

# FROGSHEET

Photo by Eva Ford; *Mixophyes fasciolatus*



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Photo by Jono Hooper; *Litoria pearsoniana*



**Thank you to our supporters!**

**Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$12,376.31**  
Any donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible, and all are added to our research grant fund, which is awarded annually

# President's Report

Hello once again to all of our QFS members. I hope that all of our members have had a great start to the year and are keeping healthy. It has been a fairly busy start to the year, as we have been involved in several Find a Frog in February events. The first of these was with Jono being a group leader at the Cooloola Bioblitz on the 1st of February as well as Jono attending a FFF survey organised by ECOllaboration at Maleny. I was able to attend one of the ECOllaboration surveys at the Maroochy Botanical Gardens in late February as well. Jono and I will also be attending some more surveys in March. We will give more details of what we saw at these locations and for the rest of the surveys in our next newsletter.

ECOllaboration have organised 15 surveys during late January, February and early March. By the end of the survey period, at each of the five sites, three surveys will have been conducted at each location. There are still several surveys left during March so if you are interested in attending these events, click the link here (<https://forms.office.com/r/sFJgvg85nf>) to register or go to the ECOllaboration website for more information.

It was great to be able to conduct the Find a Frog in February survey with the Tewanin State School in conjunction with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee again this year. This year was our most successful event thus far and you can read more details about this event later in this newsletter.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all individuals who continue to donate recyclable containers to the Queensland Frog Society. To date, we have raised a total of \$386.90. The team member number for donations to the Queensland Frog Society is C11218433. Please feel free to share this team number with friends and family.

We look forward to our upcoming frog pond building workshop at Sean Morrow's property on Saturday the 1st of March. This will be a great opportunity to learn how to build a frog pond from one of the best in the game. Attendees will also be able to see several of the ponds that Sean has already built on his property. After that we will have a BBQ dinner and conclude with a frog survey and spot lighting on Sean's beautiful property.

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We hope that you are getting out and seeing and hearing lots of frogs where you live as well. If you have any stories or photos of your frogging adventures, send them in to us so we can put them into the Frogsheet.

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

Regards

Ashley Keune

# HERITAGE PARK FROG SURVEY



This year, Tewantin State School, the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, and the Queensland Frog Society participated in our fourth annual collaborative Find a Frog in February event on Friday, February 14th. Fifteen registered students from Year 3 to Year 6, along with their parents and some siblings, attended the event at Heritage Park in Tewantin. This ongoing project will continue to involve the school for several years to come.

Prior to the survey, the registered children attended several educational sessions during play breaks at school. These sessions covered topics such as facts about frogs, identifying different nocturnal sounds, distinguishing various frogs by their calls and appearances, differentiating between toads and frogs, using data collection sheets, and safety requirements for the event.

The group of children, their parents, and I arrived at Heritage Park at approximately 6:30 pm, hoping to observe numerous frog species due to recent consistent showers and rain. Before commencing the survey, we conducted a quick safety briefing.

At around 6:50 pm, we began our exploration of the park. Initially, we walked around the edge of the open grassy area before proceeding onto the designated paths and bridges within the park. We refrained from entering the bush areas to minimize disruption and enhance safety.

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The park conditions were quite good, being relatively wet with warm temperatures and high humidity. We located five Striped Marsh Frogs and we also heard one calling from within the park. We also saw one Striped Rocket Frog, one Stony Creek Frog and one Great Barred Frog for the survey. Additionally, we heard 12 Eastern Sedge Frogs, 16 Tusked Frogs, and three Graceful Tree Frogs. Approximately 65 toads were also observed, indicating that their numbers have not increased during the last 12 months. This year was our most successful survey in terms of the number of species heard and seen in the park.

During our walk, we also observed various species of spiders, numerous insects, a juvenile Brown Tree Snake (we think after much discussion), native giant snails, several Giant Red-Legged Millipedes, a couple of Tawny Frogmouths and a few fish. The collected data will be used to monitor changes in species and population sizes at the park over the coming years. The variation in species and population numbers each year highlights the importance of long-term monitoring to accurately assess the biodiversity of any given habitat.

I commend the students who attended the event for their good behaviour and their enthusiasm. They represented the school admirably and contributed to the protection of the species residing at Heritage Park. It was gratifying to see both children and parents engaged in the survey and enjoying the natural environment. Congratulations to all participants, and thank you for the positive feedback from the involved families.

- Ashley Keune



## JUNIOR MEMBER CREATES FROG BADGES AND KEYRINGS FOR FUNDRAISING

Robyn and Mabel, two junior attendees at the Family Freshwater Fun Day Mooloolah Landcare Nursery on Saturday 22 February have made over 40 amazing frog badges and keyrings to raise funds for the Queensland Frog Society.

All profits from these items will go towards supporting the QFS. Badges are \$2.50 each, and keyrings are \$3.50 each. A few sold at the recent workshop at Mooloolah Native Nursery, and they were a hit!

These badges and keyrings will be available in our online store soon.



# SECRET TRIO OF WHIRRING TREE FROGS

Already deemed endangered and critically endangered

New research from James Cook University partnered with the University of Newcastle and the South Australian Museum, using genetics, morphology, and recordings from the FrogID project has revealed what was once considered a single species, the Southern Whirring Tree Frog (*Litoria revelata*), is actually three distinct species.

The Southern Whirring Tree Frog (*Litoria revelata*) is now known to be found from south of Sydney to southeastern Queensland, excluding populations in the Eungella Plateau and Atherton Tablelands. This redefinition has led to the recognition of two new species: the Eungella Whirring Tree Frog (*Litoria eungellensis*), found only on the Eungella Plateau in mid-eastern Queensland, and the Atherton Tablelands Whirring Tree Frog (*Litoria corbeni*), which is unique to the Atherton Tablelands in northern Queensland.

Interestingly, *Litoria corbeni* was originally named as a species in 1985 but had since been grouped with *Litoria revelata*. This new research has resurrected its status as a distinct species, highlighting the power of modern genetic tools in revealing hidden diversity.

The Eungella and Atherton Tablelands Whirring Tree Frogs are highly localised to small upland areas, making them particularly vulnerable to environmental changes and habitat loss. This discovery emphasises the importance of targeted conservation efforts to protect these unique species and the ecosystems they call home.



## HOPPING ALONG WITH FIND A FROG IN FEBRUARY

By the time this Frogsheet issue comes to you, the annual FFF event will be over. But, as some may say, 'It's not over until the fat frog sings' and that's because, when it's over, it's not really over! Gathering information about our flora and fauna for better understanding and to help guide our decisions, is a never-ending action. The Find a Frog in February (FFF) citizen science program is just a small window in time for people to get excited over frogs but, all readers will know, that keeping an eye on our frogs at all times is essential.

FFF has been providing lots of opportunities for people to learn more about frogs through workshops, surveys and school night outings. One event was held with the students from Gympie East State School. For teachers, the start of the year is a frantic time and, taking on a night-time Karen Blackburn, with the help of team FFF from the Mary River Catchment

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Gympie East State School students out for frogging adventure in February. Photo by Alana Ebert (MRCCC)

Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) had 8 select students come together to share frog stories with Ollie Scully (MRCCC) and to venture out into the full-moon night to see what frogs were sharing their neighbourhood outing in the first few weeks, is a demonstration of great dedication.

They found a Scarlet-sided banjo frog (*Limnodynastes grayi*), a couple of Stony creek frogs (*Litoria wilcoxii*) and, of course, the resident of the buildings; a very large Green treefrog (*L. caerulea*)! Gympie east SS have been monitoring Deep Creek and a neighbouring farm dam since 2021 and have recorded 8 species including a one-time hearing of the vulnerable Cascade treefrog (*L. pearsoniana*).

After an early and very active frog breeding season in August and then again from October, it has been interesting to find that frog calling and activity dropped off dramatically at the start of February! Some would say 'bad timing' but that's the beauty of monitoring; even small amounts of data are useful data. So despite the weather conditions and the frog activity level we like to trumpet that the 'Show must go on' because the anticipation is a good driver and we never know what we will find out there!

That was evident at the Cooloola Frog Bioblitz, again organised by 'Blitz masters; Lindy and Randy Orwin from Cooloola Coastcare and funded by Gympie Shire Council. These guys know how to bring a crowd and provide all that is necessary for a great event. Around 40 people marked the official first day of FFF and World Wetlands Day with and overnigher at beautiful Rainbow Beach. After a grand presentation by Ollie four groups ventured out to nearby magical wallum wetlands under the expert frogging guidance of Ollie, Jono Hooper, David Flack and Ben Revell. Some groups struggled to find very much but others 'blitzed' it! To the delight of those who were lucky, all of the 'acid' frogs were found; *Crinia tinnula*, *L. olongburensis*, *L. freycineti* and *L. cooloolensis*. Also found were *L. rubella* and *Uperoleia fusca*.

With the help of extra support from the Sunshine Coast Council and the interest of the Jinibara people of the Conondale Range area, three new 200 metre frog monitoring transects have been installed on Council managed estate; London Creek, Annie Hehir and Kirby's Road Environment Reserves. Members of the Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation (JPAC) will be carrying out the monitoring after this initial training and guidance period. The first surveys have occurred at Annie Hehir and Kirby's Road Environment reserves. A small creek, that locals call Dry Creek, runs through Kirby's Road reserve and flows on to join Obi Obi Creek. The group found *Adelotus brevis*, *L. chloris*, *L. wilcoxii*, *Mixophyes fasciolatus* and *Rhinella marina*.

Annie Hehir lies on the upper Stanley River and *M. iteratus* (vulnerable), *M. fasciolatus* and *L. wilcoxii* were found there. *A. brevis* and *L. pearsoniana* (both vulnerable) have been detected at the site previously by Ed Meyer but, on this occasion, they were not showing themselves. The sites are also new water quality monitoring locations for Jinibara people under the MRCCC's WaterWatch program.

*Litoria olongburensis* from the Cooloola Bioblitz. Photo by David Flack.



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Other events have been:

- Frog talk and survey at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve with Friends of Mary Cairncross volunteers.
- Frog monitoring survey at with Sunshine Coast Council staff
- Workshop and survey at Maroochy Botanic Gardens for Sunshine Coast Bushcare volunteers.
- Monitoring survey with Tewanin State School at Heritage Park, Tewanin (preparation assistance).

Records have been coming in to the MRCCC, iNaturalist FFF project and to FrogID FFF group. But, they have been slower than expected after a prolonged, wet (but not too wet), active breeding season for many species. Warm and humid conditions continued into February but very little rainfall has fallen during the first 2 weeks (time of writing). Some people have been observing a dominance of juvenile frogs during their searches. Most notice that there is little or no calling, making frogs more difficult to detect. I assume that the conditions are just not ideal for breeding, but it also raises questions as to the limits of frogs to produce spawn in any given season. I expect they have limited energy resources to continually breed and probably need periods between spawning to 're-plenish' their required eggs and sperm. I have tried to find out whether female frogs develop with a limited number of oocytes, or eggs (as do we), or if they can produce more throughout their life. If the latter is true (and I hope someone can confirm for us) then we should hear more noise this month if rain comes again.

Coming up - activities after mid-February:

- London Creek frog monitoring with Jinibara and Sunshine Coast Council.
- Maleny State School monitoring along Obi Obi Creek.
- Noosa District State High School monitoring along Cooroora Creek.
- Tinana State School monitoring at Woocoo Park wetlands.
- Cooroy workshop and surveys along Cooroy Creek.
- Yabba Creek 'Frog Hop' along Yabba and Derrier Creeks.
- Burrum Heads workshop and surveys at wetlands around Burrum Heads.
- Frog information session with Tewanin State School.

- Article by Eva Ford



*Water testing at Kirby's Road ER. Photo by Ollie Scully.*



## Executive Committee

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## A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Milo Wakeman-Bateman, Jay Silver, Michael Bosch, Peter Borham, Emma Wagstaff.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

**1 March 2025**  
Frog Pond Workshop with Sean Morrow

**11-13 July 2025**  
QLD Garden Expo



PLEASE EMAIL [EDITOR@QLDFROGS.ASN.AU](mailto:EDITOR@QLDFROGS.ASN.AU) WITH ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN FROGSHEET!

DEADLINE FOR THE MID-AUTUMN FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS  
**28 MARCH 2025**