



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

3 November 2017

Extinct Rainforest Frogs of the Sunshine Coast

In the mid-1960s, a newly found and somewhat unusual frog from Mt Glorious near Brisbane was described. It was unusual because it was active during the day and was accordingly named *Taudactylus diurnus*. Subsequently it was found at Kondalilla National Park on the Sunshine Coast, as well as in other parts of the Blackall Range around Maleny and also in the Conondale Ranges. These frogs were easy to encounter in their favoured habitat, fast-flowing, rocky mountain streams, and on occasion could be locally very abundant. A related species also inhabited Eungella and Finch Hatton Gorge National Parks near Mackay.



Giant Barred Frog *Mixophyes iteratus*.
Female frogs are typically larger than male frogs and female Giant Barred Frogs are the largest of all Australian frogs

The frogs pictured lived alongside the two, now thought to be extinct species, mentioned above.

In 1973, another new species was described from Kondalilla National Park. This was *Rheobatrachus silus* and it proved to be a most unusual animal. It was an aquatic species that also inhabited fast-flowing, rocky mountain streams, but it exhibited a unique form of parental care - the tadpoles developed not in water, but in the female's stomach! Subsequent searches found other populations elsewhere on the Blackall Range and then on Conondale Range. Although all seemed well with those species, sometime between 1976 and 1981, the two species 'went missing' and have not been seen since.

Cascade Treefrog *Litoria pearsoniana*.
These frogs inhabit rainforest streams and were formerly very common in the rainforests of the Sunshine Coast.



What happened to these frogs, even though they lived in relatively well protected and sometimes inaccessible terrain in the Blackall and Conondale Ranges, will be the subject of discussion by Queensland Museum's Greg Czechura who will be guest speaker at Friday Environment Forum on November 3.

Friday Environment Forum is held at the **NPA Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive Noosaville** starting at **10.30am** with a conservation update before the guest speaker. Coffee and tea available from 10am and the forum concludes at 12.15pm. **All welcome.**

For those wanting to enjoy the birds of Wallace Park, join Valda and other bird observers at **8.30am** in the car-park for interpretive birding.