

# Find a Frog in February – 2018 Report

Prepared by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee



## BACKGROUND

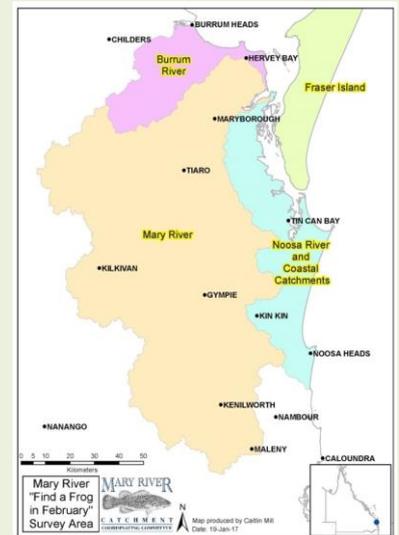
2018 is the second year for the MRCCC's Find a Frog in February (FFF) citizen science program that collects frog records from the community during the month of February. It is delivered to the community of the Mary River catchment as well as the Noosa and

Burrum River and coastal catchment in between (see map). This area is administered by four local Councils; Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast. The program targets the whole community through widespread media items, displays, meetings, workshops and school notifications.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE 2018 PROGRAM

The following activities were carried out by the MRCCC staff, external technical assistance and community members, groups, and government agencies:

- Re-invigoration of logo, website, media and support material.
- Pull-up banner created for displays.
- Workshops delivered x 5 – Lower Wonga (31 attendees), Goomboorian (15 attendees), Kin Kin (25 attendees), Pomona (25 attendees) and Noosa (28 attendees). These were all followed by local area frog surveys.
- Media launch in NSC, Pomona attended by Tony Wellington and Councillors and staff from NSC, Gympie, Fraser Coast and Sunshine Coast Councils.
- Media releases x 3 to ~800 people and 210 entities.
- Facebook posts x 52 (12,635 reached, 149 shares, 37 posts by frog enthusiasts).
- Promotional mail-outs x 1.
- Radio interviews x 6 (Triple M, ABC Sunshine Coast, ABC Drive, ABC Wide Bay, Zinc FM).
- School presentations x 3 (Home schoolers x 25, Pomona Primary School x 25, James Nash State High School x 220 students and staff).
- Development of Year 7 class module (James Nash State High School) - shared to all schools.
- Kin Kin Frog Krawl multi-site survey of the catchment (9 sites surveyed, 6 attendees).
- 142 Frog Finders submitting frog records (plus 137 workshop survey participants).
- Surveys carried out by participants = 218
- Survey sites x 128



**Mary River Catchment  
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- 2362 frog records submitted (23 species, threatened species x 4 (*Adelotus brevis* Tusked frog, *Litoria pearsoniana* Cascade treefrog, *Crinia tinnula* Wallum froglet. *Mixophyes iteratus* Giant barred frog was detected during this month at the long-term monitoring sites surveyed each year by the MRCCC). Queensland Museum
- Frog guides given to all new participants.
- Data verification, management and submission to the Queensland Government WildNet database.
- Support for two staff members to attend the Australian Citizen Science Conference in Adelaide in February 2018.
- Linkages with other frog data collection programs from around Australia at the 2018 Australian Citizen Science Conference and the subsequent collaborative planning for national awareness and coordinated events.



### OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM

The following table provides a breakdown of the frog survey outcomes for each shire:

	Total	Sunshine Coast Council	Noosa Shire Council	Gympie Regional Council	Fraser Coast Regional Council
Frog Finders	142	14	23 (+ 91 workshop attendees)	66 (+ 46 workshop attendees)	42
Surveys	218	11	47	107	76
Survey sites	128	13	32	67	46
Frog records	2358	219	507	1037	595
Species	23	14	16	17	17
Threatened species	4	1	3	1	1

As a comparison, the number of frog records submitted in 2017 was 438 from 79 Frog Finders. This shows a marked increase in participation and records submitted in 2018, largely due to increased mainstream media coverage and social media activity, the workshops and school talks (nil conducted in 2017) and the favourable weather conditions. February 2017 was the hottest and driest on record whereas February 2018 had good rainfall at the start and end of the month with nearly all of the program area receiving rainfall at some time.

The MRCCC has collected approximately 15,000 frog records since starting frog surveys in 2003. The increase of over 2,300 records is a significant contribution to our knowledge of frog fauna of the area.

Proudly supported by:

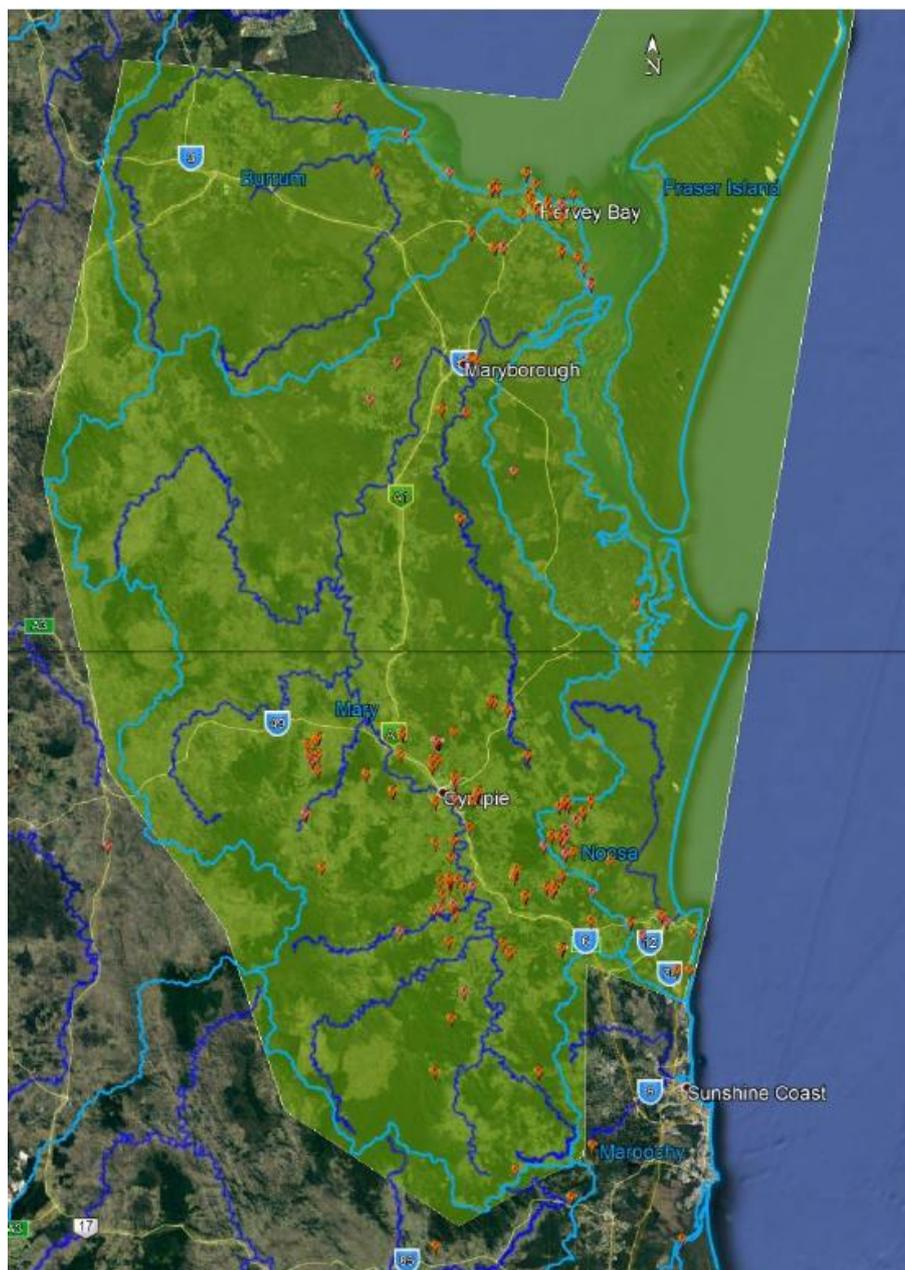


Species recorded during Find a Frog in February 2018:

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	Tusked Frog (V)	<i>Litoria pearsoniana</i>	Cascade treefrog (V)
<i>Crinia parinsignifera</i>	Beeping froglet	<i>Litoria peronii</i>	Emerald-spotted treefrog
<i>Crinia tinnula</i>	Wallum froglet (V)	<i>Litoria rothii</i>	Northern laughing treefrog
<i>Limnodnastes peronii</i>	Striped marshfrog	<i>Litoria rubella</i>	Naked treefrog
<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	Spotted marshfrog	<i>Litoria tyleri</i>	Southern laughing treefrog
<i>Limnodynastes terraereginae</i>	Scarlet sided pobblebonk	<i>Litoria wilcoxii</i>	Stony creek frog
<i>Litoria caerulea</i>	Green treefrog	<i>Mixophyes fasciolatus</i>	Great barred frog
<i>Litoria chloris</i>	Orange-eyed treefrog	<i>Mixophyes iteratus</i>	Giant barred frog (E)
<i>Litoria fallax</i>	Eastern sedgefrog	<i>Platyplectrum ornatum</i>	Ornate burrowing frog
<i>Litoria gracilentia</i>	Graceful treefrog	<i>Pseudophryne raveni</i>	Copper-backed broodfrog
<i>Litoria latopalmata</i>	Broad-palmed rocketfrog	<i>Rhinella marina</i>	Cane Toad (Ex)
<i>Litoria nasuta</i>	Striped rocketfrog		

E = endangered      V = vulnerable      Ex = exotic

Locations of frog surveys by FFF Frog Finders



## BUDGET

The four Councils of the study area generously contributed approximately equal funding to the 2018 program totaling \$16,968 (including GST). In-kind support to the program totaled \$95,647 (>1:5).

The budget totals and breakdown by shire are as follows:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Sunshine Coast Council</b>	<b>Noosa Shire Council</b>	<b>Gympie Regional Council</b>	<b>Fraser Coast Regional Council</b>
Funded income: Program delivery by MRCCC	16,968	4,054	4,675	4,389	3,850
In-kind support: MRCCC and technical assistance	11,876	1,446	3,222	4,475	2,733
In-kind support: community	83,757	7,674	24,684	37,145	14,254
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,601</b>	<b>13,174</b>	<b>32,581</b>	<b>46,009</b>	<b>20,837</b>

## FUTURE PLANNING FOR 2019 FFF

Appraisal of the 2018 FFF events:

- Low records from Sunshine Coast Council, western sub-catchment and coastal catchment areas need to be addressed.
- Extra support from staff is vital, especially those with skills in media, frog identification and data processing.

Considerations for 2019 FFF:

- Ensure adequate staffing resources are available by October 2018.
- Further improve web site.
- Start communication with schools in October 2018
- Focus attention on Western catchment, Coastal catchments, Sunshine Coast hinterland.
- Further develop a frog module that teachers can easily deliver at the start of the year.
- Follow up more with schools after sending out material and the invitation to participate.
- Direct involvement with schools that have previously participated in FFF or shown an interest.
- Increase number of workshops delivered to two per shire and two school talks.
- Redesign flyers and workshop notices so that they are more visible and receive more attention.
- Investigate possibilities with the Australian Museum FrogID unit to share their data submission platform to increase participation and reduce data management time.
- Collaborate with the Australian Museum and WildNet database staff to ensure data can be effectively shared between the two organisations.
- Continue collaboration with other frog data collection programs around Australia.
- Increase engagement with Council officers leading up to the program start date to increase involvement of the community.



# FIND·A·FROG



## IN·FEBRUARY



## MARY RIVER



### CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

**Community assistance is needed** to find out where our frogs are living in and around the Mary River catchment (from Maleny to Hervey Bay and west to Conondale and Kilkivan) and coastal areas from Peregrine to Burrum Heads and Fraser Island (K'Gari).

**Frogs are a vital component of ecosystems** and are easily affected by changes in the air, water and land: they are good indicators of the environmental health of our region! But they are in trouble world-wide due to habitat loss, pollution and disease.

**We can ALL help them if we know where they live!**

#### If you live in:

Sunshine Coast Hinterland, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast Council regions, get involved in community frog monitoring in February 2018. Collect data to help improve the plight of frogs through awareness and thoughtful management.

#### Step into your own outdoor adventure!

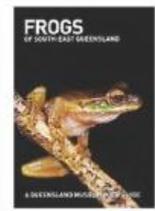
You don't need to be able to identify frogs, just record your observations, take photos and/or record their calls. Send to the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee – we help with identification.

#### How?

Use the Record Sheet that is available through the MRCCC Find a Frog in February website or call our office (see below). The website contains instructions, useful frog information and workshop dates.

All records will be stored in the WildNet database (Q'ld Government) where it can be accessed by researchers, environmental planners and anyone who is interested in frog business.

A copy of the Queensland Museum Pocket Guide **'Frogs of South-East Queensland'** is available to the first 200 frog finders.



**MRCCC details** *Click on the link*  
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<http://mrccc.org.au/find-a-frog-in-february-citizen-science/>

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