

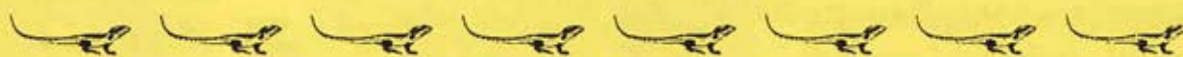


MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP
P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

Moggill News, November 2001

NHT Funding confirmed for 2001-2002!

We are delighted to tell you that the MCCG has been granted funding to support Michael Reif's work with private landholders for the next 12 months. This means that there should be support for YOUR revegetation project. So contact Michael on 040 810 9210 (Thursdays and Fridays) to discuss details.



Come to our AGM and tell us what you think!!

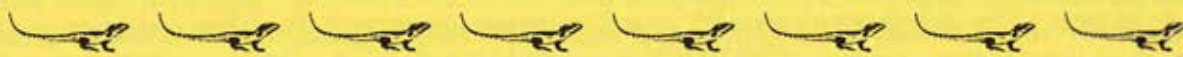
Brookfield Hall

Wednesday 28 November 2001

7.00 pm

Guest Speaker: Dr Peter Ogilvie

Title: Living with Native Wildlife



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group will be held on Wednesday 28. November at the Brookfield Hall, starting at 7.00 pm.

Following the AGM we will have an invited talk by Dr Peter Ogiivie on the effect of vegetation management on wildlife in our district. Peter's illustrated talk will include:

"Some thoughts on things we can do on our own patch to make it more user-friendly for native wildlife (plants and animals) and some things we might consider to help us be a bit more understanding of their needs and appreciative of their presence."

There will then be a general meeting at which members will be able to discuss options for MCCG activities in 2002.

All positions on the Management Committee will be declared vacant prior to the AGM and you are invited to nominate persons (who should be financial members of MCCG) to positions on the Management Committee. The Management Committee includes Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Mapping Officer, Photography Competition Officer and leaders of the 13 Sections. A nomination form is included with this newsletter and the completed nomination should be returned to the Secretary, MCCG, PO Box 657, Kenmore, no later than 14 November 2001.

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2001-2002. Please fill in the attached form and return it, together with \$5.50 for each person seeking renewal of membership. This year we are asking for further information -- your email address (if you have email) and the section of our catchment where you live (or with which you wish to be associated). This should enable us to get information through to you promptly.

Bryan Hacker

Chairman's Annual Report: 2000-2001

In 2001, the MCCG has been building on its earlier achievements and endeavouring to secure further funding, as our NHT grant terminated last September. Our eight Bushcare Groups have largely become independent, freeing Michael to concentrate on supporting private landholders and raising plants from local-provenance seed. In all, 8,100 plants were planted on public land over the past year, building up the total number planted over the life of the project to 18,668, on about 5 ha of land. On private land, we are now working with more than 90 landholders. Michael has developed a questionnaire which helps applicants in planning their revegetation program. A total of 31 landholders have returned completed forms with their requests for support. Since December last year, more than 2,100 plants have been supplied to private landholders together with 150 bales of mulch.

Despite early signs that our application with Brisbane Forest Park for NHT funding for 2001-2002 had been unsuccessful, we learnt in late September that we were to receive funding and Senator Herron presented us with a certificate on 10 October. We are enormously grateful to Ms Leonie Short, Member for Ryan, and Cr. Margaret de Wit, Councillor for Pullenvale, both of whom made a considerable effort on our behalf. The new funding is directed towards supporting work on private land, so our eight Bushcare Groups will now be totally supported by Habitat Brisbane, who will also supply plants.

Responding to a decision at the last AGM, the MCCG held a mid-year public meeting on 20 June, at which Dave Kington, from Brisbane Forest Park gave a talk on dingoes and wild dogs. Dave's talk was well-attended and raised some interesting points on feral-dog management.

There have been a few disappointments with regard to damage to revegetation sites and to areas of quality habitat, most notably that caused by ENERGEX along Gold Creek Road. The Committee is continuing to interact with ENERGEX and BCC to try to ensure that such damage does not occur in the future.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that PR – public relations – is too big a job to be handled by just one person. We have expanded the Newsletter and are increasingly being asked to present displays. Jack Talty has been doing a wonderful job, getting current news to the press, producing most of the newsletter, producing displays for shows, 'green days' and the like, informing the press of forthcoming working bees and so on. And the number of requests for us to stage displays at shows is increasing. So we have decided to appoint a subcommittee to look after displays. This subcommittee comprises Jack, Judy Gower, Michelle St Baker and Bryan Hacker. We are still looking for someone who has desk-top publishing skills – so if anyone would like to offer to help, please phone Jack (3374 1738) or Bryan (3374 1468).

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to our hard-working committee. With a new Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer this year, we have been on a steep learning curve, but I honestly believe the year has been a successful one and we can also look forward to a rewarding 2002. John Smith has recently resigned from his position as Vice-Chairman, and I would like to thank him very sincerely for his contribution to the MCCG, which has benefited greatly from his in-depth knowledge of our district.

Bryan Hacker

NHT Grant Presentation

In a ceremony on Wednesday 10 October, Liberal Party senator, John Herron, presented MCCG Chairman, Bryan Hacker, with a Natural Heritage Trust certificate promising \$45 000 for the next year. The presentation was held appropriately near the Brookfield Showgrounds and beside Moggill Creek, at a site rehabilitated by MCCG volunteers.



Senator Herron presents NHT-funding certificate to MCCG Chairman Bryan Hacker. Councillor Margaret de Wit (left) gave us strong support

The ceremony was attended by Federal Member for Ryan, Leonie Short, Councillor for Pullenvale Ward, Margaret de Wit, Manager of Brisbane Forest Park, Brad Wilson and Liberal candidate for Ryan, Michael Johnson. Peter Sedon, also from Brisbane Forest Park and supervisor of their Community Jobs Programs, attended with a group of trainees who set up tables and morning tea. A number of MCCG members and THECA chair, Rachel Griffiths, were also in the audience.

Bryan took the opportunity to outline some of the achievements of the group since its formation and made the point that the NHT grant came at a critical time in its brief

history, a time when an initial momentum had been established and it was essential to keep it rolling. Strong support for the community role in catchment management was expressed by all three responding speakers: Senator Herron, Leonie Short and Margaret de Wit.

The grant money will fund our Field Officer, Michael Reif, who will continue to work with us on a part-time basis, as well as on the management of the nursery, the provision of plants, mulch, weedicide, tools and providing assistance to the various volunteer groups.

Jack Talty

***Caesalpinia decapetala* – a really nasty weed**

The common name of this obnoxious plant is 'wait-a-while', and with good reason. It is almost impossible to go anywhere near it without being torn or scratched. The flora describes it as a large, sprawling shrub, which it is when growing in the open, but it is also capable of climbing trees to a height of 15 m or more. It is common along many of the creeks in the lower Moggill Creek Catchment, and was very noticeable in September with its bunches of attractive, pale yellow flowers. It's home is South-East Asia, and many of us wish it had stayed there.



Wait-a-While: A serious weed in our catchment

I was recently told that wait-a-while was purposefully sown along creeks in the early nineteenth century as a deterrent to escaped convicts, and this could well be true. It forms a stout trunk, as much as 15 cm in diameter, and this is often covered with parrot's-beak thorns. Long, thorny branches extend high up into the forest canopy, becoming leafy where they break through into the light. The leaves are similar to those of the poinciana (to which it is distantly related), and even they are thorny! After flowering a pod is formed, similar to that of a bean or bauhinia, enclosing several seeds. Dispersion of the seeds is most likely to be mainly by being carried along in flood waters, as they are unlikely to be attractive to seed-eating birds. Being a legume, it is likely that the seeds will be capable of persisting in the soil for several years.

Fortunately, wait-a-while is quite easy to kill by the cut-stump method, painting the stump immediately after cutting with neat glyphosate (Roundup). However, a watch will need to be kept for several years, to remove seedlings, which are easily identified. Surprisingly, this species is not included on the Council's poster on weeds, which lists 35 weed species, but in my view it is one of the more significant weed of our catchment.

Bryan Hacker

Damien Egan – our award-winning volunteer



Damien Egan's remarkable revegetation work along part of McKay Brook behind his home in Kenmore Hills was recognized by the award in September of a volunteers medallion by the State Government for outstanding community contributions in the Moggill electorate.

Damien began what became his project by clearing weed vines strangling one tall remnant native tree that he viewed from his back deck. His deck overlooks the winding gully of McKay Brook running through public reserve from the small park on Brookfield Road to around behind Kenmore High School. Once started he began working on the weeds surrounding the tree.

With backup from Habitat Brisbane he has, since starting in 1996, planted 4177 trees, contributed 925 hours of his time and restored around one hectare of creekside habitat. The diversity of local trees he has planted currently range from those recently planted to burgeoning forests already eight metres high. With the formation of MCCG at the end of 1997, Damien has contributed to the working bees in Sections 11 and 2 which link revegetation work with his own. Now, when he and his family look out from their back deck, that same tall tree is still there but now it has company of its own kind stretching up to join it.

While Damien has certainly improved a substantial part of his local environment to the benefit of his community, he has also gained, he said, a lot of personal satisfaction from being part of the change. As part of his job as a lighting technician with the ABC he is currently working on the George Negus, 'Australia Talks', program and travels to various locations. After the pressures of production in unfamiliar places, getting back to his bushcare project is always enjoyable and relaxing, he says.

Jack Talty

MCCG does its bit on Weedbuster Day

MCCG members supported Weedbusters Week with an attack on weeds along Moggill Creek just above the bridge near the Brookfield roundabout on Sunday 14 October. The purpose of Weedbusters Week is to alert the general public to the enormous economic and environmental costs of weeds. According to their publicity, "Weeds cost the Australian community over \$3 billion every year and are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. They reduce agricultural productivity, displace native plants and eliminate the natural habitat and food sources for native animals. Human health and amenity are also affected."



To the volunteers dispatching chinese elm, madeira vine and lantana, the problem of weeds is all too familiar. About 100 metres along the east side of the creek were cleared by the 22 MCCG enthusiasts. This has provided more space and light for the creek sandpaper figs and lomandras struggling underneath the weed canopies and space for adding diversity with new plantings at future working bees.

Jack Talty

Quiet Achievers – Richard Tumman

Imagine a busy bee, constantly flitting from space to space, dibbing in a tree here and extracting a weed there; buzzing over the fence to help and persuade neighbours to do likewise (especially to target invasive weeds such as bird-dispersed asparagus vine and Chinese elm or wind-dispersed cat's claw that can quickly re-invade and undo years of hard work); buzzing through local forests on bush walks, pulling out weeds and wondering why people go to the gym.....

Well, there is no need to imagine all that because, in reality, that is Richard Tumman, since taking up his 8.8 ha property, situated at the headwaters of Wonga Creek, in 1975. The property is steep and rugged, from the creek to the top of the ridge. The original vegetation on the slopes was open eucalypt forest, with various ironbarks, grey gums, bloodwoods and stringybarks, with a kangaroo grass understorey. In the creeks and gullies there were dry rainforest species and brush box.



Richard Tumman with his simple system for rainwater collection

As with most Brookfield properties, all millable timber had been removed long ago and suitable areas cleared for grazing and sown to introduced grasses such as green panic and molasses grass. In 1975, the property was largely covered in 30-50 year old regrowth with the usual understorey of lantana and other weeds.

Richard's strategy was to weed small areas at a time, encouraging regeneration by planting suitable natives when sufficient rain had fallen to fill 44 gallon drums that collected water from a couple of sheets of corrugated iron. With no town water and a creek that flows for only a few days each year, supplemental watering from drums was essential for successful establishment.

Richard learnt as he went along, aiming to restore his property to its original condition. In early years he freely admits to having made mistakes, such as planting a few non-local species, and plants not suited to the site (soil moisture, elevation, drainage etc). With hindsight and modern thinking he has adjusted and keeps up-to-date with relevant literature.

By working steadily over the years, spending an hour on returning from work to plant, water or weed, Richard has restored his property to a useful conservation unit. Recognising its intrinsic value and as a buffer to Brisbane Forest Park, Richard was one of the first to enter into a Voluntary Conservation Agreement with Brisbane City Council, to protect these values. Richard still finds time to be an active member of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, and regularly attends working bees and training workshops.

It just goes to show what one person can achieve by working steadily over the years, with a long-term plan and objective, working with nature and riding the vagaries of the seasons.

Gordon Wilkinson

Bus Tour of Sections

The annual bus tour of the sections took place on Sunday afternoon, October 7. The tour was arranged by Robyn Frost as an opportunity for section leaders and other members to review the progress of their work in the catchment as a whole, share successes and compare notes. Time did not allow all sections to be covered but there was enough of a sample to show some impressive progress in just three years.

The tour started at Stephen White's Section at Brookfield roundabout with the native hibiscus in bloom to draw attention to the other new plantings there. The group then headed for a walk along Malcolm Frost's Section 3 at Huntington.

The Section 3 plantings along the creek are clearly benefitting from the moisture and soil at the site with two-year-olds up over 8 metres and some of the one-year-olds pushing towards 3 metres. The section has cleared weeds from around 1ha of creekside and on average plants around 100 new plants each month. Contrasting remaining thickets of mulberry, chinese elm, lantana, glycine, madeira vine show just what has been accomplished. Malcolm said mulch supplied by BCC has been an important aid to plant survival in the last two relatively dry years.

Bryan Hacker and Roland Ruhle's sections along McKay Brook showed an interesting combination of public and private land. The revegetation in the creek near Brookfield Road has been carried out with the cooperation of the developer. The one-year-old plantings there are watered by the caretaker of the adjacent townhouse development and their progress can be seen from the road.

Plantings on the strip of public land further along McKay Brook are more recent and the dry weather to that time has made survival precarious. Even though this is public land, the poisoning of large weed trees has been done in consultation with the nearby brookside residents. The large thorny cables of dead *caesalpinia* are a tribute to the weed clearing already done by this section.

Further along the creek, an area cleared and planted earlier is really taking off, providing its own shade and mulching now and even some regrowth of self-seeded local plants such as axe-handle wood (*Aphananthe philippinensis*). This area is opposite Shannon Place, Kenmore Hills, and local residents opposite the site are developing and maintaining an extension of this area as well as planting locals on their own suburban allotments.

An example of neighbours cooperating was shown on part of Bryan Hacker's property, a gully running down to Gap Creek Road. Neighbours, and MCCG members, Peter Metzdorf and Don Webster have been jointly clearing weeds and replanting and watering locals in what has become a mutual project of three adjoining properties.

Heading out towards Gold Creek Reservoir, the tour saw the roadside work along Gold Creek Road, led by Dylan Bowker, Gordon Grigg and Frank Rudd. This work has drawn the attention of many local residents to the MCCG and remains a growing demonstration of successful community-driven revegetation projects. Consequently, tour members shared the chagrin of Gordon Grigg in seeing the destruction of some of their roadside plantings as well as some substantial remnant vegetation by an Energex team in their recent work realigning power lines.

By contrast, effective destruction of exotics was shown to the group by Frank Rudd. An infestation of morning glory adjacent to the new bridge at the end of Gold Creek Road had been removed and mashed by BCC workers using large mechanical slashers. This was followed by poisoning and heavy mulching prior to a section planting bee. On the other side of the bridge, the extensive plantings of three years ago are already attaining young forest status and beginning the process of reseeding. On both sides, the complementary work by landholders is certainly beginning to show a marked difference, despite setbacks, along this part of Gold Creek Road.

Frank Rudd also showed the tour some work on his own property. Members appreciated the shade of a ten-year-old rainforest planted on a former old brickpit. Frank said that when planting he was restricted by both the information and the species available at the time. Current knowledge and the availability of local plants is making the job of revegetating or appropriate planting much easier and more enjoyable because of the increased likelihood of success and general benefits to the ecology.

Unfortunately, there was not time to see the excellent work being done by other MCCG Sections on public land, nor was there time to see any more of the many examples of successful revegetation being carried out on private land, promoted by the MCCG. Maybe next year, when there will be even more to see.....

Jack Talty

Reviewing Catchment Group Activities

Over the last couple of months a small group from the committee has been reviewing the priority activities in our Catchment Management Plan (produced by BCC in 1997) to check what was originally seen as priorities, what we have done, and what we consider should be our current priorities.

It has been a useful exercise as it has brought up a few important aspects which we feel should be pursued to assist those in the catchment attempting to improve the conditions of our streams and vegetation communities.

The suggested priority activities are:

- Developing the communication plan
- Preparing a weed strategy.
- Identifying the water management and ecological aspects associated with stream and riparian zone management.
- Identifying habitat corridor areas to focus revegetation activities.

The committee is looking for interested people who would be prepared to be part of task groups working out the details for each of the activity areas.

Contact Bryan Hacker 3374-1468, or Adrian Webb 3374 1407 if you would like to talk over being part of a task group. We need your help!

Adrian Webb

The 4th MCCG Photography Competition

Our 4th Photography Competition, held over 1st - 6th October at Kenmore Village Shopping Centre, was another success. There were entries across 5 categories and entries were all of excellent quality and created a lot of interest. Judging took into account the strength of the message conveyed about the environment and the aims of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group.

The competition is held each year to draw attention to the beauty and plights of the catchment. For this reason, there was a requirement that all photos had to be taken within the catchment. The judge, Dr. Joseph McDowell, Senior Lecturer in Photography at Griffith University, said that he was impressed with the high standard but would like to see more Young Photographers enter.

Mark O'Leary took out Supreme Exhibit with his entry of 'Upside Down', a photograph taken on Moggill Creek with perfect reflections of the sky, running foreground water and a bridge splitting the photo in two. Eric Metzdorf a 'Young Photographer' who also won prizes in the 2000 competition, took out several of the prizes in this year's 'Young Photographer' section, excelling in Environmental Issues. John May's black and white photos in the 'Professional Section' were a delight and won 1st 2nd and 3rd. Other prize winners in the sections Native Fauna & Flora and Environmental Issues were Talena Bretherton, Michelle McDonald, and Anne Bright.

The competition would not have been possible without the support of our

Sponsors : Brisbane West.com.au; Moggill Constructions; Alan Rogers, Chemist - Kenmore; The Local Bulletin; Brookfield Produce; Kodak Express - Kenmore; Pizza Capers; Darryl Mappin Nursery; Kenmore Veterinary Surgery; The Print Shoppe; Mitre 10 - Kenmore; Kenmore Acupuncture Clinic.

and our **Donors:** Margaret de Wit, Councillor for Pullenvale Ward; Bank of Queensland; Cafe Bliss; Kenmore Village Management; Poolmart - Kenmore; Kenmore Village Deli; Hon. David Watson MP, Member for Moggill; The Gunn Family; Kodak Australia; Kenmore Village Fruit Bowl; Mark McCarthy Automotive.

Judy Gower

