

FROGSHEET



Cyclorana novaehollandiae; Photo by Ashley Keune



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Uperoleia rugosa; Photo by Ashley Keune



Thank you to our supporters!

Public Trust Fund: Total now stands at \$11,655.09
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. It certainly has been a fresh start to the winter! The fireplace at my home has certainly been getting a workout the last several weeks. The days have been glorious though with beautiful clear skies for several weeks, which has been a nice change for the south-east of the state.

Several days ago from the 4th to the 7th of July the QFS were part of the Queensland Garden Expo at Nambour. Once again, a huge thank you to the Sunshine Coast Council for giving us the opportunity to be part of the Living Backyard section of the expo. It was great to have the opportunity to be a part of this big event again this year, as it is our biggest event on our calendar. The Queensland Garden Expo is always a great opportunity to spread the message about frogs in our environment and how to attract frogs to your gardens. It was great to be able to meet so many people throughout the four days of the expo and to help educate them about frogs.

A big thank you to all the people who volunteered and helped our stall to be so successful again this year. These people include Desley, Jono, Julia, Rod, Simone, Ryan, Kayla and Tommi. Without your support we could not run a successful stall at these events. It was lovely to be able to work with many of you over the four days and I look forward to working with many of you again in the future at other displays and workshops. A big thank you to Jono and Jenny, for doing the behind the scenes organising of our involvement with the council and expo organisers prior to the event.

At the Queensland Garden Expo we were able to launch our latest educational resource which was a brochure outlining the five biggest threats to frog populations along coastal Queensland. This is a great resource that explains what the main threats are to frogs and a few simple things that we can do to help. It also busts the myth that toads are the big problem. Our Events and Initiatives Co-ordinator, Jono Hooper has put a lot of time and effort into creating this resource over the last few months and I personally would like to thank you for creating such a helpful resource for the wider community. These brochures can be accessed at our displays, presentations and workshops and some of these brochures will be distributed to different organisations and councils that we work closely with.

In the coming weeks we will have another big event that we will be involved with. This upcoming event is the Off Grid Lifestyle Expo and this year it will be held at the Gympie Showgrounds. It will be held on the Saturday the 3rd and Sunday the 4th of August from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day.

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This is a great event that we have been involved with for a few years and we are looking forward to seeing how the event grows at the new location. If you would be interested in volunteering for this event, please get in touch. If you are in the area, come and say hello to us.

The Containers for Change Program has continued to gather donations in the past several weeks. Thanks to every one of you that have donated your recyclable containers to the Queensland Frog Society. We have now raised \$143 which is a win for the environment in general and a win for frog research as well! 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

New Top 5 Threats Brochure



We're excited to announce the release of our new brochure highlighting the top five threats to frogs in Queensland. This comprehensive brochure outlines critical challenges for frogs such as habitat loss, amphibian chytrid fungus, the impact of pest fish, feral pigs, and weeds, the dangers of contaminated runoff and altered hydrology, and the far-reaching effects of climate change.



A HEATED SOLUTION: THE NEW FROG SAUNA

Chytridiomycosis, caused by chytrid fungus, is one of the biggest dangers to our frog populations, having already contributed to the extinction of over 90 species internationally.

A new study has revealed frogs can recover from Chytridiomycosis with the help of frog saunas. By ensuring frog's body temperatures reach a high enough temperature, infections of Chytridiomycosis can clear. Even better, these frogs, once recovered, are resistant to the disease, even in cooler conditions when the fungus thrives.

The frog sauna is a constructon of black-painted bricks inside a mini greenhouse, assembled with cable ties. It is cost-effective, simple, and a build achievable by anyone in their own backyard. The materials required are inexpensive and readily available, making it feasible for the general public to adopt these saunas.

Want to make a frog sauna of your own? [Visit here for instructions.](#)

THE SOUND OF A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM

The number and diversity of frogs, and their collective voice, can indicate the health of an ecosystem. Frogs, like other amphibians, are sensitive to subtle changes in climate and water quality. As put by Marconi Campos-Cerqueira, ecologist, this makes frogs reliable environmental sensors. When lots of frogs are singing, it's a sign that the forest is healthy. A quiet forest is cause for concern.

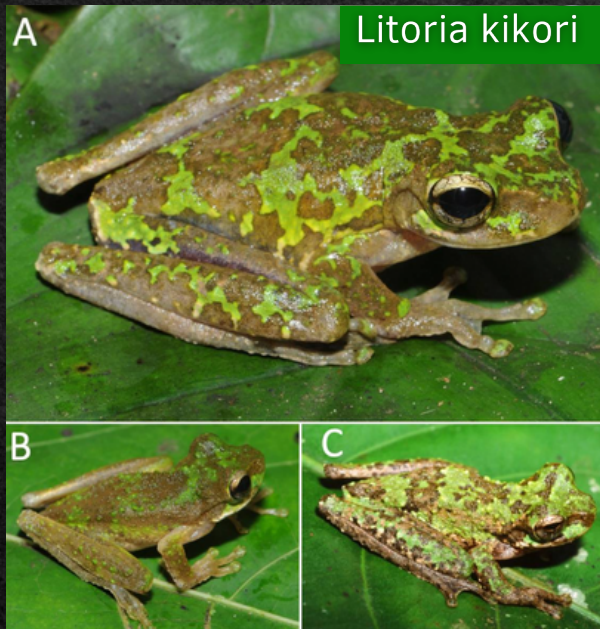
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Increasing numbers of scientists are turning to bioacoustics (the study of animal sounds) to monitor environmental health. The process involves the placement of microphones in the forest to capture sounds, then the data is analysed with computer software. This technology identifies the animal species present and their activity patterns.

In Puerto Rico, scientists have been using bioacoustics for years to monitor environmental changes. By listening to the sounds of frogs, they're uncovering how climate change and the accompanying storms and heat waves are affecting life on the island.

This method of monitoring is not only effective but also non-intrusive, providing valuable insights into the health of ecosystems without disturbing them. As frog populations respond to environmental shifts, their calls serve as a natural alarm system, alerting us to the well-being of our planet's forests and wetlands.



A Litoria kikori

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: HOME TO NEWLY DISCOVERED FROG SPECIES

In Papua New Guinea's southern highlands, two new frog species have been discovered in the fast-flowing streams. Despite extensive study over the past 25 years, researchers recently identified *Litoria kikori*, the Kikori torrent tree frog, and *Litoria grinpela*, the green torrent tree frog.

Litoria kikori is over an inch long, with a green-and-brown-mottled body, a purplish groin, and a distinctive 'tink' call. Contrastingly, *Litoria grinpela* is smaller, predominantly green with a thin brown stripe, orange thighs, and a tapping call. Both species were found at lower elevations, isolated from other torrent-breeding tree frogs, which likely contributed to their unique characteristics.

These discoveries highlight the rich biodiversity of Papua New Guinea, but also raise concerns about the frogs' limited range and potential endangered status, emphasising the need for further research and conservation efforts.



A Litoria grinpela

Photo Credit: Richard SJ, Oliver PM

CASE STUDY: FIND A FROG IN FEBRUARY PARTNERSHIP UNCOVERS EXCITING FINDS

By *Stephanie Keys*
Conservation Officer, Sunshine Coast Council

Sunshine Coast Council's Conservation Partnerships team, in partnership with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC), hosted the annual Find a Frog in February Workshop on the 17th of February at the Gheerulla Community Hall, with frog surveys undertaken at a nearby Land for Wildlife property. Presentations by Conservation Partnerships Officers Stephanie Keys and Nadia Joyce provided attendees with an overview of Council's private land conservation programs including Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreements. Eva Ford, local frog expert and Find a Frog in February Coordinator with MRCCC, delighted participants with an engaging presentation about frogs of the Sunshine Coast, including threatened species and practical solutions to help minimise the many threats our local frogs are facing. The presentations concluded with a short talk by Land for Wildlife members, Tracy and David, who manage a 117Ha cattle farm that integrates grazing, regenerative agriculture, and nature conservation on the Sunshine Coast. The property contains 1.85 kilometres of Belli Creek frontage as well as frontage along Cherry Tree Creek. Their property contains ecologically significant habitat, including core koala habitat and Endangered and Of Concern regional ecosystems, and Critically Endangered Lowland Rainforest of Sub-tropical Australia.



Adelotus brevis

After a light supper, the keen group of froggers headed off to Tracy and David's LfW property to survey the creeks and dams to see what species they could discover. Some of the highlights found during the surveys included a Bandy Bandy (*Vermicella annulata*) much to the crowd's delight, as well as threatened Tusked Frogs (*Adelotus brevis*), and an Ornate Burrowing Frog (*Platyplectrum ornatum*). Other species recorded on the night included Green Treefrogs (*Litoria caerulea*), Eastern Sedgefrogs (*Litoria fallax*), Graceful treefrogs (*Litoria gracilentata*), Striped Marsh Frogs (*Lymnodynastes peronii*), an Eastern Water Dragon (*Intelligama lesueurii*) and Graphic Flutterer Dragonfly (*Rhyothemis graphiptera*). In addition, follow up monitoring surveys in the nearby area detected an exciting find – a healthy population of threatened Giant Barred Frogs (*Mixophyes iteratus*) and Great Barred Frogs (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*) were recorded along the banks of two rocky creek lines. This was despite recent flooding, significant rainfall, and fast flowing waterways, creating tricky conditions for both the frogs and those out looking for them!



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Mixophyes iteratus

Speaking with Tracy about her involvement and experience with Sunshine Coast Council's Conservation Programs (LfW and Landholder Environment Grants), it was evident that numerous positive environmental outcomes have been achieved through collaboration, engagement, and extension with the Conservation Partnerships team. This property successfully demonstrates how agriculture and conservation can be effectively combined for the benefit of the environment and native wildlife, whilst also supporting livelihoods.

"From a farming point of view, working with the Land for Wildlife program makes sense – we all want the same outcome, to be sustainable. It's about being kind to country and working with mother nature not against her", Tracey emphasised. Supported by Sunshine Coast Council's Landholder Environmental Grants, Tracy and David have installed stock exclusion fencing and off-stream watering points to restrict cattle access to sensitive riparian areas along both the Belli and Cherry Tree Creeks, which provide habitat for numerous threatened species.

Weed control works targeting Small-leaf Privet, Camphor Laurel, Lantana and Chinese Elm has resulted in a noticeable improvement to the health and condition of riparian vegetation and an increase in native species regeneration, providing direct benefits such as reduced erosion and improvements to water quality downstream. "Without the assistance from Land for Wildlife seedling incentives and Landholder Environment Grants for these projects, such outcomes are unlikely to have been achieved due to competing priorities that come with managing a property like this", Tracy said with gratitude. The Land for Wildlife Program has also facilitated several fauna surveys on the property which highlighted the rich diversity of species calling this property home, and with more revegetation and ongoing weed control planned for the coming months, we look forward to continuing this rewarding partnership with Tracy, David and their family.

*Note regarding Threatened Species: Tusked Frogs (*Adelotus brevis*) are listed as Vulnerable under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. Giant Barred Frogs (*Mixophyes iteratus*) are listed as Vulnerable under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Thank You For Your Generosity

We wanted to say a big thank you to all of our donors who have supported the Queensland Frog Society. Your contributions, whether made directly or through the Containers for Change recycling program are appreciated. Thank you for your unwavering support.



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A WARM WELCOME TO NEW QFS MEMBERS!

Jacob Devine, Ryan Claus,
Susan Lucke-wilmott. Emma Carmichael.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

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 SPRING FROGSHEET CONTRIBUTIONS IS
14 AUGUST 2024