Quarterly Update No 28 … April 2022

Greetings on this damp autumn day!

Our Lockyer Uplands rich in woodland bird diversity

One of the (many) joys of rural living is being surrounded by birds and I don't mean just in numbers but by numerous *species* of birds. When we lived in inner suburban Brisbane, we would see around only half a dozen species on a regular basis.

Here, in the Lockyer Uplands, we are fortunate to see and hear an amazing range of bird species from the minute Weebill, ever restless Wrens, Pardalotes, Fantails, Finches, Robins, Honeyeaters, Quails, Figbirds, Owlet-nightjars to the splendid Glossy Black Cockatoo and Wedge-tailed Eagles, to name just some.

Rose-crowned Fruit-dove (left) and Spotted Pardalote (right). Photos Roger Jaensch.

Thanks to ornithologist Roger Jaensch, who is undertaking LUCI's bird survey project, LUCI members are learning about bird diversity in our landscape and, in particular, the presence of so many woodland bird species. With one third of Australia's woodlands cleared and only 13% of original softwood scrub remaining after a mere 200 years (and few signs of any let up in our appetite for developing land), we can not be complacent about the viability of the continued survival of so much bird diversity. Habitat loss and fragmentation combined with introduced predators such as cats and foxes has put the survival of many woodland bird species under extreme pressure.[1]

Speckled Warbler (left) and Leaden Flycatcher (right). Photos Diane Guthrie.

The bird diversity that our survey project is revealing will help us to better understand our landscape in terms of ecosystems and habitats and manage our landscape to take account of the needs of different species and their foraging, breeding and nesting requirements. As the bird survey project develops, we will be able to learn how seasons influence birds' movements and use of the landscape and the importance of having a multi-layered vegetation community.

LUCI members can take satisfaction from knowing they are managing the land to meet both human needs and the needs of numerous other species. Members' openness and willingness to learn from their land and share it with other species is amply rewarded by the delight of seeing those other species thrive on their patch.

[1] BirdLife Australia's (2020) Temperate Woodland Bird Conservation Action Plan

Continuing our members' stories…

"Conservation is important to me" by Adele Schafferius (photos by dad, Jan Schafferius)

My dad grew up on a small farm at East Egypt and was surrounded by farming, horses, motorbike riding and exploring the infinite bush. So, four years ago, when a neighbouring property became available, it seemed like the next phase of our lives had already begun on its own. I live in Toowoomba with my family most of the time and am now in Year 10. So, when we do get a chance to spend the weekend at the farm, it's still very special. Whether it's sitting around the warm fire or all going for an afternoon motorbike ride, I cherish the memories we make as a family and moments we spend together.

One of the things I particularly enjoy is going for a ride around in the buggy, what my dad calls a farm tour. We both take turns pointing things out to each other, how long the grass is, how big the dam has gotten and spotting any curious, wandering wildlife.

We are so fortunate to have this block but lots of responsibility comes with the caretaking and preserving of the land. Conservation not only includes restoring the land but also protecting it by limiting unnecessary clearing and leaving nature to do its thing. Around the area you can already start to see the impacts of mass clearing on the environment, which puts countless flora and fauna at risk and just destroys the beautiful Australian bush. After the big amount of rain we have had recently, everything has grown and flourished. Across the valley now all you can see are rolling hills of electric green and it's great to see after the massive drought we suffered not too long ago. It is now more important than ever to protect the wildlife and surrounding plant life as it continues to grow.

Conservation is significant to me because it protects our farm and makes sure this land can be used and enjoyed for us and generations to come.

GER/IFAW Bushfire Recovery project

Over fifty participants attended either/both two recent workshops funded by the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW, Australia) as part of a broader bushfire recovery effort. February's workshop focused on Finding the Platypus in the Lockyer and April's workshop, focused on Gliders in the Lockyer.

Tamielle Brunt, from Wildlife Queensland's PlatypusWatch Network, talked about the Platypus' characteristics and habits and how eDNA research is helping locate and better understand Platypus behaviour. A sample of the facts presented included: the Platypus lives in fresh waterways ideally with deep pools for foraging, it has waterproof fur, is a nocturnal feeder, its bill assists in food foraging, it surfaces about every 60 seconds, has polyamorous breeding habits, nests in stable waterway banks burrowing up to 30 metres and the female curls up in burrows to incubate her eggs and parents alone.

Tamielle noted the WildNet database in 2016 showed a drop in Platypus records for the preceding 20year period. The threats to Platypus survival include the usual litany of threats to wildlife generally, such as loss of and degradation of habitat, bushfires

and drought. The eDNA project is taking a proactive approach to establishing Platypus presence and distribution through sampling waterways for evidence of Platypus genetic material.

The workshop concluded with a walk to nearby Laidley Creek where Tamielle demonstrated the water sampling method required for subsequent eDNA analysis. Since the workshop, water samples have been collected at Thornton and Helidon locations and sent for Platypus eDNA analysis. We will keep you posted on the outcome.

The Glider workshop was presented by Paul Revie, Queensland Glider Network, and was combined with a Glider nest box making session by Safe & Co and a wildlife presentation by Geckos Wildlife. The presentations were followed by a nocturnal spotlighting session and participants were delighted to witness the aerial displays of four Squirrel Gliders.

Gliders spotted during the nocturnal survey at the workshop. Photo Paul Revie, Queensland Glider Network.

Mark and Penny Kidd constructing a Glider nest box at the workshop. Photo Diane Guthrie.

Five glider species can be found in the Lockyer including Feathertail, Sugar, Squirrel, Yellow-belly and Greater Gliders. All are nectar/high sugar diet feeders except the Greater Glider, which feeds on Eucalypt like the Koala. All are hollow-dependent species, a habit they share with around 130 other species in South-east Queensland. Individuals and family groups can use multiple hollows and prefer hollows in live trees although they are often forced to use dead tree hollows. A Greater Glider can use up to 20 hollows within a 2hectare range. The critical role that hollows play as a place for Glider breeding, nesting and shelter emphasises the importance of keeping live and dead tree hollows in the landscape if we are to maintain biodiversity.

The next phase of the GER-IFAW project, which is being managed by Healthy land & Water, will include weed control work on three LUCI properties identified by GER as 'anchor' properties in the landscape. The ecosystems represented on those properties and their connectivity to each other, and Dwyers Scrub Conservation Park will be enhanced by improving the condition of the different habitats through weed control work to be undertaken by contractors.

Save Redwood Park habitats and wildlife from development – have your say and sign SaveRedwood Park e-petition

While on the topic of monotremes…

Imagine the astonishment of a couple of LUCI members who were boating on Wivenhoe Dam recently and came across an echidna in the water! The animal was swimming along, seemingly not in any distress and every so often poking its nose up into the air. Who knew echidnas could swim? Apparently, they happily do so! [2]

A surprise swimmer in Wivenhoe Dam – an echidna! Photo by Paul Stevens.

Monitoring threatened species in the Lockyer Uplands

LUCI's fauna monitoring schedule for 2022 is underway with the team already visiting three of the twenty properties on our calendar. The team has welcomed the participation of UQ Gatton Wildlife Science students as volunteers. The aim is to continue to monitor the presence of koala, Glossy Black Cockatoo and Black-breasted Button-quail (BBBQ) where there is suitable habitat on a property as a way of monitoring continuing habitat viability. While sighting of each species is the ideal, the team also searches for evidence of habitat use such as koala scats in likely koala feed tree areas, Glossy Black chewings of she-oak cones (orts) where there are stands of Black, Forest or Belah she-oaks and BBBQ platelets[3] in Semi-evergreen vine thicket areas.

This year's visits are challenged by the incredible growth and expansion of lantana in the landscape in response to the welcome la Nina rains. Their density makes scat hunting a particularly difficult task.

Gigi - a koala success story

… story and photos by Barb Lindbergs

Sunday 17 April 2022 at 11:00am, Gigi was returned home. Gigi is a female koala that was found 09:00am, 06 February 2022 on Gormans Gap Track, Preston, Lockyer Valley, by me and Sheree Conroy as we were conducting a flora and fauna monitoring survey of the track.

Gigi was high up in a eucalyptus. Thankfully we had binoculars and zoom lens and immediately recognised the 'wet bottom' and swollen purulent eyes, indicative of ocular and urogenital chlamydia. Being so high up, it took many phone calls to find a carer with long enough poles to encourage Gigi to come down and be rescued.

Wildlife carer Kiara took under 2 minutes to encourage Gigi down the tree to her waiting towel. Gigi settled rapidly before being gently guided into a sac and finally lowered down into a cage at 06:30pm. Gigi was formally diagnosed with chlamydia and on ultrasound showed her bladder was thickened by the cystitis and she had a small ovarian cyst. Normally she would be euthanised, but the care team decided to treat her as she was still strong and had a great appetite.

[2] How echidnas entertain themselves

[3] Black-breasted Button-quails forage in leaf-litter by pivot-feeding, scratching at the leaf-litter with one leg while pivoting the body on the other, displacing leaves and soil, and exposing invertebrate prey. This method of foraging produces distinctive circular saucer-shaped depressions, often termed platelets, 15-25cm in diameter.

Ten weeks later news came through that Gigi had made a full recovery, the bladder wall had thinned down, the ovarian cyst was not visible and Gigi was urinating well - her eyes were clear and bottom dry.

Gigi was able to be released back into the same tree she was found in. To reduce stress on Gigi all involved in the release remained quiet. Upon opening the cage Gigi burst out onto her tree and after giving one last thank you look at Kiara, scurried up the tree and within minutes started tasting the leaves – this brought tears to most of the team. Couldn't have asked for a better release. Gigi had moved trees overnight and we wish her well on her journey and hope she has many more babies.

The success of Gigi's recovery has highlighted the importance of early recognition and treatment to increase the chance of a survival from this horrible disease.

Green Panic…not la Nina's Gift for everyone…by John Hopwood

Anyone who hasn't been sleeping in a cave this season will have noticed the explosion and spread of unwanted weeds and invasive grasses through their properties. When faced with the daunting task of trying to eradicate these pests one might want to head back into that dark chamber.

Recent visits to LUCI members' properties have highlighted weed explosion, especially of lantana. The only positive outcome from this is that it might actually obscure the spread of Green Panic grass, which has spread like wildfire through much of the Lockyer Valley.

Not so long ago, in 2013, Queensland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries was still promoting the use and spread of this (to some) unwanted pest: "*Green panic (Panicum maximum var. trichoglume), is a tufted, summer-growing perennial species of guinea grass. It persists best on high fertility, friable, softwood scrub loams and light clays. It dislikes sand, hard setting soils and heavy-cracking black clays, and is intolerant of waterlogging. It needs a minimum of 600 mm annual rainfall*".

In a 1981 article by the CSIRO when promoting Green Panic, it stated that "*extensive studies on the oversowing of existing native speargrasses in SE Qld with Buffel, Siratro and Green Panic concluded that seedling survival of up to 38% was achievable where the use of herbicides were used <u>to control the native grasses</u> rather than 1% if mowed in a control area*" (emphasis added).

It is ironic then that our only genuine weapon against Green Panic and Gatton Panic (*Megthyrus maximum*) is glyphosate or similar branded products. Of course, if at all possible, the most effective way to kill the grass is to heavily graze or whipper snipper the leaf away before applying the herbicide. Contrary to advice from government and farming sources where it states the grass does not like to be overgrazed, the opposite would appear to be the case in wetter seasons. It flourishes.

Green Panic choking native vegetation.

So, the last word should go to Jim Kerr who asks…"**should we panic about Green Panic?**"

From my observations of invasive grasses, after living at Spinach Creek for 40 years, I have noticed that where Green Panic grows in lighter/sand/loam/loamy sand it is a Ground Cover Killer. Just as Cats Claw Creeper and Madeira Vine are Canopy Killers, Green Panic outcompetes couch grass in those less fertile soils.

Green Panic likes fire. In fact, after fire, it recovers very quickly, unlike a lot of native grasses and hence gets a competitive advantage. It may be the case that it also exudes growth inhibitors in its roots or leaves which will then chemically outcompete other competitive grasses.

Thanks Jim. Now where was that cave?

*Fauna tales…by Martin Bennett**

Freshwater Snake, *Tropidonophis mairii ssp. mairii.* Recently, I was called upon to 'rescue' a snake in the Lockyer Valley Library precinct. The Freshwater Snake (also known as the Keelback) is a totally harmless snake, that can eat cane toads without ill effect. It is olive brown with irregular dark cross-bands. The body scales are strongly keeled, producing ridges that run along the snake's body and gives the skin texture a rough feel to it. Flecks of pale skin can often be seen through the scales. The belly is cream and usually flushed with a pink or orange tinge along the edges. Dark bars can be seen between the sutures on the upper lip scales.

Freshwater snake *Tropidonophis mairii* ssp. *marii* rescued at the library. Photo Martin Bennett.

This species grows to 75 cm. They resemble a dangerously venomous species with strongly neurotoxic venom, known as the Rough scaled snake, *Tropidechis carinatus*. Luckily, that venomous look-a-like is only found in the Glen Rock region of the Lockyer Valley.

Rufous bettong, *Aepyprymnus rufescens*. The largest of the potoroids, the Rufous bettong's fur is shaggy grey with a rufous tinge on top while the underparts are pale grey to cream. The tail is grey, sometimes with a white tip. The Rufous bettong's muzzle is short, with fur between the nostrils. Bare pink skin is seen readily around the eyes and the ears are relatively long while the head is short and boxy. They usually emerge shortly after dark to forage and primarily eat herbs, roots, tubers and fungi. They can cover large distances when foraging (2-4.5 km).

Rufous bettong, *Aepyprymnus rufescens*. Photo by Greg Tasney.

Usually a solitary species, at times, the Rufous bettong can be seen in pairs. It shelters during the day in 'grass nests', shallow excavations with a covering of fibrous vegetation across the top. Multiple nests are often used by the same individual like many other native fauna. These tiny 70 to 80 cm long from nose to tail, nocturnal mammals are very hard to spot, usually, hiding in the long grass and escaping human eyes.

Since European settlement numbers have declined with some populations becoming extinct. The main causes of these declines are predation by the red fox and domestic

cat, competition with rabbits and the loss of suitable habitat for agriculture. There are reports of Rufous bettong from the north, south, east and west of the Lockyer Valley but no records from the central Lockyer which is mainly cleared and cultivated.

Pale field rat – *Rattus tunneyi* A native rodent that prefers to live in the bush, the Pale field rat digs tunnels, eats native vegetation (grass seeds, stems and tubers) and, generally, keeps clear of human dwellings. It has a broad head, rounded snout and bulging eyes and its ears are short. The fur on top of its body is reddish brown merging into pale and its tail, which is pink without hairs, is less in length than its head and body length. The top of its feet are pale in colour. Head-body length is 120 – 195mm, the tail 80-150mm, the hindfoot 25-35mm, the ear length 15-20mm and the female has 10 teats.

Pale field rat captured 'by accident'. Photo Jenny Pascoe Murphys Creek.

A nocturnal, terrestrial animal, the Pale field rat is quite common in heavy soils, often in woodlands with a grassy understorey, where tunnelling is easier. It constructs shallow tunnels, excavating all the soil and depositing it outside the burrow then taking grass and leaves into the tunnel for nesting. Walking over the top of the tunnels often causes them to collapse when they resemble canals.

The Pale field rat is found from the north of WA, NT, down the east coast of Qld to SEQ. It has been observed at Preston, Mulgowie and Townsend in the Lockyer Valley and is very common on the black soils around localities on the eastern Downs.

Pale Field rat tunnel entrance, and soil heap. Photo Barb Lindbergs

Pale Field rat scat. Photo Martin Bennett.

**NB, please DON'T CONFUSE the native Pale field rat with the introduced Black rat Rattus rattus, which is an aggressive rat that favours habituating to human surroundings. It has a slender body, pointy snout, shiny black, pale brown to grey fur and its tail is longer than head and body length, naked with over lapping scales. Head-body length is 165-220mm, tail 185-245mm, hindfoot 30-40mm, ear length 24-27mm.*

** Some material for above stories sourced from Australian Museum.*

Important numbers:
Wildlife Rescue Education and Rehabilitation (07) 4630 5208

Wildlife carers Kath and Steph 0410 334 661 (available 24/7)

Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc 0488 228134

Visiting butterflies…by Paul Grimshaw

A couple of weeks ago I found two tiny, spiny larvae feeding on the young growing tips of a *Pseuderanthemum variabile*, Love Flower plant, in our rainforest patch. At the time I suspected that they were larvae of the Leafwing butterfly – *Doleschallia bisaltide.* Yesterday I found these two handsome, quite large larvae, which were devouring the self-same plant at a rapid rate. On looking up my Albert Orr, Roger Kitching '*The Butterflies of Australia*', which has excellent illustrations of butterfly larvae and pupae, I was able to confirm that they were Leafwing butterfly larvae. An interesting fact regarding the impressive, branched spines on the Leafwing larvae is that they don't sting, unlike the spines of some moth species larvae. For the Leafwing larvae this is a form of defence mimicry against predators.

Leafwing butterfly larvae feeding on Love flower. Photo Paul Grimshaw.

Unfortunately, I haven't been quick enough or lucky enough to photograph the very cryptic adult Leafwing butterfly. They tend to fly very fast and all you see is a flash of brilliant orange when the wings open. when they land with their wings closed, they look very much like a dead leaf. This is another form of defence mimicry against predators that has developed during the Leafwing butterfly's evolution.

According to some butterfly authorities Leafwing butterflies only breed in wetter forests such as lowland rainforest and that the larvae only feed at night. On both occasions in our rainforest, I observed the larvae feeding in daylight hours.

Pseuderanthemum variabile – Love flower (Also called Pastel Flower) is the larval food plant for at least five Australian butterfly species. We have many Love Flower plants coming up in pots in our nursery. However, I can't recall ever seeing Leafwing or other butterfly larvae feeding on these potted plants. The flower in the image is the only Love Flower plant we have on our property with pale lavender-coloured flowers. This is the same plant in our rainforest that the larvae in the images were feeding on.

Love flower *Psuederanthemum variabile.* Photo Paul Grimshaw.

Leanne and I spend many hours on our back deck watching and enjoying nature as it happens around the rainforest margin. Our planted rainforest has taken thirty-nine years to establish to its current stage. Mother Nature has done much of the hard work in its establishment. But that's another story.

Leafwing butterfly larvae rainforest habitat. Photo Paul Grimshaw.

A forest floor story – the Creeping Sunflower and the Green Mirid… by Penny Kidd

This persistently wet and humid autumn has kept eucalypt forest summer wildflowers, abundant and actively flowering (and sadly, the lantana too!). While on a recent 'weed patrol' drive around our Stockyard property, a blur of bright yellow leapt out to catch my attention on the roadside. Martin Bennett, the Lockyer's eminent botanical expert, advised us the yellow flower was a Creeping Sunflower (*Apowollastonia spilanthoides* (F.Muell.) *Orchard*), of the daisy or "Asteraceae" family, as featured in LUCI's October 2021 newsletter. Refer also to Mountain to Mangroves 2nd edition p241.

A Creeping Sunflower (*Apowollastonia spilanthoides* (F.Muell.) *Orchard*). Photo Penny Kidd.

Other common names are Rock Daisy, Beach Sunflower and Native *Wedelia*. The plant is described as a herb growing on eucalypt forest floors.

Their natural range is the east coast of Australia, Papua New Guinea and Sundra Islands, Indonesia. So, they prefer warm and wet conditions in coastal and sub-coastal regions. The Queensland Nature Conservation Act classifies it as "Least Concern" and the Commonwealth has it unclassified. Martin's opinion is this species has few records in the Lockyer, so uncommon in our local region.

In 1865 the plant was first described as *Wedelia spilanthoides*, by the distinguished German botanist Ferdinand von Mueller. This explains the "F. Muell." at the end of this plant's botanical name and many others.

Nearly 150 years later, an esteemed Australian botanist, Tony Orchard (Orchard 2013) separated out the Australian and New Guinea *Wedelias* from the rest of the world's and created a unique genus, just for them – *Apowallastonia*. So our Creeping Sunflower is formally named *Apowollastonia spilanthoides* (F.Muell.) Orchard, recognising the work of both botanists.

Our Creeping Sunflower specimen at Stockyard was found on a natural drainage line on a rocky hillside. It was growing in a sprawling vine-like tangle, penetrating up through Lomandra, under the shelter of a thickly canopied Silverleaf Ironbark.
The flowerhead was roughly 30mm across on the end of a long, leafless stem, stretching 30 cm tall.

Like all daisies this species is a pollinator attractor, favoured by bees and butterflies. Its floral structure has ray florets (the petal) and disk florets (in the centre of the flower). The leaves are opposite, with leaf margins clearly toothed and very rough or scabrous, the same as the slender stem. In fact rubbing the stems felt like fine sandpaper.

The photo in M2M shows lovely wide leaves and flowers on short stems but of course our leaves were nothing like that – they were extremely linear as shown in the photo. Leaf variability makes life hard for us amateurs!

Photo Penny Kidd.

Martin encourages us to identify plants from flowers and seeds, when available.

In the first photo the bug resting on the flower is a Green Mirid (*Creontiades dilutus)* confirmed on the Amateur Entomology Australia app. Green Mirids are from the "true" bug family of Miridae, native to Australia and common in Queensland and New South Wales. They're a different family to locusts but have some similar characteristics – they occur Australia-wide and migrate over long distances from inland to coastal areas following more favourable conditions.

They feed on plant fluids which they obtain at growing points on herbaceous plants using their efficient, sucking mouthparts, causing stunting and preventing the plant from producing flower-carrying branchlets.

The daisy family (Asteraceae) is listed as a host plant of Green Mirids. So if our Green Mirid in the photo was female, she could lay eggs on the Creeping Sunflower and/or consume plant fluid from other nearby plants or other branchlets.

An early study conducted in Gatton (Foley and Pyke 1985), established that in an average Lockyer Valley summer with moderate rain, adults can live for 3-4 weeks and females lay up to 80 eggs, so they breed up fast in the right conditions!
Not only can they breed fast but they're generalists – they consume many different plant species. Unfortunately, this combination of traits means Green Mirids can inflict severe damage on agricultural crops like cotton, lucerne, fruit and vegetables. Growers protect crops mostly with insecticides, but interestingly a biocontrol fungus, *Aspergillus* sp., has become available for crop protection.

In the wild, Green Mirid populations are subject to their natural predators - spiders, wasps, damsel bugs, shield bugs and big-eyed bugs. So given the right conditions, they're a popular, abundant food source for other higher order invertebrates in forests, which in turn feed insectivores like reptiles, mammals, birds and amphibians. On the eucalypt forest floor this summer and autumn, herbs, forbs and insect populations have flourished in the warm and very wet conditions in the Lockyer Valley. It's a timely reminder of how the sun, rain and the plants and animals interact as foodwebs to support healthy and sustainable forests.

FYI - check out Tony Orchard's huge contribution to early volumes of Flora of Australia, for example this Volume 1, Introduction. It's free to download but file size = 31Mb.
Flora of Australia Vol. 1 Introduction 2nd Ed. In 2018, the Flora of Australia series of books transitioned online, integrating with Atlas of Australia (ALA).

References
Foley, DH & Pyke, BA 1985, 'Developmental Time Of Creontiades Dilutus (Stal) (Hemiptera : Miridae) In Relation To Temperature', *Journal of the Australian Entomological Society*, vol. 24, pp. 125-127.

Orchard, AE 2013, 'The Wollastonia/melanthera/ Wedelia generic complex (Asteraceae: Ecliptinae), with particular reference to Australia and Malesia', The journal of the Western Australian Herbarium, *Nuytsia* vol. 23, pp. 337–466.

Interesting snippits…

A host tree for Migrant Butterflies…This flowering, small tree with its long seed pods is identified by Martin Bennett as *Senna surattensis,* Scrub senna. Martin says the tree, which grows 3-4m, is a host plant for Lemon, Orange, Yellow and White Migrant butterflies.

Senna surattensis, Scrub senna, and host plant for Migrant butterflies. Photo Diane Guthrie.

A quick google search throws up a range of comments regarding the species' origin. One site says "[T]he exact place of origin is not known…it may be native to Australia (Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia), Bangladesh, Bismarck Archipelago, India, Indonesia, Irian Jaya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Vitenam where [it] is present in the forests at low altitudes."[4] Another site describes it as an agricultural and environmental weed and says the "origin of this species remains obscure" thought, variously, to be native to coastal north Australia or as an introduction there.[5] I prefer to go with Queensland's Department of Environment and Science website, which lists the species as native and with nil pest status, and enjoy the tree's flower show and the value of its offering to myriads of butterflies.

I couldn't resist this miniscule but entrancing display of the details of a seed head of an *Entolasia* native grass species.

Structure of a native grass seed head. Photo by Diane Guthrie.

The photo captures the Stamen arrangement with its Anther (orange) suspended on a Filament and the Stigma (purple), which projects from the ovary in the seed. Nature is full of exquisite little treasures if you really look.

[4] https://www.monaconatureencyclopedia.com/senna-surattensis-2/?lang=en

Test your knowledge…staying with the theme of yellow flora…can you identify the following flowering species? (Answers at bottom)

Answers…thanks Martin Bennett for identification.

Pultenaea petiolaris or Woolly Pea Bush
Daviesia villifera or Prickly Pea Bush
Sida corrugata or Corrugated Sida

[5] https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/117093#tosummaryOfInvasiveness

UPCOMING EVENTS ***

- **Saturday 30th April, LUCI Special Interest Walk,** on a property in the Stockyard Creek area. Martin Bennett will guide the walk through a number of vegetation communities containing native grass areas, eucalypt open forest and eucalypt woodland with a diverse array of understorey flora. The property is also home to a range of woodland bird species. If you have registered for the walk you should have received property details. Contact **LUCI** if you need further information.

- **Friends of Dwyers Scrub Project, Thursday 5th May** from **8:00-11:00am.** Many hands will help defeat canopy killers, Cats Claw and Madeira vines, in the endangered Semi-evergreen vine thicket areas of the conservation park. We usually finish our weeding session with a brunch. Volunteers and enquiries welcome, contact **LUCI**

- **Saturday, 14th May, Biodiversity Property Planning group meeting, 9:30am-12:30pm.** If you are interested in sharing your property management stories with others, learning what works and what doesn't when it comes to biodiversity management and hearing from experts in the field, then please join us on the 14th May. Hosted by Jim and Jill Scanlan, guest speaker Lynda May Banks from Wirrinyah will talk about cultural burning for protection of Semi-evergreen vine thicket patches. A site walk will be involved and bring morning tea to share. For further information contact Penny Kidd by email

Gigi, rescued, recuperated and released. Photo Barb Lindbergs.

Spotlighting at the Glider workshop. Photo Liz Gould.

Do you have a photo or item of interest for the newsletter? Or concerns that you would like LUCI to consider? Then let us know by email …remember…

Stay connected, it's healthy!

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