Find a Frog in February – 2022 Report

Prepared by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

FIND a FROG in FEBRUARY

2022 marks the sixth year of the Find a Frog in February (FFF) citizen science program that encourages the local community to send in frog observations during the month of February each year. It is delivered throughout the Mary River, Noosa River and Burrum River catchments and adjacent coastal catchments (see map), and is generously funded each year by the four local councils; Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast. Participants and technical supporters provide in-kind support through their participation that is 4 times the funding provided. The program provides educational material and support to Bushcare groups, schools and the broad community to help improve our knowledge of frogs; their location, population trends, habitat needs, and threats. Increased knowledge enables improved understanding and management of habitats.

SUMMARY OF THE 2022 FFF PROGRAM

The prevailing La Nina conditions provided a high number of rainy days and severe flooding during the 2021/22 frog breeding season. The Mary River and its catchment experienced a significant and widespread flooding event in February, and several more during the following months. Scheduling of some FFF activities were interrupted due to poor access and high safety risks but opportunities for frog finding were generally fruitful. Such conditions favor many of our local frogs that are well adapted to ephemeral water bodies such as dams, gullies and soaks.

The 2022 FFF community consisted of 384 participants sending in photos, recordings and descriptions of frogs from 827 locations. 4715 records of 32 species came in, including six threatened frog species from our waterways and coastal wallum ecosystems.

The FFF team provided seven workshops for the community, two webinars for the general public, a class lesson for primary schools, and a survey evening with Tewantin State school students.

This year we invited submission of observations through the FFF project in iNaturalist. It proved to be the platform of choice for over 250 people who submitted 1549 frog records. Observations coming to this on-line platform are verified by at least one local expert, and are often vetted by several people with excellent or good identification skills.

Find a Frog in February is proudly supported by the following councils:

Ilana with a Giant barred frog (Mixophyes iteratus) *by E. Ford*

Ornate burrowing frog
(Platyplectrum ornatum) *by S. Grimish*

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
25 Stewart Terrace,
Gympie, Queensland, 4570

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findafrog@mrccc.org.au

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The table below shows high and extreme rainfall totals for February 2022. Such conditions are very conducive for frog activity; warm, wet, long-term water supply for egg and tadpole development. Perhaps though, it's not always the best for frog finding if flooding results! Probably due to consistent wet conditions, many FFF participants ventured out for frog searching with very fruitful results.

Rainfall from October 2021 through to January 2022 was well above average and much of the Mary River catchment and adjacent coastal areas were saturated leading in to February. All four Council areas of the program area then received very high rainfall in February and Gympie and Maryborough experienced severe flooding. Maryborough received around twice its February mean rainfall of 173mm/annum, Tewantin received over three times its annual mean of 210mm/annum while Gympie and Maleny both received over four times their February mean rainfall of 170 and 210mm respectively.

Table 1. February 2022 rainfall totals and means (mm) **(Bureau of Meteorology 2022)**

Location	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Mean
Maryborough	5.6	137	32	345	22	312	173 1870-2022
Gympie	21	282	35	184	25	733	170 1870-2022
Tewantin	41	394	37	510	93	795	235 1895-1996
Maleny	60	413	122	396	114	959	210 1898-2022 Beewah

FFF 2022 ACTIVITIES, PARTICIPATION AND FROG RECORDS

The following table provides a Council breakdown and totals for community participation and incoming frog records.

Table 2. Numbers of participants and frog records with Council area detail

	Sunshine Coast Council	Noosa Shire Council	Gympie Regional Council	Fraser Coast Regional Council	Other^	Total
Frog Finders	210	79	86	130	3	384
Number of workshop participants	63	90	102	24	-	279
Number of school group participants	40	14	0	0$	-	54
Surveys *	240	141	152	346	6	885
Survey sites *	346	105	135	237	4	827
Frog records	1128	1477	716	1256	38	4715
Species	22	20	20	23	7	32
Threatened species #	3	5	2	2	0	6

* Numbers of surveys and survey sites are from the FFF program and iNaturalist 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 olongburensis* (Wallum sedgefrog).
^ Warwick, South Burnett & Charters Towers Shires.
$ Webinar provided to schools.

The number of participants, surveys and frog records coming from FFF participants over the six years of Find a Frog in February are provided in the Table 3. Cumulative outcomes of the FFF program since its inception in 2017

Table 3. Cumulative outcomes of the FFF program since its inception in 2017

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Frog Finders	76	142	77	343	102	384	**1124**
Surveys	70	218	127	221	155	885	**1676**
Survey sites	61	128	90	141	124	827	**1371**
Frog records	390	2,358	1,368	7,892	1,355	4,715	**18,078**
Species	22	23	22	28	31	31	**33**
Threatened species	3	4	2	5	6	6	**6**

The number of people conducting frog surveys in 2022 was an increase on the previously well-attended event in 2020 while the total number of records submitted (4715) were lower than came in during 2020. Numbers of frog individuals observed or heard can vary greatly according to the current conditions as well as prevalent breeding and survival conditions prior to a survey. The extreme wet weather experienced in February 2022 created ideal conditions for many species but likely deterred some others, such as stream dependent frogs, due to the fast flows along waterways.

The map in Figure 1 shows a good spread of surveys carried out by participants this year in all Council areas. This may reflect broader awareness of the program built over six years, repeat participants who are encouraged to monitor sites annually, the provision of public workshops and support for school activities. Participation gaps still exist on K'gari (Fraser Island), sub-catchments to the west of the Mary River and the Jimna area in the upper catchment.

The map below shows the spread of records coming to the MRCCC directly during FFF 2022 and our on-line interactive map is available at https://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/

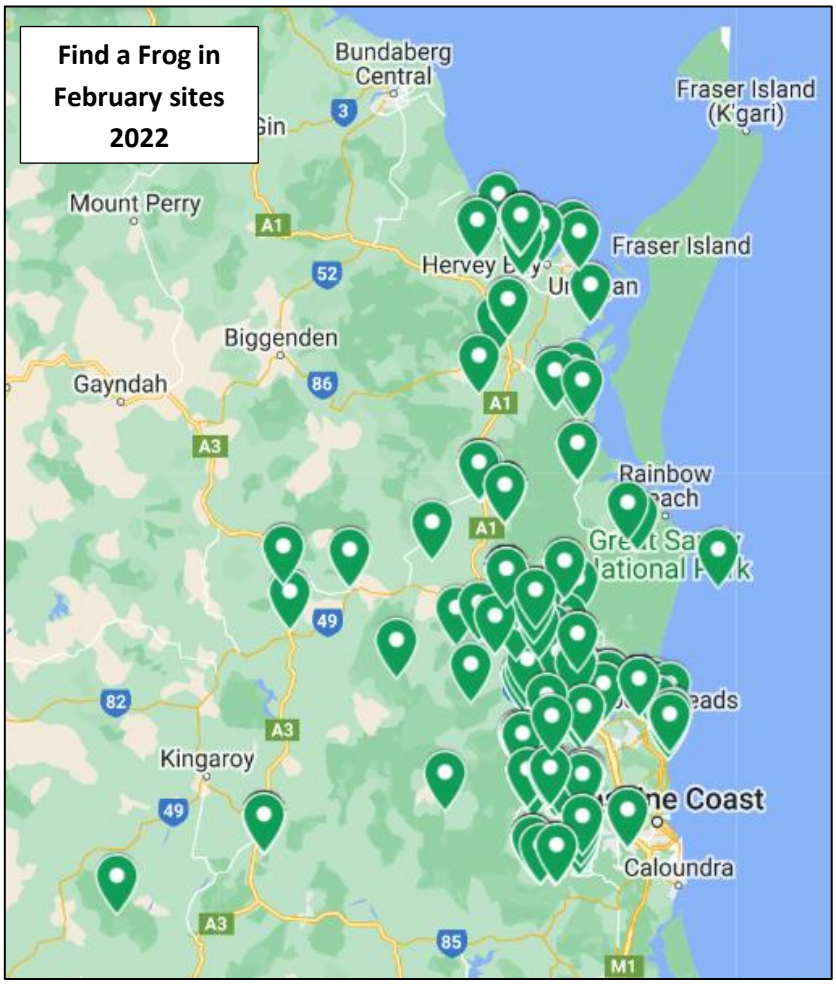
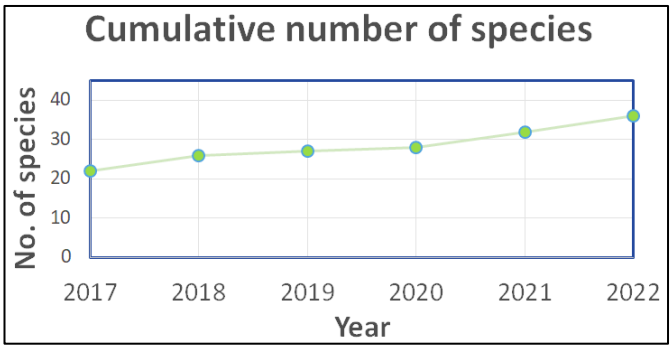


Figure 1. 2022 frog record locations (only observations submitted directly to the MRCCC, not iNaturalist or FrogID)

Four species were recorded for the first time as shown in Table 4 below. They are *Crinia deserticola* (Desert froglet), *Limnodynastes salmini* (Salmon-striped frog), *Litoria freycineti* (Wallum rocketfrog) and *Litoria inermis* (Bumpy rocketfrog).

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

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Status (Qld.)**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Adelotus brevis	Tusked frog	Vulnerable						
Crinia deserticola	Desert froglet							
Crinia parinsignifera	Beeping froglet							
Crinia signifera	Clicking froglet							
Crinia tinnula	Wallum froglet	Vulnerable						
Limdodynastes fletcheri	Barking frog							
Limnodynastes peronii	Striped marshfrog							
Limnodynastes salmini	Salmon-striped frog							
Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	Spotted marshfrog							
Limnodynastes terraraeginae	Scarlet-sided pobblebonk							
Litoria balatus	Slender bleating treefrog							
Litoria brevipalmata	Green-thighed frog							
Litoria caerulea	Green treefrog							
Litoria chloris	Orange-eyed treefrog							
Litoria fallax	Eastern sedgefrog							
Litoria freycineti	Wallum rocketfrog	Vulnerable						
Litoria gracilenta	Graceful treefrog							
Litoria inermis	Bumpy rocketfrog							
Litoria latopalmata	Broad-palmed rocketfrog							
Litoria nasuta	Striped rocketfrog							
Litoria olongburensis	Wallum sedgefrog	Vulnerable						
Litoria pearsoniana	Cascade treeftog	Vulnerable						
Litoria peronii	Emerald-spotted treefrog							
Litoria rothii	Northern laughing treefrog							
Litoria rubella	Naked treefrog							
Litoria tyleri	Southern laughing treefrog							
Litoria verreauxii	Verraux's treefrog							
Litoria wilcoxii	Stony-creek frog							
Mixophyes fasciolatus	Great barred frog							
Mixophyes iteratus	Giant barred frog	Vulnerable						
Platyplectrum ornatum	Ornate burrowing frog							
Pseudophryne coracea	Red backed broodfrog							
Pseudophryne raveni	Copper-backed broodfrog							
Uperoleia fusca	Dusky toadlet							
Uperoleia laevigata	Eastern gungan							
Rhinella marina	Cane toad	Exotic						
Cells marked green indicate species recorded in a given year	**No. of species**		**22**	**23**	**22**	**28**	**30**	**32**
	Cumulative species		**22**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**32**	**36**
	Total species		**36**					



Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference. shows the steady increase each year in the species recorded, as people from different locations and habitats submit their observations. 45 species are known from the program area. Six threatened species were recorded from throughout the project area.

Species that are known from the program area that have not yet been detected are as provided in the table below.

Figure 2. Increase in species recorded during the six years of the FFF program

Table 5. Undetected species, their habitat type/s and shires known from

Species name	Common name	Habitat	Shire/s
Assa darlingtoni	Pouched frog	Rainforest and adjacent wet sclerophyll forest	SCC
Cyclorana alboguttata	Greenstripe frog	Grasslands and open forest	SCC, NSC, GRC, FCRC
Cyclorana brevipes	Superb collared frog	Grasslands and open forest	FCRC
Cyclorana novaehollandiae	Eastern snapping frog	Variable, not at altitude	FCRC
Limnodynastes dumerilii	Grey bellied pobblebonk	Woodland, heathland, farmland	GRC
Litoria cooloolensis	Cooloola sedgefrog	Wallum wetlands	SCC, GRC, FCRC
Litoria revelata	Whirring treefrog	Rainforest, wet/dry sclerophyll forest	SCC
Mixophyes fleayi	Fleay's barred frog	Rainforest at high altitude	SCC
Pseudophryne major	Great brown broodfrog	Dry forest, woodland, sclerophyll forest, heathland	SCC, NSC, GRC, FCRC
Uperoleia rugosa	Chubby gungan	Grassland, dry sclerophyll forest, open woodland	GRC, FCRC

As all species have their particular habitat requirements and environmental conditions. Whether broad or specific, the species composition at a site can provide interesting insights into the condition of our environment. Many of our local frog species are drought resilient and adapted for breeding in still and ephemeral water bodies, for example *Limnodynastes peronii* (Striped marshfrog), *Litoria caerulea* (Green treefrog), *L. fallax* (Eastern sedgefrog), *L. gracilenta* (Graceful treefrog) and *L. rubella* (Naked treefrog). They are widespread and have been recorded at a high percentage of sites surveyed, as Figure 3 shows. Of course, *Rhinella marina* (Cane toad) joins that group and we would all be familiar with the breeding habitat preference for dams, and soaks following heavy rain.

Two species that most people know well from their homes and gardens are *Litoria caerulea* and *L. fallax*. It is concerning that the incidence of these species have dropped again this year. Excellent breeding conditions were prevalent in early 2020 and emergence of *L. caerulea* metamorphs en masse was observed by many people along the coastal areas in February that year. Unfortunately, Chytrid fungus has impacted populations along the eastern seaboard during 2021 and again in 2022 and is a likely cause for reduced observations. Only two records of *L. caerulea* came in for the whole Sunshine Coast Council area this year. Such trends highlight the importance of regular site monitoring regardless of the status of species; disregarding any ideas of senseless repetition or disappointment with years of similar observations; this is a good outcome!


Litoria caerulea
by J. Hampson


Litoria gracilenta
by R. Porter


Litoria fallax
by A. Sylvester


Limnodynastes peronii
by S. Grimish


Litoria rubella
by C. Head

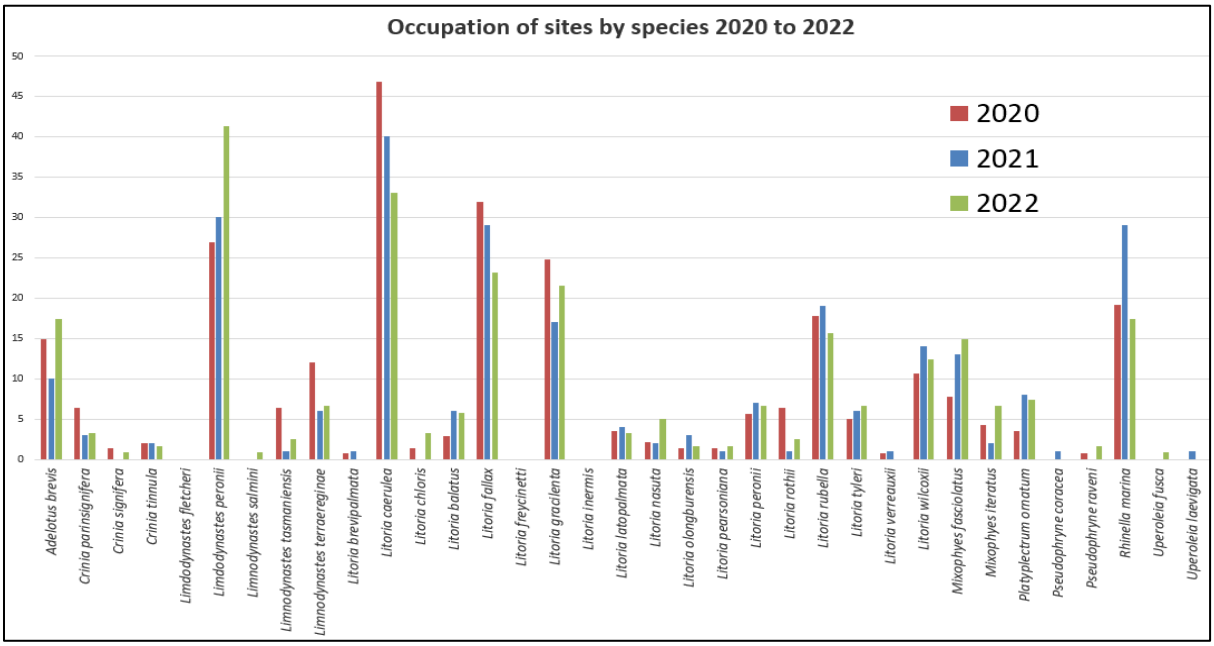
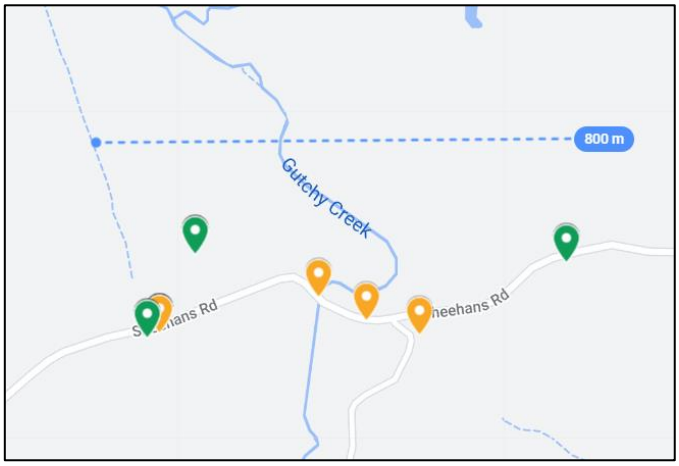


Figure 3. Number of sites and frequency of species observed from 2020 to 2022 (MRCCC data only)

(Number of surveyed sites in 2020 = 141, 2021 = 124 2022 =)

Species richness can be relatively high in unexpected parts of the FFF program area. The number of species at the location shown below, from records sent in over three years, is typical of many areas. 10 species have been observed in an area of only 10 hectares. Habitat types include an ephemeral creek and wetlands, road drains, dry bushland and a few houses with gardens. The road drainage has created a small ephemeral marsh that regularly attracts several species. The species found in this area are:

- *Limnodynastes peronii*
- *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*
- *Limnodynastes terraereginae*
- *Litoria caerulea*
- *Litoria fallax*
- *Litoria latopalmata* or *L. nasuta*
- *Litoria rothii*
- *Litoria rubella*
- *Litoria tyleri*
- *Litoria wilcoxii*



Observations are enhanced by the abundant rain that has been prevalent over the past three years. Two of the species were recorded in 2021 and 22 while all others were active in 2020. This could of course reflect the effort of the observer rather than the weather. Again, it highlights the importance of monitoring sites year after year to determine species richness, temporal presence/absence and population dynamics.

DATA MANAGEMENT

All information that comes to the MRCCC through the FFF program is identified, where possible (that's about 99.9% of records due to the high quality of photographs and recordings people submit), and provided back to the participant. We occasionally refer to technical support for second opinion to further increase the reliability of more challenging records (our gratitude goes to Harry Hines and Ed Meyer). Each record coming to the MRCCC is attributed a level of confidence using a hierarchy system of reliability developed by the Queensland Government's WildNet database (i.e. verified, confirmed, unconfirmed). Every iNaturalist record that comes to the FFF project is identified by our local expert and may be further verified by others in the region with excellent identification skills.

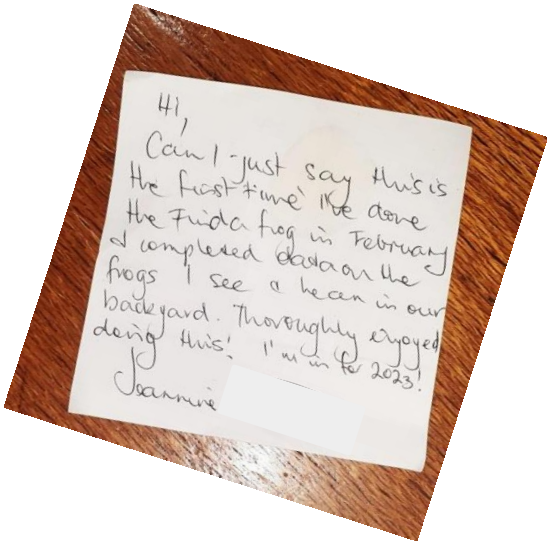
iNaturalist data and those coming directly to the MRCCC are provided to the WildNet database by the MRCCC. Our preference for WildNet is based on its backing by the Queensland Government, its management by a dedicated and experienced team, and its capability to store extraneous information belonging to a record. It is the key dataset of reference for Councils, planners, researchers, consultants and developers. Oftentimes this is the only source of information that is accessed for making important decisions for prioritisation and management of our natural areas and species.

Species lists for an area can be accessed by the public through 'Wildlife online' at https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/report-request/species-list/. WildNet record locations are also available through the Queensland Globe app (go to 'Add layers – Biota – WildNet' and choose the type of fauna and flora records desired, or inspect diversity per 10x10 metre grid).

FFF ACTIVITIES 2022

Media

Media items were prepared and delivered as follows:



- Media releases to mainstream media outlets and local newsletters
- School notices for inclusion in newsletters and to inform teachers of available resources
- MRCCC Facebook posts x 35
- Find a Frog in February Facebook Group – 563 members (Australia, New Zealand, Peru and USA). 160 posts by group members. Photos and discussion amongst keen froggers and the MRCCC.
- Initiation of a weekly frog quiz question on Facebook.
- Radio interviews x 4
- Local newsletter articles
- Queensland Museum Boomerang Bags gifted 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 with updates

Educational activities

Displays, workshops, school presentations and group/school monitoring activities were provided to the community as listed in the following Table 6.

Table 6. Workshop and presentations delivered and participant numbers

Local gov't. area	Event	No. of participants
Sunshine Coast	U3A at Maleny - FFF program	20
Sunshine Coast	Gheerulla Hall - Gheerulla Garden Club – FFF workshop and frog surveys	22
Sunshine Coast	Conondale - Upper Mary landholders – FFF workshop and frog surveys	21
Noosa	Noosa & District Landcare Webinar - FFF program	20
Noosa	Coastal – Peregian Community House – FFF workshop and frog surveys	20
Noosa	Tewantin State School – frog surveys/monitoring	14
Noosa	Land For Wildlife at Cooroora Park – Cane toads, frogs and FFF information	30
Noosa & Gympie	CCV Field Day at 6 Mile rest area – FFF information	40
Gympie	Off-Grid Expo – QFS stall with FFF information	50
Gympie	Mothar Mountain Hall - 6 Mile Creek – Creek Health workshop and frog surveys	32
Fraser Coast	Toogoom Community Hall – FFF workshop and frog surveys	24
Fraser Coast	Webinar – Frog information class session no. 1	-
All	MRCCC Annual General Meeting – FFF workshop and frog surveys	75
All	MRCCC General Meeting (Zoom) – FFF promotion and introduction to iNaturalist	24

<u>ACTIVITIES IN SHIRES</u> – a photographic sample - Sunshine Coast Council

Gheerhulla Garden Club

Upper Mary - Conondale

<u>ACTIVITIES IN SHIRES</u> – a photographic sample – Noosa Shire Council

Peregian Workshop

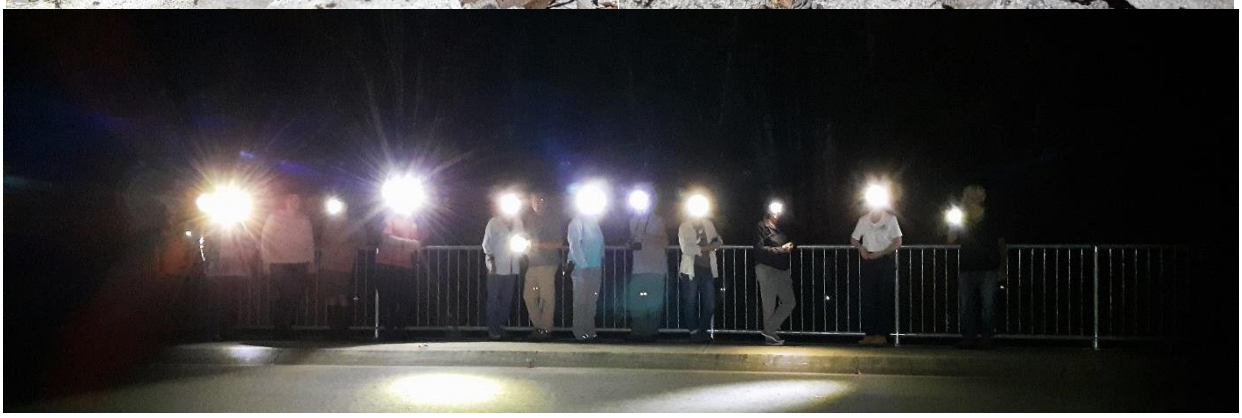
Tewantin State School surveys

<u>ACTIVITIES IN SHIRES</u> – a photographic sample - Gympie Regional Council

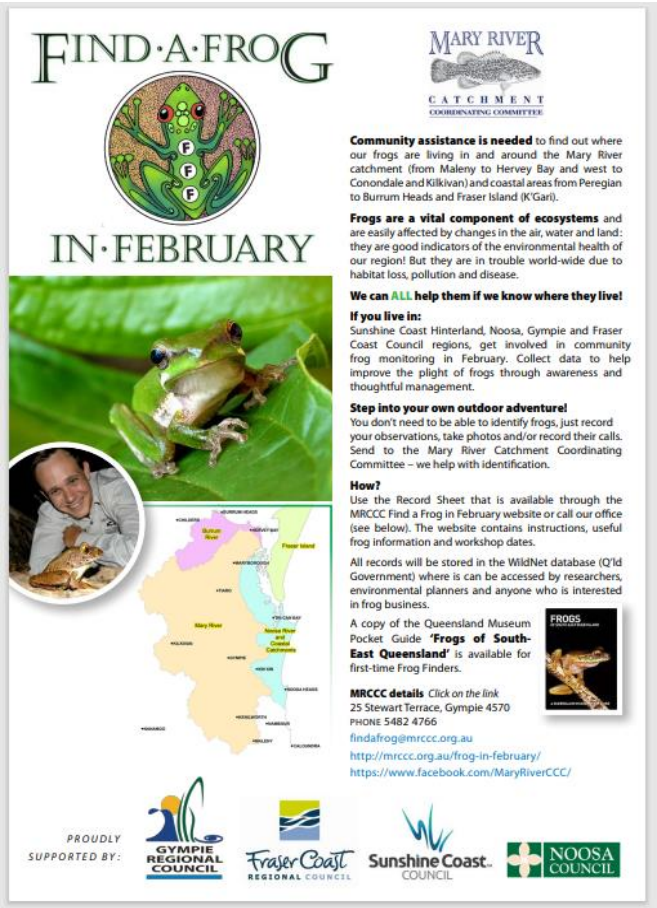
Mothar Mountain waterway information session and frog surveys

<u>ACTIVITIES IN SHIRES</u> – a photographic sample – Fraser Coast Regional Council

Toogoom Workshop and surveys



Participant resources



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 Peregian 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. 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 is 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 for first-time Frog Finders.

MRCCC details *Click on the link*
25 Stewart Terrace, Gympie 4570
PHONE 5482 4766
findafrog@mrccc.org.au
http://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/
https://www.facebook.com/MaryRiverCCC/

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY: GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL, Fraser Coast REGIONAL COUNCIL, Sunshine Coast COUNCIL, NOOSA COUNCIL

FIND·A·FROG IN·FEBRUARY

Frog Finder's Record Sheet

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
Resource Centre 25 Stewart Terrace, Gympie
Postal PO Box 1027, Gympie, Qld. 4570
Telephone (07) 5482 4766
Website www.mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february

Please return your form to findafrog@mrccc.org.au

DATE AND TIME

Date	
Time	

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	
Phone	
Email	
Home address (*for first-timers to receive your gift*)	

YOUR FROGGING LOCATION

Address of frog observation OR location description		Shire Council Region:
Latitude (OR Easting)	Longitude (OR Northing)	Datum: WGS84 (Google Earth) GDA2020 (QldGlobe)

YOUR SITE CONDITIONS

Habitat type (please circle)

Creek - Gully - Lake - Swamp - Dam - Drainage depression - Paddock - Road - Garden - House

Other_____

Weather conditions (recent rain, dry conditions, temperature etc) :

Any other observations (vegetation, flow, disturbance etc) :

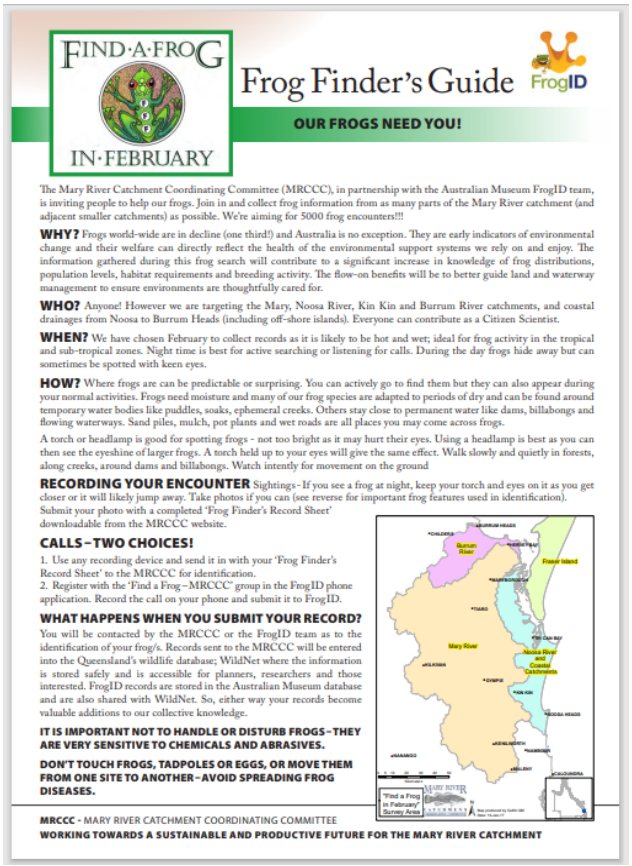
YOUR FROGS

Species – if known	How many frogs: Seen	Heard	Recording supplied? (Y/N)	Photo/s supplied? (Y/N)	*Office use* Count type	Vetting	Officer

Office use Data entered by: Date:

The MRCCC gratefully acknowledges the support for this program from: The Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Council, Gympie Regional Council and the Fraser Coast Regional Council. Appreciation to Cathey Osborne for her generous gift of Celtic frog design for our logo.

DONATIONS TO THE MARY CATCHMENT PUBLIC FUND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE *February 2021*



FIND·A·FROG IN·FEBRUARY

Frog Finder's Guide FrogID

OUR FROGS NEED YOU!

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC), in partnership with the Australian Museum FrogID team, is inviting people to help our frogs. Join in and collect frog information from as many parts of the Mary River catchment (and adjacent smaller catchments) as possible. We're aiming for 5000 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 River, Kin Kin and Burrum River catchments, and coastal drainages from Noosa 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 and many of our frog species are adapted to periods of dry and 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 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). Submit your photo with a completed 'Frog Finder's Record Sheet' downloadable from the MRCCC website.

CALLS – TWO CHOICES!

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

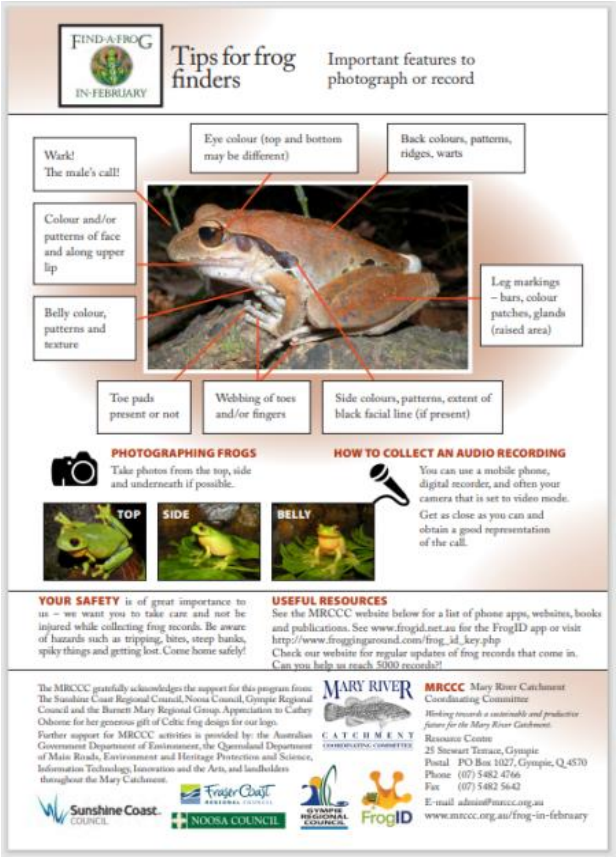
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SUBMIT YOUR RECORD?

You will be contacted by the MRCCC or the FrogID team as to the identification of your frog/s. 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. FrogID records are stored in the Australian Museum database and are also shared with 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



FIND·A·FROG IN·FEBRUARY

Tips for frog finders

Important features to photograph or record

Wark! The male's call!

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 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 underneath if possible.

TOP SIDE BELLY

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 a list of phone apps, websites, books and publications. See www.frogid.net.au for the FrogID app or visit http://www.froggingaround.com/frog_id_key.php

Check our website for regular updates of frog records that come in. Can you help us reach 5000 records?!

The MRCCC gratefully acknowledges the support for this program from: The Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Noosa Council, Gympie Regional Council and the Burnett Mary Regional Group. Appreciation to Cathey Osborne for her generous gift of Celtic frog design for our logo.

Further support for MRCCC activities is provided by: the Australian Government Department of Environment, the Queensland Department of Main Roads, Environment and Heritage Protection and Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts, and landholders throughout the Mary Catchment.

MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MRCCC Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

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

Resource Centre
25 Stewart Terrace, Gympie
Postal PO Box 1027, Gympie, Q 4570
Phone (07) 5482 4766
Fax (07) 5482 5642
E-mail admin@mrccc.org.au
www.mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL, Fraser Coast REGIONAL COUNCIL, NOOSA COUNCIL, GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL, FrogID

Funding acknowledgement

February is coming, and so is the army of Frog Finders – Join the team!

THE FIND A FROG IN February (FFF) citizen science program is now in its 6th year, and has been busy building up community awareness of frogs and their needs, as well as helping people to monitor sites for frogs each February.

FIND·A·FROG IN·FEBRUARY

The Mary River catchment is home to over 40 frog species; nine of these are listed as threatened or have disappeared – that's nearly 25%. Frogs are easily affected by changes in the air, water and land, and are therefore key indicators of a healthy environment. Collecting information on their whereabouts and the habitats they use means we can better manage the environment to protect them into the future. Here's some ideas to help our frogs:

- Keep some garden areas 'messy' – logs, branches, leaf litter, rock piles and tall grass.
- Provide water – ponds, dams, swamps, low areas that fill when it rains, creeks – all with a variety of vegetation, as well as some bare areas.
- Keep pollutants out of the environment – chemicals travel easily in water that flows across the land and along drains. Soap is a frog's enemy!
- Keep your cats indoors at night, as they hunt frogs and other wildlife.
- Promote the protection of waterways and wetlands in your area.

A few useful links

- **iNaturalist** – join the 'Find a Frog in February' group – https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/
- **Frog ID Key** – SE QLD frog and toad identification key – http://www.froggingaround.com/
- **FrogID** – https://www.frogid.net.au

Emerald-spotted tree frog (Litoria peronii). Credit: Eva Ford.

All people in the Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast council regions are invited to get out and about to find frogs and submit their sightings and recordings, now and especially in February. FFF frog finders have contributed to our knowledge of 31 species from 550 locations (over 8,300 records!). Every record counts – even common species like the green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*) can be affected by changing environmental conditions.

This year we are using the iNaturalist phone app to submit records – simply join the 'Find a Frog in February' group on iNaturalist and submit your frog photos and recordings of calling frogs. Our regular record sheet is always welcome too. See our website for more information, forms and links to all things 'froggy'. Check our website for workshops in your area to help you increase your frog finding skills.

FFF is proudly supported by the Fraser Coast Council, Gympie Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Council and Noosa Shire Councils through the Mary River catchment Coordinating Committee.

Contact for more information:
findafrog@mrccc.org.au or 07 5482 4766 or http://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/.

MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

We look forward to hearing from you!

Eva Ford, MRCCC

5

Old Frog Society Frogsheet – Mid-summer 2022

February is coming - and so is the army of Frog Finders. Join the team!

FIND·A·FROG IN·FEBRUARY

Frogs are endearing, non-threatening and relatively easy to observe. Many are key indicators of a healthy environment. Therefore, humans could do well to take an interest in this animal group to ensure we know where they are and to keep their populations healthy.

The **Find a Frog in February** citizen science program is now in its 6th year and has been busy building up community awareness of frogs and their needs, and helping people to monitor one or more sites every year during February.

GREEN-THIGHED TREEFROG

GIANT BARRED FROG

EMERALD-SPOTTED TREEFROG

ORANGE-EYED TREEFROG

The Mary River catchment is home to over 40 frog species; nine of these are listed as threatened or have disappeared – that's nearly ¼! Frogs are easily affected by changes in the air, water and land. Collecting information on their whereabouts and the habitats they use means we can better manage the environment to protect them into the future. Here's some ideas to help our frogs:

- Keep some areas 'messy' – logs and branches, leaf litter, rock piles, tall grass – a high-rise houses more beings than a single story dwelling.
- Provide water – ponds, dams, swamps, low areas that fill when it rains, creeks – all with a variety of vegetation and some bare areas.
- Keep pollutants out of the environment – chemicals travel easily with water that flows across the land and along drains. Soap is a frog's enemy!
- Keep your cats indoors at night as they hunt frogs and other wildlife.
- Promote the protection of waterways and wetlands in your area.

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME!

All people in the Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast council regions are invited to get out and about to find frogs and submit their sightings and recordings, now and especially in February.

Find a Frog in February frog finders have contributed to our knowledge of 31 species from 550 locations (over 8300 records!). Every record counts – even common species like the Green treefrog as the famous 'toilet frog' can be affected by changing environmental conditions too.

This year we are introducing the use of the iNaturalist phone app to submit records - join the **'Find a Frog in February'** group and submit your photos and recordings of calling frogs. Our regular record sheet is always welcome too. See our website for more information, forms and links to all things 'froggy'. Watch our website for workshops in your area to help you increase your frog finding skills.

Gympie Living - 6

Gympie Living January 2022

Cr. Jess Milne with Rainbow Beach News Feb 2022