

# FROGSHEET

*Litoria freycineti*; Photo by Ashley Keune



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*Mixophyes iteratus*; Photo by Eva Ford



**Thank you to our supporters!**

**Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$13,448.22**

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.

To all members of the Queensland Frog Society and their families, I hope that you are all well and have had a good start to the year. The wet season has been quite patchy so far this year with lots of rain in certain areas, especially around North and North West Queensland but the South East corner of the state has been extremely dry. Hopefully we get some decent rain before the cooler weather starts. Unfortunately due to the drier weather, there has been much less frog activity over the Summer months in SEQ.

As we welcome in Autumn, I am pleased to report that the Queensland Frog Society has been actively engaged in a number of activities over the last several weeks. As part of our ongoing commitment to community engagement, some members of the society have proudly participated in some of the annual Find a Frog in February initiatives. This year Jono and I once again teamed up with ECollaboration to attend some FFF surveys organised by ECollaboration at several sites around the Sunshine Coast. We will be continuing our support by attending further surveys throughout March. Comprehensive findings and observations from these events will be shared with our members in the next edition of our newsletter.

ECollaboration has demonstrated remarkable dedication once again this year by coordinating a total of 15 surveys across late January, February and March. As with years gone by, each of the five designated sites will host three surveys, ensuring thorough coverage and valuable data collection. For those who wish to participate or learn more, there remain several surveys yet to be conducted in March. Members or anyone that is interested in being involved with these surveys are encouraged to register via the following link [Registration Form - Frog Monitoring 2026](#), or to consult the ECollaboration website for details.

In collaboration with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, the society once again facilitated a highly successful Find a Frog in February survey with students from Tewantin State School at Heritage Park. This event marked our fifth occasion surveying at this site with students from Tewantin State School, reflecting the effectiveness of our partnership and the enthusiastic participation of both students and their families. A more detailed account of this event will be available in our next edition of the newsletter as well. Our fundraising efforts through the donation of recyclable containers remain instrumental in supporting the Trust Fund. For those wishing to assist, please use the Queensland Frog Society team member number C11218433 when donating containers. Sharing this information with friends and family is greatly appreciated, as it assists us in expanding our reach and enhancing our conservation work. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the Queensland Frog Society.

Continued...

Finally, I wish to encourage all members to continue exploring their local environments in search of frogs. Should you have stories or photographs from your frogging experiences, please consider sharing them with us for inclusion in the Frogsheet. Such contributions not only enrich our newsletter but also foster a strong sense of community and shared purpose.

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

Regards,  
Ashley Keune



## MOZZIES GOING FOR THE AMPHIBIAN JUGULAR!



Those annoying mosquitoes! We love to have a good slap that succeeds in ending the high-pitched whine, and maybe releasing our own blood back onto our skin. There, gotcha!

Recently while out frog surveying with students from the Noosa District State High School in Pomona for their annual Find a Frog in February monitoring event, I photographed one of the sub-adult *Mixophyes iteratus* (Giant barred frog) that was spotted. It was only after looking at the photo that I noticed it was being sucked dry by at least 19, super engorged mosquitoes! Besides feeling sorry for the frog, it got me wondering: Why didn't the frog 'swish' and 'slap' the mosquitoes away? Was there some sort of mutual benefit going on? Why wasn't I getting my blood sucked (I had more to spare after all!)? And do mosquitoes suck the sucked blood from other mosquitoes?!

I have found out that there are frog-feeding mosquito species (well, ectotherm-suckers) separate to mammal-feeding mosquitoes. And it is only fair that frogs sometimes get their own back by welcoming mosquitoes to the dinner table. Through a little research on this subject, I have found a new appreciation of the importance of the mosquito-frog relationship for ecosystem function.

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Mosquitoes have been around for about 200 million years, which stands testimony to their resilience and also to the relationships they have forged with a vast array of fauna. While they are a significant health threat for humans and many other species, it is worth recognising their role in the control of fauna populations, as a nutritious food source and in the survival of other species such as blood parasites. One of the main mosquito bite concerns for a frog is the transmission of parasites such as Filarial worms and viruses. There are other parasites too that pass from frog to mosquito when the mosquito sucks, as well as mosquito to frog when the mosquito is ingested. The blood parasites depend on these pathways for survival.

Not all frogs are equal when it comes to mosquito attractability. Apparently *Litoria (Pelodryas) caerulea* (Green tree frog) produces skin secretions that are repellent to both blowflies and mosquitoes, and this could imply that they are less infected by parasites spread by mosquitoes. This knowledge will make me more observant in future as to who is getting jabbed and who isn't! Ferguson and Smith 2012 talk about the importance of the natural interactions and balances that are in place between frogs, mosquitoes and parasites. They suggest that upsetting this through frog species declines or through the introduction of fish to control mosquitoes or the reduction in mosquito larvae as a food source, can cause a change in preference of parasites for different and more susceptible frog species, the introduction of new parasites to a system or increasing fish predation on tadpoles. It's a reminder that we need to be careful to consider all components of an ecosystem when managing for specific issues.

As a side note:

Mosquitoes don't rob the sucked blood from another mosquito for these reasons:

1. Mosquito attractants include CO<sub>2</sub> from an animal's exhaled breath, some body odours and the vocalisation of male frogs. Mosquitoes have trouble emitting these themselves, therefore, they don't attract the attention of another mosquito.

2. They emit "warning pheromones" to remind the other party that 'I am of the same species'.

3. They have a chitinous exoskeleton and their mouthparts can't cut through this tough substance.

Point of interest- only female mosquitoes suck blood. Males are more delicately sucking nectar and not bothering us at all.

Article by Eva Ford

Reference:

Ferguson, L. V. and Smith, T. G., 2012. Reciprocal Trophic Interactions and Transmission of Blood Parasites between Mosquitoes and Frogs. *Insects*. 3(2), 410-423.



*Mixophyes iteratus*; Photo by Eva Ford

# A NEW CHAPTER FOR ROMEO'S SPECIES

The story of Romeo, once known as the world's loneliest frog, has come to an end, but for the Sehuencas water frog (*Telmatobius yuracare*), the future may be brighter than ever.

Romeo was collected from Bolivia's Carrasco National Park in 2009 as chytrid fungus devastated local amphibian populations. For years, no others of his species were found, leading scientists to fear he was the last. Global attention followed, including a high-profile campaign to find him a mate. In 2018, hope returned when researchers rediscovered several Sehuencas water frogs in the wild, including a female named Juliet.

Although Romeo responded enthusiastically to Juliet, the pair never produced offspring. Romeo died of old age in January 2025 after 16 years in captivity. Juliet remains alive at the Alcide d'Orbigny Natural History Museum, along with several other individuals held as part of a conservation breeding program.

Encouragingly, researchers have since located another wild population of Sehuencas water frogs in a different area of Carrasco National Park—only the second confirmed wild population discovered since 2009. The group appears small but stable. Scientists are now monitoring the frogs using underwater acoustic recorders, allowing them to track breeding activity with minimal disturbance.

Despite this positive development, the species remains critically endangered. Chytrid disease, habitat loss and limited conservation resources continue to pose serious threats. Efforts are now focused on protecting remaining habitat and strengthening captive breeding programs.

More broadly, conservation organisations are working across Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador to coordinate protection for all known species of Andean water frogs, many of which face similar risks.

Romeo's story captured global attention, but his legacy is more than symbolic. The discovery of new populations offers renewed momentum, and a reminder that even when a species seems lost, careful fieldwork and sustained conservation can still change the outcome.





# GOLIATH FROG REDISCOVERED

The world's largest frog, the impressive goliath frog (*Conraua goliath*), lives up to its name. Native to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, this giant amphibian can grow up to 32 cm long and weigh as much as 3.25 kg—about the size and weight of a small puppy. Despite its enormous adult size, its life begins modestly, with tadpoles no larger than those of typical frog species.

Encouragingly, the species was recently confirmed in Equatorial Guinea for the first time in nearly 20 years. During a field survey conducted by the Bristol Zoological Society and the national park authority (INDEFOR-AP), researchers located goliath frogs within a protected area.

While the rediscovery is positive news, the frogs were found only in a small section of the survey area, highlighting the need for stronger conservation efforts. The species is threatened by habitat loss, hunting and environmental pressures.

Now that its presence has been confirmed, scientists hope to better understand the goliath frog's population, monitor its status and implement measures to ensure this remarkable species remains part of the region's biodiversity.

# DEADLY CHYTRID FUNGUS LINKED TO BRAZIL

The chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) is one of the most significant drivers of global amphibian declines, contributing to population losses in more than 500 frog and toad species. New research has shed light on the origins of one particular strain, suggesting it likely emerged in Brazil before spreading worldwide.

Scientists from the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) analysed genetic data, historical records and museum specimens to trace the history of the Bd-Brazil strain. Evidence shows the fungus was present in Brazilian amphibians as early as 1916—well before the introduction of farmed American bullfrogs, which were later widely traded for food.

The study indicates that the international trade in bullfrogs likely played a major role in moving the pathogen to other regions, including the United States and parts of Asia. In Brazil, the strain occurs both in wild populations and on frog farms, whereas overseas it is mostly associated with introduced or farmed species.

Although Bd-Brazil appears less virulent than some other strains, the findings highlight the risks associated with wildlife trade. Researchers stress the need for stronger biosecurity measures, including pathogen screening, quarantine and improved regulation, to help protect native amphibian populations worldwide.

## Executive Committee

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## A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Sebastian HoferMarg & Jeff Eller ,Ronan MacLennan, Danielle Jeffery



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

**February & March 2026**  
(Various dates)  
Surveys with ECOllaboration.  
Contact us for more details



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 2026**