

FROGSHEET

Chlorohyla chloris; Photo by Ryan Carleton

IN THIS ISSUE

Pg 2 - President's Report

Pg 4 - Conference Success for QFS Grant
Recipient

Pg 4 - Recovery of the Giant barred frog in the
upper Mary River catchment

Pg 6 - A Surprising Strategy for Goanna
Conservation

Pg 6 - Thousands of Eggs Released to Aid
Recovery



QFS Stall at the Esk Garden Show

President's Report



Hello once again to all our QFS members.

As we move further into Winter, the season has certainly started in an unusual way. Here in South East Queensland, temperatures have remained much warmer than expected, accompanied by fairly consistent rainfall. While some regions across the state are still experiencing dry conditions, our local weather has felt quite different from a typical Winter. Hopefully the weeks ahead will bring more of the crisp, sunny Winter days we are accustomed to, along with a few cooler evenings.

The Queensland Frog Society was delighted to be part of the 10th anniversary celebration of the Esk Garden Fair, held on Saturday the 20th of June. The event was blessed with beautiful weather, although it was surprisingly warm for this time of year. This was undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable events I have attended with the QFS. From the excellent communication provided by the organisers to the thoughtful event layout and smooth coordination throughout the day, everything was exceptionally well managed. Visitors were treated to a wonderful range of unique stalls showcasing high-quality products, creating a fantastic atmosphere. Our display attracted tremendous interest, making it the busiest single day we have experienced at any event. For several hours, our team was constantly engaged with attendees eager to learn more about frogs and conservation. We sincerely thank everyone who stopped by to support us. A special thank you also goes to Desley, who met me in Esk shortly after 5:00 am to assist with setting up and then stayed back to help pack everything away. We look forward to returning for this fantastic event again next year.

From 10th to the 12th of July, the Queensland Frog Society also attended the Queensland Garden Expo in Nambour, which remains the largest and most significant event on our annual calendar. Once again, the event provided an outstanding opportunity to engage with the community, share information about frogs in our environment, and encourage people to create frog friendly gardens. Over the three days, we spoke with countless visitors and provided educational resources and advice on frog conservation. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers who contributed their time and effort to support our stall. Your assistance is invaluable and plays a vital role in ensuring the success of our presence at these events. It was wonderful working alongside so many dedicated volunteers, and we look forward to seeing many of you again at future displays and workshops.

We are also excited to introduce a new addition to our range of merchandise. Over recent months, our Vice President, Ryan, has coordinated for us to obtain a collection of high quality frog stickers available in three different sizes. The artworks have been created by Tommi Mason, this year's recipient of the Ric Natrass Research Grant.

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Tommi designed, illustrated and produced these fantastic stickers, and we are grateful for the opportunity to offer them for sale. A sincere thank you to both Tommi for creating such an appealing product and to Ryan for helping obtain the stickers for the QFS. The stickers will soon be available through our online store and will also be offered at future displays and events.

Looking ahead, another major event on our calendar is the Off Grid Lifestyle Expo at the Gympie Showgrounds. The expo will be held on Saturday the 1st of August and Sunday the 2nd of August, with gates open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day. Having participated in this event for several years, we are excited to return. If you are interested in volunteering at our stall during the weekend, please get in touch. We also encourage anyone attending the expo to visit us, learn more about frogs and conservation, and browse our range of frog related books and merchandise.

Preparations are also underway for our Annual General Meeting later this year. We are pleased to once again be hosting the AGM at the beautiful Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre on Sunday the 25th of October. The meeting will commence at 1:30 pm and for those unable to attend in person, a Zoom option will again be available. This year's AGM will feature two guest speakers, which promises to make the afternoon particularly engaging and informative. If you have ever considered becoming more involved with the Queensland Frog Society by serving on the committee, now is a great time to start thinking about it. Please feel free to contact us for more information, and nomination links will be distributed later in the year. Additional AGM details will be included in the next edition of Frogsheet.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has supported the Containers for Change program. Donations have continued to arrive steadily over recent weeks, and your contributions are making a meaningful difference. Since joining the program just over two years ago, the Queensland Frog Society has raised almost \$900 by the end of the financial year. This achievement benefits both environmental sustainability and frog research initiatives. If you would like to support the program, our team member number is C11218433. We would also like to acknowledge and thank everyone who has made donations to the Public Trust Fund leading up to the end of the financial year. These funds will directly support the next Ric Natrass Research Grant recipient in 2027 and help continue valuable frog research into the future.

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

Kind regards
Ashley Keune

CONFERENCE SUCCESS FOR QFS GRANT RECIPIENT

The Queensland Frog Society is pleased to congratulate Dr Thais Sasso Lopes, who recently attended an international conference with the support of a QFS conference grant.

At the conference, Thais presented her PhD research, which has now been published in a peer-reviewed journal. As a result of her presentation, she was also invited to serve as a Guest Editor for a special issue of a scientific journal, an exciting recognition of her work.

Thais' paper, *Unraveling the Environmental Drivers of Chytrid Fungal eDNA Detection and Quantity in Rainforest Streams*, can be viewed here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/edn3.70271>

Congratulations, Thais, on this fantastic achievement!



RECOVERY OF THE GIANT BARRED FROG IN THE UPPER MARY RIVER CATCHMENT

By Eva Ford, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, Gympie, Queensland

There is no thrill quite like the one when you find something that was lost! Two frog outings along Obi Obi Creek boardwalk in Maleny township in 2023 (and many since) were cause to exclaim out loud and grab some snaps of a shining waterway star; the Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*). In response to a better understanding of its distribution and population levels, this majestic stream-dependant frog was downgraded from Endangered to Vulnerable under state and federal legislation in 2021. Impacts from the amphibian Chytrid fungus, and prolonged and savage vegetation clearing of last century, had impacted this stream-dependant amphibian severely.

Aerial photography from 1958 (see images at end of document) shows widespread vegetation loss of riparian vegetation along most of upper Obi Obi Creek. The same was occurring along many waterways flowing through agricultural land in Queensland. for many decades. Surveys targeting *M. iteratus* along the whole of the Obi Obi Creek system prior to 2012 kept turning up a 'no show' result for. That was until one fine evening in 2012 when the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) and Barung Landcare conducted a frog survey at the Maleny Precinct site downstream of the township. This was prior to restorative works at that site when the creek bank supported a stand of exotic pine trees and a scattering of privet bushes.

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We found three individuals over a length of about 4.5 kilometres and the excitement grew as another was observed months later along Walkers Creek and downstream towards Lake Baroon. However, numerous surveys over two decades upstream of Maleny (including the Boardwalk in town) and downstream of Baroon Pocket Dam to Kenilworth would not reveal other populations.

Since the mid-1990s, many have put energy and resources into revegetation effort along the waterways of the Blackall plateau. In Maleny, the 'Boardwalk planting' began in 1993 headed up by Barung Landcare, and Maleny State School planted a significantly sized creek bend in the early 2000's. The Maleny Precinct across the creek saw extensive revegetation commence in 2014.

The MRCCC's annual Find a Frog in February (FFF) event encourages people to survey for frogs and, in 2020, the first sightings of Giant barred frogs started to come in from Maleny locals. In 2023 a large group of FFF workshop attendees walked the Boardwalk and we also installed a monitoring transect with the students and teachers of Maleny State School on their school grounds. At the Boardwalk we encountered *M. iteratus* 12 individuals observed, and there were seven at the school, with one additional male calling from across the creek at the Precinct. To everyone's delight males, females and juveniles were all seen. This is a magnificent species; awe-inspiring when spotted by torch-light under the dark canopy of the night. It is vital to food webs and energy transfer between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

The sightings confirm that, given time, revegetation efforts bring restored functionality through the regeneration of complex habitat features and ecological processes. We estimate that, under conditions of the Maleny area, 20 years of growth was needed to allow *M. iteratus* to rebuild its population from the meagre numbers that were found downstream. The trees are now providing a suitable microclimate (moist and cool), ground cover (leaf-litter and refuge 'furniture'), stable banks, in-stream complexity and deep pools for a healthy *M. iteratus* existence and for breeding.



Nothing quite like the smile of a contented Giant barred frog! Photo by E. Ford (MRCCC)



A SURPRISING STRATEGY FOR GOANNA CONSERVATION

Proactively breeding cane toads to help protect native wildlife may seem counterintuitive. However, a long-running conservation program in Western Australia's Kimberley region is proving that carefully managed exposure to juvenile cane toads can significantly improve the survival of native goannas.

Young cane toads contain much lower levels of toxin than adults. When goannas eat these small toads, they become mildly ill but recover, developing an aversion to eating cane toads in the future. This learned behaviour helps prevent fatal encounters with fully grown cane toads as they spread into new areas.

The Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions has used this approach for more than a decade, with studies showing that 60–90% of goannas survived in treated areas after cane toads arrived.

This year, the program is expanding near Broome in partnership with the Nyikina Mangala Rangers and the Yawuru community.

Local communities are also playing an important role by participating in cane toad collection events, supplying breeding stock for the program while helping raise awareness about conservation.

While unconventional, this innovative strategy is demonstrating how behavioural science can help reduce the impacts of one of Australia's most destructive invasive species and improve the chances of native predators surviving the cane toad invasion.



THOUSANDS OF EGGS RELEASED TO AID RECOVERY

A record 1,450 captive-bred southern corroboree frog eggs have been released into Kosciuszko National Park, marking the largest release in Taronga Conservation Society Australia's 20-year recovery program.

Once widespread across the Snowy Mountains, the species has suffered severe declines due to chytrid fungus, with fewer than 50 individuals believed to remain in the wild outside managed populations.

The release is part of a collaborative conservation effort aimed at rebuilding wild populations and giving one of Australia's most endangered frogs a greater chance of survival.



Executive Committee

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General Committee Member - Olivia Tyson



A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Keith Cardwell, Ned Donnelly,
Tom De La Salle, Braden
Craven-Griffiths, Bradley
Johnson, Austin Thomson,
Georgia Bishop



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

1-2 August 2026, 9am-4pm
Off Grid Lifestyle Expo
Gympie Showgrounds

25 October 2026, 1.30pm-4pm
QFS AGM
Karawatha Discovery Centre



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

DEADLINE FOR THE SPRING FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS
14 AUGUST 2026