

MOGGIL CREEK CATCHMENT NEWSLETTER Spring 2003

Newsletter of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group

Chairman's Report

The three months since I wrote my report for the last Newsletter have been incredibly busy for many of us on the Committee. Our publicity group, headed by Judy Gower, organised a membership drive which was more successful that any of us had dreamed it could be. The membership drive included two sausage sizzles, and an informative display at Kenmore Village Shopping Centre. The display ran for a full week. It was continuously manned over shopping hours and attracted a considerable amount of interest. A big thank you to all those who gave time to man the exhibit. You will be pleased to learn that, through your efforts, we gained 26 new members and nine renewals.

Most of our new members indicated that they would like to be involved in some aspect or other of our activities, and I believe we have now made personal contact with all of those who expressed an interest in involvement. Often this entailed a site visit, by either Graeme Wilson or myself, to discuss a revegetation project. We have found these visits to be rewarding - both through providing help to landholders keen to restore the habitat value of their land, and through increasing our understanding of the ecosystems in which we live. If members would like a second visit or, indeed a first visit if they somehow missed out, they should contact Graeme Wilson (3374 1218). Rehabilitation of native habitat is a complex undertaking and there is a lot to learn.

As in past years, we staged an exhibit at the Brookfield Show over the weekend 16-18 May. There was a considerable amount of interest in our exhibit, which focussed on the outcomes of the weed mapping we have undertaken with neighbouring catchments (see article in this newsletter). The close proximity of the REPA, MCCG and Pullen Pullen Catchments Group displays meant that we had an environmental corner of the Show which covered a range of local environmental issues.

As I write this, the 2003 Photography Competition is on display in Kenmore Village Shopping Centre. I was impressed by the excellence of so many of the photographs, and it must have been a hard task for our judge to select the winners. Of particularly interest was the new section 'People Working to Restore Moggill Creek Catchment'. The display attracted a great deal of interest to shoppers in the Centre.

Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, we are potting nearly 1000 plants each month, and have a considerable range of dry rainforest species available for distributing at no charge to landholders. We also provide, again for free, cane mulch and roundup, thanks to a grant from Natural Heritage Trust. So, whether you have received plants from us before or are newer members, do contact Graeme Wilson and arrange a meeting. Bryan Hacker

Brvan Hacker

Yes, we have a website

www.moggillcreek.org.ourbrisbane.com

The Eastern Whipbird

Few bird calls in the catchment area are as prominent, loud and easily recognised as those of the Eastern Whipbird (*Psophodes olivaceus*). Even the scientific name recognises this. *Psophodes* is of Greek derivation and means noisy. The species name, *olivaceus*, is a bit more obvious, referring to the olive-green feathers on the back, wings and tail. Add to these a black head and breast, a white patch on each cheek and side of the neck, a mottled black and white belly region, plus a dominant crest, and you have a composite picture of an adult whipbird, male or female.

This is the Coachwhip Bird of the early settlers. That common name fell into disrepair with the advent of coach drivers who no longer required a whip.

As the current name implies, whipbirds are restricted to the east coast region of Australia, roughly from Cooktown to Melbourne, though the northern population (Cooktown to Paluma Range) is isolated from the southern birds. Favoured habitat is the understorey of dense forests, particularly rainforests and wet sclerophyll forests. A suitably dense understorey in more open forests is also acceptable. In our catchment area, these conditions are frequently provided by thickets of the introduced weed, Lantana.

Whipbirds are sedentary and territorial. Banding studies have shown that they don't move long distances. A movement of 4.8 km has been recorded, and that may have been a young bird in search of an unoccupied territory. They have short wings and weak flight. Most feeding occurs on the ground (soil or leaf litter) or in the first 4 metres or so of the understorey. Invertebrates, mainly insects, and occasionally, fruits and seeds are known food sources. However, they have a surprisingly powerful bill (which I experienced at first hand, so to speak, the first time I banded one), suggesting they could crush snail shells and tough plant seeds quite readily. They have been known to eat frogs and small lizards.

As whipbirds are more heard than seen, the remainder of this brief resumé will concentrate on that aspect of their behaviour. Being ground and understorey dwellers in dense vegetation, it is important to know where your mate is located. It's also essential to advertise your territory to any other whipbirds in the vicinity. If visual communication is difficult, then vocal signals become more important.

What is generally known as the male call consists of an introductory note of almost two seconds duration delivered at a constant frequency. This may be preceded by one, two or three discrete notes at the same frequency. Of particular interest is the fact that the same bird, at different times, may sing the introductory note at an entirely different frequency, which may be an octave or more above or below the note it had been singing a few seconds previously. If it moves from a low frequency to a suitably high one, it can appear, to those of us who have lost some high frequency hearing, as if the bird has not sung the introductory note. (And sometimes it doesn't.)

The introductory note is closely followed by the characteristic explosive whipcrack which rapidly (one tenth of a second) ascends or descends a frequency range of almost 8 kilohertz.

What is generally known as the female call consists, more often than not, of two descending notes like mini whipcracks (often described in bird books as 'chew chew'). However, the response may consist of ascending notes, or a combination of ascending and descending.

This form of singing, where the contributions of the male and female are combined in a formalised and repeated pattern, is known as antiphonal song or duetting. It is relatively uncommon in Australian birds.

There are a number of variations on the song details described above, some of which may derive from the undetected involvement of juvenile birds as a third singer. There are also records of one bird singing both parts of the duet. In addition to the antiphonal song, whipbirds produce a number of more quiet chuckling calls while they are foraging.

As described above, conventional wisdom has it that the male initiates the duet and the female responds. This is very likely to be the case, but the available scientific literature still hasn't convinced me that the case has been proved beyond doubt. If you have any interesting information about whipbirds, I would be pleased to hear it.

Peter Ogilvie Phone: 3374 1265 Email: peter.ogilvie@epa.qld.gov.au

Habitat Brisbane	(Bushcare) we	orking bees - o	dates and s	ection leaders
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tion 2	Lower Moggill Creek	3rd Sun 8.30-11.30	Rob Walker	3378 6897
3	Huntingdon	Last Sun 8.30-11 30	Malcolm Frost	3374 0649
	A Showgrounds	No set times	Stephen White	3374 1563
	i Haven Road	Early mornings Late afternoons	Tina Heybroek	3374 1401
e	Upper Brookfield	1st Sun 8.00-11.00	Darryl O'Brien	3374 4964
8	Wonga Creek	Last Sun 9.00-12.00	Graeme Wilson	3374 1218
9	Upper Gold Creek	Approx. 6 weekly	Gordon Grigg	3374 1737
10	Lower Gold Creek	No set times	Chris Mackey	3374 1676
11	McKay Brook	3rd Sun 8.30-11.00 1st Sat 2.00-5.00	Bryan Hacker	3374 1468
12	Gap Creek	4th Sun 8.30-11.00	Michael Humphreys	3374 1467

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Two local plants that look like holly

Two of our local rainforest plants have leaves that look rather like those of the European holly, and when plants are small it is quite easy to confuse them. They are the native holly (Alchornia ilicifolia) and native elm, or axe-handle wood (Aphananthe philippinensis). Although their leaves are quite similar, they are in very different plant families, the native holly being in the family which includes the castor oil plant and poinsettia, and the native elm in the elm family, which also includes Chinese elm and poison peach. The leaves of the two species are readily distinguished by texture, native holly leaves having a smooth and shiny upper surface, whereas those of native



Leaves of native holly

elm have a very rough upper surface.

Native holly is an open and sparingly branched shrub up to about 5 m tall. It is a host plant to the Common Albatross butterfly, Appias paulina (Don Sands, pers. comm.) and is quite common as an understorey plant in rainforests throughout our area. Its botanical name Alchornia commemorates a British plant collector, Stanesby Alchorn, who lived from 1727-1800. The species name, ilicifolia, means leaves like holly - the European holly is named Ilex aquifolium. The fruit of native holly is quite different from native elm (and from the European holly). It is a 3-lobed capsule, initially green but becoming biscuit-coloured with maturity, splitting open to reveal three dark brown seeds. According to Hauser & Block (2002)*, native holly fruits ripen from September to November, although I have found this year fruits ripening sporadically from January to April, perhaps associated with the very dry spring of 2002. Native holly may be propagated from fresh seed and is exceptionally hardy. It may also be propagated from cuttings.

Native elm is a small tree, up to perhaps 15 m in height, with scaly bark and slight buttresses. Leaves of young plants have pronounced prickles along the

margins, but these become less distinct on leaves of more mature trees. When grown on its own, native elm has a dense and

narrow canopy. It is very common in parts of our catchment, particularly along McKay Brook. Its botanical name derives from 'Aphanes' and 'anthos', Greek for invisible, and flowers, respectively. The species name, 'philippinensis' refers to the fact that it occurs in the Philippines as well as Australia - the species was initially described in 1848, from a specimen collected on the island of Luzon in the The tiny flowers are produced in spring, and according to the Philippines. BRAIN** website, ripen from October to January, although this year, perhaps also because of the dry spring followed by a reasonably moist summer, I found fruit ripening in quantity in June. The fruit is very different from that of native holly; it is like a tiny plum, about 5 mm long, with a stone inside and an outer layer which becomes fleshy as it ripens. Presumably it is distributed by birds. The timber is close-grained and has been used for the handles of mallets and axes - hence its alternative common name of axe-handle wood. The leaves of native elm are a food source for larvae of the locally occurring Common Aeroplane Butterfly (Phaedyma shepherdi) and the flower buds and young shoots are eaten by the common Six Line Blue Butterfly (Nacaduba berenice). The larvae of both butterflies also feed on several other local rainforest species we are planting in our catchmeent. Native elm is readily propagated from fresh seed and is very hardy, although rather slow growing.



* Hauser, Janet and Blok, Jan. 2002 'Fragments of Green, 2nd Edn., reprinted 2002, ARCS. **Brisbane Rainforest and Information Network

Native elm



Bryan Hacker

Fruiting branch of native elm

> Leaves of younger native elm

Driveways and Erosion

Now is the time to think about how well you manage your runoff and erosion control. It is often only after serious degradation that people realise that they have a problem and are contributing to degradation of the creeks.

Soil erosion results in sediment, nutrients and sometimes pesticides being deposited in the streams. The waterholes become filled with sediment and the aquatic fauna habitat is destroyed and water quality degraded. There are clear examples of this throughout the Moggill Creek catchment where land has been cultivated or disturbed for development purposes. The rate of house building on acreage blocks has increased the damage.

Obviously the most erosion prone parts of the catchment are those on the hillsides. Particularly where driveways are long, landholders should give special attention to managing the runoff to avoid erosion. Where the driveways are not sealed the wheel tracks usually concentrate the runoff and create perfect conditions for erosion. After extended dry periods the soil or gravel in the tracks is often loose from constant wear and tear from vehicles. Under these conditions there is no strength in the soil and it is readily picked up and transported by runoff. Where driveways are sealed there is still the problem of managing the runoff so it does not tear down the side of the tracks or driveway and create gullies. Runoff control requires well-designed drains or waterways that spread the flow and slow it down. Well-grassed waterways provide good protection, but during dry times it may be difficult to maintain a good cover of grass.

If you require some advice on how to manage the runoff and erosion problem seek some advice from the Dept of Natural Resources and Mines or contact someone on the Catchment Group Committee.

Adrian Webb

The Role of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines in Managing Water and Riverine Sources within the Moggill Creek Catchment

(This is a summary of a talk given by Letitia Ellis of DNR&M at our Public Meeting on 25 June. Please note that it deals with Government regulations. This summary refers only to some issues discussed and is no guide to the regulations. Persons contemplating activities associated with watercourses should approach DNR&M.)

A watercourse is a river, creek or stream in which water flows permanently or intermittently. It includes the bed and banks. The water, bed and banks are the property of the State. It will not always be obvious to an individual what is or is not a watercourse. A decision rests with DNR&M.

Water is managed under both the Water Act of 2000 and the Integrated Planning Act of 1985. The Water Act covers :

Water licences: taking water, and interference with flow by impounding or diversion,

(2) Water Permits: temporary taking of water,

(3) Riverine Protection Permits: destruction of native vegetation, placement of fill and excavation in a watercourse, and

(4) Quarry Allocations: removal of riverine quarry material.

All of these require licences.

The Integrated Planning Act deals with pumping, construction of dams and weirs, and stream diversion. Such developments require permits for their physical construction, in addition to the associated licences.

Owners of riparian land (that which abuts on watercourses and lakes) may take water for stock and domestic purposes. Others require a licence to do so and must also have formal agreements with riparian landholders for access.

Arising from these matters there is a list of offences:

Unauthorised taking, supplying or interfering with water.

Destroying vegetation, excavating or placing fill without a permit.

Removing quarry material.

Unauthorised works (i.e. with no development permit).

In discussion, questions were raised about policing the legislation. It emerged that apart from some inspection by DNR&M officers, there is a dependence on complaints by individuals. If that upsets some readers, please consider this: We have a large number of members who, in various ways, support work being done on restoring and maintaining waterways. We resent people engaging in activities which are detrimental to their condition.

Section Report - Section 12 - Gap Creek

Gap Creek - One of Brisbane's Best Kept Secrets

Gap Creek rises on the western slopes of Mt Coot-tha, flows out through a deep cut next to Kookaburra St, then joins Moggill Creek one kilometre downstream, shortly before Rafting Ground Rd. Whilst the best known part is a reserve along Gap Creek Rd, the section we have been working on runs southwest from Kookaburra St to Brookfield Rd at the corner of Deerhurst Rd. It consists of deep pools, abundant birdlife, and is an important wildlife corridor between Brisbane Forest Park and the lower reaches of Moggill Creek. However, it is severely degraded, dominated by a few weed species and no longer has the diversity to support a full range of wildlife. The total area is 5 hectares. This consists of 3 hectares on the southern and eastern side of the creek, which is currently a road reserve, and 2 hectares on the northern and western side, which are a conservation reserve.

Fourteen years ago, as part of a Council work scheme, much of the southern and eastern bank had been cleared and replanted. However there was no maintenance and only the hardiest trees, those that could withstand a drought and competition from thick grass, survived. When we started work in November 1998 there were a small number of trees native to the area including she-oaks, lilly pillys, eucalypts and bottle brushes. Surviving council plantings included red cedar, silky oak and foambark. Most of the area however, was overgrown with introduced species such as Chinese elm, lantana, privet, and ochna.

Our working bees take place on the fourth Sunday of each month, from 8:30–11, with an average work crew of 6-8 people. At this point we have cleared 400m along the southern and eastern sides of the creek, bringing the total area rejuvenated to approximately 1 hectare. The workforce consists of both regulars, who show up most months, and those who can only make it once or twice a year – everyone's contribution is appreciated. One of the chief difficulties in the early days was the lack of water. In order to maintain new plantings we either had to bucket water from the creek, when available, or bring in tanker



A Natural rock weir in Gap Creek

loads of water. Last year the council installed a waterline, which now serves both our needs and those of park visitors. We estimate that at the current rate, we will finish the project in 15 years!

We have put in a rough walking trail along the creek, linking Brookfield Rd to Kookaburra St. This will eventually provide a valuable community resource as a quiet walking trail. We have 350m to go to reach Kookaburra St, at which point we will begin working on the other side of the creek. With increasing density of native habitat, there will be an increase in the number of native wildlife species in the area, as has already been observed in plantings downstream.

We have two major concerns regarding our section. Firstly, it is currently designated as a road reserve, and has been suggested as a possible route for a western bypass. By rejuvenating this section of the creek we will increase its value as a waterway and wildlife corridor and hope that this will assist our argument that it be rezoned as a conservation area. The other danger to our section is from seeds from surrounding properties. If we stopped maintenance of the creek, these seeds would quickly re-infest the area with weeds.

With support from local residents, Habitat Brisbane (BCC) and others, we hope to preserve the area for future generations as a wildlife corridor and public park.

> Michael Humphreys and members of the Gap Creek group

Distribution of some major environmental weeds in western Brisbane

Most of us recognise the major environmental weeds in our district, but not so many are aware of how widely some of them are distributed. Moggill Creek and neighbouring catchment groups have recently completed a survey of some of the worst of the local 'nasties'. We obtained some results that were quite unexpected. It was initially decided to include ten weed species, however, Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network wanted to include Singapore Daisy so that made the number up to eleven. The weeds were:

Trees: camphor laurel, Chinese elm

Vines: climbing asparagus, glycine, Madeira vine, mile a minute, morning glory, cat's claw

Shrubs: lantana, ochna

Herbs: Singapore daisy

We covered the area from the Moggill Creek ferry to The Gap, and from Taringa to the western end of Upper Brookfield Road, an area of c. 150 km². We were necessarily restricted to what we could see from public roads

In all, we covered a total of 300 sites, generally avoiding areas of mown grass, buildings and so forth. Sites were generally woodland or untended land where weeds could flourish. At each site we roughly defined an area of 2,500 m² (mostly a 50 m x 50 m square) and estimated the percentage cover of our eleven target weeds. We also took a GPS reading, as an aid to mapping the results. Based on the Brisbane City Council system for weed survey, we used a 0-4 rating system, with 1 = <10% cover, 2 = 11-25%, 3 = 26-75% and 4 = >76% cover.

As expected, lantana was the most widespread weed, scoring a presence at 208 sites and with a rating of 3 or 4 at 59 sites. Of the two tree species, Chinese elm was much more widespread than camphor laurel, the latter apparently favouring the more fertile alluvial soils to the east of the catchments.

Glycine is by far the most widespread of the vines, as shown in the histogram. Madeira vine, which only propagates vegetatively, is a very serious problem along Moggill Creek, but is almost absent from the Pullenvale area. Presumably it was planted – purposefully or accidentally – along the upper reaches of Moggill Creek and tubers have since washed downstream. The two Ipomoea species (mile a minute and morning glory), were much more uncommon than we had expected. In the case of morning glory, this is perhaps because it does not produce seed here and does not have an efficient means of propagating vegetatively.

In contrast, cat's claw is showing all the signs of becoming one of our worst weeds in the future. It was noted only at a few sites, but where it occurred, it was a major problem. This is a species that only seems to flower when it has climbed to some height, usually on a tree – it then produces numerous seeds that are carried large distances by the wind. Its comparatively long time from germination to seeding mean that we can expect cat's claw to become progressively more of a problem if nothing is done about it now.

Another species which is sending out danger signals is ochna. Although it rated 3 or 4 at only four sites, it rated 1 (< 10% cover) at 48 sites, mostly with just one or two small plants. Ochna seed is distributed by birds, and the seedlings are very hardy. The species has the capacity to crowd out all of the shrub layer in eucalypt woodland. As a mature plant, it is quite difficult to kill, so attention should be given to destroying seedlings where they appear.



Severity of infestation of six weedy vines (300 sites surveyed)



Singapore daisy is a species which people are still planting. Except where it has been purposefully planted, it is restricted to riparian situations along lower (eastern) parts of the catchments. We suspect that its initial presence in these areas is due to dumping of garden rubbish. Once established, it rapidly takes over and re-establishes as stolons get washed downstream.

The catchment groups contributing to this project were Moggill Creek, Pullen Pullen, Cubberla-Witton and Enoggera, together with The Hut Environmental and Community Association. We are grateful to Natural Heritage Trust for an Envirofund grant to support the study.

> Bryan Hacker, Adrian Webb, Sandra Bishop and Joan Redgrave

Plant Names

Communication between people requires that they share the same meaning for words. Consider the following examples when plant common names are being used.

If you live hereabouts and have a piece of silky oak furniture, and think that the timber comes from what we call the silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*), you are probably wrong. It is far more likely that it came from *Cardwellia sublimis*. One common name for two species. If you have furniture made from a red-coloured hardwood, one person may tell you that it is blue gum, another that it is forest red gum. Both are correct. (It is *Eucalyptus tereticornis*.) Two names for the one species. In this case the situation can be more of a problem because if you now tell a person from further south that it is blue gum, he will assume it to be another species which he knows under that name. If however you refer to it as a red gum, he has another species to go with that.

Another sort of confusion arises where common names for species in another country are applied to a number of different species here. We have, for example, several "oaks" which are quite unrelated to the several species of *Quercus* in the northern hemisphere. I was recently approached by someone who was told that a tree on his land was an elm. Thinking that it may have been the undesirable Chinese elm (*Celtis sinensis*), he wanted confirmation. It was in fact the native *Aphananthe philippinensis*, known here as rough-leaved elm. (We also have, in addition to the silky oaks, she oaks, tulip oaks and Tasmanian oaks to name a few which have nothing in common taxonomically.)

It is best to avoid common names unless you are sure that they are used consistently and unambiguously; otherwise use botanical names. You may feel a little more comfortable with them if you have some understanding of what they are about.

Species have "double" names; for example, Grevillea robusta which was mentioned above. It is one of the several species in the genus Grevillea. A genus is established to aggregate those species which have certain structural features in common-thereby excluding species which do not conform. Within a genus further classification brings together, as separate species, individuals which although somewhat variable, nevertheless have many common characteristics, the possession of which excludes other species. The name, in the present case robusta, is known as the specific epithet. It is worth noting here that as a general rule, although there are many exceptions, individuals interbreed within a species but not across species. If they were to do so, the species distinction would be lost because of the resulting intermediate type plants.

Where do these strange names come from? They are given by the taxonomists who have described the plants. To a large extent they are based on Latin or Greek words for particular characteristics, but names of people, places of origin, traditional common names of the plant, similarities to other plants and so on may be used. Here are a few examples from species we know fairly well by common names:

- Silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*)- Named for C.F. Greville, an early English patron of Botany; and strong or stout (compared with other species in the Genus).
- Blue gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)- Well covered (referring to the prominent caps on top of the flower buds); cylindrical horn, describing the protrusion at the apex of the bud cap.
- Black bean (Castanospermum australe)- Chestnut seed (the seed is reminiscent of the chestnut, Castanea); of Australia.
- Moreton Bay fig(*Ficus macrophylla*)- An ancient Latin name for the fig; large leaves.

Where members of a Genus are referred to without an interest in which one or ones, they are written, e.g., *Grevillea sp.* and *Grevillea spp.* as the plural.

When species in a genus are being discussed, the generic name is not repeated in full but the initial only is used. Thus *G. robusta*.

You may encounter seemingly unintelligible additions to the two names we are discussing. As far as our interest here is concerned they may be ignored.

Note that like (related) genera are grouped in to what are called Families. For example, a large number of well known local genera including *Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Melaleuca, Callistemon,* and *Syzygium* belong in the Family *Myrtaceae*. A knowledge of Families can be useful.

This system of naming is not restricted to plants; it is used for all living organisms. For example, the genus *Macropus* (large foot) contains several species of kangaroos, and it should be no surprise that *M. rufus* is the red kangaroo.

Graeme Wilson



The Battle for Brookfield

It is too early to be claiming victory in the war against fire ants in the Brookfield treatment area but advances have been made on many fronts.

On 8 January 2003, the Brookfield fire ant treatment area was reduced from 1100 hectares to 90 hectares – from 1179 properties to 52 properties. No new infestations had been found since May 2001 when terraced seating at the Brookfield showground was found to be overrun by the South American pest. This year to May, two field teams of 20 on all-terrain vehicles were active in the area. Helicopters were not used. A surveillance team of 12 was also active. With the treatment season now over till September, the surveillance team aims to twice cover 100% of the new treatment area by September. A final round of treatment will be applied from September to April 2004, followed by two years of surveillance, ending the five year program. (To date, over \$66m (of the allocated \$142m) has been invested in the Fire Ant Eradication Program.)

The Brisbane West Fire Ant Watch Group, formed in June 2002 and with 28 members, is also very active in the area, conducting surveillance in public parks and educating the public at events such as the Brookfield Show. The Group targets Pullenvale, Upper Brookfield, Brookfield, Chapel Hill, Kenmore, Kenmore Heights, Indooroopilly, Taringa, St Lucia and Fig Tree Pocket and meets on the second Tuesday of every month at The Hut Environmental Centre, Fleming Road, Chapel Hill. New members are always welcome so if interested, please contact Community Engagement, Fire Ant Control Centre on (07) 3310 2873.

Although the Battle for Brookfield is progressing well, now is not the time for complacency. It is a time for increased vigilance to ensure the eradication program is effective and fire ants don't spread.

Please

· continue to check your property for suspicious ant activity.

· continue to allow us access to your property when necessary.

· adhere to new legislation introduced in March 2002 by not moving high risk material out of the treatment area.

Maps of the new treatment area are available by contacting the DPI Call Centre on 13 25 23.

Keith McCubbin, Director, Fire Ant Control Centre, Department of Primary Industries



Editor: Graeme Wilson, Ph 3374 1218 Formatting: Margaret Hastie Printing: John Gower

LATE EXTRA ON FIRE ANTS

The first treatment phase of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program is almost complete in the Brookfield area and the second application is expected to commence in the next month. Structured surveillance has also commenced in the 5kms outside the infested area with officers door-knocking residents to seek permission to inspect properties to ensure that the fire ants have not spread. Residents are asked for their continued support and if you have any questions relating to fire ant identification or information about the treatment and surveillance please phone the DPI Call Centre on 13 25 23.

Rachel McKay Community Engagement Officer Fire Ant Control Centre Department of Primary Industries Tel: 07 3310 2875