

FROGSHEET

Litoria infrafrenata; Photo by Ashley Keune



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Heritage Park Survey

President's Report

Hello once again to all of our QFS members.

I hope you are all well? The past several months has certainly been varied regarding rainfall throughout Queensland. While most regions eventually received adequate rainfall and as always, many places received way too much, the late arrival of the wet season in the South East corner limited breeding opportunities for our amphibian populations in this area. Nonetheless, we observed a promising number of juvenile and sub adult frogs in several survey locations participating in the Find a Frog in February initiative. For those affected by flooding, I sincerely hope your recovery is progressing smoothly and that you have the necessary support around you.

This year we received a few applications for the Ric Natrass Research Grant. I am delighted to announce that Tommi Mason is the recipient of the first grant at the new amount of \$2,500. We wish Tommi all the best with her research and look forward to hearing about her findings at our Annual General Meeting, likely to be held in late October. Additionally, congratulations are extended to Sebastian Hoefer, who was awarded a supplementary grant of \$1,500. This extra payment to Sebastian was made possible by the generous support of Phil Bird, one of our members. Phil's contribution is greatly appreciated and helps advance frog research and scientific inquiry more broadly. Sebastian has kindly offered to present some of his research at this year's AGM as well. Congratulations to Tommi for her selection as the Ric Natrass Research Grant recipient and to Sebastian for securing additional funding to finalise his project.

On the 27th of February I participated in the Heritage Park Frog Survey with Tewantin State School, joined this year by Ollie from MRCCC. Despite persistent heavy rain throughout the evening, the survey proved highly successful. Approximately nine students and their parents attended, although the very wet conditions on the night meant some Frog Club members were unable to join us. During the survey, we observed six Great Barred Frogs and heard at least fifteen more calling, much to the excitement of the students, many of whom were seeing these frogs for the first time. Additional sightings included one Striped Rocket Frog, ten Striped Marsh Frogs, eighteen Graceful Tree Frogs and unfortunately more than one hundred Cane Toads.

We also heard several Striped Rocket Frogs and a substantial number of Striped Marsh Frogs, at least forty were calling from multiple areas across the park. Likewise, over one hundred Graceful Tree Frogs could be heard across all sections, along with calls from a Tusked Frog and several Southern Laughing Tree Frogs. The evening also yielded sightings of numerous spiders and a few lizards. This survey stands as our most successful to date in terms of the sheer numbers of frogs observed and recorded.

Continued...

As outlined in the previous Frogsheet, QFS partnered once again with ECollaboration on the Sunshine Coast to facilitate with some of their frog surveys. QFS attended several of the fifteen scheduled surveys held during late January, February, and early March. ECollaboration's initiative, spanning five locations across the Sunshine Coast, is commendable for recording crucial data and raising public awareness about local frog populations.

I personally attended two surveys with Trevor from ECollaboration. The first took place at the offset ponds established as compensation for the new airport runway on the Sunshine Coast, situated just off Claymore Road near Buderim/Sippy Downs. This recently created habitat, adjacent to Mooloolah River National Park, has proven favourable for numerous species including some of the Wallum Frogs. This is a new site to replace the Maroochydore Botanical Gardens, which was a great decision due to the numbers of frogs seen here and the lack of frogs at the other location again this year.

With around fifteen people attending, we observed and heard a diverse range of frogs. Survey participants were divided into two groups, and both groups recorded similar species but in varied numbers. Numerous Copper-backed Broodfrogs were heard along the full length of the survey site, especially on the Mooloolah River National Park side, though none were sighted. Wallum Rocket Frogs were seen, and several Wallum Froglets, Eastern Sedge Frogs, Southern Laughing Tree Frogs, and Naked Tree Frogs were heard. We also detected the unusual presence of a lone Beeping Froglet. Multiple Naked Tree Frogs, a Green Tree Frog, several Striped Marsh Frogs, and a couple of Striped Rocket Frogs rounded out the evening's sightings when we arrived back at the car park. Overall, it was a highly successful outing with excellent species diversity and numbers.

The second survey, originally scheduled for a private property at Dulong, was unfortunately cancelled due to approaching storms. This was unfortunate as last year's visit to the site yielded a large variety of frog and other wildlife species but the safety of potential attendees must take priority.

I also attended a survey at Maleny on the Obi Obi Boardwalk, which proved to be an enjoyable evening with roughly twelve participants. Favourable weather conditions in the preceding days left the ground moist and the Obi Obi Creek flowing. My expectations were high given the site's history of abundant Giant Barred Frog records. Both Giant Barred Frogs and Great Barred Frogs were observed in substantial numbers, around fifteen Giant Barred Frogs were seen or heard. They ranged from young sub adults to a large female. Dozens of Great Barred Frogs were also seen and heard, spanning from juveniles to adults. Some attendees were fortunate enough to spot a platypus in the creek post survey, though I missed it while conducting some water testing. This was another positive experience at a site new to me. Additionally, Jono Hooper represented QFS at other surveys across different locations.

Continued...

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to Trevor and ECollaboration for their commitment to these fifteen surveys. We look forward to continuing this collaboration in coming years and on further projects within the local area.

I would also like to acknowledge Lydia from Gulf Savannah NRM for inviting both Ed and myself to discuss the decline of common and endangered frog species and its broader implications. Lydia interviewed us individually via Zoom for her article to be published in The Gulf Croaker Magazine. I thoroughly enjoyed our discussion, and the article is currently being finalised for publication in the next edition. Thank you, Lydia, for spotlighting this important issue.

Finally, sincere appreciation is extended to the Queensland Water and Land Carers Group (QWaLC) for once again providing insurance cover for the Society over the next twelve months. QWaLC, sponsored by the Queensland Government, offers not only comprehensive insurance but also facilitates funding opportunities and governance resources. Their ongoing support promotes volunteer efforts at both state and local levels. For the QFS this generous support saves us a significant amount of money annually and helps us avoid increasing membership fees.

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

Regards
Ashley Keune



Mixophyes iteratus ; Photo by Ashley Keune

FROG SOCIETY WALK AND TALK AT CREEC

April is Frog Month, and what better way to celebrate than with the Queensland Frog Society?

Join a guided walk through CREEC's frog ponds and wetlands, home to a variety of species, including the endangered Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*).

Learn about frog habits, why wetlands are so important, and pick up simple tips on how to make your own backyard more frog friendly.

When: 10am - 11.30am, Friday 17 April 2026

Where: Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre (CREEC)
150 Rowley Road, Burpengary, 4505

Info: [LINK](#)

Photos by Jordy Grofen



TINY “FROG APARTMENTS” A SURPRISE SUCCESS

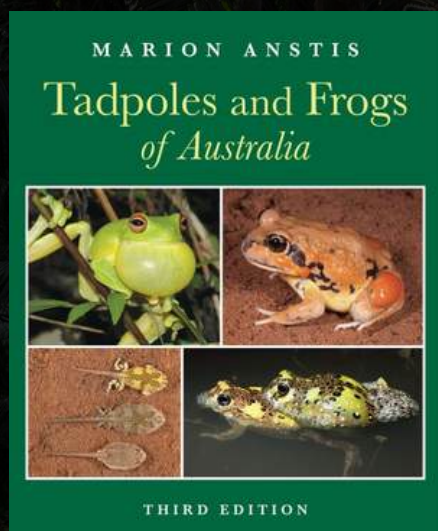
Researchers in Queensland’s Wet Tropics have found that robust whistling frogs (*Austrochaperina robusta*) are surprisingly fond of artificial shelters, particularly concrete ones.

Because these small, ground-dwelling frogs are difficult to spot in the wild, scientists from James Cook University set up an experiment using 60 shelters: half made from wood and half from concrete, designed to mimic the logs and rocks the frogs naturally hide under. The shelters were monitored over two years using a low-impact method that allowed researchers to check inside without disturbing the animals.

While both types were used, the frogs showed a clear preference for the concrete shelters, choosing them about 75% of the time. The concrete structures likely provided more stable temperature and moisture conditions and did not break down as quickly as the wooden ones.

Importantly, the frogs didn’t just use these shelters for hiding; they eventually began breeding in them. All recorded egg clutches were found beneath the concrete shelters, offering a rare opportunity to observe this life stage without damaging natural habitat.

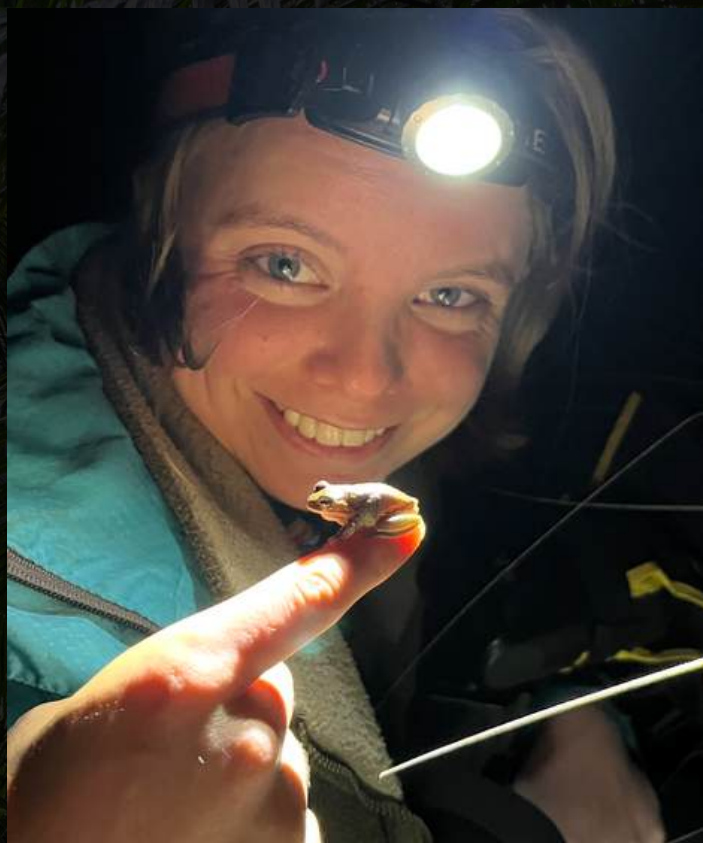
The study highlights a simple, non-invasive way to monitor elusive frog species and could help support conservation efforts for other ground-dwelling frogs in the region.



NEW THIRD EDITION OF TADPOLES AND FROGS OF AUSTRALIA

BY MARION ANSTIS

The third edition of *Tadpoles and Frogs of Australia* by Marion Anstis is arriving mid-April 2026. Fully updated, it now reflects major taxonomic changes and covers 264 Australian frog species. With detailed information across all life stages and extensive colour photography, it remains an essential guide for frog identification and conservation.



In addition to funding Tommi's project, we are excited to announce through the generous support of our life member Phil Bird, a second research project has received funding.

Sebastian Hoefer, a Ph.D student from James Cook University, has spent several years Investigating the value of passive acoustic monitoring to enhance frog biodiversity assessments. Specifically, he has been evaluating the performance of passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) against traditional observer-based methods for frog biodiversity assessments, providing a robust framework for long-term conservation monitoring. Preliminary results demonstrate that that long-term PAM significantly outperformed all other OBM, capturing 98% of total species richness within a year.

These funds provided by Phil will support the finalisation of acoustic and statistical analyses and publication of these findings. This work directly benefits Queensland frogs by establishing improved, scalable monitoring methods essential for future conservation strategies and management plans. We wish both Tommi and Sebastian all the best with their research this year and look forward to hearing them present their findings later in the year!

2026 GRANT PRESS RELEASE

The Queensland Frog Society is proud to announce our 2026 Ric Nattrass Research Grant has been awarded to Ph.D student Tommi Mason at the University of Queensland!

Chytridiomycosis, which is caused by the fungal pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (hereafter Bd), has caused severe amphibian declines and local extinctions in the upper elevations of Queensland's coastal forests and freshwater streams.

Tommi's project aims to explore differences in demographic patterns and Bd infection dynamics between two *Mixophyes iteratus* (giant barred frog) populations; one at an upland (high risk) site and the other at a lowland (low risk) site. She will investigate how infection dynamics and key demographic parameters (including survival and recruitment) differ between these populations by undertaking longitudinal capture-mark-recapture surveys.

It is anticipated that the research outcomes will provide valuable insights for government agencies and conservation organisations, helping to guide recovery strategies for frog species that may be experiencing population suppression due to disease.





BOOROOLONG FROGS RETURN TO NSW STREAMS

Endangered Booroolong frogs are making a comeback in north-west New South Wales, thanks to a dedicated breeding and reintroduction program.

In recent years, teams from Taronga Conservation Society, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and local ecologists have worked together to breed and release frogs into waterways near Nundle and Tamworth. Once common in the region, Booroolong frogs declined dramatically during the 2017–2019 drought, with some populations considered locally extinct.

After being raised for around six months in captivity, the frogs are transported to release sites and carefully introduced into streams under the cover of darkness, giving them the best chance to avoid predators. Around 1,500 frogs have already been released over the past three years, with this year marking the program's largest release yet.

Monitoring efforts have shown promising signs, with researchers tracking survival rates and overall health following release. The program has also benefited from earlier intervention, when a small number of frogs were collected to establish the captive breeding population before numbers dropped too low.

Conservationists are hopeful that continued releases will allow the species to re-establish in the wild, with ongoing monitoring to guide future efforts.

BREAKTHROUGH FOR LITTLEJOHN'S TREE FROG

Researchers have successfully bred the endangered Littlejohn's tree frog in captivity for the first time, marking an important step for the species' conservation. After years of failed attempts, scientists at the University of Newcastle were able to replicate the specific conditions needed for breeding, resulting in two healthy clutches of eggs from frogs in the Watagans population.

The species survives in only a few small, isolated populations across New South Wales, making it highly vulnerable to threats such as drought, fire and low genetic diversity.

Alongside captive breeding, conservation efforts are also focused on restoring habitat and connecting populations through new pond systems, as well as raising eggs in protected environments before release.

While challenges remain, this breakthrough provides a valuable new tool to help support the long-term recovery of Littlejohn's tree frog.

Litoria littlejohni; Photo by Stephen Mahony



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A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

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White, Rei Kristanto, Kathy
Taylor, Nicole Nesbitt, Lauren
Pescatore, Benita Suckling,
Matt Diaz.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

17 April 2026

Frog Society Walk and Talk at
CREEC. More Info: [LINK](#)

8am-4pm **20 June 2026**
Esk Garden Fair



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

DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS
14 MAY 2026