



Photo courtesy Al Young

Friends of Dwyers Scrub

...protect and raise awareness of an endangered environment

Email friendsofdwyersscrub@gmail.com

Contact Diane Guthrie 0413 333 681 Peter Darvall 5462 6841
Judy Whistler 5462 6724

Quarterly Update... January 2016

New year greetings to all FoDS members. The past few months have seen members busy across some of the group's 2015 projects.

Weed management

To date, more than 60 volunteer hours have been spent 'cutting' Cat's Claw creeper in our first weed management grid. The initial focus is on saving threatened trees rather than reducing the weed on the ground. It is heartening to see a very modest but discernible die back of the creeper in the canopy.

However, maybe it is this 'pruning' of the creeper at tree level combined with early summer rain, which has seen an explosion of the creeper at ground level.



While the initial focus is Cat's Claw, it is alarming to see in our grid site the emergence and spread of Madeira vine and various other weeds over the period of a few months. If you are interested in joining the weeding group at any time, let us know and we can get you registered as a volunteer with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.



In November, a group of FoDS visited with Friends of Escarpment Parks at Redwood Park to learn about the latter's methods and see the results of their amazing efforts. The message was very clear. Cutting alone is a waste of time without also using a herbicide. We will be discussing such options with QPWS in the near future.

Dwyers Scrub Connectivity strategy

Our strategy to encourage landscape connectivity between Dwyers Scrub and surrounding properties (and thus strengthen the long term viability of the park's biodiversity) commenced on 22nd November. Beginning with a species that has been recorded in both Dwyers Scrub and surrounding properties, the Lockyer Uplands Glossy Black Cockatoo (GBC) Project was launched under the umbrella of Citizens of the Lockyer Inc. Twenty eight local landholders agreed to survey the presence of GBC habitat on their property. The project is being supported by SEQ Catchments and the Lockyer Valley Regional Council. The aim is to encourage local landholders to protect and manage GBC habitat on their land, which can only have flow-on benefits for Dwyers Scrub. If landholder interest is there, the project could be extended to focus on other species present in both the Scrub and on private property.

Dwyers Scrub was also the sight of a recent dung beetle survey, part of the Citizens of the Lockyer Inc's ongoing Invertebrate Survey project in the Upper Lockyer Valley. The project involves scientists associated with the Queensland Museum and further highlights the ecological value offered by Dwyers Scrub.

Acknowledgement of FoDS

Encouraging news is a letter from the Hon Dr Steven Miles, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, who replied to a FoDS communication. His reply shows that we are being recognized as yet another voice on behalf of ecological welfare in Queensland. Let's beef up the profile of ecology and keep writing of any concerns.

Ongoing issues ...

The previous copy of *Update* contained a photo of the road through Dwyers Scrub (left below). Three months later and with a little rain, a photo of the same spot shows a proliferation of a number of introduced weeds on the road edge. This issue will be discussed at an upcoming meeting with QPWS representatives as well as concerns with regard to the erosion of soft soil on the road edges and run off into the Scrub (right below).



Upcoming events ...

- ❖ The first FoDS meeting of the year is planned for **Thursday 28th January at 4pm at Queens Park, Toowoomba**. Meet at the Lindsay Street car park and bring a chair and we'll find a shady spot. All welcome. Some of us will be going on to the Environmental Defenders Office event on Queensland planning legislation amendments at the Empire Theatre at 6pm.
- ❖ Completion of the Glossy Black Cockatoo project, which includes a breakfast workshop in late February funded by LVRC, where landholders and GBC Conservancy members collate the survey data and chart the way forward for property-level GBC habitat management.
- ❖ Even a weed's life need not be wasted! Did you know Cat's Claw vine makes a great weaving fibre? The vine has been getting a new life as a basket, a halloween mask, and now a large Kerry Koala - all from our harvested cats claw. Anyone interested in harvesting and/or weaving Cat's Claw, please contact Judy (details above).
- ❖ Expressions of interest in Dwyers Scrub from Toowoomba Field Naturalists and Toowoomba Bird Observers are being followed up.



For the time being...if you have any ideas, suggestions and/or concerns that you would like FoDS to take on board, let us know...remember...

Stay connected, it's healthy!