



PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 17th March, 2:00-4:00pm, Stockyard Creek Hall, Stockyard.

As an incorporated association, LUCI will be two years old on the 20th May 2018. Beginning as a small group of Friends of Dwyers Scrub in 2015, LUCI has grown its membership and includes in its support network local government, NRM organisations, member associations, university researchers and a range of individual experts willing to provide advice and mentoring.

Since inception, LUCI has pursued a landscape scale approach in its activities to achieve connectivity conservation. In doing so, LUCI engages with landholders across our landscape of interest (escarpments, ridges and valleys of the Lockyer Uplands) objectives are:

1. Raising awareness of natural systems
2. Encouraging better land management options
3. Improving environmental outcomes

LUCI's approach is to: encourage landholders to express their environmental commitments on their own land; provide environmental education activities for members and supporters; and host landholder get togethers that combine socialising with knowledge exchange.

Governance

Membership

LUCI is a member organisation of Queensland Water and Land Carers, which provides for our insurance cover (\$30m public liability) free of charge, Healthy Land and Water Members Association and Protect the Bush Alliance.

LUCI currently has 34 financial members (membership at 19th March 2017 was 20). Application for membership is open to all and the membership fee remains at \$5 per annum for persons over 18 years of age.

Management

LUCI's incorporation has been renewed for 2018. LUCI's management committee (President, Secretary and Treasurer) has met six times since the 2017 AGM. Three of those meetings were attended by two members of the Friends of the Dwyers Scrub Project on invitation from the committee. The minutes for all meetings are available on request. LUCI successfully applied for one grant in 2017. LUCI's Treasurer will be presenting a financial statement for the last financial year to this meeting.

LUCI'S ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL 2017- MARCH 2018

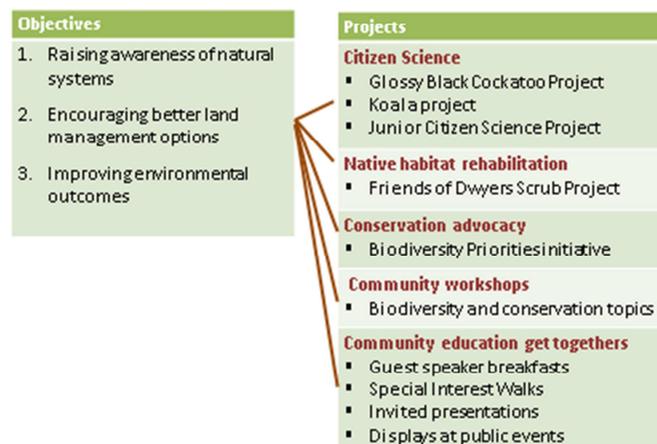
Projects	Progress and comments
<p>Friends of Dwyers Scrub Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 215 hours weeding provided by volunteers. - Enquiries to organisations that coordinate volunteers indicate using such services is not an option for LUCI. - Currently, working on Cats Claw regrowth in Grids 1 and 2, which is vigorous, and commencing work on Grid 3. - Madeira vine is out of control in the SEVT and numerous other weeds are now evident. - Collaboration with Dr Vic Galea, Plant Pathologist, UQ Gatton Campus, who is keen to develop biological controls for Cats Claw and madeira vines using Dwyers Scrub as a research site. - Equipment currently supplied by QPWS to the volunteers is inadequate and requests for equipment upgrade and other items have not been met. <p>Actions needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A. Adopt a longer-term strategy for weed management in the park, which includes finding more volunteer weeders and mapping the extent of weeds (e.g. QAWN initiative); and</i> <i>B. Renewing requests to QPWS for equipment upgrade and first aid training.</i>
<p>Lockyer Uplands Glossy Black Cockatoo (GBC) Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second phase of a project which commenced in 2015. - Information generated will tell us about fruiting cycles of <i>Allocasuarinas</i> studied, continuity of food source and use of feed trees in the focal landscape and how characteristics such as tree age relate to seed desirability. - Project is mentored by Dr Guy Castley, Griffith University. - Involves ten private properties (one being a nature refuge) and Dwyers Scrub (a protected reserve), which continues our focus on landscape-scale conservation and connectivity of native habitats. - The design involves installation of 100x4m transects in known she-oak stands including <i>Allocasuarina</i> species <i>torulosa</i>, <i>littoralis</i> and <i>inophloia</i>. <p>Actions needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A. Install remaining transects on properties already in the project; and</i> <i>B. Encourage other members to join the project either as participating landholder or field assistant.</i>
<p>Junior Citizen Science Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertook a riparian restoration project with our partner school, Mount Sylvia State School, on a 90m section of the bank of Tenthill Creek behind the school. - 500 native trees and grasses from RE12.3.7 were planted by 44 children and adults on a Community Planting Day in September. - A late October inspection indicated an 80-90% plant survival rate although by February that rate had fallen (although rate was not measured) possibly due to the effects of extreme heat over summer and less maintenance during the Christmas vacation. - LUCI members participated in a school Science Day and delivered presentations on GBC characteristics and habitat needs. <p>Actions needed:</p> <p><i>If requested, assist School with ongoing maintenance of the site.</i></p>

<p>Special Interest Walks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot of this project involved a walk through a dry rainforest on a member's property in June 2017, led by Martin Bennett (LVRC's Environment Officer). Ten people participated and, based on their feedback, the project was judged a success. - A second walk was held on another member's property in September 2017, this time with a bird theme and led by Rod Hobson, and 14 people participated. Once again, participant feedback was highly positive. <p>Action needed: <i>The project will continue with two walks (Autumn and Spring) a year, the first (at Darvalls property) will be held in April.</i></p>
<p>Lockyer Valley Biodiversity Priorities Initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LUCI convened a stakeholder meeting to discuss Lockyer Valley Biodiversity Priorities. - Twenty eight stakeholders from a range of sectors attended including local government, NRM body, UQ Gatton, community groups and individual experts. - Commitment by all attendees to continue the forum and undertake a collaborative planning exercise in biodiversity conservation for the Lockyer Valley. <p>Actions needed: <i>LUCI to convene an event in May at which community groups present/map their biodiversity information for subsequent input into a second event at which LVRC and HL&W (possibly other agencies) present/map their biodiversity information followed by collation of all information and priority setting.</i></p>
<p>Lockyer Uplands Koala Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As with the GBC project, the aim will be to take a landscape-scale approach involving members' properties to establish (a) the presence and distribution of koalas in the local landscape and (b) activity patterns on the properties surveyed. - To date, three landholders have agreed to participate and the aim will be to have at least the same sample properties as with the GBC project. - The project is mentored by Dr Guy Castley and will use Steve Phillips' grid survey method. <p>Actions needed: <i>Discuss project participation with members and organise volunteers.</i></p>

<p>Community Education and Promotional activities</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p>Breakfast at the Darvalls</p>	<p>LUCI was able to promote its activities at the two breakfast events, April and November 2017, which were attended by 54 and 48 people respectively without counting children! Guest speakers included Dr Dave Berman and Chris Cameron (April) and Dr Don Sands followed by a presentation by students from Mount Sylvia State School (November).</p> <p>Special thanks</p> <p>Once again, LUCI has valued the opportunity to promote its work through Peter and Elspeth Darvall's April and November <i>Breakfast at the Darvalls</i> event. Through their tremendous hospitality, their breakfasts have enabled members, supporters, neighbours and a range of interested persons to socialize and acquire and share knowledge through the quality guest speakers. LUCI is grateful to have been able to play a small part in these events and benefit from Peter and Elspeth's generosity.</p>

Citizen Science online for Queensland critters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Twelve people attended a workshop by LUCI member Roxane Blackley who described a number of online data bases and mapping tools for use in wildlife monitoring and conservation planning. - A workshop summary will appear in the next <i>Quarterly Update</i> newsletter.
Presentation on LUCI's activities at a Councillors' and senior staff workshop.	<p>LUCI notes with real optimism the Council's interest in environment matters and willingness to engage around environment issues. We welcome the new Councillor Rick Vela to the environment portfolio and look forward to working with him.</p>
Display at the Up the Creek Festival, Junction View Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community interest was extremely low although contact with the Mayor was of value as an invitation was issued to LUCI to present our work to Council. - To date, LUCI's use of a stall/information stand at public events has not been a worthwhile promotional exercise.
LUCI promotional tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eleven editions of the <i>Quarterly Update</i> disseminated, currently, to 74 recipients - Website launched. - Adoption of a logo - Acquisition of a banner for use at events.

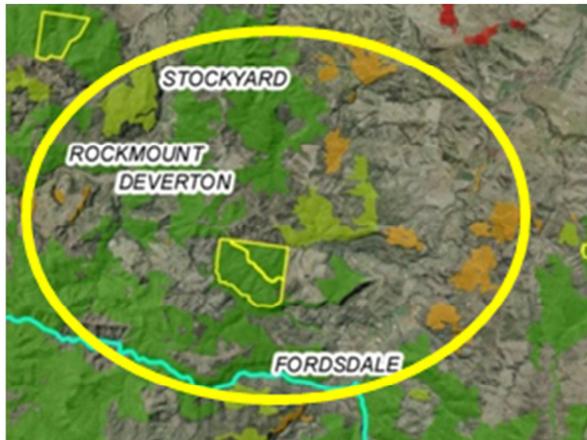
LUCI objectives and projects



LUCI's Connectivity Strategy to achieve landscape-scale conservation

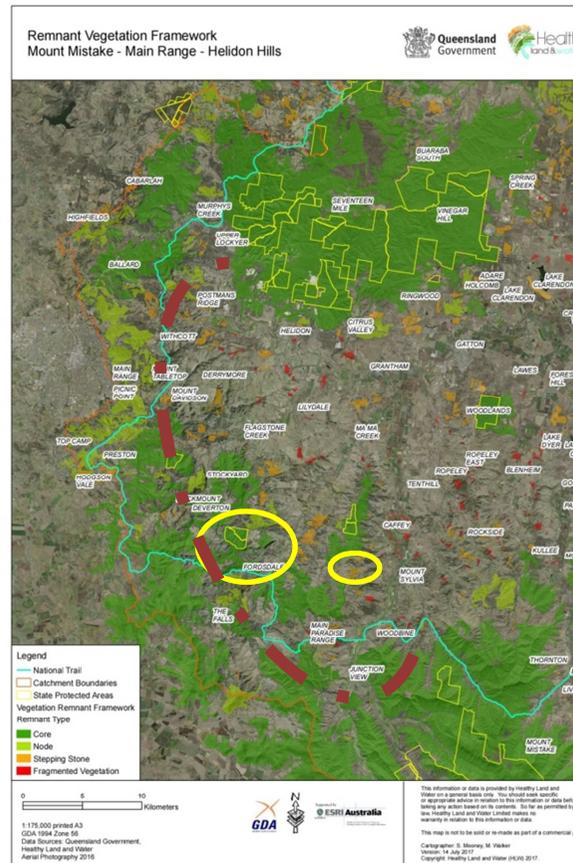
Local scale

- Protect and improve existing native habitat
- Improve the connectivity between “patches” of native habitat including Dwyers Scrub and surrounding properties.



Regional scale

- Provide a “conservation hotspot” in the Main Range-Helidon Hills corridor identified in *ShapingSEQ*



National scale

- Work towards inclusion in the GER initiative

