



Photo courtesy Al Young

Friends of Dwyers Scrub

...protect and raise awareness of an endangered environment

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Quarterly Update... April 2016

Autumn greetings to you all! The rush of activity that usually accompanies the summer season is now behind us and its back to our routine...

Dwyers Scrub weed management

The holiday season and the hot summer days saw a break in weeding activities. In March, we received our official induction as volunteers with National Parks and Wildlife Service and were supplied with weeding gear including tools, herbicide and safety gear. However, our use of herbicide is limited to using hand sprayers.

It is good to see some results from Cat's Claw weeding in our first grid. Our focus on 'freeing the canopy' rather than clearing the ground means we can, now, clearly see treetops. The 'liberated' *Brachichyton rupestris* in our first grid (below) is a benchmark for us.

Before...



After...



The extent of Cat's Claw on the ground means we may need to discuss with QPWS a different approach for applying the herbicide more broadly. If you are interested in joining the weeding group at any time, contact Jim Kerr on 5462 6724.

Dwyers Scrub Connectivity strategy

The first phase of our Lockyer Uplands Glossy Black Cockatoo Project has been completed and was a great success. Landholders from twenty one properties in the general area surrounding Dwyers Scrub surveyed a total of thirty two sites across all properties for GBC presence and habitat. A number of GBC sightings and evidence of GBC feeding (via presence of *orts*) were recorded and the majority of properties were reported to contain habitat. Equally exciting is that a number of landholders want the project to be ongoing and to be expanded to include other species of fauna and flora of national significance.



Photo courtesy Peter Darvall

Phase two of the project will begin in August with a half-day workshop in GBC and koala surveying skills. If you are interested in joining the project or reading the project report, contact Diane on 0413 333 681.

Incorporation

Eleven people attended the meeting in the park on April 17th to discuss incorporation of our group. All voted for incorporation. We discussed the merits of maintaining Friends of Dwyers Scrub as the incorporated group's name or choosing a name that represented the breadth of our interests, which include Dwyers Scrub. Support was unanimous for the name Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc (LUCInc) with the majority supporting the following objectives for the group:

- Raising awareness of natural systems
- Encouraging better land management options
- Improving environmental outcomes

Diane Guthrie was elected President/Convenor and Elspeth Darvall Treasurer. Once incorporation is official, LUCInc will continue the FoDS' project in Dwyers Scrub. You will see a new letterhead and logo in future communications.

Of interest...

One of our members sent this photo of a very pretty chrysalis found on a lantana bush at their place. Apparently, it belongs to the Common Crow Butterfly.



Photo courtesy Jim and Judy

If you're interested in finding out more about this butterfly, check out this link <http://australianmuseum.net.au/common-crow-butterfly>

Upcoming events ...

- ❖ August 2016 - the Glossy Black Cockatoo Project workshop in GBC and koala surveying skills. Ring/email Diane if you are interested in joining on 0413 333 681 or dianemguthrie@gmail.com
- ❖ If there is enough interest, we are keen to hold a weed weaving workshop using Cat's Claw Creeper. Let us know if you'd like to give weed weaving a go by ringing/emailing Judy Whistler on 5462 6724 or spinachjj@gmail.com
- ❖ Toowoomba Field Naturalists (TFN) is planning a field trip to Dwyers Scrub on 6th November 2016. Nearer the time, we will ask for names of people interested in joining TFN on the day.
- ❖ We would like to celebrate a year of FoDS work and launch LUCInc with a get together sometime later in the year. Our thoughts are a picnic at one of our members' property. We will keep you posted.

In the meantime... if you have any ideas, suggestions and/or concerns that you would like FoDS (LUCInc) to take on board, let us know...remember...

Stay connected, it's healthy!