Winter Newsletter 2021

Winter was no doubt a whirlwind with COVID-19 making things very unpredictable. Unfortunately, the LLRI Great Restorations event had to be postponed due to a COVID-19 lockdown being imposed only days before the event. However, we were all able to stay safe and were able to run the event at a later date. Thank you to everyone who expressed their interest in attending and those who were able to make the postponed event.

Across Winter, the Ipswich City Council hosted many events in celebration of the 25 years of Enviroplan. Activities ranged from open properties to explorative walks around the Grandchester conservation estate.

We have had a very busy few months with new properties joining the initiative. Cameras and audiomoth's have been deployed across many of these properties with the aim of identifying cryptic species that we may not see during site visits.

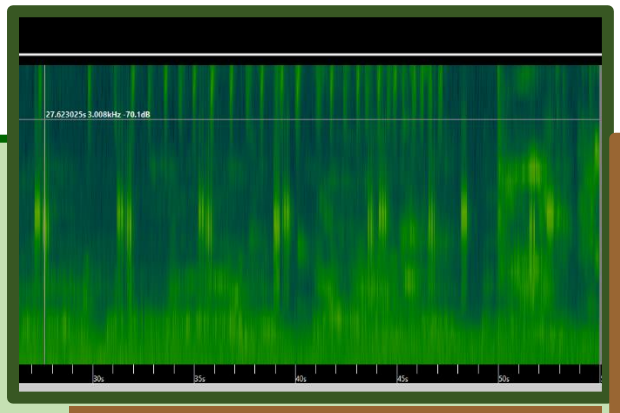
For all of the iNaturalisters out there, our competitions are continuing until December so keep up the great observations! For those of you looking to join the competition go to our website to learn about the competition and how to use iNaturalist!

Remember to keep up to date by following our social media pages or visit our website.

Instagram:@littleliverpoolrange

Facebook:@littleliverpoolrange

https://www.llri.com.au/



Audiomoth recording of a fox, dogs, eastern sign-bearing froglet and spotted marsh frogs.

LLRI members attending the LLRI Great Restorations event showcasing innovative restoration techniques.

Pest features:

Fireweed
Senecio madagascariensis

Fireweed has been particularly bad this season across the LLR. *S. madagascariensis* thrives in disturbed and pastural landscapes. Heavy infestations can be a result of minimal native ground cover, overgrazing or fire. This season *S. madagascariensis* has been enjoying the rainfall over winter.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, *S. madagascariensis* is a Category 3 invasive weed. All landholders have a General Biosecurity Obligation to weeds require everyone to undertake any practical measures of control for Category 3 weeds. You can contact your Local Government for advice on the best methods for management

Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*)

LLR Native Species Profile

Common name:
Powerful Owl

Scientific name:
Ninox strenua

Conservation status:
Vulnerable

Lifespan:
Approx. 30 years.

Population trend:
Stable

Fun Fact:
The powerful owl is Australia's largest owl. These owls have large territories with breeding pairs being anywhere from 5 to 20kms apart. Pairs continue to inhabit and defend their territories year-round.

Ipswich City Council celebrates 25 years of Enviroplan

Ipswich residents enjoying a diversity of workshops and activities.

For 25 years Ipswich City Council and the community have made enormous strides in conservation through the Enviroplan Initiative.

Launched in 1996, Enviroplan is funded through a levy on rates. It has funded the purchase and management of 6700 hectares of land in 12 conservation estates, and supported partnerships with landholders across Ipswich.

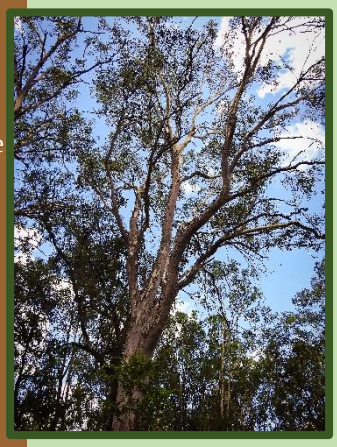
Over 2021 a range of special events and activities have been held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Enviroplan.

This included Great Restorations land management workshops – including one at Hidden Vale Wildlife Centre – a special EnviroForum at Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate and bushwalks at Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate.

Find out more about the Enviroplan Initiative at Ipswich.qld.gov.au/enviroplan

LLRI Landholder Highlight: Newest property to join the initiative!

Patrick, Sarah & Dave are some the newest members of the Little Liverpool Range Initiative, located on the Lockyer Valley side of the LLR. Previous sightings of a koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and a single Baileys Cypress Pine (*Callistris baileyi*) instantly shows the ecological significance of this property. They have a number of extremely interesting ecosystems and species with the presence of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* subsp. *basaltica.*



Patrick, Sarah & Dave are new to the LLRI, joining only a couple months ago. Patrick reached out to us at the LLRI to join the ongoing efforts with the goal of helping to restore the Little Liverpool Range as a corridor for native species. To see what else is living on his property, we installed camera traps and audiomoth's across the property. During our time in the field, we just happened to stumble upon a koala at one of our planned camera trap locations. What a coincidence! Patrick was very excited as the koala is his favourite animal.

Like many of you, the biggest challenge they have faced to date is the control of weeds. A large, mountainous property makes accessibility quite difficult, contributing to the challenge of weed management. Despite this challenge, Patrick, Sarah & Dave will continue to support their native flora and fauna.

Investigating the Mata Hari Judas Technique – Hannah Grimshaw

I am an Honours student at the University of Southern Queensland currently working on fox management and the development of a novel capture method for this species with Hidden Vale, or the 'Development of a Mata Hari Judas vixen'. Foxes are an abundant pest species who damage the natural ecosystem primarily through predation, which threatens many native species of mammals and birds as well as livestock.

My primary research focus is to use the sexual drive of foxes to develop an irresistible lure to allow for removal of remnant individuals following broad scale control programs such as baiting efforts. I plan to capture a female fox (vixen) so that she can be contained following an injection of Compudose-100 which is a hormone growth implant used in cattle and induces a prolonged oestrus. Once this vixen has been induced into a successful oestrus, I will test whether foxes within the area will become attracted to her and approach a large trap system where they can then be caught. If a vixen can successfully be induced into a prolonged oestrus and is attractive to other foxes, she will be dubbed a Mata Hari Judas (MHJ) animal.

Ultimately my aim is to develop a Mata Hari Judas vixen to improve population control efforts by ensuring that entire populations can be removed within the targeted area. To date the use of MHJ animals have been applied to social herbivore species (e.g. goats, camels and donkeys). The ability to modify this technique so that it can be used in solitary carnivorous species will allow for further testing in cats and dogs, thus reducing the impact of these introduced pests on wildlife and livestock.

Hannah's 'Vennel' being used to lure in the remaining foxes.

Upcoming events

September 2021 – Bird iNaturalist Competition

October 2021 – Mammal iNaturalist Competition

6th October 2021 – LLRI Office Hours Afternoon Tea

16th October 2021 – Native Plant Sale @ Rosewood

November 2021 – Amphibian iNaturalist Competition

December 2021 – Reptile iNaturalist Competition

December 2021 – Koalaty Habitat Workshop