




FROGSHEET

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The Kroombit tree frog (Litoria kroombitensis): a critically endangered species found only at Kroombit Tops National Park. Read about the latest Kroombit Frogsearch on Page 3/4.



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Become a Frog Finder!

Find a Frog in February is not far away. See how to join the team on Page 5.

Former QFS president Rod Pattison looking for Kroombit tinker frogs (Taudactylus pleione) at the recent Kroombit Frogsearch.



Thank you to our supporters

Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$ 9,426.18
Any donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible

President's Report

HELLO AGAIN TO ALL OF our QFS members. I hope that everybody has had a good festive season and that the year has gotten off to a great start.

It has been lovely to see that much of the state has had more wet weather since our last Frogsheet. On my property in the Mary Valley, I have seen many frog species in good numbers once again. For the first time in about three years, the Great Barred Frogs have been vocalising. On a frog walk on my property a few weeks ago, I located 11 different species of frog.



Great Barred Frog (Mixophyes fasciolatus), Mary Valley.

In other news, the QFS AGM (held on the 28th of November 2021) was a success, and it was great to have so many members attend the meeting via Zoom. Firstly, a big thank you to Mary-Ann Pattison, who chaired the AGM this year. Congratulations to all the elected members of the new committee. I am excited to be able to continue as the President of the QFS for another year and look forward to working with the committee, our members and the community.

Other members of the committee for the coming year include Ed Meyer, who has returned as the Special Projects Coordinator and has been elected as the new

Vice President. Jennifer Singfield has returned to the Treasurer's chair and Jenny Holdway has been elected as the Secretary for the QFS once again. Jono Hooper was also re-elected as our Events and Initiatives Coordinator.

We also have three new members of the committee, including Alice Carruthers, who has also been our fantastic Frogsheet Editor for the last 12 months. We also welcome Desley Fricke, who has taken on the role of Minutes Secretary, and Mickayla Heinemann, who was the recipient of the QFS 2021 Ric Natrass Research Grant and our guest speaker at the AGM. It is great to see new members join the committee as it keeps the committee fresh and brings in new ideas. Thank you in advance to all of the newly elected committee for investing some of your valuable personal time into QFS for the next 12 months.

At the AGM Mickayla Heinemann spoke about how methods for surveying frog populations could be improved. She presented a background on her research techniques, and spoke about the pros and cons of particular survey methods and how they could impact surveys in the future. Mickayla's talk was very well received and she took quite a few questions afterwards.

I would like to invite our members to participate in our management meetings, which are held every second month via Zoom. If you are interested in joining in, email one of us on the committee and we will add your email to the list so that you can receive a link to attend. We would love to hear from you!

Take care of yourselves, and look out for each other and the environment.

Warm regards,

Ashley Keune



Send us your frogging photos and stories!

Now the wet season is here we will begin to see more frog activity! Don't forget that we love to see pictures and hear stories of the frogs that you find in your area, so get in touch and tell us all about your frogging adventures!

Emerald-spotted tree frog (Litoria peronii), one of several spotted in December at Balancing Heart Winery, Wyberba (Southern Downs). Credit: DG Carruthers.

December 2021 Kroombit Frogsearch: Our wettest (and leechiest) so far!

IN EARLY DECEMBER 2021, QFS volunteers travelled to Kroombit Tops National Park to conduct surveys and monitoring as part of our Kroombit Threatened Frogs Project – a three-year project funded through a Community Sustainability Action Grant awarded to QFS by the Queensland State Government. In contrast with previous Kroombit Frogsearches in 2019 and 2020, conditions at Kroombit Tops were ideal for frogging, with heavy rain falling before and during surveys. As a consequence, creeks that had been dry on previous visits were running well, and dams and soaks across Kroombit Plateau were full to overflowing. Frogs were rejoicing with the rain, and the dam at Kroombit barracks (our ‘centre of operations’ during Kroombit Frogsearches) was full of calling and spawning frogs.



The dam at Kroombit barracks, where large numbers of frogs were calling and breeding during the December 2021 Kroombit Frogsearch.



Kroombit barracks in the wet: our ‘centre of operations’ during Kroombit Frogsearch



*Female tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*), one of the threatened frog species targeted during Kroombit Frogsearch surveys.*

While warmly welcomed by the frogs, the wet weather presented some significant challenges for our team of volunteers. Leeches were out in force, with most of us sustaining one or more ‘leechings’ whilst undertaking fieldwork. Staying dry was also near impossible for the first three days of our visit, so the return of blue skies later in the week was cause for much celebration.

During our 6-day stay, QFS volunteers undertook surveys for the critically endangered Kroombit tinker frog (*Taudactylus pleione*) and Kroombit tree frog (*Litoria kroombitensis*; main photo on pg 1) at various plateau and escarpment sites across Kroombit Tops National Park. During these surveys, Kroombit tinker frogs were again recorded calling in low numbers at a handful of sites, while Kroombit tree frogs were recorded in low-to-moderate numbers at a number of stream sites on Kroombit Plateau. Encouragingly, tadpoles of the latter species (including animals nearing metamorphic climax) were seen in a number of plateau streams, indicating successful breeding earlier this season. Tusked frogs (*Adelotus brevis*) – another one of our target species – were also recorded at scattered localities within Kroombit National Park.

In addition to undertaking surveys, volunteers assisted with the deployment of automated acoustic recorders, which will record calling activity on a nightly basis throughout the current wet season, providing more robust data on the presence and abundance of threatened frog species at Kroombit Tops. Recordings from these devices will be downloaded and analysed following the final QFS Kroombit Frogsearch in March/April 2022.



Former QFS president Rod Pattison assisting Harry Hines of Queensland Parks and Wildlife with the deployment of automated recorders at Kroombit Tops.

CWS staff and QFS volunteers also worked together to collect water samples and deploy ibutton temperature loggers. Collected water samples will be used for DNA testing to better understand the prevalence and potential impact of amphibian chytrid fungus at Kroombit Tops. Information from environmental DNA sampling will be used to identify sites where chytrid is scarce or absent, and therefore less likely to pose a threat to captive-bred Kroombit tinker frogs following their release into the wild. The ibutton temperature loggers were deployed in rock piles and crevices at potential release sites, and the temperature data collected will help ensure micro-climatic conditions at release sites are suitable for the Kroombit tinker frog.

During the December 2021 Kroombit Frogsearch, QFS volunteers were joined by staff from Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) involved in the captive breeding of Kroombit tinker frogs for release into the wild. Working with QFS volunteers, CWS staff busied themselves collecting silt from streams for feeding Kroombit tinker frog tadpoles being raised in captivity at CWS on the Gold Coast.

Our next Kroombit Frogsearch will be our sixth and final trip to Kroombit Tops National Park. If you'd like to join us, get in touch with our events and initiatives coordinator, Jono Hooper, at: events_initiatives@qldfrogs.asn.au.

Text and photos by Ed Meyer

Sightings of non-target species during the Kroombit Tops Frogsearch in December 2021



Top left: A male southern orange-eyed tree frog (*Litoria chloris*) with partially-inflated vocal sac takes a break from calling.

Top middle: Native dusky toadlets (*Uperoleia fusca*) in amplexus near the Kroombit barracks.

Top right: Ruddy tree frog (*Litoria rubella*) calling near the Kroombit barracks.

Bottom left: Native dusky toadlet (*Uperoleia fusca*) calling near Kroombit barracks.

Bottom middle: Green tree frogs (*Litoria caerulea*) in amplexus near the Kroombit barracks.

Bottom right: Scarlet-sided pobblebons (*Limnodynastes terraergeinae*) in amplexus (Photo: Jono Hooper)

February is coming, and so is the army of Frog Finders – Join the team!

THE FIND A FROG IN February (FFF) citizen science program is now in its 6th year, and has been busy building up community awareness of frogs and their needs, as well as helping people to monitor sites for frogs each February.



The Mary River catchment is home to over 40 frog species; nine of these are listed as threatened or have disappeared – that’s nearly 25%. Frogs are easily affected by changes in the air, water and land, and are therefore key indicators of a healthy environment. Collecting information on their whereabouts and the habitats they use means we can better manage the environment to protect them into the future. Here’s some ideas to help our frogs:

- Keep some garden areas ‘messy’ – logs, branches, leaf litter, rock piles and tall grass.
- Provide water – ponds, dams, swamps, low areas that fill when it rains, creeks – all with a variety of vegetation, as well as some bare areas.
- Keep pollutants out of the environment – chemicals travel easily in water that flows across the land and along drains. Soap is a frog’s enemy!
- Keep your cats indoors at night, as they hunt frogs and other wildlife.
- Promote the protection of waterways and wetlands in your area.

A few useful links

- **iNaturalist** – join the ‘Find a Frog in February’ group – <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/>
- **Frog ID Key** – SE QLD frog and toad identification key – <http://www.froggingaround.com/>
- **FrogID** – <https://www.frogid.net.au>



Emerald-spotted tree frog (Litoria peronii). Credit: Eva Ford.

All people in the Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast council regions are invited to get out and about to find frogs and submit their sightings and recordings, now and especially in February. FFF frog finders have contributed to our knowledge of 31 species from 550 locations (over 8,300 records!). Every record counts – even common species like the green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*) can be affected by changing environmental conditions.

This year we are using the iNaturalist phone app to submit records – simply join the ‘Find a Frog in February’ group on iNaturalist and submit your frog photos and recordings of calling frogs. Our regular record sheet is always welcome too. See our website for more information, forms and links to all things ‘froggy’. Check our website for workshops in your area to help you increase your frog finding skills.

FFF is proudly supported by the Fraser Coast Council, Gympie Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Council and Noosa Shire Councils through the Mary River catchment Coordinating Committee.

Contact for more information:
findafrog@mrccc.org.au or 07 5482 4766 or
<http://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/>.



We look forward to hearing from you!

Eva Ford, MRCCC

From the Secretary's Desk

The main thing keeping me on my toes these past couple of months is identifying tadpoles, mostly from people worried about cane toad tadpoles (pictured right). I received another tadpole-related query the other day from a lady who had discovered tadpoles in her grandchild's sand pit and wanted to know what to feed them. Apparently the three pet shops she contacted informed her that she needed to feed them mosquito larvae, but couldn't supply them! Well, I must say the lady was very relieved when I informed her that, besides the algae on the sides of the pond, they will eat the outside leaves of lettuce, spinach or papaya leaves (slightly soften with hot water before feeding them to the tadpoles).

I also recently received a photo of two baby ornate burrowing frogs ready to start a new life. That was special.

Hope you all had a lovely Christmas and I wish you all the best for the New Year. Stay safe!

Jenny Holdway



Cane toad tadpoles. Credit: Harry Hines of QPWS.



Two baby ornate burrowing frogs (*Platyplectrum ornatum*).

PLEASE EMAIL EDITOR@OLDFROGS.ASN.AU WITH ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN *FROGSHEET*

DEADLINE FOR AUTUMN *FROGSHEET* CONTRIBUTIONS IS 11TH FEBRUARY 2021



A warm welcome to new QFS members!

Chris Sandford, Nara Varlet, Tony Harms, Paula Tovey, Kate Knudsen, Belinda Beardmore, Genevieve Paterson, Jeanette Watts, Jacob Bragg, Vanessa Smith.

Executive Committee

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PRESIDENT – Ashley Keune
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Please email us with concerns about frogs or frog habitat in your area, and we will endeavour to provide you with advice and answer any questions you may have. We might also feature your email as a 'Letter to the Editor' in *Frogsheet*, as a way to raise local issues and contribute to wider environmental discussions.