

FROGSHEET

Mixophyes iteratus, Photo by Jono Hooper



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Ornithoptera richmondia; Photo by Jono Hooper



Thank you to our supporters!

Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$13,270.42
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 you've all enjoyed a relaxing holiday season and managed to spend some quality time with those close to you. I would like to wish all of our members and their families a safe, prosperous, and healthy 2026.

This Summer, Queensland's wet season has certainly delivered in many regions, with some areas experiencing either record or unusually high rainfall in December and early January. The consistent rain has been fantastic for our amphibian friends. Sadly, while the rain has been a blessing for many, the flooding has been quite devastating in many parts of North and North West Queensland. Our thoughts are with everyone affected by the challenges these weather events have caused. Please remember if you are doing it tough, don't hesitate to reach out for support, whether it is from mates, family, or professional services.

After a typically quiet Christmas break, we're gearing up for a busy couple of months with our displays and activities. Kicking things off is the Tewanin State School Frog Survey at Heritage Park, part of the "Find a Frog in February" program. We'll also be joining forces once again with ECollaboration for several surveys during February and March, and plans for the Off Grid Expo and the Esk Garden Fair, just to name a few, are already in the works. These events are a great chance for us to connect with the community and share tips about creating frog friendly gardens.

Another event worth highlighting was the December camp at Bellthorpe Stays, held from the 5th to the 7th of December 2025. Several of our committee members and other QFS members were lucky enough to join in the adventures. The feedback was incredibly positive again with numerous frog species seen even though conditions weren't ideal, as well as plenty of other wildlife, and a cracking location. A big thank you to Jono for organising things and to David Clark for looking after the QFS members at the venue. Given the enthusiasm and participation of the last two camps, we'll definitely look at running another camp towards the end of this year.

On the research front, applications for the Ric Nattrass Research Grant are now open after a quiet year in 2024 and 2025 with no applicants. If you or someone you know is planning frog research in 2026, please encourage them to apply. Applications must be submitted to us no later than 13 February. With the increased value of the grant from \$1,500 to \$2,500, we are hoping that this will encourage more people to apply this year. More details and the application form are up on our website. Don't forget you can also donate money to go towards the research grants online through our website via the "Donate Here" tab, with all contributions over \$2 being tax deductible.

Continued...

We're also celebrating two years of involvement in the Containers for Change Program. Thanks to everyone who's donated their eligible containers, we've raised \$712.25 so far, with every dollar raised going into the Trust Fund. All money in the Trust Fund goes towards supporting our scholarship recipients and their crucial frog research in the coming years. If you'd like to help, use team member number C11218433 when you drop off your containers, and feel free to share this with friends and family.

Wishing you all the best for the months ahead. Take care of yourselves, look out for each other and our environment.

Kind Regards,
Ashley Keune



A JAPANESE TREE FROG MAY HOLD CLUES TO FUTURE CANCER TREATMENTS



Frogs are best known for their calls, colours and life cycles, but new research suggests they may also play an unexpected role in future cancer treatments. Scientists in Japan have discovered that bacteria living in the gut of the Japanese tree frog (*Dryophytes japonicus*) can dramatically reduce tumours in laboratory mice.

Researchers have long noted that amphibians and reptiles rarely develop cancer. Curious about why, a team from the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology investigated whether microbes living inside frogs might help suppress tumour growth. They tested dozens of bacterial strains taken from frogs, newts and lizards, and several showed anti-cancer effects.

One strain stood out. A bacterium called *Ewingella americana*, found in the gut of the Japanese tree frog, completely eliminated tumours in treated mice after a single dose. Even more remarkably, when cancer cells were reintroduced weeks later, tumours failed to regrow.

Further testing revealed the bacteria worked in two ways: directly attacking tumour tissue while also boosting the immune system's response. Importantly, the treatment showed no serious side effects in mice and cleared from the body quickly.

While the research is still in its early stages and far from being tested in humans, the findings highlight the extraordinary medical potential hidden within amphibian biology.



FEBRUARY IS COMING & SO IS THE 'ARMY' OF FROG FINDERS - JOIN THE TEAM!

It's hard not to love frogs! With their charming "permanent smiles" and gentle nature, they are approachable and fascinating to watch. Beyond their cuteness, they serve as vital indicators of environmental health; by monitoring their well-being, we gain essential insights into the overall state of our ecosystems. The Find a Frog in February program is entering its 10th year. Our large community of over 2,250 citizen scientists in the program area (Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast council regions) have been looking for frogs and submitting their observations, sometimes through annual monitoring of their favourite site. Over the past 9 years 'Froggers' have sent in 25,375 records of 39 species.

With over 40% of global frog species at risk, the stakes have never been higher. In our region alone, 10 out of 45 species are threatened or already lost. Because frogs are so vulnerable to environmental shifts, your help in tracking their locations is vital. Collecting this data allows us to create better management strategies and safeguard their future.

We offer these suggestions to help your local frogs:

- Make your frog observations count – submit your photos and/or call recordings to Find a Frog in February at findafrog@mrccc.org.au . A frog expert will identify your frogs and submit the record to the Queensland WildNet database.
- Monitor one or more sites every year during February.
- Keep some areas 'messy' – logs and branches, leaf litter, rock piles, tall grass (a 'high-rise' structure provides homes for more life than a single story 'dwelling').
- Promote the protection of waterways and water quality in your area.
- Keep pollutants out of the environment – chemicals travel easily in water that flows across the land, along drains and through the soil profile. Soap is a frog's enemy!
- Consider protecting and reinstating wetlands (billabongs/swamps) that are grazed and/or have been drained or modified.
- Provide water – ponds, dams, swamps, low areas that fill when it rains, creeks – all with a variety of vegetation, structures and even some bare areas.
- Don't move eggs, tadpoles or frogs about – this increases the risk of disease spread.
- Disinfect your shoes and equipment if moving between water bodies to stop the spread of frog diseases (use 1% bleach solution for 1 minute or dry items out completely).
- Keep your cats indoors at night as they hunt frogs and other wildlife.
- Take care if you are controlling Cane toads – make sure you know the difference between Cane toads and native frogs .
- Act to reverse climate change (see 10 actions at <https://www.un.org/en/actnow/ten-actions>).

Continued...



Frog surveyors out at night in the wallum; Photo by O. Scully (MRCCC)

There are 4 ways to send in your observations:

- FFF record sheet available at <https://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/> – complete and send photos to findafrog@mrccc.org.au for identification, verification and entry to the Queensland WildNet database.
- Join the iNaturalist ‘Find a Frog in February’ project and submit your photos and recordings of calling frogs.
- Join the FrogID ‘Find a Frog in Feb – MRCCC’ group to submit your call recordings.
- Contact a team member: email findafrog@mrccc.org.au or phone (07) 5482 4766

For more information go to <http://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/>

HAPPY FROGGING from the Find a Frog in February Team - we look forward to hearing from you!

Find a Frog in February is proudly supported by the Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Shire Council, Gympie Regional Council and the Fraser Coast Regional Council, and delivered by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 BELLTHORPE FROG CAMP

The second Bellthorpe Frog Camp occurred from 5-7 December 2025 and was once again hosted by David and Wendy on their incredible 400-acre Bellthorpe Stays property that adjoins Bellthorpe National Park. All cabins were again fully booked by QFS members keen to attend the camp.

Whilst good wet weather had occurred in the weeks prior to the camp, the week of the camp was dry and uncharacteristically cold once the sun had set. The group of keen froggers ventured down along one of the main creeks on the property which then meanders through a rainforest valley. The frogs weren't as thick on the ground as they were the previous year under wetter conditions, however we were still able to hear and see plenty of ‘common’ species and several threatened and creek-dwelling species including the tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*), giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*) and cascade treefrog (*Dryopsophus pearsoniana*). A large carpet python (*Morelia spilota*) was also spotted at the end of the walking track along the creek.

The next morning several camp attendees switched out their macro camera lenses for telephoto lenses and snapped photos of the many bird species on the property, including the regent bowerbird (*Sericulus chrysocephalus*). Richmond birdwing butterflies could also be found fluttering along the rainforest edge. Upon re-grouping, we headed west to the Old Mill historical site where David filled us in on the history of the mill and old township, including the historical school whose buildings are still present and utilised as a research station from time to time.

We returned to Bellthorpe Stays for a delicious, shared lunch before many of us hit the hay for some welcome rest before again regrouping to venture by 4WD vehicle down into another incredible secluded area of the property. Here, marsupial frogs (*Assa darlingtoni*) can be heard and seen amongst the leaf litter, however the dry conditions meant there was no calling to be heard. We continued up another creek where David showed us one of the host plants of the endangered and seldom-seen pink underwing moth (*Phyllodes imperialis smithersi*).



We were fortunate to find several larvae feeding on the leaves of this vine. Further along the track we crossed the creek again, and as David was sharing more about the area, one of the group spotted the Conondale spiny crayfish (*Euastacus hystricosus*) that many of the group had been hoping to see! This crayfish can grow to 2kgs and is the largest freshwater crayfish in Queensland. For many of the froggers, this find made up for missing out on seeing the marsupial frog.

That evening we meandered along the creek further upstream of the previous night's frogging path, which yielded a new frog species to the camp species list (broad-palmed rocketfrog (*Litoria latopalmata*)). At the end of the walk, we also spotted a small-eyed snake (*Rhinoplocephalusnigrescens*) and dwarf crown snake (*Cacophis krefftii*). In total, we spotted nine frog species, which was down on the previous year's total of 14. This did not bother those who attended, with many stoked to have seen the variety of species we did see, with the moth larvae, butterfly and crayfish more than satisfying all who attended!

The QFS is again thankful to David and Wendy for their efforts and for being wonderful hosts and sharing their property with us for the weekend.

RIC NATTRASS RESEARCH GRANT - 2026 APPLICATIONS OPEN

The Queensland Frog Society Inc was established to encourage and foster a public awareness of and an interest in frogs.

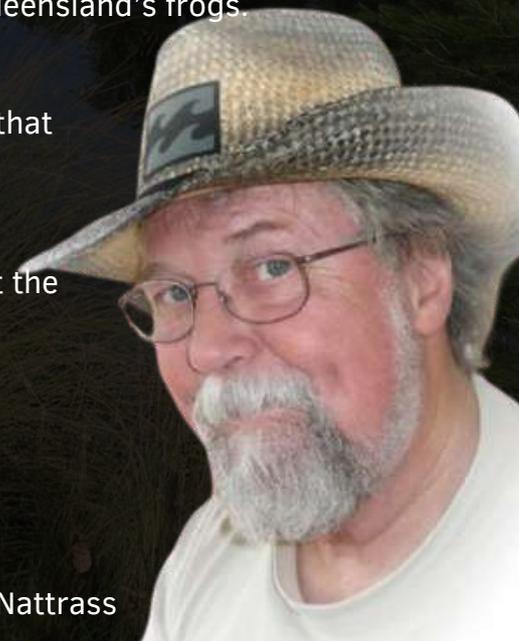
In 1999 the Queensland Frog Society Trust Fund was established to support the environmental aims of the society. In 2009 the first scholarships were made available.

In memory of the founder of this society, the scholarship has been named "The Ric Natrass Research Grant". The purpose of the grant is to assist research into Queensland's frogs.

As of December 2025 we have revisited the scholarship program in an effort to better reflect the economic times upon us. We also recognise that student research projects can commence at the beginning and midway through the calendar year.

Therefore, a single scholarship of \$2,500 will now be made available at the beginning of each year. If no applications are received or there is no successful applicant awarded the scholarship, we will offer the \$2,500 amount again midway through the year.

Apply Here: [Link](#)



Ric Natrass

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

General Committee Member - Olivia Tyson



Please email editor@qldfrogs.asn.au with articles for inclusion in Frogsheet!

Deadline for the Spring Frogsheet contributions is:
11 FEBRUARY 2026

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Julia Webb, Rebecca Geregthy, Delma Clifton, Duane Evans, Rosemary Neal, Jordan Green, Rikki Gee, Ben Johnson, Allison Needham, Fiona Graham, Sophie Witton, Simone Hobden, Seth Hobden, Paula Tovey.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

27 February 2026

Tewantin State School Frog Survey

February & March 2026

(Various dates)

Surveys with ECollaboration. Contact us for more details.

SAVE THE DATE

Find a Frog in Cooloola Mini Bioblitz

DATE: 21st February 2026

TIME: 4pm - 9pm

WHERE: Rainbow Beach Community Centre

BYO: Torch, PPE, Water, 2WD/4WD

TICKETS: All Ages: FREE
Scan the QR Code to register.

Join our expert led field trips for some frog hopping fun!

FIND-A-FROG
IN-FEBRUARY
IN COOLOOLA

MARY RIVER
LIFE & LAND
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Coastcare
Restoration Inc.

This project received funding assistance from the Gympie Regional Council's Community Grants Program. Find a Frog in February was funded by the MRCCS.