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# Overview of 2000 South-East Queensland Biodiversity Recovery Conference

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## *Taking Biodiversity Conservation “From Vision to Reality”*

In 1981 Lockyer Valley farmer Fred From had a vision. A vision to bring people together to care for their catchment. The Fred From vision became reality with the formation of Queensland's very first Catchment Care/Landcare Group and one of the first in Australia. The Lockyer Watershed Management Association (LWMA) Inc. - Lockyer Landcare Group emerged as an action-orientated group, and has gone on to take many successful projects “From Vision to Reality”.

LWMA's successes have been built on people - people at all levels working together to understand the issues of the Lockyer Catchment and foster workable, cooperative solutions. By organising the 2000 South-East Queensland Biodiversity Recovery Conference, LWMA sought to foster similar success at a regional level - a desire to take biodiversity conservation in South-East Queensland “From Vision to Reality”.

The 2000 South-East Queensland Biodiversity Recovery Conference, held at the University of Queensland Gatton Campus from 21-26 October 2000, brought together almost 100 participants with the common objective of saving South-East Queensland's declining biodiversity. The range of participants in the conference was one of its great strengths, and included representatives from Local Governments and State Government agencies; landholders; university lecturers, researchers and students; and representatives from Landcare, catchment management, environment and community groups.

The conference was hosted by the Lockyer Watershed Management Association Inc. - Lockyer Landcare Group and The University of Queensland Gatton Campus, as part of the significant and valuable partnership between the University and Landcare and Catchment Management in the Lockyer Catchment.

The organisation of the conference was facilitated by a funding grant from the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Additional funding and in-kind support was provided by Gatton Shire Council, Laidley Shire Council, Esk Shire Council, the Lockyer Catchment Centre and The University of Queensland Gatton Campus.

Presentations covered the full spectrum of biodiversity conservation activities and issues in South-East Queensland, from regional-level planning to on-ground action on individual properties. The presentations centred on the following themes:

- Setting the scene.
- Science and research - foundations for the right outcomes.
- Creating effective partnerships.
- Regional biodiversity planning.
- New local and regional approaches to recovery planning.
- Community biodiversity conservation - challenges, success stories and good ideas.
- Tools for securing successful outcomes.

The presentations culminated in the *Fred From AO Address*, which was given in honour of Mr. Fred From AO, founder and patron of the Lockyer Watershed Management Association (LWMA) Inc. - Lockyer Landcare Group.

Participants then took the presentation messages and, with the background of their own knowledge and experiences, answered the following questions in workshop groups:

- What is our vision for biodiversity in South-East Queensland in the year 2050?
- What are the barriers to achieving this vision?
- What actions are required to overcome these barriers?

The Southern Queensland Biodiversity Network was established to implement the conference actions and further advance biodiversity conservation in the region.

### **The 2000 Conference proceedings**

The proceedings of the 2000 South-East Queensland Biodiversity Recovery Conference can be purchased from the Lockyer Catchment Centre, Ph. 07 5465 4400.

Contents:

#### *Introduction*

#### *Setting the scene*

- Keynote Presentation: Adrian Caneris, President, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ). *South-East Queensland Biodiversity: "Now we see it. Our Children won't..."*
- Keynote Presentation: Mike Gregory, Queensland Coordinator, Threatened Species Network (TSN). *Biodiversity in Queensland: Emerging Issues and Community Involvement.*

#### *Science and research - foundations for the right outcomes*

- Keynote Presentation: Dr. Luke Leung, University of Queensland Gatton Campus. *Wildlife Conservation in the Lockyer Catchment.*

- Dr. Grant Wardell-Johnson, Dr. David Pullar and Robin Thwaites, The University of Queensland. *Ecological Survey, GIS, and Decision Support Systems to Identify Sources of Unsustainability: The Helidon Hills Proposal.*

#### *Creating effective partnerships*

- Keynote Presentation, Greg Siepen, Lecturer, School of Natural and Rural Systems Management, The University of Queensland Gatton Campus. *Community and Science: Partners for Success.*
- Graeme Burkett, landholder. *The Human Factor in Biodiversity Conservation.*
- Rick Galbraith, Devolved Grants Project Officer, Sustainable Management of the Helidon Hills Project. *What Do You Do When You Can't Give \$72,000 Away?*

#### *Regional biodiversity planning*

- Keynote Presentation: Professor Hugh Possingham, Professor of Zoology and Mathematics and Director of the Centre of Conservation Biology (CCB), The University of Queensland. *Regional Biodiversity Management Planning: Four Fundamental Principles.*
- Ann Peterson, Queensland Environmental Protection Agency. *South East Queensland's Regional Nature Conservation Strategy: Working Together to Conserve Biodiversity.*

#### *New local and regional approaches to recovery planning*

- Keynote Presentation: Bruce Boyes, Project Coordinator, Lockyer Catchment Biodiversity Recovery Project. *Multi-species Local Recovery Planning - Benefits and Impediments.*
- Keryn Hyslop, South East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Officer, World Wide Fund For Nature. *World Wide Fund for Nature South-East Queensland Rainforest Recovery.*
- Wendy Drury, Brigalow Belt Reptile Recovery Planner, World Wide Fund For Nature. *Addressing Reptile Biodiversity Decline in the Southern Brigalow Belt Using a Multi-species, Bioregional Approach to Recovery Planning.*

#### *Community biodiversity conservation - challenges, success stories and good ideas*

- Arnold Rieck, Chairman, Society for Growing Australian Plants (Ipswich Branch). *Establishment of the Rosewood Scrub Arboretum.*
- Ian Smith, Coordinator, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve. *Juggling-balancing Tourism and Biodiversity in a Small, Valuable Reserve - Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.*
- Brenda and David Parsons, landholders. *Re-discovering Plants Used by Aboriginal People.*
- Steve Fox, Technical Officer, Lockyer Catchment Centre. *Lockyer Roadside Conservation Project.*
- David Rounsevell, Project Manager, Birds Australia and Peter Sparshott, Project Coordinator, Birds Australia. *Woodland Birds of Queensland Project.*
- Alison Goodland, Project Officer, World Wide Fund For Nature. *Conservation of Darling Downs Remnant Native Grasslands.*

- Bruce Lord, Project Officer, Brisbane Valley Kilcoy Landcare Group. *Greenhide Rainforest Remnant*.

### **Tools for securing successful outcomes**

- Stacey McLean, Program Officer (Flora & Fauna), Brisbane City Council. *Conserving Threatened Species and Ecosystems: A Local Government Approach*.
- Dr. Coral Rowston, Bushland Management and Consulting Services. *Biodiversity Monitoring: The Why's and How's*.
- Penny Watson, Fire and Biodiversity Coordinator. *The South-East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Project*.
- Russell Turkington, landholder. *Achieving Land for Conservation: The Effect on Landholders*.
- Andrew Davidson, Lockyer Catchment Coordinator. *Be Part of the Sequence - Consort With the Consortium: A Community-based Funding Initiative*.
- Craig Middleton, Nature Conservation Extension Officer, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). *Nature Refuges - "Top Shelf" Conservation Agreements*.
- Henk Hagedoorn, landholder. *Tourism and the Helidon Hills*.

### *The First Inaugural Fred From AO Address*

- Introduction to the *Fred From AO Address*: Alan Brimblecombe, Life Member, Lockyer Watershed Management Association (LWMA) - Lockyer Landcare Group.
- Presentation of the *Fred From AO Address*: Dr. Julia Playford, Manager Research Coordination Unit, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Botany Department, The University of Queensland. *Biodiversity Conservation -From Vision to Reality*.

### *Vision, Strategies and Actions - Taking Biodiversity Conservation "From Vision to Reality"*

### *Appendices*

- List of Conference Participants.
- Map of Areas of Regional Significance.