

FROGSHEET

Photo by Jono Hooper, Litoria tyleri



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QFS AGM

Date	Sunday, 27 October 2024
Time	1:30pm
Location	Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre, 149 Acacia Rd, Karawatha

President's Report

Hello once again to all our QFS members. I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful weather that we have had for the last several weeks. The lovely warm days without too much humidity to be able to get out and enjoy the sunshine during the day, with nice cool nights which makes it very comfortable to sleep. In the coming weeks the storm season will probably kick off, which means a great time to get out and start looking for our amphibian friends. We would love to hear about any frogs that you find around your place too. Hopefully we get a good amount of rain for the rest of Spring and early Summer without too many destructive storms.

On the 8th of September, I was lucky enough to be able to present an information session at the Eco-Connect Environmental Forum, which was held at the University of the Sunshine Coast's Gympie Campus. It was a great event which had numerous environmental groups presenting throughout the day, workshops to attend and information displays set up. It provided a great opportunity for networking for like-minded people and with environmental leaders and organisations.

This forum was the inaugural event which was organised by the MRCCC and hopefully it will be the first of many. My presentation was about identifying frogs in the local area, facts about frogs and toads as well as ways to attract frogs to your property, including frog friendly gardens. I received a lot of great feedback from many of the 45 or so people that were in attendance at the QFS presentation. Thank you to the MRCCC for all the work that you put in to making this day such a success for the groups that attended as well as the community that were wanting to learn.

As we reported last newsletter, we recently launched our online shop on the Queensland Frog Society website. We have now added several more items including our fabric frogs and our frog soap which is a natural soap which isn't full of chemicals and is great for the skin (not made of frogs by the way). We have had numerous orders over the last several weeks which is great to see. We appreciate the support! All payments can be made via debit/credit card, directly through the online shop.

Approaching very quickly is the Queensland Frog Society AGM which will be held on Sunday the 27th of October at the Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre. A Zoom link will also be available for people who can't attend the meeting in person. This year the meeting will start at 1:30 pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting. We would love to see you there so we can meet more of our members in person. A light afternoon tea will also be provided at the venue. If you wanted to become more involved in the QFS, you may like to take on a role in the committee.

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If you are interested in taking on a role, don't forget to get your nominations in! These forms were sent out in a recent E-news so fill out these forms and get them back to us as soon as possible.

If you want to support the QFS by being present, hear more about what the QFS has been involved with throughout the last year or just want to learn from our guest speaker Tommi Mason, we would love to see you at the AGM. Tommi will be presenting her research into frog presence and bioacoustics as snapshot indicators of aquatic ecosystem health in the urban landscape of Brisbane using citizen science. There will also be an opportunity for Tommi to answer questions that you may have at the end of her presentation. We will also be voting on adopting an updated version of our constitution. In the new draft, there have been a few minor changes to the wording to be more inclusive, as well as a few changes to the names of different departments as well as the inclusion of our Grievance Procedures which are now compulsory to be adopted by a range of organisations, including the QFS.

If you are planning on attending please click on the button in the E-news that was recently sent out so we know if you are wanting a Zoom link sent out or if you are attending in person. If you would like a say at the meeting but can't attend via Zoom or attend the meeting in person at the venue on the day, please get a proxy form filled out so you can still have your say. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Through our involvement in the Containers for Change program we have now raised just over \$255 in eight months, which will go directly to a Ric Natrass Scholarship recipient. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship into frog research, applications are now OPEN! Check out our website for more information. Applications will close on the 17th February 2025. Don't forget to share our team number C11218433 with friends and family so they can help to raise money for vital frog research.

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

Regards,

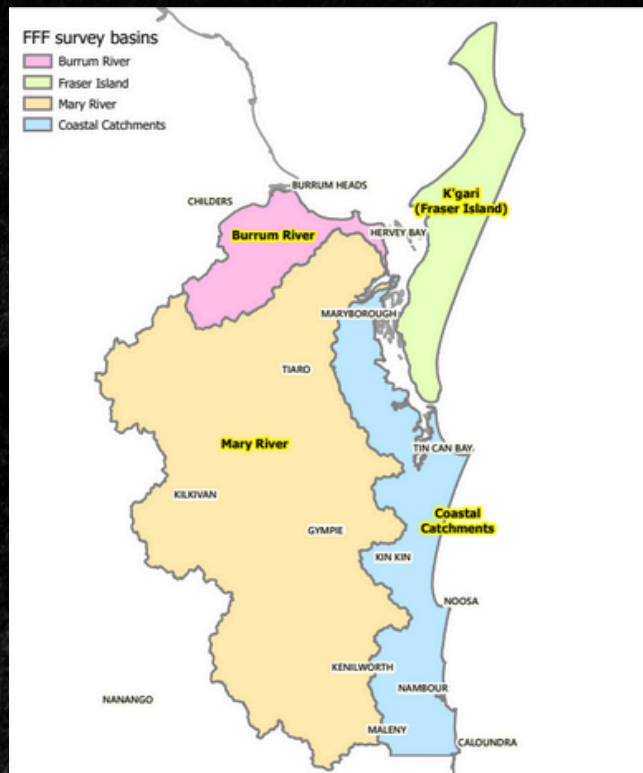
Ashley Keune

FIND A FROG IN FEBRUARY 2024

It was our 8th FFF event this year and, thankfully, it is hard to relate it to that shaky first year in 2017. That was the hottest and driest February on record! Miraculously though, 76 people went out to search for frogs despite the very non-frog-friendly conditions back then. It is a credit to their determination that those first contributors were able to find 22 species and send in 390 observations. It also tells us how resilient some of our frog species are to the extreme conditions they have evolved under.

We have had some interesting weather since then. We have seen our waterways dry up to a depressing 'nothing' and have been caught out in torrential rain that fills them again to a powerful flow. While we scurry to the protection of our houses, air conditioning and fire places, our creatures are toughing it out in the elements day after day, using their adapted features and behaviors to maintain a presence wherever they can. That doesn't mean it is a stable presence over time though.

On my property I have Eastern Sedgefrogs (*Litoria fallax*) calling at the sniff of rain, every year. But, the Tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*) has visited just once in 25 years, despite the dam and creek, in my mind anyway, being the best real estate in the area for this vulnerable species! So they come and go, they move from here to there, they build up numbers and drop down again in tough times. Within their tolerable range of conditions, species should persist in an area, but, how would we know whether they are gone from across their range, and gone forever, if we don't see them for a season, or two, or three? Well, it is actually hard to know and it can take many decades for a species to be declared extinct because of great uncertainties and the risks of such a declaration.



The FFF team is delighted that each February (and not only in February) people are looking out for frogs and are concerned enough for the welfare of frogs that they take the time to send in their sightings. There have been around 1,800 people looking since 2017 and they have found 39 species at 2,652 sites from the FFF area; Sunshine Coast up to Burrum Heads (see map).

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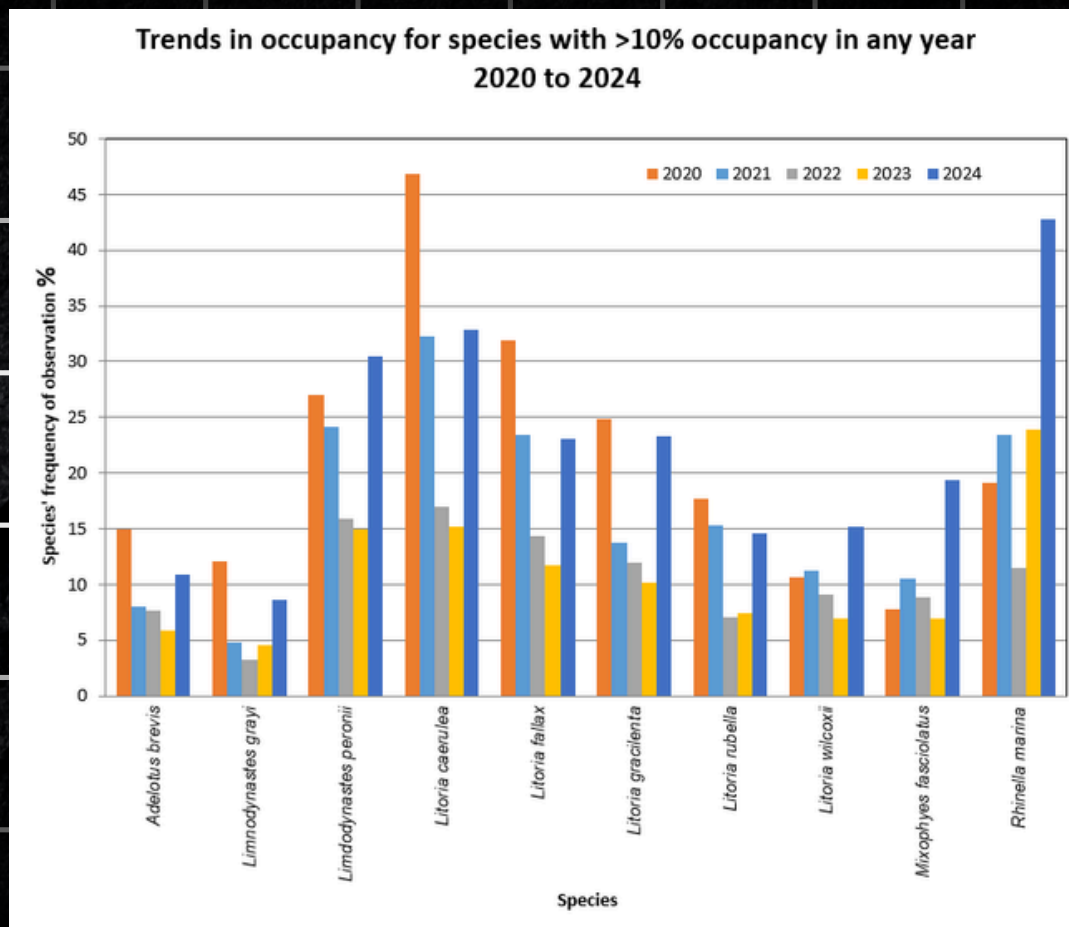
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Platyplectrum ornatum



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FIND A FROG IN FEBRUARY 2024



This year we can see from the data that it was a very good year for frog activity. Over the four years up to 2023 declining occupancy rates of our nine most commonly seen species was becoming very concerning. But, with relief, all occupancy rates of these species turned upwards again this year (see the graph). Whew! But, it's only a five-year trend, and that is not long in the long duration of a species. It can be really worrying to see negative trends in our local species when the environmental conditions are noticeably changing, and predicted to change further. While these frogs are tough guys, even though they have no armour, are squishy and seem vulnerable, continual monitoring is needed over long periods to have enough data from which to determine baseline changes in distributions and population levels. It is what FFF is about; gather data from as many places as possible and for as long as possible so we know what is going on and can make good decisions.

There's more in the Find a Frog in February 2024 Report at <https://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/reports/> and we hope that you will join in with FFF in 2025 (records can be sent in to findafrog@mrccc.org.au any time)

Our gratitude goes to the Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast Regional Councils for funding, and to all the people who contribute and support us in many other ways each year. That's citizen science at its best!

Eva Ford

THE 248TH AUSTRALIAN FROG SPECIES



Photo by Jodi Rowley/Bradshaw Rowley, *Litoria ridibunda*

A new species of frog, the Western Laughing Tree Frog (*Litoria ridibunda*), has been discovered in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and western Queensland. Citizen scientists using the FrogID project helped identify this species, which had previously been grouped with Roth's Tree Frog (*Litoria rothii*). Researchers found differences in the frogs' genetics and calls, particularly in the western range.

It turns out Roth's Tree Frog is restricted to Queensland, the eastern Northern Territory, and Papua New Guinea, while the newly named Western Laughing Tree Frog inhabits areas further west. Surprisingly, Roth's Tree Frog is more closely related to an Indonesian species, Everett's Tree Frog (*Litoria everetti*), than to this new species. This brings the total number of known native frog species in Australia to 248.

RARE BLUE MAGNIFICENT TREE FROG

Described as a "lovely freak of nature", this gorgeous blue Magnificent Tree Frog (*Litoria splendida*) was discovered earlier this year (July 2024) near a waterhole at the Charnley River-Artesian Range Wildlife Sanctuary in Western Australia's Kimberley region. This unusual find marks the first time scientists from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) have encountered a Magnificent Tree Frog with such unique coloring.



Photo by J Barker, *Litoria splendida*



RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS

A reminder that applications for the **Ric Nattrass Research Grant** are still open! This grant supports research into Queensland's frogs, with up to two grants of \$1,500 available each year. If you're passionate about frog research, don't miss this chance to make a meaningful impact. Applications close on **17 February 2025**.

For more information, and to access the application form: [Click Here](#)

RISING FROG CANCER CASES LINKED TO CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

Recent studies are revealing a concerning increase in cancer cases among frogs, a disease that has historically been rare in amphibians. Researchers believe that household and agricultural chemicals may be contributing to the rise. A study by the Australian Museum and the University of NSW, published in April, found that 36% of frogs in eastern NSW had traces of rodenticide or legacy pesticides in their livers.

Frogs showing signs of cancer have been collected from backyards and sent to Frog Safe, a non-profit run by Deborah Pergolotti. Her team works to rehabilitate these animals and documents their conditions in a database, including photographs and details about where they were found and what illnesses they suffered from. This growing database is helping scientists better understand the scope of the problem and its potential causes.

To read more about cancer in frogs: [CLICK HERE](#)



Executive Committee

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A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Randy Le-Bherz, Elizabeth Wight, Katie Quan, Franco Leung.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

27 October 2024

QFS AGM 1.30pm at Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre



PLEASE EMAIL EDITOR@QLDFROGS.ASN.AU WITH ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN FROGSHEET!

DEADLINE FOR SUMMER FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS
13 NOVEMBER 2024