

Find a Frog in February – 2020 Report

Prepared by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee



BACKGROUND

2020 was the fourth 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 throughout the Mary River catchment as well as the Noosa River, Burrum River and coastal catchments in between (see map). This area is administered by four local Councils; Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast that all provide support. The program targets the whole community through displays, meetings, workshops, bushcare groups, school involvement and widespread media coverage.

SUMMARY OF THE 2020 FFF PROGRAM

The 2020 FFF program was an outstanding improvement on previous years. Involvement is growing as people become familiar with the program, its timing and the process of submitting records.

Despite the extreme and prolonged dry conditions during the latter half of 2019, the weather in January and February 2020 was particularly favourable with warm temperatures and widespread rain in the second half of January and throughout February. Frog breeding conditions were ideal for most species, increasing detectability due to high frog activity and abundant calling from males. Consequently, participation and the number of sites surveyed increased (78 Frog Finders and 87 survey sites in 2019, 206 Frog Finders and 141 survey sites in 2020), the number of records increased from 1368 in 2019 to 7946 in 2020 and the number of species detected also increased from 23 to 30.

Highlights and interesting observations 2020 (see report for further detail):

- Involvement of Bushcare groups and local schools in their first long-term monitoring surveys of wetlands nearby;
- Observations of threatened 'acid' frogs of the coastal wallum country;
- Explosion of emerging *Litoria caerulea* (Green treefrog) metamorphs along the Sunshine Coast coastal strip;
- 20+ vulnerable *Adelotus brevis* (Tusked frog) records at Mapleton State school;
- Many queries about juvenile *Rhinella marina* (Cane toad) look-alikes;
- At least 7 colour variations of *Litoria fallax* (Eastern sedgefrog) from Tallegalla Weir during one survey;
- Online interactive mapping developed and available on-line.



FFF proudly supported by our local Councils:



Frog surveying by the creek



**Mary River Catchment
Coordinating Committee**

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Photo: M. Darlow

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The table below shows that rainfall totals for February 2020 were particularly conducive for frog activity (much like 2018), making it easy for people to encounter frogs by call and visual sightings. It also meant that there were more frogs detected during a single encounter, which increased the total number submitted.

Rainfall during January 2020 was high, increasing even further into February. Rainfall totals exceeded all previous FFF years in Maryborough and Tewantin regions, while Gympie and Maleny totals were only slightly lower than those of February 2018. The good rain followed a prolonged dry period from July 2019 to January 2020.

Table 1. February 2020 rainfall totals (mm) (Bureau of Meteorology)

Location	2017	2018	2019	2020
Maryborough	5.6	137	32	345
Gympie	21	282	35	184
Tewantin	41	394	37	510
Maleny	60	413	122	396

FFF ACTIVITIES 2020

Addressing 2019 appraisal

The following components of the program were highlighted during FFF 2019 and addressed in planning and delivery of FFF 2020 by the MRCCC staff, external technical advisors, community members, groups, and government agencies:

- Investigate a dedicated data submission platform for FFF – discussions have been underway with key people and some progress has been made. More work to be done in this area.
- Using the frog module that was designed specifically for teachers, work with four schools to monitor a wetland/waterway each year at or near the school – Mapleton State School, Mimburi Outdoor Education Centre (Noosa District High School), Gympie East State School and Tinana State School and others are using the module.
- Hold a 'Frog Hop' evening of progressive frog surveys along Wide Bay Creek and tributaries – completed with members of public participating.
- Target specific areas to increase participation:
 - Sunshine Coast Hinterland via Sunshine Coast council conservation Officers and the Land for Wildlife network – successfully carried out and more records came in from this area.
 - Targeted coastal catchment via linkage with Fraser coast Council staff and Poona Bushcare group – successfully initiated with initial survey of monitoring sites and bushcare/Council staff involvement.

Components that were highlighted in 2019 but not addressed during 2020:

- Organise a mini-Bioblitz in collaboration with Cooloola Coastcare (COVID-19 affected)

Media

Media items prepared and delivered were as follows:

- Media releases x 4 to ~1000 people and 220 entities.
- School notices for inclusion in newsletters and to inform teachers of available resources x 2.
- MRCCC Facebook posts x 37 (62,374 reached, 2,563 likes, comments and shares, 4,614 post clicks) including daily frog video with images and frog call to help with identification of local species.
- Find a Frog in February Facebook Group – 374 members (Australia, New Zealand, Peru and USA). 185 posts with photos and discussion amongst frog enthusiasts and the MRCCC.
- Radio interviews x 2 (ABC Sunshine Coast, Zinc FM)
- TV news interviews - Channel 7 Hervey Bay coverage of Tinana State School frog involvement
- Newspaper interview x 1 (Noosa News)
- Local newsletter/paper articles x 3 (Gympie Times, Gympie Living, Qld Frog Society FrogSheet)
- Queensland Museum Frog guides or Boomerang Bags (with Qld Frog Society logo) given to 52 new participants.
- Data verification, management and submission to the Queensland Government WildNet database
- Promotion of the Frog ID Key developed by Jono Hooper as a useful identification tool
- MRCCC website FFF page and updates

Activities

Displays, workshops, school presentations and group/school monitoring activities were delivered as follows:

Table 2. Workshop and presentations delivered and participant numbers

Local government area	Event	Participants
Sunshine Coast	Frog survey with Belli/Cedar Catchment Care Community on Belli creek	4 participants
Sunshine Coast	Presentation to Sunshine Coast Bushcare Group at Kirbys Road Reserve	50 attendees
Sunshine Coast	Workshop and surveys at obi Obi hall	30 participants
Sunshine Coast	Mapleton State School monitoring transect installation	1 teacher
Sunshine Coast	Mapleton State School monitoring survey	8 students, teacher and parents
Sunshine Coast and Noosa	Mimburi Outdoor Education centre/Noosa District High School – monitoring transect installation	1 teacher
Sunshine Coast and Noosa	Mimburi Outdoor Education centre/Noosa District High School (Pomona) workshop and monitoring transect survey	14 students and teachers
Noosa	Pomona State School – presentation	78 students and teachers
Noosa	Preliminary meeting with Peregrine Beach Community Association to plan for workshop and survey (event postponed to November 2020 due to COVID)	2 members
Noosa	Presentation to Cooroora Park Bushcare Group	20 attendees
Noosa	Frog workshop and survey at Noosa and District Landcare	65 participants
Gympie	Gympie East State School - Monitoring site visit and planning	2 Teacher Aids
Gympie	Gympie East frog talk to Environment Group	20 students, teachers and parents
Gympie	St Pat's Primary School assembly presentation	280 students and teachers
Gympie	'Frog Hop' – Wide Bay Creek catchment public surveys	5 community participants
Gympie	Stall at Gympie Landcare District Landcare Open Day	Approximately 20 people spoken with
Gympie	Presentation at Gympie Landcare District Landcare Open Day	6 attendees
Gympie	MRCCC General Meeting – frog activity	35 attendees
Fraser Coast	Poona Bushcare Group and FCRC staff – site visit and assessment prelude to workshop and survey for monitoring (following workshop and surveys held by FCRC staff)	1 staff and 1 Bushcare member
Fraser Coast	Public frog presentation – Hervey Bay Library	30 attendees
Fraser Coast	Public frog presentation – Maryborough Library	13 attendees
Fraser Coast	Tinana State School – monitoring transect installation	1 teacher
Fraser Coast	Tinana State School frog talk and monitoring transect survey	30 students, teachers and parents
Total	23 events	
	204 public event participants	
	435 school event participants (student, teachers and parents)	
	78 group activity participants	

PARTICIPATION OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM

The following table provides totals and a breakdown of involvement and records for each local government area:

Table 3. Numbers of participants and frog records with council area breakdown

	Total	Sunshine Coast Council	Noosa Shire Council	Gympie Regional Council	Fraser Coast Regional Council
Frog Finders	343	117	70	73	83
Number of workshop participants	283	84	85	41	73
Number of school group participants	427	8	89	300	30
Surveys *	221	31	41	75	74
Survey sites *	141	26	29	55	31
Frog records ~	7892	1369	909	1284	4330
Species	30	24	22	26	24
Threatened species #	5	3	4	5	2

* Numbers of surveys and survey sites are from the FFF program only and do not include data from FrogID.

Threatened species - Stream dependant species: *Adelotus brevis* Tusked frog, *Litoria pearsoniana* Cascade treefrog, *Mixophyes iteratus* Giant barred frog. Wallum species: *Crinia tinnula* Wallum froglet, *Litoria cooloolensis* Cooloola sedgefrog, *Litoria alongburensis* Wallum sedgefrog.

~ An additional 54 frog records were received from outside the project area.

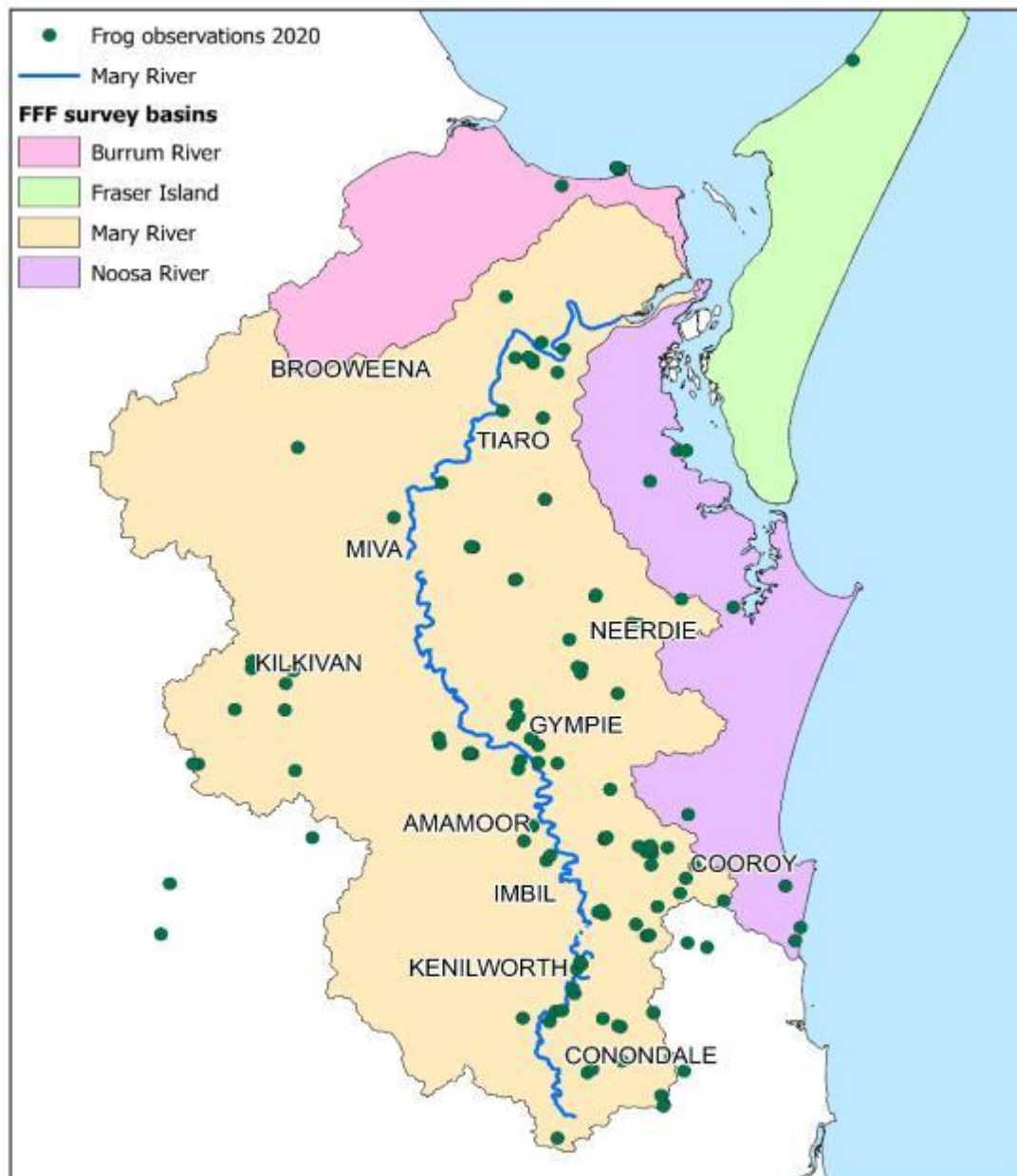
Numbers of school group participants continued to increase this year with 427 student attendees (up from 317 in 2019). However, numbers of workshop participants dropped to 283 (down from 411 in 2019) as fewer workshops were held while school interactions increased to initiate monitoring sites. A considerable increase in the number of people conducting frog surveys in 2020 was evident (343 Frog Finders in 2020 up from 77 in 2019), and the total number of records submitted (1,368 in 2019 and 7,946 in 2020). An unknown number of additional surveys and survey sites were conducted by people who submitted through the FrogID app.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

In 2020, for the first time, a notable increase in the number of species observed was recorded, with 30 species spotted, up from previous years' counts of 22 and 23 species. Four new species were added to the cumulative species list in 2020, including *Litoria brevipalmata* (Green-thighed frog); *Uperoleia fusca* (Dusky gungan); the vulnerable *Litoria cooloolensis* (Cooloola sedgefrog), and the vulnerable *Litoria alongburensis* (Wallum sedgefrog). Table 4 provides the list of species and shows the cumulative increase in the number of species detected each year.

The following map shows the spread of surveys carried out by participants this year. It shows widespread involvement in frog surveys and improved participation in all Council areas. This is likely due to several factors including a broader awareness of the program building on three previous years, encouragement of participants to monitor previously surveyed sites, numerous workshops, public appearances and school activities, and favourable weather generating frog activity and encouraging participation. Activity gaps exist on Fraser Island and along coastal areas south of Hervey Bay to Peregian, sub-catchments to the west, Jimna area and the Blackall Range.

Find a Frog in February records 2020



0 3 6 12 18 24
Km
1:1,000,000

Geographic Coordinate System:
GCS_GDA_1994_Zone 58



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Map produced by: Anna Dean
17 March 2020

Proudly supported by:



GYMPIE
REGIONAL COUNCIL



Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL



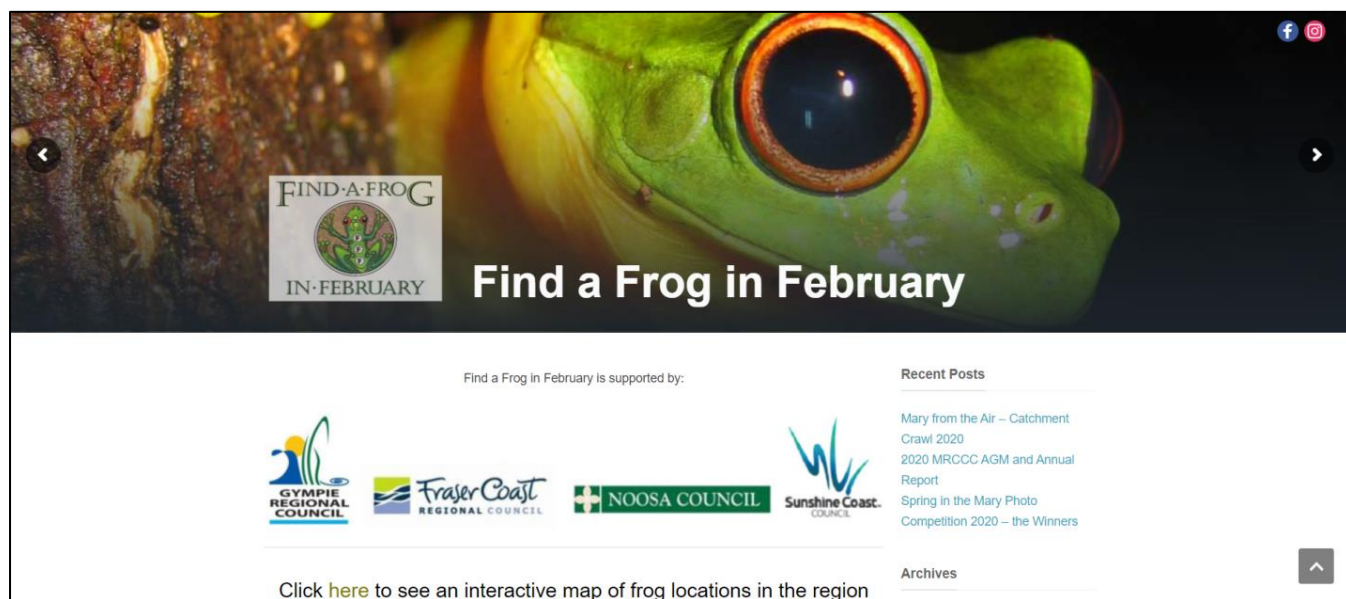
NOOSA
COUNCIL



Sunshine Coast
COUNCIL

Figure 1. Locations of frog surveys by FFF Frog Finders during 2019-2020 (excluding FrogID records)

This year an on-line interactive map was developed by MRCCC staff that provides information at survey locations across the project area. It is available at the following link: <https://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/> (see Figure 2 below).



Map
portal

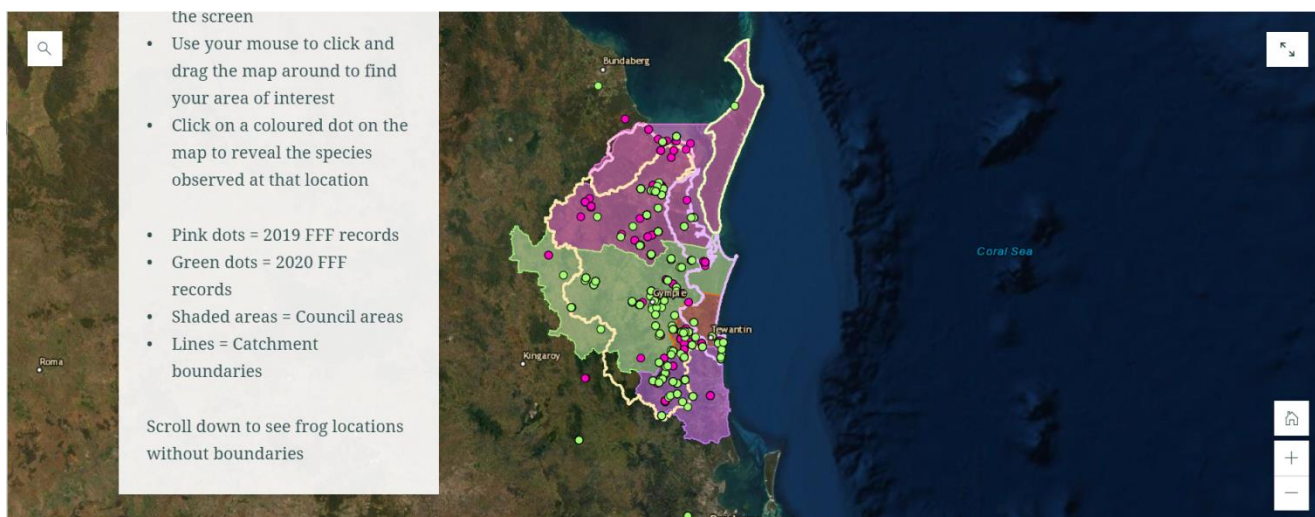
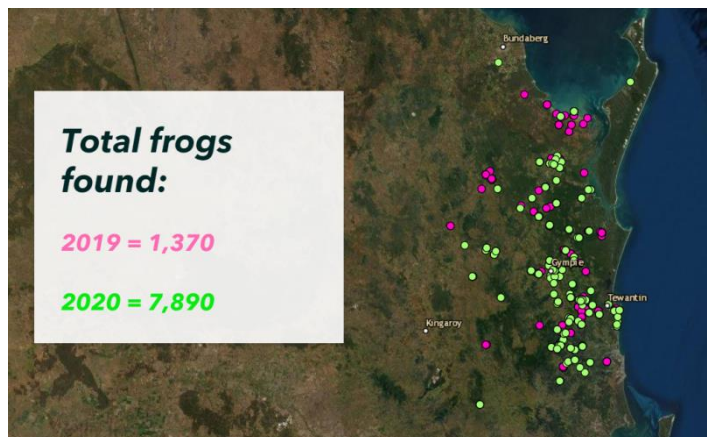


Figure 2. Website screenshots showing the interactive mapping tool

Table 4. Species recorded during Find a Frog in February – yearly comparison

Scientific Name	Common Name	Threatened status	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	Tusked frog	Vulnerable				
<i>Crinia parinsignifera</i>	Beeping froglet					
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Clicking froglet					
<i>Crinia tinnula</i>	Wallum froglet	Vulnerable				
<i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>	Striped marshfrog					
<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	Spotted marshfrog					
<i>Limnodynastes terraereginae</i>	Scarlet-sided pobblebonk					
<i>Litoria brevipalmata</i>	Green-thighed frog					
<i>Litoria caerulea</i>	Green treefrog					
<i>Litoria chloris</i>	Orange-eyed treefrog					
<i>Litoria cooloolensis</i>	Coolool sedgefrog					
<i>Litoria dentata</i>	Bleating treefrog					
<i>Litoria fallax</i>	Eastern sedgefrog					
<i>Litoria gracilentia</i>	Graceful treefrog					
<i>Litoria latopalmata</i>	Broad-palmed rocketfrog					
<i>Litoria nasuta</i>	Striped rocketfrog					
<i>Litoria onlongburensis</i>	Wallum sedgefrog	Vulnerable				
<i>Litoria pearsoniana</i>	Cascade treefrog	Vulnerable				
<i>Litoria peronii</i>	Emerald-spotted treefrog					
<i>Litoria rothii</i>	Northern laughing treefrog					
<i>Litoria rubella</i>	Naked treefrog					
<i>Litoria tyleri</i>	Southern laughing treefrog					
<i>Litoria verreauxii</i>	Verraux's treefrog					
<i>Litoria wilcoxii</i>	Stony-creek frog					
<i>Mixophyes fasciolatus</i>	Great barred frog					
<i>Mixophyes iteratus</i>	Giant barred frog	Endangered				
<i>Platyplectrum ornatum</i>	Ornate burrowing frog					
<i>Pseudophryne raveni</i>	Copper-backed broodfrog					
<i>Uperoleia fusca</i>	Dusky gungan					
<i>Uperoleia laevigata</i>	Eastern gungan					
<i>Rhinella marina</i>	Cane toad	(Exotic)				
	No of species		22	23	22	30
	Cumulative species count		22	26	27	30
	Total species		30			

Cells marked green indicate that species was recorded

Species composition at a survey site can provide interesting insights into the type of habitat. Several frog species are highly generalist in their habitat requirements whilst others have very specific needs. The graph in

Figure 3 shows that *Litoria caerulea* shows up at nearly 50% of sites whereas *Crinia tinnula* and *Litoria onlongburensis* (wallum specialists) were only observed at a small number of sites (3 and 2 respectively). This is also a reflection of habitation tolerance and the likely sites people survey.

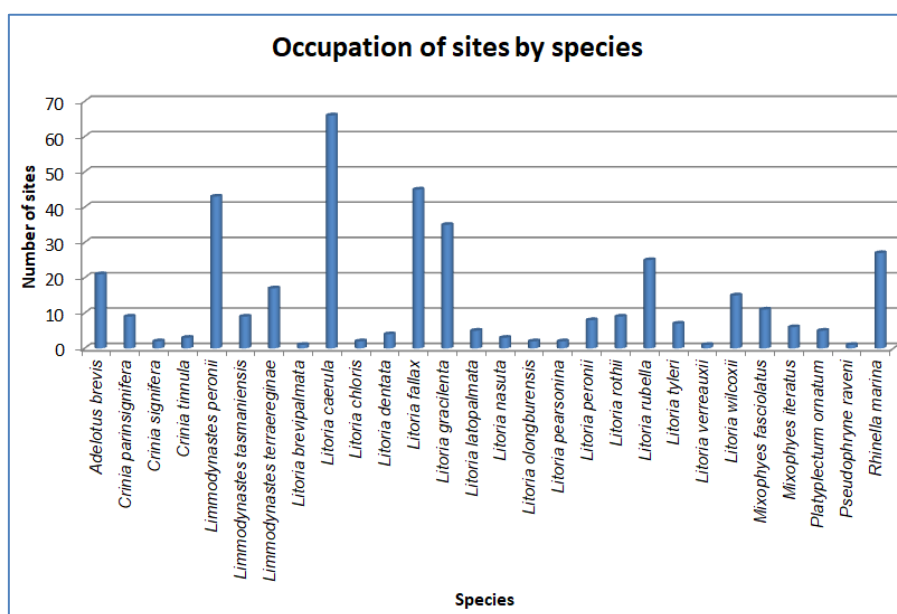


Figure 3. Number of sites where species were observed. Total number of sites = 141.

FUTURE PLANNING FOR 2021 FFF

Observations from the 2020 FFF program:

- Low participation from Fraser Island, coastal and western sub-catchments.
- Little known uptake of frog module by schools.
- 'Frog Hop' was not well attended by the public.
- Record sheet requires changes to improve data processing.
- A dedicated FFF data submission platform would be useful for data management, program performance statistics and community contacts.

Considerations for 2021 FFF:

- Target low participation areas – Fraser Island, coastal and western areas.
- Further emphasise habitat needs of species.
- Encourage community participants to monitor their site/s.
- Do 'Frog hop' (progressive frog surveys) in a western sub-catchment with targeted promotion to local communities, naturalist groups and schools.
- Support 2020 monitoring schools.
- Initiate monitoring in a further 1x school in each shire.
- Further investigate a data submission platform such as iNaturalist or tailored FFF phone application.
- Investigate a QuestaGame style phone application competition to encourage surveys.
- Continue workshops targeting low participation areas where possible.
- Obtain survey number and survey site numbers per council area from FrogID.

School monitoring – 'Mimburi' (Noosa District State High School)



Mixophyes iteratus
Giant barred frog

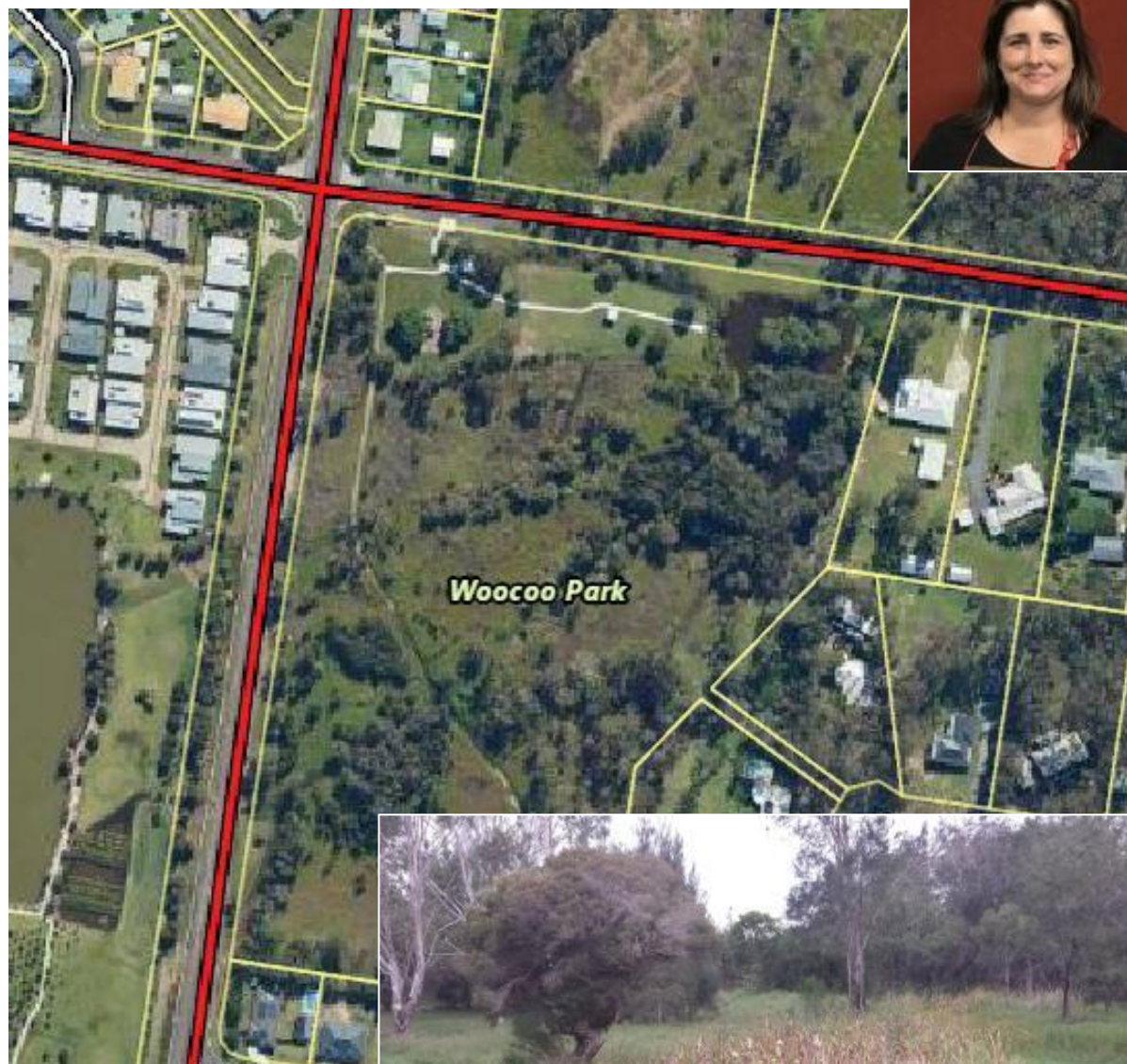


School monitoring – Mapleton State School



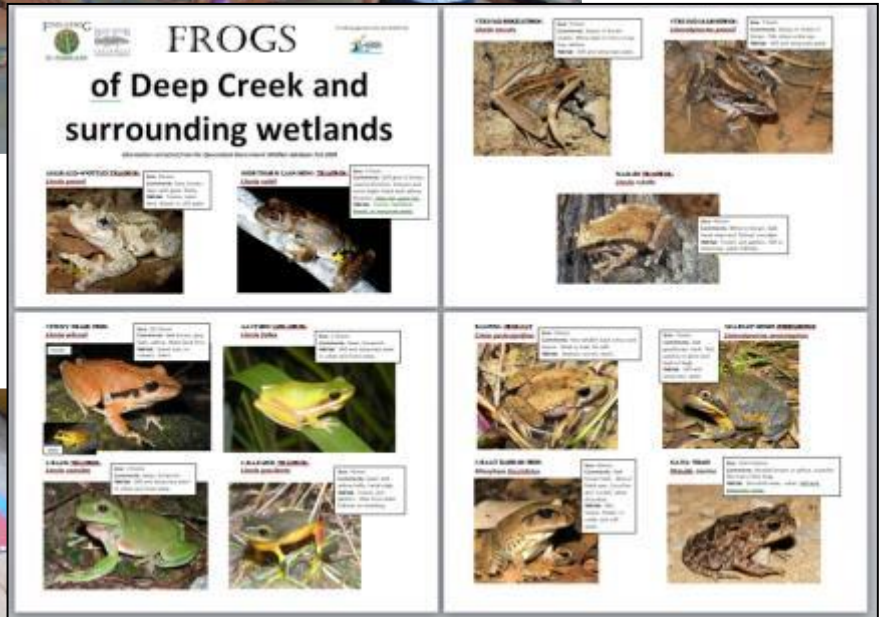
Mixophyes fasciolatus
Great barred frog





Limnodynastes peronii
Striped marshfrog

School monitoring preparations – Gympie East State School



Rhinella marina
Cane toad



Bushcare group monitoring – Sunshine Coast



Litoria alongburensis
Wallum sedgefrog



Rhinella marina Cane toad trying
to eat a worm – worm won!



Bushcare group monitoring – Poona



Crinia tinnula
Wallum froglet
(by J. Hooper)



FIND A FROG



IN FEBRUARY



Community assistance is needed to find out where our frogs are hiding in our region. The Mary River catchment flows through the Mary River and west to Concedale and Kibbin and coastal areas from Penang to Burns Beach and Fraser Island (FYR).

Frogs are a vital component of ecosystems and are acutely 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 2008. 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 Wildlife database (Qld Government) where it can be accessed by researchers, environmental planners and anyone who is interested in frog business.

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

MRCCC details: Call on the hub
25 Stewart Terrace, Gympie 4570
Phone: 5482 4756
finda@mrccc.org.au
<http://mrccc.org.au/find-a-frog-in-february-officer-website>
<https://www.facebook.com/MaryRvrMRCCC/>



PROUDLY
SUPPORTED BY:




Help for Frog Finders

- Instruction sheet
- MRCCC website <https://mrccc.org.au>
- FrogID website <https://www.frogid.net.au>
- Frogging Around - Frog ID Key
<http://www.froggingaround.com/>
- **Teachers** – see frog module in EdStudio
 - Contact Jean Pink at jpink16@eq.edu.au



[illegible]



Frog Finder's Guide

OUR FROGS NEED YOU!

FIND-A-FROG
IN FEBRUARY



The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC), in partnership with the Australian Museum FrogID team, is asking people to help our frogs. Join us and collect frog information from as many parts of the Mary River catchment (and adjacent smaller catchments) as possible. While saving for 5000 frog moments!!

WHY? Frogs world-wide are in decline (see third) and Australia is no exception. They're early indicators of environmental change and their welfare can directly affect the health of the environmental support systems we rely on and enjoy. The information gathered during this frog search will contribute to a significant increase in knowledge of frog distributions, population levels, habitat requirements and breeding activity. This flow-on benefits will be to better guide land and waterway management to ensure environments are thoughtfully cared for.

WHO? Anyone! However we are targeting the Mary River, Kira Kira and Barron River catchments, and coastal drainages from Noun to Barron Heads (including off-shore islands). Everyone can contribute as a Citizen Scientist.

WHEN? We have chosen February to collect records as it is likely to be hot and wet, ideal for frog activity in the tropical and sub-tropical zones. Night time is best for active searching or listening for calls. During the day frogs hide away but can sometimes be spotted with keen eyes.

HOW? When frogs are can be predictable or surprising. You can actively go to find them but they can also appear during your normal activities. Frogs need moisture and many of our frog species are adapted to ponds of dry and can be found around temporary water bodies like puddles, swales, ephemeral creeks. Others stay close to permanent water like dams, billabongs and flowing waterways. Sand pits, catch, pot plants and wet roads are all places you may come across frogs.

A touch at headlamp is good for spotting frogs - not too bright as it may hurt their eyes. Using a headlamp is best so you can focus on the underside of logs/frogs. A torch held up to your eye will give the same effect. Walk slowly and quietly in forests, along creeks, around dams and billabongs. Watch carefully for movement on the ground.

RECORDING YOUR ENCOUNTER: Lightings:- If you see a frog at night, keep your torch and eyes on it as you get closer so it will likely jump away. Take photos if you can (use reverse for important frog features used in identification). Submit your photo with a completed 'Frog Finder's Record Sheet' downloadable from the MRCCC website.

CALLS – TWO CHOICES!

1. The key recording device and send it in with your 'Frog Finder's Record Sheet' to the MRCCC for identification.
2. Engage with the 'Find a Frog – MRCCC' group in the FrogID phone application. Record the call on your phone and submit it to FrogID.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SUBMIT YOUR RECORD?

You will be contacted by the MRCCC as the FrogID team as to the identification of your frogs. Records sent to the MRCCC will be entered into the Queensland Wildlife database, Wildlife the information is stored safely and is accessible for planners, researchers and those interested. FrogID records are stored in the Australian Museum database and are also shared with Wildlife. So, either way your records become valuable additions to our collective knowledge.

IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO HANDLE OR DISTURB FROGS – THEY ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO CHEMICALS AND ABRAISIVES.

DON'T TOUCH FROGS, TAGPOLES OR EGGS, OR MOVE THEM FROM ONE SITE TO ANOTHER – AVOID SPREADING DISEASES.



MRCCC – MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
WORKING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND PRODUCTIVE FUTURE FOR THE MARY RIVER CATCHMENT

Tips for frog finders

Important features to photograph or record

Waist!
The male's call

Eye colour (top and bottom may be different)

Back colour, pattern, ridges, warts

Colour and/or pattern of face and along upper lip

Belly colour, patterns and texture

Log markings – bars, vertical patches, glands (stained area)

Toe pads present or not

Webbing of toes and/or fingers

Side colours, patterns, extent of black facial line (if present)

PHOTOGRAPHING FROGS

Take photos from the top, side and undermouth if possible.

TOP

SIDE

BELLY

HOW TO COLLECT AN AUDIO RECORDING

You can use a mobile phone, digital recorder, and other voice gear that is set to video mode. Get as close as you can and obtain a good representation of the call.

YOUR SAFETY is of great importance to us – so we want you to take care and not be injured while collecting frog sounds. Be aware of hazards such as stepping, slips, steep banks, slippery frogs and getting lost. Come home safely!

USEFUL RESOURCES

See the MIRCOC website below for a list of phone apps, websites, books and publications. See www.frogid.net.au for the FrogID app. Check our website for regular updates of frog sounds that come in. Can you help reach 5000 records?

The MIRCOC gratefully acknowledges the support for this program from: The Northern Cross Regional Council, Snowy Mountains Regional Council and the Bureau of Mary Regional Council. Appreciation to Cathryn O'Brien for her generous gift of Collier frog designs for our logo.

Further support for MIRCOC activities is provided by the Australian Government Department of Environment, the Queensland Department of Water, Health, Environment and Heritage Protection and Science, Interactive Technology Innovation and the Arts, and Institutions throughout the Mary Catchment.

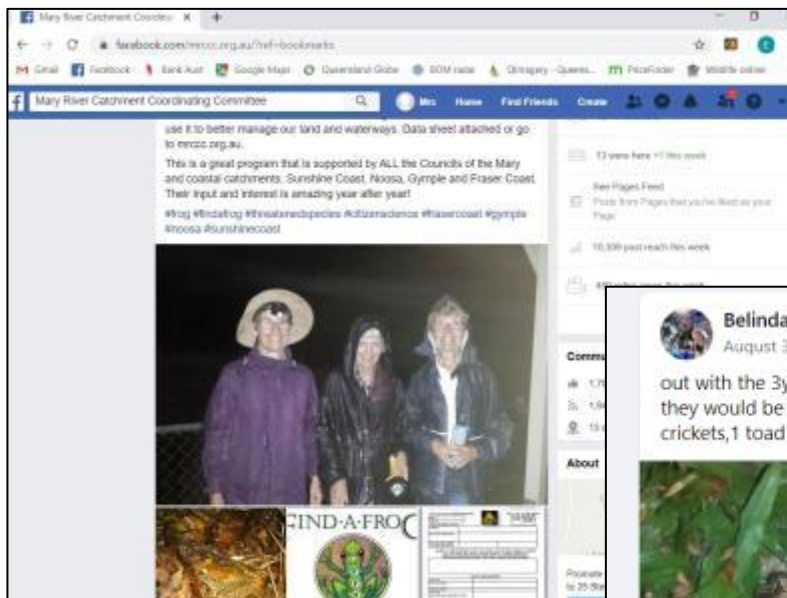
MIRCOC Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

Working towards a sustainable and productive future for the Mary River Catchment

Barrenjoey Centre
25 Bayview Terrace, Gungahlin
Postal PO Box 5027, Gungahlin, ACT 2907
Phone: (07) 5482 4766
Fax: (07) 5482 5443
E-mail: info@mircoc.org.au
www.mircoc.org.au/frogid-to-frogid

Media articles

<https://www.facebook.com/7NEWSWideBay/videos/216632306187961/?vh=e&d=n>



7 NEWS, FaceBook





CITIZEN SCIENCE - Find a Frog in February

Find a Frog in February frog search activity gets underway soon. The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) launched this program three Februarys ago in 2017 to give people an opportunity to contribute to our collective knowledge of frogs and their whereabouts, so that we can better manage their habitat.

Frogs are highly sensitive to the condition of their surroundings; habitat features, water quality, chemicals in the air, humidity and temperature, and are recognised as good indicators of environmental health. One third of frogs worldwide are at risk of extinction due to factors such as habitat loss, disease, changes to water supply and the impacts of exotic species. In our local area we have lost two species; Gastric brood frog *Rheobatrachus silus* and the Southern day frog *Taudactylus diurnus*, since the 1970's and six more have joined the 'threatened' list. One of these; the Giant barred frog *Mixophyes iteratus* has its stronghold in the Mary River catchment and we want to make sure that they, and all the other frog species, maintain healthy populations here.

Looking for frogs is an activity for the adventurous and concerned members of our community. It takes a little time out of the house in the evening with a headlamp or torch, and a phone or camera. A little more time to record what has been seen or heard and then send that through to the MRCCC.



What do we do with it? All information is entered into a large state database called WildNet where it can be stored safely and accessed by researchers, planners, decision-makers and naturalists, and be drawn on when assessing sites for development or other impacting activities.

Over the past 3 years around 4100 records of 27 species have been submitted through the Find a Frog in February program from 286 locations. It's a fantastic contribution from the community of the Mary, Burrum, Noosa River systems and Coastal catchments from Peregian to Burrum Heads. Each year the Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Shire Council, Gympie Regional Council and Fraser Coast Regional Council all pitch in to help the MRCCC to coordinate the program and process the incoming information. This is a great demonstration of consolidated commitment to protect our natural environment.

In 2020 there will be workshops, Frog Hops (progressive frog survey nights along creek systems) and setting up of long-term frog monitoring sites at schools and community environment groups sites.

Jump into the pool of contributing froggers and find our amphibian friends this February!

See www.mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/ for all the information you need or call the MRCCC on 07 5482 4766.

press release by Eva Ford
Catchment Officer, MRCCC

MARY RIVER CATCHMENT SPECIAL - SO ARE OUR FROGS

Especially special in February each year is the annual Find a Frog in February citizen science frog search activity gets underway. The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) launched this program nearly 3 years ago to give people an opportunity to contribute their knowledge of frogs and their whereabouts to the MRCCC.



Young froggers photographing a Giant Barred Frog during FFF at Peregian this year. Credit: E. Ford

are, and are recognised as good indicators of environmental health. One third of frogs worldwide are at risk of extinction due to factors such as habitat loss, disease, changes to water supply and the impacts of exotic species. In our local area we have lost two species; Gastric brood frog (*Rheobatrachus silus*) and the Southern day frog (*Taudactylus diurnus*), since the 1970's and six more have joined the 'threatened' list. One of these; the Giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*) has its stronghold in the Mary River catchment and we want to make sure that they, and all the other frog species, maintain healthy populations here.

is an activity for the adventurous and

concerned members of our community. It takes a little time out of the house in the evening with a headlamp or torch, and a phone or camera. A little more time to record what has been seen or heard and then send that through to the MRCCC.

What do we do with it? All information is entered into a large state database called WildNet where it can be stored safely and accessed by researchers, planners, decision-makers and naturalists, and be drawn on when assessing sites for development or other impacting activities.



Over the past 3 years around 4100 records of 27 species have been submitted through the Find a Frog in February program from 286 locations. It's a fantastic contribution from the community of the Mary, Burrum, Noosa River systems and Coastal catchments from Peregian to Burrum Heads. Each year the Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Shire Council, Gympie Regional Council and Fraser Coast Regional Council all pitch in to help the MRCCC to coordinate the program and process the incoming information. This is a great demonstration of consolidated commitment to protect our natural environment.

In 2020 there will be workshops, Frog Hops (progressive frog survey nights along creek systems) and setting up of long-term frog monitoring sites at schools and community environment groups sites.

See www.mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/ for all the information you need or call the MRCCC on 07 5482 4766.

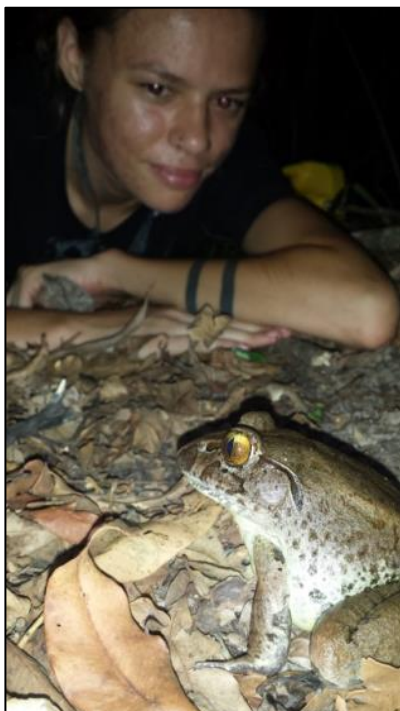
press release by Eva Ford
Catchment Officer, MRCCC

have asked for much better weather conditions (all things considered whilst in a drought, of course).

I arrived on the Friday night before the blitz began the next day, and after the team leaders briefing, I ventured out to the survey site to familiarise myself with the area and frog

Workshops and presentations

Sunshine Coast – Obi Obi Hall Workshop and survey, Kirbys Road Reserve talk, Belli/Cedar Catchment Care Community outing



Workshops and presentations

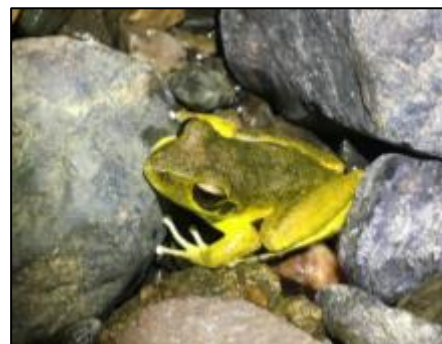
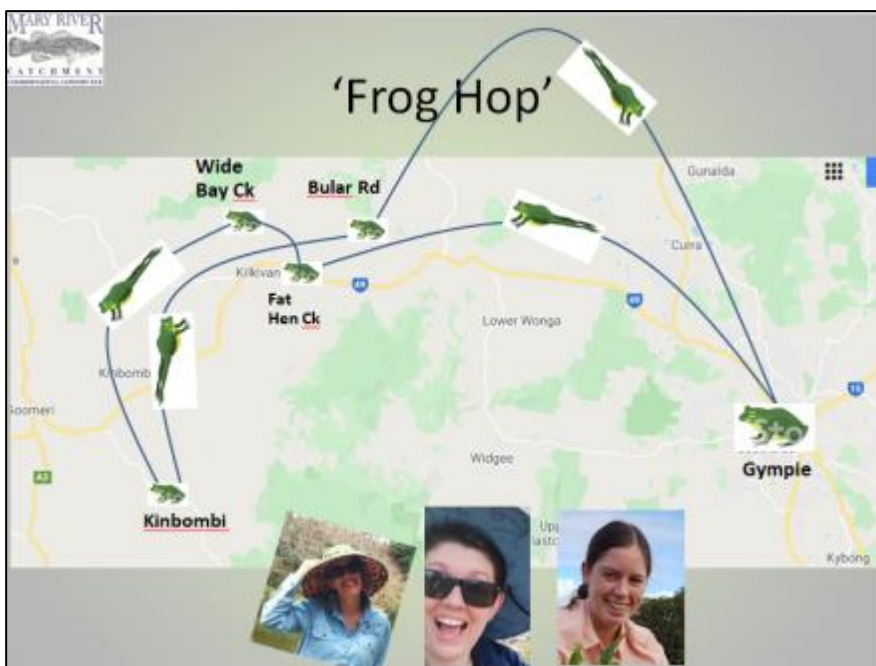
Noosa Shire – Noosa Landcare presentation and survey, Cooroora Park Bushcarer's Day Out



Audience creating a storm and becoming frog callers!

Workshops and presentations

Gympie Shire – ‘Frog Hop’, Gympie Landcare Open Day stall and talk, MRCCC AGM

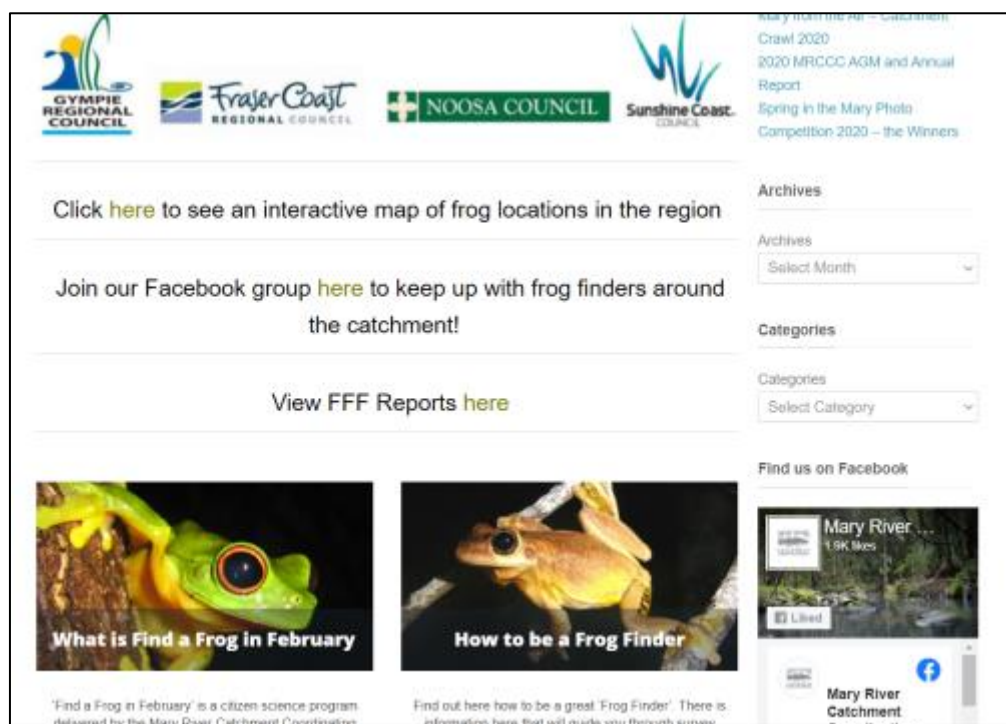


Workshops and presentations

Fraser Coast – Library talks – Maryborough and Hervey Bay



Website screenshots



52 people received gifts for their first time participation in FFF



Money raised by the sale of Wildlife natural Solution's 'Wallum frogs Soap'n'Shampoo' buys gifts for 1st timers ☺



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