



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

MCCG NEWSLETTER: Summer 2025



ABOVE LEFT: John Stephens' 1st prize winning Native Animals (excl. Birds) photo 'A Swallowtail at Rest.' **ABOVE:** David Edwards' 1st prize winning Native Plants & Fungi image, 'Ethereal', and **BELOW RIGHT:** Joseph Papas' People's Choice winning image of a 'Winking Owl.' For more MCCG Photography Competition news and images, turn to pages 3, 4, 8, 9 & 12.



ABOVE LEFT: Tracey Read, at our recent AGM (image credit: Rebacca Bain). For more AGM news, see p5-8. **ABOVE:** For more about Gordon Grigg's Potter Wasp observations, turn to page 6 (image credit: Gordon Grigg) **LEFT:** For more about Christmas Beetles, turn to pp5-6 (image credit: Robert Whyte)

Your latest issue: 2026 Dates (p12), Chairperson's Report (p3), Christmas Beetles (p5-6), Froggin' Around (p7), Marking Dale's 17 years (p6-7), Moggill Magic (p10-11), 'Photo Comp' (p3, 4, 8, 9 & 12), Seeds & Weeds (p10), Snake Awareness (p8-9), Volunteer Opportunities (p11), What's in a Name? (p8), Wildlife Contacts (p12).

Chairperson's Report

What a year it has been for the Moggill Creek Catchment Group. Despite storms with destructive hail and winds, flooding, and the usual curveballs, our members and volunteers continued to show incredible commitment to caring for our local environment. With around 420 memberships and a dedicated committee and section leaders, we achieved an enormous amount together. More than 5,750 volunteer hours were recorded across bushcare, nursery work, events, grants, committee roles and more which is an effort valued (by Volunteering Queensland) at around \$290,000 to the community.

The Nursery remained our powerhouse, distributing over 16,000 plants from 140 species, and we were thrilled to secure a \$75,000 DETSI grant to begin an important refurbishment that will make the space safer and more functional for all the nursery volunteers and everyone who visits.

Our community outreach and presence were strong again this year, both in person and online. Volunteers represented MCCG at the Brookfield Show, held a fantastic 20th Anniversary Platypus Survey and Celebration, and helped run the Photo Competition held at Kenmore Village. Our Quarterly Talks continued to draw good audiences, thanks to our 2025 guest speakers: Dr. Richard Noske (Birds and Eucalypts), Dr. Kate Dutton Regester (Echidnas), Dr. Tamielle Brunt (Wildlife friendly backyards), and Wesley Nielsen (Wi-Fi enabled public nestboxes).

Thanks to all our content contributors. Our excellent quarterly newsletters have kept members informed and connected, and *Wildlife Matters* also continued its monthly run in the Local Bulletin. Online, our social media, website, and new YouTube videos helped us to reach even more people, and these remain important tools for sharing events, photos, and wildlife stories. Kids' Day at the Cottage was once again a huge highlight, bringing hundreds of families together for hands-on nature experiences. The 20th Anniversary Platypus Survey was another major milestone, with more than 80 volunteers involved and 12 platypus sightings recorded. And the annual Photo Competition enjoyed its best participation in years, showcasing wonderful local talent.

Whilst we have just accepted in a new committee at the 2026 AGM, with many of the same people filling the roles, we will farewell Dale Borgelt after an extraordinary 17 years of service for MCCG, much of which was on the committee.

Read more about many of the above happenings in detail throughout this newsletter. Thank you to everyone who supported MCCG throughout the year,

your time, enthusiasm and care make all of this possible. As another busy year comes to a close, hopefully you can take some time to relax and enjoy the nice green places we have in our wonderful catchment.

Tracey Read

Editorial

You will note that this issue is slightly longer than usual, thanks to the wonderful work by Tracey Read (our Chairperson), and by Rebecca Bain (our PR Officer and MCCG Photo Comp Chair). Great to have articles from their fellow regular authors (thanks Phil and Sandy). My thanks also to Anna Williamson for the great article about the work to transform 'pasture to forest,' and a warm welcome to our MCCG debut author, John Welch. There will be more photos from the fabulous competition in the next issue, so if any photographers still want to share stories about their image, I do hope they will get in touch too. **The absolute deadline for the next issue is 10 March 2026.** Start now! Don't wait until the deadline to email me.

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

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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.**

Newsletter Editor:

Dr Catherine A. Lawrence OAM (Cathi)

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2025 MCCG Photo Competition

Congratulations and thanks to Rebecca Bain, our tireless Photography Competition Chair. As you can see on our website, and in this summary below, 2025 has been a BIG year!

We were thrilled to receive a massive 120 entries in this year's photo comp! Here's a few more stats:

📷 26 photographers entered 100 photos in our 3 open categories

📷 12 primary school-aged kids entered 20 photos in our Young Persons category

💰 \$1,350 in cash prizes was won (thanks to 7 generous local sponsors)

👍 184 votes (likes) were given to the Young Persons photos on our social media pages

👍 624 in person votes were given during display week at Kenmore Village

All winning photos are on [our website](#).

Once again, there are many people to thank for enabling this event to be such a success. Cheers to this year's judge, Anne Pappalardo; to our photo competition committee (Janine Nicklin, Geoff Lawrence, Robyn Frost, Bruce Siemon and Bostjan Kobe); to MCCG members who manned the photo display during the week; to Chairperson Tracey Read and committee member Chris Bruton for their help at the presentation ceremony; to our returning sponsors (Cr Greg Adermann, Dr Christian Rowan MP, Pisces Enterprises, Kenmore Bridge Club, Discount Drug Stores Kenmore, Fiori Kitchen and Bar and the Pet Chalet); and, last but not least, to our talented and enthusiastic photographers! I'm proud of the great reputation this photo competition continues to have for all involved.

Rebecca Bain

From Behind the Lens

Our tireless Photography Competition Committee Chair, Rebecca Bain, has shared stories and images from many of the 2025 'MCCG Photo Comp' winners. Not every winning image could be included in this issue of the newsletter, but all successful entries can be seen on the [MCCG Website](#). More images are also on pages 4, 8, 9, and 12 of this Newsletter. And future 'Behind the Lens' stories are welcome!

It was great to see how many entries were received in the Young Persons (YP) Category this year (category sponsor Pisces Enterprises). All of the YP images were available on the MCCG Facebook page, and can now be seen on the [MCCG Website](#). Our Judge selected 5

YP images for Highly Commended awards, congratulating Ari Ascher ('Fungus'), Ian Tseng ('*Corvus coronoides*'), Sophie Moore ('Glistening Gum'), Lyla Heatley ('Bush Turkey'), and Annabelle Pappas ('Corella').

The five top prizes in the YP category were awarded to **Annabelle Pappas** (1st prize for 'Blue-faced Honeyeater'), **Ada Li** (2nd prize for 'Midnight resident'), and **Lyla Heatley** (3rd Prize *and* the YP People's Choice Prize for 'Cockatoo'). **Anabelle** also won the coveted YP Chairperson's Choice Prize for the Corella image. Thanks to Discount Drug Store Kenmore for sponsoring the Chairperson's Choice YP category – and to Pisces Enterprises for sponsoring the People's Choice YP award, and also the YP Category.



Sue Wilson was awarded 1st Prize in the hotly contested Native Birds category (sponsored by Kenmore Bridge Club), with this image of 'The Figbird's Favourite Food' (*above*).

Birds were also very popular with People's Choice voters. Congratulations to **Joseph Pappas**, who scooped the coveted People's Choice first prize with the front cover image 'Winking Owl' (category sponsored by The Pet Chalet).



Cole Walchle, received 2nd prize in the People's Choice category, with a very cute photograph (*above*), titled 'I See You.' Cole tells us more overleaf....

I took this photo at the Kangaroo Cliffs boardwalk right beside the Brisbane River on May 5th. There was a family of three tawny frogmouths in the same tree, and the little one was looking right at me!

Cole Walchle

And **James O'Shea** was recognised with 3rd place in the People's Choice voting for 'Wood Duck Family' (*below*). James probably deserved a special extra award for a very amusing comment about the photographer's experience behind the lens (thanks for the chuckle, James)...



You would think, upon a long piece of wood, you would have your wood ducks all lined in a row, yet there was one that just 'wood' not cooperate

James O'Shea

Congratulations to **John Stephens** for winning 1st prize in the 'Native Animals (excl. Birds)' category (category sponsored by Dr Christian Rowan MP), John's winning photo, 'A Swallowtail at Rest,' is featured on the front cover of this issue.

David Edwards received the **Chairperson's Choice** award for his 'Green Jewel Bug' (*image below*), and **first prize for 'Ethereal,' in the Native Plants & Fungi Category** (category sponsored by Cr Greg Adermann). There was a group of these bugs on a hairy psychotria in our garden that I had just been walking past for weeks, until one day I had the camera nearby to photograph something else and thought I would take



a snap of one of them. It took quite a while of standing and waiting until I got one of them by itself in a reasonably photogenic position. I was surprised at how different it looked when enlarged in the photo with the light from the flash showing up its colours and the short hairs that I hadn't seen.

Slowing down also helped with my 'Ethereal' image (*see front cover*). After all the rain last summer, there were a few fungi in our garden. I was actually taking a photo of another small fungi, and hadn't seen this tiny one next to it until I got down to take the photo. It was less than 1cm tall, so it was hard to really see how fragile looking and transparent it was until after I had taken a photo of it. It again highlights the interesting things you can find if you slow down and have a proper look around.

David Edwards

Platypus Survey

Thank you again to everyone who joined us for the 20th anniversary of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group's Platypus Survey! Amazing that this is **the** longest running platypus survey, which always requires a huge effort from all involved. I cannot thank everyone enough for the patience and support. This year, we had more than 80 volunteers across 53 sites, and 12 platypuses were spotted. The lower numbers of platypus, despite such a huge survey effort, may be because we are coming to the end of breeding season. That means that there may not be as much movement from the males, as their job is done, and the females are hopefully in their burrows, hopefully nesting with babies. I am looking forward to the babies emerging early next year.

A massive thank you to the Team Leaders for helping wrangle such a mammoth effort: Melanie Venz, Beck Bain, Damien Egan, Sophia Broese van Groenou, Aaron Wiggan, Julia Wharton, and Suzy Philip. Thank you also to Tracey Read, MCCG Chair, for organising the celebrations (*see also Tracey's note, below*). And thanks to the many people and organisations who supported the event. We really could not have done it without you ALL!!!

Dr Tamielle Brunt

20th Platypus Survey Celebrations

I'd just like to add my thanks to those of Tamielle, *above*, and in particular to thank and congratulate our lead organiser, Tamielle!

Following the survey, volunteers enjoyed a hearty breakfast before gathering for a special 20th anniversary celebration. All three levels of government were represented, with speeches from State Member Dr. Christian Rowan, Federal Member for Ryan Elizabeth Watson-Brown, and Cr Greg

Adermann, who also generously sponsored the coffee cart for survey volunteers.

The Brookfield Showgrounds anniversary celebration also featured a cake (below), wildlife show and a range of environmental stalls offering information and activities from the Australian Conservation Foundation, Wildlife Queensland, and Brisbane City Council. Fundraising efforts were boosted by a raffle, with prizes generously donated by Lone Pine Sanctuary, Wildlife Queensland, Kenmore Men's Shed, and Platypus Plants.



Platypus-themed merchandise was available—both as souvenirs, and also the delicious cookies from Kenmore Scouts. The sausage sizzle, following the volunteers' breakfast of bacon and egg rolls, was expertly cooked and served by the Kenmore Girl Guides team and part sponsored by Coles.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the entire Platypus Survey team, and to all the volunteers whose efforts ensured the survey, breakfast and celebration success. This year marked our 20th Anniversary of the Platypus Survey, commemorated by award-winning documentary filmmaker Nicolas Rakotopare, who has produced a short video capturing the spirit of this year's survey and celebrations. We hope you enjoy the [video](#) uploaded to the MCCG YouTube channel.

Tracey Read

AGM Update

On Tuesday 25th November we successfully held our 2025 AGM at the Brookfield Hall. Despite the predictions of severe thunderstorms once again, the inclement weather held off long enough for all of us to get home safely. A big thank you to our Secretary, Zoe, and to Chris, Grants Officer, for setting up an online meeting at the last minute for those who preferred to listen in from home—and for setting up all the tech to enable smooth flowing proceedings with top quality audio and visuals, with some great 'background' tunes after the presentations! A big

thank you to Wesley Nielsen, our excellent Guest Speaker, who also stepped in at the last minute as our 'Special Guest' to officiate the formalities for the new 2026 committee ([see our website for information about our 2026 MCCG Committee](#)). There are two further articles in this issue about events at our AGM: Wesley's great presentation about the Wi-Fi enabled public nestboxes (p 7-8), and we were also honoured to present Dale Borgelt with a thank you gift to mark her retirement from the Committee (p6-7). Although our local politicians were unable to attend the AGM, we received 'lucky door' gift baskets from Cr Greg Adermann, Federal Member for Ryan Elizabeth Watson-Brown, and State Member Dr Christian Rowan. Dr Rowan also wrote a glowing letter about MCCG, which was shared at the AGM. The gift baskets were won by MCCG members: John Ness, Bostjan Kobe, and Dale Borgelt.

A big thank you also to PR officer Rebecca Bain, for organising the delicious refreshments, and to Alan, Simon, and Sandy for assisting on the night. It was an enjoyable evening capping off a really successful MCCG year.

Tracey Read

The Christmas Beetle Puzzle

For many Australians, the shimmer of Christmas beetles signals the arrival of summer. These colourful insects once appeared in such abundance that children collected them by the handful, and gardens buzzed with their metallic glow (*see front cover Christmas Beetle image, credit Australian Museum*). But, in recent years, people across the country have been asking the same troubling question: where have all the Christmas beetles gone? Reports of dwindling sightings have grown, and the concern is now widespread.

To investigate this trend, a collaboration was formed between the University of Sydney and the Australian Museum Scientific Advisor, Dr Chris Reid. This partnership led to the launch of a national Community Science Project dedicated to tracking these much-loved beetles. Now in its third year, the project has already generated a wealth of valuable data, though further observations are still needed.

By collecting sightings from community members across Australia through the [iNaturalist](#) app, the project aims to develop a clearer understanding of the current distribution of Christmas beetles, compare contemporary patterns with historical records, and determine whether population declines are occurring. If evidence of decline emerges, researchers hope to identify the potential causes.

Community participation remains essential to uncovering what is happening to this iconic symbol of the Australian summer. There are two simple steps

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you can take to help to unwrap the Christmas beetle puzzle: **Step 1—Download** the [iNaturalist](#) app, or use the desktop version on your computer; and **Step 2—Upload** your photos. Even if it might not be a Christmas Beetle, every observation helps! For more, [visit the Invertebrates Australia website](#).

Tracey Read

Tick Awareness

Ticks are a natural part of South East Queensland's bushland, and Brisbane is home to several species that interact with people, pets, and native wildlife. Of the 74 tick species found across Australia, only a few pose risks to humans but the Eastern Paralysis Tick (*Ixodes holocyclus*) remains the most significant concern for volunteers working in local reserves.

Paralysis ticks thrive in humid, sheltered bushland, and are commonly associated with wildlife such as bandicoots, possums, koalas, and even ground-dwelling birds and reptiles. While native animals have developed resistance to tick toxins over thousands of years, people and domestic pets are far more susceptible. Tick encounters peak from October to December, when adult females are most active.



For bushcare volunteers, prevention is the best protection. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and light-coloured clothing to make ticks easier to spot. Apply insect repellent containing DEET or picaridin, avoid

brushing against long grasses, and stay on formed paths wherever possible. After each activity, check your entire body—including behind the ears, along the hairline, and behind the knees—and inspect clothing and gear before heading home.

If you find a tick attached (see Robert Whyte's image, above, of a Paralysis Tick), avoid squeezing or scratching it, as this can increase toxin release. The recommended method is freezing the tick with an approved aerosol product, before using fine-tipped tweezers to remove it cleanly from the skin. Seek medical advice if symptoms such as rash, swelling, flu-like illness, allergy, or muscle weakness occur.

Tracey Read

Potter Wasp

Some months ago, Gordon Grigg was lucky to witness and record a striking mud-nesting Potter Wasp (*Phimenus arcuatus*) as it began to build a nest under an eave, choosing the stem of a potted Weeping Fig (*Ficus benjamina*) as its scaffold. Each day the wasp carried a

ball of mud and sculpted it into small pot-shaped cells, stacking them one above another along the stem. In each cell the female deposited a single egg, sealed the cell, and supplied a paralysed caterpillar as food for the future larva (see Gordon's front cover image of a female Potter Wasp with paralysed caterpillar).

Over several months, from mid-December 2024 through March, the nest grew by about 20cm. By early May Gordon counted at least 25 exit holes, showing that at least 25 new adults had successfully emerged. The nesting season ended with clear evidence that this solitary wasp (or possibly a few related females) had pulled off a remarkably successful brood. You can read the full version of these observations, as first published in *The Local Bulletin*, on the [MCCG website](#). Or why not watch the excellent [video](#), that has already had almost 500 views on the MCCG YouTube channel.

Tracey Read

Dale, You Will Be Missed

It will be a very different MCCG committee in 2026 without Dale Borgelt joining us at the table (see image below, taken by Rebecca Bain, of Tracey presenting Dale with a small token of appreciation).

Over the last 17 years Dale has been involved in many roles within the group. Before the digital age she was Public Relations Officer, Cottage Administrator, managed the Membership Database, and was, and still is, the distributor of the printed MCCG newsletter. She organises the printing, assembly and posting of hardcopies, which before the digital age was to all members, but now is to a manageable 100 who appreciate a hard copy to read and share. As PR officer she was organiser of community events showcasing MCCG at forums, in Kenmore Village at the Brookfield Show and more, but her flagship event



was Kids' Day at The Cottage with this year marking the 12th event. This has been an annual highlight enjoyed by countless families and children. These events reflected Dale's ability to bring people together around shared purpose and offer something of real value to the community.

Dale's enthusiasm for MCCG's mission, coupled with her ability to inspire others to contribute including friends, her extended family, and MCCG members, made her a formidable advocate for the

group. Everybody knows Dale. Few could say no when she called for volunteers or support for events. As Dale steps down from the committee, MCCG expresses deep appreciation for her enduring service, her enthusiasm and spirit of dedication and of course the thousands of delicious sandwiches she made for events over the years! Her contributions will continue to shape the organisation for years to come, committee meetings will not be the same without her input, and her presence will be remembered with respect and gratitude. Dale, you will be missed.

Tracey Read

Froggin': Summer

I hope you were out recording during the November [FrogID week](#). The dam was quiet over winter but, with warmer weather, calls started with eastern sedge frogs (*Litoria fallax*), then joined by purple spotted tree frogs (*Litoria peronii*), and soon after by tusked frogs (*Adelotus brevis*). After rain, great barred frogs (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*) joined the chorus and, early in the morning, a loud chorus of striped marsh frogs (*Limnodynastes peronii*). In Moggill Creek, Eastern stony creek frogs (*Litoria wilcoxii*) were sighted, and there have been reports that green tree frogs have been calling and breeding with the recent storms.

I have seen several interesting items of frog news recently. Firstly, [a report](#) by UQ Vet Science Senior Lecturer Dr Viviana Gonzalez-Astudillo, about mystery external facial tumours reported on white-lipped and common green treefrogs in northern Queensland. The cause of the condition is unknown. Tumours range in size and grow near vital body parts such as mouths and eyes, resulting in the frog's death. Secondly, James Cook University's Assoc Prof Hoskin [recently identified](#) two new frog species on Dauan Island, which have adapted to life among the boulder-strewn, 3km² island in the far northern Torres Strait. The small climbing koeypad frog, *Choerophryne koeypad* (koeypad = 'rocky mountain'), is identified by its oversized toe pads, high-pitched call, and lack of external ear in the males. The larger gobakula frog, *Callulops gobakula* (gobakula = 'boulders'), lives in cracks between boulders and has a deep-croaking call. Thirdly, researchers from [Southern Cross University](#) (Associate Professor David Newell and Research Fellow Dr Liam Bolitho) have successfully released captive-reared vulnerable mountain frogs to a remote area of Gondwana Rainforest near the NSW/Qld border. The red and yellow mountain frog (*Philoria kundagungan*) is found around NSW's Tooloom and Koreelah National Parks and across the border into Queensland's Main Range National Park. It burrows in the mud within headwater streams and permanent

soaks found in upland rainforest, so the only way to detect this frog is when the male calls. Eggs and adults were collected from the field, raised in captivity, and successfully managed to breed with highly specific conditions, taking about four years to reach maturity. Finally, [University of Newcastle](#) research led by Dr Klop-Toker, has been successful in breeding the endangered Littlejohn's tree frog (*Litoria littlejohni*) in captivity. Littlejohn's tree frog survives only in a handful of small, isolated and inbred NSW populations. Assistant Director for the Centre for Conservation Science, Dr Alex Callen, said their focus on integrated conservation work over the past decade had been crucial to success. By using genetic analysis, the team was able to prove that introducing a habitat corridor, to connect two isolated populations, had improved geneflow and strengthened genetic diversity in the frog populations. Interesting stuff! Happy froggin'

Phil Bird

AGM Talk: Secret Lives

It was a pleasure having Wesley Nielsen present at our AGM, sharing the background and updates about the *Comfy Creatures* project ([see picture, below, image credit Rebecca Bain](#)). Wesley's lifelong passion for native fauna, combined with a decade in electronics design, has resulted in the creation of Australia's first standalone nest box monitoring station ([see also Wesley's Winter 2025 Newsletter article](#)). Wesley has been passionate about our native fauna all his life, having grown up on a Land for Wildlife property in Brisbane's Western suburbs gave him the opportunity to discover our often-hidden arboreal fauna by inspecting nest boxes.



Wesley's vision is to use this technology to help all community members discover Australia's native fauna, while also collecting the data needed to develop best-practice conservation tools (such as nesting boxes, and other support systems for these valuable species). The data gathered so far has been encouraging. In the past, researchers could only get a limited snapshot of nest-box residents a few times a year, using intrusive cameras inserted through the openings. In contrast, Wesley's Comfy Creatures work has demonstrated

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that a single nest box can host a variety of occupants over the course of a year—from sugar glider families to pale-headed rosellas and owl nightjars. Such insights would likely go unnoticed without the convenience of built-in camera monitoring. In 2025, 8 Wi-Fi enabled public nestboxes have been installed in Boyd Terrace Park and Rafting Ground Reserve, with funding received for a further 82 systems around the catchment. Cameras aren't on all the time, to conserve battery life, but they should be accessible for 4 hours a day (7-9am and 4-6pm). Just download the Comfy Creatures Monitor app for Apple or Android phones and you can connect with the nestboxes, as each box has a local Wi-Fi network. Go out, take a look; you never know what you might find nestled in the box above your head. The locations of Comfy Creatures public nestboxes are [online](#). Our thanks to Wesley, for giving such a great talk, and for this fantastic initiative. Tracey Read

What's in a Name?

John Welch modestly notes 'I'm sadly unqualified and just hammer away using Ling 101.' But we agree that fellow members might find this of interest. John is happy for Members to contact him with any queries.

Moggill and *Indooroopilly* are two Brisbane placenames that may record overseas traditions about wildlife. Bundjalung people south of Brisbane remember that a boat arrived from *Ngareenbeil*, meaning 'your beloved countryman' in Old Bali language (per Darma Putra, Uni Qld). Old Bali was a form of Old Java language of Indonesia (AD 800-1500), which has [mahāgila](#) 'a kind of sea-monster.' A text mentions crocodiles, sharks, and then *mahagila* as something else. In legend, the hero Bhima of Java fought a dragon in the Southern Ocean. The water-dragon in Gumbaynggirr language south of Bundjalung is *magaam*. In Old Java, there is [gāmi](#) ('Sanskrit going, moving in or in the manner of'). Skt *gama* 'going away from.' [*maha gama* 'great going away']. 'When faced with a potential predator, water dragons seek cover in thick vegetation, or drop from an overhanging branch into water. They are able to swim totally submerged, and rest on the bottom of shallow creeks or lakes for up to 90 minutes, to avoid detection.' The head and body spikes probably suggest a dragon.

Indooroopilly is from *Yindurupilli* meaning 'gully of running water' or *Nyindur-pilly*, meaning 'gully of the leeches'. *Indooroopilly* is possibly from Turrbal language *nya'ni* 'see; look.' Bundjalung and Kabi Kabi have *nya* 'see!, watch out!' Old Java [nya](#) 'look! see! here! there!' Turrbal *nyindur* 'leech.'

[The god Indra sent storms](#) and in legend made sacred pools in Bali and the Indratataka pool at Angkor Wat. An elder at Yamba NSW where the boat arrived, told me their strong god is *Mahhji*. Indonesian *mahaji* means 'respected lord' and in India means the god Shiva. The link with god Indra is seen in: ŚRĪMAD BHĀGAVATAM 10 [Chapter 20 verse 11](#): 'The newly grown grass made the earth emerald green, the *indragopa* insects added a reddish hue.' 23. 'When Indra showers his rains the irrigation dikes break because of the floodwater.' [P 71, 72](#). Turrbul *pilly* means 'gully'. Old Java has *pēlus* 'eel or leech'. *Pileg* 'cold in nose'. *pila-pilu* 'slimy liquid'. Then *nya Indra pili* would have the idea of 'watch out! Indra sends liquid' and so on, or 'Indra's leech gully.' There is evidence that Indooroopilly was a rain-making site. Petrie describes a rain-making site on the Pine River called *Nindur ngineddo* meaning 'leech sitting-down.' (see [Dictionary](#)).

John Welch (johnwelch593@gmail.com)

Kookaburra Hanging Out

Congratulations to 15year-old Ciaran Turnbull, on this lovely image that has such an apt title. Ciaran was awarded 3rd Place in the Open (all ages) 'Native Birds' category, with this charming photo titled 'Kookaburra Hanging Out', *image below*.



Our Photo Competition Chair, Rebecca Bain, tells us that winning an award for this photo is a lovely coincidence for Ciaran, who previously received a highly commended award in the Young Persons Category, back in 2022, with a photograph that was also of a Kookaburra!

Be Snake Aware

Our Creek Catchments Officer recently shared a BCC 'Toolbox Talk,' reminding us all about the need to be snake aware.

Brisbane is home to several venomous and non-venomous snake species. They are not always easy to

identify so all snakes should be treated as venomous. They are mostly active over spring and summer and are commonly seen in the mornings warming themselves up.

Sometimes we become familiar with the paths we take, and don't pay attention to what's on the ground—possibly including motionless snakes. Please have situational awareness to what's around you, and keep you, and everyone with you, safe.

If you see a snake, don't panic. Back away to a safe distance and allow the snake to move away. Do not approach, confront, or provoke the snake. When left alone, snakes pose little or no danger to people. However, it is important to note the location of the snake and tell everyone to move away from the immediate area.

All snake bites must be treated as potentially life threatening. Therefore, if you or someone else has been bitten by a snake call 000 or 112 immediately. Until help arrives, it is important to keep the person at rest, reassured and under observation. Do not wash venom off the skin or clothes, but do complete pressure-immobilisation first aid (there are some handy resources online, [including this video](#) which has quick tips about snake bite first aid and the pressure immobilisation technique).

In addition to being snake aware, when in your garden or working in a bush care group, it is sensible to wear appropriate safety boots and gloves—and to consider using snake gaiters. Never put your hands or feet where you can't see them without prior inspection, and have a good look around prior to starting any new work. It is sensible to avoid moving through long grass where possible, and to stamp your feet when walking, and to use a stick/pole to prod ahead.

Wesley DeMuth

A few more Winning Photography Competition Images

John Stephens' image, 'Hibiscus Habitat' (*below*), is worth a close look. Understandably awarded 2nd Prize



in the Native Plants & Fungi category, the beauty of the flower is more than matched by the colourful 'garb' of its residents!



John Stephens also received a 2nd Place Prize with this evocative Native Birds category image of 'A Sun-Showered Heron' (*above*).

Finally, James O'Shea's striking photograph 'Garden Orb Weaver' (*below*) was also awarded 2nd Place—this time in the Native Animals (excluding Birds) category. James captioned this photograph with the note that this is a 'Dream weaver: a master of geometrical art, in waiting. Australian Garden Orb Weaver (*Hortophora transmarina*).'



Seeds: Scrambling Lily

Climbing plants sometimes have a bad name, due to boisterous growth and woody habit that can make them hard work for cultivation. However, the native wiry and delicate Scrambling Lily (*Geitonoplesium cymosum*) is not one of them. I like to think of it as a bee's best friend.

Forming a narrow twining plant to some 5-8 m long, with a gentle scrambling habit, *Geitonoplesium cymosum* is both attractive and innocuous. Thin, asparagus-like shoots mature to form wiry stems with glossy green alternate leaves, with a single but distinct



mid-vein. Flowering can occur over long periods, making a gentle but attractive display (see Sandy's photo, left). The abundant and pendulous white flowers, once pollinated, mature to produce small round black berries. The pollination process is often facilitated by native bees, who buzz-pollinate the large yellow anthers. This plant tends to occur on the fringes of rainforest, or along gully lines. It has a lot of potential for cultivation but appears sadly neglected by most home-gardeners. There are two morphotypes, one with broad green leaves to about 1.5cm, and the other much narrower to 0.5cm, which is more frequently found in drier, vine-thicket habitats. Both forms can be found in our catchment.

Sandy Pollock

Weeds: Not a Fig!

A weedy soft-wooded shrub to 4m tall, devil's fig or turkey berry (*Solanum torvum*), is a large member of the nightshade family (Solanaceae), with no relation to



figs. This weed can be wicked, like its name. But it's no fig. This species has prospered with the recent rainy season and can be readily observed in several locations across our catchment, particularly in gullies in unkempt paddocks close to water (Sandy's photo above, shows the flowers and immature fruits of devil's fig, growing in a gully situation in a horse paddock in the Moggill Creek catchment).

Devil's fig displays large, broad and rounded multi-lobed leaves, that are softly hairy, with characteristic star-shaped hairs. Young leaves and stems may bear prickles, but in larger leaves, these are absent. The star-shaped, five-petaled flowers are white, with prominent yellow stamens, and produced in bunched clusters. Fruits are globular, turning from greenish to pale yellow.

There are similar species in parts of our catchment, especially giant devil's fig (*Solanum chrysotrichum*)—which tends to be much taller, has very strongly lobed leaves, and new growth is usually covered in prominent reddish hairs, giving a bronzed appearance at a distance.

Treatment methods are standard for shrubs of this size, including manual remove, cut stump or basal bark herbicide applications, using all appropriate safety methods and approved herbicides.

Sandy Pollock

Moggill Magic: Pasture to Forest

Always great to hear about the work that our members undertake on their own properties.

Our place was formerly a dairy farm on three terraces of river flats on the Brisbane River with lush, improved pasture, some small areas of remnant native vegetation and a few large trees. We have an abundance of pasture plants including Glycine (*Neonotonia wightii*), Rhodes grass (*Chloris gayana*), red Natal grass (*Malinis repens*), broad-leaved carpet grass (*Axonopus compressus*) and Green panic (*Megathyrsus maximis*)—and the usual suite of common weedy trees, vines and herbs. The land has thick alluvial soil of varying fertility, and lots of river worn gravel and boulders. Clearing weedy grasses and vines to encourage natural regeneration and/or replanting can be a challenge, we have tried different approaches.

In general, the aim is to selectively remove weeds with minimal disturbance to the soil. **Lantana** is removed slowly with secateurs, a pruning saw and mattock—or quickly with a hedge trimmer. The slow method is best when seedling natives are growing up through the Lantana. It's best to stagger removal over years as Lantana does provide important shelter for small birds and mammals. **Climbing asparagus** is removed by lifting and cutting out the corm. With **Balloon vine** it is important to dig up the whole root system, chop up and leave in place to rot.

Dense patches of Glycine: Foliar spray on Glycine was only used once as natural regeneration of natives (especially ground covers), was poor, and the spray seemed to encourage thickets of Cobbler's Pegs. Glycine seeds continue to germinate for years and

require on going hand-pulling. Mowing Glycine with hand mower or whipper snipper has worked well, clearing the patch and creating good mulch—and exposing the Glycine roots for easy identification and removal. Digging out thick Glycine roots is hard work, and using a Japanese rice knife after rain is better than secateurs or a mattock.

Mixture of pasture plants: Applying the 'no dig garden' method to pasture works well. Cut grass from slashing or hand mowing is applied thickly, to form a 20-30cm deep layer. Cut the grass before flowering to limit spread of grass seeds, and ideally dump on the patch when still wet as it packs down better. In patches on the fertile river flats, thick grass mulching has allowed a great range of native ground covers to naturally re-establish as the cut grass decomposed.



Above: Mulched grass with trees in tree guards: A large patch of Fish weed naturally colonizing the grass mulched area (image: Anna Williamson).

This method also stifles pasture growth, limits rain penetration and kills most pasture plants, and allows easier selective weeding of any tough survivors. Natural regeneration included slender bindweed (*Polymeria calycina*), Pennyworts (*Centella asiatica*, *Hydrocotyle acutiloba*), Fish weed (*Eichhornia crassipes*), native Geranium (*Geranium solanderi*), creeping beard grass (*Oplismenus aemulus*), vernonia (*Cyanthillium cinereum*), and species of *Wahlenbergia*, *Lobellia* and whiskery *Cyperus gracilis*. Each patch still needs ongoing selective weeding a couple of times a year, but is relatively easy to manage once vegetation is established. In Spotty gum woodland areas, ground cover colonisation is happening but at a slower rate than in the moister rainforest areas.

Fairly dense planting between Carpet grass clumps: Our top paddock is heavily covered in carpet grass with some areas of green panic, Red Natal grass and Cobblers Pegs. Local gums, wattles, silky oaks, white cedars and foam barks naturally establish, if care is taken not to mow them off as seedlings. The plan was

to expand a wildlife corridor along our southern boundary connecting other areas of vegetation on the property. Of all the exotic grasses on the property, Broad-leaved carpet grass is by far the hardest to remove. Instead, holes for planting trees were dug in gaps between carpet grass clumps—with the aim of



Above: Part of the belt of 7-year-old trees planted in the gaps between carpet grass clumps in top paddock (image: Anna Williamson)

trees eventually shading shade out the carpet grass. This was successful after about 5 years. Hand mowing around lots of small trees is fiddly and tedious work in hot and humid weather, but worth it in the long run, as now the corridor has good tree cover and mostly looks after itself.

Decisions about which approach we might use now are now based on the type of pasture plants present. Mostly selective hand weeding, hand mowing or whipper snipping and thick grass mulching is used to encourage natural regeneration with some planting to establish the desired forest or woodland. Some areas of long grass are kept with mown areas in between for lapwings and wallabies. Large patches of long grass provide habitat for quails, rails, bush hens, snakes and skinks as well as nesting places for pheasant coucals. Wide strips of mown grass are expanded in the dry season to reduce the risk of grass fires and allowed to regrow as the summer rains arrive.

Anna Williamson

Volunteer Opportunities

Can you lend a hand this Summer? We are looking for someone to coordinate new MCG merchandise and promotional material for 2026—specifically, to redesign some display pullup banners, organise committee name badges, and also bushcare shirts. If this is something you could help with, please get in touch [here](#).

Tracey Read

Wildlife Contacts

A North Brisbane Catchments volunteer recently discovered a young Tawny Frogmouth perched on his back steps. While it looked like the fledgling might be seeking help, it was just learning to fly and had lost its way (*see photo, below, supplied by Wesley*).

After contacting Wildlife Rescue Qld and sharing a short video, rescuers confirmed the bird wasn't injured and should be returned to its nest. Volunteers safely placed it in a nearby tree, where its parents soon swooped in to continue flight training—a heart-warming success story of local care for urban wildlife.



If you come across injured or displaced animals, always seek expert advice before intervening. You may find it useful to keep the following list of some key contacts in Southeast Queensland to hand:

- RSPCA: 1300 ANIMAL
- Wildcare Australia: 07 5527 2444
- Wildlife SEQ: 0468 484 994
- Wildlife Rescue Qld: 0478 901 801
- Moreton Bay Koala Rescue: 0401 080 333
- Bat Conservation & Rescue Inc.: 0488 228 134
- Pelican & Seabird Rescue Inc.: 0404 118 301
- Reptiles Rehabilitation Qld: 1300 878 903

Wesley DeMuth

2026: Save the Dates!

2026 Quarterly Public Talks

(all 6:00pm start)

- Tuesday 24th March
- Tuesday 23rd June
- Tuesday 22nd September

2026 Events:

- Brookfield Show Stall: 22-24 May
- Kids' Day at the Cottage: Sunday 14th June
- Annual Platypus Survey: Sun. 13th September

2026 MCCG Photo Comp:

- Submissions: Saturday 17th October
- Kenmore Village Display: 19 -24 October
- Prize Ceremony: Saturday 24th October

MCCG AGM: Tuesday 24th November

Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside

PS: Precious Cargo



My Highly Commended (Native Animals excluding Birds) image, left, was taken at White's Hill Reserve on June 29th around 10am. I noticed a single koala in a tree and only after taking the first picture I realised that there was a little joey in her pouch!

Cole Walchle

e-newsletter? Help us to save valuable resources

Just email the MCCG Secretary (secretary@moggillcreek.org.au) with 'Email Newsletter' in the subject line. Please make sure that you include your name and address in the message, so that we can action your request.

Thank you.