

FROGSHEET

Limnodynastes greyi; Photo by Ashley Keune



IN THIS ISSUE

Pg 2 - President's Report

Pg 3 - The Identity Crisis of the
Pobblebonk

Pg 4 - Heritage Park Frog Survey

Pg 5 - Brown Tree Frog Variants
Found

Pg 6 - New QFS By-Law

Platyplectrum ornatum; Photo by Ashley Keune



President's Report

Hello once again to all our QFS members. I hope we are all well? It certainly has been a good year for frogs around much of the state, especially in South east Queensland. The rain has certainly been consistent for this wet season so frogs have been able to breed for longer this season. Hopefully this converts into more frogs around in the coming years. To be honest though, with only 7 days without rain since the start of February at my property, I'm actually looking forward to a bit of drier weather and some sunshine!

The Find a Frog in February survey with the Tewantin State School in conjunction with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee was held once again this year. You can read more details about this event later in this newsletter.

If you have been online lately, you may have noticed an addition to our website in the last few weeks. Jono our Events Co-ordinator has been busily working at adding some new technology to our website. He has incorporated an AI Bot (Artificial Intelligence Program) called Pobbles, named after our QFS mascot, which is a Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk. Pobbles is able to answer many of the common questions we get asked and it can interact with you, a lot like a real person in a live chat. If Pobbles can't help you, he will suggest that you send the message to a real person, which is one of us, to answer the question for you. We would love to hear your feedback on what you think of this new addition. At this stage this is just a trial, but if successful, we will look into keeping Pobbles for the long term. Thanks heaps Jono for your work around this!!

Our Containers for Change Program has been seeing quite good results during the first few months of its implementation. Thank you to all of you that have donated your recyclable containers to the Queensland Frog Society at one of the drop off locations. So far, we have raised an extra \$45.20 to put towards our Ric Natrass Research Grants of \$1,500 each. Best of all though we have saved 452 containers from going into landfill!! The team member number to donate to the Queensland Frog Society is C11218433. Share this team number with as many friends and family as you like.

Keep your eye out in the coming weeks and months for invitations that will be sent out via E-news to attend some more of our upcoming webinars. These webinars will be held via Zoom like our inaugural webinar on Tinkerfrogs. There are several others planned for this year and final details are currently being worked out. These webinars are a great opportunity to be able to learn about specific aspects related to frogs from experts in their field.

Coming up in July and August are two of the biggest events that we attend each year. We are looking forward to attending the Queensland Garden Expo once again. This year it has increased to a four day event from the 4th of July until the 7th of July.

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Also, the Off Grid Lifestyle Expo is happening on the 3rd and 4th of August at Gympie Showgrounds. We look forward to attending on the new dates, at the new location for this event this year. We will be looking for volunteers in the coming weeks for these events, so if you are interested in attending, you can contact one of us early to let us know.

Don't forget if you are interested in joining in with our general meetings you can get in touch with us and we can send you a link and you can see what we get up to behind the scenes. We would love to see more of our members joining us at our management meetings!

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

Regards
Ashley Keune

The Identity Crisis of the Pobblebonk

Released on 22 March 2024, a new study reveals the humble pobblebonk, otherwise known as the Northern Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes terraereginae*) has been split into “three evolutionary distinct, morphologically divergent, and narrowly allopatric lineages that replace each other in a north–south series from the tip of Cape York Peninsula to the Sydney Basin in the south.”

Limnodynastes terraereginae has been split up, with frogs occurring in Cape York recognised as *Limnodynastes terraereginae*, whilst the rest of QLD has been assigned *Limnodynastes greyi* (scarlet-sided banjo frog), except for Main Range north to Toowoomba, which remains *Limnodynastes dumerilii*. There's another group along north coast NSW, assigned *Limnodynastes superciliaris*.

Read More: [Click Here](#)

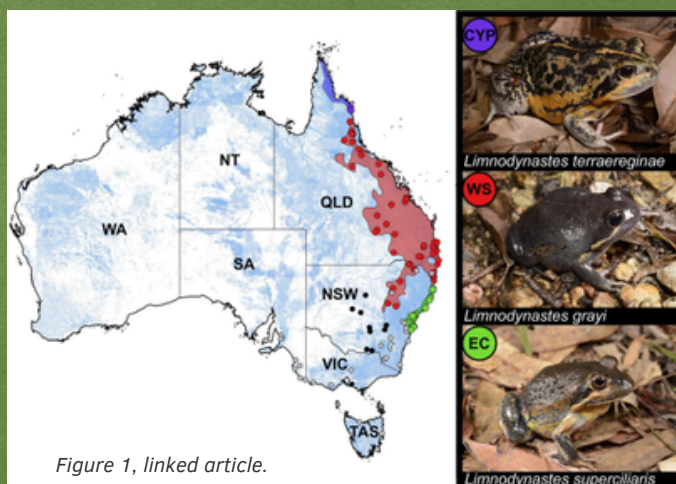


Figure 1, linked article.



Heritage Park Frog Survey

This year Tewanin State School, the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee and the Queensland Frog Society took part in our third collaborative annual *Find a Frog in February* event on Friday the 1st of March. Approximately 17 students from Year 1 to Year 5, plus their parents, attended the event this year at Heritage Park in Tewanin. This is an ongoing project that the school will take part in for the next several years.

Prior to the survey, the children attended several educational sessions during some of the play breaks. In these sessions we went through facts about frogs, how to identify different frogs by their call and their appearance, the differences between toads and frogs, how to use the data collection sheets, and the safety requirements for the event.

The group of children, their parents, Eva Ford from the MRCCC, and myself arrived at Heritage Park at approximately 6:15pm hoping we would see lots of species of frogs this year as it had been so wet in the area over the last several months with consistent rain. Before we went on the survey, we had a quick safety briefing and played a few educational games about frogs which was well received by the children.



At about 6:30 we made our way into the park to see what we could find. Once we entered the park, we firstly walked around the edge of the open grassy area, before making our way onto the designated paths and bridges within the park. We never walked into the bush within the park itself, to reduce disruption to the park where possible, and this increased the safety of all involved as well.

Even though the park was quite wet and the temperature was relatively warm, we only located five Striped Marsh Frogs, and one Striped Rocket Frog for the survey. There were also numerous toads present, approximately 70 in total. This year, the toad numbers had increased once again compared to last year. We walked out of the park around 8:15 pm and said goodbye to the children and their families.



Just after the children and parents left, Eva and myself heard a Great Barred Frog calling from near the bridge at the entrance to the park. We went over to see if we could locate it and we found it quite quickly in a small hole under the leaf litter.

During our walk, we also spotted lots of different species of spiders, heaps of other insects, a couple of red triangle slugs, a couple of native giant snails and a few fish.



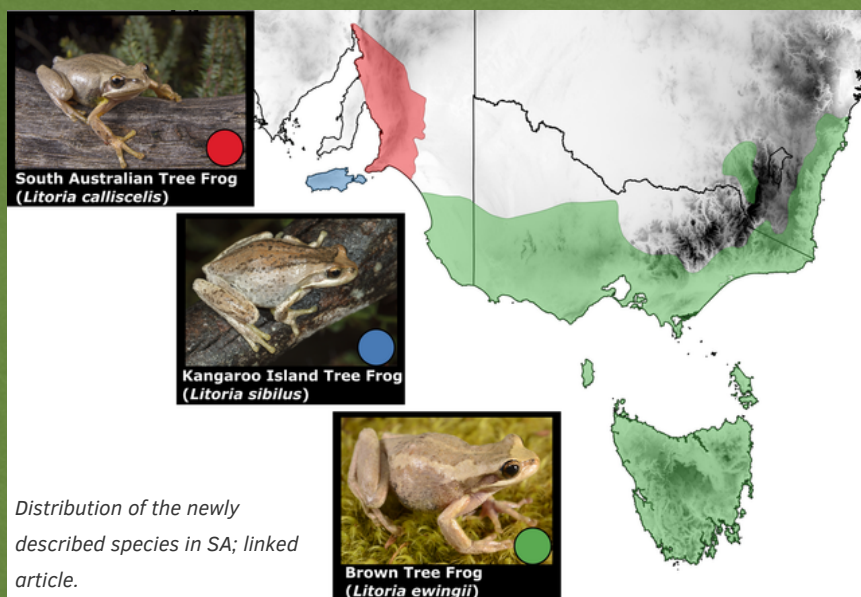
The data that was collected will be used to monitor the changes in the species and the size of these populations at the park over the coming years.

The difference in species and the numbers in these populations that we have seen each year demonstrates the importance of long-term monitoring to accurately see what lives in any given habitat. Even though we didn't see many frogs again this year, the data that we collected was extremely valuable.

I must give praise to the students that attended on the night for their behaviour and enthusiasm. They did the school proud and helped make a difference to protect the species that reside at Heritage Park. It was great seeing the kids and the parents enjoying conducting the survey and being out in nature for the evening. Congratulations to all involved and thank you for the great feedback from the families that were involved!!

Ashley Keune

Brown Tree Frog Variants Found



On a similar note to the Pobblebonk, a taxonomic assessment of the Brown Tree Frog (*Litoria ewingii*) has uncovered two additional species in South Australia.

It is feared the Kangaroo Island Tree Frog is of a high conservation concern due to the bushfires on the island in 2019/2020. The other species are plentiful.

Read More: [Click Here](#)

New QFS By-Law

To ensure QFS complies with legislative changes beginning 1 July 2024, a new By law, 'By Law 1 of 2024', was passed by the Committee on 20 March 2024, introducing a grievance procedure into QFS' Constitution. This By law complies with section 47A of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1978*.

Queensland Frog Society
By Law 1 of 2024 – 20 March 2024

Grievance Procedure

A - Grievance procedure

1. This By Law sets out a grievance procedure for dealing with a dispute between members as described in section 47A(1) of the of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 ('the Act'). That is a dispute arising from any part of the Constitution of the Queensland Frog Society.
2. To remove any doubt, the grievance procedure can not be used by a person who is not a current financial member nor, when their membership has been terminated as the Constitution provides for an appeal process against termination.
3. A member initiates the grievance procedure by giving a notice in writing of the dispute. The notice must provide reasonably sufficient information about the nature of the dispute, the circumstances and the persons involved. The notice must be given simultaneously to the:
 - a) other party; and
 - b) the Secretary of the management committee.
4. The management committee may appoint a committee member to assist the members to resolve their dispute.
5. If two or more members initiate a grievance procedure in relation to the same issue, the management committee may deal with the disputes in a single process and the members must choose one of the members to represent the members in the grievance procedure.
6. Subject to rule B, the parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to resolve the dispute in a reasonable, courteous and genuine manner.
7. If the parties to the dispute cannot resolve the dispute within 14 days after the grievance procedure is initiated, any party may, within a further 21 days, ask the association's secretary to refer the dispute to mediation.
8. Subject to rule B, if a party asks the association's secretary to refer the dispute to mediation under A7, the management committee must refer the dispute within 30 days after the request.

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B - Grievance procedure not continued in particular circumstances

1. This rule applies if -

- a) a member initiates a grievance procedure in relation to a dispute and the association or association's management committee is the other party to the dispute; or
- b) the aggrieved party asks the association's secretary to refer the dispute to mediation under A7.

2. The management committee does not have to act under rule A5 or A7 if -

- a) a party has, within 60 days before initiating the grievance procedure, behaved in a way that would give the management committee grounds for taking disciplinary action against the aggrieved party in relation to the issue the subject of the grievance procedure; or
- b) before the grievance procedure was initiated, a process had been commenced to terminate the party's membership, as provided for under the Constitution, and the dispute relates to that process or to an issue relevant to that process; or
- c) the dispute relates to an obligation under the Liquor Act 1992 or any other State law to prevent the entry of the aggrieved party to, or to remove the aggrieved party from, premises used by the association, or to refuse to serve liquor to the aggrieved party at the premises; or
- d) the dispute could reasonably be considered frivolous, vexatious, misconceived, or lacking in substance or the dispute relates to an issue that has already been the subject of the grievance procedure.

C - Appointment of mediator

1. If a dispute under A is referred to mediation:

- a) the parties to the dispute must agree on the appointment of a mediator to conduct the mediation within 30 days; or
- b) if the parties are unable to so agree the mediator will be, for a dispute between:
 - (i) a member and another member - a person appointed by the management committee; or
 - (ii) a member and the management committee or the association - an accredited mediator or a mediator appointed by the Director of the Dispute Resolution Centre or the President of the Bar Association of Queensland.

2. An accredited mediator may refuse to accept appointment as the mediator, or the Director or President may refuse to appoint a mediator, because, for example, the dispute is minor or trivial or that it is not capable of mediation.

3. If C2 applies, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

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D - Conduct of mediation

1. Subrules D(2) and D(3) do not apply when the mediator is an accredited mediator or a mediator appointed by the Director of the Dispute Resolution Centre or the President of the Bar Association of Queensland.
2. If a mediator is appointed under A, the mediator must start the mediation as soon as possible after the appointment and try to finish the mediation within 30 days after the appointment.
3. The mediator must abide by the normal and usual rules of mediation including:
 - a) giving each party to the dispute an opportunity to be heard on the issue the subject of the dispute;
 - b) compliance with the rules of natural justice;
 - c) not acting as an adjudicator or arbitrator;
 - d) during the mediation, speaking or meeting with the parties, with or without their representatives, together or separately.
4. The parties to the dispute must act in a reasonable, courteous and genuine manner during the mediation and help the mediator to resolve the issue and complete the mediation.
5. To remove any doubt, it is expected that the parties and the mediator will conduct a mediation in person 'face to face' physically in the same place or via a web based communication method.
6. The costs of the mediation, if any, are to be shared equally between the parties unless otherwise agreed.
7. If the mediator can not resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

E - Representation for grievance procedure

1. A party to a dispute may appoint any person to act on their behalf in the grievance procedure.
2. If a party appoints a person under subrule E 1 to be their representative, the party must give written notice of the appointment to each of the following:
 - a) the other party to the dispute;
 - b) the secretary of the management committee;
 - c) the mediator.
3. A representative who acts for a party at a mediation must:
 - a) have sufficient knowledge of the issue the subject of the dispute to be able to represent the party effectively; and
 - b) be authorised to negotiate an agreement for the party.

F - Web based communication

Any meeting or mediation may be conducted via a web based communication method for example 'Zoom' or 'Teams' with the agreement of the parties to the dispute and the mediator (if appointed).



Executive Committee

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A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Richard Clark, Susan Reilly,
Fiona Sheehy, Kate Green,
Martina Rady, Genevieve
Staines, Rick Staggs, Karolyn
Campbell, Deanna Horton.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

20 April 2024

Frog Workshop at Kumbartcho,
Eatons Hill.

4-7 July 2024

Queensland Garden Expo at
Nambour Showgrounds.

3 August 2024

Kumbartcho Frog Talk.

3 & 4 August 2024

Off-Grid Expo at Gympie
Showgrounds.



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INCLUSION IN FROGSHEET!

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14 MAY 2024