



LUCI Update No 32 ... July 2023

Greetings on this spring-like winter day!

Recent get togethers

May 13th saw 18 members socialising at our **Creekside catch up** in the Fordsdale area. Post-lunch, Andrew Dinwoodie of BirdLife Australia provided a talk on the Lockyer Valley Powerful Owl Project, which resulted in members later deploying 10 bioacoustic recorders to monitor Powerful Owl presence in our landscape.

LUCI's **Winter Walk** on June 3rd attracted 31 participants eager to learn more about understorey management. Martin Bennett led the walk on the Watters' Rockmount property, a great example of what can be achieved with committed, hard work over a decade to restore eucalypt open forest and woodland and riparian areas. Deb Metters (SEQ Land for Wildlife) and Liz Gould (Healthy Land & Water) joined Martin in providing their perspectives on understorey management. Deb and Liz are also avid birdos and identified several species on the day. A bonus was Barb Lindbergs' keen eyes drawing our attention to two koalas on the day.



One of two koalas spied during our Winter Walk. Photo Diane Guthrie.

On the walk theme, LUCI members Jim Scanlan, Martin Bennett and Diane Guthrie were pleased to offer members of the Toowoomba Field Naturalists a guided walk in Dwyers Scrub Conservation Park on 4th June to view the work that LUCI's Friends of Dwyers' Scrub weed team has undertaken since 2015.

Launch of the Koala Climate Corridors project

LUCI hosted a workshop on the 22nd July to bring together 34 stakeholders from across the Main Range to Bunyas region to talk about the Great Eastern Ranges and IFAW's Koala Climate Corridors project. The project goal is to establish a landscape scale habitat corridor along the 'western horn' of the Greater Border Ranges between the Bunya Mountains and Main Range National Park to help koalas, rainbow bee-eaters and other wildlife to adapt to climate change by providing them with safe spaces to move as conditions and food sources shift.



Gary Howling (CEO, Great Eastern Ranges) introducing the Koala Climate Corridors Project to regional group representatives. Photo Liz Gould.

Project activities to reconnect and regenerate habitat in the corridor will include planting of food and habitat trees, nest boxes for a group of target species, enhancement of riparian corridors,

educational workshops and citizen science activities.

LUCI's Project Coordinator, [Justine Rice](#), has set up an online collaborative platform for regional stakeholders to discuss priority sites for different conservation actions. We welcome landholders and community groups' involvement in this exciting initiative to provide landscape connectivity for our precious wildlife.

NRRP grant

Weed control work involving both biocontrols and herbicide treatment will commence on 13 LUCI members' properties in the second half of this year thanks to the Queensland Government Department of Resources' National Resource and Recovery Program. The grant, which was secured, and will be managed, by Healthy Land & Water will target Cats Claw creeper and Madeira vine with biocontrols and target 50ha of lantana with herbicide treatment. The work will integrate well with the Koala Climate Corridors project (above) as the 13 properties have either koala presence or one or more of the other species targeted in that project.

Birds of the Lockyer Uplands Conservation Action Plan

Our regional bird survey project continues with the indomitable Roger Jaensch, Ornithologist, continuing to conduct seasonal surveys on, now, over 20 properties with over 135 species (predominantly woodland species) recorded. To augment the survey project, Roger is joined this year by members of Toowoomba Bird Observers and BirdLife SEQld Darling Downs Branch in undertaking a bird survey bioblitz on four of the participating properties.

A draft of our aspirations for this project, the BLUCAP, can be viewed on [LUCI's website projects page](#). The Plan will see several groups and individuals collaborating to maintain/increase the diversity of native

birds (especially small bush birds) across our landscape.

Did you know...

The Red-backed Fairy Wren, which is endemic to Australia,



- mainly eats insects and supplements its diet with seed and small fruit;
- usually inhabits dense vegetation, especially long grass, shrubs and dense riparian vegetation;
- mates between August to February;
- usually chooses tussocks of grass to build their dome-shaped nests in, where they lay up to four spotted and blotched eggs; and
- the female incubates them for nearly a fortnight, and if the nest is approached, she may perform a scuttling 'rodent-run distraction display'.

Sourced from <https://birdlife.org.au/news/bird-of-the-month/>

Another reason to conserve beautiful native tussock grasses.

Powerful Owl in the Lockyer

[BirdLife Australia's Powerful Owl project](#) now extends into the Lockyer Valley due to a grant from Orica. There are numerous anecdotal accounts of Powerful Owls in our landscape with BirdLife Australia's project to be the first systematic survey. If you are interested in volunteering to be a citizen scientist in this project, find out some of the ways in which you can

contribute from project officer [Andrew Dinwoodie](#). Work undertaken to date on the Powerful Owl project in southeast Queensland can be found here [PO progress report 2019](#)

Interesting links to follow up...

A group of UK farmers working together to create spaces for nature across farm boundaries...

<https://selbornelandscapepartnership.org.uk/wildlifereport>

What is happening in the invertebrate world and how that impacts biodiversity...

<https://theconversation.com/more-than-60-billion-leaf-litter-invertebrates-died-in-the-black-summer-fires-heres-what-that-did-to-ecosystems-207032>

Hear how bioacoustics are being deployed by the Australian Acoustics Observatory to monitor not only a wide range of species but entire ecosystems via a network of recorders continuously recording across Australia...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxk1zpLiGn4>

Don't forget...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>

Obsessed with koala scat hunting and want to make good use of the scats? Read how you can help with this koala poo DNA project whatdokoalaseat.org

Find out how Lockyer Valley Regional Council can assist landholders with invasive pest animals and plants

<https://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/our-services/environment-and-pest-management/pest-management>

If you missed the Lockyer Valley Koala Forum you can view it online at [Lockyer Valley Koala Forum](#)

Flora and fauna snippets...by Martin Bennett (LVRC Environment Officer)

Two highlights from LUCI's Winter Walk...

The uncommon plant *Cryptandra longistaminea*, New England Cryptandra, which is found mainly in Open forests on sandstone soils. Flowers are numerous and crowded on the smaller branches with the brown bracts spreading as the flowers open.



New England Cryptandra. Photo Martin Bennett.



Undescribed Lomandra species. Photo Martin Bennett.

An undescribed species of Lomandra that has small, strappy grey leaves and pale yellow flowers on a spike. Seed is still required for research into describing this species. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. It grows in Open eucalypt forest and woodland, amongst shrubs, and in grassy areas.

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

Some recent fauna observations



Black-striped Wallaby (top) and Koala. Photos Mark Kidd.



King Parrot at Dwyers Scrub. Photo Diane Guthrie.

Don't forget...LUCI has remote sensing cameras for loan to members. Contact Mark Kidd on kiddz4@bigpond.com

Upcoming events...

Propagating Native Plants Workshop
Saturday, 16th September 9:00am-12:00pm. Karen Melissa of Tanglewood Natives Nursery will provide hands-on tuition in everything you need to know to propagate a range of native seed types. All materials provided and you get to take home some of your work. Morning tea provided; members free, non-LUCI members \$10. Places limited so book now with [LUCI info](#)

LUCI Spring Walk, Saturday 23rd September, 8:30am led by Martin Bennett. The walk will be on a member's property in the Stockyard area and will focus on the results of 40 years of regenerating Brigalow and Dry Vine Forest patches. Martin will also give a demonstration of a 'tree popper' tool, useful in removing small, weed trees (e.g. lantana, celtis and privet). BYO morning tea for our usual post walk cuppa and a chat. Contact [LUCI info](#) for property directions.

Understorey planting - feeding foodwebs, Saturday 21st October, 9:30am-12:30pm. Join Helen Schwenke for a walk and talk on a property in the Mount Whitestone area to learn more about the amazing and intricate relationships between invertebrates and their host plants. Author of the excellent book [Inviting Nature to Dinner](#), Helen is keen to hear in advance questions you may want her to address in the workshop. Please forward questions, book your place and receive venue details by contacting [LUCI info](#)

If you would like to share your stories and photos, we'd love to receive them. If you do not want to be included on the email list for this newsletter please let us know at [LUCI](#)

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