MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore 4069

MOGGILL NEWS

May 2002

Newsletter of the Moggill Creek Catchment group

Notes from the Chairman

I am delighted to be able to announce that we now have a new Coordinator, Liz Gould, who started work on 22 April. Liz is working with us on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the rest of the week continuing her work with the Bremer Catchment Association. She has also worked as the Wetlands Project Officer for the Lockyer Catchment Association, as a Conservation Officer for the Redlands Shire Council and as an Education Project Officer with the Envirocare Ipswich Environment Network. Liz is keen to make contact with landholders involved in revegetation projects, and those who are wondering whether to embark on a project.

The last couple of months have been a very busy period as there were administrative reasons why we were not able to appoint Liz until late April. We have delivered more than a thousand plants to landholders as well as large quantities of mulch. Also, we have purchased plants of some species which were lacking at out Gold Creek Nursery, having all been distributed – notably *Harpullia hillii, H. pendula, Brachychiton discolor* and *Flindersia collina.*

Now it is a little cooler, it is a probably an ideal time to plant. Newly planted trees will need less water with the lower temperatures, and competition from summer weeds will be reduced. We have good stocks of about 30 species at the nursery, some purchased and many grown by ourselves, and we really need to get them out. So contact Liz on 3300 4855 or 0408 109 210, or by email at **lizmgould@aol.com**, if you are starting a new project or continuing a long-term program.

Thinking further ahead, we are now looking for opportunities to join forces with neighbouring catchments to set up a regional project. This could be our best opportunity to attract long-term Government support to address some of the more serious environmental problems in our district. Watch this space for further details!!

Bryan Hacker

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker for this year's half-yearly public meeting on June 20 at the Brookfield Hall will be Dr Darryl Jones from the Australian School of Environmental Studies at Griffith University. Dr Jones will speak on the topic of suburban wildlife and the strains on tolerance some can create for fellow human residents. Darryl is particularly known for his studies of scrub turkeys and magpies. He also has a reputation as an informed and entertaining speaker. The full title of his talk is "Backyard Battles and Biodiversity: The Dynamics of Suburban Wildlife in Brisbane". All MCCG members and interested members of the community are invited.

SHOW DISPLAY

The MCCG tent will fly the flag again at this year's Brookfield Show (17,18,19 June). The display theme will be concern for water quality and suggest three broad actions: reduce water pollution; grow habitat not weeds; and join a catchment group.

Extending MCCG membership is important as numbers not only spread awareness and knowledge of our catchment ecology but guarantee continued support from BCC and government environmental departments.

Drop in to say hello and encourage friends and neighbours to sign up at the Show. Membership for this year is still only $5.50.

Hi, I'm Liz Gould, the new catchment coordinator for Moggill Creek Catchment Group.

In the couple of weeks since I've started, I've been finding out about all the good work that's been going on – and there's a lot of it. There are so many projects and so many people involved, it may take me a little while to contact everyone – so please feel free to jump the queue and give me a call if you need any help sooner rather than later!!!

What can I help you with? You probably know the kind of things involved with the job of catchment coordinator, such as.... conducting site visits, providing advice on land management, identifying weed problems, supplying suitable local native plants and mulch for appropriate projects, assisting with project monitoring.

But, let me tell you a little about myself and maybe you'll find a few other things that I can help you with.
I grew up in Kenmore and went to primary and high school there. We moved to Karana Downs when I was in high school and a lot weekends were spent controlling weeds and replanting our riverside block. I completed a Bachelor of Science with the University of Queensland (St Lucia) in 1990 and started work as a casual with the Enviromental Protection Agency (then known as the Department of Environment). After a couple of years, this developed into becoming responsible for the set-up and management of the NatureSearch database, as well as assisting with field surveys and events and activities. In 1997 I decided it was time for change and moved to Redland Shire Council, to develop policies and assist with management of the Conservation Unit. In 1999, Brad (my husband) gained a promotion with his company that involved relocation to Melbourne. Commuting was not an option. Luckily I gained a position immediately with Geelong City Council as their Wetlands Project Officer. Geelong is home to a Ramsar Site (an internationally important wetland). My role was to develop mechanisms in Council's planning scheme to protect wetlands and to involve and educate the community about the value of wetlands, particularly the Ramsar listed areas. After two years, we'd had enough of Victoria (the cold!) and came home to sunny Brisbane, our families and friends.

Since being back, I've undertaken a number of temporary projects, including Education Project Officer with Envirocare – Ipswich Environment Network, Clean Up Australia Day (Ipswich) coordinator, Wetlands Project Officer with the Lockyer Catchment Association and Demonstration Catchment Project Officer with the Bremer Catchment Association. This last position is part-time and will continue until March 2003 – complementing my work with your group.

I'm looking forward to spending time in my old stomping grounds and to working with you to improve the health of the catchment.

Please call me on 3300 4855 or 0408 109 210 or send an email to lizmgould@aol.com.

Liz Gould

Photography Competition

Judy Gower has added a category to the MCCG Photography Competition for 2002. The new category is 'People: working to restore Moggill Creek Catchment'. The other two categories remain the same - Environmental Issues and Native Flora and Fauna. The new category should encourage more members to take out the camera and go looking for subjects. Don't forget the 'Young photographer' section. Every entry helps MCCG and looking at the catchment through a lens is a good way of sharpening one's observation of our local environment.

An extended list of sponsors has provided cash prizes totalling $1400.

Entries close 21 July 2002. The awards ceremony will be at Kenmore Village Shopping Centre at 11.00 am on 28 July 2002 and a display of entries will continue at the Village 22-28 July.

Entry forms are available at Kodak Express at Kenmore Village and from other Village sponsors. For further information call Judy Gower on 3878 4790.

MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION - 2002

More that $1400 in cash prizes!

Entries close 12.00 noon, 21st July 2002
Awards Ceremony, Kenmore Village Shopping Centre, 11.00 am, 28th July 2002
Display at Kenmore Village Shopping Centre, 22nd - 28th July

Categories

1. Environmental Issues	Photographs that make a visual statement about environmental issues such as environmenal conservation, degradation, rehabilitation, pollution, weed infestation, erosion etc.
2. Native Flora and Fauna:	Native flora and fauna only in their natural habitats. (Exotics not accepted)
3. People:	Working to restore Moggill Creek Catchment

All photographs must be taken within the catchment of Moggill Creek.
Judge: Dr Joseph McDowell, Senior Lecturer in Photography, Griffith University

Prizes

	1st	2nd	3rd
Amateur (prizes in each category)			
Adults	$150	$75	$50
Young Photographer	$50	$35	$25
Professional (prizes awarded across 3 categories)	$150	$75	$50

How Healthy is Your Creek?

The Bugs have the answer.

There are many ways to test the health of a water system like the Moggill Creek, but most of these are difficult to perform or require specialised equipment, and some - such as testing for sewerage or septic pollutants - can only be performed in the laboratory

.

But there is an easier way! Look to the bugs.

Waterbugs (or macroinvertebrates) come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes and anyone who has ever looked into a creek or pond would be familiar with some; Mosquito lava, Water Boatman, Shrimp, Whirligig beetles, to name a few. But did you realise that simply by spotting these in your creek is one of the quickest ways of identifying the health of the waterway in general.

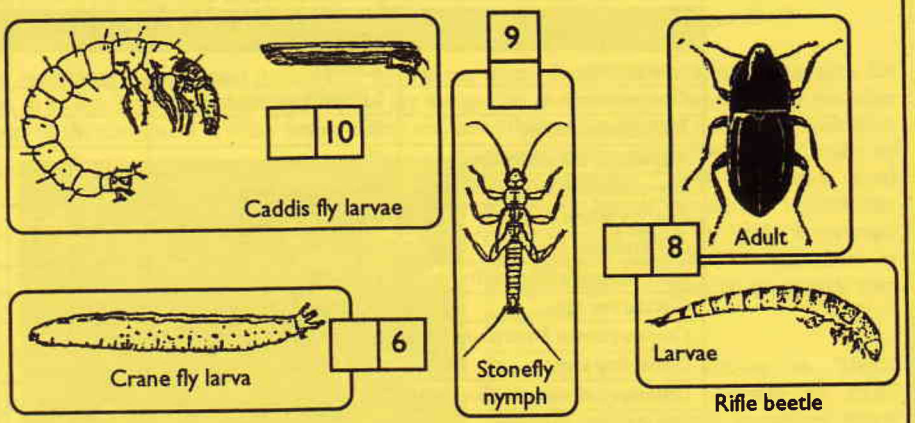
Aquatic macroinvertebrates, as the name suggests, are all big enough to be seen with the naked eye, and each has a different sensitivity to the pollution levels within the water in which they live. Water Boatman, for example, have a very low sensitivity to pollution and will live almost anywhere. This is not to say that finding them in a creek means that it is polluted, just that the Boatman do not care much one way or the other. The problem is if Water Boatman are all that you find and nothing else. Mosquito lava are much the same in that they can tolerate reasonably high levels of pollutants, but finding Shrimp or Whirligig beetles, on the other hand, is a pretty good sign that things are not too bad. The best signs of all are the larval forms of the Mayfly or Caddis fly, as these two bugs are particularly sensitive to pollution and simply will not live in poor quality water.

So why not take the kids down to the creek and see what you can find? Catch a few waterbugs, identify their sensitivity to pollution, and you have taken a big step to identifying the health of your local environment.

And it can be fun, too!

Here is a sample of the sensitivity table for a few of the more common bugs. The higher the Pollution Sensitivity number is, the better quality the water needs to be for the animal to survive, ie. 10 means the water is healthy.

Common Name	Pollution sensitivity
Mayfly Nymph	10
Caddis Fly Larva	10
Stonefly Nymph	9
Riffle Beetle	8
Freshwater Yabby	4
Freshwater Shrimp / Prawn	4
Mosquito Larva	3
Freshwater Snail	2
Leech	2
Water Boatman	1



Want more information?

Grab a copy of "***Waterbug and Riparian Vegetation Snapshot***" from Waterwatch Queensland. It is an excellent little booklet with waterbug **identification charts, sketches and sensitivity tables.**

Contact: Kirstin Kenyon at Waterwatch on 3896 9622

Rob C. Waller

MCCG COMMITTEE

Chairman			Michelle St Baker	**Sect 6**	3374 4171
Bryan Hacker		3374 1468	Brad Wilson	**Sect 7**	3300 4855
Vice-Chairman			Gordon Wilkinson	**Sect 8**	3374 1576
Adrian Webb		3374 2686	GraemeWilson	**Sect 8**	3374 1218
Treasurer			Gordon Grigg	**Sect 9**	3374 1737
Barbara Cox		3374 1640	Frank Rudd	**Sect 9**	3374 1859
Secretary			Chris Mackey	**Sect 10**	3374 1676
Robyn Frost		3374 0649	Dylan Bowker	**Sect 10A**	3374 0127
Publicity			Bryan Hacker	**Sect 11**	3374 1468
Jack Talty		3374 1738	Michael Humphreys	**Sect 12**	3374 1467
Photo Comp			John McKenzie	**Sect 13**	3407 0013
Judy Gower		3878 4790			
Section Leaders			**Members**		
Rob Waller	**Sect 2**	3378 9979	Vic Blake		3374 2432
Malcolm Frost	**Sect 3**	3374 0649	Margaret de Wit		3403 5929
Stephen White	**Sect 4**	3374 1653	Peter Metzdorf		3374 2774
Tina Heybroek	**Sect 5**	3374 1401	Leonie Short		3371 4360

Germinating seed of local rainforest plants

There is increasing interest in our area in propagating seed of local trees, either for growing on our own properties, or for exchange with others with similar interests. When collecting seed for propagation, there are several factors to bear in mind – it should be fully ripe and not insect-damaged, it should be collected from several plants and not just one (to avoid inbreeding effects) and it should be correctly identified (collect and press a specimen with leaves and fruit between sheets of newspaper; if you don't know somebody who can identify it for you, give the specimen to Liz Gould, our new co-ordinator (phone 3300 4855), and she will arrange for identification. Of course, it is also important that you receive permission from the landowner to collect seed on his/her land.

Different species have different requirements for seed treatment, if they are to germinate satisfactorily, and even with optimal treatments, seed of some species takes several months to germinate. The Department of Natural Resources (1998) has put together a list of recommended seed treatments for a range of species together with germination periods and the accompanying table lists those native to our area. Seed treatments included in the article are:

A – sow seed directly
B – pour cold water over seeds in a container and soak for 24 hours
C – pour cold water over seeds in a container and soak for 48 hours
D – pour just-boiled water over seeds in a container and soak for 24 hours
E – pour just-boiled water over seeds in a container and soak for 48 hours

Having treated the seed, if recommended, it should be scattered, not too densely, on a bed of a free-draining potting mix in a polystyrene box or other free-draining container (where you only have a few seeds, a flower pot could be used, or seeds could be sown individually in small pots). The potting medium should be free of weed seeds. The seed should then be covered with a layer of the potting mix; where the seed is small, it should not be buried too deeply (no more than about five times the diameter of the seed). After sowing, the seeds should be kept continuously moist (but not water-logged). It is sometimes desirable to cover the box with wire mesh or netting to keep out rats or cane toads.

Seed Treatments and Germination Periods for some Rainforest Trees and Vines in our Catchment

Species	Common name	Treatment	Germination period
Acacia spp.	Wattles	D	5-10 days
Acmena smithii	Lillipilli satinash	C	(fresh) 4-6 weeks
Allocasuarina spp.	She-oaks	A	2-3 weeks
Araucaria cunninghamii	Hoop pine	A	6-12 weeks
Argyrodendron trifoliolatum	White booyong	A	(fresh) 3-4 weeks
Brachychiton discolor	Lacebark	D	1-3 weeks
Callistemon spp.	Bottlebrushes	A	1-3 weeks
Castanospermum australe	Black bean	A	3-12 weeks
Casuarina spp.	She-oaks	A	2-3 weeks
Commersonia bartramia	Brown kurrajong	D	2-6 weeks
Cordyline spp.	Cordylines	B	1-3 weeks
Cupaniopsis anacardioides	Tuckeroo	A	3-6 weeks
Diploglottis autralis	Native tamarind	A	(fresh) 2-4 weeks
Dysoxylum spp.	Mahoganies/Rosewoods	A	(fresh) 2-6 weeks
Eucalyptus spp.	Eucalypts	A	1-3 weeks
Ficus spp.	Figs	A	2-6 weeks
Gmelina leichhardtii	White beech	A	12-24 months
Harpullia pendula	Tulipwood	A	2-6 weeks
Hymenosporum flavum	Native frangipani	A	4-12 weeks
Lophostemon spp.	Brush and Swamp box	A	1-2 weeks
Mallotus spp.	Kamalas	A	2-6 weeks
Melia azedarach	White cedar	A	2-4 months
Pandorea jasminoides	Wonga vine	A	1-3 weeks
Pittosporum spp.	Pittosporum	E	2-6 months
Podocarpus elatus	Brown pine	C	1-3 months
Rhodosphaera rhodanthema	Deep yellowwood	C	2-3 months
Stenocarpus sinuatus	Wheel of fire	A	4-6 weeks
Syzygium spp.	Lillypillys	C	2-6 weeks
Toona ciliata	Red cedar	A	2-6 weeks

As shown in the table, it can be weeks or even months before the seedlings of some species can be expected to appear. When they are 5-10 cm tall, they can be carefully teased apart and individually planted in 5 cm tubes or small flower pots, to be grown to 30-50 cm height before planting out in the field.

Bryan Hacker

Big Plan for Healthy Waterways

A new publication by the South East Queensland Regional Water Quality Management Strategy Team is of interest to all those concerned with catchment management and the quality of our water supply. The book is Discover the Waterways of South East Queensland and it presents a detailed picture of the state of the catchments of the rivers of the region.

The bad news is that all the systems are showing the unhealthy effects of years of neglect, misunderstanding and abuse. The good news is that plans and projects underway are gradually reversing these effects. The book provides an overview of catchment ecology, encourages residents to get to know their catchments and suggests various observation points for this purpose.

The book's use of colour pictures and maps and diagrams makes the information very accessible and helps with an understanding of the view that the catchments are a series of connected ecosystems. For example, it shows the Brisbane River as the largest river system in South East Queensland and Moggill Creek as one of the subcatchments of the Lower Brisbane River catchment. This most populous and developed part of the Brisbane River system is described as 'a river winding through a floodplain' and an 'estuarine mud-shake'. Moggill Creek shares this increasingly urbanised landscape with Wolston, Pullen Pullen, Oxley, Cubberla Toowong, City, Enoggera, Ithica, Breakfast, Norman and Bulimba Creeks.

As a reminder of less crowded days there are descriptions of a Brisbane River with abundant fish and residents swimming in clear water off a sandy beach near the Indooroopilly Bridge or in shark-proof enclosures at Dutton Park. By contrast, the current Bremer Catchment is described as 'a stagnant soup' and given a health rating of 'very poor'. Its description provides cogent reasons for urgent remedial and preventative action:

'By the time it reaches Ipswich, The Bremer River is a stagnant, smelly soup, full of sediment and organic matter, with little dissolved oxygen. Only a limited variety of phytoplankton, which thrive on the too-plentiful organic matter, live in this water, often forming algal blooms that tinge the water green.' (page 77)

The big challenge for governments, according to this report, is to find and control the sources of contaminants coming into the catchment system. The more obvious sources are abbatoirs, industry, sewage treatment plants, stormwater and agricultural run-off, but there are also the multiple sources from suburbs and roadways, from building sites and land clearing. A checklist of how individual households can make a difference in reducing water pollution is included (page 33) as is a quick assessment guide for a healthy waterway (pages 35-37).

The report allows the MCCG and all the other catchment groups listed (pages 139-144) to see where their work fits in to the big plan. Of particular importance are what the book refers to as the 'invisible waterways'. These are the gullies and drainage lines that only run after rain and consequently can be overlooked as part of the catchment at other times. These are, nevertheless, an integral part of the collection system and in South Queensland make up 'approximately 7,500 km of a total waterway length of almost 16,000 km' (page 8). It is these 'invisible waterways' that involve many MCCG members in group revegetation projects or on their own properties.

Healthy and unhealthy sections of Gold Creek

The big plan is shown as 'Major Milestones on the Journey to 2020' (page135). This details important major goals to be achieved by 2003, 2007 and 2020 as part of restoring and maintaining healthy waterways in SE Queensland. It's good to know that our work is part of a much bigger plan that is achieving steady progress.

The book is available for around $25 from Morteon Bay Waterways and Catchments Partnership, Level 8, cnr George and Albert Streets, Brisbane, phone 3227 7767.

Jack Talty

Green Garden Guide

The new Green Garden Guide from the BCC is now available free from Brisbane City Council offices including the regional office at Indooroopilly. The guide contains accessible information about appropriate native plants, sustainable gardens, conserving water, recognizing and eradicating weeds, and alternative native plants to replace popular environmental weeds. It also has a list of useful web sites for further information on sustainable gardening.

Copies of the Green Garden Guide will be available, courtesy of BCC, at the MCCG tent at the Brookfield Show.

Smith's Rainforest Nature Refuge

Foundation MCCG member and former deputy-chairman, John Smith, and his mother, Edie Smith, had their property at Upper Brookfield officially declared a nature refuge by the state Minister for the Environment, Dean Wells, on 23 March. The declaration will conserve for the future a significant remnant of the vegetation that was once widespread in the greater Brisbane region. The event made the national press with a large photo of John and Edie in *The Australian* newspaper (April 4, 2002, page 4) as well as being featured in *The Local Bulletin*.

John Smith is a well known Brookfield identity whether it be on his farm tractor slashing properties or as Rural Fire Warden or a volunteer at the Brookfield Showgrounds or with the MCCG. The 7.5 ha Smith property has been in the family for three generations, since 1913. Through the Pullenvale Environmental Centre, groups of school children have regularly visited the property to experience the original landscape of their area and learn first hand from Edie about local history.

Ian Cameron's (1999) history of the Pullenvale and Moggill districts, *A Green and Pleasant Land*, published with the support of the Pullen Pullen Catchments Group, gives some indication of the significance of Smith's Rainforest as a surviving remnant that was once "at the centre of the original Brookfield Scrub". A plant survey by the Queensland Herbarium team recorded 164 species in the surviving vine scrub and rainforest on the Smith property.

John Smith has said that the survival of this gem is mainly because it was thought to be commercially useless. Being on a steep, rocky, southern slope, it was considered not worth clearing. The previous owner (before 1913), George Logan, had logged some hoop pines but otherwise left the slope untouched.

Smith's Rainforest Nature Refuge consists of 5.1 ha of original vine rainforest and natural regrowth together with some areas of recent revegetation. In conjunction with the Bushcare-funded WWF South-east Queensland Rainforest Recovery Program, John has planted around 2000 trees on another 1 ha. With assistance from MCCG he has also planted another 200 on 0.2 ha and prepared a further1.2 ha for future revegetation. On the rest of their property he grows mangoes, custard apples, paw paws and a plantation of around 3000 hoop pine trees.

A Nature Refuge is a conservation agreement negotiated between a landholder and the QPWS. It is intended to provide long-term protection for land of significant conservation value while allowing for the ecologically sustainable use of its natural resources. Full control and management of the land remain with the landholder. Information on Nature Refuges can be obtained from Craig Middleton, the QPWS extension officer who worked with John Smith in negotiating their particular conservation agreement. His phone contact is 3202 0222.

Smith's Rainforest Nature Refuge will maintain a wildlife corridor between Upper Brookfield and the Brisbane Forest Park and will secure a significant area of local vegetation for scientific study and education. It will not only conserve a valuable local amenity but keep a living link with our district's past. Thanks to John and Edie Smith for ensuring these environmental continuities for Brookfield's future.

Jack Talty

MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

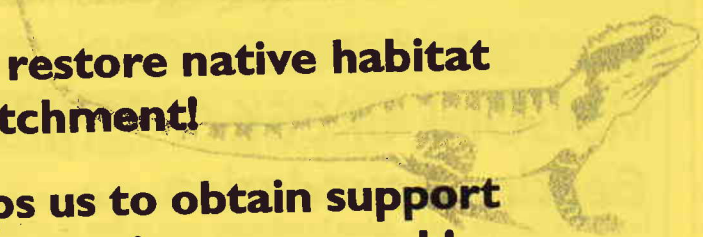
Do you know?

The Moggill Creek Catchment contains more bushland than any other catchment in Brisbane;

The Catchment Group was formed in 1997 in response to the release of the Brisbane City Council Catchment Management Plan for the area;

Local residents hold regular working bees on public and private land;

The Group is supported by Habitat Brisbane (BCC) and a Field Officer funded by Natural Heritage Trust.



We need your help to restore native habitat in our catchment!

Your membership helps us to obtain support from Government to continue our work!

Membership Application/Renewal Form

(Where two or more members of a household wish to take out membership, each should apply separately.)

Title:..... First/Preferred name: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

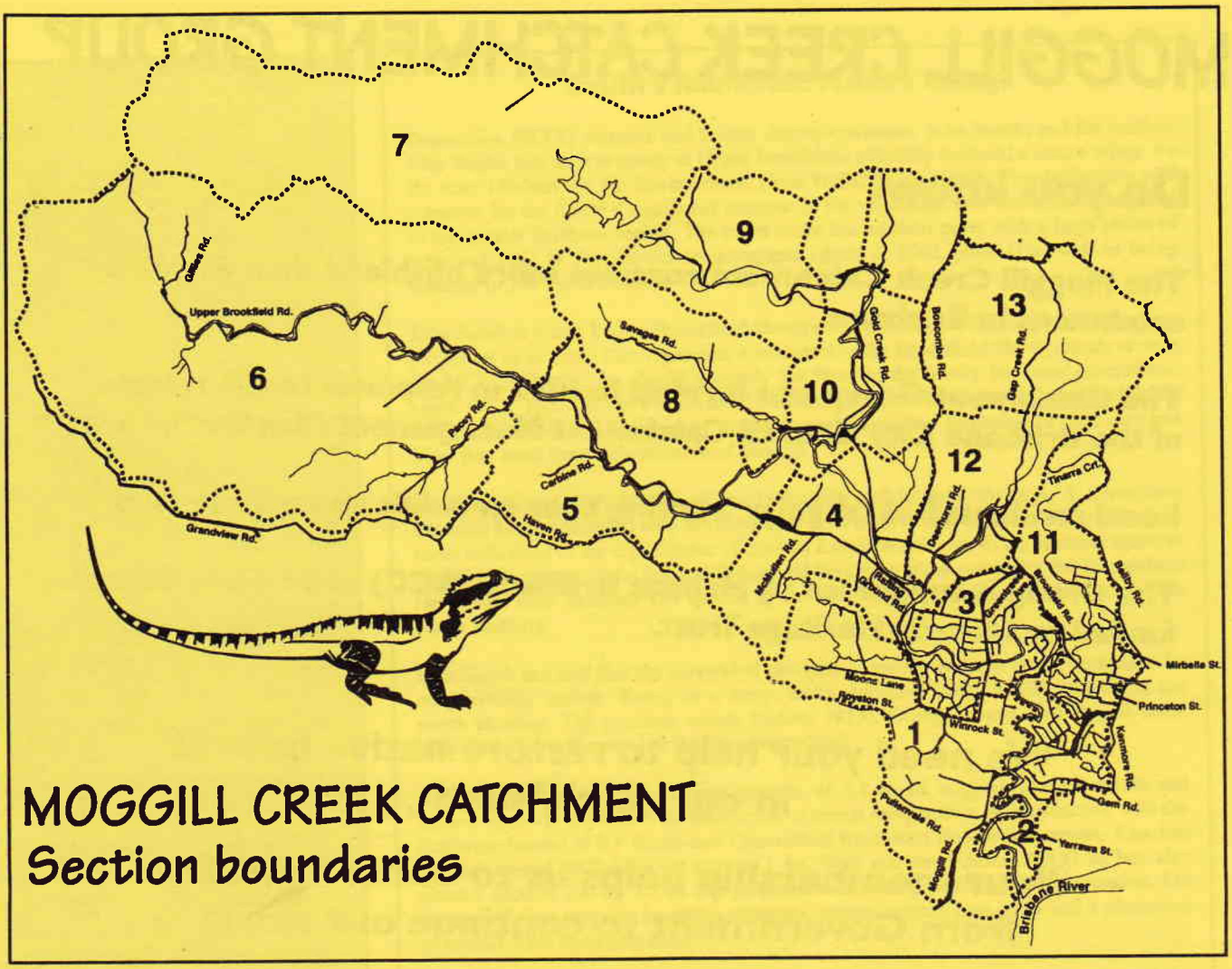
Telephone number: ..... Email: .....

I hereby request membership/renewal of membership of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group.
The annual subscription of **$5.50** is enclosed.

I live in subcatchment..... (see map overleaf)
and would like to participate in working bees on public land ☐
am looking for advice/help in revegetation on my own land ☐
(Please tick one or both)

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Please send completed form and annual subscription to the Secretary, MCCG, PO Box 657, Kenmore, Qld 4069.



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT
Section boundaries

Don't miss!

Dr Darryl Jones

speaking on

Surburban Wildlife

at the 2002 MCCG Half-Yearly Public Meeting

Thursday, June 20 at 7.00 pm
in the Brookfield Hall

Speaker: Dr Darryl Jones, Senior Lecturer in Ecology, the Australian School of Environmental Studies, Griffith University

Title: Backyard Battles and Biodiversity: The Dynamics of Suburban Wildlife in Brisbane

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