

FROGSHEET

Litoria peronii; Photo by Jono Hooper



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Mixophyes fasciolatus; Photo by Jono Hooper



**Thank you to
our supporters!**

Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$10,135.12
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 our QFS members. I must say I am pleased to have a cool change in the weather over the last few weeks. Even though many of the frog species are less active, especially in the bottom corner of the state, it is nice to have a break from the heat and humidity from this year.

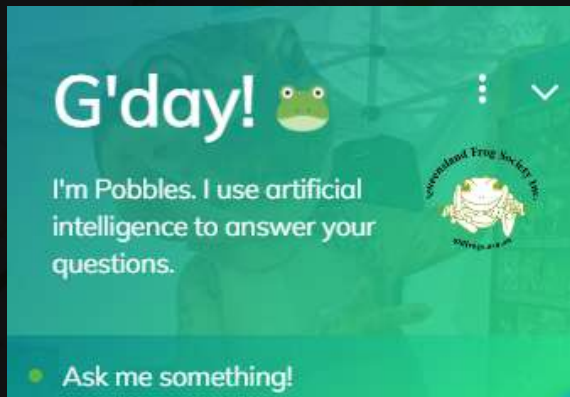
The Queensland Frog Society has had a busy several weeks regarding presentations that we have been involved in. It has been great to get out and about to educate people about frogs, frog friendly gardens, toads, frog ponds and factors affecting frog populations. I personally went and did a presentation at Kumbartcho Sanctuary for the Moreton Bay Regional Council on the 20th of April from 9:30 until 11:30 with one of our long serving members and ex-presidents, Rod Patterson. We had a crowd of about 40 to 45 people and some travelled from as far as Noosa and the Gold Coast for the presentation. After the presentation we held a 20 minute workshop on how to build frog hotels. The event was well received, and people had lots of questions during and after the event.

We also had our Events and Initiatives Co-ordinator, Jono Hooper, run two presentations in the last few months. The first was a presentation on frogs and frog friendly gardens for the Redland City Council. This was held at the Capalaba Library and Rod also accompanied him for this presentation. Jono then recently ran a presentation and basic pond building workshop for the Keep Sandgate Beautiful Association on Saturday the 4th of May. Our Vice President Brett Malcom has also been busy doing a talk for the Jimboomba Garden Society on the 15th of April. This event had a great turnout with about 80 people attending from several gardening groups in the area. Brett also ran an educational presentation for the Forest Lake Area Garden Group on the 7th of May. This was another event that was well attended with approximately 70 people there to learn about frogs. It is great to see so many people turning up to our presentations. A big thank you to Brett, Jono and Rod for running these workshops and information sessions recently.

As part of legislative changes to the grievance procedures used by associations and different organisations we created a by law to suit the Queensland Frog Society. This was sent off to the OFT but was not accepted as it must be written into our constitution as a law and not as a by law. As a result this By Law 1 of 2024 has now been retracted and at our AGM later this year we will have the same wording drafted into our constitution and we will then vote on this addition to our constitution before it is resubmitted to the OFT. In the interim we will be using the model grievance procedures which will be automatically applied from the 1st of July 2024.

Continued...

In our last newsletter I mentioned that we were trialling an AI Bot (Artificial Intelligence Program) called Pobbles, named after our QFS mascot.



Pobbles has been well received by people that have interacted with it over the last two months so Pobbles has now had a slight upgrade and we have decided to make it a fixture of our website for the next 12 months. If you haven't interacted with Pobbles, it is worth checking out, just to see how this technology is evolving and able to help answer many questions.

Also you will notice a big upgrade coming to our online shop. Jono has put a lot of work into an online shop which will be active in the coming months. This will all be automated so you can choose what products, including books that you would like to buy, you put in your details, including payment details and we will ship it off in the days following.

We are looking forward to seeing some of our members at the upcoming Queensland Garden Expo from the 4th to the 7th of July. This is our biggest event for the year, and we thank the Sunshine Coast regional Council for our inclusion in the Living Backyard section of the expo once again. This year you will see a donation bin for the Containers for Change program in this section as well. All containers put in this bin at the expo will go towards our Public Trust Fund to support research in Queensland Frogs.

Speaking of our Containers for Change Program, it has been continuing to gather momentum with lots of donations in the past month especially. Once again, a big thank you to all who have donated your recyclable containers to the Queensland Frog Society. We have now raised \$105 which is more than double the amount we had raised since our last newsletter. The team member number to donate to the Queensland Frog Society is C11218433. You are more than welcome to share this team number with as many friends and family as you can.

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

Regards
Ashley Keune



A Rescue Mission at Burton's Well

By Tracey Gardner

On a recent visit to the Bunya Mountains, I drove to a campsite named 'Burton's Well' which is a disused Well previously built in the 1900's for stockmen to water their beasts.

When I looked down into the water below, I was dismayed to see a drowned Great Barred Frog in an advanced state of decay, and two Striped Marsh Frogs that were clinging to a stick floating on the surface – which was one to two metres below ground level. Being ground dwelling frogs, neither had the ability to climb back up the vertical sides of the well.

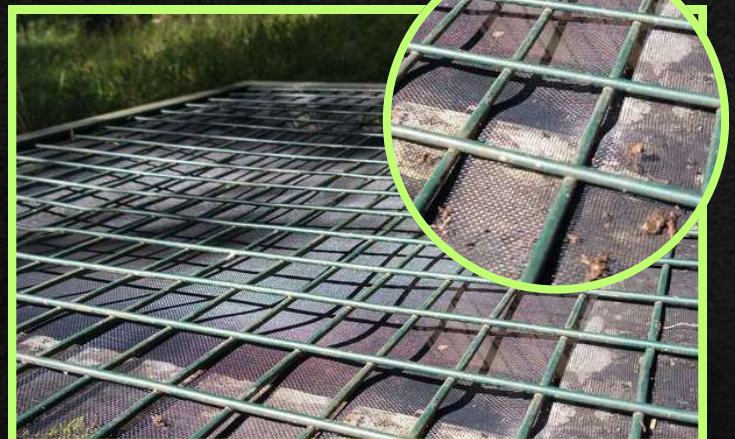
It was too late for the Barred Frog, but I found a long stick that had a curve at one end, and after many failed attempts, eventually convinced the two surviving frogs to balance on the end of the stick, and they were each eventually brought to the surface and set free. This was done through a grille that was across the top of the Well to prevent children and animals from falling in but was no barrier to frogs.

I hate to think of how many frogs must have drowned in there over the years.

Upon my return to Brisbane, I contacted QLD Parks and Wildlife Service, spoke to an admin person, and described what had happened, why it was important to address the problem, and requested that a finer mesh be placed over the well to prevent further frog drownings. I had low expectations that anyone would bother with what might seem to some just a minor issue.

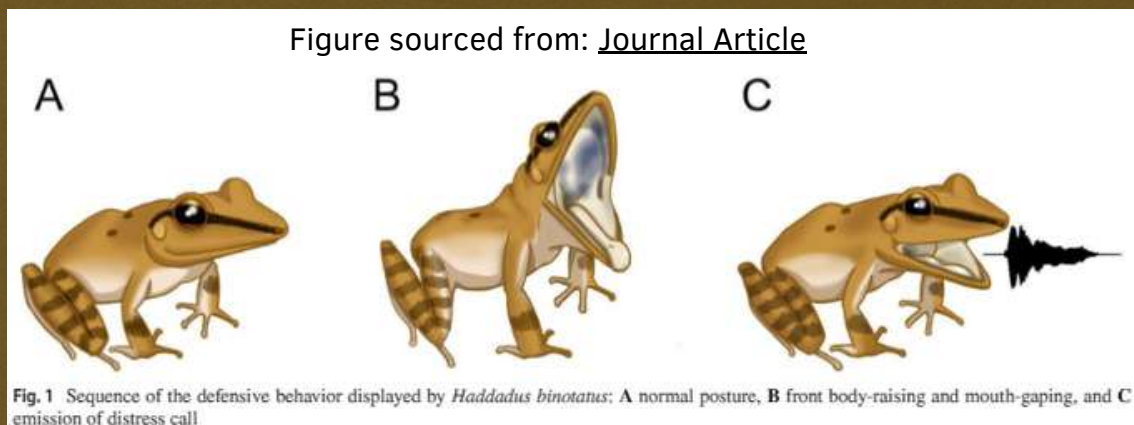
To my great surprise, the Head Ranger for the area, Mr Mark Casey, phoned me the next day and asked me about the problem. He too was upset at the thought that something as precious as Great Barred Frogs (and others) were drowning in this well. The next day Mark sent through a photo of the Well re-meshed with a fine covering he had immediately installed underneath the grille to ensure no further frogs would die a slow drowning death in Burton's Well.

This experience really restored my faith in the value that others place in doing whatever we can to keep frogs living safely in their natural environment. A big thank you to Mr Mark Casey, and QPWS for listening, and responding so efficiently!



The Silent SOS of Clay Robber Frogs

If you head out on a summer's night, you are likely to hear the croaks of several species of frogs, depending where you live. In the Brazilian rainforest, you will hear the sounds of frogs. But the frogs also make sounds you will not hear. The Clay Robber Frog (*Haddadus binotatus*) has, for the first time, had its ultrasonic screams recorded.



Animals like bats, dolphins, and whales use ultrasound to communicate and navigate, and frogs do too. Researchers thought frogs might also use it to call for help, and the Clay Robber Frog has proven them right.

Found in the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest, the clay robber frog goes into defense mode when held by its back legs, mimicking a predator attack. It raises its body, jerks its head back, and partially closes its mouth, letting out a high-frequency distress call. Recordings show these calls range from 7 to 44 kilohertz. Humans can hear up to 20 kHz, so parts of the call are ultrasonic and beyond our hearing.

The frog's defensive posture and distress call suggest it's trying to scare off predators, but how it works isn't clear. One idea is that the call deters a range of predators like bats, rodents, and small primates, which can hear these high frequencies. Researcher Ubiratã Ferreira Souza thinks the call might be aimed at these animals.

Another theory is that the call attracts predators of the frog's predators. For example, the scream could draw an owl to attack a snake threatening the frog.

The research team behind the findings plan to explore these theories further and find out if other frog species also use ultrasonic distress calls.

The full article can be read at the following link: [LINK](#)

“Teacher Toads”: The New Profession

In the ongoing effort to protect Australia's native wildlife from the impact of cane toads, researchers have explored a promising technique known as **conditioned taste aversion**. This method involves exposing native predators to small, non-lethal cane toads, teaching them to avoid consuming the deadly adults.

Research conducted in the Kimberley region of northwestern Australia focused on yellow-spotted monitors, a species severely impacted by cane toads. Collaborating with various stakeholders, including Indigenous groups and wildlife agencies, this innovative approach was implemented.

Adult female cane toads, ready to lay eggs, were captured, and the eggs or tadpoles were transported to new locations expected to be reached by cane toads in coming months. These are referred to as “teacher toads”.

Importantly, new cane toads were not added, they were relocated from other areas.

Using trail cameras, goanna populations in areas where “teacher toads” were released were monitored. Results showed that in these areas, goanna numbers remained stable even after the arrival of adult cane toads. In contrast, nearby areas without “teacher toads” experienced a sharp decline in goanna populations.

This study demonstrates the effectiveness of conditioned taste aversion in helping native predators avoid consuming cane toads. By strategically deploying this method, there is potential to maintain healthy predator populations and safeguard vulnerable species from the devastating effects of cane toads.

This research shows the importance of collaboration between researchers, Indigenous communities, and government authorities in achieving tangible outcomes for wildlife conservation. It offers hope for addressing conservation challenges globally by providing a viable strategy for mitigating the impact of invasive species on native ecosystems.

Retraction of By Law 1 of 2024

Due to legislative changes in grievance procedures, our proposed by-law for the Queensland Frog Society was not accepted by the OFT and must be written into our constitution instead. By Law 1 of 2024 has been retracted. At our AGM later this year, we will draft the same wording into our constitution and vote on it before resubmitting to the OFT. Meanwhile, we will use the model grievance procedures starting July 1, 2024.



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A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Christine Titheradge, Sarah Brice, Ronan Mac Lennan, Sophie Priebbenow, Lynn Pearce, Christine Pronger, Alice Coates, Abigail Hill, Justine Brosnan, Rick Graham Angela Sunley & Christine Molloy.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

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.

27 October 2024

Presentation and workshop at CEMU event at Canungra.



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

DEADLINE FOR MID-WINTER FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS
27 JUNE 2024