Find a Frog in February

2025 Report

A program of the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

FIND a FROG in FEBRUARY

Celebrating 10 years of hopping! Find a Frog in February (FFF) officially wrapped up its ninth year in 2025, and we are already leaping toward our massive 10th anniversary! February 2025 brought some truly unpredictable weather, but that's the reality of wildlife monitoring. Whether it's rain, shine, or anything in between, we remain dedicated to our local frogs and the habitats they call home.

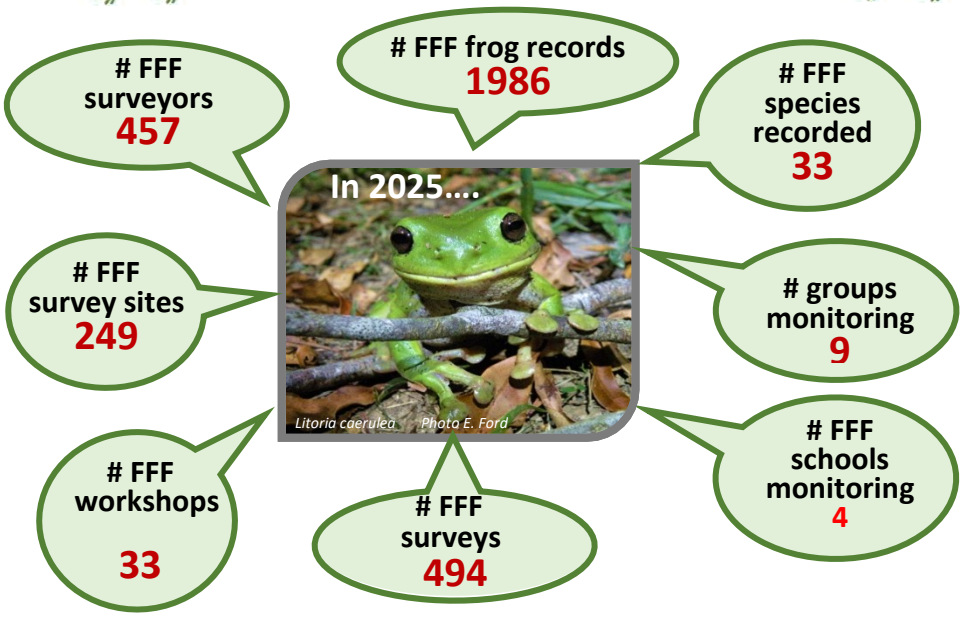
The FFF citizen science program encourages the local community to send in their frog observations during the month of February. It covers the Mary, Mooloolah, Maroochy, Noosa and Burrum River catchments, and adjacent coastal catchments in southern Queensland (see map to the right). It is supported each year by our four local councils; Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast, and we are continually grateful for their commitment to the interests of the local community, and to our biodiversity, at a time of environmental uncertainty.

FFF strives to help improve knowledge of local frogs and encourage an ethic of care for frogs, and for all species and systems they interact with and depend on. We believe that the best way to do that is to set a good example and provide educational material and support to all people. We also love working with schools, community groups, higher education institutions and government agencies.

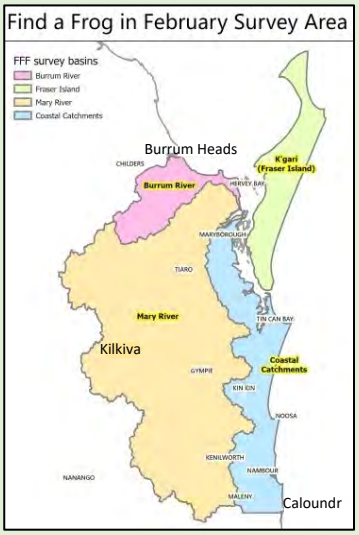
MONITOR, MONITOR, MONITOR!

This is our new catch-cry. We know a lot about where our species reside, their habitat needs and most of the threats that affect them. Our challenge now is to be aware of what is happening to population trends, and whether frogs are moving out of known areas or into new ones.

Turn to page 4 to learn how to monitor your patch!



All FFF frog records are rigorously identified and provided to the Queensland Government's WildNet database for access and to help inform planning and management.



Surveying Cooroora Creek – Alice Walters with a friendly Mixophyes iteratus *Photo E. Ford, MRCCC*

Two Eastern Sedgefrogs fighting (Litoria [Drymomantis] fallax) *Photo R. Hucko*

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

Phone: 07 5482 4766
findafrog@mrccc.org.au

https://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february

SUMMARY OF THE 2025 FFF PROGRAM

A wet spring and early summer, and then what? After a boisterous start to the season with good rains in December and January, frogs were uncharacteristically quiet coming into, and during, February 2025. On the 1st of February, participants of the Cooloola Coastcare FFF mini-Bioblitz at Rainbow Beach were greeted by hot, windy weather and near silent survey sites. Such weather became a feature of the month of February making it hard to detect frogs. Despite this, Giant Barred frogs (*Mixophyes iteratus*) braved the dry weather at a number of sites across the catchment and good numbers were found in Cooroora Creek and on the Blackall Range. We note that, despite the low rainfall during February, the 2024-25 frog breeding season was still a good one. By late May, any SEQ local would argue that the frogs got their fair share of rain and breeding opportunity! February just represented a brief lull in an otherwise saturated season that seemed to start way back in August 2024!

There were many highlights during the 2025 program, particularly the establishment of long-term frog monitoring transects across the Blackall Range with members of the Jinibara Peoples Aboriginal Corporation (JPAC). The transects, located in spectacular mountain streams, were based upon historical monitoring data collected by Dr. Ed Meyer, and will be monitored every year by JPAC Rangers. Gympie East State School again fronted up to monitor Deep Creek and provide delicious, humorous and ingenious 'frog-themed food' to get the team hopping! Despite quiet conditions at the Maroochy Botanic Gardens survey, one FFF champion managed to spot a Vulnerable Tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*) calling in some very dense vegetation, and a rarely observed Green-thighed frog (*Litoria* [*Sylvagemma*] *brevipalmata*), the first record in that location for FFF. Further north in the Burrum Heads area, Bumpy rocket frog (*Litoria inermis*) and Wallum froglet (*Crinia tinnula*) were exciting to record as the former isn't regularly submitted through FFF, and the latter is a Vulnerable species.

Workshops and school monitoring with the students remain a key focus of FFF each year. In 2025 we held workshops at Maroochy Botanic gardens, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Kirby Road Environmental Reserve, Cooroy, Rainbow Beach and Burrum Heads. Schools who continue their annual frog monitoring are Maleny, Tewantin, Gympie East and Tinana State Schools and Noosa and District State High School. Each year, we hear from more groups that are conducting their own workshop, surveys and/or monitoring of chosen sites. This is a joy to hear and we acknowledge that there are many people who have the enthusiasm and skill to lead and teach others. The MRCCC team strives to offer any support that may be needed.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Table 1. 2024-25 annual totals and mean rainfall totals for the FFF major town centres *(Bureau of Meteorology 2025)*

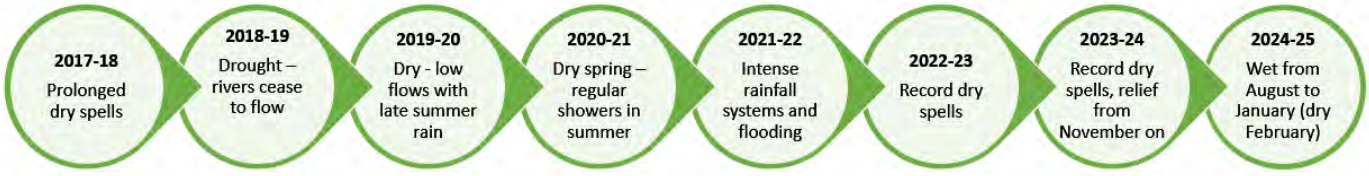
Location	Annual total (July '24 to June '25)	Annual mean (mm)
Maleny	2484	1925 [1898-2024]
Tewantin	1998	1592 [1895-2024]
Gympie	1604	927 [1870-2024]
Maryborough	1169	1143 [1870-2024]

We can see that the 2025 annual rainfall totals from July 2024 to June 2025, when compared to the long-term means, are a bit variable, with the Gympie area receiving nearly half its average and Maryborough area nearly reaching its mean. When we look only at February rainfalls (Table 1) we see how dry the month was in all places. It's not surprising that February's frogs were quiet! Strangely, even when there was a bit of rain about in February, it was still quiet in the frog world. Had the frogs done their breeding earlier in the season? We had decent rains from August through to the end of January; maybe their breeding energy had been spent – mmm?

Table 1. February rainfall totals and mean rainfall totals from 2017 to 2025 *(Bureau of Meteorology 2025)*

Location/Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	February mean (mm)
Maleny	60	413	122	60	309	595	79	303	195	324 [1898-2024]
Tewantin	41	394	37	510	93	795	48	166	157	236 [1895-2024]
Gympie	17	305	46	184	32	733	93	138	87	169 [1870-2024]
Maryborough	5.6	323	32	345	22	312	37	75	56	172 [1870-2024]

Here's a quick summary of the past years' weather:



LOOK OUT – SOME (many!) FROGS ARE HAVING A NAME CHANGE

The genus *Litoria* has been split into 20 genera but, for our FFF area, there are only nine new genus names to remember and 16 new scientific names (see Table 3)! The split is based on DNA analyses and, sensibly, you can see that similar frogs are grouped under the same genus. If you want to seek out the scientific paper it is authored by Stephen Donnellan from the South Australian Museum and University of Adelaide, along with a team of 12 other co-authors, and the title is '*Phylogenomics informs a generic revision of the Australo-Papuan tree frogs (Anura: Pelodryadidae)*' in the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, Volume 204, 2025. You can access the paper here.

Table 3. Name changes for some of our local Litoria species

Old name	New name	Old common name
Litoria balatus	*Colleeneremia balatus*	Slender bleating tree frog
Litoria brevipalmata	*Sylvagemma brevipalmata*	Green-thighed frog
Litoria caerulea	*Pelodryas caerulea*	Green tree frog
Litoria chloris	*Chlorohyla chloris*	Orange-eyed tree frog
Litoria cooloolensis	*Drymomantis cooloolensis*	Cooloola sedge frog
Litoria fallax	*Drymomantis fallax*	Eastern sedge frog
Litoria gracilenta	*Chlorohyla gracilenta*	Graceful tree frog
Litoria olongburensis	*Drymomantis olongburensis*	Wallum sedge frog
Litoria pearsoniana	*Dryopsophus pearsoniana*	Cascade tree frog
Litoria peronii	*Pengilleyia peronii*	Emerald-spotted tree frog
Litoria pyrina	*Colleeneremia pyrina*	Ruddy tree frog
Litoria revelata	*Rawlinsonia revelata*	Whirring tree frog
Litoria rothii	*Pengilleyia rothii*	Northern laughing tree frog
Litoria tyleri	*Pengilleyia tyleri*	Southern laughing tree frog
Litoria verreauxii verreauxii	*Rawlinsonia verreauxii verreauxii*	Whistling tree frog
Litoria wilcoxii	*Rhyaconastes wilcoxii*	Stony creek frog

WHO AM I ????

Emerald-spotted tree frog becomes *Pengilleyia peronii (left)* and our beloved Green tree frog is now *Pelodryas caerulea*

Table 4 below provides a breakdown by Council area of participation and frog records. It shows that the numbers of participants in each Council area was not vastly different, nor were the number of frog records. People from all Council areas contributed nearly 2000 frog records, and that's fantastic for a tough month!

Table 5 provides the yearly accumulation of many FFF parameters, including >25,000 records that have been provided over the past nine years of FFF. The total number of Frog Finders shows an increase in 2025. This is due to the addition of 2025 statistics from the "Find a Frog – MRCCC" group in the Australian Museum's FrogID program. The number of survey sites dropped dramatically compared to 2024, which reflects the dryness of February 2025 and the difficulty this brings for froggers to detect frogs. The map in Figure 2 shows the spread of incoming frog records in 2025. Understandably, few records come from low population areas and protected estate lands. We love hearing from country folk about what frogs emerge after rain in their extra-large "backyard".

Table 4. Council area detail of the number of participants and frog records during FFF 2025

(Data collated from the MRCCC, iNaturalist and FrogID datasets)	**Sunshine Coast Council**	**Noosa Shire Council**	**Gympie Regional Council**	**Fraser Coast Regional Council**	**Other^**	**Total**
Frog Finders	130	91	134	94	8	**457**
Number of workshop participants	39	17	39	49	-	144
Number of school activity participants	20	54	25	20	-	**119**
Surveys	175	82	69	154	14	**494**
Survey sites	92	30	53	63	11	**249**
Frog records	528	504	394	522	38	**1986**
Species	19	19	21	20	14	**33**
Threatened species	3	3	6	3	1	**7**

^Armidale, Bulloo, Bundaberg, Diamantina, Moreton, Redland and South Burnett Shires

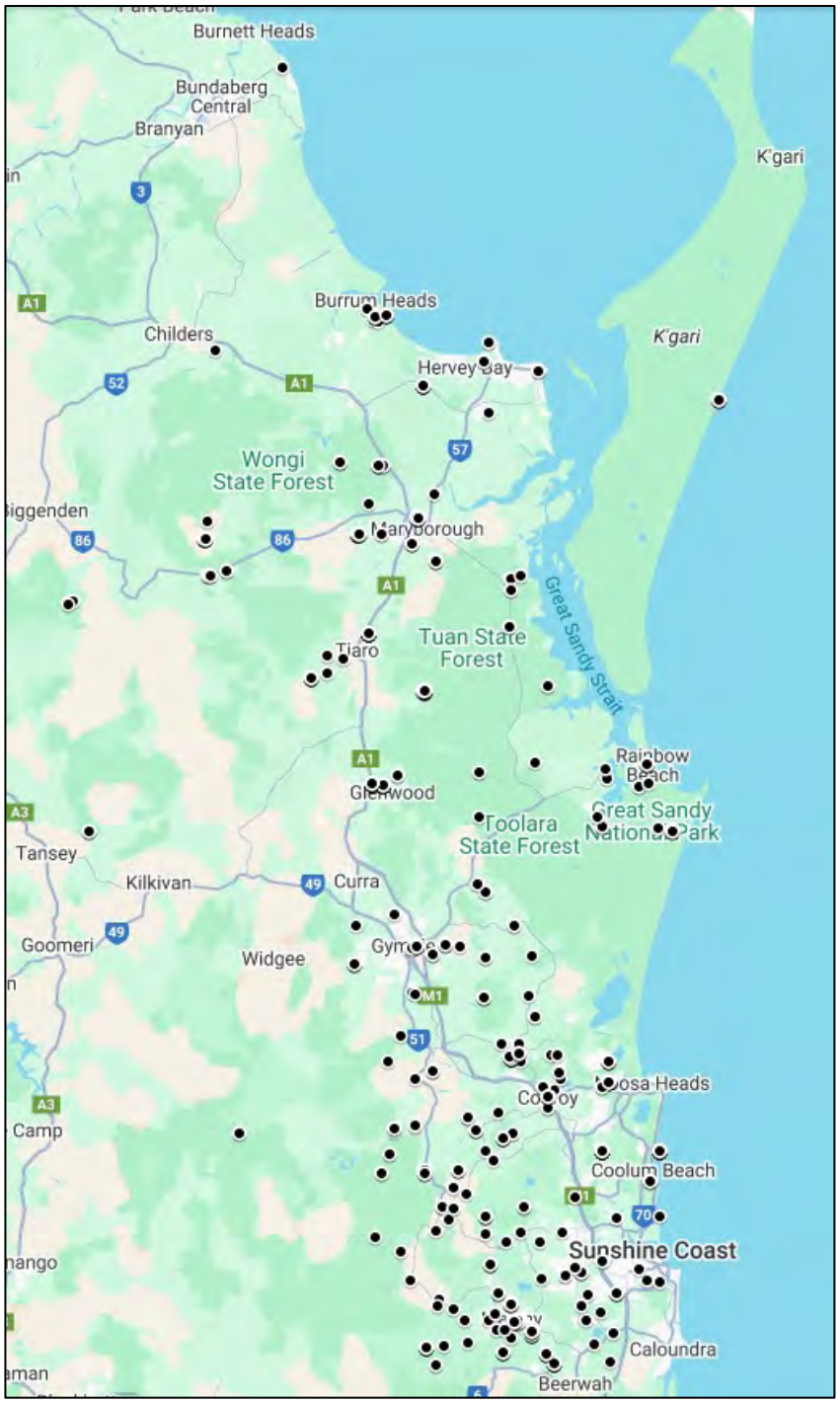
Table 5. Cumulative outcomes of the FFF program since its inception in 2017

Year	**2017 ***	**2018 ***	**2019 ***	**2020 *#**	**2021 *#**	**2022 *#^**	**2023 *#^**	**2024 *^**	**2025 ~**	**Total**
Frog Finders	76	142	77	343	102	384	327	360	457	**2268**
Surveys	70	218	127	221	155	885	523	1127	494	**3820**
Survey sites	61	128	90	141	124	827	377	904	240	**2892**
Frog records	390	2358	1368	7892	1355	4715	1662	3649	1986	**25 375**
Species	22	23	22	28	31	32	33	37	33	**39**
Threatened species	3	4	2	5	6	6	7	7	7	**7**

** Data drawn from MRCCC records*
 # Some data drawn from FrogID records (number of Frog Finders, species, records)
^ Data drawn from iNaturalist records
~ All data sets (MRCCC, iNatuarilist, FrogID)

HOW TO MONITOR YOUR CHOSEN SITE

- Select your site: a place you like to go, feel safe and know there are frogs present from previous visits (e.g. your garden, frog pond, dam, swamp, creek, local park, local reserve etc).
- Pick a night in February when it has been raining during the previous day, or few days.
- Go to your site and either:
    - Stand still at a point and listen for 15 minutes – record all frogs heard or seen (photos, recordings).
    - Slowly walk a designated route (e.g. 50 metres) for 15 minutes - record all frogs heard or seen.
- Fill in the FFF Record Sheet found at https://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/ and send it to findafrog@mrccc.org.au . Make a note on your sheet as to how you are conducting your monitoring.
- We'll keep an eye on the trends for you and be in touch if something appears to be changing.



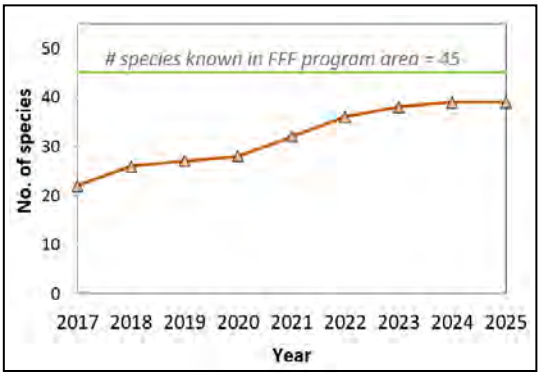


Figure 1. Cumulative number of species recorded between 2017 and 2025 by FFF participants

The graph above (Figure 1) shows that there was no increase in 2025 in the cumulative number of species reported to FFF. Table 2 lists the species still undetected by the FFF program. However, we have a sneaky preview of a Froggers 2026 plans that hints to the addition of an extra species or two!

Fleay's barred frog *Photo: H. Hines DETSI*

Figure 2. Locations of frog records submitted during 2025

Above on the right is *Mixophyes fleayi*; one of the non-detected species listed in Table 2. Note the blue upper iris of this species that distinguishes it from the other two local barred frogs; *M. fasciolatus* and *M. iteratus*.

Table 2. Undetected species, their habitat type/s and Local Government Area (LGA) they are expected in.

Species name	Common name	Preferred habitat	LGA/s expected in *
Cyclorana alboguttata	Greenstripe frog	Grasslands and open forest	SCC NSC GRC FCRC
Cyclorana brevipes	Superb collared frog	Grasslands and open forest	GRC FCRC
Cyclorana novaehollandiae	Eastern snapping frog	Variable, not at altitude	FCRC
Litoria (Rawlinsonia) revelata	Whirring tree frog	Rainforest, wet/dry sclerophyll forest	SCC
Mixophyes fleayi (Endangered)	Fleay's barred frog	Rainforest at high altitude	SCC
Uperoleia rugosa	Chubby gungan	Grassland, dry sclerophyll forest, open woodland	GRC FCRC

** SCC – Sunshine Coast Council, NSC – Noosa Shire Council, GRC – Gympie Regional Council, FCRC – Fraser Coast Regional Council*

Species recorded annually can be found in Table 3. It is of note that *Litoria (Colleeneremia) balatus* was not detected in 2025.

Table 3. Yearly record of the frog species recorded during Find a Frog in February

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Qld.NCA 2020)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adelotus brevis	Tusked frog	Vulnerable									
Assa darlingtoni	Pouched froglet	Vulnerable									
Crinia deserticola	Desert froglet										
Crinia parinsignifera	Beeping froglet										
Crinia signifera	Clicking froglet										
Crinia tinnula	Wallum froglet	Vulnerable									
Limdodynastes fletcheri	Barking frog										
Limnodynastes grayi	Scarlet-sided banjo frog										
Limnodynastes peronii	Striped marshfrog										
Limnodynastes salmini	Salmon-striped frog										
Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	Spotted marshfrog										
Litoria (Colleeneremia) balatus	Slender bleating treefrog										
Litoria (Sylvagemma) brevipalmata	Green-thighed frog										
Litoria (Pelodryas) caerulea	Green treefrog										
Litoria (Chlorohyla) chloris	Orange-eyed treefrog										
Litoria (Drymomantis) cooloolensis	Cooloola sedgefrog	Nr threatened									
Litoria (Drymomantis) fallax	Eastern sedgefrog										
Litoria freycineti	Wallum rocketfrog										
Litoria (Chlorohyla) gracilenta	Graceful treefrog										
Litoria inermis	Bumpy rocketfrog										
Litoria latopalmata	Broad-palmed rocketfrog										
Litoria nasuta	Striped rocketfrog										
Litoria (Drymomantis) olongburensis	Wallum dedgefrog	Vulnerable									
Litoria (Dryopsophus) pearsoniana	Cascade treeftog	Vulnerable									
Litoria (Pengilleyia) peronii	Emerald-spotted treefrog										
Litoria (Pengilleyia) rothii	Northern laughing treefrog										
Litoria (Colleeneremia) pyrina	Ruddy treefrog										
Litoria (Pengilleyia) tyleri	Southern laughing treefrog										
Litoria (Rawlinsonia) verreauxii verreauxii	Verreaux's treefrog										
Litoria (Rhyaconastes) 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 major	Great brown broodfrog										
Pseudophryne raveni	Copper-backed broodfrog										
Rhinella marina	Cane toad	(Exotic)									
Uperoleia fusca	Dusky toadlet										
Uperoleia laevigata	Eastern gungan										
Cells marked green indicate species recorded in a given year	**Number of species**		**22**	**23**	**22**	**28**	**31**	**32**	**33**	**37**	**33**
	Cumulative species		**22**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**32**	**36**	**38**	**39**	**39**
	Number of species in project area		**45**	**45**	**45**	**45**	**45**	**45**	**45**	**45**	**45**

HOW ARE OUR FROGS DOING?

In Figure 3 we provide rates of species that have had occupancy of surveyed sites of 10% or greater in any year since 2020. To create this trend plot, we count only one site even if several observations of a species exist during one year. There can be many contributing factors to the change in trend seen here such as:

- environmental and weather conditions that influence frog activity levels (e.g. rainfall, temperature, flooding, drought, food supply);
- the number of sites surveyed (e.g. 141 sites were surveyed in 2020 compared to 904 in 2024);
- site representation for different species (e.g. urban areas would produce more *Litoria (Pelofryas) caerulea* (Green tree frog) records than areas not impacted by humans); and
- reporting preference of certain species by observers (e.g. someone who sees a new frog on their property may submit it as a record but not report the more commonly seen species – excitement indicator!).

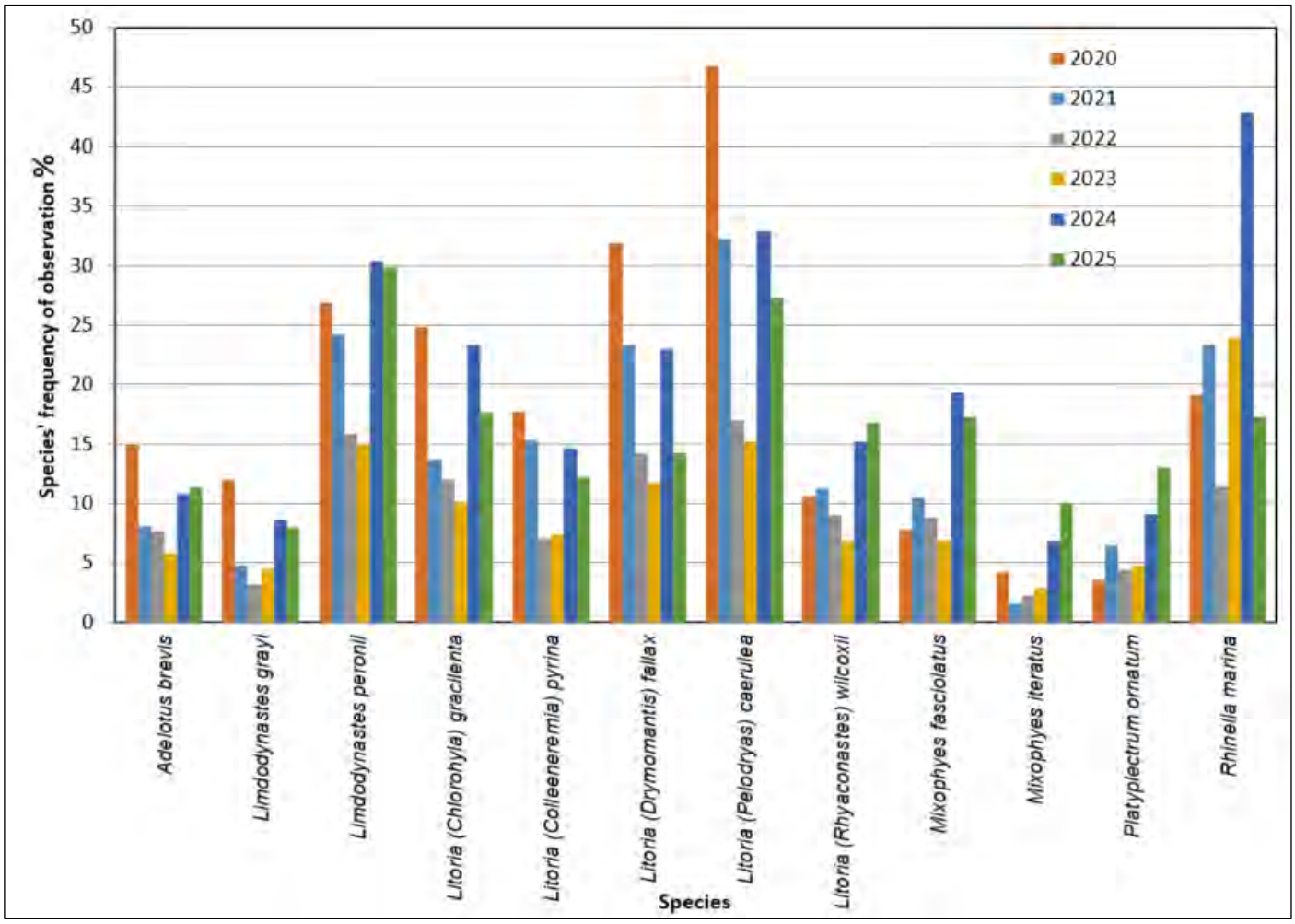


Figure 3. Trends in occupancy of 'high 'occurrence species from 2020 to 2025

Data source: 2020 and 2021 - MRCCC data only, 2022 and 2024 – combined MRCCC and iNaturalist data, 2025 – combined MRCCC, iNaturalist and FrogID data.

Number of survey sites: 2020 = 141, 2021 = 124, 2022 = 827, 2023 = 377, 2024 = 904, 2025 = 249

The following is an observational account of the prevailing conditions of the years covered in Figure 3.

- 2020 – Prolonged and severe dry period in the latter half of 2019 followed by high rainfall in January and February 2020.
- 2021 – reasonable rainfall in late 2020 and low in January and February 2021 with a cool change in February
- 2022 – Low rainfall throughout 2021 with some reprieve in November. Flooding and prolonged rainfall from January to May 2022
- 2023 – Low rainfall for the second half of 2022 and all of 2023. Frog activity noticeably low.
- 2024 – Severe dry conditions to mid-December 2023. Really hot and humid summer. Low but steady rain during January to April 2024.
- 2025 - Wet spring and early summer, Very dry and sometimes with hot, windy conditions.

The 2024 FFF Report showed that occupancy rates had recovered since the declines of our 10 most common species over the previous three years. In 2025 some occupancy rates have exceeded the levels of 2020 and none are as low as in 2022 and 2023, when we started to get worried. In fact, there seems to be relatively healthy occupancy rates for all the commonly observed species. One species has been added, Giant barred frog *(Mixophyes iteratus)*, having made the 10% mark. This is one of our favourites having clawed its way from Endangered to Vulnerable over the past several years. It is also a favourite for its charismatic size and patterning, and for its sentinel-like presence in the night.

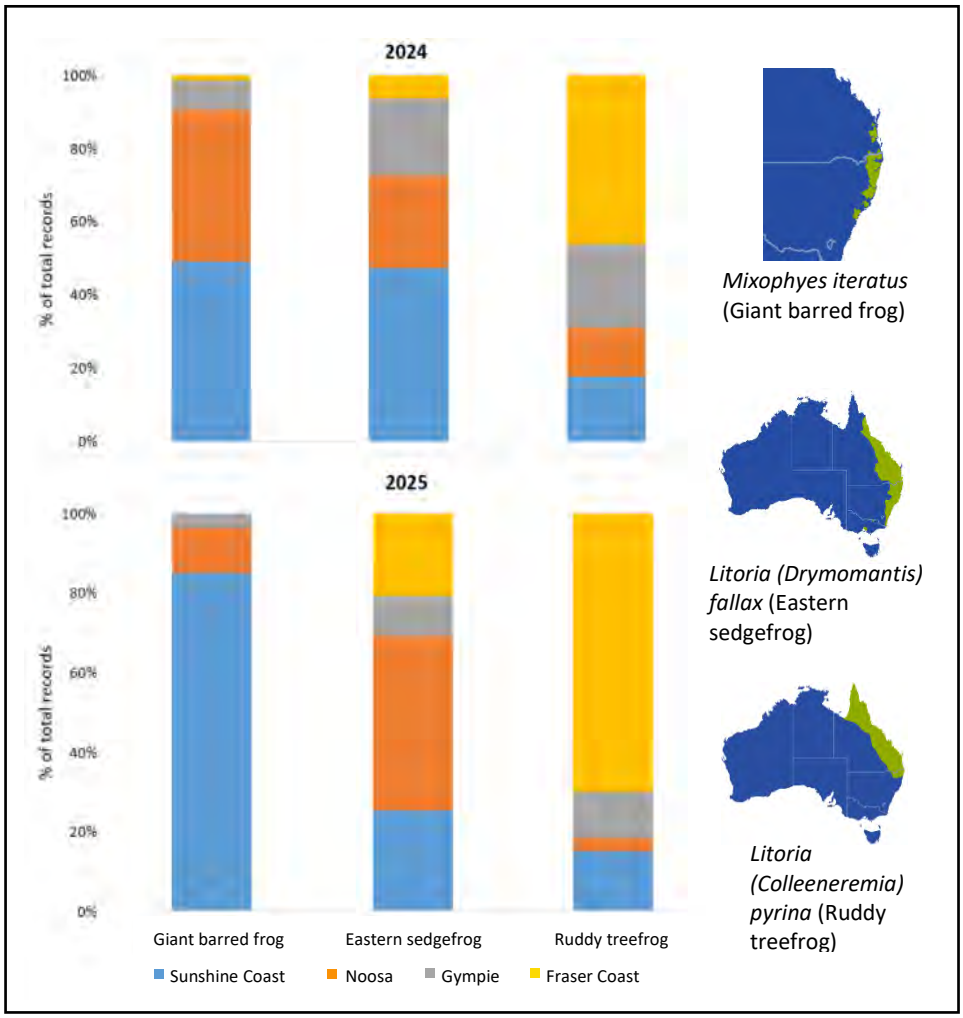
Trends over time are of great importance, showing us how distributions and population levels change with the prevailing conditions. There are many variables and no one month can be analysed in isolation from previous months, or even years.

For a large, relatively long-lived species such as *M. iteratus*, the response of a population to climate and other environmental changes can take several years.

Others such as the Eastern sedge frog *(Litoria* [*Drymomantis*] *fallax)* will respond more rapidly due to its shorter generation length.

Frogs tell us a story of what is happening to environmental parameters that we are not necessarily sensitive to or cogniscient of. The FFF data covers a good time period and helps us obtain a clearer idea of baseline expectations and subsequent changes. Continually listening and observing nature through monitoring is the key to even greater understanding and helps inform our responses (see Page 4 for monitoring tips).

ABUNDANCE CHANGE ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE



In 2024 we introduced a comparison of abundance of three species that we would expect to show distributional gradients in a north-south direction. This year we are adding a comparison between 2024 and 2025 (see Figure 4) to see what changes there might be.

When we look at species distribution maps we see blobs over a geographical area. It is necessarily painted with a broad brush due to the large scale but, within each distribution are gradients of presence and abundance of species according to their habitat requirements, prevailing climatic conditions, detectability and threats. The graphs show the gradients of abundance as we move from south to north through the FFF study area.

Understandably, the Giant barred frog decreases in abundance as we move towards its northern limit.

Figure 4. The change in abundance of selected species across the Local Government Areas

In 2025, reports of this species didn't come in from the Fraser Coast local government area (LGA), where it is known to occur in the south of the shire. However, many more records came in from the Sunshine Coast LGA compared to 2024. Eastern sedge frog is a widespread and common species along eastern Australia, with broad habitat needs. In 2024 we saw it decreasing in abundance as we move northwards. In 2025 the spread is more even throughout the LGAs but with more abundance in the Noosa area.

These plots bring additional understanding to habitat preference of species. Ruddy tree frog *(Litoria* [*Colleeneremia*] *pyrina)* has a very similar distribution to the Eastern sedge frog, however, its abundance increases markedly as we move north into Fraser Coast LGA. According to Table 1, Fraser Coast has had very dry conditions in February for the past three years and may reflect Ruddy tree frog preference for breeding in ephemeral (temporary) water bodies compared to Eastern sedge frog preference for permanent or semi-permanent waters. Giant barred frog is a species that relies on streams in moist forest habitats and tolerates the cold temperatures of the montane regions and, therefore, shows the reverse pattern of abundance across the landscape compared to the Ruddy tree frog, with Eastern sedge frogs having a more even distribution.

Find a Frog in February acknowledges the collaboration, support and input from:

- Our local councils
- Queensland Frog Society
- iNaturalist
- FrogID (Australian Museum)
- Land for Wildlife
- Department of Environment, Tourism,Science and Innovation
- Jinibara Peoples Aboriginal Corporation
- Local schools and involved teachers
- Cooloola Coastcare
- Noosa and District Landcare
- Noosa Integrated Catchment Association
- Gympie & District Field Naturalists
- ECOllaboration
- Healthy Land and water
- Barung Landcare
- Coolum Coastcare
- Queensland Water and Land Carers
- Australian Citizen Science Association
- Burnett Mary Regional Group
- Griffith University
- Sunshine Coast University
- University of Queensland
- Threatened Species Index
- Community nature-based groups

Find a Frog in February is proudly supported by:

COMPLEX HABITAT IS 'KING' and can double as a FROG SAUNA!

We can create three-dimensional structures to provide frog refuges that retain moisture and keep cool. They can also have designs that possess thermal properties to maintain higher temperatures than the surrounds, helping reduce the impacts of the deadly amphibian Chytrid fungus (find out about 'Frog saunas' and learn how to build your own). Complex structures also help frogs hide from potential predators. Easy-to-make piles of mulch, litter, sticks, logs and/or rocks are all that is needed on an area of unmown lawn or something far more complicated if you want to get creative! You can also create habitat below the soil surface – dig a hole and fill it with bits and pieces that create spaces. Improving the resilience of water bodies to extend the hydroperiod after the wet season is also useful.

Some ideas:

- Reduce water use.
- Prove shade over habitats using water plants in waterbodies, trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses on land or physical structure such as logs and rocks.
- Create variable depths in standing water bodies.
- Maintain an organic layer in dams and ponds.
- Control stock away from waterways and water bodies to encourage plant regeneration.
- Install 'leaky' weirs along gullies to hold back sediments and moisture.
- Allow standing water to exist by not installing drainage systems.
- Reduce your carbon footprint.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Frog observations that come to the MRCCC are identified by our team, and the information is provided back to the participant. We occasionally refer to specialist support to increase the reliability of more challenging records (our ongoing gratitude goes out to Harry Hines [DETSI] and Ed Meyer). Each record is attributed a level of confidence using a hierarchical system of reliability set by the Queensland Government (e.g. verified, confirmed, unconfirmed). Every iNaturalist record that comes to the FFF project is identified by the MRCCC and is often further verified by others who have excellent identification skills in the region. Our gratitude also goes to all those who enthusiastically monitor and identify incoming iNaturalist observations.

Records coming directly to the MRCCC and verified iNaturalist records are provided to WildNet, the Queensland Government's trusted course for priority biodiversity information and wildlife sightings, managed by a dedicated and experienced database team. It is also the dataset of reference for councils, planners, researchers, consultants and developers. This is often 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 https//:wildnet.science-data.qld.gov.au . Now, the information comes to your screen almost instantly whereas previously we would wait a while for an email report. WildNet fauna and flora record locations are also available through layers in Queensland Globe and WetlandMaps websites.

FFF ACTIVITIES 2025

Media items were provided 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 website FFF page updates;
- MRCCC FFF Facebook posts x 32, FFF Facebook Group – 728 members. 16 posts by group members;
- radio interviews and local newsletter articles;
- Boomerang Bags gifted to first-time participants;
- promotion of the 'Frog ID' Key developed by Jono Hooper as a useful identification tool; and
- promotion of iNaturalist and FrogID as additional methods of record submission and information sources.

Table 4. 2025 Displays, workshops, school presentations and group/school activities provided to the community

Local government area	Event	No. of participants
PUBLIC EVENTS		
Sunshine Coast	Friends of Mary Cairncross Christmas event	10
Sunshine Coast	Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve – frog monitoring surveys	4
Sunshine Coast	Maroochy Botanic Gardens public workshop and surveys around the wetlands of the reserve	24
Sunshine Coast	Jinibara frog monitoring workshop and monitoring surveys (3 sites)	10
Noosa	Cooroy Library public workshop and surveys along Coorooy Creek	17
Gympie	Cooloola Coastcare Mini (Frogs) Bioblitz and wallum surveys in the area	47
Gympie	Yabba Creek workshop and 'Frog Hop'	9
Fraser Coast	Burrum Heads public workshop and surveys in around Burrum Heads	20
All	MRCCC Annual General Meeting – FFF	40
All	Queensland Frog Society webinar	15
SCHOOLS		
Sunshine Coast	Maleny State School – monitoring survey along Obi Obi Creek	17
Noosa	Noosa District State High School – monitoring survey along Cooroora Creek	
Noosa	Tewantin State School – frog monitoring survey at Heritage Park	40
Gympie	Gympie East State School – monitoring survey along Deep Creek	25
Fraser Coast	Tinana State School – Class session and monitoring surveys in Woocoo Park	78
SELF-RUN WORKSHOPS AND MONITORING SURVEYS		
Mooloolah River Landcare		
Barung Landcare		
ECOLaboration		
Queensland Frog Society at 'Bellthorpe Stays'		

HOW OUR MENTAL HEALTH CAN BENEFIT FROM CITIZEN SCIENCE (Story by Ashleigh McDougall)

Not only is citizen science an important contributor to the collection and recording of biodiversity data, but it has also been found to improve human health and wellbeing. It is well known that being in nature is good for you. Studies have found that after just a one hour walk in nature, activity in the amygdala (a central part of the brain involved in stress processing) decreases, showing that being out in nature can act as a form of stress-relief. Getting involved in citizen science can have further benefits for mental health as it not only involves being out in nature, but it also involves active engagement in fauna spotting, data collection, and quality interactions between participants. This reduces stress, encourages further engagement with nature through fauna spotting, promotes collaboration and forms social connections. All of these factors contribute to our overall health and wellbeing.

Kevin Jackson's very pale Graceful treefrog (*Litoria* [*Chlorophyla*] *gracilenta*) showing how colour can vary within a species and does not always tell us who is who!

Champions regularly monitoring their chosen site/s

Alan Sylvester, Brad Wedlock, Belinda Wedlock, Deb Seal, Angela O'Malley, Mary Cordie, Marilyn Connell, Rohan Porter, Rochelle Gooch and a huge number of iNaturalist contributors (too many to list!).

The amazing FFF data set comes in from three Biospheres!

Queensland Frog Society Inc.
qldfrogs.asn.au

The Queensland Frog Society aims to encourage and foster an interest in frogs, to educate and undertake a continuous survey of the local native species. Join up here.

You can submit your records through the 'Find a Frog in February' project in iNaturalist.

iNaturalist

And you can submit through the 'Find a Frog in Feb – MRCCC' group in FrogID. (Australian Museum). We are the sixth highest contributing group in Australia with 7994 submissions!
FrogID

Surveyors out looking for frogs in the wallum during Cooloola Coastcare's Find a Frog in February mini-BioBlitz - finding something more than frogs!

Photos: O. Scully, MRCCC

ECOllaboration have been monitoring five sites for many years. See their report here.

Karli's Ornate burrowing frog from Coonoon Gibber way (*Platyplectrum ornatum*).
Photo: K. Cronin

Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation members setting up their monitoring transect and on the first survey. *Photos: MRCCC*

FROG STORIES FROM THE FFF COMMUNITY

SCHOOLS IN ACTION

MALENY STATE SCHOOL

Students into some frogging action! And one of the resident Giant barred frogs – a beautifully marked juvenile. You can identify individuals by the markings on their body that stay with them throughout their life.

Photos: K. Stassen + O. Scully

TEWANTIN STATE SCHOOL

Out and about in their local Heritage Park – an amazing urban jewel of palm and *Melaleuca* swampy wetlands – perfect for frogging! *Photos: O. Burns*

Two of the usual residents; Striped marshfrog (*Limnodynastes peronii*) (left) and Great barred frog (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*) (right)

NOOSA DISTRICT STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9s monitoring Cooroora Creek near the Pomona school campus. The site has been fenced since last year and the frogs are happy!

Photos: N. Olds, O. Scully and E. Ford

GYMPIE EAST STATE SCHOOL

No. 1 - first some lessons in ‘FROG’
No. 2 - then some tasting of ‘FROG’
No. 3 - lastly, some looking for ‘FROGS’! (Stony creek frog found!)

Photos: K. Blackburn, A. Ebert and O. Scully

TINANA STATE SCHOOL

After a pantomime and very educational session by Ollie and Grace from MRCCC, the survey at Woocoo park revealed (top to bottom) Striped marsh frog, Eastern sedge frog and Striped rocket frog (without photos of the latter two species from the site we have inserted some others people have taken from nearby neighbourhoods)

Photo: O. Scully

Photo: O. Scully

Photo: S. Gavins

Photo: E. Ford

*The **Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee** and the **Find a Frog in February** team acknowledge the generous and on-going funding support of the local councils who recognise the importance of the engagement of our communities in protecting our biodiversity.*

We also express our gratitude to all the community participants, the council staff who work closely with us, agency staff who provide technical and data management assistance, participating schools, Jinibara Aboriginal People Corporation, community newsletters editors and distributors, media personnel, Jono Hooper for providing and maintaining the very useful online 'Frog ID Key', data submission app. providers, and app. Frog record identifiers.
May we all come together again in 2026 for the 10th year of FFF!

The Find a Frog in February program is delivered by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee as a service to the broad community, utilising 30 years of experience in catchment care and biodiversity research. Our projects span fauna and flora investigations, Waterwatch, habitat restoration, river bank stabilisation; hand-in-hand with landholders, groups, Traditional Peoples, institutions, Government agencies and many other organisations. We're here to help make our world better able to support all beings. Be involved. Contact us.

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

PARTICIPANT RESOURCES

Find these and more information at https:// mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/

FIND·A·FROG IN·FEBRUARY

MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Find-A-Frog-In-February Survey Area

Community assistance is needed to find out where our frogs are living in and around the Mary River catchment and coastal areas from Caloundra to Burrum Heads and 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, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast Council regions, get involved in community frog monitoring every 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 MRCCC for identification, or submit via the FFF group in iNaturalist, or send calls to FrogID (How? Go to the Frog Finder's Guide on the FFF web page).

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, lots of 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 token of our appreciation for your efforts is sent to all first-time Frog Finders.

MRCCC details

25 Stewart Terrace, Gympie 4570
PHONE 5482 4766
findafrog@mrccc.org.au
http://mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/
Find A Frog in February / Facebook

- JANUARY 2025 -

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY: Gympie Regional Council · Fraser Coast Regional Council · Noosa Council · Sunshine Coast Council. Your Environment Levy in action

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			Council
Latitude (OR Easting)	Longitude (OR Northing)	Datum: *(circle)*	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	Number of frogs: Seen	Number of frogs: Heard	Photo/s supplied? (Y/N)	Recording supplied? (Y/N)	*Office use* Count type	*Office use* Vetting	*Office use* 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 2024

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 the Sunshine Coast Council area north to the Fraser Coast region. We're aiming for 30,000 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 Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie and Fraser Coast Regional Council areas (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 and 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 secs 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; join up then add yourself to the 'Find a Frog - MRCCC' group.

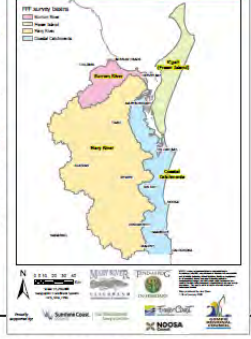
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SUBMIT YOUR RECORD?

You will either 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 FrogID records are 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.

Find-A-Frog-In-February Survey Area

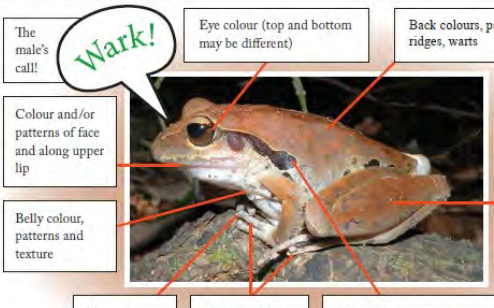


MRCCC - MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
WORKING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND PRODUCTIVE FUTURE FOR THE MARY RIVER CATCHMENT

FIND·A·FROG IN·FEBRUARY

Tips for frog finders

Important features to photograph or record



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 your camera when 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 30,000 records of 45 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.

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.

Further support for the MRCCC activities is provided by: The Aust. Govt. Dept. of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Seqwater, Queensland Dept. of Environment, Science and Innovation, and the landholders throughout the FFF study area.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY: Sunshine Coast Council. Your Environment Levy in action · Fraser Coast Regional Council · Noosa Council · Gympie Regional Council

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

- JANUARY 2025 -

THE ETHICS OF CARE: HOW CITIZEN SCIENCE RECONNECTS US WITH THE WORLD

Citizen science is far more than a data-gathering tool; it is a deeply ethical philosophical practice that invites a radical transformation of our place in the world. This transformation manifests in five fundamental dimensions that redefine our relationship with nature.

1. FROM PASSIVITY TO PARTICIPATION: FROM CONSUMER TO GUARDIAN

We were once consumers of scenery. We saw wonders like the Daintree Rainforest or the Great Barrier Reef as postcards to be admired from a distance. Citizen science invites us to a profound shift in role. We are no longer passive tourists; we are producers of knowledge and active guardians. By reporting a Stony creek frog through iNaturalist, or by recording coral health on a monitoring app, we transform our passive admiration into responsible action, assuming an active role in protecting what is ours.

2. ATTENTION AS A FORM OF RESPECT: THE DIGNITY OF A GAZE

In a world of constant distraction, the simple act of stopping, observing, and recording constitutes a radical exercise of respect. It is granting the non-human world the dignity of our full attention. When we crouch down to listen to the unique call of a frog, we are not just collecting a data point; we are practising a form of deep listening. This silent acknowledgement that every life, no matter how small, matters and has something to say about the health of our shared environment forms the basis of all environmental ethics.

3. THE MISSING LINK: RECONNECTING WITH ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE

This practice is not new; it is the oldest in the world. The First Peoples of this land have always understood that humans are an integral part of Country, not its owners. Modern citizen science, often mediated by a mobile phone or recorder, is in reality the contemporary tool for an ancestral gesture. It is a way of recovering that lost link, that intuitive knowledge that we belong to a greater whole. Far from alienating us from nature, technology becomes the bridge that reconnects us to it.

4. DATA HAS A STORY: THE HUMAN DIMENSION OF SCIENCE

Behind every frog photo submitted to a data collection platform, there is a human story. There is the family that went out at night with a torch in Pomona, the child who heard their first frog chorus in absolute silence, the retiree who found a new purpose. Scientific data thus carries a human and ethical dimension, representing not just the occurrence of a species, but a moment of connection, care, and active citizenship. Every record is a promise that we care about the future of this unique place we call home.

5. THE ETHICS OF RESPONSIBILITY: FROM OBSERVER TO GUARDIAN OF THE FUTURE

This practice is fundamentally grounded in an ethics of responsibility. As philosopher Hans Jonas argued, our technological power over nature demands that we take responsibility for the consequences of our actions on the world and on future generations. Citizen science is the practical application of this vision. By going out to collect a piece of data, we assume an active commitment to the future, declaring: "I am responsible for watching over this ecosystem. I am responsible for documenting what exists today, so that others can protect tomorrow." Every photo, every recording, is an act of bearing witness and a vote of confidence in the future.

CONCLUSION: THE INTERCONNECTED GUARDIAN

Citizen science reminds us that to know is the first step to care, and to care is the deepest expression of an ethics of responsibility. This multi-dimensional practice transforms us from mere spectators of the world into interconnected guardians, reconnecting us with ancestral knowledge through modern tools. We no longer ask, "What can the world do for me?" but rather, "What can I do for the world, today and for those who will come after us?" In the simplicity of a gesture of attention to nature, we rediscover our place in the world—not as owners, but as responsible participants in the web of life.