

FROGSHEET

QLD Frog Society Tent at the Off Grid Expo



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QFS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1.30pm 26 October 2025
QFS AGM at Karawatha Forest
Discovery Centre



**Thank you to
our supporters!**

Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$13,141.14
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 our QFS members. I hope this newsletter finds you well. This year Winter has lingered a bit longer and brought cooler temperatures to many regions across the country. Personally, I've enjoyed the colder weather, but I'm also looking forward to the return of warmer days and extended daylight, the perfect conditions for our amphibian companions to reappear. With forecasts predicting a wetter than usual start to the wet season, we're hopeful this will lead to an abundance of frog activity and egg laying in the months ahead.

We're excited to share the date for our upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM). Following the success of our recent gatherings, we'll once again meet in person at the Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre on Sunday, October 26th at 1:30 PM. For those unable to attend physically, a Zoom link will also be provided. A light afternoon tea will be available at the venue, and we warmly invite all members to join us. If you're interested in becoming more involved with QFS, consider nominating yourself for a committee role. Nomination forms will be distributed via E-news in the coming weeks.

Earlier this month, on August 2nd and 3rd, QFS participated in the Off Grid Lifestyle Expo in Gympie. The venue proved ideal due to its spacious grounds, and while Saturday drew a decent crowd, the weather was less cooperative as strong winds persisted throughout the weekend, with Sunday bringing cold temperatures and light showers in the morning. Despite the conditions, our stall looked fantastic, especially under our new marquee. A big thank you to Olivia and Desley for volunteering and helping run the stall. We had the opportunity to engage with many attendees, sharing knowledge about frogs and how to create frog friendly gardens.



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the Trust Fund before the end of the financial year. We received nearly \$500 in donations during May and June, which will support the next recipient of the Ric Natrass Research Grant. Another way to contribute is by recycling containers via the Containers For Change Program and donating the proceeds to the QFS. Our member number for container donations is C11218433.

Continued...

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we're also making a few updates to the Ric Nattrass Research Grant. Instead of offering up to two grants of \$1,500, we'll now award a single grant of \$2,500 to make it more appealing to researchers. If no recipient is selected early in the year, we'll reopen applications mid-year. The exact closing dates are still being finalized. We hope this change encourages more applications and fosters greater interest in frog research across Queensland.

On August 17th, I had the pleasure of visiting Toowoomba to speak at a meeting of the Toowoomba Bromeliad and Succulent Society held at Sacred Heart School Hall. I previously presented to this group in April 2022, and once again, their enthusiasm and curiosity about frogs was outstanding. The talk covered local frog species, identification tips, distinguishing frogs from cane toads, and ways to attract frogs to your garden. The audience was highly engaged, asking many insightful questions. Thank you to the society for the warm welcome and generous donation.

Finally, we're excited to introduce a new item to our sale items. It is an adorable frog stress toy, available soon for \$7.50 each through our online store.

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

Kind regards
Ashley Keune



FROG STRESS TOY

We're excited to welcome a new addition coming soon to the Queensland Frog Society shop, our squishy frog stress toy! This little green friend is the perfect desk companion





MYSTERY TUMOURS THREATEN QUEENSLAND'S GREEN TREE FROGS

Photo from Frog Safe Inc.

For more than 20 years, people in Far North Queensland have been alarmed to see local green tree frogs developing strange external lumps. These tumours, often fatal, are now the focus of a new study led by The University of Queensland.

Dr Viviana Gonzalez-Astudillo from UQ's School of Veterinary Science said the growths have been recorded in both white-lipped (*Litoria infrafrenata*) and common green tree frogs (*Litoria caerulea*). They are usually found near the mouth and eyes, where they interfere with feeding and vision, eventually leading to the frog's death.

The cause of the tumours remains a mystery. Scientists are considering a range of possibilities, from chemical contamination to infectious agents such as viruses. Frogs are particularly vulnerable because they absorb water and oxygen through their skin, making them sensitive indicators of environmental change.

"Because frogs are so closely tied to our waterways, they are often the first animals to show the impacts of pollutants or pathogens," Dr Gonzalez-Astudillo explained. Potential links to long-lasting chemicals, such as pesticides or PFAS, are being investigated, alongside the possibility of oncogenic viruses.

Local rescue group Frog Safe Inc. has been recording tumour cases since 1998 at their Frog Hospital, with around 60 frogs treated so far. In recent years, new forms of the disease have appeared, but without a standard reporting system, the true scale of the problem is unknown. Similar outbreaks overseas, such as in North American leopard frogs (*Lithobates pipiens*), have been linked to viral infections, though no confirmed cause has been found in Queensland.

The study will run until November 2026 with support from CSIRO's Ecosurveillance Systems team. Researchers stress the work is urgent not only for frog conservation but also because the tumours could point to broader environmental risks.

Community participation is vital. Queenslanders are encouraged to look out for frogs with unusual lumps and report them.

If you spot a frog with a growth:

📞 Call Frog Safe on (07) 4006 3784

✉ Email photos to sickfrog@frogsafe.org.au

All frogs in the study will be treated where possible. By contributing sightings, the public can help uncover what is causing these tumours and protect both frogs and the health of our environment.

HOPE FOR THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPOTTED TREE FROG



There is good news from Victoria, where more than 600 captive bred Spotted tree frogs (*Litoria spenceri*) (also known as Spencer's tree frog) have been released into the Kiewa River near Mount Beauty, and many are surviving in the wild. The effort is part of a Zoos Victoria breeding program aimed at boosting population numbers and genetic diversity after the species' habitat was devastated during the 2019–2020 bushfires.

This year alone, 265 young frogs joined earlier releases of tadpoles and juveniles. Encouragingly, monitoring by Zoos Victoria and Wild Research has shown that more than half of the frogs released have been found again. Some have even moved over a kilometre from the release site, demonstrating their resilience.

The Spotted tree frog faces significant threats including chytrid fungus, predation from introduced trout, flash flooding, and bushfire. At only 6cm long, their green, spotted camouflage makes them extremely difficult to locate, yet survey teams, including scientists, Traditional Owners, and community members, are working tirelessly to track them.

HYBRID FROGS THREATEN CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Researchers have uncovered a new challenge for frog conservation in Australia; hybridisation. A recent study published in *Ecology and Evolution* revealed that the threatened booroolong frog (*Litoria booroolongensis*) has been interbreeding with the more common eastern stony creek frog, producing hybrid offspring.

The booroolong frog, once thought extinct for 40 years before being rediscovered in 2017, has been the focus of intensive conservation work. However, this unexpected hybridisation now poses a serious risk. While mixing between species is part of natural evolution, it can endanger rare species if hybrids outcompete them for food, space, or breeding opportunities.

At some sites, more than 30% of frogs tested were hybrids, and many could only be detected through genetic testing. Without careful monitoring, researchers warn, the booroolong frog could vanish unnoticed, hidden within hybrid populations.

The findings highlight the importance of genetic tools in conservation to protect vulnerable species before they are lost forever.

Executive Committee

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A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Alexandra Minks, Bronwyn
Small, Bronwyn Laidlaw, Joe
Hearn, Percy Gamble, Daniel
Saliba, Max Collins, Galeb
Wassermann, Craig
Wallington-Gates, Zoe
Minehan, Patricia NigroJodie
Bell, Paul Kaye.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

1.30pm 26 October 2025

QFS AGM at Karawatha Forest
Discovery Centre



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

DEADLINE FOR THE MID-SPRING FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS
27 SEPTEMBER 2025