



MOGGILL NEWS – MAY 2000

NEWSLETTER OF MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

The Field Officer's Report

The New Year has seen many MCCMG groups conduct large plantings in areas that were cleared of weeds last year. Since late January volunteers on revegetation sites have planted approximately 1300 seedlings. The new water trailer purchased by the Catchment Group has made it easier to water these plants. In addition to this, approximately 1100 seedlings have been distributed to private landowners who are revegetating areas of their properties. **We have now advised more than 48 landowners about ways they can rehabilitate their properties and this number is growing every month.**

To keep up with the number of plants needed, the nursery is stocked through purchased plants, plants donated by local residents and plants propagated at the nursery from seeds collected from the local area. **At the last nursery volunteers' day, 9 volunteers potted up more than 800 seedlings that had been grown from local seed.** Since the volunteers are so efficient, we will need to collect more seed to ensure they don't run out of work.

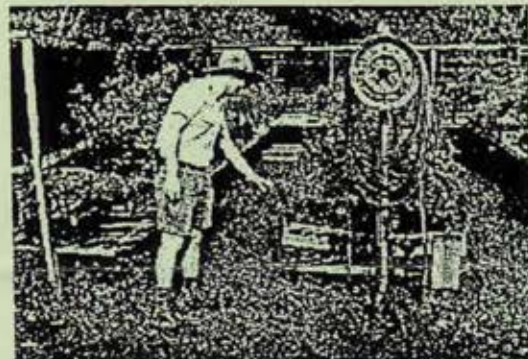
We have now trained thirteen community members in water quality monitoring. The MCCMG water quality monitoring kit will be on a rotational basis so volunteers will be sampling their area approximately

every three months. Monitoring sites are scattered over the catchment and focus on the confluences of the various creeks in the catchment. The data collected will be entered into the National Waterwatch Database. This Database also includes statistical programs so trends in water quality can be identified in the long term.

Michael Reif .

(mobile no 0408109210)

Michael is shown here with some of the new seedlings at the nursery.



OUR ANNUAL
PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION WILL BE
HELD IN JULY.
FOR INFORMATION,
CONTACT JUDY GOWER,
3878 4790

Welcome to new Section Leader

After a public meeting organised by Rick Atwell in the Upper Brookfield Hall, **Michelle St Baker** has agreed to lead the Upper Brookfield Section, Section 6, which includes all of the catchment of Moggill Creek above the junction of Upper Brookfield and Pacey Roads. One of the pressing problems in that area is a large infestation of elephant grass, and the first working bee is at 08:30, May 7. **Michelle's phone number is 3374 4171.** Thanks Michelle!

We are still looking for leaders in Sections 1 and 10. Volunteers needed!

Water those plants

Our long dry spell of weather is putting under threat many of the plants which our Group has planted over the last couple of years. In the last newsletter I reported that we had purchased a water trailer from the NHT funds; the time to use it has arrived.

Revegetation projects on private land

It is great to learn that we now have nearly 50 landholders who are

undertaking revegetation projects with assistance and advice from the Group through Michael and Stephanie. As most of the catchment is in private hands, including most of the creek lines, revegetation of the catchment depends very much on the interest of land owners to work on their own properties. **The Group can supply limited free native trees and unlimited advice, at least until the end of next year.**

We need more people

Despite all the activity, aggressive weedy species still dominate much of the roadsides and hillsides in the catchment, which is a reminder of how large is the task we face. Especially worrying are those species such as Madiera Vine which go up through and then spread over the canopy to choke it. Do we need to subdivide the catchment further, to have more activity sites?

I would like to hear from anyone who is interested in starting another section, no matter how small. Or contact me about anything else if you wish, on 3374 1737.

**Gordon Grigg
Chairman**

WANTED URGENTLY

- ❖ **MORE NEW MEMBERS.**
- ❖ **NEW SECTION LEADERS.**

WEEDBUSTING TIPS

All that's gold does not glitter.....

Two yellow-flowered shrubs which are significant weeds are Easter cassia (*Senna pendula*) and tecoma (*Tecoma stans*). The Easter cassia has brilliant yellow flowers over the Easter period, which contrast strikingly with its dark green foliage. Tecoma has bell-shaped flowers for a longer period over summer and in early autumn may be recognised by its dense bunches of hanging seed pods. Both were introduced to Australia as garden plants, and both are increasingly becoming naturalised in creekside areas. They are also both shrubs up to 3 m tall and are well adapted to drier situations, occurring increasingly in eucalypt forests and woodlands. Easter cassia is perhaps the more abundant of the two in our area, although it does not have any obvious means of seed dispersal. However, being a legume, it is likely to have a high proportion of 'hard seed' which lies dormant in the soil for a number of years. In contrast, tecoma has seeds with papery wings, readily spread by wind. Although both species are attractive in a garden situation when well pruned, in the bush they are untidy and sprawling.

Both shrubs may readily be killed with roundup, applying a 50% solution to the cut stump. Some suckering may occur with tecoma, but this is readily controlled. Easter cassia seedlings (with even numbers of leaflets, 2-3 pairs when young, up to 5 pairs when mature) are readily identifiable and easy to pull out by hand.



Easter cassia flower (*Senna pendula*)



Pods of tecoma (*Tecoma stans*)

Group leaders exchange information

On 12 March leaders of the various areas in our catchment met to learn from each other's experiences. The group met at the Gold Creek Nursery, where Michael Reif discussed some experimental revegetation work he has initiated. Then followed examination of revegetation sites along Gold Creek Rd, Savages Rd, Upper Brookfield, Rafting Ground Rd, Huntington, Brookfield Rd, Farmington Downs area and in Kenmore itself. The tour finished with a 'sausage sizzle' at Rafting Ground Park, where participants admired revegetation with local rainforest species which was initiated in 1991.

I think we were all impressed by the amount that has been achieved in a relatively short time. What was also interesting, though, were the differences between the different sites, with different problems and different approaches to solving them.

Bryan Hacker

Mc Kay Brook Section Leader

AROUND OUR CATCHMENT

Smith's Rainforest – Planning for the Future.

Dry rainforest, although seemingly an oxymoron, describes a type of rainforest that is characterised by being seasonally dry. Dry rainforest usually occurs in areas where the soil is more fertile than surrounding areas and it may occur where it is protected from fire (eg along a rocky ridge or in a gully). **In Brookfield approximately 5.9 hectares of dry rainforest is all that remains of what was once a 54 hectare forest.** This area is called **Smith's Rainforest or Smith's Scrub.** Rainforest was cleared during the last century to grow papaws, bananas and other small crops. The areas of rainforest that remain were too rocky or steep for cultivation. **John Smith owns 5.1 hectares of Smith's Rainforest.** This is the only privately owned dry rainforest remnant which was not clear-felled in Brookfield. **It contains more than 160 native species and an assortment of exotics.**

John has recognised the need to both conserve and rehabilitate what remains of the rainforest. This is necessary for a number of reasons. "The rainforest was extensively selectively logged before the 1920's," John said. At this time bush fires were not stopped from entering the forest and Lantana infested disturbed areas. "The rainforest has also been divided into small irregular blocks that have a large proportion of edge," John said. Areas at the edge of rainforest suffer from higher sunlight and wind levels which can cause damage to trees and increase the number of weeds that occur in the forest. In the last ten years Madeira vine has also become a significant

weed in the forest. The outcome of these human induced degradation processes is that the forest cannot cope with natural disturbances such as drought. This is because when a tree dies or falls over in a storm, Lantana and Madeira vine rather than another rainforest tree will replace it.

To address these problems and ensure the long-term survival of Smith's Scrub John has been seeking assistance from a number of avenues. He has been receiving plants from the Moggill Creek Catchment Management Group and purchasing plants himself to revegetate along Moggill Creek. He is also planning to revegetate the edges of the forest to try and limit edge effects. **John has applied for a grant from the South East Queensland Rainforest Recovery Fund which is administered by the World Wide Fund for Nature.** This grant would also help to revegetate around the forest and in gaps by providing for the purchase of trees and mulch. John has also applied to have the area subject to a **Nature Refuges Conservation Agreement under the Nature Conservation Act.** This is an agreement with the Minister for Environment and Heritage that is gazetted by the parliament and changes the title of the property. This and the other measures John is undertaking will hopefully ensure the survival of Smith's Scrub into the future.

Stephanie Cumming



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WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR CATCHMENT.
DISPLAYS, DEMONSTRATIONS, FREE ADVICE AVAILABLE.
SEE YOU THERE !**