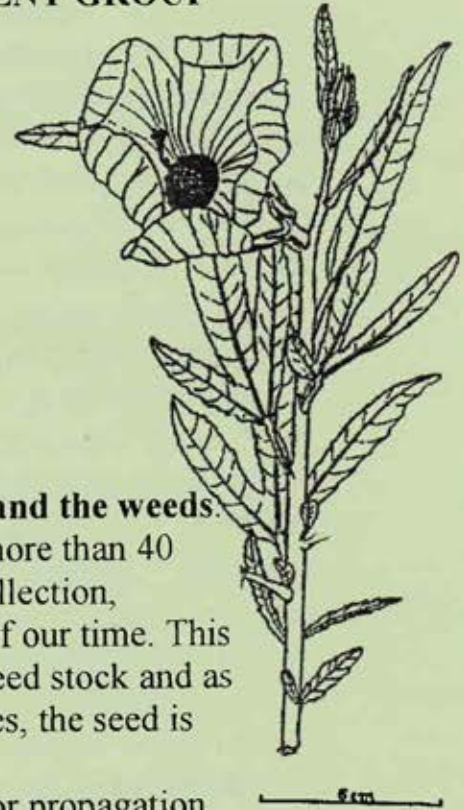




MOGGILL NEWS-FEBRUARY 2000

NEWSLETTER OF MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

Hibiscus heterophyllus



REPORT FROM FIELD OFFICER, MICHAEL REIF

Summer's Events.

There has been rapid growth in both the Group's plantings **and the weeds**. Seeds have been collected from local plant species. In all, more than 40 species have been collected in the last three months. The collection, preparation and sowing of these seeds have taken up most of our time. This ensures that the plants used in revegetation are from local seed stock and as seed is collected from a number of plants of the same species, the seed is genetically diverse.

Thanks to those who have collected seed and passed it on for propagation.

At the first **Nursery Volunteer Day** in early December, three volunteers helped to pot up more than 200 seedlings and sow countless seeds. **More of these days are planned.** In the last three months, more than 1000 seedlings have been potted on and local residents have donated more than 350 plants. This is great support from the community, as is the commitment from 37 private landholders to decrease the number of weeds and revegetate their properties with native species.

Many species which have been fruiting include:

Hard quandong (*Elaeocarpus obovatus*), Silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*),
Yellow tulip (*Drypetes deplanchei*), Glossy laurel (*Cryptocarya laevigata*),
Axe handle wood (*Aphananthe philippensis*), Red cedar (*Toona ciliata*),
Hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), Native hibiscus (*H. heterophyllus*)
Booyong (*Argyrodendron trifoliolatum*), Native tamarind (*Diploglottis aus.*)
Brush kurrajong (*Commersonia bartramia*),
White beech (*Gmelina leichhardtii*), Pepperberry tree (*Cryptocarya obovata*)

Illustration taken from **Putting Back the Forest** by Bryan Hacker, Rona Butler and Rae Rekdahl. Limited numbers of this are available from Bryan Hacker 33741468, at the old price of \$10. Beat the price rise!

**REFLECTIONS FROM
CHAIRMAN, GORDON
GRIGG.**

There is some controversy, nationally, about the use and long term gains of **National Heritage Trust (NHT) funding**. We must make the best possible use of our \$200K (jointly with Brisbane Forest Park) from NHT for 1999-2001 so that Catchment activities will lead to lasting results.

If a good proportion of the trees which are being planted by the Group survive to maturity, there will be long term results. Whether or not that is perceived as beneficial will depend upon the attitude of future generations to land use in general and trees in particular. Long term survival of native vegetation in a catchment located on the edge of a large and growing city will depend upon human consent.

Let's hope that the current positive attitude towards revegetation and more rehabilitative land management, as shown in the range of active programmes sponsored by National, State and Local Governments, receives appreciation and support in the broader community.

Section Leaders and others can help by thinking 30-50 years ahead to select sites where there is likely to be a continuing willingness to make that ground available for trees. Riparian sites within the

flood lines and in steep gullies are probably the most secure and can provide long term shelter for wildlife.

BCC's Bushcare Group programme is a land care initiative in which we are becoming involved. Each of our sections has made application to be recognised as a **Bushcare Group**. Successful applications will mean that direct help will be available on Council land in the form of removal of feral trees and piles of cleared weeds and in the provision of tools, plants and mulch. **Thanks to Section Leaders for their work on applications and to Tom McHugh, the Habitat Brisbane Officer, for his advice and assistance.**

Some **NHT funds** have been used to purchase a **water trailer** which will be shared among sections to cover those dry spells when keeping plants alive will be the main priority. More details from Section Leaders. Thanks to Catchment Coordinator Michael Reif and Brad Wilson at Brisbane Forest Park for organising this. It is with pleasure that I acknowledge the support of an anonymous donor whose contribution has allowed us to continue Stephanie Cumming's valued employment for some months. **THANKS TO OUR BENEFACTOR.**



AROUND OUR CATCHMENT

In future editions, it is hoped to bring you information about the different Catchment Sections. We begin with Section 8 – Wonga Creek

The Wonga Creek Section, led by Gordon Wilkinson, is one of the largest in the Catchment and its problems differ from sections nearer Kenmore. There are only about 50 households, but most are on large blocks of 6-10ha. Six families are actively involved in MCCMG, but many others are actively revegetating their land, often with local species. Several have taken out Voluntary Conservation Agreements with Brisbane City Council. There is no public land in the section, other than road easements.

Most of the Section was cleared in the 19th Century, with lower land used for dairying and slopes planted to bananas and pawpaws. Much of the hill country has now reverted to mixed eucalypt forest, with some residual patches of rainforest along Wonga Creek.

A small "Demonstration Area" has been developed close to Wonga Creek where members meet monthly to learn about weed ID and control, seed collection, planting techniques and ID of native scrub tree species. Part of the site has a good mixture of scrub trees, including mature white beech (*Gmelina leichhardtii*). Close by is an area where Section members have cleared a serious infestation of morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*) and planted trees native to the area.

Chinese elm and privet remain minor weed problems; more serious are coral berry (*Rivina humilis*) which excludes understorey plants in rainforests, giant rat's tail (*Sporobolus pyramidalis*) and signal grass (*Brachiaria decumbens*). The situation in the Wonga Creek Section is relevant to our other upper catchment Sections.



Bryan Hacker

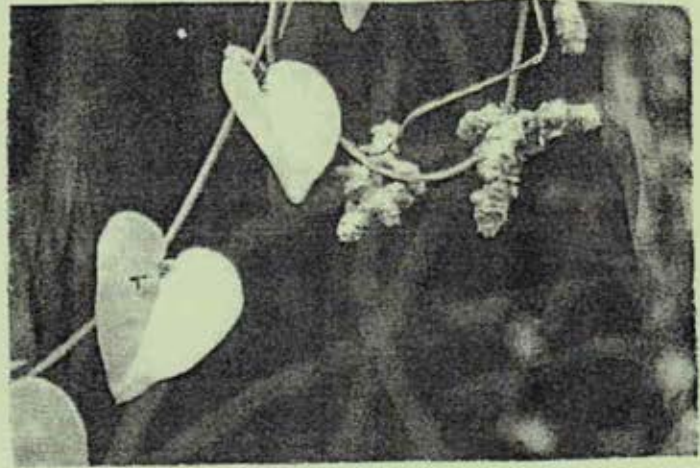
Gordon Wilkinson's novel approach to establishing forest on steep slopes. Removal of the dense covering of glycine (*Neonotonia wightii*) would create serious erosion. He has planted trees at 3-4 m spacing. Hand slashing keeps the tree base clear and cut material is used as mulch. When the trees form a closed canopy, the glycine will need minimal control effort.

**WEEDBUSTING. PUBLIC
WEED ENEMY NO.1(?)**

**Madeira vine –*Anredera
cordifolia* .**

- Has the capacity to completely destroy riverine rain forest as it can climb trees to a height of 12 m or more, totally enveloping the upper canopy so that trees die through lack of light.
- It was introduced from South America as an ornamental.
- Leaves are fleshy, heart shaped, up to 6cm long and 5cm broad; flowers are small, white and produced on pendulous “lamb’s tails” in late summer.
- Knobbly tubers form in leaf axils, eventually falling to the ground where they develop into new plants. Large tubers form underground.
- Native tape vine (*Stefania japonica*) often mistaken for it.
- Control is best achieved with glyphosate (Roundup). Large vines should be lightly scraped along stem for 5-20cm, then painted immediately with 50% roundup in water. Small plants may be sprayed but other plants nearby may be affected.
- If hand weeding, put ALL plant parts in sealed container and dispose of safely.
- Sites should be re-visited at 8-10 week intervals over summer to control new plants.

**Allowing it to exist is an act of
environmental vandalism.**



FUTURE EVENTS

- Sunday 5 March 9-11am. Water quality workshop. Info. Michael Reif 0408109210
- Further seed collections
- Wednesday 22 March 1-2, author Tim Low is giving a talk on his new book “Feral Future” at Qld Museum theatre.
- More working bees. Contact your Section Leader. See accompanying map of the Catchment Sections.

URGENT

Sections 1 and 6 need Section Leaders.
If you would be able to help, please
call Gordon Grigg 3374 1737
Frank Rudd 3374 1859
Or Michael Reif 0408 109 210