

Annual Report of Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) for the Financial Year 2017/2018

People

I would like to thank the Management Committee and Section Leaders for their efforts throughout the year, namely Malcolm Frost, Sanja Oldridge, Dale Borgelt, Joanna Yesberg, Warren Hoey, Bryan Hacker, Michael Humphreys, Adrian Webb, Gordon Grigg, Letitia Norton, Will Nicoll, Phil Bird, Brian Krieger, Damien Egan, Richard Woodhead, Judy Petroeschevsky, Kate McVicar, John Crowley, Dick Tumman and our Creek Catchment Officer, Leah Hattendorff and more recently Andrew Wills.

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

A. The ~200+ volunteers who assisted at the Bushcare working bees.

B. Our able Nursery crew under the guidance of Andrew Wilson viz: Adrienne Forrestal; Anna Williamson; Anni Ritters; Bruce Siemon; Bryan Hacker; Dale Borgelt; Damian Egan; Dawn Beck; Gabby Bell; Ian Hancock; Joan Wilkinson; Joan Miller; John Crowley; Joyce Westenberg; Margaret Palmer; Maxine Binning; Maria de Jong; Milly Gardner; Richard Tumman; Sally Stinton; Stephan Majewski; Yvonne Midgley and Jenny Hacker (for providing home-made cakes).

C. Newsletter editor, Cathi Lawrence.

D. Michelle Johnston and Janine Nicklin for managing our website and Facebook page respectively.

E. Dale Borgelt, our Public Relations Officer for her tireless work in helping to organise our outreach activities including Cottage Talks, Brookfield Show Stall, Kids Day at the Cottage, Mid-year Meeting, Photographic Competition and AGM.

F. Paul Devine and Cath Cleary from Habitat Brisbane, the LFW team of Cody Hochen and Catherine Madden, and Karen Toms from Healthy Land & Water.

G. Councillor Kate Richards (Pullenvale Ward), the Member for Moggill, Dr Christian Rowan and the Hon. Jane Prentice, Member for Ryan for their ongoing support.

H. Geoff Lawrence and his Photography Competition committee: Robyn Frost, Bruce Simeon, Tony Watts and Janine Nicklin. Once again, they ran a brilliant competition in 2018. We also thank Dr Joseph McDowell for again judging the entries.

I. Bruce Siemon who works so hard behind the scenes collating and presenting all manner of data on our activities.

J. Jim Butler & Ed Frazer (Birds) and Bryan Hacker (Invasive Weeds) for their work on the Field Guides. Ed Frazer also initiated a new Field Guide on Mammals this year.

K. Chris Hosking and Tamielle Brunt for running the 2018 platypus survey ably assisted by the 47 wonderful volunteers who got to Brookfield promptly at 4:30 am!

L. Adrian Webb for his work on the Creek Health Monitoring Program and on the control of Cat's Claw Creeper and Anzac Tree Daisy in the catchment.

M. Adrian Mortimer for regularly assisting with IT issues.

N. Bryan Hacker for his excellent Landcare advice to members.

O. Phil Bird for his leadership of the Cane Toad Challenge.

Particular mention should be made regarding Joanna Yesberg who has done a wonderful job as our treasurer for over 10 years and is now standing down and similarly Geoff Lawrence who has managed our Photographic Competition for 10 years.

MCCG Membership

Currently (Nov. 2018) we have 510 members on our database with 456 financial for 2018. MCCG is indeed fortunate in having such a high number of members which far exceeds membership of other similar catchment groups.

Grants Officer (Letitia Norton)

2018 began with the announcement in February that MCCG had been unsuccessful in its request for \$9,500 for administrative funds from the BCC Environmental Sustainability Grant ENV17-18253 submitted October 29, 2017. This is the first time in several years that we have failed to receive funding from this source and feedback was that the application was highly competitive but there were insufficient funds to be dispersed.

An application lodged in February to the Myer Foundation - Capacity Building for funds to create a short promotional video for MCCG was also deemed unsuccessful in July.

With the help of Gordon Grigg, an application for \$11,067 was made to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for the 'Gold Creek Cottage Reference Garden Project' to rehabilitate a segment of forest on the Gold Creek Cottage property (APP-008266). This was also knocked back, but one by Jim Pope for \$9,920 from the same fund (APP-011154) for equipment to support our bush care work on private land and a laptop computer and printing costs for outreach activities would ultimately prove successful.

Support for the Anzac Tree daisy project continued with the submission of interim reports and extensions alongside Adrian Webb. This project is now due for completion and acquittal.

The application for a BCC Environment Grant for 2019 is currently underway to be submitted before Dec 10. Hopefully BCC will see the value in this application and provide the much-needed funds to allow MCCG to continue its operations and its menu of marvelous community engagement activities throughout the year.

Overall this has been a challenging and somewhat disappointing year as far as securing grant funds has been concerned.

Letitia has been acting as our Grants Officer for 5 years and we would like to thank her for her work. Will Nicoll will take on this role.

Newsletter (Editor Cathi Lawrence)

The 8-page MCGG newsletter is issued quarterly to our Members, and to key contacts and influencers across Brisbane. Thanks to Jim Pope, Bryan Hacker, Malcolm Frost, Michelle Johnston, Ed Frazer, Phil Bird, and Jim Butler for being such regular contributors to the newsletter. Although some members still request a printed copy of the newsletter, we are delighted that members increasingly opt for an electronic copy (keeping our costs down, and ensuring the newsletter is... well.. newsy!). Cathi is very keen to encourage ALL members of the MCGG to contribute to the newsletter and is actively seeking what she calls 'new voices' to contribute.



Front pages of three editions of the newsletter for 2018

MCGG Activities (coordinated by Dale Borgelt)

Cottage Talks

The Cottage was opened on most Thursday mornings and as well as MCGG members, some 40 members of the general public dropped in to find out more about the Cottage, MCGG and the natural environment. Interesting Third Thursday Talks at the Cottage included

sessions on local landholder experiences, Fungi and its place in the scheme of things, and Platypus with insights into 12 years of Platypus Surveys in the MCCG catchment. The also Cottage hosted kindred groups such as UQ students for Insect and Bat projects, and Queensland Museum Biodiversity program ant workshop

Kids' Day at The Cottage Sunday 10th June 2018

2018 Kids' Day at the Cottage was very successful with attendance of around 300 appreciating all the free biodiversity-themed attractions and activities. We are grateful to Seqwater Water for Life Community Grant as a major sponsor, Brisbane City Council Creek Catchment Program for the hiring of pagodas, and the continuing support from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund and Pullenvale Ward Councillor Kate Richards. This support, plus the immeasurable contribution from expert presenters and volunteers is what enables us to offer this very popular event FREE to the community.





MCCG AGM 2017

Guest speaker, Glenn Leiper gave a wonderful presentation on the changes in the new edition of Mangroves to Mountains.

Mid-Year Public Meeting in Kenmore Library

Native Wildlife Presentation by Martin Finland gave young and old a chance to see our native wildlife up close. Over 40 people attended.

MCCG was on public display at other venues and events:

Kenmore Village Shopping Centre (Friday 20th & Saturday 21st April)

Brookfield Show (Friday 18th – Sunday 20th May)

We were also a finalist in the Queensland Community Achievement Award.



MCCG Display at Kenmore Village Shopping Centre (April 2018)

MCCG Photography Competition (managed by Geoff Lawrence)

Our Photography Competition has been held every year in October since 1998. As well as providing an opportunity for local photographers to display their work and win prizes, the competition promotes awareness of the Brisbane catchment groups and encourages community participation. Entry is open to all members of the public, with both open and young persons' categories.

Each year our Photography Competition aims to:

- raise awareness of local environmental issues especially with children
- encourage people to enjoy the variety of flora and fauna in our beautiful catchment
- promote awareness of the Brisbane catchment groups
- encourage membership and participation.

This year another outstanding competition was organized by Geoff Lawrence and his committee. There were 150 entrants and over \$1200 in cash prizes, thanks to the generosity of our local sponsors. Over 600 visitors voted in the 'Peoples' Choice' award.



Geoff Lawrence and Malcolm Frost with our Secretary Sanja Oldridge at the Photographic Competition Display in Kenmore Village Shopping Centre forecourt.



Dale Borgelt and Cody Hochen at the Photography Competition Display at Kenmore Village Shopping Centre (October 2018)

MCCG Photo Competition 2018 Winners and Contributors

OP1 Native Plants and Fungi - Sponsor Kenmore Bridge Club

- 1st **Ed Frazer – “Morning Dew on Red Bottle Brush”**
- 2nd Solveig Gillis
- 3rd John May

OP2 Native Birds - Sponsor Pisces Enterprises

- 1st **Tony Watts – “Cormorant”**
- 2nd Tony Thulborn
- 3rd Rebecca Bain

Op3 Native Animals - Sponsor Dr Christian Rowen (State MP for Moggill)

- 1st **Ed Frazer – “Gee We Look Good”**
- 2nd Solveig Gillis
- 3rd David Edwards

Ed's Photo “Gee We Look Good” judged to be the best photo in the show. Prize sponsored by Brookfield Produce

YP2 (Grades 7-12) My Catchment - Sponsor Councillor Kate Richards

- 1st **Alexander Davies – Hey Who Are You Looking For**
- 2nd Oliver Cooper-White
- 3rd Izzy Grigg

Chairman's Choice - Sponsor Creative Futures Photography

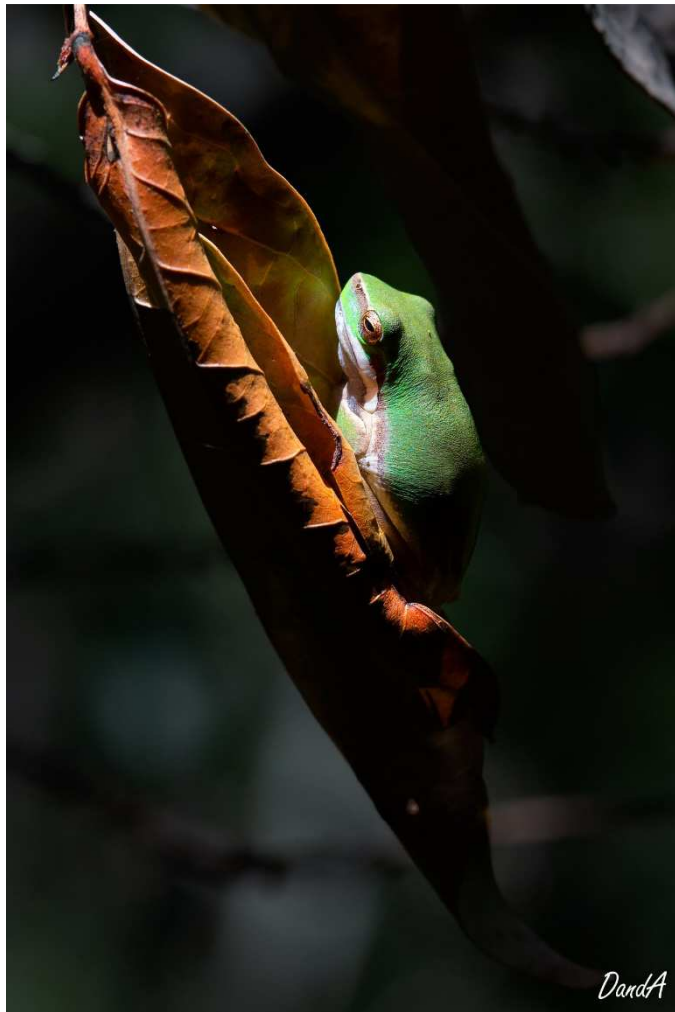
ADULT WINNER Tim Desilets – “Snake Catcher”

YP WINNER Alexander Davies – “Flame In The Night”

People's Choice- Sponsor Pet Chalet

- 1st **Prue Cooper - Antichinus**
- 2nd **Tony Thulborn - Damp but Happy Couple**
- 3rd **Ed Frazer - Gee We Look Good**





MCCG Website (Michelle Johnston)

It is very gratifying to observe that the MCCG website attracted an increase in unique visits each month in 2018 compared with 2017, as shown in the table below.

Month	Unique Visitors 2017	Unique Visitors 2018
Jan, 2018	5,844	6,751
Feb, 2018	4,957	7,357
Mar, 2018	6,059	7,927
Apr, 2018	5,593	6,645
May, 2018	6,498	7,318
Jun, 2018	7,365	7,496
Jul, 2018	7,772	7,120
Aug, 2018	8,687	9,813
Sep, 2018	7,072	8,280
1-20 Oct, 2018	8,237	13,391

We had a resounding peak in October which is without doubt due to the unfailing popularity of our Photography Competition!

A rise in August can be attributed to the launch of our most recent online field guide: *Mammals Found in the Catchment*. This initiative of Ed Frazer's holds nearly 50 photos taken by Ed, other MCCG members and local residents, providing visual confirmation of the abundance of wildlife around us.

Bryan Hacker collaborated with Ed to convert our existing pdf of "*Undesirable and Invasive Plant Species*" into an online field guide. This took a great deal of work, culminating in the release in June of a highly useful and comprehensive listing, complete with photos taken within or close by the catchment.

The three most popular pages visited between January and October this year were the Alphabetical Digital Bird Field Guide, the Nursery page and the Plants page. Reference guides which are continually visited throughout the year are "*Native Seed Germination*" and the "*Freshwater Fish Guide*." It is also pleasing to observe a solid number of visits to our Newsletter immediately after its release, indicating both the anticipation we all feel when a new issue is due, together with our members' support of the move away from printed copies.

I must acknowledge Jim Butler's latest initiative - a monthly Bird Quiz, together with his regular *Feather Fascination* articles and Deerhurst St Park Bird Project updates. Ed Frazer continues to generously provide our website with a wealth of local reference material accompanied by his remarkable photos.

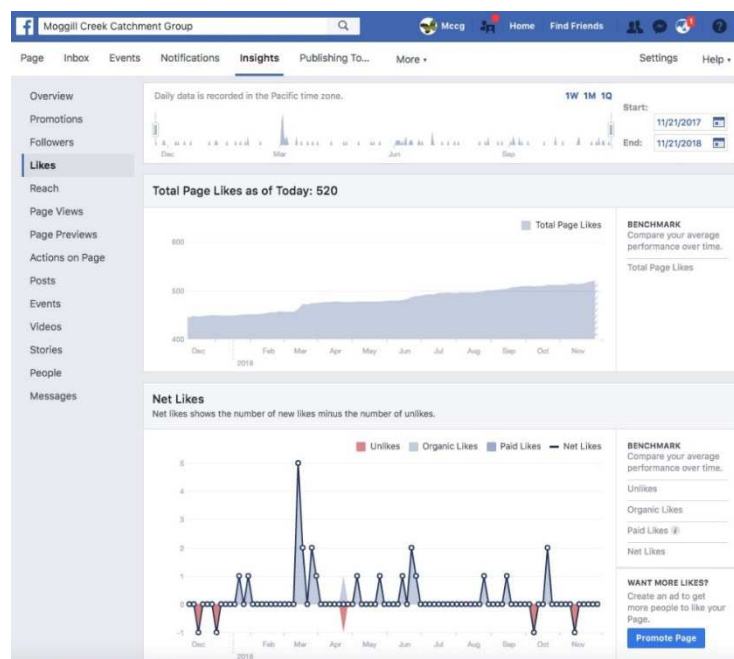
And thank you to so many members who answered my calls for content throughout the year, including Cathi and Geoff Lawrence, Chris Read, Geoff Monteith, Prue Cooper-White, Beck Bain, Dale Borgelt and Jim Pope. I am truly grateful for your support.

We face a major upcoming challenge in March 2021 with the cessation of support for Adobe Business Catalyst, the platform which currently hosts our website. This will necessitate a potentially expensive migration of the website to a new platform, WordPress, over the next 1-2 years. If any members have expertise that might assist us in this process, please contact us via our Secretary at: mccgsecretary@live.com.au.

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

MCCG Facebook Report (Janine Nicklin)

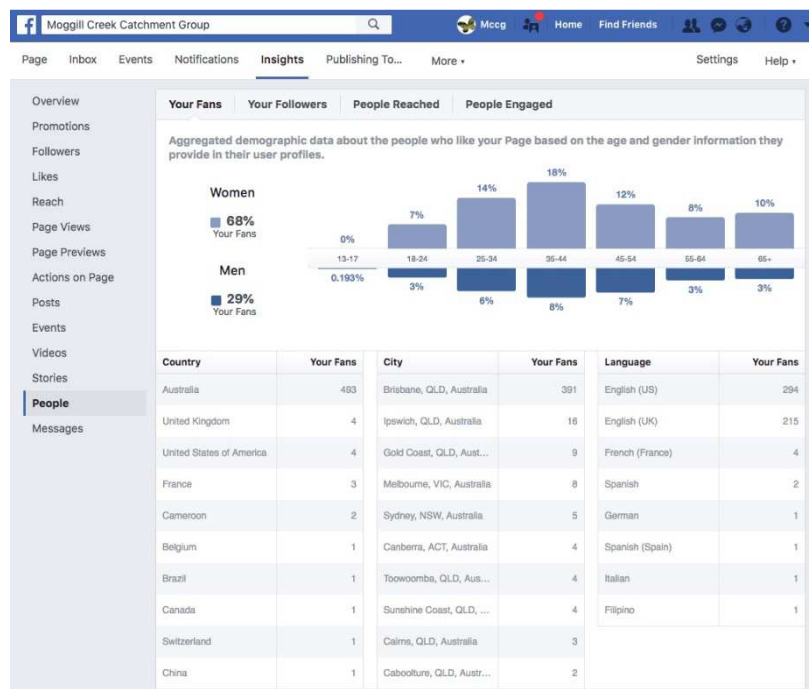
MCCG started publishing on Facebook over 3 years 5 months ago. Since November 2017 our followers have increased from 443 people to 520 people (+77 people). The graphs below show number of 'likes' for the year to date. It is possible to see where people have unliked the page – five people have unliked the page in the past 12 months – indicating that once people like the page they stay with the page, which indicates that the page is of some value to people we reach.



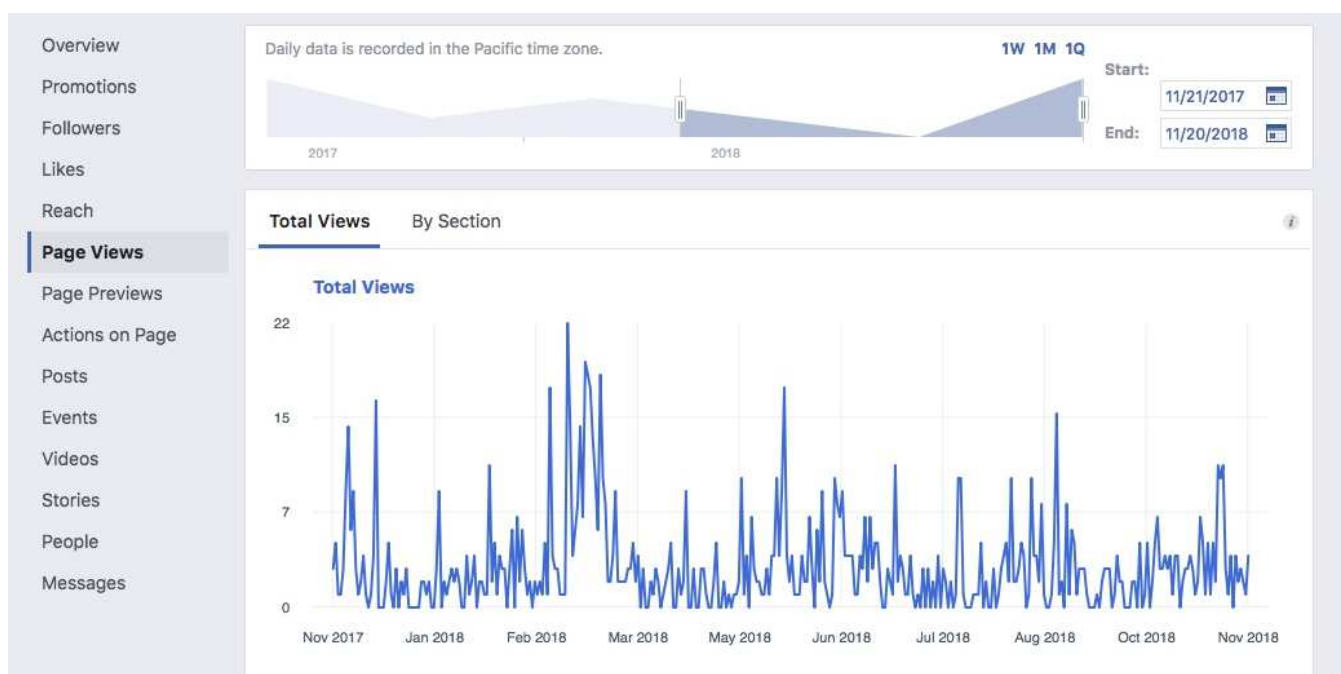
1. People who like our page

Women make up 68% 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 – 8%). Both of these percentages are relatively unchanged since October 2016. We have 493

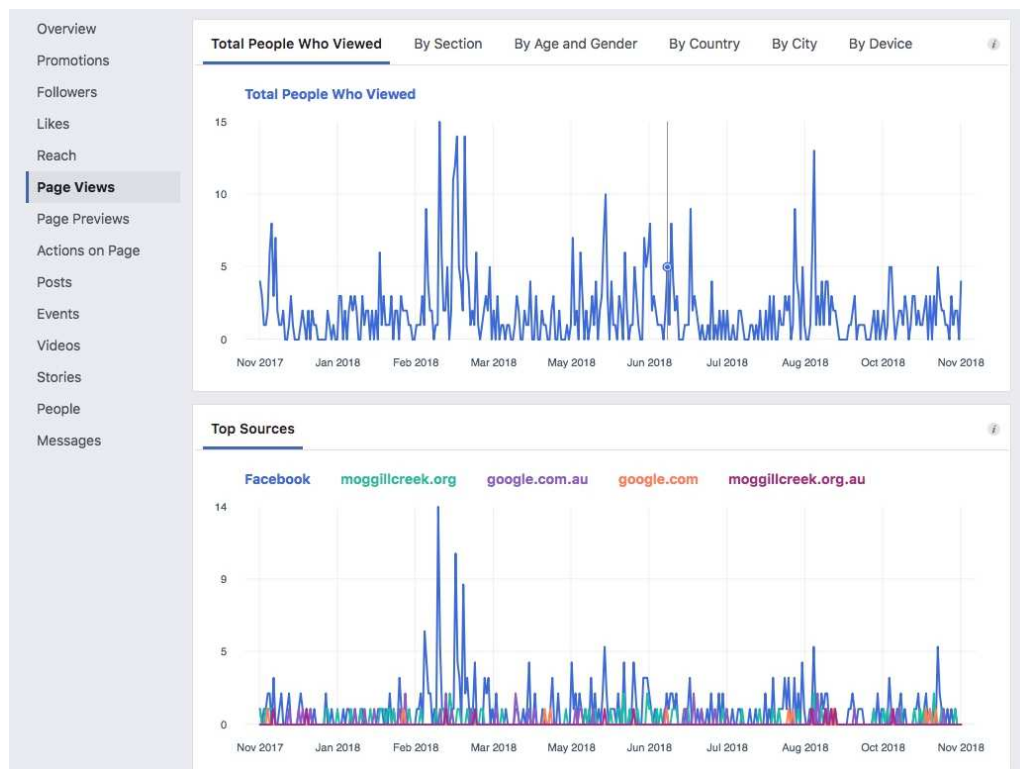
people located in Australia, 4 from the UK, 4 from USA, 3 from France, 2 from Cameroon, and one from each of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Switzerland, China, Colombia, Denmark and 6 other countries. For those from Australia, the highest number is local (391 people).



2. Total views in the past 12months



Total people who viewed & top sources:



Green and red lines indicate a fair amount of interaction between MCCG webpage and the facebook page. Facebook is the most common source by which people access the facebook page.

3. Posts Published – Nov 2017 – November 2018

Viewers are online all through the day, but the main viewing period is 6am – 8pm. Posts published consist of:

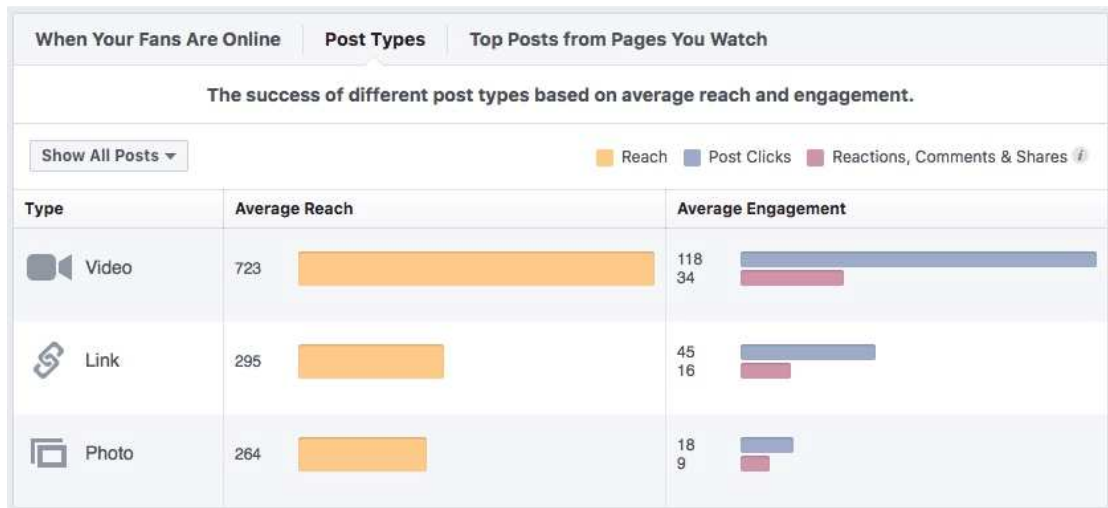
- Sharing links – regarding activities in the local area
- Sharing information and photos of MCCG events or activities of interest happening in the catchment or local area.

MCCG Secretary, Jim Pope, Brian Hacker, Malcolm Frost, Dale Borgelt, Adrian Webb have submitted items to be posted. Posts have been focused around:

- Information based posts
- Photographic competition
- MCCG Working bees/ Meetings
- CHMP activities

We have a number of other groups sharing our posts. Including: QLD 4069, Brisbane Catchments Network, Cubberla-Witton Catchments, Wild Bne, Dr Christian Rowan MP, Kate Richards (Councillor for Pullenvale).

Viewers are engaging on these posts, by 'liking' them, clicking on the photos and leaving comments. The most popular posts have been photo or video-based and informative posts. See the list of posts for the past 8 months on the following pages.



Posts published:

Overview	All Posts Published						
Promotions	<div> <div>Reach: Organic / Paid ▾</div> <div>Post Clicks</div> <div>Reactions, Comments & Shares ⓘ ▾</div> </div>						
Followers	Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach ⓘ	Engagement	Promote
Likes	11/08/2018 10:40 PM	What a wonderful experience. Thank you for sharing this lovely			87	77 26	Boost Post
Reach	11/08/2018 10:29 PM	Brisbane's Wild West Calendar for 2019 is now available – for the			434	28 9	Boost Post
Page Views	09/05/2018 8:23 PM	This amazingly clear video of two platypus mating was shot by an			336	33 15	Boost Post
Page Previews	09/04/2018 9:16 PM	Let's spoil the 2018 Cats Claw flower party! We are getting closer			723	118 34	Boost Post
Actions on Page	08/31/2018 6:00 AM	MCGG Photographic Competition 2018 - Seeking a valued prize			225	5 6	Boost Post
Posts	08/27/2018 8:10 PM	Super convenient (Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens Auditorium),			461	24 8	Boost Post
Events	08/26/2018 10:51 PM	Changes to Nursery Plant Orders If you'd like to collect plants from our			275	43 10	Boost Post
Videos	08/26/2018 10:31 PM	MCGG Treasurer Needed! This is a great opportunity for a finance-			190	4 2	Boost Post
Stories	08/26/2018 10:26 PM	Thank you Moggill Creek Catchment Group followers!			195	8 18	Boost Post
People	07/14/2018 6:03 PM	McKay Brook Bushcare group. Bryan Hacker would like to advise			191	4 2	Boost Post
Messages	07/03/2018 9:10 PM	A seminar on Biological control of Lantana - Wednesday 4 July,			61	4 2	Boost Post
	07/03/2018 9:06 PM	Is this too good to be true... who loves Madeira beetle?			67	47 10	Boost Post

Overview	07/03/2018 9:04 PM	 To all our singles out there – something specially for you. 🥰			220		18 3		
Promotions	07/03/2018 9:03 PM	 A little slice of nature for you all from Wild BNE, who does an			65		16 5		Boost Post
Followers	07/03/2018 8:51 PM	 MCCG facebook is about to hit a big milestone... stay tuned!			172		5 2		Boost Post
Likes	07/03/2018 8:43 PM	 Moggill Creek Catchment Group has a wonderful webpage with an			163		17 4		Boost Post
Reach	06/24/2018 6:00 AM	 What's been happening in Pacey Road recently? Yesterday Jim Pope			233		28 13		Boost Post
Page Views	06/23/2018 10:37 PM	 YOUR HELP NEEDED !!! The work of the MCCG relies on grants to			336		33 6		Boost Post
Page Previews	06/23/2018 10:12 PM	 Tuckett Park local, Mike Humphrey, found this little fellow in the park			716		79 61		Boost Post
Actions on Page	06/12/2018 8:21 PM	 A little information about ticks... https://www.chonday.com/29810/tic			258		51 13		Boost Post
Posts	06/12/2018 8:18 PM	 We would love to hear your stories and impressions from the 2018			242		83 15		Boost Post
Events	05/23/2018 11:07 PM	 Here's a high five 🙌 to all of you - our wonderful volunteers - who give			73		5 10		Boost Post
Videos	05/21/2018 6:51 PM	 Congratulations Dale! There is no more remarkable or vibrant member			248		19 22		Boost Post
Stories	05/19/2018 7:19 PM	 BirdLife Powerful Owl training workshops available on three			212		11 4		
People									
Messages									

Overview	05/21/2018 6:51 PM	 Congratulations Dale! There is no more remarkable or vibrant member			248		19 22		Boost Post
Promotions	05/19/2018 7:19 PM	 BirdLife Powerful Owl training workshops available on three			212		11 4		
Followers	05/19/2018 7:11 PM	 Waterway Health Assessment Training - Next Sunday 27 May			199		9 7		
Likes	05/19/2018 6:11 PM	 Cat's Claw information sessions for land holders in the catchment are			507		36 27		Boost Post
Reach	05/19/2018 12:12 PM	 We're feeling Hot, Hot, Hot at our stall at the Brookfield Show. Dale is			234		20 11		Boost Post
Page Views	05/19/2018 9:23 AM	 Drop into the MCCG stall at the Brookfield Show today and			117		6 6		Boost Post
Page Previews	05/07/2018 8:44 PM	 Please come if you can, lots of help needed.			184		6 3		
Actions on Page	05/03/2018 8:01 PM	 Did anyone notice the MCCG stall at Kenmore Village a couple of			237		37 17		Boost Post
Posts	05/03/2018 7:39 PM	 Thanks to all our members who worked on Sunday at the Tuckett			320		64 14		Boost Post
Events	05/03/2018 7:23 PM	 The happy McKay Brook Bushcare group after a recent afternoon's			275		79 23		Boost Post
Videos	03/21/2018 9:47 PM	 Feedback from Cane Toad capture night Friday 9 March Brisbane City			239		39 18		Boost Post
Stories	03/19/2018 10:24 PM	 The McKay Brook Bushcare Group met on Sunday morning, 18th			291		37 15		Boost Post
People	03/14/2018 10:12 PM	 Native Plants Market – Saturday 28 April from 9am to 3pm Where:			383		28 15		Boost Post
Messages	03/09/2018 11:20 AM	 Pacey Road volunteers are hard at work with the regeneration of their			176		16 2		Boost Post

Viewers are engaging on these posts, by 'liking' them, clicking on the photos and leaving comments. The most popular posts have been photo or video-based and informative posts. See the list of posts for the past 8 months on the following pages.

Recommendations

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

- The number of people following our group is now 520 – up by 77 since Nov 2017.
- I commend people who have made an effort to send through information and photos and ideas for the MCCG Facebook page. Don't stop. Keep thinking of creative ways to put Facebook to use.
- The number of men and women engaging with the page has remained steady. There is an even spread of ages amongst the users of the page.
- The page has virtually no engagement from under 17year olds. This remains be an area of opportunity for the group.
- Very few people post to the facebook page. I would like to encourage more sharing of photos and information amongst our followers and will be looking into how to make this possible.
- Committee members and general members are encouraged to keep sending relevant, current and interesting items in to be posted to Facebook.

MCCG Nursery (Andrew Wilson, Bryan Hacker)

During 2017-18, the nursery distributed 12,672 free plants. These plants were provided to MCCG members as well as to Pullen Pullen Catchment Group members, in recognition of the support of several PPCG members at nursery working bees. Frequently members visit the nursery repeatedly in their work on restoring native vegetation and often report their success with earlier plantings of MCCG-grown plants. Some plants are occasionally sold at public events such as the Brookfield Show, although this was not the case in 2018. Limited numbers of advanced plants of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vine were sold (\$8 each).

Volunteers at the nursery contributed 1,119 hours, working on the first and third Mondays of each month during the year, but this figure does not include additional hours provided by Andrew Wilson and Bryan Hacker. Over the year, an average of 15 volunteers attended each working bee. There were 142 different varieties of plants potted during 2017-18. Bryan Hacker continued to be the main point of contact for nursery plants, most weeks servicing customer requests at least once. There were 162 different recipients of plants during the year.

Seeds of 197 different species of plant were collected by 22 members for germination at the nursery. Vegetative propagation of certain species difficult to propagate by other means is continuing. Seed collection is a limiting factor to nursery activities.

Plants provided by the MCCG Nursery 2017-18

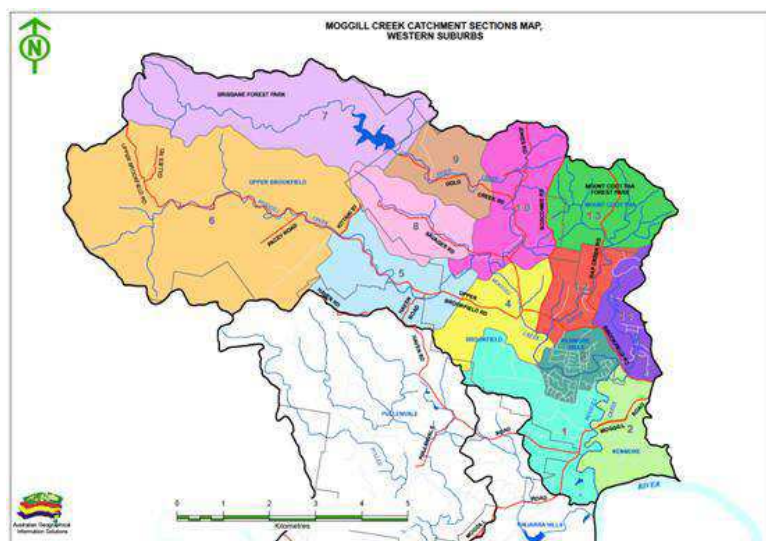
SECTION NUMBER

1 Pullenvale Rd Moons Lane	148
2 Lower Moggill	375
3 Huntington	358
4 Showgrounds	759
5 Haven Rd	301
6 Upper Brookfield	2108
7 Gold Creek Reserve	0
8 Wonga Creek	1138
9 Upper Gold Creek	139
10 Lower Gold Creek	179
11 McKay Brook	801
12 Gap Creek	905
13 Mt Coot-tha	0
Pullen Pullen	3652
Cubberla Witton	868
Unknown destinations	941
TOTAL	12672

Landcare activities (Bryan Hacker)

Over the period July 2017 – June 2018 Landcare Adviser, Bryan Hacker, on invitation visited 12 properties, providing expert advice on revegetation, weed control and species identification. Properties visited generally range from 1ha to 4ha, varying 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 MCCG nursery visits, enabling appropriate selection of species for revegetation projects.

MCCG Section Data 2017-18



Section	Working bees	Average attendees	Volunteer hours	Hours outside working bees	Plants
2 (Lower Moggill)	11	8.7	278	36	626
3 (Hunting/Tuckett)	11	16.5	410	65	637
4 (Showgrounds)	7	3.4	60	246	35
6 (Upper Brookfield)	1	6.0	15	170	220
6 (Pacey Road)	8	15.9	360	7	44
6 (Galvin Road)	2	7.5	33	40	100
8 (Wonga/Savages)	2	2.5	16	10	15
9 (Upper Gold Crk)	9	5.2	101	17	47
11 (McKay Brook)	21	5.2	257	65	301
11 (KSHS)	1	85.0	340	35	1024
12 (Gap Creek)	10	5.4	131	102	786
TOTAL	83		2001	793	3835

Section Reports

Section 2 Lower Moggill (Judy Petroeschevsky)

We have had a very successful year. We have worked hard to plant out the upper banks of Moggill Creek. These plantings have been able to withstand the damage from the fast-flowing flooding that occurs regularly in our catchment and our plantings having survived and are growing well. We have had an increase in our number of workers, making it possible to achieve a lot more rehabilitation than originally planned. We also have a large fig tree in our catchment area which has been identified as having the biggest canopy in Brisbane. Many thanks to our regular workers, who have done a wonderful job in 2018.

Section 3 Huntington/Tuckett (Jim Pope)

Our section extends for approximately 1.6km along Moggill Creek through the parklands between Rafting Ground Rd. (Brookvale) and Tuckett St. in Kenmore Hills. It includes the riparian zones on both sides of the creek. In 2018 I received a Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) grant for \$18,000 from Brisbane City Council for the removal of most of the remaining large Chinese Elms (*Celtis sinensis*) from the section, and for replanting of the cleared area (in Tuckett St. park) with natives. Chinese Elms tend to outgrow native vegetation and mature specimens produce copious quantities of seeds that are distributed by wind, water and birds. They have a very large canopy, producing intense shading of the undergrowth in summer and suppressing the growth and regeneration of native groundcover, shrubs and trees, resulting in a dramatic reduction in biodiversity. Funds from CCA grants are not cash grants, the funds remaining under the control of Council. Work by contractors to remove the identified trees was commenced in March 2018, but was stopped almost immediately, ostensibly due to objections from one or more residents to the cutting down of trees. It seems that more efforts need to be made to educate local people on the subjects of weed control and native bush regeneration. The matter was eventually resolved positively and the remaining trees were removed in November, but dealing with the issue

cost us a lot of time and effort and has set back the replanting by 12 months since we now have to wait for suitable conditions during the 'wet season' in early 2019.

Our group did carry out significant new plantings both in Blackbutt Pl. park and in the parklands adjacent to Kensington Circuit. For the Blackbutt Pl. site we also installed (with assistance from Brisbane Catchments Network), a 'monitoring point', where local residents can take photographs of the plantings and forward them by email for uploading to a website (<http://www.brisbanecatchments.net.au/monitoring-posts>) where the growth (both of the natives and the inevitable weeds!) can be monitored over time.



Blackbutt Place, Brookfield

Post005

Help Brisbane Catchments Network monitor local bushcare by participating in photo monitoring!

Here's how:

- 1) Place phone into the bracket.
- 2) Take a photo of the site.
- 3) Email photo and quote **Post005** to **bcn_monitoring@outlook.com**
- 4) View photos at **www.brisbanecatchments.net.au/Monitoring**

As usual we also devoted many hours to the usual weed removal and control of exotic grasses. At our October working bee we were joined for morning tea by Councillor Kate Richards (Pullenvale Ward) and Councillor Vicki Howard (Chairman of the Field Services Committee of Brisbane City Council). This was an excellent opportunity to show them some of the important work that we and other volunteer bushcare groups carry out and to emphasise its benefits in protecting and enhancing habitat for native species and improving

biodiversity. We also impressed upon them the health benefits to local residents of a thriving natural environment.



Section 4 Showgrounds (Damien Egan)

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. Since October 2017 Brookfield State School P&C volunteers have joined our working bees each alternate month to work on the BSS side of the adjacent Moggill creek.

Rafting Ground Road Site: Total Hours 306 Plants 35

Starting at the Brookfield roundabout, Bryan and Jenny Hacker are continuing to do weed management on this site. Brookfield roundabout site is a very important back drop to the Brookfield Showgrounds and highlights the importance of regenerating our catchments bushland for all visitors to appreciate.





Kenmore State High School: Total Hours 968 Plants 1526

National Tree Day planting (26th July) with years 10/11/12 students established 1500 plants along creek bank between McKay Brook and Moggill creek junction with 150 students participating. Toyota is our major sponsor providing funds for plants and hats and T-shirts for the students. BCC also provided 300 plants and mulch to help with the day.





Section 6 Upper Brookfield (Kate McVicar)

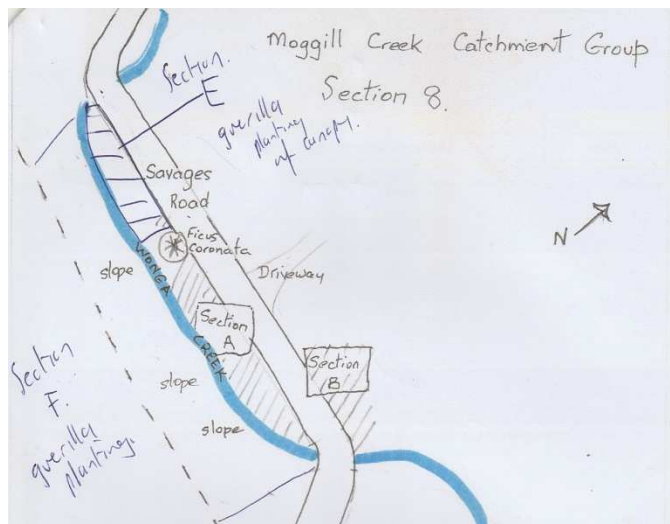
This section of Council land is along Moggill Creek and is located approximately 800m beyond the Upper Brookfield State School. The site is surrounded by large acreage properties and many of these landowners are engaged in their own revegetation projects, which means that attendance at public working bees is low. Despite this we are making good progress.

This year we focussed on maintenance of previous plantings. 182 hours were spent on hand-weeding, watering, infill planting, and maintaining access paths. Madeira vine, elephant grass and asparagus vine continue to be a problem, as well as new weeds such as cats claw and dychoriste.

Habitat Brisbane provided assistance with contractors brush cutting elephant grass along the steep sections of the creek bank. These grasses have been left to prevent further erosion of this vulnerable area. Next year we plan to start rehabilitating this area by undertaking mosaic clearing and planting.

Section 8 Wonga Creek / Savages Road (John Crowley)

Weather conditions have followed climate change. Good rain in September capped off a seasonally dry winter.





A generous CCA grant from the Brisbane City Council enabled the continuation of the Wonga Creek riparian corridor restoration in section F on the map and the photo above, and thanks to the BCC contractors and our tireless MCCG volunteers, plant growth has been affirmed with the necessary watering and weeding.

As in previous years, members of section 8 have been busy on other projects such as the Anzac tree daisy removal project organised by Adrian Webb, which has been instrumental in stopping the progress of this weed down the Wonga Creek/Savages Road corridor, with the added benefit of establishing good native growth along hillside runoff areas.

I can't thank enough MCCG volunteers, including those at the nursery who have supplied those essential plants, and Habitat Brisbane for their support this year as in others.

Section 9 Upper Gold Creek (Gordon Grigg)

The 'Upper Gold Creekers' met monthly and conducted maintenance work on our previous plantings on public land and Cats Claw management on private land. A highlight was planting Butterfly Vines in the area where we had our first planting in 1997, now a closed canopy forest. We applied unsuccessfully for a grant to help with managing some land at the end of Gold Creek Road surrounding the old sawmill, adjoining the MCCG Cottage and are on the lookout for further opportunities. We need about \$10,000. Each year we schedule one working bee in the creek (literally), removing the invasive Arrowhead weed, *Sagittaria*. As a consequence, it is at least controlled. We have welcomed several new members this year, but more will be welcomed. As well as work satisfaction our morning teas are very convivial. Group leadership is shared between Andrew Ness, Phil Blackler and Gordon Grigg.

Section 11 McKay Brook (Bryan Hacker)

Twice each month, weather permitting, working bees are held in Section 11, McKay Brook. With support from BCC a new hillside area was planted in October and early in 2018 an area below Bozzato Place was planted by a contractor, following concerns from a local resident.

Areas close to the mouth of McKay Brook and across Moggill Creek, managed by Damien Egan, have now been included in this section by Habitat Brisbane. Improvement of the latter area is likely to be slow owing to Council restrictions on removal of Chinese celtis trees. For the most part working bees focus on protecting margins, supporting natural regeneration, and removing exotic vines and small Chinese celtis.

Section 12 Gap Creek (Mike Humphreys)

By 2018 we had largely removed the weeds and replanted the Kenmore Hills side of Deerhurst Rd Park. Maintenance work was still required and some infill plantings were also made but our major efforts were directed towards the Deerhurst Rd side of the park.

Two major plantings occurred. Habitat Brisbane cut down and chopped up a few large weed trees and poisoned the remainder in an area a few hundred meters downstream from the upper end of the park. We then planted about 160 natives on the site. With the help of funding from a Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) grant the weed trees were cut down and mulched in an area at the top end of the park. We then planted about 240 natives.

We also held two working bees with the help of the Brookfield Bicycle Rider's Club a few hundred meters upstream from the Brookfield Rd end of the park. We expect to be able to remove and mulch the large weed trees there in 2020 and replant with natives. We have also helped the owners of two Land for Wildlife properties whose land adjoins the Deerhurst Rd side of the park. We helped clear weeds from both properties and we planted natives on one property. The CCA grant also paid for the removal and mulching of 10 Chinese Elm trees which were making it difficult to maintain a previous planting. This was about 100 meters in from Brookfield Rd. Our last working bee for the year will involve planting about 90 natives in that area.

We also accepted responsibility for maintaining and enhancing the plantings along the upper side of Kookaburra St. We planted 160 low growing natives under the power lines and will continue to clear weeds and plant on that side of the street.

Non-HB Groups:

Pacey Road (Brian Krieger and Warren Hoey)

The Pacey Rd group has focused this year on two new areas of the road, with the remaining working bees concentrating on improving and expanding on existing areas. The top part of the creek has been an area of some frustration to the members and the landowners, as it is heavily overgrown with madeira vine. However the northern side of the creek has had

significant work completed this year including planting by the landowners and this has seen 40-50 meters of improved land including planting along the edges of the bank to protect against erosion. A very small infestation of cat's claw was found and removed. The landowner is vigilantly monitoring this area to minimise its potential expansion.

Moving down the creek a large section of the land on the southern side, some 600m² has had significant clearing and planting occurring. Many of the plants have come from the landowner and this has resulted in stabilisation of the creek bank and the establishment of natives which appear to have survived well into the early part of the 2018 summer.

A new landowner has joined the group and the working bee cleared a 30m² zone in their front yard of madeira, glycine, Chinese elm and other weeds. The enormous pile of weeds was slow burned by the group, as there had been significant rain in the days prior. The new working bee member was amazed at how efficient and successful the working bee can be in reducing the individual's effort and clearing large areas. Some 60-70 plants were put in the ground the following day.

Not as many plants have been put in the ground this year as much of the work has been clearing and weeding. 2019 should see an increase in planting numbers. This year has seen the group participation increase, with the numbers attending the working bees being stable at around 15 volunteers per event on average. A very pleasing number of children and young adults have also been attending and enjoying the work. There's nothing like getting them young and involved. A total of 10 working bees have been held and, in early December, a small get-together will be held for Christmas in one of the areas which we can say, after seven years of hard work, looks fantastic!



Gold Creek Dam (Dick Tumman)

Planting continued on the old weather station site along the northern edge near the water now totalling near 100 plants. Earlier this year, uncontrolled herbicide spraying along the N-W side of the walking track around the dam by an unsupervised and inexperienced contractor to SEQWater destroyed much native bush regeneration. After a joint inspection on October 5 of this section and the adjoining old recently mulched footprint of the dam with SEQWater ranger Andrew Sampon, agreement was reached to replant the sprayed area, with Andrew providing 5000 plants from their suppliers in Redlands. To date this has not been followed up.

Upper Brookfield (Galvin Rd) Working Group (Phil Bird)

A small group of local residents came together in May 2016 to restore the riparian bushland along the upper reaches of Moggill Creek. This included a number of properties near Galvin Road, Upper Brookfield and included the culverts and road margins. We started working in an area that for many decades was covered by lantana, exotic grasses such as elephant grass and embu panic, and the vines, Madeira and cat's claw creeper. The first priority was to determine what was there, so we could protect the existing native species. This involved controlling the smothering canopy vines and removing exotic grasses which dominated the creek banks, and replacing them with riparian native species like lomandra, cheese tree; red flowering bottle brush and river she-oaks, which grow naturally in these areas. During the selective clearing of the upper banks many dry rainforest species were found under the weeds, especially the red olive plum, mutton wood and a number of ferns. We are also mindful of local wildlife like banded rails and platypus that have been sighted in the area. Fortunately, we were able to obtain help from the Green Army in preparing the site for in-fill planting with some 900+ native plants. We also re-constructed and reinforced creek banks following nature with rocks, sediment and suitable plants. During flooding the events the banks become subject to erosion, especially after removal of exotic grasses. We have reconstructed these banks, so that once established, the native plant species will help to improve bank stability. See photos below:





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 Land & Water 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.

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 initially 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: organising training workshops such as aquatic weed identification, water monitoring procedures, fish and aquatic macro-invertebrate identification; riparian conditions assessment and dissemination of information to the membership and the catchment community. Overall we hope 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 acquired 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. The first phase gave 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 was dealt with subsequently.

All the data are in the process of being put into a new database being developed through Healthy Land & Water. 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 few 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 and Anzac Tree Daisy (Adrian Webb)

Cat's Claw

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 MCGG 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 website 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 Coolum 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.

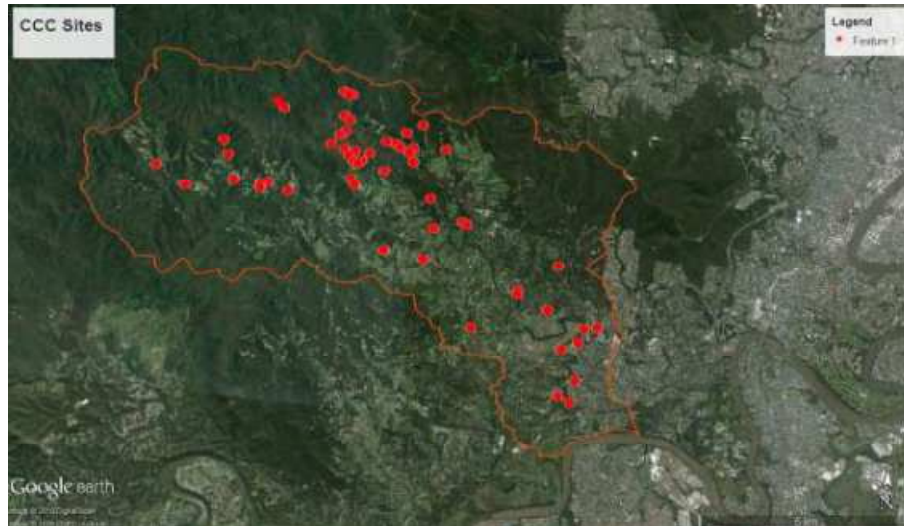
Progress

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 5 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 four.

Damage to vines has been observed in several sites but there is no obvious reduction in the spread of vines.

- Weed management was carried out in 3 areas over the 2016-17 year under a 'Green Army' project. 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 already have 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.

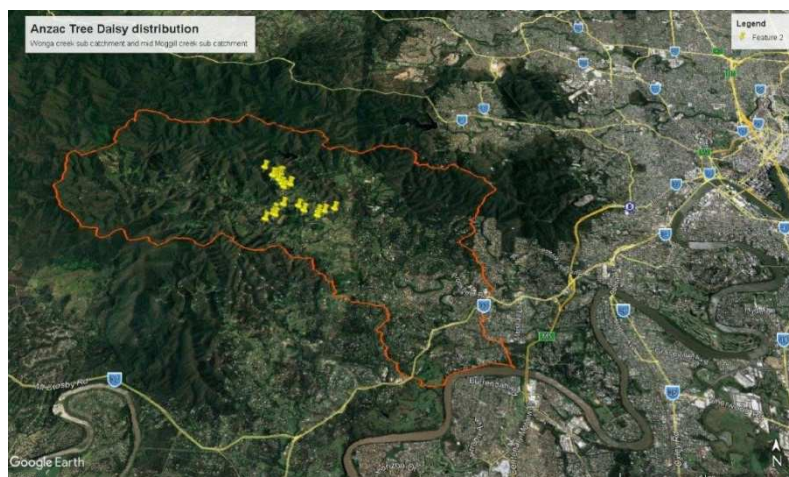
Gardening Australia

Earlier this year we were contacted by the ABC's 'Gardening Australia' to assist them in producing a segment for their program on the damage done by cat's claw to the natural environment in SE Queensland. In November we were visited by their film crew, with presenter Jerry Coleby-Williams and producer Neil Proud, to film the segment, which we hope will go to air sometime in early 2019.



Anzac Tree Daisy

Another threat to the environment of Moggill Creek is Anzac Tree Daisy. An information session on identification and control of this emerging weed was held in Upper Brookfield Hall in June 2018. Anzac tree daisy has been identified on 22 properties in the mid- to upper-Wonga Creek sub-catchment, and the mid Moggill Creek sub-catchment. It is distributed from ridges down the drainage lines to the Wonga creek and Moggill creek. It is a profuse seeder and poses a big threat to remnant vegetation in those areas.



MCCG Platypus Survey (Christine Hosking and Tamielle Brunt)

Each year the same observation points are monitored, incorporating Gold Creek and Moggill Creek (upper and lower). The annual MCCG platypus survey has now been running for 13 years and we have never not seen a platypus! The numbers have ranged from <10 to >20 platypus observed. As in all years, the 2018 survey results are likely to be conservative.

This year, seven platypus were seen. This is not bad news because:

- The seven sightings spanned the catchment, from upper Gold Creek (just below the dam) to Upper Brookfield and downstream to lower Brookfield/Kenmore, indicating that platypus are persisting across the catchment and their overall range is not contracting;
- At two sites, there was a strong suspicion that two platypus, not one, were seen;
- At three further sites, the observers strongly suspected they saw a platypus but were not confident to report the sighting as a positive;
- At numerous sites that yielded a negative result for this year's survey, platypus have recently been seen by local residents.

In addition to being an educational and enjoyable annual activity for the local community, the MCCG snapshot survey results feed into Wildlife Queensland's PlatypusWatch program <http://wildlife.org.au/platypuswatch/>. They are also currently informing a University of Queensland platypus PhD project. The take-home messages remain the same for the catchment's platypus if we want to protect this shy and unique animal from the key threats to its survival which are:

- Pollution into creeks from chemical runoff, horses and cattle;
- Water extraction from creeks via pumping;
- Yabby traps set in creeks;
- Loss of habitat such as creekside vegetation clearing;
- Erosion caused by bare creek banks;
- Disturbance in creeks from human/pet recreational activities.

Thanks to the survey leaders Tamielle, Judy, Leonie and Damien for again doing an excellent job leading volunteers to their sites in the dark. Thanks also to volunteer cooks Jimmy, Alan and Sonja for a delicious post-survey breakfast, and to the Brookfield Pony Club for kindly providing their kitchen facilities. Finally, thanks to the platypus observers, without whom the survey would not have been possible!

Rowena Park Restoration (Malcolm Frost)

The four-year, Rafting Ground Reserve Restoration Project, part of the Brisbane wide *What's your nature?* urban waterway restoration initiative was successfully completed in 2018. The \$90,000 government grant through Land for Wild Life transformed a long stretch of the riparian zone along Rowena Park.

Habitat Brisbane have now approved the creation of a new Habitat Brisbane group for the area including Rowena Park which is planned to begin early next year (2019).



A wide angle of part of the riparian zone that has been restored.

Cane Toad Challenge (Phil Bird)

Brisbane City Council, in collaboration with Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) held a Cane Toad Challenge workshop on the 17th November 2018 on construction and use of cane toad traps, using baits supplied by the UQ CTC team. MCCG is a CTC affiliate. CTC is a UQ initiative through which Professor Rob Capon and his team have discovered a way to use the adult cane toads' toxins to attract and trap their tadpoles before they can reproduce (<http://canetoadchallenge.org.au>). The technology uses cane toad pheromones (baits) in conjunction with traps, to achieve the large-scale capture and removal of cane toad tadpoles from managed waterways. Cane toads lay their eggs in farm dams, still water bodies and even ephemeral pools that fill after rain. Traps are less likely to be effective in flowing water, such as streams. Coordinated implementation of tadpole trapping has the potential to dramatically reduce cane toad populations and alleviate the environmental impact of this toxic invasive pest.

Outline of workshop – chaired by Phil Bird

1. An introduction on the Council's role in CTC - Andrew Wills, Acting Creek Catchment Officer - Community Conservation Partnerships, BCC.
2. Open discussion, shared experiences with the use of traps, Q&A
3. Demonstration of trap construction and how to use them.
4. Free discussions during afternoon tea
5. Handouts available on identification of toads and trap construction.

Over 20 MCCG members attended the workshop with some leaving with traps and baits to capture cane toad tadpoles.



Summary

Overall 2017/2018 has been a good year for Moggill Creek Catchment Group, with lots of interesting and invigorating activities and talks. Our bush care work was aided by the absence of major floods, but this is likely only to be a temporary respite! In the coming year I hope we can continue to grow. A particular focus will be improving our success in obtaining grants to support our work.