

# FROGSHEET

*Mixophyes fasciolatus; Photo by Jono Hooper*



## IN THIS ISSUE

**Pg 2** - President's Report

**Pg 3** - Vale David Stewart

**Pg 4** - New Frog Species on Dauan Island

**Pg 5** - Breakthrough in Breeding

Endangered Mountain Frogs

**Pg 6** - First Captive Breeding Success for

Little John's Tree Frog

**Pg 6** - FrogID Week Workshop

## QFS AGM

**Date & Time:** Sunday, 26 October 2025 at 1:30pm

**Location:** Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre, 149 Acacia Rd, Karawatha

**Guest Speaker:** Sean Morrow

Zoom link also available on request.

If you are interested in attending please reply to the E-News that has been sent out.



**Thank you to our supporters!**

**Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$13,270.40**  
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 trust you've all been making the most of the stunning weather we've enjoyed recently. We have had warm, sunny days with just the right amount of humidity for getting outdoors with pleasantly cool nights. With storm season just around the corner, now's a brilliant time to start keeping an eye out for frog species in your area. We'd really love to hear about any frogs you come across in your own backyard as well. With forecasts pointing towards a much wetter than normal Spring, fingers crossed, it looks like we're in for a bumper season for frog activity and breeding.

I would like to offer my sincere condolences to David Stewart's family. As mentioned in a recent E-news update, David, a cherished friend of the Queensland Frog Society tragically passed away following a road accident. Many of you probably learned your local frog calls thanks to David's iconic frog call recordings, including myself. His recordings were a one of a kind resource back when they were released. David was also renowned for his bird call recordings and was a trailblazer in bioacoustics. He had a knack for making people smile with his great sense of humour as he shared tales of his adventures capturing frog and bird sounds. David will be greatly missed by his friends, his family and the broader community.

The Queensland Frog Society's AGM is fast approaching and will be held on Sunday, 26 October at the Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre, following the success of our recent gatherings there. For those unable to join us in person, a Zoom link will be provided so you can attend online. The meeting will kick off at 1:30 pm once again. We warmly invite all members to attend, and we'd love to put more faces to names. There'll be a lovely afternoon tea provided for those that attend at the venue as well.

This year, we're especially keen to welcome new committee members who can bring fresh ideas and perspectives. The insights and enthusiasm that new members bring are invaluable, helping us to grow stronger as a community and ensuring our activities remain vibrant and innovative. Your individual experiences and suggestions can have a genuine impact as we work together to protect frogs and their habitats throughout Queensland. If you'd like to get more involved with the QFS, don't forget to send in your nomination forms! These were sent out in the latest E-news, so please complete and return them as soon as you can.

Whether you want to support the QFS by showing up, catch up on what we've achieved over the past year, or just hear from our special guest speaker, we'd love to see you at the AGM. We're excited to announce that Sean Morrow, a talented member and dear friend of the society, will be speaking this year.

Continued...

Sean will join us to share his knowledge and enthusiasm as an expert in landscaping and designing natural wildlife habitats with a strong focus on frog ponds. Sean's expertise in this area is widely recognised, and we look forward to his presentation. There'll also be time at the end for any questions you'd like to put to Sean.

If you're planning to come along, please click the RSVP button in the latest E-news so we know whether to send you a Zoom link or expect to see you in person. If you'd like to contribute but can't make it in person or via Zoom, please fill out a proxy form so your voice is still heard. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Take care of yourselves, look after one another, and remember to care for our environment.

Kind Regards,  
Ashley Keune



## VALE DAVID STEWART - 1942-2025



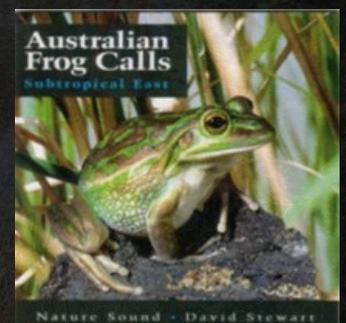
We were saddened to hear of David's passing after a traffic accident a few weeks ago.

Many of you will have learnt your local frog calls by listening to David's frog calls CD (or even cassette!). His recordings were the only resource like it back in the day. David was also well known for his bird call recordings and pioneering work in bio-acoustics.

David could always bring a smile to your face as he re-countered his adventures and experiences of bringing his frog and bird calls to our speakers. He encouraged budding froggers not to forget to record the sound of frog calls rather than simply taking photos.

David was a good friend of the society and most recently attended our AGM in 2023. After he ended sales of his CDs, David very kindly allowed us to use his Australian Frog Calls recordings to sell in a new resource, not requiring any royalties from the proceeds.

David passed away with his family by his side on 15th August 2025.



# NEW FROG SPECIES ON DAUAN ISLAND

[Click Here to Read Full Article](#)



Scientists have recently described a brand-new frog species from Dauan Island in the Torres Strait – the Koeypad Frog (*Choerophryne koeypad*). At only around 20 mm long, it's a small frog with a big story.

The Koeypad Frog is restricted to the granite boulder-fields on the slopes of Mt Cornwallis (Simakal Pad). Males were found calling from leaves, vines, and even the vertical faces of boulders, producing a distinctive “tink, tink, tink” call repeated in rapid bursts. This metallic call helps set it apart from related species found in New Guinea.

The name “koeypad” comes from the local Kalaw Kawaw Ya language, meaning rocky mountain, reflecting both the frog’s unique habitat and the importance of recognising Indigenous language in scientific naming. The species was not found outside the boulder-fields, suggesting it is highly specialised to this environment. Like other microhylid frogs, it is thought to be a terrestrial breeder with direct development (meaning eggs hatch directly into tiny frogs, not tadpoles).

This discovery is part of a remarkable story for Dauan Island. Despite being only a few square kilometres in size, the island is now known to host three species found nowhere else in the world: the Koeypad Frog, another newly described frog, the Gobakula Frog (*Callulops gobakula*), and the Simakal Gecko (*Nactus simakal*). This makes Dauan more diverse in unique vertebrates than any other Queensland island.

But with this uniqueness comes vulnerability. The Koeypad Frog’s distribution is estimated at just 1 km<sup>2</sup>, putting it at risk of being wiped out by a single threatening event. One major concern is the potential arrival of invasive species such as the Yellow Crazy Ant, which has caused ecological collapse on other islands. As a result, the frog has been recommended for listing as Vulnerable under IUCN criteria.

The discovery of the Koeypad Frog highlights the extraordinary biodiversity that can persist in isolated habitats and the importance of protecting them. Dauan Island’s boulder-fields serve as a refuge for life forms that have survived changing climates and rising seas – but their future will depend on careful conservation and strong biosecurity.



*Choerophryne koeypad*, Photo sourced from article



*Callulops gobakula*, Photo sourced from article.

# BREAKTHROUGH IN BREEDING ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN FROGS

After years of dedication, scientists have celebrated a major milestone for one of Australia's rarest amphibians, the successful captive breeding and release of the Red and Yellow Mountain Frog (*Phyllorhina kundagungan*).

Researchers at Southern Cross University have managed to replicate the highly specific conditions these frogs need in order to breed, providing new hope for the survival of the species. The frogs are usually found only on a handful of mountaintops in northern New South Wales and south-east Queensland, where they live in wet, muddy burrows hidden in the rainforest.

Dr Liam Bolitho, who helped lead the program, explained that recreating this environment required precision. The team mimicked the temperature, soil, vegetation, and even the sounds of rainforest frog calls to encourage breeding. "Every element has to align perfectly – otherwise the frogs simply won't reproduce," he said.

Unlike many frog species, mountain frogs skip the free-swimming tadpole stage. Their young develop inside the egg and emerge at just three millimetres long, making monitoring their growth especially challenging. Associate Professor David Newell noted that with adults reaching only three centimetres, the species is not only small but also extremely vulnerable.

The threats they face are many: habitat destruction, climate change, and feral pigs. Living at high altitudes leaves them little room to adapt as temperatures rise, while pigs damage creeks and rainforest soils by wallowing and concentrating around remaining water sources. National Parks and Wildlife have introduced pig control measures, including trapping and fencing, but community reporting remains an important part of the strategy.

The red and yellow mountain frog is one of 110 species prioritised under the federal government's Threatened Species Action Plan. Importantly, the program has been a collaboration between university researchers, government agencies, and Githabul traditional owners. A small ceremony recently marked the release of the first seven captive-bred frogs into Tooloom National Park, with further releases planned.

While captive breeding is often considered a last resort, Threatened Species Commissioner Fiona Fraser said it can be crucial when populations are critically low. For the mountain frog, this effort represents a rare chance to secure its future. Scientists will continue monitoring the released frogs closely, hopeful that this marks the beginning of a stable wild population.



*Phyllorhina kundagungan*; Photo by Jodie Rowley

# FIRST CAPTIVE BREEDING SUCCESS FOR LITTLE JOHN'S TREE FROG

*Litoria littlejohni*; Photo by University of Newcastle



A major conservation win has arrived for one of NSW's most restricted frogs. Researchers at the University of Newcastle have bred Littlejohn's tree frog (*Litoria littlejohni*) in captivity for the first time—an enormous step for a species limited to three small, isolated strongholds: the Watagan Ranges west of Newcastle, the Blue Mountains, and the Woronora Plateau near Wollongong.

The team's success followed three years of careful tinkering with conditions to mimic the frog's seasonal cues. The key turned out to be exposure to true outdoor chill; those really cold temperatures and natural cycles that tell the frogs it's time to breed. Two pairs placed in custom tanks produced roughly 200 eggs each, yielding about 90 healthy tadpoles in total. The work sits within a broader recovery program led by the university's Centre for Conservation Science, which is focused on the fragile Watagan population both in lab and in situ.

Connectivity has been another priority. Conservation staff have created 40 new ponds as “stepping stones” between two sub-populations separated by about two kilometres. By stitching habitat back together, they're giving dispersing frogs safer passage and a better chance at genetic exchange; vital insurance for a species with such a tiny range.

Yet the good news comes with a warning label. A proposed Hunter Transmission Line Project would run a 110-kilometre overhead power line from Bayswater, near Singleton, to Olney in the Lower Hunter. The preferred corridor, scientists say, overlaps known Littlejohn's sites, with a proposed switching station flagged near active breeding ponds. EnergyCo has stated it will work with ecologists to avoid and minimise impacts, but researchers stress that nothing substitutes for protecting the habitat that still functions today.

Why the urgency? Littlejohn's tree frog is tied to very specific landscapes; if one of its few viable patches is degraded, we risk erasing a full third of the species' remaining range. Public submissions on the project's Environmental Impact Statement were invited until 24 September. Regardless of that timeline, this case is a clear reminder: captive breeding can buy time, but safeguarding habitat is what keeps frogs on the map.

## FROGID WEEK WORKSHOP

The Queensland Museum is hosting a hands-on workshop from **2:30–4:30pm on 8 November 2025** as part of FrogID Week. You will have the opportunity to learn how to identify frog calls, explore their vital role in healthy ecosystems, and discover how the FrogID app contributes to real conservation science.

For more information: [Click Here](#)

## Executive Committee

**Patron** – Dr Glen Ingram

**President** – Ashley Keune

*Email:* president [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

**Vice President** – Ryan Carleton

*Email:* vicepresidents [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

**Secretary** – Jenny Holdway

*Ph:* 0491 140 720

*Email:* secretary [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

**Treasurer** – Andrew Knowles

*Email:* treasurer [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

**Events and Initiatives Coordinator** –

Jono Hooper

*Email:* events\_initiatives [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

**Minutes Secretary** - Desley Fricke

**Newsletter Editor** - Kayla Beaton

*Email:* editor [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

**Frogshop Sales** - Jenny Holdway

*Ph:* 0491 140 720

*Email:* frogshop [at] qldfrogs.asn.au

## A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Holly Knight, Margaret Vita,  
Lyn Robson, Danni Werle,  
Heath Breen.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

**1.30pm 26 October 2025**

QFS AGM at Karawatha Forest  
Discovery Centre

**8 November 2025**

FrogID Week Workshop at QLD  
Museum

(For more info: [Click Here](#))

**5-7 December 2025**

Bellthorpe Frog Camp  
([Register Here](#))

**2pm-5.30pm 7 December 2025**

Permaculture Toowoomba Inc.  
Presentation and frog hotel  
workshop.



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

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS

**13 NOVEMBER 2025**