Whiptail Wallaby was once heavily hunted for its hide. A creature of hilly to mountainous dry open woodlands with a grassy understory. The in the Lockyer Valley although it is still recorded in the more intact habitats here. It is a fairly common resident of the drier woodlands of the Lockyer Valley but is rarely seen because of its nocturnal habits.

Other images (from top): Graceful Treefrog Litoria gracilenta Another common frog of the Lockyer Valley, found in all habitats except rain forest. If you have a mango tree look along the leaves for this pretty little frog. It is a favourite food of the Pacific Baza. Naked Treefrog Litoria rubella This small frog is also very common around the Lockyer Valley and is quite comfortable sharing its accommodation with humans. It’s the little fellow that you’re likely to see clamping to your screen door on a humid summer’s night.

Green Treefrog Litoria caerulea The Green Treefrog is probably one of Australia’s best known and most beloved of amphibians. This frog is the culprit that causes all the consternation to our smallest local frogs when they see several pop-eyed green faces regarding them from the bottom of their toilet bowl.
July

Main image Armoured Tip-wilter Bug Canogranatmics monorhanna This rare bug was only described in 2002. Within the Lockyer Valley it is only known from two specimens. Both are from the dry vine scrubs in the headwaters of the catchment. The first was found on a small wet gully at Hell Hole in early 2010. A second specimen has since been found in the headwaters of Gatton Creek in Redwood Park near Toowoomba. The colourful specimen featured is a nymph, a young bug. The adults are generally tan all over. Its preferred food is the Native Jasmine or Morinda Vine Morinda jasminoides, a common creeper of our rainforest and vine scrubs.

Other images (from top) Toowoomba Funnel-web Hadronyche infensa Dangerous This is a highly venomous spider. Bites can prove lethal to humans. Dogs and cats, however, are immune to its venom. This spider is found throughout the moister areas of the Lockyer Valley. Males emerge from their burrows in the wetter and more humid months (October-February). They usually die within a few weeks after emergence. Females live to five years and can reach 20 years under ideal conditions.

Mountain Kattydid Acridpozera recticulata The Mountain Kattydid is a type of grasshopper. The insect featured is a flightless female indulging in a threat display. Males of the species can fly. Despite this dramatic bluff display the Mountain Kattydid is completely harmless. Old-timers knew this insect as the Hansom Cab after the likeness of the female to the horse-drawn buggy of that name.

Fishing Spider Dolomedes facetus This large spider is an inhabitant of rainforest streams and pools. It has the ability to run across the water’s surface and builds an underwater retreat consisting of a large air bubble. The spider featured is a female brooding her egg sac. Males are much smaller. The bite is said to inflict a mild local reaction. Underwater retreats of a large air bubble.

Main image Pacific Baza Aviceda subcristata This bird is the only Australian bird of prey that has a crest, hence its alternative name of Crested Hawk. It can be encountered throughout the Lockyer Valley and will even enter suburban gardens. The Crested Hawk is an unobtrusive bird that hunts the outer foliage of trees for its favourite food, large phasmsids (stick insects). It also eats other insects, frogs and small reptiles. The mating display of this bird, called “coast-hanging”, consists of pairs tumbling, somersaulting and swooping in a spectacular aeronautical display. Other images (from top) Grey Goshawk Accipiter novaehollandiae This raptor and its close relative the Brown Goshawk are the bane of the bird world. Goshawks are adept hunters of their feathered brethren taking the unwary in swift, active pursuit or from ambush. The Grey Goshawk will also take mammals up to the size of a rabbit, also reptiles and large insects.

Brown Falcon Falco berigora This is a species of the grasslands and pastures of the Lockyer Valley. It is also known as the Cackling Hawk because of its call that one author described as, “... a high-pitched cackling, like a laying hen.” Unlike most other falcons the Brown Falcon takes its prey by pouncing on ground-dwelling victims such as reptiles, small mammals and birds like quail, pips and bushharkis.

Bankee Kestrel Falco cenchroides This is the most common bird of prey in the Lockyer Valley. It is also Australia’s smallest bird of prey. Like the Brown Falcon the kestrel is also a pounce-predator feeding on rodents, small reptiles, ground-dwelling birds and insects. It is a nomadic species although older pairs will maintain territories in productive areas.

August

Main image Snake-necked Turtle Chelodina longicollis This is a very common reptile throughout the Lockyer Valley catchment. It is one of two snake-necks found here. The other is the Broad-snelled River Turtle, a much bigger animal. Both these turtles use their long, flexible necks, snake-like, to ambush prey. These turtles are carnivores eating a wide range of prey including frogs, fish, crustaceans and carrion. If alarmed this turtle can release a foul smelling substance from scent glands on its sides.

Other images (from top) Bandy Bandy Vermicella annullata This boldly marked little snake is common but rarely seen in the Lockyer Valley because of its nocturnal habits. The Bandy Bandy feeds almost entirely on Blindsnares Ramphotyphlops spp. It is often found in termite mounds where it hunts these blind snakes that, in turn, feed exclusively on termites, ants, their larva and eggs.

Water Dragon Intellagama lesueurii This lizard is very common along the creek lines of the Lockyer Valley and will even set up home in your back yard if not unduly disturbed. Stones, tree limbs or logs at the water’s edge are favourite hunting and sunning perches. It will eat almost anything it can get its mouth around including frogs, greyish, other small aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates, insects, fruits and berries.

Common Brown Snake Pseudonaja textilis Dangerous This is one of the world’s most deadly reptiles. It is very common in the Lockyer Valley. The snake featured is in its typical s-shapen defensive pose. The Common Brown Snake loves a rodent snack. It can be found around sheds, chook pens or avaiaries where the House Mouse hunts the outer foliage of trees for its favourite food, large phasmsids (stick insects). It also eats other insects, frogs and small reptiles. The mating display of this bird, called “coast-hanging”, consists of pairs tumbling, somersaulting and swooping in a spectacular aeronautical display. Other images (from top) Eastern Chestnut Mouse Pseudomys gracilicaudatus The preferred habitat of this native rodent is regenerating grassland and heathland following fire. It is fairly common in the ranges and foothills on the western edge of the Lockyer Valley where fire has maintained a grassy understory under open woodlands. Vegetation change caused by weed invasion and lack of burning has seen a serious decline of this mouse across its range.

Common Planigale Planigale maculata If the Common Planigale grew to the size of a fox terrier we’d be in trouble. Size for size this small native mammal is easily the most determined and aggressive predator in the Australian Bush. It feeds mainly on insects, spiders and other invertebrates but will not hesitate in attacking larger prey such as lizards, young mice and researchers’ fingers.

November

Main image Yellow-footed Antechinus Antechinus flavipes Antechinus belong to a group of Australian carnivorous marsupials known as dasyurids. The largest dasyurid is the Tasmanian Devil. Other well-known dasyurids include quolls, dunnarts and phascogales. The Yellow-footed Antechinus is one of the few dasyurids that has adapted to living in close proximity to humans. Its cheeky and amusing character makes it a welcome visitor but it can cause a nuisance of itself with its pillering habits. It can also cause problems when it decides to nest in your television or other furniture. Unfortunately this little native is often killed in the mistaken belief that it is “some kind of rat.”

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December

Main image Emerald-spotted Treefrog Litoria perani This frog is a common resident of the Lockyer Valley and can live in very close proximity to humans. There is quite likely one or more squatted contentedly in your cattle trough or under your tank stand at this very moment. Away from human habitation it is often found under the peeling bark of eucalypts growing close to water. Males call from the ground or vegetation at the water’s edge. Their call is reminiscent of a loud, descending “cackle” that has been likened to the report of a machine gun.

Other images (from top) Scarlet-sided Bobtailfrog Litoria semicincta This frog is a large, robust amphibian that spends most of its life underground. It is one of the first to appear on the surface after rain and is often killed in the mistaken belief that it is a Cane Toad. The red groin and thighs of the bobtailfrog can easily distinguish it from that pest.

Great Barred-frog Mixophyes fasciolatus This is another large frog of the Lockyer Valley, however it is confined to the area’s wetter western rain forests and vine scrubs. The males call from open ground or from under low vegetation by the creek bank. Their call is a loud and resonant “waaark.” The tadpoles of this frog are huge and are often encountered in the many small streams comprising the headwaters of the Lockyer Valley.

Ornate Burrowing-frog Platypelus ornatus If you’re a bit slack on the home handyman scene this little frog will quickly move in to that neglected mound of top-dressing or concreting sand growing weeds in your back yard. It is so adaptable to these situations that builders often refer to this little frog as the Sand Toad. It’s a very common frog throughout the Lockyer Valley but rarely seen except after rain.
The Citizens of the Lockyer Inc.
Proceeds from the sale of this calendar go towards Citizens of the Lockyer Inc.
The Citizens of the Lockyer Inc. are working to increase awareness of the rich biodiversity to be found within the Lockyer Valley, to document the flora and fauna of the area and to promote the value of our environment for residents and visitors alike.
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To order the 2015 Calendar or to arrange for the inclusion of your organisation’s contact information please contact Roxanne Blackley, Secretary, Citizens of the Lockyer Inc., bio.earth@bigpond.com

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Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and Education Association
A non-profit group looking after the rescue and rehabilitation of fauna.
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