

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



An Exciting Start to 2022...

The year has begun with weeks of planning to bring one of the best years for the initiative into fruition. We have a big year ahead with many projects being conducted across the range and a multitude of workshops being run. In the next few months we will see koala detection dogs being deployed across the LLR and predator faeces/owl pellets being sent off for analysis. From this analysis we can see what our predators in the range have been eating.

The LLRI has been successful in receiving Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant for \$23400 which enables us to run Fire management property plans and conduct Cultural Burning workshops. The grant enables us to engage the QLD Fire & Biodiversity Consortium, Firesticks Alliance and Wirriyah Conservation Services. Stay tuned for the release of the workshop dates.



NEWS & FEATURES

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so many spiders

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Who knew Ipswich had so many spiders – not even spider ecologists!

BY PETER MURRAY, RACHAEL HARRIS & ROBERT RAVEN

In the last couple of years different methods have been used to determine spider species diversity in a relatively small area of regrowth open woodland in South Ripley. To our amazement we found about 50% more spider species (about 200 species) than we expected based on similar spider surveys all around the world (up to about 130 species).

This begs the question - are there really more spider species in Ipswich, in this location, or did we use more or better methods or for longer than previous spider studies? The answer to that question is that we did use traditional spider survey methods, in both dry and wet seasons, and we used three different methods including one new method. The traditional methods included searching and collecting spiders for an hour at night (multiple times) and placing pitfall traps, with preservative and a raised cover, in the ground for six weeks and then identifying the spiders collected in these traps. Using both methods we identified many spiders of different species but there were some spiders we only found using one method.

This was expected as pitfall traps target ground dwelling spiders and with the night collection method (because most spiders are active at night) both ground dwelling and arboreal spiders are found.



YES MOST SPIDERS ARE SMALL; THE LITTLE ONE IN THE VIAL IS POSSIBLY AN ANT-EATING SPIDER, NYSSUS SPECIES, CORINNIDAE.

The third method used vibration, for an hour, to attract spiders and the spider species attracted by this method overlapped species collected in pitfall traps and by hand at night, and there were species of spider only collected using vibration.

As we collected spiders on multiple occasions, we found more previously unseen species were identified each time we used the different methods. We used this time series data collection to create accumulation curves that demonstrated there were very likely to be many more species of spiders in this regrowth open woodland. This does not mean that this type of vegetation, or Ipswich, is a spider (species) hotspot; it is more likely that previous spider surveys should have used multiple methods in the same location, under different environmental conditions, and they may have collected more spider species.

Now the good news for arachnophobes (i.e. people who are afraid of spiders) most of the spiders were small to tiny in size (yes we found some spectacular peacock spiders); each year spiders eat tonnes of pest insects including mosquitoes and grasshoppers, and for those that don't know the main predator of spiders are other spiders, and furthermore spiders are important food for a wide range of native mammals, frogs, reptiles and birds.



MALE TRIANGULAR SPIDER (ARKYS WALCKENAERI)

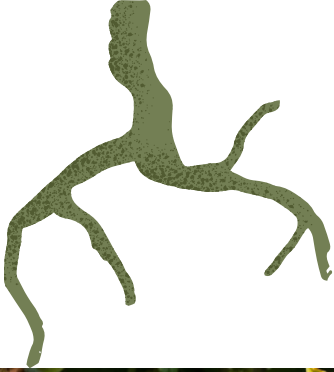


Photo: Martin Bennett

Pest features: Yellow bells (*Tecoma stans*)

Yellow bells is a category 3 environmental weed that is becoming prominent across the range. Yellow bells is a shrub or small tree which is quickly taking over all habitats. It is distinguished by a once-compound paired leaves with small clusters of yellow tubular flowers and elongated fruit capsules which open to produce small papery seeds. This weed can be seen flowering in spring/summer. Yellow bells quickly spreads from one plant to becoming a large stand. They can be controlled by cutting the stems then following with a stem injection, basal bark spray or foliar spray.

LLR Native Species Profile

Common name:
Black-shouldered kite

Scientific name:
Elanus axillaris

The black-shouldered kite is a common bird of prey found in the Little Liverpool Range. You will often see these birds inhabiting open grassland/fields getting ready to hunt small rodents and insects. The black-shouldered kite is a small to medium size bird of prey with a wingspan of 80 - 100cm. Characteristically, this species of kite has very direct flight with fast shallow wing beats separated by glides.



New Community Group in the Range

Friends of the Upper Laidley Creek Catchment is a volunteer led group seeking improvements to the local parks and bushland in the area of the Upper Laidley Creek Catchment at Mulgowie, Thornton & Townson. The group will work with other local community groups in the area and local council to identify and nurture projects that enhance our wildlife and bushland areas. If you would like to get involved with Friends of the Upper Laidley Creek Catchment they are looking for volunteers who would love to help, share ideas or get involved in the community! Email: friendsofulc@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook! "Friends of the Upper Laidley Creek Catchment"

**Bird watching at
Centenary
Park, Thornton
(*Eolophus roseicapilla*)**



**Mountain views from Centenary
Park, Thornton**



iNaturalist
Statistics

4,357
Observations

1,358
Species
identified

99
Observers

Upcoming events

March/April 2022 - What Scat is that? Collection months

30th of April 2022 - Koala Habitat Restoration Workshop

11th of June 2022 - Cultural Burning Property Management Planning Workshop