

2024



SUMMER NEWSLETTER



It was a busy end to 2023 with a number of workshops being run for LLRI members as well as ongoing property inspections for the Natural Resource Recovery Project. Unfortunately, we had to postpone the LLRI Great Southern Bioblitz from November, however the event was run at a later date in February. The postponed event was a hit. Attendees didn't let the rain get in the way of having a great time. Guided walks and workshops covered various topics from plant identification to frog ID and invertebrate trapping. We hope that everyone who came along had a fantastic time.

Things definitely haven't slowed down into 2024 with many events being run in the first 6 months of 2024. A number of projects are ongoing throughout the year from inspecting nest boxes to undertaking bird surveys as part of the Birds of the Lockyer Uplands Conservation Action Plan.

Keep an eye out on social media for upcoming workshops and events this year.

Follow our socials at:

  @littliverpoolrange

or find us at: llri.com.au



NEWS & FEATURES

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LLR Native Species Profile

Common name:

Common Dunnart

Scientific name:

Sminthopsis murina

These little carnivorous marsupials are found across the Little Liverpool Range. Common dunnart females can weigh up to 25g and males a maximum of 40g. These small marsupials can exhibit a behaviour called 'torpor'. Torpor is a form of temporary hibernation to help animals get through poor environmental conditions. Gestation is approximately 12 days where young then moved into a small flap of skin (aka the 'pouch').

These little animals can be easily mistaken for an introduced mouse so next time you see a mouse-like animal, double check it is not a dunnart or similar native mammal.



Photo credit: D fischer,
iNaturalist



Photo credit: Sam Gordon,
iNaturalist



Photo credit: Dick
Whitford, Australian
Museum

Pest Features

Common name: European carp

Scientific Name: *Cyprinus carpio*

Written by Jack McCann

As the name implies, Carp are historically native to Europe and Asia but are now one of the most widespread species of fish in the world. Carp were first successfully introduced to Australia in the early 1900's by early European settlers attempting to introduce and naturalise familiar species to their new homeland. By the 1920's Carp were well established in the Murray-Darling catchment, and over the subsequent 100 years have now become established throughout all of Australia, except for the Northern Territory.

Locally, Carp are prolific throughout south-east Queensland including right throughout the Bremer Warrill catchment. Carp have a broad range of habitat tolerances and have been recorded from around Coalfalls in the upper tidal reaches of the Bremer River, to as far upstream as Franklin Vale Creek in the upper Bremer catchment.

Carp cause significant environmental damage to our waterways, primarily driven by their feeding habits. Carp feed by sucking up sediment and sifting out the food in their mouth and expelling the sediment back out. This behaviour leads to increased turbidity of the water and is especially emphasised when Carp are in large numbers. This behaviour also leads to;

- Degradation of water quality resulting from increased nutrient and sediment suspension
- Impacts to aquatic vegetation growth due to reduced light penetration
- Sediment smothering of plants and other important habitats
- Impacts to native fish such as clogging of gills and impeded visual feeding

Controlling Carp is very difficult as with most invasive species. The greatest thing that can be done locally to reduce their impacts is to improve our waterway health to encourage as many native species as possible, which can facilitate in mediating Carp numbers through providing competition for food and habitat. Improving water quality, in-stream habitat diversity and riparian condition are all important measures to support native fish and help lessen the impacts Carp have on our environment.



Photo credit: Jack Mcann



Landholder Highlight: Who is the Qld Trust for Nature and what do they do?

Written by: Georgina Braun

Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that partners to protect, enhance, and restore the natural environment across Queensland.

Back in 2015, Aroona Station was gifted to the Trust by Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock – as a living legacy to see the property's conservation values protected and the cattle enterprise continue. It is the vision of QTFN to see Aroona Station continue the legacy of the Stock's and demonstrate a healthy and resilient landscape that balances beef and biodiversity.

We are utilizing environmental markets and industry grants to help manage and restore the property. For example, we are currently working with Healthy Land and Water to restore a head cut worsened by the 2022 floods and subdivide the paddock to protect the water course and improve our grazing management.

Over the years with the support of community groups, academics, and research students, we have come to better understand the biodiversity on the property. Amongst the threatened species the property supports koalas along the blue-gum flats and upland eucalypt forest, brush-tailed rock-wallabies scattered across the rocky terrain, grey-headed flying foxes foraging amongst the eucalypt flowers at night, and Plecthanthus dotted around our rocky habitat. To support our hollow-dwelling wildlife we've scattered nest boxes across the property and are amazed at what species we've seen visiting – brush-tailed phascogale to feather tailed gliders and antechinus!

Like many properties in the Little Liverpool Range, Aroona Station provides habitat for wildlife big and small, furry, and feathered, scaley and stingy. But it also supports a productive cattle enterprise, running a Charolais x Brahman breeding herd, managed by our Farm Manager, and Calvert local, Chris Schreiweis.

Finding the right balance between the lands carrying capacity and productivity is a core focus for QTFN. We acknowledge both our impact and reliance on nature and hope to reduce our impact by building a healthy and resilient landscape. This year a core focus for land management is the control of woody weeds, such as Lantana, Broad-leaved Pepper, and Chinese Elm. Another key focus will be balancing a healthy grassy understory with strategic grazing pressures with planned fencing and water points, while protecting and restoring our waterways.

Outside of Aroona Station, QTFN is working across the State to protect and enhance the natural environment. Out and about, you can find our team running citizen science camps with local communities, supporting regenerative agriculture landholders understand their ecological values, or working with traditional owners on Koinmerburra country to help integrate two-way management on Avoid Island in the southern Great Barrier Reef. More locally, our Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program (KHRPP) team is supporting landholders to restore koala habitat here in Southeast Queensland.

The Little Liverpool Range Initiative is such a wonderful community of enthusiastic and dedicated landholders. Our QTFN team love having the opportunity to get to know members of the community better, so if you see us around, please come say hi and have a chat! We are always excited to hear about what you've seen, or what you're up to on your property.



Photo credit: Georgina Braun



iNaturalist
Statistics

11418
Observations

2182
Species
identified

266
Observers

Upcoming events

Mid-2024 - Annual Nest Box inspections