

Every year I get a few enquiries from people asking if I can supply them with tadpoles so they can establish a frog pond. This is the most common enquiry I receive as a co-ordinator. When people make this enquiry I always explain the risk of spreading the Chytrid fungus if frogs or tadpoles are moved.

Unfortunately, most people who contact me with enquiries about frogs have never heard of the Chytrid fungus. This even includes schoolteachers who sometimes ask if I can supply tadpoles for a school frog pond. There really needs to be a lot more public education on the Chytrid fungus as well as on the restrictions that apply to moving frogs and tadpoles under the Nature Conservation Act.

The standard advice I have always given to people is to build a frog pond and the frogs will eventually come. Although people are always grateful for this advice, they sound a little disappointed because they were hoping for faster results.

Michael Kels (Logan City Co-ordinator)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PATRON

Dr Glen Ingram

PRESIDENT

Pearl Symonds
pearl66@bigpond.net.au

VICE PRESIDENTS

Julia Squires
juliasquires@gmail.com
 Anne Stewart
annestewart@netspace.net.au

SECRETARY

Jenny Holdway 07 3366 1868
qldfrogs@bigpond.net.au

TREASURER

Karen Tibbits 07 3359 0658

WEBSITE

www.qldfrogs.asn.au

POSTAL ADDRESS

Qld Frog Society Inc
 PO Box 7017
 East Brisbane
 Qld 4169

NEWSLETTER

Naomi Nebe
hi-way@bigpond.net.au

QFS SHOP SALES

Jenny Holdway
 07 3366 1868

CONTENTS

Co-ordinators	2
Diary	2
Snippets	3
President's Report	3-4
Reports & Happenings	4-9
Items for Sale (Christmas Wish list)	8-9
Frogshop	insert

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.



SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.

MAY YOUR STOCKINGS BE FULL OF FROGGING GEAR!



AREA CO-ORDINATORS

ASHGROVE

Jenny Holdway – 3366 1868
qldfrogs@bigpond.net.au

BRISBANE CENTRAL

Stefan Durtschi – 3891 6853
comlab@optusnet.com.au

CABOOLTURE/BRIBIE ISLAND

Pauline Fitzgibbon – 3886 9340
pauline.fitzgibbon@epa.qld.gov.au

CHERMSIDE

James Hansen – 0427827443
jamna@powerup.com.au

ESK

Jason Richard – 5424 2373
JRichard@skm.com.au

GOLD COAST

Shane Ho – 5533 8125(AH)

IPSWICH

Ric Natrass – 3288 4100
natrass@ine.com.au

LOGAN CITY

Michael Kels – 327 6752
nature@auswww.com

MOUNT GRAVATT

Janet Willoughby – 3343 3949
janet@codingo.net

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Tyrone Lavery
tyrone.lavery@naturalsolutions.com.au

PINE RIVERS

Rod Pattison – 3264 6391
rpattison@optusnet.com.au

REDLANDS

Steve Homewood – 3824 0522
bhomewoo@bigpond.net.au

SUNSHINE COAST

Desley Fricke – 5493 0031 (Glasshouse)
fricked@bigpond.com.au
 Patricia Espin – 5446 7908 (North Arm)
espin@iinet.net.au

UPPER BROOKFIELD

Phil Bird frogphil@gmail.com

KOORALBYN/BEAUDESERT

Pam Elliott possumsplace@bigpond.com

DIARY DATES

FROG HABITAT SITE WORKING BEES

Bowman Park, Bardon

from 8-10.30am. Feb 8, Apr 5
 Contact Phil or Jenny for more info

Grinstead Park, Alderley (off Shand St).

First Sunday every other month from 9-11.30am.
 Feb 8, Apr 5.
 Contact Janet 3355 1884
janwhite@bigpond.net.au

Carseldine Bush Crew

First Saturday every month 8am-9.30am-Jan 3,
 Feb 7 Meet where creek crosses
 Dorville Rd. ALL WELCOME
 Contact James Hansen for more info
jamna@powerup.com.au/ 04278274433

QFS MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

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

CITYSMART NEIGHBOURHOOD FAIRS

22 Feb – Parkinson Ward, details to be confirmed
 15 Mar – The Gap Ward, details to be confirmed
 5 Apr – Walter Taylor Ward, details to be confirmed
 24 May – Holland Park Ward, details to be confirmed

Please note - Diary Dates & Venues are also on the QFS website which is constantly updated so please check between newsletters. Please let Jenny know of other suitable dates (or submit them yourself on the events page).

FROG CAMPS

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)

31/01/09-1/02/09 Girraween NP headquarters camp area – Western frogs
 21/02/09-22/02/09 Harry's Hut Noosa River/Great Sandy NP – Acid frogs
 14/03/09-15/03/09 Christmas Creek-Stinson Park camp area – Altitude frogs

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.

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

SPONSORS

The colour heading on the Frogsheet has been kindly
Printed free of charge by
ASCOT PRINT & DESIGN P/L

World Wetlands Day – February 8th – Nudgee Beach Parklands, Nudgee. 12 noon-7pm. Amazing World Music, children's activities, food etc. QFS display & sales

QFS SCHOLARSHIPS

The QFS Trust Fund was created to help save frogs through education and research. It is now open to interested applicants. Two grants of \$1000 are available. 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 **\$8050.21** thanks to the generous donations from a member, Riverfest & Fred the donation bin.

NEW MEMBERS

Julia Macdonald-Buchanan, Linda Conrad, Ranald Cameron, Robert Whyte, Paul & Barbara Wells, Barrs Family, Jenny Gall, Terence Jackson, Jack & Helen Marinak



Truly amazing!!!! This is a real deadlock situation.

A cat-eyed tree-snake locked in an embrace with a Morelet's treefrog - a critically endangered species.

Photo by David Maitland (UK) (winner in the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year 'Behaviour: Other Animals' category).

What a beautiful frog

Steve H.

.....
Fauna of Australia 2A Amphibia and Reptilia is available online at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/publications/fauna-of-australia/fauna-2a.html>.

You can download the whole book or the chapters you are interested in.
.....

President's Report

Well Summer IS upon us and don't we know it! But I can only feel happy for the frogs - after all, the weather we have had in the last few weeks has been awful for humans but great for them! The local flood area near the railway line is chockas full of treefrog and Ornate burrowing frog tadpoles, and this year there will be enough water for them to develop right through to metamorphosis. I have not yet been out to check the other breeding sites in my area but I expect them to be the same. Now is the time to find out what frogs live and breed in your area, but please be careful about where and when you choose to look. Remember, if you can't

forge your way up a reed infested drainage ditch you can always get a recording of the calls you hear coming from there and pass it on to one of our co-ordinators or even play it over the phone. This is also the time to watch out for toads breeding and removing any spawn (eggs) you may find belonging to them; it is much easier to pull out strings of eggs than to watch in despair a few months down the track when the ground is covered in moving toadlets.

The QFS has been having some fun lately; Ed Meyer gave a presentation on the Acid frogs last week (16th) to the Southside WPSQ at Indigiscapes. Ed is a wealth of knowledge and a great advocate for frog issues. Of importance is the sad tale of Brown lake on Stradbroke Island and the introduction of Mosquito fish; the Plague minnow has quietly decimated the unique aquatic fauna of the area and knocked off most of the frogs breeding there as well. It is a telling reminder that the loss of frogs is a site-by-site phenomenon and our frogs are facing a barrage of challenges that they cannot adapt to quickly enough.

Yesterday we had a very pleasant afternoon at Alma Park Zoo, the manager (who I only know as Gary), kindly entertained us with some of the animal exhibits, a fat diamond python and a fresh water crocodile and allowed us free viewing of the zoo collection. We had a BBQ (Sausage sizzle) and then had a spot light of the grounds. Unfortunately we probably missed the ideal time for frog activity by about 24-48 hours but there was plenty of evidence that there were robust breeding populations of sedge frogs and Striped marshfrogs, and plenty of strange exotic animal noises in the darkness as well. Unfortunately there were also very healthy numbers of cane toads. The zoo grounds have a great potential to support breeding populations of a wide range of native frog species so it will be interesting to see if anything results from our visit. All I know is that there were two very happy people (an eight and twelve year old) on the way home, they had a great time.

We finally were able to get together for a management meeting before the end of the year. My daughters asked me what they were for and what we did - naturally my reply was: "we plot on how we are going to take over the world". Just kidding. There is always plenty to talk about though and I would like to welcome our new minutes secretary- code named Jedi whilst I'm here. On the subject of administration we do need members to log on and update their details, you can select if you do or don't want to be involved in QFS activities or receive email news. If the website is used appropriately we can inform members quickly and efficiently and hopefully save on trees by using electricity instead! (One day, when we have a solar and wind supplied electricity grid, this will actually be a good thing). We also understand that not everyone has email and not everyone wants his or her contact details to be used and we can work with that.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a safe storm season, a fun filled frogging Summer and a hopping New Year and that everyone will be back in 2009 refreshed and inspired.

Your President – Pearl

CHERMSIDE AND SURROUNDS

In the Winter edition of Frogsheet, I mentioned plans were underway to enlarge and deepen a treefrog breeding site in Seventh Brigade Park, Chermside. The ephemeral breeding pond within mown grassland appeared to be the park's only remaining large breeding area last Summer and the water level did not appear to be sufficient to allow tadpoles to reach maturity.

I am very pleased to announce that after consultation with Brisbane City Council, works were undertaken in early October to restore the frog pond and ensure a more reliable water supply this Summer. In fact, the pond area was enlarged, turfed and planted with a Lomandra border just in time for a storm to fill the pond!

The early arrival of Summer rains has kicked off a lot of frog activity and - in breaking news – the new pond now has hundreds of frog tadpoles that I believe are Graceful Treefrog and Striped Marshfrog tadpoles!! I also recorded Green Treefrogs nearby in mid-October, so hopefully they'll be breeding at the pond soon. Unfortunately, I have seen a large number of cane toad tadpoles in the pond and I've since collected five adult toads visiting the pond.

In Fitzgibbon, I recently surveyed an area that is part of a newly announced Urban Development Area (UDA). In an effort to fast-track development and bring land to market to address housing affordability, the State Government is excising large areas under the planning control of Councils and is implementing their own plans through their own newly formed development assessment authority (ULDA). There are no appeal rights for anyone who makes a submission against a development in one of these areas under the new legislation governing UDA's! The only upside for local residents is that there will soon be a "community reference group" formed for consultation.

The frog survey recorded Graceful Treefrogs, Green Treefrogs, Eastern Sedgefrogs, Beeping Froglets, Broad-palmed Rocketfrogs and Striped Marshfrogs. The Fitzgibbon UDA contains some significant Melaleuca wetland and a large tract of remnant forest that is recognized as an Endangered Regional Ecosystem. This would ordinarily be protected under State legislation, however Queensland's Integrated Planning Act has been amended to exempt vegetation clearing in a UDA!! Keep an eye out for a UDA coming to an area near you. I'll keep you posted on the fate of our Fitzgibbon frogs in future editions.

James Hansen



The new Chermside frog pond

BRISBANE VALLEY

The good news from the Brisbane Valley is that a few early season storms have been enough to get the frogs moving again. After a pretty quiet Winter, it's good to hear something other than Eastern Sign-bearing Froglets (*Crinia parinsignifera*). We have certainly reaped the rewards of allowing frogs to breed in the kids' pool through late Summer and early Autumn, and enjoy a strong chorus of Eastern Sedgefrogs (*Litoria fallax*) and Naked Treefrogs (*Litoria rubella*) already with the slightest shower. Other early callers are Sandy Gungan (*Uperoleia fusca*), who seem to have infiltrated our yard for the first time, and increased significantly in abundance following a really solid wet season earlier this year. Talking to a number of landholders through the valley indicates that frog numbers are up on the last few years, which is great to hear. Earlier this year I was lucky to observe a farm dam surrounded by 200-300 Green Treefrogs (*Litoria caerulea*) which was one of the highlights of my surveys across the valley so far. It's interesting how quickly the landscape recovers from severe drought, and the fauna have certainly responded. Snakes of all persuasions are noticeably more abundant this year when compared to the past few years, and we enjoy living alongside such challenging neighbours!

A quick frogging session around Esk on the 8th November returned some fantastic results, the full complement included Beeping Froglet (*Crinia parinsignifera*), Spotted Grassfrog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*), Ornate

Burrowing Frog (*Limnodynastes ornatus*), Striped Marshfrog (*Limnodynastes peronii*), Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes terraereginae*), Great Brown Broodfrog (*Pseudophryne major*), Sandy Gungan, Short-footed Frog (*Cyclorana brevipes*), Green Treefrog, Eastern Sedgefrog, Graceful Treefrog (*Litoria gracilentata*), Striped Rocketfrog (*Litoria nasuta*), Broad-palmed Frog (*Litoria latopalmata*), Emerald-spotted Treefrog (*Litoria peronii*) and Naked Tree Frog. I picked up all of these species within 1 hour of searching around Redbank Creek, which flows through some nice Queensland Blue Gum Woodlands to the west of Esk.

Outside the valley I had a once in a lifetime opportunity to work on a fauna survey in the Victoria River region of the Northern Territory where I met a range of frogs for the first time including the Pale Frog (*Litoria pallida*), Flat-headed Frog (*Limnodynastes depressus*), Flood Plain Toadlet (*Uperoleia inundata*), Bilingual Froglet (*Crinia bilingua*) and Northern Spadefoot Toad (*Notaden melanoscaphus*). The Flat-headed Frog was a terrific find and I now count myself as one of the lucky few who have encountered this species in the wild. Another interesting observation was that the Bilingual Froglet was very strongly diurnal and regularly recorded basking on rocks in the open during the heat of the day. This is certainly strange when you consider the cryptic habitats of most *Crinia* species in the south of the continent.

Jason Richard

SUNSHINE COAST

As I sit here and contemplate putting pen to paper, the rain is gently falling and I am being serenaded by Eastern sedgefrogs and Graceful treefrogs. A big hi to all froggy followers. If weather predictions are right, we are in for a big rainfall this Summer. Great news for our amphibian friends. I receive a lot of queries regarding people wanting tadpoles, so I thought I would share my own frog pond experiences with you. When I moved to North Arm about 10 years ago, I was delighted to have large Green treefrogs clinging onto the windows of our house at night, in the warmer months of the year. The property had previously been used to grow herbs on quite a large scale, hence the crops were being continually watered. I believe this is why we had a big population of Green treefrogs. On many a hot Summer night when raining, the frogs would get busy and lay eggs in anything that contained water. On many mornings I would awaken to find jelly like masses in a couple of terracotta plant trays, only about 4cm's deep.

Out came the broccoli boxes to house the tadpoles, as they hatched from their jelly nest. Of course I have boiled many a pot of lettuce leaves to feed tadpoles. I found the broccoli box an excellent way to keep track of what was going on with the tadpoles, i.e.: the different growth rates of tadpoles, along with the legs forming, also how the changes in weather would affect them. Hot, wet, steamy weather certainly brings on a big growth spurt for many of the taddies. I have spent many a Winter feeding tadpoles until the weather has warmed up again. Don't be discouraged by the thought of boiling lettuce all Winter long, as during the colder weather the tadpoles feeding is greatly reduced. Back 10 years ago I noted only Green treefrogs and Eastern sedgefrogs on the property.

Two frog ponds, made from plastic washing up bowls were installed around the garden. It wasn't long before the Striped marshfrogs found these ponds and began calling. Also, to my delight, I discovered this very white, stiff foam nest in one of the ponds one morning. It came complete with its own small blackish, brown frog. After much research I discovered it was a male Tusked frog sitting guarding his nest. There was no way I could ever give up my fascination for these marvellous creatures.

For my birthday 4 years ago, I requested that a larger frog pond be built. In came the backhoe and dug out a 4 x 3 metre hole in the ground underneath a large tulip wood tree. It is about a metre deep in the middle with shallows all around the outer edge of the pond. We purchased a large pond liner from Bunnings, a load of river rocks and plants to grace the edges of the pond. Well, 4 years on we now have Green treefrogs, Eastern sedgefrogs by the hundreds, Striped marshfrogs, Tusked frogs, and Desert treefrogs and, recently moved in over the past 12 months, Graceful treefrogs. I am surely in frog heaven. Just this morning I picked up a tiny Striped marshfrog hopping around the pergola and took him over to the pond to cool off.

If you have ever contemplated building a frog pond I urge you to get cracking and do so now. I not only have a larger frog population than 10 years ago, I can often watch birds wandering around the pond and diving in for a cool off. I have also noted several new species of lizards not previously seen here before, along with dragon fly nymphs (not popular with tadpoles), and various other water creatures that I have no idea what they are called. We have seen a ringtail possum swim across the pond at night as well as several dogs enjoy a swim along with the tadpoles.

So to everyone out there that wants tadpoles, build a frog pond and before you know it you too will be graced with these marvellous creatures.

Trish Espin

ASHGROVE

At Bowman Park we have been trying hard to keep the weeds at bay and will be planting fill-in shrubs and grasses in December. The trees, shrubs and grasses planted nearly 2 years ago have been flowering and spreading due to the rain we have had throughout the year and, judging by the comments from the locals, are well appreciated.

The QFS display has been to many venues over the past few months and now that we have some of our new posters finished, well visited. Julia and I went to Kooralbyn where there were many displays of local and non-local groups and the visitors were very happy to let us know just how many big Green treefrogs, along with other species, they have in the area. It was nice meeting Pam, QFS's new co-ordinator for that area, who is a wildlife carer.

We come to the end of a very busy year and I want to say "Thank You" to all that have helped out. Hopefully the Year of the Frog has made more people aware of our wonderful amphibians.

I hope all our members have a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to catching up with more of you in 2009.

Keep looking

Jenny Holdway

Frog Camp reports.

Now that the weather is warming up and the Summer breeding frogs are starting to be active again, camping season is back with us and frog campers are likewise active!

Two weekend excursions have been held so far.

The first was to Goomburra on the weekend of 18 / 19th October, and with the recent rainfall levels much improved over the last couple of years we had high hopes that many varied frogs would be out and about. However, we found that the area was still fairly dry - the creeks held plenty of pools but were far from running briskly. Ten froggers went for an afternoon walk through the beautiful forest to spy out the land and mark some spots that would be worth revisiting after dark, and once the sun had set we set off to explore the creek bed. Several Stony-creek frogs (*Litoria wilcoxii*) were the first find, followed by a Fleay's Barred frog (*Mixophyes fleayi*), seeing which is one of the main reasons for visiting Goomburra – it is endangered and has a very limited habitat range. We found the Whistling Treefrog (*Litoria verreauxii*) and heard Clicking froglets (*Crinia signifera*) calling from the creek banks and the Great Barred frog (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*) from the deep leaf litter on the edges. Another spectacular little altitude frog with limited range, the Yellow-bellied Mountain frog (*Kyarranus kundagungan*), is also found here and is a day caller, so next morning we drove up the mountain to a spot where we have found them previously. Sure enough some were calling, but from very deep within their tunnels in the mud banks, so we decided to let them remain undisturbed - it was enough to know that they were still thriving.

The second camp was on the weekend of 8 / 9th November, to a very different habitat – the wallum swamps of the National Park area of Bribie Island. We stayed at Poverty Point, a lovely campsite on the Pumicestone Passage side of the island, (apologies for the incorrect listing in the Frogsheet as Gallaghers campsite – Poverty Point does have toilet and fireplace facilities). We spent the afternoon exploring the area including the ocean beach side of the island, courtesy of Rod's expertise with 4WD on the sand tracks.

We identified and enjoyed many of the unique plants and wildflowers, and Stefan even managed to convince the rangers when they passed and queried him, that what he had been spotted pulling up was an invasive weed and not endangered flora! This even rated a “Thanks and keep up the good work...”

After dinner we retreated to Rod’s wonderful insect-screened pergola to plan our frogging, and then the thunder that had been rumbling finally arrived and the rain poured down. Frogs that we had heard calling around the campsite earlier responded with both increased volume and numbers – we found the Eastern Sedgefrog (*Litoria fallax*), the Graceful Treefrog (*Litoria gracilentia*), the Laughing Treefrog (*Litoria Tyleri*) and a pair of amplexing Striped Rocketfrogs (*Litoria nasuta*) within a short stroll, and then we hit the road retracing our earlier route to the ponds and swamps, hanging on grimly over the ruts and bumps! Frogs (and sadly juvenile Cane Toads) were jumping all over the road – many more Rocket frogs were living up to their name by leaping incredibly high and far, we found a Green Treefrog (*Litoria caerulea*), and Striped marshfrogs (*Limnodynastes peronii*) and finally one of the truly local inhabitants, the Wallum Sedgefrog (*Litoria olongburensis*). Sadly we neither saw nor heard the Wallum Rocketfrog (*Litoria freycineti*).

As always, frog camps are about socialising and getting to know people, enjoying a beautiful environment with all of its wildlife – birds, mammals, reptiles and insects as well as amphibians, and the native plants that provide the habitat on which they all depend. We are always happy to see new faces and share our appreciation and knowledge of all of these things!

Julia Squires



Amplexing Striped Rocketfrogs (*Litoria nasuta*)



New Books for the Christmas Stocking



Rainforest Frogs of the Wet Tropics by Conrad Hoskins & Jean-Marc Hero

A complete guide to the 33 species of frogs found in the World heritage rainforest of the Wet Tropics region of north-east Queensland. This field guide includes an easy to use key for identification and an up-to-date account for each species. All species are illustrated with at least two photos. A great companion for anyone wishing to know what that frog is and what it does.

Dr Conrad Hoskins (ANU) and Dr Jean-Marc Hero (Griffith Uni) are both scientists who have conducted extensive research on Wet Tropics frogs.

Price: Members - \$20.00 Non-Members - \$22.00 *includes postage.

Amazing Facts about Australian Frogs and Toads by Queensland Museum & Steve Parish.

This book provides readers of all ages, with an expert overview of Australia’s amphibians. The Queensland Museum and Steve Parish Publishing have joined forces once again to bring you the most recent and amazing facts about a group of animals that are currently experiencing a raft of environmental challenges. Each page carries small easy-to-read blocks of text with vivid images of the species they refer to. (NB Although Australia does not have any native toads, other states do use ‘Toadlet’ when referring to small brown ground frogs). Price: Members: \$20.90 Non-Members \$22.90 *includes postage

If you would like to pay by direct deposit, phone Jenny on 3366 1868 or you can find the details on website.

