



JANUARY

Main image Eastern Sedgefrog *Litoria fallax* The Eastern Sedge Frog is a very common amphibian in the Lockyer Valley. It is found in all moist habitats except for rain forest. Look for it at the base of lilies and other plants around the edges of your ornamental pool or goldfish pond. This is one of our smallest local frogs, growing to a maximum length of 30mm. Males call from vegetation surrounding wetlands or

from water lilies or other floating vegetation. The call is a long creak often followed by a couple of high-pitched, sharp 'pips'. The eggs are laid in small clusters attached to submerged water plants just below the water surface. Like all frogs, the Eastern Sedge Frog is an important member of a healthy ecosystem and plays an important part in the control of mosquitoes and other insect pests.

Other images (from top) Graceful Treefrog *Litoria gracilentata* 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 clinging 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 overseas visitors when they see several pop-eyed green faces regarding them from the bottom of their toilet bowl.



APRIL

Main image Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* The Koala is the best known of Australian animals. It prefers the dry eucalypt forests of the Lockyer Valley where its favoured food trees are found. Koalas eat a range of Eucalyptus species but will also eat Spotted Gum *Corymbia citriodora*, a common Lockyer tree. They are most active at night and often the only indication of their presence comes from their harsh

grunting heard during their breeding season (October-January). By day Koalas sleep and their camouflage makes them very hard to detect. The range escarpment and foothills of the Lockyer still hold a good population of these marsupials especially in isolated, undisturbed habitats. Land clearing, vehicle strike and dog attack are the main threats to this Aussie battler.

Other images (from top) Red-necked Wallaby *Macropus rufogriseus* The Red-necked Wallaby or Roanie is the most abundant macropod in coastal eastern Australia. The Lockyer Valley is home to a thriving population of these animals. It has adapted well to human presence and will often feed contentedly on house lawns, parkland and sporting ovals.

Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus* The Echidna is a monotreme. Monotremes are remarkable as they are the only mammals in the world that lay eggs. Australia's other monotreme is the Platypus. Echidnas range Australia-wide and are found in almost every type of habitat. They eat ants and termites. The Echidna is common in the Lockyer. It is often the unfortunate victim of motor vehicles.

Whiptail Wallaby *Macropus parryi* The Whiptail or Pretty-faced Wallaby has declined in the Lockyer Valley although it is still recorded in the more intact habitats here. It is a creature of hilly to mountainous dry open woodlands with a grassy understorey. The Whiptail Wallaby was once heavily hunted for its hide.



FEBRUARY

Main image Yellow Admiral *Vanessa itea* This fast-flying butterfly is a common resident of the Lockyer Valley. It is very active and rarely rests for any length of time. Search exposed areas of ground or down low on tree trunks on low shrubs for this insect. The Yellow Admiral has a habit of resting head downward on tree trunks. Males establish territories on exposed patches of ground on hot

afternoons, where they'll perch with their spread wings facing the sun. They are quite aggressive—flying off at regular intervals to defend their territories from other butterfly trespassers of their own or other species.

Other images (from top) Four-barred Swordtail *Protographium leosthenes* This spectacular butterfly is not common in the Lockyer Valley. Areas of rainforest and vine scrub are its preferred habitat. The remnant vine scrub along Sawpit Gully at Rockmount is a favoured haunt of this butterfly.

Yellow-spotted Jezebel *Delias nysa* This is another butterfly that prefers the wetter areas of the Lockyer Valley. Adults are much more common in the winter months. Look for it in the same types of habitat as for the Four-barred Swordtail.

Meadow Argus *Junonia villida* One of Australia's most wide-spread and well-known butterflies. This is the one that flits up off the dusty track on hot afternoons when you're going for a walk with the dogs or bringing the cows in for milking.



MAY

Main image Crimson-spotted Rainbowfish *Melanotaenia duboulayi* This attractive little fish grows to about 120mm but is more common about half that size. It is a schooling species of open pools with healthy aquatic vegetation. The Crimson-spotted Rainbowfish is common in the deeper sections of Stockyard, Flagstone and Lockyer Creeks. All rainbowfish are popular aquarium species including

the Crimson-spotted. This is the ideal fish for your garden pond or dam if you are looking for an effective predator of mosquito wrigglers and tumblers. Unfortunately the exotic pest species Mosquitofish (*Gambusia*) is now widespread in the Lockyer. It was introduced to control mosquitoes but wasn't successful in doing so. It is now a serious environmental pest. Not an inspired move when we already had a successful mosquito predator native to our waterways.

Other images (from top) Southern Purple-spotted Gudgeon *Mogurnda adspersa* This small colourful fish is still common in Lockyer Valley streams. It tends to be a solitary bottom-dweller sheltering among rocks, sunken logs and water weeds. Eggs are laid on rocks or submerged logs and guarded by the male. In many parts of its range the Purple-spotted Gudgeon is in serious decline, especially in the Murray-Darling River System.

Long-finned Eel *Anguilla reinhardtii* This fish can grow to 2.5 metres but more commonly reaches about a metre in length. It is one of three species of freshwater eels known from south-east Queensland. Eels are the ultimate survivors and can travel long distances overland especially in rainy weather. This is why you have eels in your dam even though you didn't put them there.



MARCH

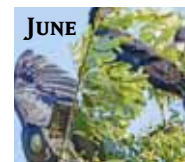
Main image Thick-tailed Gecko *Underwoodisaurus millii* This unusual little lizard is also known as the Barking Gecko. It has received this name because of its behaviour when annoyed or confronting a predator. In these situations the Barking Gecko will raise its body tip-toe off the ground lunging open-mouthed at its tormentor, all the while uttering a loud harsh squeak. This might well be quite confronting

for a predator such as a Common Dunnart of Small-eyed Snake but these little chaps are quite harmless to humans. This lizard is an after-dark prowler. By day it spends its time sheltering under rocks of logs. It's 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) Red-naped Snake *Furina diadema* This little snake is very common in the Lockyer Valley. It is completely harmless to humans however it can superficially resemble the juveniles of the extremely dangerous Common Brown Snake. All snakes should be treated with caution. Medical attention must be sought immediately after the bite from any snake.

Martin's Skink *Eulamprus martini* This little lizard is often found in home gardens—especially around rockeries, pot plants and shade houses. It is also quite happy to hang out in your garage, lounge or kitchen if you don't mind a scaly freeloader in your home. It is common in the Lockyer Valley.

Common Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulata* This snake is probably the most common snake of the Lockyer Valley. It is sometimes called the Green Tree Snake but can range in colour from olive green to dark brownish black. It always has a canary yellow belly despite its upper body colour. This snake is completely harmless to humans but not to the small lizards or frogs upon which it feeds. It is one of the race horses of the reptile world.



JUNE

Main image Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*: This is one of three species of black cockatoo known from the Lockyer Valley. The other two are the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and the Glossy Black Cockatoo. The three foremost birds illustrated are females with their speckled faces and shoulders. Males lack this speckling. This was the first Australian cockatoo to

have been illustrated. Sydney Parkinson sketched the bird when Captain Cook's Endeavour was docked in the Endeavour River for repairs in 1770. It is essential that we retain stands of old age eucalypts to provide nesting hollows for this bird, as well as other species of cockatoo and parrot.

Other images (from top) Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti* A beautiful cock bird is featured in this photograph. Male Australian fairy wrens are dazzling creatures whereas the females and young are a drab brown. Three species of fairy-wren inhabit the Lockyer. The other two are the Red-backed Fairy-wren and the Superb Fairy-wren.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax* This lovely little finch is declining in the Lockyer Valley where it used to be a common species. It is a bird of the rushes, reeds and tall rank grasses bordering creeks and dams. These types of habitats need to be preserved for this finch. The Chestnut-breasted Finch used to be called the Bullfinch, an old name aviary trade name.

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* This charming little bird is also called Cranky Fan. It's the busy-body of the local bird scene. The Grey Fantail is on to you immediately you have the audacity to trespass on to its hallowed turf, buzzing around your head and scolding incessantly.



JULY

Main image Armoured Tip-wilting Bug *Canungramtictis morindana* 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 rainforests 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 Katydid *Acripeza reticulata* The Mountain Katydid 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 Katydid 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 pain.



OCTOBER

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 phasmids (stick insects). It also eats other insects, frogs

and small reptiles. The mating display of this bird, called "coat-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 size of a rabbit, also reptiles and large insects.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora* This bird 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, pipits and bushlarks.

Nankeen 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 permanent 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-shelled 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 annulata* 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 Blindsnakes *Ramphotyphlops* spp. It is often found in termite mounds where it hunts these blindsnakes 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, crayfish, 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-shaped defensive pose. The Common Brown Snake loves a rodent snack. It can be found around sheds, chook pens or aviaries where the House Mouse is attracted to spilled or wasted grain. The orange-flecked belly of this snake is a good identification feature. **Immediate first aid followed by medical attention is imperative after a bite from this snake.**



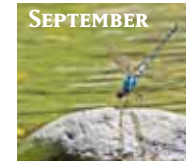
NOVEMBER

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 pilfering 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."

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 understorey 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.



SEPTEMBER

Main image Arrowhead Rockmaster *Diphlebia nymphoides* This is one of two large blue and black damselflies found along clear running, rocky streams of the Lockyer Valley. The other is the very similar Sapphire Rockmaster. It is the males of these species that have the spectacular colours. Females of both species are a dull greyish-green. Damselflies and dragonflies belong to the order Odonata.

They are both very similar insects but can generally be separated by their resting postures. Dragonflies rest with their wings spread whilst damselflies generally rest with their wings tucked along their body. The rockmasters, however, rest with their wings spread like the dragonflies.

Other images (from top) Jade Hunter *Austrogomphus ochraceus* This dragonfly, like the rockmasters, is a creature of clear, rocky streams of the Lockyer Valley particularly towards the catchment's headwaters. It is an uncommon species in south-east Queensland generally. It is one of over 30 species of dragonflies and damselflies known from the Lockyer Valley.

Gold-fronted Riverdamselfly *Pseudagrion aureofrons* This medium sized damselfly reaches 36mm in length. It is very common throughout the Lockyer Valley. It prefers slower running areas of water and is usually found only in better quality waterways. This insect hunts at high speed low over the water surface and vigorously defends its territory against much larger dragonflies and damselflies.

Scarlet Percher *Diplacodes haematodes* This dragonfly is likely the most common dragonfly of the Lockyer Valley. Like all dragonflies and damselflies it is a very proficient hunter of other insects and performs valuable service as a controller of mosquitoes and other insect pests. A good population of dragonflies and damselflies is a very good bio-indicator of stream health.



DECEMBER

Main image Emerald-spotted Treefrog *Litoria peronii* 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 Pobblebonk *Limnodynastes terraereginae* 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 pobblebonk 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 *Platyplectrum ornatum* 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.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LockyerCitizens

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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P 0407 028540

RSPCA wildlife emergencies

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Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club

W www.toowoombafieldnaturalists.blogspot.com.au/

Toowoomba Bird Observers

W www.toowoombabirdobservers.org.au/

Calendar credits

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