



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

MOGGILL NEWS-AUGUST 2000

NEWSLETTER OF MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

The Field Officer's Report (August 2000)

The cooler weather over winter has seen many MCCMG groups concentrate on clearing areas that are infested with weeds. The water trailer purchased by the Catchment Group has made watering our plants during these dry periods quite easy and most of the plants are growing well. In addition to this more private landowners who want to revegetate areas of their properties have contacted me. I have now advised more than 65 landowners on ways they can rehabilitate their properties and this number is growing every month.

Our nursery volunteers continue to produce plants at a fantastic rate. At the last nursery volunteers day, 8 volunteers potted on over 300 tube stock and pricked out over 750 seedlings that had been grown from local seed. In the last year the nursery has produced just over 6000 plants from 55 species! There is quite a bit of seed starting to germinate as the temperatures rise, so the volunteers will have plenty of work soon.

The MCCMG water quality monitoring kit has almost finished the first rotation with only a few minor problems. The volunteers have been successful at sampling, despite the scarcity of water in some of the creeks. I will receive the kit soon and sample my two sites above and below Gold Creek Reservoir before the kit begins the next rotation.

I have recently started monitoring the working bee sites for the annual monitoring document. This process involves taking photos from photopoints established last year, monitoring natural regeneration on the site and spending time recording bird species in or near the revegetation sites. Of the sites I have already monitored, the growth from the same time last year is impressive. Some of the trees that were only 1-2m last year have already reached 4-5m in height!

Michael Reif

**Keep Wednesday 22nd
November free to attend our
AGM.
Our Field Officer, Michael Reif
will be Guest Speaker.
Bring your neighbours.**



REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN, GORDON GRIGG.

As we approach the end of the second of the three years for which we have funding from the National Heritage Trust, we do not know if there will be an extension of the funding scheme for us. As most of our sections are now BCC Bushcare groups, we can reasonably expect a continuity of support beyond 2001 for work on public lands. Much of our work, however, is directed towards re-vegetation on private land, so we need to develop the maximum momentum while we can.

Happily, the number of landowners signing up with Michael for re-vegetation work continues to increase. As well, the work on public land, supported jointly by NHT and the BCC funds, shows no sign of slowing. Many thanks to Field Officer Michael Reif and Tom Mc Hugh of BCC Habitat Brisbane for both the direct and indirect assistance they are providing.

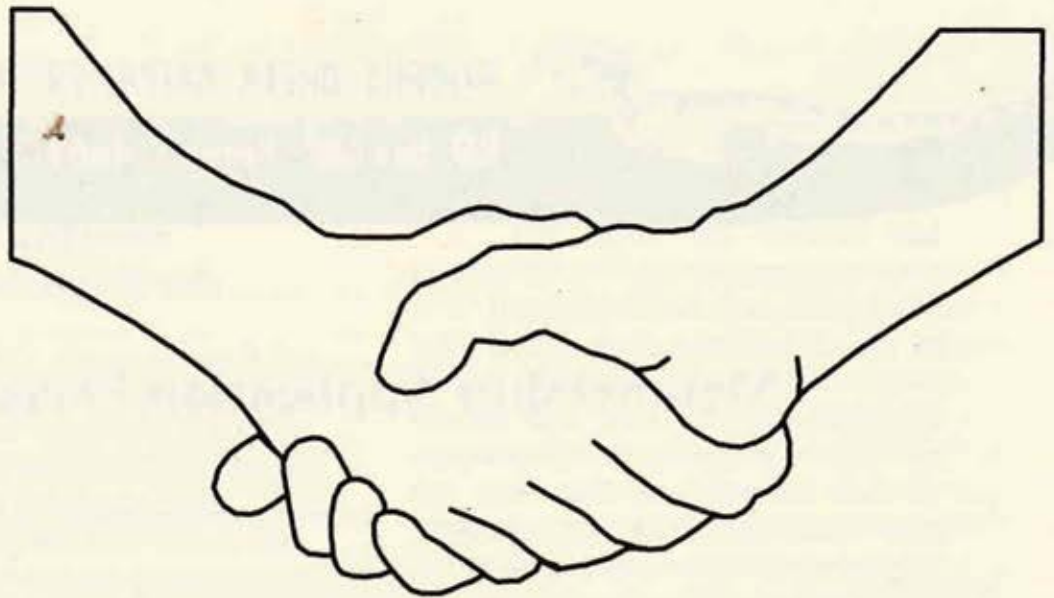
Perhaps, in view of the recent very dry weather, I should remind everyone that watering our established plantings is now top priority.

**Welcome to new Section Leaders, Michelle St Baker and Rob Waller.
We still need leaders in other sections.** The task is not difficult and immensely rewarding.

Happy clearing/planting/watering!

Section Leaders:

1.	Pullenvale Rd/Moons Lane	?	
2.	Lower Moggill	Rob Waller	3378 9979
3.	Huntington	Malcolm Frost	3374 0649
4.	Showgrounds	John Rogers	3374 3391
5.	Haven Road	Andrew Willsford	3374 2086
6.	Upper Brookfield	Michelle St Baker	3374 4171
7.	Gold Creek Reserve	Brad Wilson	3300 4855
8.	Wonga Creek	Gordon Wilkinson	3374 1576
9.	Upper Gold Creek	Gordon Grigg/Frank Rudd	3374/1737/1859
10.	Lower Gold Creek	?	
11.	Mc Kay Brook	Bryan Hacker	3374 1468
12.	Gap Creek	Michael Humphreys	3374 1467
13.	BCCMt Cootha Park	John McKenzie	3403 8888



New Members Welcome!

- Moggill Creek Catchment comprises 57.6 square kilometres of land in Brisbane's western suburbs of Kenmore, Kenmore Hills, Brookfield and Upper Brookfield.
 - The area is drained by Moggill Creek and its tributaries, Gold, Wonga and Gap Creeks and McKay Brook.
 - The catchment includes areas of commercial, urban, rural residential, open space, grazing and fringing forests of natural bushland.
 - The population of the area is more than 12,000
- (Source: Backyard to Bay. Moggill Creek. Know Your Creek
Published by Brisbane City Council)
- In October 1997, local residents formed the Moggill Creek Catchment Management Group in response to the release of the Brisbane City Council Catchment Management Plan for the area.
 - The catchment has been divided into 13 sections, each with a volunteer Section Leader.
 - Regular working bees are held in these sections.
 - Funding from the Natural Heritage Fund enabled the MCCMG to appoint a full time field officer, Michael Reif, to co-ordinate groups and provide advice to individual landowners.
 - More than 50 private landholders receive guidance and a supply of plants appropriate to their plans for rehabilitation of their properties.
 - A nursery established by the MCCMG near Gold Creek Reservoir provides plants grown from seeds gathered by local volunteers.
 - Some local residents have been trained to participate in water quality monitoring at selected sites within the catchment. The collected data will be entered into the National Waterwatch Database.

Moggill Creek Catchment Management Group.

Chairman. Professor Gordon Grigg

Secretary. Frank Rudd

Field Officer. Michael Reif. Mobile phone 0408109210

Postal Address. PO Box 657, Kenmore, 4069



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP
P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

Membership Application Form

I hereby request membership of the above association.

Full Name and Address of Applicant

.....

Title

First/Preferred Name

Surname

Address

..... Postcode

Phone

I understand the annual membership subscription is \$5 per person and this amount is enclosed.

Signed (applicant)

Date

Please send completed Membership Application to ...

The Secretary
M.C.C.M.G.
GPO Box 657
Kenmore Q 4069

Around our Catchment: Section 11 – McKay Brook

McKay Brook is a stream about 5 km long which rises in Mt Coot-tha Forest Park, passes under Brookfield Rd 0.5 km west of Kenmore and flows into Moggill Creek close to Kenmore State High School. Emerging from the Forest Park, it passes through acreage properties but soon finds itself surrounded by small suburban residential blocks. Although weed trees, particularly camphor laurel and chinese elm are abundant, there are a significant number of native trees along the creek, but many are succumbing to the competition.

The emphasis of this section is on revegetating public lands, and there are two areas of several hectares along the creek which group 11 is working on, one at Mirbelia St and one near Mabb St, close to the High School. Section 11 has been successful in gaining accreditation under the City Council's Bushcare scheme for both areas, the former led by Michael Andersen and the latter by Bryan Hacker. Section 11 members, usually 10-12, but sometimes up to 25, work on alternate months at the two sites. In addition, Damien Egan has been working on his own, clearing and planting more than one hectare over the last few years, and the School's environmental group has also re-initiated revegetation activities.

The group has recently had discussions with townhouse developers at 95 Brookfield Road (just below Iona) with regard to revegetating a 100 m section of McKay Brook which passes through their land. The developers are supportive of our interest in revegetating this area and we plan to start in September. We are hoping that, within two or three years, a major proportion of the creek's length will be restored to its natural vegetation, and there is a real possibility that this can be achieved.

Bryan Hacker

Happy workers near McKay Brook



**Huntington Section celebrated its 2nd
Birthday in May, 2000.**

PLATYPUS AND LAND FOR WILDLIFE

The waterways in the western suburbs are believed to support the largest and possibly the only viable populations of platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) remaining in Brisbane. This includes Moggill, Gold and Pullen Pullen Creeks. Apart from the land above the Gold Creek Reservoir the rest of these creek systems occur outside protected nature reserves and are on private property. It thus becomes the joint responsibility of individual and public landholders to protect and conserve the habitat of the platypus in partnership. This provides great opportunities for private landholders who, through the adoption of sensible land management practices can minimise the main threats to the survival of the platypus.

The greatest threat to their survival is the destruction of vegetation along creek banks and water pollution. Removal of vegetation not only destabilises the banks into which the animals dig nest burrows but also increases erosion and the amount of sediments being deposited in the creek bed. This decreases the populations of food species such as snails, tadpoles, insect larvae, worms, molluscs and small fish. Pesticides and herbicides may affect platypus reproduction. Other threats that have been identified include pumping, damage to banks by animals or earth works, pollutants, dams, dogs and culverts.

The long-term protection of the platypus is just one example of how important privately owned bushland and waterways are to the survival of our native fauna. Over half of the remaining bushland with wildlife habitat value in Brisbane is on private property. This was one of the driving reasons for Council to initiate and promote two voluntary partnership programs, the Land for Wildlife program and the Voluntary Conservation Agreement program. Both encourage landholders to conserve and improve the fauna habitat on their properties. This

includes habitat management along waterways.

These programs are entirely voluntary and are based on the personal commitment of the landholders to retaining and managing the native bushland on their properties. Three levels of involvement are offered with corresponding levels of support. One of the most appreciated benefits of the programs is the property planning advice that identifies priorities and encourages owners to develop a plan as to how and when specific projects will be completed. There are no fees for joining the programs as the significance of the contribution being made by each landholder is acknowledged. The programs are very flexible and agreements are tailored to the specific circumstances of each property and owner.

Many property owners are already working to enhance the waterway corridors of the western suburbs through the Waterways Management Plan program. An increase in the health of the platypus population should prove to be a good indicator of the success of community and council efforts in restoring the overall health of the catchment.

Richard Rawlings

Further information on Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreement programs can be obtained from

**Richard Rawlings (3403-6575)
or Ian Hislop (3403-5713)
or through the Brisbane City Council
Call Centre (3403-8888).**

