

Annual Report of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group F/Y2015 to 2016

Supporting Moggill Creek Catchment Group

People

I would like to thank the Management Committee and Section Leaders for their efforts throughout the year, namely Malcolm Frost, Adrian Webb, Cathie Mortimer, Dale Borgelt, Joanna Yesberg, Michael Humphreys, Graeme Wilson, Gordon Grigg, Andrew Wilson, Bryan Hacker, Letitia Norton, Damien Egan, Richard Woodhead, Judy Petroschevsky, Kate McVicar, John Crowley, Jim Pope and our Creek Catchment Officer, Emma Maltby and more recently Leah Hattendorff.

There are many volunteers who support the numerous activities and projects in the Catchment I wish to thank:

- A. The many volunteers at the Bushcare working bees.
- B. Our able Nursery crew under the guidance of Graeme and Andrew Wilson: Helen Palmer, Debbie Allen, Tom Asher, Dawn Beck, Maria de Jong, Gabby Bell, Ian Hancock, Richard Tumman, Marjorie Welch, Adrienne Forrestal, Maxine Binning, Sally Stinton, Joyce Westenberg, Jan Grigg, Bryan Hacker, Joan Miller, Margaret Palmer, Alison Hoole, John Crowley, Bruce Siemon, Damien Egan, Margaret Basso, Dale Borgelt, Jenny Hacker and Stefan Majewski.
- C. Newsletter editor, Graeme Wilson; formatter, Margaret Hastie; printing, John Gower; Labelling, packaging and posting, Dale Borgelt; MCCG envelope printing, Bryan Hacker. We also welcome Cathi Lawrence, the new editor who came on board in recent months.
- D. Adrian Mortimer and Michelle Johnston for managing our website and Janine Nicklin for managing our Facebook page.
- E. Adrian Webb, Tim Howell and Leo Lee who work so hard to keep the Creek Health Monitoring Program going along with a team of hardy volunteers.
- F. Cath Cleary from Habitat Brisbane, the LFW team of Cody Hochen and Catherine Madden, and Apanie Wood from SEQcatchments (now Healthy Waterways and Catchments). We welcome the appointment of Karen Toms as Apanie's replacement. We welcome Paul Devine as a new member of the local HB team.
- G. The former Councillor Margaret de Wit and now Councillor Kate Richards, the Member for Moggill, Dr Christian Rowan and the Hon. Jane Prentice, Member for Ryan for their support.
- H. Geoff Lawrence and his committee consisting of Robyn Frost, Margaret Whyte,

Jocelyn Henry, Bruce Siemon, John May, Michelle Johnston and also to Dale Borgelt for her invaluable support to the committee. Once again they ran a brilliant photography Competition in 2016. We thank Dr Joseph McDowell again for judging the entries.

- I. Bruce Siemon who works so hard behind the scenes collating and presenting all manner of data on our activities. Our thanks to David Gooding for creating the Section map and the map on plant distribution from our Nursery.
- J. Jim Butler and Ian Muirhead for managing the bird project. Ed Frazer also contributed significantly to this worthy project as did all the anonymous birders who submitted reports.
- K. Chris Hosking and Tamielle Brunt for running the 2016 platypus survey ably assisted by Richard Woodhead, Gaynor Johnson, Dot Dalglish, Jesse Rowlands, John Smith, Damien Egan, Judy Vink and the Girl Guides. I would also like to thank the 60 wonderful volunteers who got to Brookfield promptly at 4:30 am!
- L. Gordon Grigg for regularly mowing the cottage grounds.
- M. Adrian Mortimer and Bevan Borgelt for regularly and selflessly assisting in all manner of tasks when needed and often unrequested.
- N. Project leaders Malcolm Frost, Adrian Webb, Gordon Grigg, Judy Petroshevsky, Chris Hosking and Jim Butler.
- O. Bryan Hacker for his excellent Landcare advice to members.
- P. Brian Krieger and Phil Bird for their leadership in organizing groups in Upper Brookfield.
- Q. Mark Creyton for assisting us with our strategic planning.

Newsletter

4 issues went out to the households of all members current for 2015 as well as those current for 2016. Because the **membership year is calendar**, with all memberships due from November AGM for the **following** year, we also carry late payers from the previous year to make sure no one misses out on the contact and info in the Newsletters. They get the Newsletters, but they are not counted in the membership statistics unless they renew and thus become current. (People joining NEW in the later months of the year are always given the next year.)

MCCG Membership

As at 31st October 2016 we had 540 members current for 2016.

MCCG Activities

Talks at the Cottage

- The Cottage was opened on Thursday mornings except for November 2015 – January 2016
- Interesting Talks at the Cottage included two sessions on the How and Why of Recording Wildlife Sightings with Brent Smith and Ed Frazer's wonderful presentation on Birds he photographed in the Brookfield area.
- The Cottage hosted kindred groups such as UQ students for Insect and Bat projects, Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network (RBCN) AGM, Enviro group 'Creation Care Network

Kids' Day At The Cottage 12th June 2016

2016 Kids' Day at the Cottage was very successful with attendance of around 300 again (better than the overwhelming 400 last year) and much more manageable with the new arrangement of marquees. We are grateful to Brisbane City Council Creek Catchment Program for providing the hiring of these pagodas, the continuing support from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund and the Pullenvale Ward Councillor Kate Richards, and help this year from the staff of SEQWater. This support, plus the immeasurable contribution of expert presenters and volunteers is what enables us to offer this very popular community event FREE.

Mid-Year Public Meeting in Brookfield Hall

Native Wildlife Presentation by Martin Fingland gave young and old a chance to see our native wildlife up close.

MCCG was on public display at other venues and events:

Brookfield Show
Upper Brookfield State School Centenary
THECA Forum
Kenmore Library

MCCG Month Long Displays in Kenmore Library

- **August 2015**_Display in Kenmore Library featured Dung Beetles and the Photo Competition
- **May 2016** displays featured Kids' Day at the Cottage, MCCG activities and Thinking of Retiring Posters

MCCG Photography Competition

Another outstanding competition was organized by Geoff Lawrence and his committee. John May won the Supreme exhibit as well as the Open Category. In the Young Person's category to year 6, Kurt McCullough won the Chairman's choice and the general category

for this age group. That prolific photographer of birds, Ed Frazer also won 2 categories and the Lord Mayor's Perpetual Shield was won by Kenmore South State School. All of the results are on the website at www.moggillcreek.org.

MCCG Website (Michelle Johnston)

Visits to the MCCG website increased during 2016 to around 200 unique visits per day. There were noticeable peaks during October 2016 of over 1000 unique visits, possibly attributable to the Photography Competition.

Maintenance has been carried out on the website during 2016 to update content and streamline navigation. This refresh will continue as an ongoing process, jointly managed by Adrian Mortimer and Michelle Johnston. Michelle joined the MCCG as volunteer Website Coordinator in November 2015.

As usual, plenty of content was provided during 2016 by Dale Borgelt to publicise events such as *Kids Day at The Cottage*. A new monthly feature "*Feather Fascination*" has also been introduced in our on-line Media Centre to showcase Jim Butler's birding articles (currently published in "*The Local Bulletin*").

A telephone training session was provided by Kingfisher Creative in January 2016 to provide advice on maximising the use of current features such as web apps and images. Andrew Shields from Kingfisher Creative has since advised that MCCG's "credit" for training expired early in 2016, based on the fact that approximately 18 months had passed since the site went live in September 2014. We were advised at the same time that subscriptions to Kingfisher for hosting will change from annual to monthly from March 2017.

Our objective is to keep the MCCG website as fresh, interesting and accurate as possible, supporting MCCG's place in the community as a "go-to" repository of information on local bushcare and revegetation issues.

We are very open to input and suggestions from MCCG members and the wider community for new or improved content. A focus for 2017 will be to streamline the linkages between the website and the MCCG Facebook page in order to provide a consistent and dynamic flow of information between both sites.

Please feel free to email any ideas or comments to mccgsecretary@live.com.au

MCCG Facebook Report (Janine Nicklin)

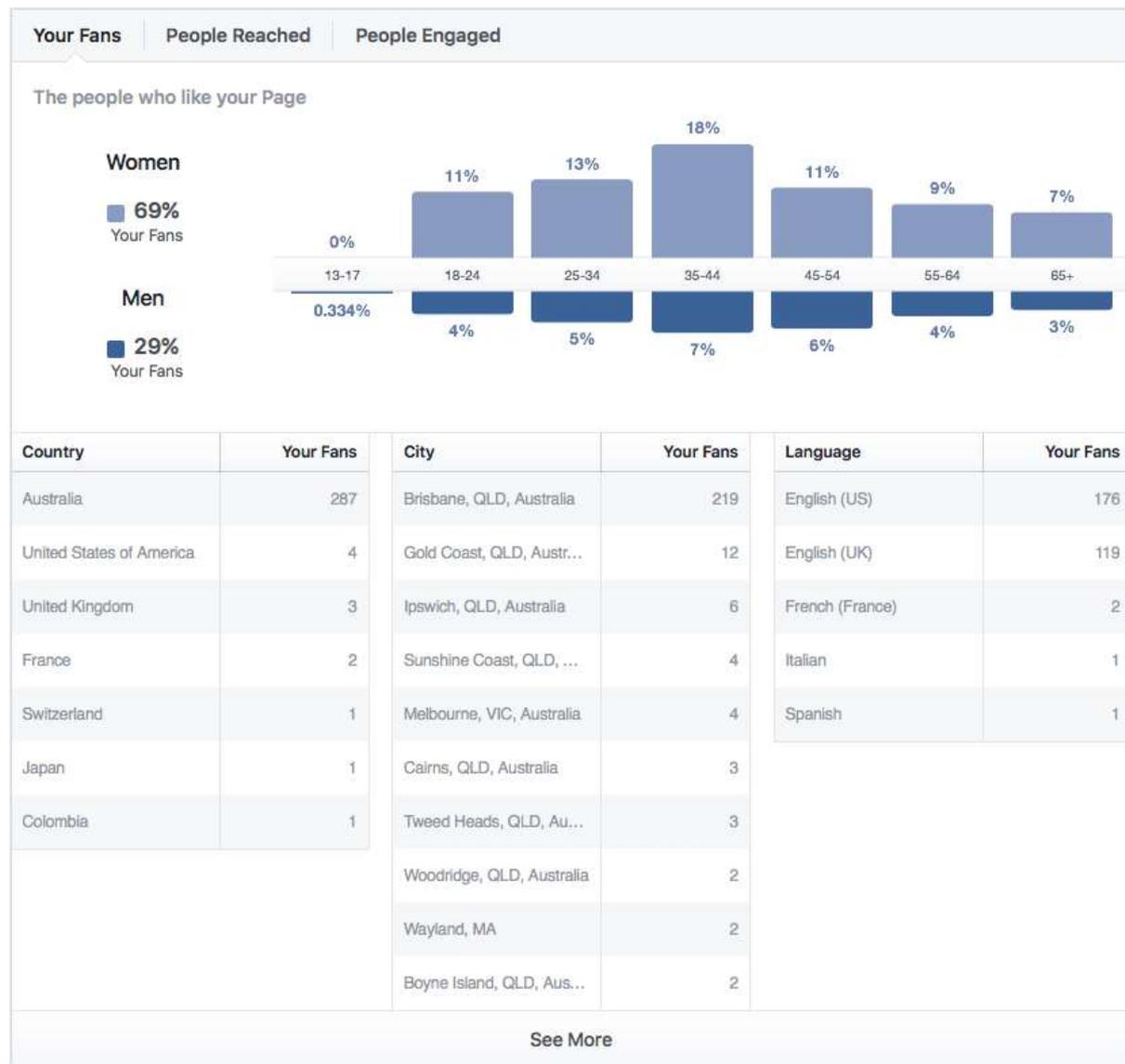
Started publishing to Facebook on 20 June 2015 – 16 months ago.

300 people have liked the MCCG Facebook page. The number of likes has been climbing steadily since we began. The two graphs show the year to date. It is possible to see where people have unliked the page – it seems there are no unlikes – indicating once people like the page they stay with the page, which indicates that the page is of some value to people we reach.

1. People who like our page

Women make up 69% of the people who like our page (highest percentage is women aged 35-44 – 18%) + Men make up 29% (highest percentage of men is aged 35-44 years – 7%). Both of these percentages are relatively unchanged since May 2016.

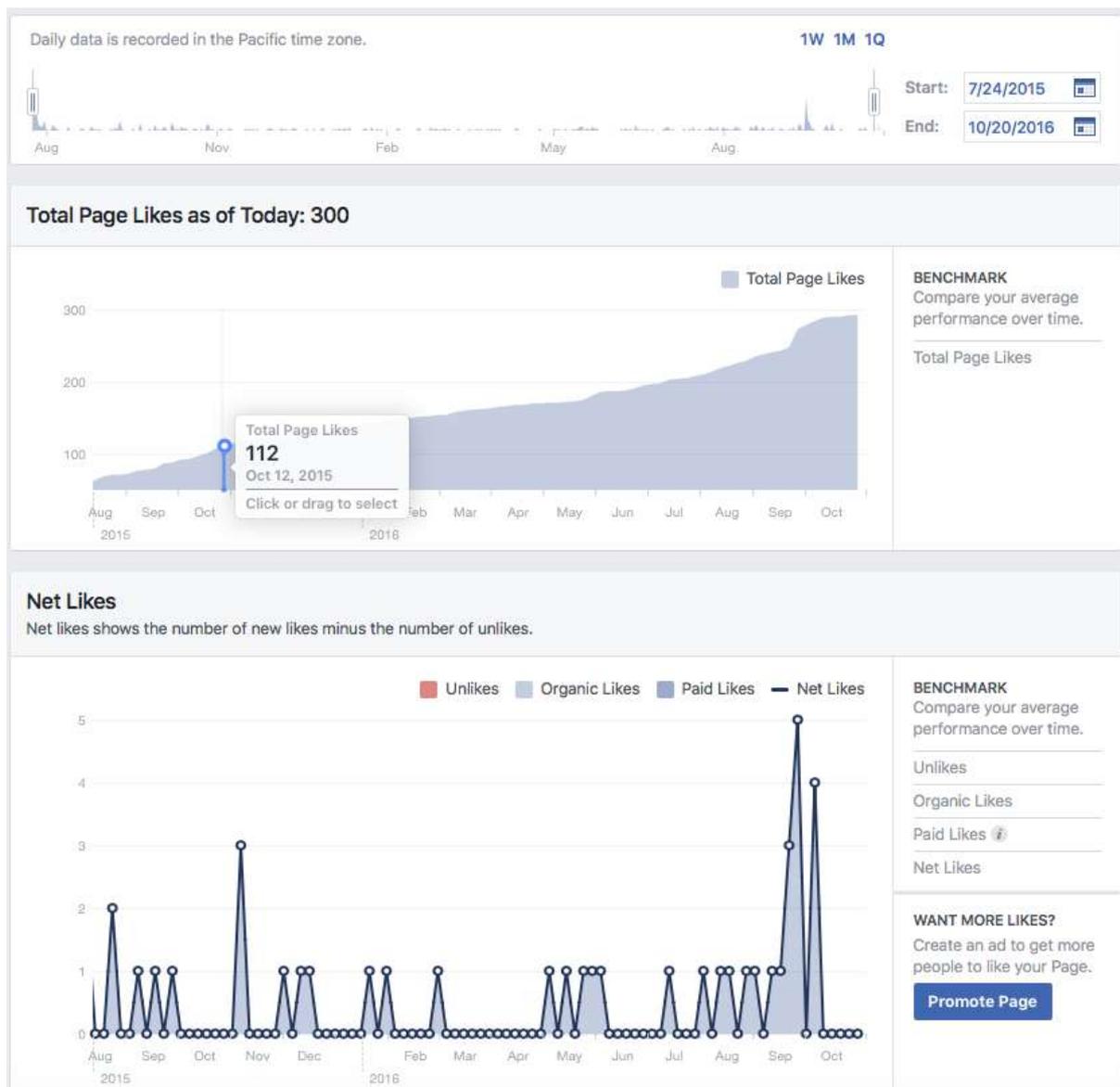
We have 287 people located in Australia, 3 from the UK, 4 from USA, 2 from France and one from each of Switzerland, Japan and Colombia.



2. People Reached (people our posts were served to in the past 28 days)

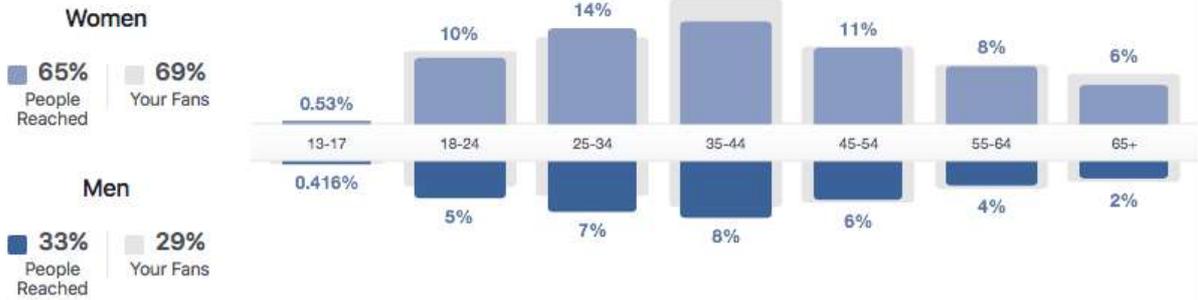
Overall, 65% of the people reached are women; less than 1% are under the age of 17yrs, and of the people aged over 35yrs, 20% are men (up 5% from May 2016) compared to 40% of them being women (consistently twice as many women as men since May 2016). The change this month is that the age group that dominates the people who our posts were served to are the 35-44 year old bracket – 23% overall. This age bracket has been steadily growing.

Twice as many women are reached than men. Over the twelve months the majority age group has swung between the 25-34 year old and the 35-44 year old brackets. However, women have remained the majority gender.



Your Fans | **People Reached** | People Engaged

The number of people your post was served to in the past 28 days.

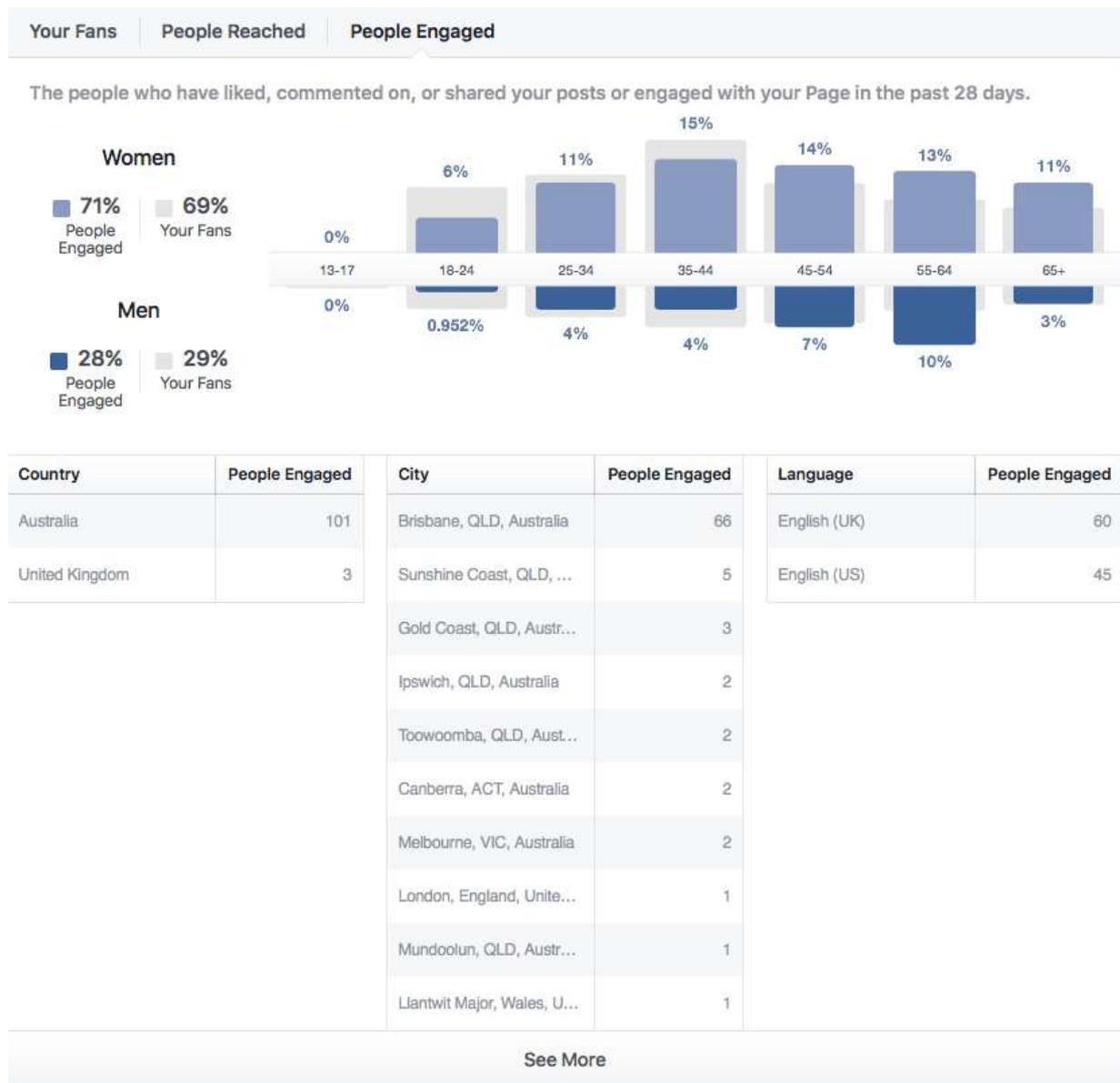


Country	People Reached	City	People Reached	Language	People Reached
Australia	2,289	Brisbane, QLD, Australia	1,389	English (US)	1,587
United Kingdom	121	Melbourne, VIC, Australia	94	English (UK)	968
United States of America	44	Gold Coast, QLD, Austr...	74	Spanish	14
South Africa	32	Ipswich, QLD, Australia	43	Spanish (Spain)	11
Canada	19	North Lakes, QLD, Austr...	36	German	10
New Zealand	15	London, England, Unite...	23	French (France)	10
Germany	13	Sunshine Coast, QLD, ...	22	Japanese	7
Spain	13	Canberra, ACT, Australia	21	Traditional Chinese (Ho...	6
Hong Kong	12	Mango Hill, QLD, Australia	20	Dutch	5
France	9	Sydney, NSW, Australia	16	Portuguese (Brazil)	5

[See More](#)

3. People Engaged (liked, commented on, or shared posts in the past 28 days)

71% of people who are engaging are women (-5% since May 2016); 28% men (+7% since May 2016). Under the age of 17yrs there has been no engagement. For women, the age group engaging the most is 35-44 years. For men the age groups engaging the most are 45-55 years (+2%) and 55-64 years (+5% - doubled in four months).



4. Posts Published – September 2016 – October 2016

The table below shows from greatest reach to lowest reach the posts on the Facebook page from September – October 2016. Cathie Mortimer, Brian Hacker, Malcolm Frost and Warren Hoey have been submitting items to post. Posts have been focused around:

- a. CHMP activities
- b. Photographic competition
- c. Guided revegetation walk – Paul de Jong property – highest reader engagement.
- d. Information based posts – people are engaging on these posts, by ‘liking’ them and clicking on the photos and leaving comments. The most popular posts have been

photo-based and informative posts (Cats Claw, Platypus Survey, Plant sale, environmental weeds post, new apps)

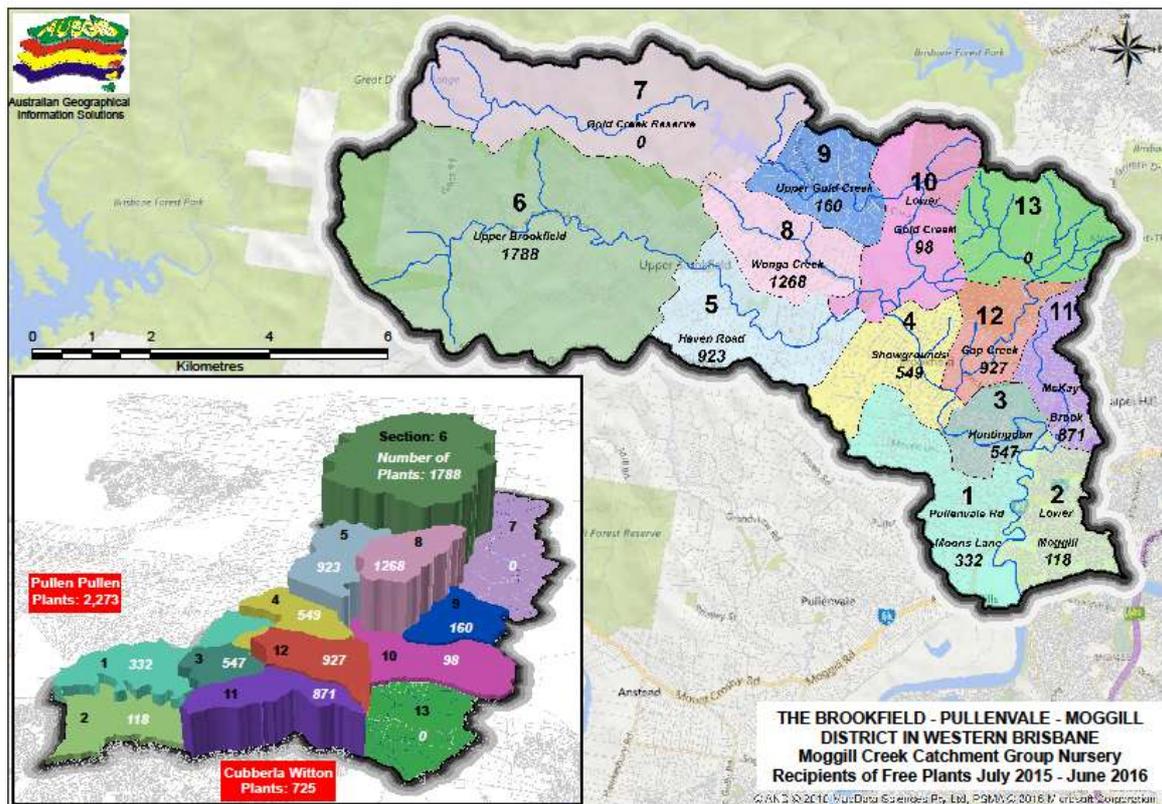
5. Recommendations

Facebook is a viable way to get information out to our members.

The number of people following our group is now 300 – up by 100 since June 2016.

1. I commend you all on the efforts made to send through information and photos and ideas to be put up on the Facebook page. Don't stop. Keep thinking of creative ways to put Facebook to use.
2. The number of men engaging with the page has increased and the spread of ages has evened out for both men and women.
3. The page has virtually no engagement from under 17 year olds. This could be an area of opportunity for the group.
4. Keep sending relevant, current and interesting items!

MCCG Nursery (Andrew Wilson, Bryan Hacker)



Map courtesy of David Gooding

During 2015-16, the nursery distributed 14,106 free plants, in 136 species native to the Moggill Creek Catchment. These were provided to MCCG members as well as to Pullen Pullen Catchments Group members, in recognition of the support of several PPCG members at Nursery working bees. Frequently members visit repeatedly in their work on restoring native vegetation communities and often report their success with earlier plantings of MCCG-grown plants. Some plants were also sold at public events such as the Brookfield

Show. Limited numbers of advanced plants of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vine were also sold (\$8).

Volunteers at the nursery contributed 1,056 hours, working on the first and third Mondays of each month during the year, but this estimate does not include additional hours provided by Graeme and Andrew Wilson. On average over the year, 14 volunteers turned up at working bees. Bryan Hacker continued to be the main point of contact for nursery plants, most weeks servicing customer requests at least once.

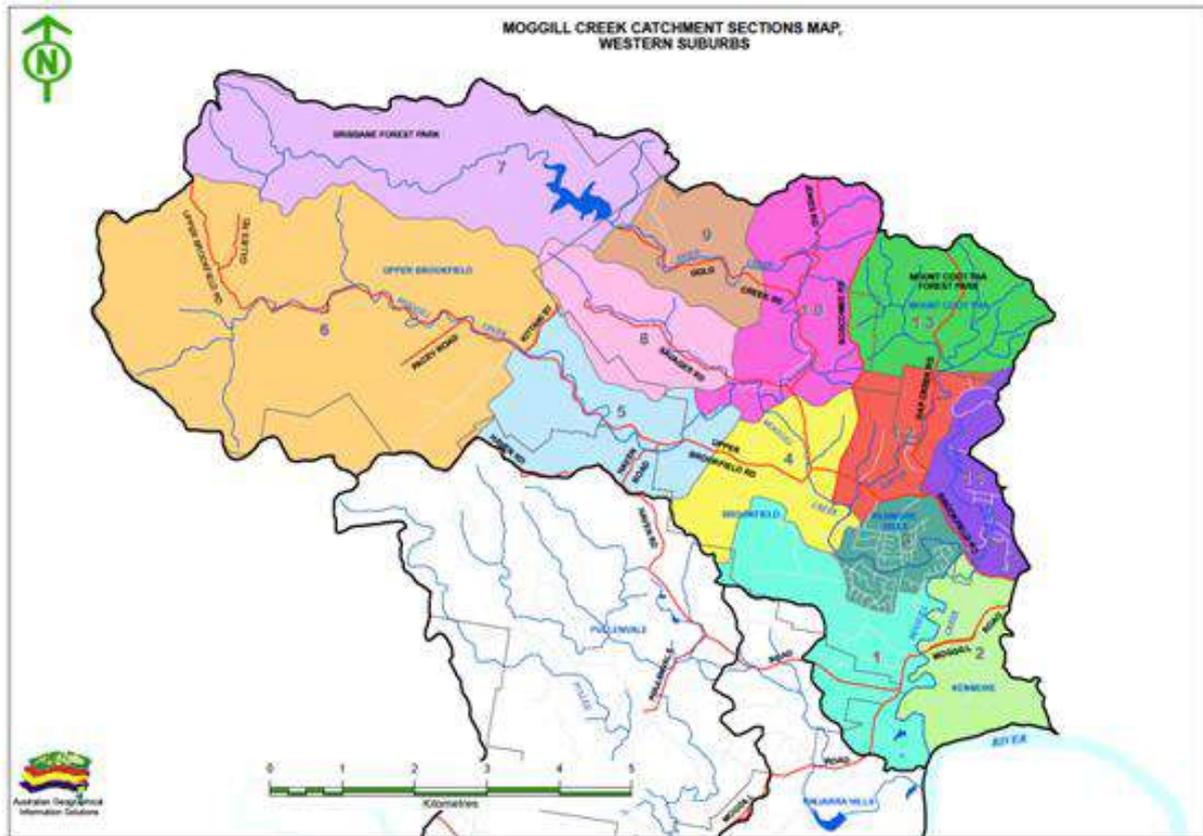
Seed of 116 different species of plant was collected by 18 members for germination at the nursery. Vegetative propagation of certain species difficult to propagate by other means is continuing. Seed collection is a significant limitation to nursery activities.

Plants provided by the MCG Nursery 2015-16	
SECTION	NUMBER
1 Pullenvale Rd Moons Lane	332
2 Lower Moggill	118
3 Huntington	547
4 Showgrounds	549
5 Haven Rd	923
6 Upper Brookfield	1788
7 Gold Creek Reserve	0
8 Wonga Creek	1268
9 Upper Gold Creek	160
10 Lower Gold Creek	98
11 McKay Brook	871
12 Gap Creek	927
13 Mt Coot-tha	0
Pullen Pullen	2273
Cubberla Witton	725
Unknown destinations	3527
TOTAL	14106

Landcare activities

Over the period July 2015 – June 2016 Landcare Adviser, Bryan Hacker, on invitation visited 21 properties, providing expert advice on revegetation, weed control and species identification. Properties visited generally range from 1ha to 4ha and from being largely cleared to some with native vegetation mainly intact. Landowners are encouraged to seek advice before doing extensive clearing work, which often has undesirable consequences. Frequently property visits also relate to MCG Nursery visits, this enables appropriate selection of species for revegetation projects.

Working on Public Land (section reports)



MCCG Section Data 2015-16

Section	Working bees	Average attendees	Volunteer hours	Hours outside WB's	Plants
2	11	5.1	173	13	345
3	13	9.0	285	69	275
4	6	4.5	65	274	217
6	10	3.2	68	115	340
Pacey Rd	7	10.7	211	6	280
8	6	3.0	56	65	151
9	7	7.3	100	9	0
11	19	6.6	310	27	403
11 KSHS	1	75	315	75	1375
12	10	8.1	190	163	1113
Total	90		1773	816	4499

Section 2 Lower Moggill (Judy Petroeschovsky)

We have had a productive year. While we have only a small membership in our group, they are committed and hard working. Our planning for the year has been mainly governed by

our catchment area being a flood plain. We plan our work to minimise flood damage to the area. The main damage is severe erosion, loss of plantings and flood debris deposits from the force of the waters coming down Moggill Creek. We have been assisted by Habitat Brisbane in planting out specific areas and using different matings and mulches to test their resilience or otherwise to severe flooding. This has been very successful. We recently had a visit from Grant Witheridge, a hydrologist, who walked us through our area and advised on appropriate measures to minimise flood damage. This was much appreciated by our group.

We have tried different methods to recruit new members. We recently did a letter box drop in our catchment area and have started a face book page featuring Fortrose Street Section of Moggill Creek Catchment. This page has created some interest. We have featured the wild life in the area, mainly echidnas, kangaroos, platypus and snakes. We give information on face book about our working bees, starting time etc. Hopefully, while we have been getting responses, it will generate new membership for our working bees. We have been well supported by Habitat Brisbane's Cath Cleary and the Moggill Creek Catchment Nursery.

Section 3 Huntington/Tuckett (Jim Pope)

In the year to June 2016 our bushcare group carried out 11 monthly working bees in the Huntington/Tuckett section which extends along the riparian zone on both sides of Moggill Creek for approximately 1.6 km through the parklands between Rafting Ground Road and Tuckett Street in Kenmore Hills. During this time our volunteers contributed approximately 300 hours of their time and planted 275 trees and shrubs. This year has been a time of consolidation, following more extensive planting activity over the previous two years during which we received substantial financial support for our activities via a Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) Grant from Brisbane City Council. This allowed us to employ contractors to assist with weed clearing as well as the purchase of plants to enable us to widen the riparian zone, especially in areas subject to frequent flooding. This year we have targeted ongoing maintenance of these plantings, to remove the more aggressive weed vines (especially Glycine, Madeira vine and Balloon vine) and brushcutting of exotic weeds and grasses to prevent them from smothering the young native species until they become mature enough to fend for themselves. This is a very labour-intensive activity, especially on the lower banks of the creek where the exotic grasses and weed vines grow particularly rapidly.

We have also carried out some new areas of in-fill planting aimed at filling gaps in the canopy. Following from some very successful experiments with 'long stem' plantings in previous years we have again used this technique in areas subject to flooding. It involves the use of native plants that are specially grown to a height of around 1 metre in small containers. Holes are then dug to a depth of around 50 cm, so the roots of the plant are very deep. As a consequence the plants are much less likely to be uprooted in the event of a flood. They are also more tolerant to periods of drought. Once again our area was affected by flood, although fortunately not as seriously as in some previous years. The floods always wash a lot of driftwood and other vegetation down the creek (see picture), but fortunately our section of the creek is generally remarkably free from litter, in spite of the fact that the surrounding parklands are heavily utilised by the public. Establishing new plantings in flood-prone areas is a significant challenge. In these areas we remove weed vines and brush-cut exotic grasses, but do not attempt to remove the roots or kill the grass with selective

weedkillers, because the grass roots stabilise the ground and prevent erosion around the roots of our plantings.

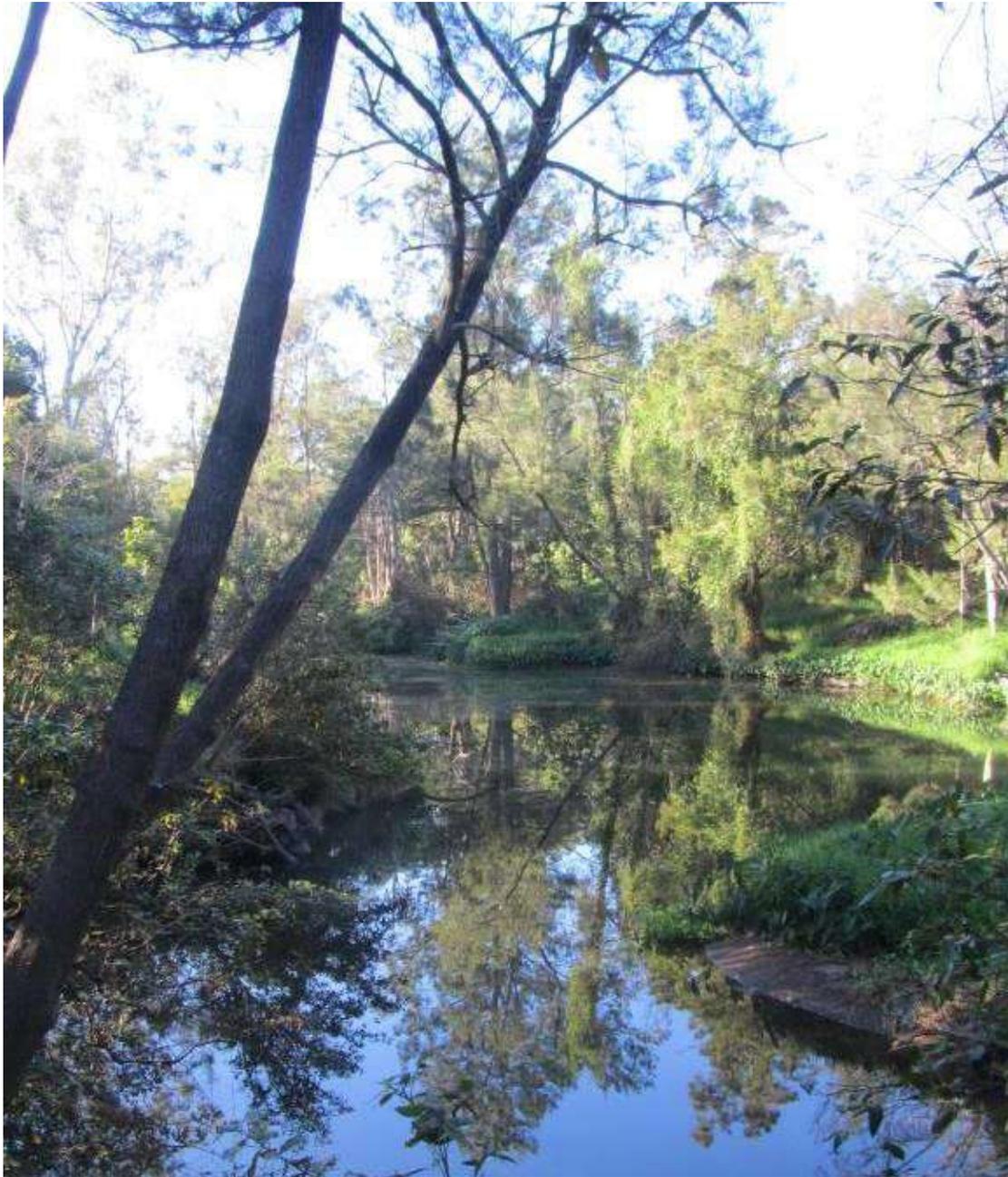


1 - Moggill Creek at Kenmore Hills



2 - Moggill Creek in Flood at Pedestrian Bridge, Creekside Park

A couple of events during the year are worthy of note. There is a large pool in the creek adjacent to Creekside Park (see picture) that has been used for decades by the local kids as a 'swimming hole'.



3 - Swimming Hole, Creekside Park

In the middle of last summer a very large old sofa appeared on the creek bank next to a rope swing that had been rigged up for the children to jump into the pool from. Shortly afterwards the sofa was found to be floating in the pool (see picture). We reported this to the Council, who sent out an officer to investigate, but no action ensued for some weeks. Eventually I persuaded a couple of the older kids to swim out and tow the sofa to the bank, where we hauled it out (with some difficulty due to the weight of water) and it was eventually removed by the Council.



4 - Sofa in Swimming Hole

For some years there has been a hive of European bees attached to a large gum tree near the pedestrian bridge in Creekside Park. Over the years it became very large and on one occasion I pointed it out to a Habitat Brisbane officer. I immediately wished I hadn't, because it clearly raised concerns, presumably about the safety of people crossing the bridge. Sometime afterwards signs appeared on each side of the crossing warning 'Caution Overhead Bees'. Until this time the bees and local residents had coexisted peacefully and without disturbance. (Unlike European wasps, bees are not aggressive insects and only retaliate when disturbed). However the effect of the signs appears to have been to draw attention to the hive, which was soon badly damaged (see picture). The signs were subsequently removed. A rather wasteful use of ratepayers' funds!



5 - Beehive (damaged) and warning sign!

Of more concern was the emergence of the introduced fish species 'Tilapia' (*Oreochromis mossambica*) in the swimming hole (see picture).



6 - Tilapia (Oreochromis mossambica) in the swimming hole

These fish are a very aggressive species from Africa that breed rapidly and drive out the native fish. They have been declared as noxious under the Fisheries Act. Unfortunately they are now known to be present in most streams in southeast Queensland. The local strain of tilapia is actually a hybrid mix of several tilapia species, but for fishery purposes they are regarded simply as *O. mossambica*. Tilapia grow to 40cm in length, but are most common at about 25cm. There is considerable colour variation between males, females and juveniles. They will breed up to enormous concentrations, especially in dams and lagoons. The males develop bright red fin markings when in breeding condition and build nests for spawning in spring and summer. As a noxious species, it is illegal to keep, exchange, sell, or return Tilapia to the wild. There are heavy penalties for non-compliance and it is recommended that if any are caught that they should be humanely killed and disposed of. On a camping safari to East Africa two years ago, I ate Tilapia that had been caught in Lake Victoria and can vouch that they are very good eating!

Overall, despite some setbacks, we continue to make good progress. I would like to thank all of our volunteers (many of whom can be seen in the pictures below) for their magnificent efforts during the year. Special mention should go to Joanna Yesberg for providing the morning teas and to Peter Woods for the regular supply of refreshing drinks. The morning teas that follow each of our working bees are a very social occasion. I'm sure they are an important factor in encouraging the return of the volunteers who give up much of a Sunday morning each month and thankfully keep coming back on a regular basis. Best wishes to all of them for Christmas and the New Year.

Section 4 Showgrounds (Damien Egan)

Moggill Creek Catchment Group is a volunteer action group aiming to conserve and improve the natural environment of its catchment on both private and public land. The Showground Bush care group started in 1998 and is responsible for working on Brisbane City Council land from the culvert at Boscombe road along Rafting Ground Road to the Brookfield Road roundabout.

Rafting Ground Road Site: Total Hours 339 Plants 217

Starting at the Brookfield roundabout, Bryan and Jenny Hacker are continuing to do weed management on this site with new plantings totalling 47 and hours slaved 242.



7 - Working at Rafting Ground Park

Boscombe Road Area:

A further 60 x10 metre area has been cleared and planted with 60 long stem plants by BCC contractors and planning is underway for another 30 long stem plants to be planted 2016/2017 .Our group has already added another 150 plants from MCCG with infill plantings at this site. Weed maintenance continues upstream towards the produce store and the bush tucker garden is now sadly overgrown. A work in progress under new management.



8 - Working Bee in Action, Boscombe Road

Kenmore State High School: Total Hours 390 Plants 1375

Continued search and rescue, weed maintenance and watering (Butterfly plants) of established areas for Student Stream Savers Stage 3 & 4 projects which has now being acquitted, although the work maintenance still continues into infinity!

NTD planting (26th July) with years 10/11/12 students established 1000 plants along creek bank between McKay Brook and Moggill creek junction with 135 students participating, 32 of which were exchange students from Germany.

Toyota is our major sponsor providing funds for the plants / Hats / T shirts for the students and also BCC who provide 300 plants and mulch to help with the day.



9 - Kenmore State High School Volunteers

Section 6 Upper Brookfield (Kate McVicar)

The site is making steady progress even though there are still only 4 volunteers. Between us we planted 970 plants and put in 226 volunteer hours over the last year.

Habitat Brisbane provided good support throughout the year with the provision of plants, as well as some contractor assistance with brushcutting of dense elephant grass clumps and augering for planting on difficult terrain.

As the area is extremely vulnerable to flood damage and erosion, broadscale removal of weeds is not an option (apart from the really bad ones such as madeira vine). Our major challenge is to manage the weeds until the plants become established.

Weather conditions have been variable this year. Heavy seasonal rain in January was not forthcoming. However, good winter rain did happen, allowing good growth on earlier plantings.

Section 8 Wonga Creek / Savages Road (John Crowley)

Weather conditions have been variable this year. Heavy seasonal rain in January was not forthcoming. However, good winter rain did happen, allowing good growth on earlier plantings.



10 - Riparian Zone, Savages Road Area

Many thanks to NRMA Insurance for \$4,500 for the Community Grants in the 2015/2016 financial year. With Habitat Brisbane Co-operation and with our own volunteers we have been able to extend the riparian zone on the southern side of the creek also bordering Savages Road. Jute meshing and jute logs have kept deep mulching in place and this has had the effect of very successful growth along the bank. Watering was also possible with the purchase of a Tilkey Tank, and a very useful 1 hp pump from Habitat Brisbane. \$500 of this grant was used in the purchase of a water transfer/bush fire pump which is available for use by all MCCG members.



11 - Tree Planting, Savages Road Area

In 2016, the Savages Road Bushcare group became an official Habitat Brisbane bushcare group, and I wish to thank the Western Suburbs team in supporting the actions of our very essential MCCG volunteers. Co-operation is the secret of success. In the photo above, Richard Tumman is planting a fig tree which once adorned the Theca Hut. Richard and other volunteers, when not attending section 8 working bees, has attended other section working bees. One such working bee was the clearing of cats-claw from Upper Brookfield with Savages Road and Wonga Creek below. The council then return and spray the area, stopping the spread of this invasive weed down the valley.

Once again I'd like to thank all of MCCG and our volunteers. With their hard work, we have made some inroads in suppressing weeds and establishing sustainable bush environments for our region.

Section 9 Upper Gold Creek (Gordon Grigg)

Section 9 is one of the original MCCG bushcare groups, formed in 1997.

Our original focus was weed control and planting on the roadsides and creek crossings along Gold Creek Road, which in due course made us eligible to join and receive support from the Habitat Brisbane programme (HB can only support work on public land). We planted native vegetation almost everywhere space permits within our section and we continue to maintain those plantings as required.

In recent years we have been working about half the time on public land, supported by HB and half on private land with a particular focus on control of Cats Claw vine as part of the MCCG push. All of these activities of course are within the scope of MCCG's aspirations and

activities. With long standing participants ageing and some moving away, plus demographic changes within the valley, participation in working bees has been declining and whether the group will survive through 2017 is at present uncertain.

Section 11 McKay Brook (Bryan Hacker)

The McKay Brook Brook Bushcare Group continues to be active along 900m of the Brook, usually holding working bees twice each month, the total number for the year being 18 working bees. Number of volunteers ranged from 3 – 10, the average being 6.7. The previously planted trees along this entire stretch of creek are now 15-20 m tall, with a good diversity of species, several of which are propagating themselves naturally. The current focus is on controlling invasive vines in areas previously planted, glycine, Madeira vine and balloon vine being of greatest concern. In spring 2016 the group planted 320 plants provided by BCC along a section to form an effective margin to earlier plantings.

As well as providing support, mulch and plants, BCC has provided a stairway from Bozzato Place to a park area being tended by the group. A major concern is a substantial development along Brookfield Road, which is currently being constructed (2015 – 2016). The development is close to and drains into McKay Brook; this is likely to have an adverse effect on water quality.

Section 12 Gap Creek (Mike Humphreys)

To be provided later

Pacey Road (Brian Krieger and Warren Hoey)

The Pacey Rd sub catchment group continued work on privately owned properties.

In 2015-16 eight areas were worked on to rescue existing native vegetation, remove weeds and replant (see figure 1). Work has been focused on the maintenance of existing restored areas in four cases. The other four areas were extensions of previous sites or new areas.



12 - The Pacey Road sub catchment. The area boundary is defined by the properties with road access to Pacey Rd. Working bees were conducted in the areas marked in red.

Of the eight areas, six of the areas are adjacent to the creek. Madeira vine, Lantana, Asparagus fern, Singapore Daisy, Blackeyed Susan and Glycine have posed problems.

Of the remaining two areas, one area contains a natural spring which feeds into a dam and overflows into the creek. This area was improved substantially by weed removal and has seen significant growth in the last 12 months. Removal of Lantana has allowed significant numbers of trees to be planted in the gully and will stabilize what was previously pastures.

The remaining area is high in the catchment and consists of drier forest which has been prone to lantana overgrowth. This area was previously worked on in 2014 and was cleared of regrowth on this round with some planting occurring.



13 - A working bee conducted in the riparian area of the creek. Previously pastures, the landowner has been working hard to remove weeds and replant the area.

The number of participants has slowed in 2016, this appears to be due mainly to younger children reaching the school sports stage of life which keep many of the parents busy on Saturday mornings. However, the activity does still draw around 8-10 people regularly. One house hold has stopped the working bee at their property due to other family commitments.

The important part of the working bee is the social contact after completing the clearing and planting. The importance of this cannot be underestimated as it has knitted together the members forming strong friendships, which have extended outside of the working bee.

In 2017 the group is looking to encourage more street participation through a letter box drop and a one off activity day at one of the properties which is likely to involve the BCC LFW officers running a couple of small projects such as floating wet land construction.

MCCG Projects

Creek Health Monitoring Program (Adrian Webb)

The Moggill Catchment CHMP is a community based creek health monitoring program, supported by the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, Brisbane City Council, Healthy Waterways and Catchments, and 20- 30 community volunteers from Moggill Creek Catchment and surrounds. The program is based on systematic monitoring over years to establish a good understanding of creek health and to identify any degradation or improvement through time.

The main objectives are to understand how creek health varies across sites in Moggill Creek and its tributaries (Gold Creek, Gap Creek, and Mackay Brook), and then by continued monitoring twice a year, identify any trends / changes in the creek health, and provide early warning of changes that might threaten these ecosystems.



14 - Creek Health Monitoring Sites

The first phase of the program, commenced in 2011, has been to develop an understanding of the baseline values of the creeks at 12 sites spread across the Moggill Creek catchment. Monthly water quality monitoring was introduced 2 years ago to give a better indication of the seasonal changes, and to check unusually big changes such as blooms in aquatic weeds.

This type of information assists the Moggill Creek Catchment Group identify risks to environmental values of the land and water ecosystems in the Moggill Creek Catchment, and contributes to the strategic plans and development of priority activities.

These include dissemination of information to the membership and the catchment community, organising training workshops such as aquatic weed identification, water monitoring procedures, fish and aquatic macro-invertebrate identification; riparian conditions assessment.

Specific outcomes expected by the MCCG include:

- Improved capacity to identify land and water management activity that impacts adversely on creek health.

What is monitored?

The fish diversity and numbers along with similar data on aquatic insects, are used in conjunction with water quality, creek bed and bank conditions, riparian vegetation condition and invasive aquatic weeds as ecosystem condition indicators. These are used to make assessments of the creek health across the catchment, and to help identify trends or changes over time.

These assessments may highlight preferred management changes to protect the health of the creeks. For example, a severe reduction in Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in water, changes in pH or nutrient content and a decline in diversity or numbers of sensitive fish species may indicate unsuitable land or water management activities at or upstream of the site being monitored.

Results to Date

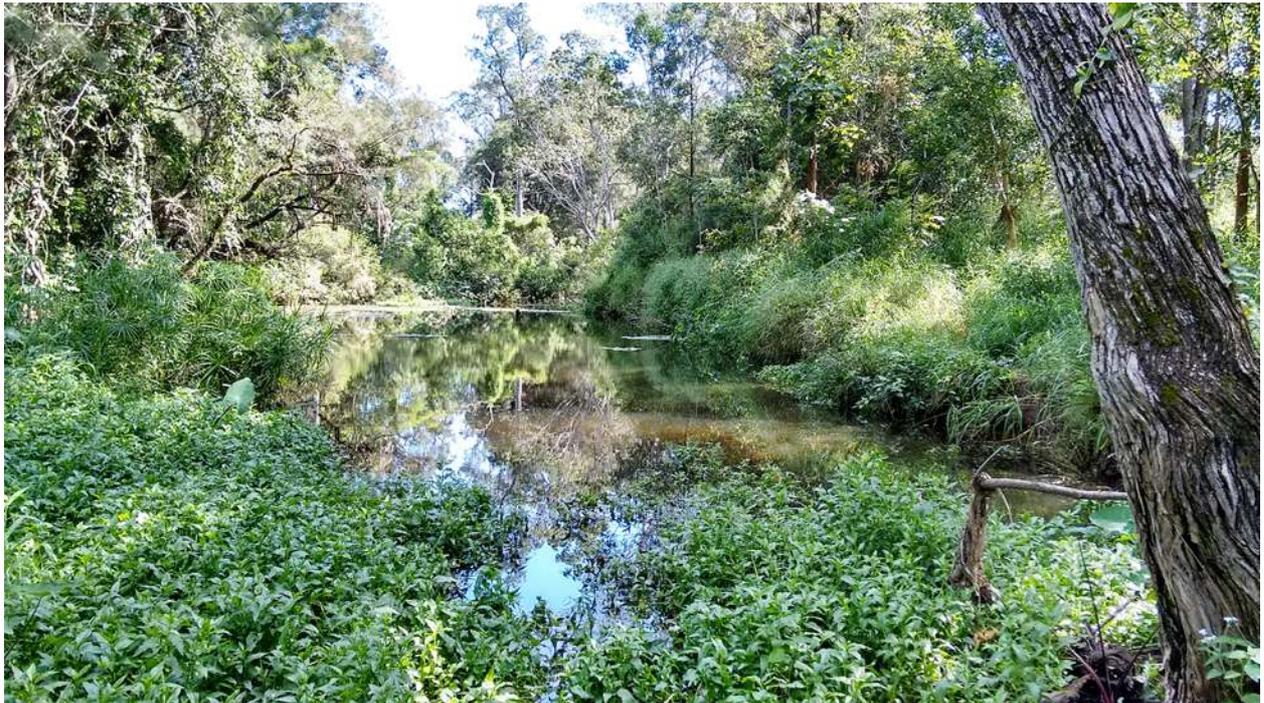
The results to date indicate that creek health in the catchment is generally good, considering that it has urban areas in the mid-lower catchment.

This first phase has given sufficient data to allow a reliable assessment to be made about creek health in terms of the variations across the creeks in the abundance and diversity of the fish and macro-invertebrates and water quality. Rainfall and run-off conditions cause clear differences to these factors from time to time, and water quality and biodiversity can become quite poor during extended dry periods. Episodic runoff events have caused bank erosion and loss of riparian vegetation in some sites across the last 5 years; this has resulted in migration of bed sediment loads downstream leading to shallower areas and banks which have become infested in exotic weeds such as Senegal tea. Impacts of high velocities of flows have been common in the upper reaches of Moggill, Gold and Gap Creeks probably due to higher gradients than occur in the lower catchment.

Two sites on Gold Creek were found to be unusually high in phosphates and nitrates and this was reflected in lush aquatic weed and algal growth found in the creek water, particularly in periods of low creek flow in drier periods. Dissolved oxygen was commonly

less than 2mg/L. These conditions were associated with outfalls of waste water. A report and explanatory data were supplied to Qld Environmental officers and BCC, and the matter has been dealt with subsequently.

All the data are in the process of being put into a new database being developed through the Healthy Waterways and Catchments of SE Qld. Data collection has been by volunteers, many of whom are gaining training through workshops provided through the BCC. In addition, the BCC has been very supportive of our program through access to Horiba water quality instruments and chemicals for in-field calibration.



15 - Senegal Infestation - MC5

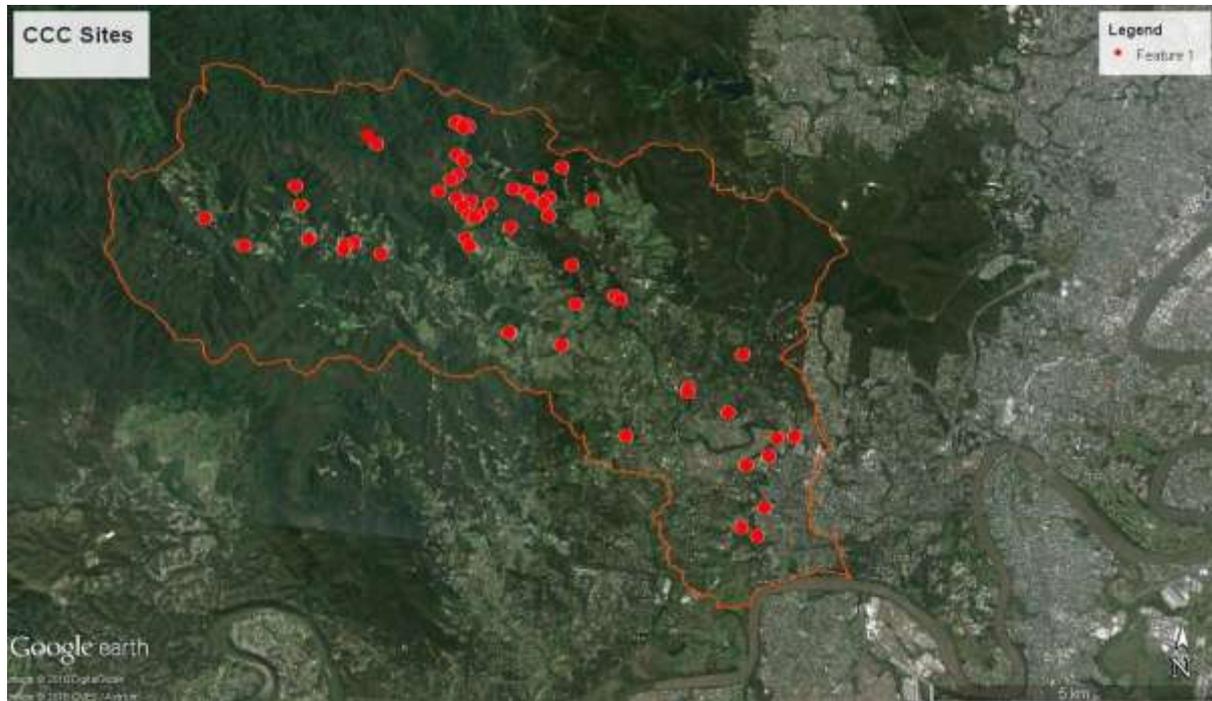
In the last two years Senegal tea infestations, usually accompanied by purple taro and Sagittaria have built up in Moggill Creek downstream of the Gold Creek junction. Most infestations have established at the ends of pools and runs where sediment has built up during periods of high flow.

Exotic fish caught in dip nets or small traps are euthanised; Biosecurity Queensland regulations prohibit these species being put back into the creeks. There seems to be strong evidence that some of these species have been released from home aquariums into our waterways deliberately.

The creek health monitoring program has been very well supported by 20-30 wonderful volunteers over the last 5 years. There are 6 teams which monitor 2 sites each; once in Autumn and once in Spring- early Summer. In addition to the biennial monitoring of the creek health variables, a small number of volunteers endeavour to monitor water quality variables on a monthly basis. We have had much appreciated assistance from several members of the Australian and New Guinea Fishers Association who regularly help our teams with fish identification. BCC and Healthy Waterways and Catchments have given us continued support particularly in organising training events.

Dr Timothy Howell, a professional aquatic scientist, has provided much of the technical guidance and procedures since the beginning of the monitoring program, and we still rely on his support for data assessment.

Cat's Claw Creeper (Adrian Webb)



16 - Cat's Claw Creeper infestation sites

Many landholders in the Moggill Creek catchment are already aware of the threats from Cat's Claw Creeper to remnant forests and riparian zones. Their major threat is that they climb to the tree canopy where they slowly smother it, killing the trees. It also completely smothers bushes and smaller native plants and can create a thick carpet that covers the ground surface.

Some landholders have been battling this aggressive exotic vine from South America for several years, and have learned how difficult it is to remove or control. The MCCG committee has been working with the SEQ Catchments, Brisbane City Council and officers of Biosecurity Queensland to bring together information on the ecological threats from this transformer weed; in addition they are collaborating in efforts to support landholders to control its spread particularly in our remnant forests. A comprehensive fact sheet compiled by Kym Johnson of Biosecurity Queensland outlines much of what is known about this vine including methods of control. It is available through the [national weeds web site](#) on their [Cat's Claw web page](#)

Cat's claw creeper is distributed across many areas of remnant vegetation in Moggill Creek Catchment and some infestations are known to have been there for 30 years or more. The most severe infestations are in the moister lower slopes and drainage lines where the denser vegetation occurs.

Although a number of the exotic transformer vines are known to be degrading ecosystems in the Moggill Creek Catchment, specific attention is being given to cat's claw creeper

because it is not only one of the worst threats, it is also regarded as one of the most difficult to control and eradicate.

How do we respond?

The general strategy being followed is to identify infested sites and then direct control efforts into limiting further spread into important remnant vegetation. Where it is possible, treating the weed across neighbouring properties has some benefits in reducing the level of further infestation in an area. We are particularly aware of this in those areas where infestations are on properties adjacent to or close to major conservation areas such as the Mt Coo-tha Forest and the adjoining D'Aguilar National Park. Because the vine tends not to flower until it gets into tree canopies where there is plenty of sunlight, the first step in any control program needs to be cutting of any vines already on the tree trunks. This reduces the threats of seed production and dispersal by wind or water.

This region includes several identified conservation corridors supported by Brisbane City Council collaborative conservation agreements. Twenty per cent of properties in Moggill Creek Catchment are part of BCC's Wildlife Conservation Partnerships Program including a number of properties that have signed Voluntary Conservation Agreements or Voluntary Conservation Covenants. By focussing on those parts of the catchment where community engagement is already well advanced, significant environmental benefits can be achieved more efficiently in aspects such as more effective weed management, habitat enhancement and restoration of corridors.

Progress

MCCG has established a good working relationship with SEQ Catchments, BCC, Biosecurity Queensland and latterly with SEQ Water with respect to Gold Creek water reserve. Collaboration on selecting the priority infestation areas has resulted in a number of infestations being treated using different funding sources.

- 153 LFWL properties and 20km of road verge received BCC CCA funding in the last 3 years.
- A further 9 properties received Qld Govt, or Commonwealth funding for vine weed management (principally CCC) in proximity to BCC CCA grants in Upper Brookfield, Upper Wonga Creek sub catchment and gold Creek sub catchment. One of the sites was supported by a CVA team and MCCG. Tingid bug and Jewel beetle populations have been monitored for the last few years at 9 sites in Moggill Creek Catchment. The populations have survived in most sites and spread quite well in at least 4. Damage to vines has been observed in several sites but there is no obvious reduction in the spread of vines.
- Green Army projects have been approved for weed management in 3 areas over the 2016-17 year. CCC infestations occur in 2 of these areas.

Current aims

- Provide good information on the skills and other resources needed to manage the infestations in the catchment. SEQ Catchments, BCC and Biosecurity Queensland are

supporting communication and training activities for landholders seeking information on CCC management practices.

- Share information about new infestations with SEQ Catchments, BCC and landholders to help identify priority areas for assistance. Although we have already quite a bit of information on infestations in the catchment, the MCCG committee wants to make contact with all landholders in the catchment who have cat's claw infestations. The better the information we have, the better the chance of getting on-ground support to battle this tree destroyer.
- Support landholders in gaining funds for on-ground treatment of Cat's claw creeper.

Contacts in MCCG for the Cat's Claw Project

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Phil Bird frogphil@gmail.com

MCCG 2016 Platypus Survey (Tamielle Brunt)

There was much needed rain on Saturday 10 September. Nineteen mm was recorded at the Gold Creek reservoir in 24 hours. The rain eased overnight and a beautiful day followed, with the creeks left murky and flowing at a reasonable pace.

With the assistance of an amazing number of volunteers (71) dispersed along Gold and Moggill Creeks, we were able to cover many observation sites the next morning.

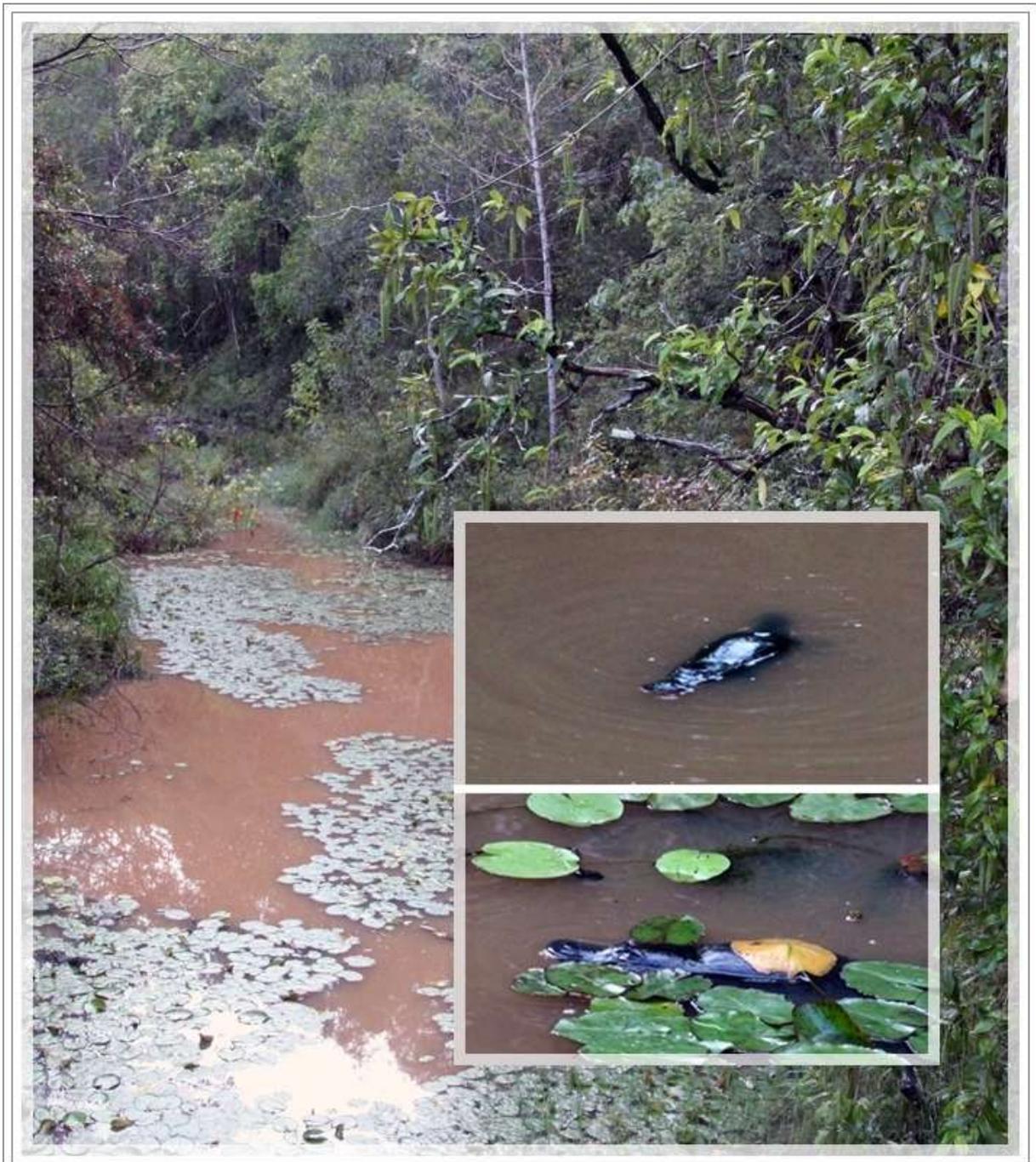
Our survey results yielded 11 platypus sightings in total, with two platypuses being seen at one site at Branton Street, Kenmore and a total of three animals seen in this section. This is exciting as we haven't seen this many platypuses in that location for a few years. Overall, platypus were seen across a broad spatial scale. They were seen in Moggill Creek and Gold Creek in Upper Brookfield, near Brookfield Produce, in the Huntington Estate, near Kenmore High School and in lower Moggill Creek in the Kilkivan/Manyung streets area.

Another exciting discovery was a platypus seen close to the Gold Creek dam on Gold Creek. They haven't been seen that far up the creek since the refurbishment of the wall that may have disturbed them back in 2005. And it could have possibly been a pair! Platypus weren't platypus possum that morning; a few people recorded seeing them multiple times at their site rather than just a brief glimpse.

The creek habitat assessments conducted by the volunteers during the survey were similar throughout the catchment's survey sites, with only two records of very poor quality habitat. Most people were recording their creek areas as fair to good.

The sites where 11 platypus' were seen varied from fair to good with in-stream and bank erosion and stability recorded as good to excellent. This coincides with a platypus' ability to forage for food among logs, snags and cobbled substrate. These in-stream crevices also protect the platypus' food from being washed away, so thankfully this was the case Sunday morning.

Overhanging vegetation also conceals burrow entrances, as well as providing protection for the platypus when foraging. Bank stability is highly important for platypus' burrows and nest sites. Reducing erosion with native vegetation keeps the banks intact and reduces the likelihood for burrows to collapse in a flood event. The continued rehabilitation work of the MCGG allows restoration of banks within the catchment and helps buffer against flooding impacts. This has been the 11th year for the MCGG annual platypus survey and not only is it keeping an eye on platypus within the area, it's helping promote and educate the community on the importance of conservation.



Platypus Survey (Gold Creek Reservoir)

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Moggill Creek Catchment Bird Project, 2012 To 2017

Jim Butler & Ian Muirhead



17 - Little Wattlebird

The aims of the project are:

1. Record and monitor the birds in the catchment
2. Identify changes over time – and relate these to seasonal, vegetational, climate changes
3. Work with other organisations to provide a sound scientific base
4. Reach out to the community

Report on Aim 1:

We have continued to monitor the birds by the BirdLife Australia methodology. A new bird species, Little Wattlebird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*), was recorded in the Catchment for the first time in 2016. This appearance in the Catchment is not of great significance. They are large “nomadic for nectar” birds, and are usually closer to the coast. When photographed, it was feeding on a grevillea tree covered in blooms. Historically, 206 species of birds have been recorded in the Catchment since 1901. At present, over a weather cycle, it is possible to record 202 bird species in our Catchment. The Bird Lists for the Catchment are kept up to date and placed on the MCC Website each year. The Resources for people interested in the birds in the Catchment are on the Website and are periodically checked for accuracy and helpfulness.

Michael Humphreys has asked us to commence a bird survey of Section 12 (Gap Ck) that he oversees. We are very happy to collect data in this manner. We will do fortnightly bird surveys, based on the BirdLife methodology, and enter the data into the major databases. Michael intends to use the data in future funding applications. We would be happy to help out in other sections of the Catchment.

Report on Aim 2

The project has as yet not generated enough data for this aim to be progressed. During the last year of the Project, 2017, this aim will become the main focus.

Report on Aim 3

We have continued our close working relationship with the staff at QUT and UQ. BirdLife Australia and Birds Queensland are the two large birding organisations in our area and they have also been very helpful and generous with their expert assistance.

Report on Aim 4

Reaching out to the community is an important aim of the project. One of us (Jim) continues to write monthly articles on birds for TheLocal Bulletin.

The articles have generated a steady stream of feedback. Contacts from readers have led to help with injured birds, explanations of bird behaviours that readers have puzzled about; and identification of birds people have observed. Jim has met and gone birding with some of the readers who have contacted him.

The articles published in The Local Bulletin have been given a new role and wider availability by Michelle Johnston, the Webmaster of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group Website. Each month's article is placed in the Media Section of the website by Michelle and she writes directions to it on the Home Page. We want to thank Michelle, and Barry Searle, editor of The Local Bulletin, for their generous help.

Jim recorded his personal view on birding in the November 2016 issue of The Local Bulletin. Here is the text of that article:

Loving All Life

I am passionate about her. Jonathan Frazen wrote "one half of passion is obsession; the other half is love". I was obsessed with meeting her, out on the native grassland plains of the Riverina in NSW. This area is so astonishingly flat! By day, the sky is a blue hemisphere sitting on the level ground in every direction. To her, the Earth is flat and she has a clear view over the vegetation! In the evenings, the glorious Sun sinks Westward and simultaneously the Earth's shadow rises in the East topped by the Belt of Venus! I had only ever seen this before from a beach on the East Coast! The sparkling domed night sky similarly merges into the flat dark earth.

She spends her days foraging on the grasslands under a danger dome. Above her are numerous predators; a Black Falcon sits on the fence and Kestrels and Kites are patrolling. There is nowhere for her to hide, she only has her cryptic colouring to protect her. It is the mating season now and she lays eggs for a number of males, leaving them to do the incubation and the raising of the chicks. After sunset, she calls a number of times, to broadcast her presence in this vast dark silence; then goes quietly to sleep.

Her soft calls at dusk orchestrated our meeting. I moved towards her and waited in total silence. She called again and I moved closer. We kept up this invisible ballet until I was sure she was close by, then torches were switched on and illuminated her. She was the living, alert, quiet embodiment of all the images I had studied. But nothing had prepared me for this exquisite encounter. As I looked at her I could feel my heart overflow with love for the world's precious Plains Wanderer (15cm).

Love life, love birds. Jim

Jim has continued giving bird presentations to different clubs and groups.

Conclusion:

Much has been achieved, with a lot of generous help, in the fifth year of the project. The future for the project includes: more community outreach; using standard BirdLife Australia survey methods to collect the data. Our warm thanks to everyone who has helped us on this fabulous journey to help the birds in our Catchment.

Rowena park restoration (Malcolm Frost)

SEQC have funded a \$90,000 four year restoration program along the riparian zone which surrounds three quarters of the park. The program up to July 2015 represents the second year of the program. During this time the riparian zone between Rowena Park and Rafting Ground reserve have been widened with planting of over 1,000 native plants together with maintenance to curtail weed growth

Funding for the third year (from July 2016) has not been made available. One community working bee with volunteers from neighbouring suburbs was very successful.



18 - Extending the riparian zone along Rowena Park

MCCG pointed out to Council that the stand of Casuarinas in the centre of the park was in danger of being lost through erosion which was enhanced by inappropriately spraying herbicide about their trunks so that when flooding water swept over the grass, the resulting

bare soil was worn away. To MCCG's satisfaction, Council have now spread more soil about the trees and plan to plant Lomandras to prevent erosion. It is hoped to continue restoration work when funding from SEQC becomes available.

Reflections on 2016

First, let me again acknowledge the enormous amount of work that has been done by members of the MCCG on public lands and in our projects. This takes no account of the work done by them on their own land. Hopefully, being part of the MCCG has given them some knowhow and possibly motivation in this endeavor. I know there are some in the upper reaches of our catchment who might feel forgotten by the large number of Bushcare groups in the lower catchment. For this reason we are very keen to support community led groups such as Pacey Rd led by Brian Krieger and the more recent Upper Brookfield Working group formed by Phil Bird. Additionally, the majority of the CCC project work is occurring in the upper catchment.

There are many questions that face us in the MCCG that are very difficult to answer in simple terms. For example: What is the current state of our catchment? How is it changing? How interested are its residents in caring for the environment? Is the MCCG positively influencing the management of the local natural ecosystems? What can we do better?

We are regularly told that the Moggill Creek Catchment is in a good state relative to others in the greater Brisbane area. It retains large areas of bushland largely on private property although there is little that has been untouched by human intervention. We live adjacent to large conservation areas that form an important part of our catchment. Our CHMP monitoring indicates reasonable water quality in some of the creeks but not in others. Native fish and invertebrate species are generally abundant although we now have widespread populations of aquatic weeds and exotic fish. On the weed front, there's plenty to do, although there's good news as well.

We know that many people in the catchment are interested in improving the natural environment. For example, about 40% of eligible properties are members of Land for Wildlife. According to the Brisbane City Council, this catchment has the highest LFW uptake of any catchment in the greater Brisbane area. Surely this is a good indication of the level of interest people have in DOING something positive for the environment on their own land. Many LFW members are also MCCG members so we have a natural affinity in building strength from the ground up. We are fortunate to have two very effective LFW officers servicing the area who are dedicated to their work and are also very willing to work with the MCCG on relevant projects. Don't forget also the large number of people who volunteer regularly for Bushcare activities.

I would like to believe that our greatest threat is ignorance of the ecological processes that are essential to the health of the catchment we live in, rather than deliberate destruction. We cannot take our local natural environment for granted by not seeing and understanding what is right in front of us. Equally, we in the MCCG must not take for granted that everyone else will be equally enthused if only they had a bit of extra awareness, advice or assistance. We must get smarter in the way in which we communicate with not only our members but well beyond that depending on the issues. I think we've made great strides in improving the quality of our Website and Facebook pages recently and this will enable us to better link to online communities....and watch out for the next edition of our Newsletter

Next year is the 20th anniversary of the founding of this group. Gordon Grigg was the chairman at that time and the meetings were held in Margaret de Wit's office. Other members included Graeme Wilson....We will celebrate that milestone suitably. Unfortunately, as the founders will tell you, they will then be 20 years older than they were when they started this task. Indeed, so are we all, hopefully wiser if, in some cases a little more infirm. I would like you to consider a couple of questions. The first is how do we best recognize and adequately record the outcomes of that foresight and effort? And second, how do we best ensure that the work continues through succession?

I can't say too much about the former as we have only just begun thinking about that very issue in a celebratory sense, but if you have any ideas please let us know. The founders are basically a modest bunch who would rather let their effort do the talking. At the same time, they would not want to see the results they have achieved undone in the future for any reason. For this reason **alone** we must record what has been and will be done in future.

The MCCG also has an obligation to measure and report on its progress to assure our members and stakeholders that we are doing what we set out to do in retaining and restoring our natural environment. There is a good published record of achievements and challenges in our 2011 Review document that is currently being updated by Malcolm Frost. However, I think we can do more to regularly inform our members so that the information is timely.

Some of the feedback we received during our strategic planning this year indicated that we were not communicating as effectively as we might to our audience. So we are now putting in a concerted effort to better use social media channels as well as our Newsletter to help address that. By the way, the upcoming Newsletter contains a little note to ask you to indicate whether you'd be prepared to receive it electronically instead of hard copy. It's a no brainer for me...it will be electronic.

There is another reason for maintaining a record and that is to assist all of you as landholders and 'shareholders' in our public lands in undertaking good land management practices based on what we have learnt during our 20 year history. It goes beyond that in that we can also bring to the 'table' considerable professional experience and tested advice from many sources and we can do that better if we partner with other service providers such as LFW.

The second element of continuity is about succession. That is, bringing in volunteers to learn about and ultimately lead the group's functions. We know from experience that this is not always an easy task with the many demands on people's time, retired or not. The MCCG is trying to catch the interest of those near retirement seeking to keep active and doing something for their local community. You may have noticed the posters and brochure at the last Brookfield Show. We have to do more.

We are not just after hands on workers although these are always needed. Managing a large group such as ours takes time and the various functions need attention to ensure we can do the work we need to. We interact with all levels of Government and semi government bodies to raise funds, join programs and for that we must have a robust structure and operations. I think we achieve that but the Group must be capable of enduring and growing with new people coming in. We are going to be more active in future in managing succession.

I want to make brief comment on the relationships between Habitat Brisbane's Bushcare groups and the MCCG. The MCCG initially established a number of sections to enable it to undertake locally based restoration. We were subsequently invited to have these sections join HB because Tom McHugh saw it as a way to provide additional support to the Bushcare groups already in full swing.

As you would know, Habitat Brisbane directs what these groups do on public Lands. That is HB's remit although we like to think we can influence what is done. HB provides, and does it very well, tools, equipment, herbicides, plants, insurance, expert advice and directs the groups on where they can work.

These groups have achieved a lot since they began, working mostly silently and regularly with a cadre of dedicated supporters, removing invasive weeds and replacing them with indigenous species.

A question currently before us is "what is the nature of the relationship between the MCCG and these HB/Bushcare groups?"

In recognition of an implied and practical relationship, the Section Leaders are members of the Management Committee. We appoint them at this AGM but in reality we are only appointing them as committee members and not as Bushcare leaders. I venture to say that most of the volunteers who work in Bushcare groups are MCCG members who are aligned with the goals of the MCCG and they use their expertise in this community activity, seeing it as a relevant way to pursue the Group's objectives. As I noted with Gordon Grigg's Bushcare group, it has embraced the MCCG's push on Cat's Claw control and does roughly half its work on private land. Perhaps we are seeing an evolution in the way these groups operate.

The MCCG is a strong supporter of its partnership with HB but there is little public recognition for us in this model. Many in the community do not link us to the Bushcare groups and we do little to promote what is a strong relationship. We can and will do more in this regard in supporting the Section leaders. I think BCC could do more as well by promoting the relationship on the signage that is used to advertise Bushcare group activities. From a catchment perspective, the land tenure is irrelevant as long as a strong partnership endures.

I want to finish by paying tribute to Graeme Wilson, one of our founding members who did so much for the MCCG as Editor and in other key roles until very recently when his health forced him to discontinue such activity. Many fine words have been written over the years about Graeme, his contributions to our community and his achievements in other professional spheres and I don't intend to repeat them. Suffice to say they are all true. The MCCG is a robust community organization as a result.