

Quarterly Update ... July 2016

Welcome to the *Quarterly Update* under our new name **Lockyer Uplands Catchments Inc** (LUCI). The decision to incorporate our **Friends of Dwyers Scrub** group saw a move to a broader landscape focus (hence LUCI) to better reflect and achieve our aims of connectivity conservation and improved habitat management for native wildlife.

LUCI continues existing FoDS' projects and launches some new projects over the next couple of months.

Lockyer Uplands Glossy Black Cockatoo Project



Planning is underway for the first six-monthly meeting of landholders involved in GBC surveying and habitat assessment in the Lockyer Uplands.

A half-day workshop will be held on Sunday 28th August to record new GBC sightings and discuss the possibility of a koala project.

The workshop is funded by SEQ Catchments through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and supported by personnel from the Glossy Black Conservancy and Griffith University.

Friends of Dwyers Scrub Project

With twelve people now registered as volunteer weeders, our aim to "free the canopy" in Dwyers Scrub from Cat's Claw creeper is looking more optimistic. We have now progressed to a second grid in our weeding. With around 600 acres to weed, it's a case of one small grid at a time!

If you are interested in joining the weeding group at any time, contact Jim Kerr on 5462 6724 or Paul Stevens on 0429 880 144.

New projects

LUCI has successfully applied for a grant under SEQ Catchments National Landcare Programme with the Australian Government to support retention, expansion and improvement of habitat for nationally listed threatened species. Our grant, "Protecting and improving the natural assets of the Lockyer Uplands", will provide funding for two lines of activity: a fencing project to reduce the impacts of grazing on essential habitat for threatened species; and a targeted weeding project to improve the condition of habitat for threatened species.

The fencing project involves landholders from two properties offering to fence sections of Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket on their land to improve habitat health and connectivity between isolated stands.

The weed project will involve the introduction of a biological agent on one property to eradicate Cat's Claw creeper with monitoring over a period of six months to gauge treatment effectiveness. Also, the grant will enable LUCI to buy two splatter guns to treat dense stands of Lantana and a tree spear to treat Tree Pear on a number of local properties. This equipment will be made available to LUCI members on a monthly loan basis.

If you are interested in learning more about these projects or would like to be involved contact us on lucatchmentsinc@gmail.com.

Forays into Lockyer National Park

Some LUCI members were lucky enough to accompany botanist Ann Moran on her recent botanical survey in Lockyer National Park (LNP). Ann is very generous with her time and knowledge and always keen to conduct 'educational walks'. Ann is considering another survey in a local park later this year and is happy to have others join her. Let us know if you're interested.

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Some LUCI members joined members of the Lockyer Community Action group as volunteer field assistants on a Griffith University koala surveying project in LNP. In addition to learning about the surveying methodology, volunteers got to venture way off the beaten track and experience some truly beautiful country, test their physical fitness and improve their tree identification skills.

Of interest...

One of our members sent these photos of an amazing bird nest "made charmingly out of a shredded plastic shopping bag woven in amongst the twigs and moss".



We're waiting to hear whether the bird has returned as our member plans to award it "the ultimate environmental recycling achiever of the year".



Photos courtesy Trish Walton

We haven't given up on the idea of a workshop on recycling Cat's Claw vine as a useful sculpting material. Judy Whistler has been testing the vine and produced this cheerful chappy...the one on the left!



We'll keep you posted on any developments.

Upcoming events ...

- ☞ 28th August 2016 - Glossy Black Cockatoo Project Workshop. Interested in coming along? Contact Diane 0413 333 681 or lucatchmentsinc@gmail.com
- ☞ 16th October 2016 - *Breakfast at the Darvall's* with guest speaker Councillor Jim McDonald who will talk about Lockyer Valley Regional Council's environment portfolio. More details on this later.
- ☞ 6th November 2016 - Toowoomba Field Naturalists' field trip to Dwyers Scrub. If you'd like to join in, contact Judy Whistler on 5462 6724.

If you have any ideas, suggestions and/or concerns that you would like LUCI to take on board, let us know...remember...

Stay connected, it's healthy!

If you do not want to be included on the email list for this newsletter please let us know at lucatchmentsinc@gmail.com.
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