

FIND·A·FROG



IN·FEBRUARY

Frog Finder's Guide

OUR FROGS NEED YOU!

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) is inviting people to help our frogs. Join in and collect frog information from as many parts of the Mary River catchment (and adjacent coastal catchments) as possible. We're aiming for 10,000 frog encounters!

WHY? Frogs world-wide are in decline (one third!) and Australia is no exception. They are early indicators of environmental change and their welfare can directly reflect 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. The 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, Noosa and Burrum River catchments, and coastal drainages from the Sunshine Coast to Burrum 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? Where 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 but many of our frogs are adapted to periods of dry. They can be found around temporary water bodies like puddles, soaks, ephemeral creeks. Others stay close to permanent water like dams, billabongs and flowing waterways. Sand piles, mulch, pot plants and wet roads are all places you may come across frogs.

A torch or headlamp is good for spotting frogs - not too bright (< 300 lumens) as it may hurt their eyes. Using a headlamp is best as you can then see the eyeshine of larger frogs. A torch held up to your eyes will give the same effect. Walk slowly and quietly in forests, along creeks, around dams and billabongs. Watch intently for movement on the ground.

RECORDING YOUR ENCOUNTER

Sightings - If you see a frog at night, keep your torch and eyes on it as you get closer or it will likely jump away. Take photos if you can (see reverse for important frog features used in identification).

Calls - Record calls for up to 30 seconds using your phone or other recording device.

SUBMIT YOUR OBSERVATIONS - 3 CHOICES

1 Fill out details in the 'Frog Finder's Record Sheet' - downloadable from the MRCCC website. Send with photos and/or recordings to the MRCCC via findafrog@mrccc.org.au

2 Join iNaturalist then join the 'Find a Frog in February' project to link your observations.

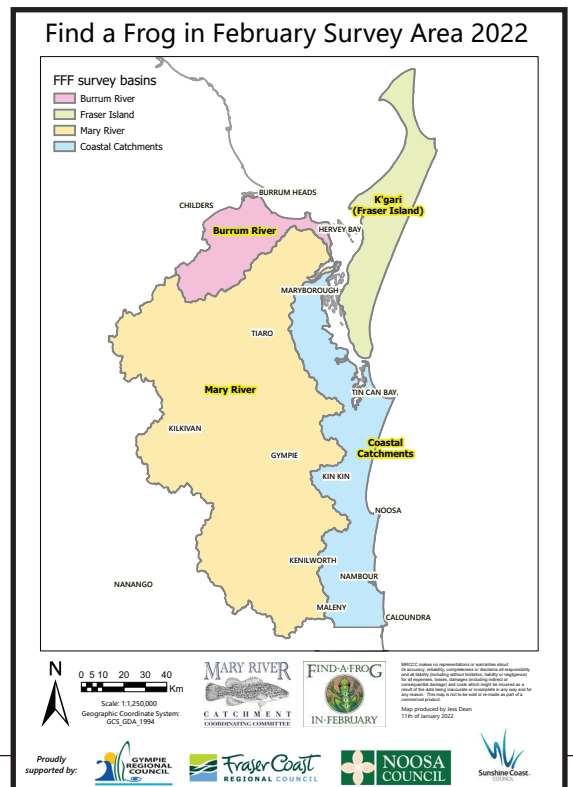
3 Submit your recordings of frog calls to FrogID.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SUBMIT YOUR RECORD?

You will be contacted by the MRCCC as to the identification of your frog/s or, you will see identification comments in 'Your Observations' in iNaturalist, or you will be contacted by the FrogID team. Records sent to the MRCCC will be entered into the Queensland's wildlife database; WildNet where the information is stored safely and is accessible for planners, researchers and those interested. iNaturalist records are stored in the Atlas of Living Australia and we also send them to WildNet. 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 ABRASIVES.

DON'T TOUCH FROGS, TADPOLES OR EGGS, OR MOVE THEM FROM ONE SITE TO ANOTHER - AVOID SPREADING FROG DISEASES.

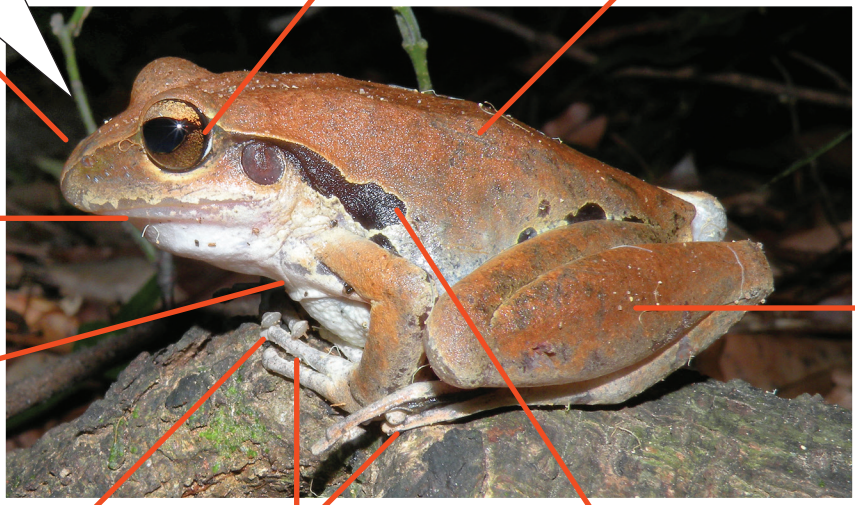


MRCCC - MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

WORKING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND PRODUCTIVE FUTURE FOR THE MARY RIVER CATCHMENT

Tips for frog finders

Important features to photograph or record



The male's call! *Wark!*

Eye colour (top and bottom may be different)

Back colours, patterns, ridges, warts

Colour and/or patterns of face and along upper lip

Belly colour, patterns and texture

Leg markings – bars, colour patches, glands (raised area)

Toe pads present, size

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 underneath if possible.



HOW TO COLLECT AN AUDIO RECORDING



You can use a mobile phone, digital recorder, and often your camera 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 – we want you to take care and not be injured while collecting frog records. Be aware of hazards such as tripping, bites, steep banks, spiky things and getting lost. Come home safely!

USEFUL RESOURCES

See the MRCCC website below for useful frog resources and updates of FFF records – can you help us reach 10,000 records of 40 species?! To join iNaturalist go to <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/> or your App store.

Use your local frog key at http://www.froggingaround.com/frog_id_key.php
 For the FrogID app visit www.frogid.net.au or your App store.

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MRCCC Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

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

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