



## UPDATE...May 2023

Your chance to take part in [The Great Aussie Fungi Quest](#) from **May 1 – 30, 2023**, Start exploring the intriguing world of fungi and add to the 487 species already identified this week. Learn how to identify fungi and perhaps you could win a prize for the Champion Identifier or Best Find.

Learn more about what's happening to protect koalas at the [Lockyer Valley Koala Forum](#) on **Thursday May 18, 5:00pm-7:30pm** at the [Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre](#). Learn more about what is happening in koala conservation and habitat restoration, vaccination research, government koala strategies and more from a line-up of speakers (including your LUCI representative). The evening will begin with time for networking and nibbles so book now to attend in person or online.

Still time to book in for [LUCI's Creekside catch up at Fordsdale on Saturday May 13, 11:30am onwards](#). Meet other LUCI members and enjoy a bbq sausage and salad lunch while you relax by the creek at member John Hopwood's place. Directions available on booking by return email.

[LUCI Winter Walk on Saturday June 3, starts at 8:30am](#) on a member's property in the [Flagstone Creek area](#). Walk leader Martin Bennett will be joined by Deb Metters (SEQ LfW) in a couple of 'chat and q&a stops' with the group about understorey management. The property features Blue Gum flats, waterway vegetation and sandstone hills with Ironbark, Bloodwoods, and a diverse understorey. RSVP by return email if you'd like to join.

Following on from [LUCI's frog mini-bioblitz](#) with Brett Malcolm we are planning another three workshops for this year on the following topics: [The role of nest boxes in conservation](#), [Native Plant Propagation and Understorey planting – feeding foodwebs](#). We will let you know specifics (speakers, dates and venues) when confirmed.

LUCI's [Bird Survey Project](#) continues with Roger Jaensch undertaking a third survey round on some of the 18 properties now involved in the project. Members of the Toowoomba Bird Observers are also participating in surveys on four of the properties. Species count to date is 127 with more species likely to be recorded given past records, landholders' accounts and migratory species. The plan is to extend the surveying effort to properties in the Little Liverpool Range area and several volunteer 'birdos' from Ipswich and district have put up their hands to undertake the surveying. Learning about bird diversity in our landscape and, in time, their habitat use, will enable LUCI to better target bird conservation actions. Finding the right combination of conservation measures needs to be based on our own local evidence given there is no one 'right' way as pointed out in this article <https://theconversation.com/dozens-of-woodland-bird-species-are-threatened-and-we-still-dont-know-what-works-best-to-bring-them-back-203332>

LUCI's [Friends of Dwyers Scrub weed project](#) is in need of volunteers for half a morning a month (rewarded with a tasty brunch). The focus is on the control of Cats Claw, a canopy killer in the dry

rainforest sections of the park. Weeding is by the cut and paint method and induction and PPE is provided. If you are interested let us know by return email.

Two reasons to be excited...two sightings of a platypus in a waterway in the Tenthill area and reports of hearing Glossy Blacks' calls in the Rockmount area.

### *Some interesting reading...*

No doubt you have heard the for and against arguments regarding the benefits of maintaining dingos in the landscape. Read how some beef producers in Queensland and Western Australia decided to put the argument to the test

<https://www.beefcentral.com/news/dingoes-are-good-for-business-and-healthy-landscapes-grazier-research-finds/>

Citizen scientists are being asked to help fill the gaps in documentation of native plants

<https://phys.org/news/2023-03-thousands-native-unphotographed-citizen-scientists.html>

A Danish story on the incredible world of ant colonies, their mounds and some of the intriguing examples of species co-evolution <https://phys.org/news/2023-04-ant-mounds-important-biodiversity-previously.html>

A good news story that highlights some successful species recovery efforts amidst the dismal projections for thousands of other species <https://phys.org/news/2023-02-threatened-species-brink-australia.html>

Could Queensland' little studied tropical north koalas provide important information about a koala's ability to regulate body temperature with implications for species-wide translocations as a climate change protective measure?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-22/north-queensland-koala-research-genetics-climate-change-survival/102005024>

### *Snippets of interest from Martin Bennett posted on LUCI's website (link below)*

Archismantis latistyla, Large Brown Mantis, one of the common mantid species native to Australia

<https://www.lockyeruplandscatchmentsinc.org.au/2023/05/07/archimantis-latistyla-large-brown-mantis/>

Haemodorum austroqueenslandicum, Blood-Lily or Blood Root, can be found growing in the Helidon Hills area

<https://www.lockyeruplandscatchmentsinc.org.au/2023/05/07/haemodorum-austroqueenslandicum-queensland-blood-lily/>

If you have any stories or photographs you'd like to share with LUCI members and supporters, we can include them in the next *Update*. Remember...**Stay connected, it's healthy!**

Lockyer  
Uplands  
Catchments  
Inc

Email [info@lockyeruplandscatchmentsinc.org.au](mailto:info@lockyeruplandscatchmentsinc.org.au)

[www.lockyeruplandscatchmentsinc.org.au](http://www.lockyeruplandscatchmentsinc.org.au)

[LUCI Facebook page](#)

LUCI acknowledges the traditional inhabitants of the Yuggera-Ugarapul land on which our activities take place and respects their careful management of the land over the millennia and their continuing association with the land.