



# MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

## MCCG NEWSLETTER Spring 2025



**ABOVE LEFT:** Students at the Kenmore State High School annual National Tree Day planting. Turn to page 5 for more (image and article from Bruce Dymock).



**ABOVE** (image credit Rebecca Bain): Great to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MCCG's Platypus Survey with Dr Christine Hosking, Dr Tamielle Brunt and friends! Turn to p3 for more.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### MCCG Talk

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**

Matt Cecil from Wildlife Queensland will be speaking about 'How to create a wildlife friendly garden: making native birds, bats, bees and other wildlife feel at home.'

**RIGHT:** MCCG 'Photo Comp' is around the corner. Turn to p3-4 for more from Dave Edwards about his photograph, right, and from Rebecca Bain as to how YOU can enter the popular MCCG



**Your latest issue includes:** Cottage Working Bee (p6), Froggin' Around (p8-9), Tree Planting (p5), Nursery Update (p4-5), 'Photo Comp' (p3-4), Platypus Survey (p3), Report from the Chair (p3), Save Brookfield (p8), Save Mt Coot-tha (p10), Seeds & Weeds (p4&5), Tiny Empires (p6-7), UQ Votes (p10), Volunteer Power (p3&7)

## Chairperson's Report

Spring is upon us, and with it comes a renewed sense of energy and purpose as we continue our work to protect and enhance our own properties and our local environment. As the days are warming up so too is our calendar of events, which means that there's plenty to get involved in this season.

One of the highlights of our year is the **Annual MCCG Platypus Survey**. This important citizen science event enables us to track sightings of this elusive and much-loved native species. The 2025 survey was extra special, as it was our **20<sup>th</sup> Platypus Survey!** Congratulations to everyone who has been, or continues to be, involved in these important activities.



It is wonderful that we have now been able to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> milestone, *and* celebrate being responsible for Australia's longest running platypus survey (image, above, credit Rebecca Bain, features [L to R] Tracey, Tamielle, Platypus star, and Cr Aderman. The MCCG event was also attended by Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP). Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or joining us for the first time, your involvement plays a vital role in helping to protect the platypus and its habitat. Please look out next year for opportunities to register to take part, as lots of Platypus-Spotters are always needed!

We're excited to invite you to our next **Quarterly Talk**, *How to create a wildlife friendly yard – making native birds, bats, bees and other wildlife feel at home*. On 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Matt Cecil from Wildlife Queensland will be sharing practical advice about how to transform your garden into a haven for wildlife. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn, ask questions, and get inspired to do something in your own home. Everyone is welcome to attend, so do invite your friends too.

Our **Bushcare groups** have continued their valuable work across the catchment, removing invasive weeds, restoring native vegetation, and improving the resilience of our local ecosystems. **Thank you** to all the dedicated Bushcare volunteers; your efforts are making a real difference. Find out where and when you can join your nearest Bushcare working bee [here](#).

Speaking of volunteers, the annual Brisbane City Council survey recording Catchment group activities has just been completed. I am delighted to report that MCCG volunteers have given almost 4,300 volunteer hours through our activity, events, and committee work. Incredible efforts! Read more in this Newsletter. Let's make this Spring a season of action, connection, and positive impact for our environment.

Tracey Read

## Editorial

Thank you to everyone who submitted information and articles for this issue—including two new authors. Articles are welcome from ALL MCCG Members, as this is YOUR Newsletter. Articles, photographs, illustrations, and conversation-starters are always welcome.

The **absolute** deadline for the next issue is **28 November 2025**.

Start now! Don't wait until the deadline to [email me](#). I look forward to hearing from **YOU**.

Cathi

Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) is a volunteer action group, aiming to conserve & improve the natural environment of our catchment on both private & public land.

**Chairperson:** Tracey Read

**Secretary:** Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore 4069

[secretary@moggillcreek.org.au](mailto:secretary@moggillcreek.org.au)

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**Articles of interest to Members are always welcome.**

The Editor reserves the right not to publish any item submitted. Material will be edited for clarity, style, and space. The decision of the Editor is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. **Please email YOUR news direct to [mccgeditor@outlook.com.au](mailto:mccgeditor@outlook.com.au).**

**Newsletter Editor:**

**Dr Catherine A. Lawrence OAM (Cathi)**

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## 20<sup>th</sup> Platypus Survey Celebrations

The MCCG Platypus Survey turned 20 this year! Thanks to everyone who joined us for the celebratory 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary fun on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025, at the Brookfield Showgrounds.

The annual MCCG Platypus Survey is Australia's longest running platypus survey, and it was very appropriate that the MCCG threw a bit of a party to mark this fantastic milestone. The Sunday celebrations included a wildlife show, craft and hands-on



activities, environmental games, booths and displays, a sausage sizzle, coffee cart, and cake (picture, above, of Christine and Tamielle cutting our fabulous cake, image credit: Rebecca Bain). And there were fantastic prizes up for grabs in the raffle, and awesome platypus merchandise, with proceeds supporting future [MCCG Platypus Surveys](http://www.moggillcreek.org.au).

Tracey Read

## Volunteer Power

The MCCG is volunteer-powered, and we are always looking for more help. **Can you lend a hand this Spring?** Please sign up as a helper by sending us an [email](mailto:info@moggillcreek.org.au).



A BIG thanks to Eve who signed up earlier this year to support the MCCG marquee at the Brookfield Show in May (pictured in Tracey's photo, above). Eve spent a couple of hours handing out flyers for our Kids' Day and the upcoming Photo Competition.

Tracey Read

## MCCG Photography Competition

October, and our annual Photo Competition, are just around the corner. Whether you're a returning entrant or submitting a photo for the first time, we'd love for you to get involved this year.

We are so grateful for the continuing support of our generous sponsors, including The Pet Chalet, Pisces Enterprises, Kenmore Bridge Club, Dr Christian Rowan MP, Cr Greg Adermann, Kenmore Village Discount Drug Store, Fiori Kitchen and Bar, and Kenmore Village Shopping Centre. Their combined support means that the MCCG Photography competition is not just the opportunity to share images taken within Brisbane and Ipswich catchments, as the **total MCCG Photography Competition cash prize pool is over \$1,500!**

There are three awards in the Open Categories (Native Plants/Fungi, Native Birds, and Native Animals (Excluding Birds)), a Digital Young Persons category (photographers who are in Prep/up to Year 6), and two additional prizes that are not awarded by our Judge (the Chairman's Choice and People's Choice awards). Entry forms and terms and conditions can now be found on our [website](http://www.moggillcreek.org.au).

Here's a reminder of the important dates:

- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October (10 am - 2 pm): Submit your 'Open' entries at Brookfield Showgrounds.
- From 3<sup>rd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October: Email submission of your 'Digital Young Persons' category entries (prep to grade 6).
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October: Display week at Kenmore Village.
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October: Presentation ceremony at Kenmore Village (2pm).

We look forward to seeing your entries. Put the dates in the diary now!

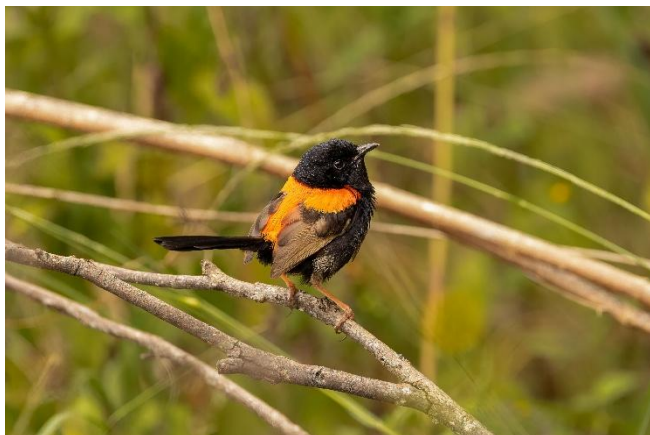
Rebecca Bain

## 'Photo Comp' Tips & Reflections

**It is always great to hear more from the talented photographers 'behind the lens' about their entries for our annual 'photo comp.'**

I do sometimes remind myself to think about why I do some of the things I have been doing for a while. Each year I enter the MCCG photo competition, unless I am not in town to submit my entries. Although the obvious reason to enter a competition would be to win, knowing that someone *likes* my photography is also pleasing. Don't get me wrong, I do quite enjoy winning—although, apart from the last 2 years, where the judges have been particularly kind to me, the winnings have been less plentiful. But there are other reasons.

As a long term MCCG member—ever since we found Bryan and Jenny Hacker and crew demolishing the nice green foliage (invasive weeds) across the road from our under-construction house 25 years ago—I have only entered photos taken in our catchment. And, lately, most of my photos have been taken on our suburban block, where we now have over 100 species of local native plants. My intention is to support the MCCG by highlighting some of the quite interesting native things we have living in *THIS* little part of the world.



Having entered for many years now, my current approach is to submit 6 photos each year, entering 2 photos into each of the 3 usual main categories. In some years the MCCG Photo displays demonstrate that entries into the 'non-bird' sections have been a bit low, so I try to make sure I help maintain a balance. Aside from the showy birds, there are many other interesting things around if you slow down and look carefully at what is around you. For example, many of the rainforest plants don't seem to have very showy flowers, but with a macro lens to get a close-up look at them they can be quite impressive (unfortunately the photos don't capture the perfumes that accompany some of them). Similarly some of the bees, bugs and other insects can make great photography subjects. It is always difficult to select my final images to enter. I haven't yet had the patience or good fortune to be close enough to get an interesting enough good photo of one of our local wrens. This image of a red-backed fairywren (*above*) is one of my better fairywren photos, but a bird in flight or eating is almost always a more interesting photo than a 'bird on a stick.' I managed to get a few photos that I like of our different native bees the year I took the (*front cover*) photo of a bee approaching a dianella which almost made the cut for the competition but, as in most Octobers, hard choices must be made.

It is quite pleasing to see the interest shown in our local flora and fauna on display at the Kenmore Village shopping centre, and usually there is quite a range of ages of people looking carefully through the

entries. It is always interesting for me to see the pictures of things entrants have seen and captured. Some of the photos may appear to be the result of just being in the right place at the right time, but I know that really means spending more time being in natural places and observing what is there with a camera in hand. Hopefully my photos give people an opportunity to see some of our flora and fauna that they either haven't seen/noticed before or to see it in a different way. I look forward to enjoying *your* photos on the MCCG display boards this October that show native flora or fauna around our catchment that *you* find interesting. *Your* entries will help make this year's photography competition display even more impressive.

David Edwards

## Seeds: Green Kamala

Surely a plant that has a common name that is 'Green Kamala, Smell of the Bush' (*Mallotus laoxyloides*) should be on everyone's list to plant. I understand that Green Kamala has an ovate to elliptical, hairy leaf with a few widely spaced teeth on its margin, producing small green to yellow flowers on separate male and female trees between October and March (image, right, of male flowers is credited to [Robert Whyte](#)). The flowers are followed by softly prickly grey-brown three-lobed seed capsules which split into individual segments when dry. However, the [Save Our Waterways Now website](#) warns that although 'Green kamala is a wonderful shrub for understory in rainforest gardens [...] it has a tantalising smell characteristic of rainforest creeks. Pleasant and evocative to most people, others say it [smells like possum piss](#).' I am happy to receive any views from MCCG members as to whether this is a plant they are encouraging in their own gardens... !



Cathi Lawrence

## MCCG Nursery Activities 2024-25

MCCG's Nursery Group continued to meet regularly last financial year, on the first and third Monday mornings of each month. Fully paid-up MCCG members are also able to obtain plants from the nursery at those times as well (unless there is a public holiday on the first or third Monday of a month, when the working bee is postponed to the following



Monday). Earlier this year Anna Williamson also organised the opening of the nursery on the first Saturday of each month, in addition to the normal Mondays, for plant collection by MCCG members. During the 2024-25 financial year, volunteers worked 1,185 hours at Nursery working bees, potting up 147 different species of plants. The number of volunteers at each working bee varies (average is 16 people). In addition, there were 18 seed collectors who provided 151 different species. Vegetative propagation of certain species difficult to propagate by other means also continues.

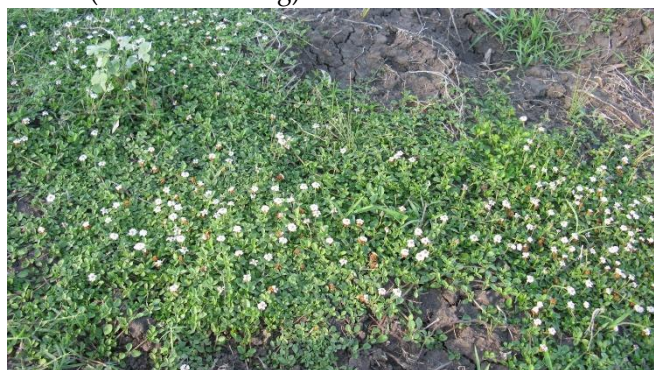
More than 14,000 plants were distributed to members during the 2024-25 year, with increasing numbers of plants going to members for planting outside our Moggill Creek Catchment. Over the life of the nursery, more than 340,000 plants have been distributed to MCCG members.

Bruce Simeon

## Weeds: Condamine Couch

The common names for Condamine couch (*Phyla canescens*) include Lippia, Carpet weed, Condamine curse, Fog fruit, Frog fruit, Hairy fogfruit, Mat grass, No-mow grass, and Phyla weed. If you are doing battle with this one, I am guessing that *Condamine curse* will resonate with you...

The very helpful BCC [Weed Identification Tool](#) describes it as 'a long-lived creeping herbaceous plant usually forming a dense mat over the ground surface, where individual flowers are tubular (2-2.5mm across) and whitish, pinkish, lilac or purplish in colour, with yellowish centres—and that its small, dry, fruit are enclosed in the old flower parts and split into two 'seeds' (about 2mm long) when mature.'



Source: [BCC Website](#)

The 'Condamine curse' has a major environmental impact on riverbanks and waterways, as it rapidly forms dense carpets preventing the growth of other riparian vegetation. Lippia will also readily establish on bare ground, so all possible [control methods](#) are recommended.

Cathí Lawrence

## KSHS National Tree Day

**Lovely to hear from Bruce Dymock, on behalf of the Kenmore State High School (KSHS) P&C Environment Group, about their latest environmental improvements at the school.**

The participation of 32 students from Engelsburg-Gymnasium (a [school](#) in Kassel, Germany) in the annual National Tree Day (NTD) planting at Kenmore State High School (KSHS) on 25<sup>th</sup> July continued a 13-year tradition of involving our visitors during their



short three-week KSHS exchange (Bruce's pictures of the students above, below, and on the front cover).

Since 2002, this annual NTD event (understandably paused in 2020 because of COVID restrictions) has resulted in the planting of over 30,000 native plants across the 10ha School grounds—mainly along the banks of Moggill Creek, which borders the School on three sides. This year, 97 students (65 from KSHS) planted almost 800 native plants on the flats to the north of the tennis/basketball courts.

730 of these new plants, which included koala food trees such as Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), were purchased through the very generous support of long-term sponsors Toyota Australia and Sci-Fleet Toyota



(prompting a 'Toyota jump' for joy by the participants, see Bruce's image, above). In addition, 15 advanced plants were donated by Cr Greg Adermann, as well as a tray of plants from Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP.

Thanks also to the P&C for financial support of the preparatory work, undertaken over the previous several months, and to the School administration for meeting the over \$1,200 costs for mulch. Our sincere thanks go to Tom McNicol, as coordinating teacher, as



well as to all other staff who were involved, and to contractor Damien Egan.

All participating students were provided with an Australia Koala Foundation (AKF) *No Tree, No Me* koala bumper sticker, kindly provided to us by the AKF at a reduced cost. It is lovely to think of these stickers emblazoned on school bags, vehicle windows, and whatever else in the Kassel area as well as in Kenmore and surrounds!



**Picture:** A very comfy 'mum and bub' Short-eared Brushtail Possums (*Trichosurus caninus*) enjoying the KSHS nest box (image Cody Hochen).

On that same morning, we arranged for our BCC Land for Wildlife Officer, Cody Hochen, to check our 19 nest boxes, using his camera on an extendable pole. Cody was grateful for the assistance of two students, Lucinda and Eliza, who helped with our checks.

We were delighted to discover that four of the boxes were occupied: two boxes each housing Short-eared Brushtail Possums (*Trichosurus caninus*), plus one with a Common Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), and another a Glider (probably a Squirrel Glider, *Petaurus norfolcensis*). It is good to see these native species active in the School grounds.

Cody and I also spied the distinctive cone-shaped scratching marks of a Bandicoot in the dirt near Moggill Creek. As bandicoots have regularly been seen on motion sensor cameras in this area over recent years, it appears that they are resident or regular visitors.

*Bruce Dymock*

## Cottage Working Bee

At the end of July, the MCCG Cottage had a much needed clear out of all the disused or broken items that had accumulated inside and underneath. Many hands made light work of the morning loading up the skip and the trailer for recycling. A delicious sandwich lunch and refreshing beverages were enjoyed by all afterwards. A big thank you to Gordon Grigg for



organising the day (including the lunch!) and to all of the volunteers (pictured L to R, above: Sandy Pollock, Simon English, Chris Bruton, Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside, Keith Rickart, Gordon Grigg and Tracey Read (image credit Zac). Special thanks to Chris and Zoe (& Anna and Zac!) for all the extra effort taking the trailer load to the recyclers!

*Tracey Read*

## Tiny Empires

**All Members are VERY welcome to submit items for YOUR newsletter. Welcome to a 'new' author—inspired by Oliver Milman's book *The Fall of the Tiny Empires that Run the World*.**

In 1963 Rachel Carson warned in her book *Silent Spring* that we were doing terrible damage to our planet. She would weep at how much worse it has become. Insect-rich wildlife habitats such as hay meadows, marshes and tropical rainforests have been bulldozed, burnt or ploughed to destruction on a vast scale. The problems with pesticides and fertilizers have become far more acute, with an estimated three million tonnes of pesticides going into the global environment each year. Climate Change, a phenomenon unrecognised in Carson's day, now threatens to further ravage our beleaguered planet. These changes have all happened in our lifetime, on our watch and they continue to accelerate.

A major issue, however, is what has been described as *The Fall of the Tiny Empires that Run the World* (the title of Oliver Milman's 2022 book). In 1976 and 1977 the American entomologist Bradford C Lislser set about using sweep nets and sticky traps in the Porto Rican Forest. Returning to the same sites, he repeated the sampling between 2011 and 2013. Over that short period, numbers of insects had declined between 75-88%. Similar data has also been reported by British scientists who, some years ago, found there were less than one third of insects left.

Why should we be so concerned about insects? Insects are the pollinators of all plant life (*below, Tracey Read's image of a bee on what is possibly a Brisbane wattle*). Without them seeds will not be viable, including the seeds of all foods which are all originally derived from plants. Even the humble fly is an important pollinator when it comes to carrots, peppers, onions, mangoes and a lot of fruit trees. And chocolate! Flies work longer hours than bees, and don't mind the cold so much.



We should all be concerned that insects may be going the way of the dinosaurs. If you would like to read more, you might like to know that I have here drawn on the books I have referred to, as well as *Guardian's* *Screed and Bibliography The Insect Crisis*, and Dave Goulson's 2021 book *The Silent Earth—Averting the Insect Apocalypse*. Many years ago, a Creole Indian Chief said all the earth and the creatures living on it are sacred. You cannot eat money. *María DeJong*

## Time well spent in our Catchment

The annual survey recording the Catchment activities for Brisbane City Council (BCC) has just been completed for the 2024-25 financial year.

Volunteer hours in connection with all of the many MCCG events, the Nursery and the work of the committee was recorded. MCCG volunteers volunteered a total of almost 4,300 hours, which BCC values at \$217,000. Please note that this figure is *in addition* to Bushcare activities at Habitat Brisbane sites.

I am sure that we all agree that the benefits of this volunteer activity go far beyond just the financial value of the work and the obvious environmental improvements.

Our collective volunteer hours also represent opportunities to connect with friends, to enjoy the company of others, to build a sense of community, to spread joy through participating in hands-on activities, to improve mental and physical well-being,



to share knowledge while learning new skills, and in leaving a legacy for all (*pictured above, Deb Craig at Kids' Day at The Cottage sharing the joy of jewellery making with native seeds and beads*). What an incredible effort from everyone. Thank you, and congratulations!

*Tracey Read*

## Local Habitat Resources

During the recent clean out at The Cottage a lot of great resources and materials were unearthed, with some now available at the Nursery for members to take home, including:

- *The Creek in Our Backyard: A practical guide for habitat restoration* contains useful information about weeding, planting and caring for local habitats.
- Co-produced with the Pullen Pullen Catchment Group the booklet [\*Our Place in the Country: Managing your acreage property in West Brisbane\*](#) offers valuable advice for landholders who are working on their own larger blocks.
- Also available on the website for download is the excellent book by Bryan Hacker, Rona Butler and Rae Rekdahl '[\*Putting Back the Forest\*](#)'

Download copies now, or make sure you pick up a copy next time you visit the MCCG Nursery to collect your plants.

*Tracey Read*

## Fire Ant Awareness

Fire ants are an invasive pest with serious consequences for our environment, economy, and way of life. These ants pose a serious risk to people, pets, wildlife, and agriculture. Their painful stings can cause severe allergic reactions, and their nesting habits damage lawns, electrical equipment, and natural ecosystems. Brisbane residents need to be vigilant as



these aggressive ants, first found in Brisbane in 2001, continue to [spread](#) across southeast Queensland. Fire ants are small (2–6mm), reddish-brown with a darker abdomen, and are usually found in large mounds with no visible entrance. Nests can appear in open areas like parks, yards, paddocks, and footpaths (see photo, [below](#)).

**What can you do?** The [website](#) highlights four important steps. **Be alert:** Keep an eye out for suspicious ant nests and report them immediately. **Don't disturb nests:** Fire ants can swarm and sting aggressively if threatened. **Report sightings:** Call 13 22 68 or visit the [fire ant website](#) to report suspected sightings. **Cooperate with treatment teams:** For



property in a treatment zone, follow instructions carefully and allow access for successful eradication. Fire ant eradication is a shared responsibility. With community awareness and cooperation, Brisbane has a real chance to eliminate this pest before it becomes unmanageable.

Tracey Read

## Save Brookfield

Brisbane Airport flight path changes continue to be hotly debated, particular in the light of recent proposals to 'share' even more flights over our local area as part of a plan to 'reduce aircraft noise' (sic). Moving the flight paths across our catchment has caused much anxiety, and concern about the impacts on wildlife and community health.

We all much prefer the flight paths of our local wildlife—including the butterflies (one of the first of which Chris Bruton spotted is pictured below left).



**Have YOUR SAY on this issue.** For more, and to sign up for future updates, visit: [savebrookfield.com](http://savebrookfield.com), and sign up for updates and opportunities to provide feedback or complaints at the [Airservices website](#).

## Queensland Museum Frog Workshop

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November (10am-1pm), the Queensland Museum is providing an exclusive experience for Community Conservation Partnership volunteers, with a workshop focusing on the biology



and identification of Brisbane's amphibians. This includes demonstrating 'how to contribute to real science using the FrogID app.' The event is free, [but bookings are required](#).

## Froggin' Around

It's been very quiet around the dam the past couple of months. Fortunately the recent warmer weather means that our local frogs have become more active. The Eastern sedge frogs (*Litoria fallax*) have been calling from the canopy, with Tusked frogs (*Adelotus brevis*) calling from the dam. Other species, such as Stoney creek frogs (*Litoria wilcoxii*) and Bleating tree frogs (*Litoria balatus*), have emerged intermittently from their confines of stony wet enclosures.

### So where do frogs go during the cooler months?

Deborah Metters's [Land for Wildlife article](#) makes fascinating reading, and I have drawn on that information here. Some tadpoles, having wintered from the previous Autumn, have metamorphosed into adult frogs. As Deborah Metters observes, in that article:

*some bury themselves deep into the ground or underneath leaf litter at the end of summer, especially along the edges of creeks. Others climb up trees and find shelter in deep hollows with moisture. There, they enter a state of torpor, like hibernation, where they significantly reduce their metabolism during the cooler months. Remarkably, when they emerge after rains, their muscles have not wasted and their digestive system is fully functional.*

I am sure that we could learn a lot from frogs, as muscle wasting is one of the biggest problems for people who experience long-term physical inactivity—affecting those with broken bones, the bedridden, and even astronauts.

Some frog species, can also breed during the cooler months—such as the brood frogs, where eggs are laid



in clusters and then guarded by the male. Eggs develop, and can remain fully mature, until the tadpole emerges from the eggs into pools formed by the early Spring rains. Looking overseas, I have [found](#) the extreme example of the Alaskan wood frogs (*Lithobates sylvaticus*), which live in the northern forests of Alaska and Canada. These frogs winter with no heartbeat or breathing, and are completely frozen solid. The frog's liver produces large amounts of glucose that flush every cell from freezing (nature's anti-freeze!). In Spring, the frog thaws from the inside out, where the heart starts beating, the brain activates, and the legs begin to move. The frog then heads off to a breeding pool to find a friend. Fascinating!

Phil Bird

## MCCG Quarterly Talk

Mark your calendars for the Spring Quarterly Talk scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> September at the Kenmore Library (6.30 for a 7pm start). Everyone is *very* welcome to join this free event, so please invite your friends and neighbours.

We are very excited to have Matt Cecil (*pictured below left*), the Project Manager from Wildlife Preservation



Society of Queensland, presenting an engaging talk about 'How to create a wildlife friendly yard - making native birds, bats, bees and other wildlife feel at home.'

The *Wild Backyards* initiative highlights the vital role suburban gardens play in supporting biodiversity,

ecological connectivity, and human well-being. Backyards provide habitat, food, water, and shelter for a wide range of species—from possums and birds to insects and reptiles—while also fostering pollination, ecological balance, and community connection to nature.

While we might all aspire to create the perfect wildlife-friendly backyard with diverse vegetation layers, natural habitat features, water sources, and no pesticides, every backyard is different and offers unique opportunities. Even adopting one small natural element can make a meaningful difference for native species. Matt's presentation will encourage everyone to engage with their backyards, practice environmental stewardship, and embark on a journey to re-wild your own backyard. I look forward to seeing you there!

Tracey Read

## SEQ Fish Resources

Thanks to Wesley DeMuth for sharing some valuable resources on fish identification, as circulated by Amanda M (Mandy), BCC Wildlife Conservation Partnerships Officer, including:

- [Rules and regulations for freshwater fishing equipment](#)
- [Size and possession limits](#) for native freshwater fish
- Identification of [native fish](#)
- [Stocking farm dams](#)
- How to [recover](#) fish from areas being dewatered.

There are also some great underwater videos of fish in SEQ, including

- [Australian Biotopes](#)
- [Petes Fishing and Underwater Videos](#)

For members who are interested in accessing Fish ID books, we are advised that *Wildlife of Brisbane* is still considered a useful resource. In addition, there are a couple of booklets on *Fish ID for SEQ* produced by Ipswich City Council and Qld Museum.

## Swooping Birds Season

Yes, it is that time of year again, so do keep a lookout for the birds, and BCC warning signs). The most well-known bird for displaying swooping behaviour is the



Australian magpie, however other species of native birds have also been known to swoop including the masked lapwing (plover), butcherbird, magpie-lark (pee-wee), little friarbird, torresian crow and noisy miner. All these native birds are protected species under legislation (Nature

Conservation Act 1992). It is illegal to harm native birds or interfere with their nests. To report a swooping bird, especially if they are aggressive or pose a danger, call Brisbane City Council on 3403 8888.

## Varroa Mite Surveillance

Since the first detection of varroa mite in Queensland in March this year, there are now 95 infested premises with varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) across 10 local government areas in Queensland (including Brisbane and Ipswich), highlighting how quickly varroa mite can spread. The varroa mite surveillance map is available [online](#), and updated daily. Beekeepers who have undertaken beekeeping activities in these areas over the last 6 months are recommended to check their

hives and report the results to [Bee 123](#) (or via 13 25 23), even if no mites are found. In addition to natural spread varroa mite is now present in migratory hives, so it is anticipated that there will be increased distances between detections.

## Great Southern Bioblitz Event

Members are invited to an engaging day of exploration, uncovering the biodiversity of Gold Creek Dam through Citizen Science. This 25<sup>th</sup> October event (9am-3pm) combines a Waterway Health Survey with the [Great Southern Bioblitz](#) – an international biodiversity survey that brings together nature lovers across the Southern Hemisphere. This is your opportunity to learn how to assess waterway health through waterbug identification, *and* to take part in this important global survey by recording local plants, birds, mammals, frogs, and insects on iNaturalist. This will all help to build a snapshot of biodiversity across the catchment, so do bring your smartphone or camera to upload findings to iNaturalist.

The event will be held at Gold Creek Reservoir, Brookfield, and is open to individuals with a reasonable level of fitness. Young Citizen Scientists (age 10-15) are welcome, but they must be accompanied by an adult. Lunch is provided, and there is no charge to participate, but do note that the event is currently capped at a maximum of 18 participants. So be quick! Register via [MCCG Events](#).

## Save Mt Coot-tha from Privatisation

Many of you may be aware of the BCC proposals for the Mt Coot-tha Quarry, reported in the July *Living in Brisbane* as aiming to 'create a must-do eco-tourism destination' (also see more at [Brisbane Development](#)).

This sounds very good but let's take a closer look. What is it that the local population want from Mt Coot-tha? Is it really 'nature-based destinations and attractions' for our amusement and the financial benefit of developers, **or** is it a national park for the preservation of the unique indigenous wildlife of Australia that is being driven to the edges of extinction?



**Image:** Architectural rendering showing the full Tropical Dome precinct at night, featuring illuminated walkways and Brisbane skyline views (source [Brisbane Development](#)).

The Council's vision is for a development like the Perth [Kings Park](#), which includes a 'Rio Tinto [Naturescape](#).' Kings Park is a beautiful park, with many money-making tourist attractions (including lightscapes and music festivals), and is a place where great conservation work is done. However, Brisbane's vision for Mt Coot-tha is privatisation with a luxury hotel and a zip line at the rehabilitated quarry.

Howard Smith Wharves has been used as an example for the proposed Mt Coot-tha development. This is an area of historic interest that was put on the Queensland heritage register in 1997. The proposed development was put forward in 2009 but [rejected](#) by the local community. Private developers persisted and revised plans were over several years before it was finally approved, opening in [2018](#).

Light shows and tourism have their place, and bring enjoyment to many people, but to do this in the Mt Coot-tha Quarry will be a missed opportunity to expand the area in a more sympathetic and sustainable way for nature.

The community around Mt Coot-tha has already rejected a zip line. This latest commercial development would bring hotels, light shows and concerts to an area supposedly designated for wildlife. If **you** wish to oppose this commercialisation, and protect wildlife on Mt Coot-tha, go to [Save Mt Coot-tha from Privatisation and sign up](#). Thank you for **your** support.

*Bridget Barber*

**e-newsletter?** Just email the **MCCG Secretary** with 'email newsletter' in the subject line and include your name and address in the message. *Thank you.*

## UQ Senate Elections

MCCG Members who are also alumni of The University of Queensland (UQ) are reminded that elections for the 36<sup>th</sup> Senate of the University. Voting opens on 26<sup>th</sup> September and closes on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October (4pm). Individuals eligible to vote will receive an email from the University's Returning Officer, containing details of how to vote.

If you do not receive your voting information, or have any queries, visit the UQ [website](#), or contact the UQ Returning Officer at [uqelections@uq.edu.au](mailto:uqelections@uq.edu.au). If you do look at the alumni candidates standing for election, you may notice that our Newsletter Editor, [Dr Catherine \(Cathi\) Lawrence OAM](#), is one of the alumni candidates and would certainly appreciate your support.

*Thank you.*