicking froglet
- Spotted Marshfrog
- Striped Marshfrog
- Cane toad

Thank you so much Sheila for putting up with us and organising the camp ground.

**Rob Morgan**

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THIS YEAR THE QFS CELEBRATES OUR 10TH YEAR

WE WILL CONDUCT OUR AGM AND FOLLOW WITH A SPECIAL CELEBRATION  
DINNER

WE ARE ORGANISING A SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER TO ATTEND.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT WILL BE POSTED OUT TO ALL FINANCIAL MEMBERS IN  
JULY...

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