

FROGSHEET

Litoria latopalmata; Photo by Ashley Keune



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Cyclorana brevipes; Photo by Susan Reilly



President's Report

Hello once again to all of our QFS members. It has been a hot and especially humid start to the year. I hope you all have been able to keep cool. Even though it has been extremely humid this year, it has been great to have some good, regular rainfall around much of the state which has allowed the environment to recover from the dry year last year. The states flora and fauna has really enjoyed the wet weather, especially the frogs.

With all the natural disasters becoming more regular as well in Australia over the years, it seems to be a regular thing over the last few years that our thoughts are with the families that have endured any of these disasters. Once again, I wish everybody that has been through any of the flooding throughout the state in the last few months a speedy recovery. Our thoughts are with you.

It has been great to see more frogs around this season. I have seen the return of several species on my property that I haven't seen since around 2021/2022. These include the Broad-palmed Rocket Frog (*Litoria latopalmata*), Great Brown Broodfrog (*Pseudophryne major*) and the Spotted Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*). I have also seen numerous other species in larger numbers, compared to the last few years. I have heard similar reports from a variety of other people around the Mary Valley and throughout many other places around the state. Hopefully this trend continues as the last few years data and anecdotal records are showing the reverse of this.



Platyplectrum ornatum



Pseudophryne major



Limnodynastes tasmaniensis

This year we have had lots of groups and organisations contact us to conduct workshops and to do talks, displays and presentations. It is great to see so many organisations showing an interest in frogs and frog friendly gardens. I'm excited that we will be receiving our new display board in the very near future. This will allow us to create a duplicate set of educational materials that we use at displays. As a result we will be able to travel to more locations to give presentations in a wider area.

I would like to thank Laura Grogan and the Griffith University especially for this as we are receiving this through a Community Sustainability Action Grant which Laura applied for and she incorporated some of the funds from the grant to the QFS for educational purposes.

Continued...

This new display board will look great and will continue to modernise our displays.

Don't forget that if you are interested in helping contribute to the research into frogs you can now donate online through the Donate Here tab at this link: [HERE](#) and all these donations over \$2 are tax deductible or you can take in your containers for change to one of the depots and put your refund towards the Queensland Frog Society and all the funds raised through this program will also be put towards the Ric Natrass Research Grant.

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

Regards

Ashley Keune

From the Secretary's Desk

The last few months have been the busiest for some years with spawn, tadpoles and rescue enquires. The continual rain events have made sure the ponds and puddles have been kept full so it seems that multiple spawns have taken place.

Luckily, I haven't seen any cane toad spawn or tadpole pictures or descriptions so have been able to put a lot of people's minds at ease with that news.

There have been some queries about raising tadpoles which have appeared in shallow dishes or the like and puddles in gardens which tend to dry up quickly. After discussions with one caller I was delighted to receive a photo of what they put together after shopping at the large hardware store. The tadpoles loved it and the Tusked frogs revisited and spawned again. The tadpoles were fed soft lettuce to help with the food supply. I thought I would share the picture to give anyone else some ideas of what you can do in a small space.

Hope you have success this season – send in your stories & pictures if you would like to let us know.

Cheers, Jenny.



Bunnings 52cm Bucket

Healthy Farm Dams - Vital for Yarraman's Frogs

Yarraman is in a 'green drought', 2023 rainfall total = 525mm. Yarraman's rainfall average + 900mm. January 2024 = 157.5 over 19 days and 22mm so far for February. "Babbler Cottage" 26 Dioth Street, Yarraman 4614 has been destocked since April 2016. Scott and I purchased this property, which is just under a hectare, in May 2018. Since then we have been undertaking major pest control activities, including European Rabbits, Indian/Common Myna, Lantana, Asparagus Fern and weedy introduced grasses, etc.

We have been actively protecting the locally native vegetation and restoring degraded areas. Our dam has completely dried out twice. Initially we employed heavy machinery to remove more than a metre of 'duck poo' from the bottom of the dam, which has been fantastic as a plant fertilizer. The dam has also been brim full for many months in the early 2020's. We have attempted to restore and revegetate the dam banks, all unsuccessfully. From now on, we just wait for the abundant waterfowl visitors to bring in locally native aquatic and fringing vegetation plant material on their feet and bodies. This appears to be successful, and we now let nature take its course.



Following two good rainfall events in January 2024 of 34mm and 81mm our dam is now alive with frogs calling and mating. During the evenings we visited the dam to check out the cacophony of frog calls, and to catch and dispatch the Cane Toads. What an incredible experience, ears ringing, and with great care to avoid stepping on the hundreds of frogs, I photographed as many frogs which stayed stationary as I could. We have counted 12 species visiting the dam. I was unsure of a few species, and contacted Jono Hooper with my images.

www.facebook.com/yarramancreek4614

Jono said the Superb Collared Frog – *Cyclorana brevipes* is now a new record for Yarraman.



We shall continue to monitor, photograph and record our frog sightings and voices, both diurnal and nocturnal. We shall also work to protect the fresh water and fringing vegetation and wish for more rain to fill the dam and the soil profile. Ours is now a healthy well vegetated dam, a safe protected home to all our locally native wildlife.

Susan Reilly

Into the Wild: Successful Frog Breeding Programs

From an initial collection of 26 Spotted Tree Frogs (*Litoria spenceri*), over 800 have been bred with the most recent release including 70 juveniles back into Mount Beauty.

Post-the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires, this breeding program was initiated as over 50% of the natural environment of the Spotted Tree Frogs was destroyed.

The frogs are being bred at the Amphibian Bushfire Recovery Centre at Melbourne Zoo and Threatened Amphibian Biolab at Healesville Sanctuary, off the back of support from Wild Research, Zoos Victoria, and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

The next few weeks will see the release of a further 300 tadpoles and other frog species.



Litoria spenceri; [Photo Link](#)

As put by Dr Matt West, director of conservation company Wild Research, "We're trying to get spotted tree frogs back into as many of their former sites ... and hoping that will give the species more resilience to future bush fire events."

"It is a marathon and it's just crucial that we have a lot of partners working together to try and protect species like the spotted tree frog," he said.

The Mystery of a Mushroom Sprouting from a Living Frog

A bizarre find in India of a live frog with a mushroom growing out of it has left scientists baffled.

The frog's finders did not disturb it, and the mystery persists about whether the fungus sprouted from within the frog's body or took root on its skin. Some experts suggest that the frog might have acquired the fungus after dealing with an infection or injury, creating a rough spot where the fungus could cling on.



Photo Credit: Lohit Y T



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A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Lisa Jaworski, Nicole Reid,
Satoko Kuroda, Russell
Mackenzie, Abbey Watson,
Robyn Miles.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

23 March 2024 at 10am
Frog ID and frog friendly garden
at Capalaba Library
[RSVP Link](#)

15 April 2024
Jimboomba Garden Society

20 April 2024
Frog Workshop at Kumbartcho,
Eatons Hill.

4-7 July 2024
Queensland Garden Expo at
Nambour Showgrounds



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INCLUSION IN FROGSHEET!

DEADLINE FOR MID-AUTUMN FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS
28 MARCH 2024