

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1st NOVEMBER 2018 – 31st October 2019
Annual General Meeting
Sunday 8th December, 11:00-1:00pm, 35 Rosier Road, Iredale.

During 2019, LUCI consolidated its flagship projects, the Glossy Black Cockatoo and Friends of Dwyers Scrub projects, gained momentum in the Koala scat hunt project and saw an increase in landholder participation in the Biodiversity Property Planning Group. LUCI's Special Interest Walks continue to attract members eager to expand their flora and fauna knowledge and test their memories. LUCI values highly the generous contributions of expertise, guidance and support we receive from LVRC's Martin Bennett and Chris Hoffman, Land for Wildlife's Deb Metters and Dr Guy Castley (Griffith University).

LUCI membership now numbers 53, which is an increase of 15 members over 2018. Connection with landholders across the landscape remains a priority for LUCI. The survival of our unique native fauna and flora is, and will continue to be, hugely dependent on private landholders who value and commit to preserving and improving native habitat on their property. Our landholder group plays a critical role in conserving the Lockyer Valley's biodiversity and our collaboration makes us more effective.

LUCI has made an effort in 2019 to forge more connections with conservation groups in other regions. Hearing how other groups started, the lessons they have learned and how the groups have been sustained has provided valuable insights for LUCI's management committee. Efforts to engage with the UQ Wildlife Students program have resulted in the first of what we hope will be regular involvement by students in our field surveys. LUCI has sought to increase its media profile this year to connect with the broader Lockyer Valley community to raise the profile of native habitats and native wildlife.

Since incorporation in 2016, there has been time to reflect on what we want to achieve and what can be achieved in our current projects and activities and what resources are involved. It is time to assess some of our activities in terms of their contribution to the core business of achieving LUCI's aims. Some activities consume a disproportionate amount of coordination time relative to gains made.

LUCI will have another busy schedule in 2020 with both ongoing and new projects. With membership numbers increasing it is hoped that more members will take on project roles, contribute their skills where they can and support each other to achieve our vision. Thank you to members of the management committee and all LUCI members who have directly participated in projects, attended events or provided support from afar - LUCI is in a strong position because of you.

LUCI PROJECTS 2019			
LEARN, CONSERVE, CONNECT PROJECTS	SHORT-TERM RESULTS	NEXT STEPS	LONG-TERM OUTCOMES
Lockyer Uplands Glossy Black Cockatoo (GBC) Project: Phase 2 (2017-2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The project continues to be mentored by Dr Guy Castley, Griffith University, and supported by LVRC. ✓ Landholders have 2.5 years of data on GBC feeding patterns and three feed tree species on six properties and in Dwyers Scrub Conservation Park. ✓ 136 GBC sightings and around 450 ort findings from 672 trees with records sent to WildNet (Phases 1 & 2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ <i>Transect surveying continues until 2022.</i> ☛ <i>Map presence and distribution of GBC from sightings and ort records.</i> ☛ <i>Continue ground-truthing HL&W GBC habitat mapping.</i> ☛ <i>Habitat condition assessment to be undertaken.</i> ☛ <i>Engage additional landholders in ort hunts.</i> 	Contributes to O1, O3, O4 and O5
Lockyer Uplands Koala Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Random sightings and scat hunts have resulted in 22 Koala sightings and 105 verified scat specimens with records sent to WildNet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ <i>Extend scat hunts to additional properties.</i> ☛ <i>Map presence and distribution from sighting and scat records.</i> 	Contributes to O1 and O4

LEARN, CONSERVE, CONNECT PROJECTS	SHORT-TERM RESULTS	NEXT STEPS	LONG-TERM OUTCOMES
Friends of Dwyers Scrub Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A total of 592 volunteer weeding hours since October 2015 have resulted in, approximately, 75% of Cats Claw in SEVT area now treated with follow-up treatment continuing. ✓ Madeira vine infestation in the SEVT areas has been mapped with treatment pending appropriate weather conditions. ✓ FoDS invited to provide feedback on draft review of the Park Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ <i>Continue follow up treatment of Cats Claw</i> ☛ <i>Repeat mapping of extent of Cats Claw infestation</i> ☛ <i>Commence Madeira vine treatment.</i> ☛ <i>Continue to seek resolution on road works issue</i> 	Contributes to O2, O3, O4 and O5
Biodiversity Property Planning Group (PPG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The PPG has met four times since July 2018 with landholders from ten properties participating/planning to participate. ✓ LVRC in kind support provided through provision of property maps and information. ✓ PPG process led to successful grant application (LVRC's CEG) to undertake native grasses project in 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ <i>PPGroup to develop method for assessing group's achievements.</i> ☛ <i>PPGroup to assess potential for connectivity actions.</i> 	Contributes to O1, O2, O4 and O5
Pest management project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Feral pig baiting on two private properties and Dwyers Scrub Conservation Park involving LVRC, QPWS and LUCI produced nil result with feral pigs reportedly still in the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ <i>Assess landholder interest in collaborative pest management plan and action.</i> 	Contributes to O2, O3, O4 and O5
Special Interest Walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Participation grown from 10 (walk 1) to 22 on last walk. ✓ Continued contribution from walk leaders (Martin B., Deb M. and Rod H.) has resulted in six properties receiving flora surveys, three properties receiving bird survey and two properties receiving invertebrate surveys. ✓ Consistently positive feedback from participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ <i>Continue to engage landholders in hosting and participating in walks.</i> ☛ <i>Collate results of surveys from the walks for mapping species in the landscape.</i> 	Contributes to O1, O2 and O4
LUCI Annual Guest Speaker Breakfast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Numbers attending each year remains stable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ <i>Assess contribution of event in current format to achieving LUCI outcomes.</i> 	Contributes to O1
Community education workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Five students attended a Maps and Apps workshop by Roxane Blackley and rated the workshop positively as it addressed a gap in their GIS skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ <i>Assess LUCI members' interests and develop a workshop program.</i> 	Contributes to O1, O2 and O4
Lockyer in the Wild Nature Photography Competition 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fewer sponsors but increased donations and continued support from Stockyard Creek Hall and Ma Ma Creek State School. ✓ Three month competition produced 27 entries (32 entries in 2018). ✓ Social media interest particularly on Facebook, no enquiries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ <i>Assess contribution of event to achieving LUCI outcomes.</i> 	Contributes to O1

NETWORKING, PROMOTIONS AND MEDIA	RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visit from the Coordinator and Project Manager, Hinterland Bushlinks, and field trip to meet Mount Tamborine Landcare group and visit work sites. ▪ Meetings with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - representatives of FOLA, LCA, Ma Ma Creek School and LVRC to discuss a National Threatened Species Day event; - Assoc. Prof. Peter Murray, UQ Gatton to discuss students' involvement in LUCI projects; - regional DES' newly formed Community Engagement team to discuss available support; and - Janet Carew, soon to be PhD student in GBC feed tree project, Sunshine Coast. ▪ Presentations by President on LUCI's work at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Threatened Species Day at Moore, Somerset Region; and - UQ Wildlife Students Association meeting. ▪ LUCI representative attended monthly zoom meetings with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative since Dec 2018. ▪ Feature story on LUCI in the SEQ Land for Wildlife newsletter. ▪ Maintain good communication with Gatton Star. ▪ <i>Quarterly Update</i> Newsletter eighteen issues to date and directly circulated to over 80 recipients. ▪ Social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Learning exchange with two larger, more "mature" community groups. ✓ Agreement between representatives of LUCI, FOLA and Ma Ma Creek School to hold a 2020 National Threatened Species Day event. ✓ Exchange of knowledge on respective GBC projects with intention to maintain contact to share information. ✓ Six students have accompanied LUCI members on fauna surveys. ✓ LUCI featured/mentioned seven times this year in Gatton Star with one feature leading to a television story. ✓ Television story led to invitation to LUCI to conduct a koala scat hunt on a Withcott property. ✓ Receive positive responses following each newsletter, no negative responses. ✓ 2,852 views and 591 visits since April 2017 with 413 visits referred through LUCI's Facebook page (148 visits are international). ✓ 117 followers on FBook page since August 2018 .
LUCI INPUT TO OTHER PROCESSES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendance at three Inland Rail workshops on Fauna and Flora assessments. ▪ LUCI is represented on LVRC's NRM Strategy and Plan Working Group and information is disseminated/collected within the LUCI network via survey, social media, email and newsletter. ▪ Letter to Toowoomba Regional Council on Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Trail Master Plan and one field site meeting. The Master Plan takes in Redwood Park, which is within the Main Range-Helidon Hills Biodiversity network and Corridor. 	

LUCI's Vision is improve native habitat connectivity across private and public tenures in our local landscape and as part of the Main Range-Helidon Hills Biodiversity Corridor and the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor.

Aims	Strategies	Long-term outcomes
1. Raise awareness of natural systems	LEARN Provide opportunities for landholders to increase their knowledge of native species and habitats on their own property and in the local landscape	O1 Landholders are more knowledgeable about the native species and habitats in their local landscape
2. Encourage better land management options	CONSERVE Support landholders' conservation efforts on their own land Encourage landholders to work collaboratively on landscape-scale conservation	O2 Improved health of native habitats on landholders' properties and in the landscape O3 Threatened species continue to use habitats in the local landscape
3. Improve environmental outcomes	CONNECT Encourage and support landholders to collaborate on restoring connections between native habitats in the landscape	O4 Improved native habitat connectivity across our local landscape O5 Local landholders are a best practice example of collaboration on conservation of native habitats

LUCI's structure and governance arrangements

- LUCI is an incorporated not-for-profit association since 20th May 2016:
- LUCI is managed by a management committee (President, Secretary and Treasurer), which meets, on average, six times a year with attendance by other members by invitation. The minutes for all meetings are available on request.
- LUCI is a member organisation of SEQ Catchments Members Association, Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWALC), the Glossy Black Conservancy, Landcare Australia, Protect the Bush Alliance and Hinterland Bush Links.
- LUCI's insurance cover is facilitated by QWALC with public liability cover of \$30,000,000.
- LUCI was accepted as a regional alliance partner in the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) Initiative at the GER Board meeting in August 2019.
- Application for LUCI membership is open to all and the membership fee is \$5 per annum for persons over 18 years of age.
- The Management Committee maintains an inventory of all equipment owned by the association.
- The President and Treasurer report annually to the membership on LUCI's operations and finances.

President

Date