

MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT NEWSLETTER Summer 2003

Newsletter of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group

Chairman's Report Annual General Meeting 2003

The year 2003 has been a year of change, as we have learnt to operate without the support of a funded co-ordinator. Thanks to a lot of hard work by a dedicated team, we have maintained and even expanded our activities over the past twelve months. A major strength of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group is that it focusses on issues throughout the Catchment. According to our Mission Statement "MCCG is a volunteer action community group aiming to conserve & improve the natural environment of its catchment on both private and public land". With the changes in funding arrangements for environmental work, we have seen a need to develop a new strategic plan which conforms with guidelines put forward by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, and I will therefore present my report under those headings.

Caring For Biodiversity

Caring for biodiversity is a strength of the MCCG. We actively support habitat preservation and reconstruction both on private and public land. A total of 32 visits have been made to landholders seeking advice on revegetation. We have donated more than 8,600 plants, representing 210 species, to landholders so far this year, more than double the number distributed in 1999, 2000 or 2001, and close to that for 2002, when we gave landholders nearly 9,300 plants. Most of these plants were grown in our own nursery from seed collected by MCCG volunteers. Others were purchased through an Envirofund grant; which also made it possible for us to continue supplying mulch and herbicide. We have now negotiated an arrangement with a commercial operator whereby we can exchange plants of species which we have to an excess, for plants of species we need. This will increase the diversity of plants we can provide.

Supported by Habitat Brisbane, MCCG volunteers continue to work on public land. On some sites, our earlier plantings now need little attention, with trees having attained a height of six metres or more. One has only to take a drive along Gold Creek Rd to see a sample of what has been achieved. This year, eight Bushcare Groups have contributed at least 2027 hours of work towards control of environmental weeds on public land, and planted 3,843 plants. Excluding Mt Coot-tha and Brisbane Forest Park, we now have Habitat Brisbane support on all but two of our Sections - Pullenvale Rd/Moon's Lane (Section 1) and Lower Gold Creek (Section 10). And there now appears to be a good opportunity for support in Section 1, too.

Supported by the Natural Heritage Trust and in collaboration with neighbouring catchment groups, we have mapped the distribution of eleven significant weeds over Moggill Creek Catchment and nearby districts. This has led to an appreciation of the threats of these weed species and provided an excellent vehicle for informing landholders.

Caring for Water

Over most of our Catchment, the destruction of native riparian vegetation in the past has led to ingress of weeds, more rapid runoff and hence faster erosion and higher water temperatures, adversely affecting the biota. MCCG endeavors to provide support and advice to landholders regarding water storage and runoff, and provides advice and plants as a means of restoring riparian systems. We are increasing contact with Environmental Protection Agency. We are also developing a new project to investigate conditions of riparian land throughout the Catchment.

Caring for Land

Through advice to landholders, publications and exhibits, MCCG endeavors to promote land use practices required for sustainability of natural resources. We support ecologically sensitive housing and development and liaise with other community groups with a commitment to landcare.

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Chairman's Report (continued)

Understanding & Participation

Membership of MCCG has increased dramatically over the past year, increasing from 192 in 2002 to 286 in mid-November 2003. This is largely due to vigorous promotional activities by our Publicity Group, lead earlier in the year by Judy Gower, then by Chris Hosking. These promotions have highlighted the achievements and goals of MCCG as well as benefits to members. They include exhibits at the Brookfield Show, the Brookfield Country Market, two week-long exhibits in the Kenmore Village Shopping Centre, two sausage sizzles and a section promotion by the Gap Creek group. We have also been contributing to the Community's understanding of environmental issues through two displays and talks at the Council's 'Wipe Out Weeds' events and our ever-popular annual Photography Competition, staged in Kenmore in July. We have published 14 articles in South-West News, 8 articles in The Local Bulletin and 9 articles in other papers and newsletters. Not forgetting the younger members of our Catchment, we are increasing our involvement with Kenmore State High School's revegetation program as well as having made presentations at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kenmore, and Bremer TAFE. Summarised outcomes from our weed mapping project (see next section) were delivered to four environmental groups in west Brisbane.

Thanks to support from Brisbane City Council, we now have our website up and running - visit us on www.moggillcreek.org.ourbrisbane.com.

Integrated Planning & Coordinated Management

We now have a fully-functional MCCG database, thanks to the good work that Bill and Kate McVicar have put into its development. This has given us a knowledge base for developing sound plans for the future. We see a need for financial forecasting and increased effort on team development and broadening our volunteer base. We see a need to develop further opportunities to provide displays, and talks to groups, liaise with local schools, expand publication and distribution of environmental articles, further improve our website and develop teams of volunteers to help with promotion at all levels. We see a need for continued participation in Brisbane-wide and regional groups (e.g. Brisbane Catchments Network) and are planning a new Survey in our district through UQ to analyse Community attitudes to environmental issues.

This year we have had financial support through an Envirofund Project (Natural Heritage Trust) and from the Brisbane City Council. We see a need to develop a business plan, with financial forecasting to ensure long-term viability of our group and its activities. We increasingly see a need to develop teams and to do this, we must broaden our volunteer base.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Committee for their support and hard work over 2003, a year which has been marked by continued growth and achievement.

Bryan Hacker Chairman

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Feeding Birds, is it good for birds or for people?

Why do we feed wild birds? They are beautiful to watch and at the same time we feel that in some way we are "connecting" with nature. Most people genuinely believe that they are helping the birds out, especially when the season appears to be adverse and when we know they are feeding young. Most of us have grown up accepting that feeding birds is a desirable and enjoyable activity. As children we were taken to the park to feed ducks or the beach to feed seagulls and we in our turn have taken our children and grandchildren to do the same. Somehow we must break this ecologically undesirable cycle.

There are about 400 species of native birds that can be found in South East Queensland. How many of these do we feed? At the most about twenty and this can change the ecological balance of the area.

There are many reasons why it is never advisable to feed any wild bird or animal, at any time:

- The food we offer will not replace a wild bird's natural food; it will be unbalanced with regard to the nutrients required and often results in malnutrition.
- By feeding birds we break down the fear barrier. Having them congregate in a set place at a set time can make them subject to predation from other birds or domestic pets. Also, hand fed birds can become aggressive.
- Wild birds need the activity of foraging for food; it keeps birds alert, mentally stimulated, and provides them with
 exercise. The birds know their nutritional requirements and will try to gather the right food.
- When birds gather in large groups at a particular spot diseases can be passed on more readily amongst them and perhaps even to us.
- · We make the birds dependent on our food supply. What happens when we go on holiday or move away?
- By encouraging certain birds we upset the ecosystem of the area. It is usually the larger, more aggressive species that dominate at the feeding table. When feeding parrots, you might start off with a delightful pair of Scaly-breasted Lorikeets but before long the larger more aggressive Rainbow Lorikeets will almost always take over and eventually you will end up with a noisy, destructive bunch of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. If these larger, more aggressive parrots increase in numbers because of the feeding they will take over the nesting holes of other smaller and less aggressive species of parrots, kookaburras, owls and many species of mammals. Putting meat out for magpies, butcherbirds and currawongs allows these species to breed up and these are all predators of smaller birds, taking eggs and nestlings as well as frogs, lizards and small mammals. The small, quiet, shy birds such as wrens, pardalotes, finches, honeyeaters and robins are the victims of these predators.

What can we do to help wild birds?

- Plant a variety of trees, shrubs and grasses that are native to where you live. Vast plantings of Grevillea, Melaleuca
 and Callistemon will only increase the numbers of Noisy Miners and Rainbow Lorikeets to the disadvantage of other
 bird species. MCCG is doing a great job in providing plant species for growing within the catchment.
- · Don't cut down old trees or lop off branches with hollows.
- · Try not to use insecticides.
- It can be helpful, during periods of drought, to provide water. Make sure it is offered in shallow containers, set high off the ground and close to shelter from overhanging vegetation.

Dawn Beck

A new cd to help you identify local grasses.

People often find identifying grasses difficult, and Bryan Hacker has been trying to address this problem for our area. Working with Greening Australia, he has recently released a new cd-rom which covers one hundred common grasses in the Queensland districts of Moreton and Wide Bay (i.e. north to Bundaberg and west as far as



Toowoomba). For each species, there is a colour photograph of an inflorescence as well as helpful diagnostic drawings, brief descriptions and notes on weediness and general ecology. A simple pictorial key enables the user to track down the plant in question with little difficulty. Although this cd does not cover all the grasses in Moreton and Wide Bay districts (more than 400 species have been recorded), it does cover the common ones, including both natives and exotics.

The cd is priced at \$27.50 (including GST) and may be obtained by sending a cheque to MCCG, Box 657, Kenmore (Greening Australia has generously allowed MCCG to keep half the proceeds!). Please also add \$1 for postage, if required. For further information, or to view the cd, contact Bryan on 3374 1468.

Upper Brookfield Bushcare Group

My name is Daryl O'Brien. It is best you come along to our working bee on the first Sunday of each month if you want to put a face to my name as well as the other regulars on our team. I say regulars because that is what has evolved in our working group over the past 9 months since I took over the organization of our working bees. We spent six months doing 120 letterbox drops to the local residents to notify them of our working bees. We stopped it 2 months ago because the same dozen locals would turn up to share each others warm company and delicious morning tea. (That cake last month was a doozie Jenny; only the crumbs left of course).

We have been working at 756 Upper Brookfield Road since March this year. Attached is a map which shows the site plan. Prior to this work the group was working for three years under the leadership of Michelle and Wade on the



upstream section adjacent to Jenny's property. Jenny has taken over the maintenance of this section and is to be commended on her work to enhance the original planting.

The current site was infested with a range of weeds when we started. This included elephant grass, lantana and Madeira vine. The first few months was dedicated to clearing the weed but with caution to retain young native seedlings. David Moore has been active in educating us about the finer detail of species identification.

In June we formed a Bushcare Sub Group with the Brisbane City Council. This enabled us to resource the project with tools, sprays, plants, mulch and stakes.

We have planted a succession of seedlings over the last 4 months. Our plan is to continue to work the area cleared over approximately 70 metres of creek frontage. This is as much as we can successfully manage with the number of locals who volunteer. Once we have canopy coverage we will continue to progress systematically down the creek with further clearing, weeding and planting.

It is worthy to note that most of the volunteers in our group concurrently have bush regeneration projects on their own properties. Don and Evonne Midley are a shining example to us following the excellent work at their own property in Gillies Road. It must be one of their secrets of eternal youth.

Finally, it is important for us to understand that we are relative pioneers in the reconstruction of the total ecosystem by the bush regeneration work of our small group. We have hardly started in the total scheme, but importantly we have started and we will not stop.

See you at the next bee!

Daryl O'Brien



Related Environmental Programs

There are three environmental programs related in various ways to MCCG's interests.

Voluntary Conservation Agreements are contracts between landholders and Brisbane City Council, wherein the former undertake to work towards the restoration of original ecosystems on their properties. There are 43 such in the Greater Brisbane area and 17 of these are in our catchment. From our point of view they are serious commitments to achieving the objectives of MCCG. For information on them, contact Richard Rawlings of BCC Environment and Parks Branch, Ph. 3403 6575.

Bushcare is confusing to many people. It is a BCC program which encourages and supports volunteer groups in restoration and preservation of public land. It is part of BCC's Habitat Brisbane activities. When MCCG was formed we recognized a number of subcatchments which are called Sections; e.g. the Wonga Creek subcatchment is Section 8. At the same time, it was decided that in addition to the encouragement of landholders to work on their own properties, it would be useful to form volunteer groups in the Sections to work on public land. That had several objectives. It would provide restoration in conspicuous places which would not otherwise occur, it would draw attention to our activities, and it would provide training for persons wishing to work on their own land. After some such groups had become active, Habitat Brisbane approached them individually, inviting them to join Bushcare, whereby they would be given Council support such as advice, plants, herbicide and mulch. Most groups accepted. Confusion has arisen in that many people think that a Section means a Bushcare group; whereas a Section is nothing more than a part of the whole catchment. Those section-based volunteer groups which joined Bushcare should be referred to in the context of Bushcare activity on the basis of their locations. Thus in Section 8 we have the Wonga Creek Bushcare Group. These are the names used by Habitat Brisbane. It should be clearly understood that membership of MCCG does not imply required participation in the activities of those Groups; although such by anyone is always welcome.

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary scheme which aims to assist (mainly) private landholders to provide habitats for wildlife on their properties, even though the property may be managed primarily for other purposes. Obviously that contributes to our objectives. Moreover, participation is likely to bring people in to contact with our activities and may lead to their joining us. In fact, a number of LFW members in the Brisbane area have moved on to entering into VCAs, the highest form of participation in the activity which is MCCG's objective. There are 51 members in this catchment (and 192 in the Greater Brisbane Area). Members have access to expert advice on managing their land for the objectives and receive interesting and informative Newsletters. LFW operates Australia wide and is managed by local Councils, in our case BCC. For information on it, the contact point is the same as for VCAs (above).

A Glyphosate Applicator

My weeding is mainly with ochna, climbing asparagus and lantana, and my method is basal cutting followed by application of 50 % glyphosate. (For large asparagus 1 cut in to the crown.) Originally I used a pot of glyphosate and a brush, which required three hands, and there was the possibility of a spill and certainly the contamination of the pot with too much rubbish. I moved to spray bottles which often broke down and wasted a lot of herbicide.

I have improvised something which gets round all these problems. I took a used 500 ml Harpic container, the style with an angled neck and spout (used for a number of different products). Screw off the cap. There is a narrow spout in a plug which can be pulled out, allowing filling with the herbicide. (For further construction use water only!) The spout allows water to pour out, but drops only are wanted; slow drops when the container is upended, more rapid when it is squeezed.

Work out your own solution to that. I took a sliver of timber about 1.5 cm long, shaved it to a slow taper so that when pushed in to the spout, it jammed at its mid length; which with a well rounded plug means that the spout is closed off. I removed the wood and scraped a longitudinal grove until I got the required flow.

I have used this for months, the only attention recently being a scratch along the groove where some wood fibres were restricting the flow. The economy of use is spectacular, avoiding the wastage of glyphosate beyond the cut surfaces.

I use red dye in my mix. Otherwise I do not know if I have a full cover or am using too much.

Graeme Wilson



An area was to be planted on the bank of Moggill Creek near its junction with Wonga Creek. It required about 100 plants in a mass planting at 1.5 m spacing, and was completely covered by exotic weeds (mainly lantana and Madeira vine). It would have been a simple process of spraying with glyphosate and then planting into the deep alluvial soil. I decided not to do so because of the close proximity of one of the few remaining pools in the creek and instead, to make gaps in the weed cover and plant into these. Imagine my surprise when clearing the gaps I discovered large numbers of three species of tree frogs. I suppose the drought had caused the frogs to concentrate in cool damp spots as surface water became scarce.

From this experience I am more careful when using glyphosate, although remaining convinced that this benign herbicide is an effective and important weapon in our battle with exotic weeds. The experience also highlights the fact that treeless creek banks result in a severely degraded creek with few if any shaded pools and therefore abnormal animal behaviour (eg. frog concentration), especially in drought conditions.

Regeneration of native habitat along our creek banks has all sorts of positive implications for native fauna, from tree frogs and insects to countless species of birds and animals – spoonbills to bandicoots.

Chris Simmonds



So often we think of insects and other invertebrates in suburbia as those creatures associated with nuisance – grubs and beetles feeding on our treasured plants, biting mosquitoes, wasps, midges and ants, carpet beetles, or those moths landing in our soup! But the many other roles that insects play in keeping the balance of nature remain largely overlooked and taken for granted. Urban development, and clearing of native vegetation and weeds have taken their toll on the invertebrates as much as vertebrates, often resulting in detrimental impacts – especially on birds, reptiles and native plants. Benign and beneficial insects tend to go unrecognised even though they are essential as food for insectivorous species, pollinators of flowers, or regulators of plant architecture, and have symbiotic (sometimes obligatory) relationships with a wide range of other organisms. Insectivorous birds and animals must have a good supply of food to colonise gardens and bush regeneration sites!

Gardens and bush regeneration projects can easily add those plants that are "insect friendly" to provide food for the larger creatures we want to encourage. Honeyeaters for example mostly feed on insects not just on honey, and they often need particular kinds of insects in their diet. Similarly small reptiles – the skinks and legless lizards- need a wide range of insects as food and suitable hollow logs or stones under which they can search for prey and shelter by day. Hollow logs should be added or retained as essential items in regeneration projects for the invertebrates.

There are more than 120 different species of butterflies in the Western Suburbs of Brisbane but only about 25 common species can cope with suburbia and are able to adapt to gardens with mostly introduced plants. We can start with butterflies by growing the food plants for their larvae and by planting flowering species to attract the adults. Most native plant nurseries have a "butterfly garden" section and stocks of 30 or more food plants for caterpillars of local butterflies can now be purchased as well as plants with attractive flowers for nectar. Each butterfly that successfully develops helps to breach fragmentation of wild colonies now threatened by loss of corridors and by the changes in genetic identities of populations. Bush regeneration projects aimed at encouraging the macro fauna by restoring native flora can easily include plants to encourage the invertebrates on which most fauna depends – "The Other 99%" of the Animal Kingdom we tend to forget!

Don Sands

How useful was October's good rain?

Most of those involved in our programs have a vision of forests as they may once have been here. To get back there means a lot of hard work, a great deal of know-how and a bit of luck. What will always confront us is adequacy of soil moisture. Knowing something of rainfall totals and patterns, and consequential soil water content won't make it rain but there are opportunities for making the most of what we get.

Rain will run off according to slope, soil surface characteristics, rate of fall, and rate at which it can penetrate in to the soil. Clearly, less slope, rougher surfaces and drier and more permeable soil result in better penetration. Our only control is over surfaces (of which something is written elsewhere in this issue - "Soils vary in potential for revegetation").

Water held initially on the surface drains downwards only when the content exceeds the capacity of the soil to hold it against gravity. That capacity varies greatly among soils. For many hereabouts, 10 mm. of rain, all of which penetrates, would wet completely dry soil down to about 30 mm. It is important to recognize that the amount of water entering does not determine how wet the soil becomes at depth, but how deep it becomes fully wet. Shallow (upper) layers of soil dry down through evaporation to more or les zero content.

Through most of the Catchment we had about 75 mm. of rain in the last half of October. It did very little if anything for ongoing soil moisture except perhaps in an indirect way, in that the associated higher humidity reduced the rate of water use by plants which had access to existing soil water. Three inches of rain in October sounds good. But it came as a series of light falls which did not get beyond wetting the air-dry surface which substantially dried out before the next fall. More continuous light rain would have wetted to useful depth, well below drying to the atmosphere. A heavy fall of that amount on slopes might have largely run off, again being ineffective. These things remind us that records of monthly rainfall don't tell us as much as we would like to know.

There is another aspect of rainwater penetration important to us, beyond that of meeting plant needs. Creeks flow temporarily on the basis of rain runoff but continuous flow or at least some permanent water depends on underground inflow, which in turn requires deep percolation of rain. We simply have not had enough of that in recent years, which is surely the reason why those creeks which we have come to expect to have permanent water have dried up. And land management practices which encourage runoff add to the problem; in addition to increasing flooding following heavy rain.

Soils Vary in Potential for Revegetation

Revegetation efforts often seem to be fruitless in the sorts of weather conditions we have had in recent times. Some of our members have commented on poor responses they have had in their rehabilitation of sloping lands in various parts of the catchment. The results seen in the alluvial (riparian) zones where most of the section activities have concentrated in recent years have given some people a false sense of what might be expected in non alluvial areas.

It is a fact that much of the sloping country in the catchment is on poor soils – certainly much poorer than the alluvial soils of the flats; they are shallower and less fertile and often have been severely eroded or compacted through previous land uses such as grazing, cropping or horticultural production. These soils do not accept or store as much water as the alluvials, and may be compacted and in many cases have much less surface cover to reduce evaporation from the upper part of the soils. Small trees can struggle to grow under these conditions.

The options for improving your success in these situations include putting on sufficient mulch to reduce surface evaporation and to increase infiltration of rainfall. The additional benefits over time are increased soil organic matter that boosts the fertility of the soil chemically, structurally and biologically (more bugs and worms). The other benefit is reduced erosion in these sites. The down side of this option is the amount of labour and costs usually incurred.

Another relatively low input option is used widely in rural areas of Australia; this is fencing and limited strategic weed control. This has been shown to be particularly successful where there are a few mature trees nearby. The trees provide seeds and roosting opportunities for birds which bring seeds from other areas in their excreta. Natural regeneration under these conditions can be quite spectacular. The essential requirement is to control stock access. On our sloping lands this may be the easiest option particularly for those people with relatively large areas of open or lightly timbered areas. Some of the most successful revegetation in the catchment has come from this type of strategy. In some cases it has occurred in spite of any real attempts to revegetate simply because land has been destocked and or cropping ceased. Wattles and other native species are wonderful pioneers in abandoned farm land. These attract more birds and provide cover for more strategic replanting. In situations where there are no dangers to people, leave any dead trees standing for birds and other animals to rest and perhaps breed.

If you want to discuss your options give one of the MCCG section leaders a call or contact the secretary.

Adrian Webb

Dispersal of some Environmental Weeds (Presentation at the MCCG AGM, 19th November 2003, by Gabrielle Vivian-Smith

The presentation described some of my current work at Alan Fletcher Research Station, in collaboration with Dane Panetta and researchers funded by the Weeds CRC, Chris Stansbury and Carl Gosper. The talk consisted of two parts, the first covering some of the work we are doing on invasive riparian vines and the second, a brief overview of our project on bird-dispersed weeds.

One of the species we are working on is balloon vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*). This is a high-impact invasive species of riparian habitats or waterways. Little is known about its reproductive ecology and dispersal. Although seeds are frequently attached to a papery bract, it is unlikely that wind dispersal occurs other than over short distances. Our research aims to determine the importance of creek corridors for its dispersal. These studies focus on seed deposition patterns along creek corridors. Other work aims to determine seed germination requirements, seed longevity and patterns of seedling emergence. Our initial results indicate that balloon vine produces large quantities of seed throughout the year and that many seeds are transported along stream corridors, particularly after flooding/rainfall events. Balloon vine seeds germinate in both light and dark, but in field conditions, emergence is greatest for buried seeds. Seed bank sampling indicates large numbers of seeds concentrated under and around existing infestations. A large proportion of the seed is dormant, suggesting a persistent seed bank. Ultimately this information will provide input to catchment-wide weed management strategies and riparian weed management programs via a greater understanding of reinfestation potential and more strategic removal programs.

Bird-dispersed weeds present a complex and difficult dispersal process to manage. The multi-species nature of the problem adds to its complexity. There are many species of bird-dispersed weeds and multiple bird dispersers for many of these species. In south-east Queensland alone, 25% of the 200 most invasive environmental weeds are bird & bat dispersed. Our initial step used a questionnaire survey of experienced bird observers to identify the main bird-dispersal agents of introduced plants and weeds in Qld. Results from this survey indicated that small fruit tend to be utilised by a larger number of frugivorous bird species. Weed species fed on by the largest number of bird species were camphor laurel, ochna, wild tobacco, umbrella tree and glossy nightshade. More detailed studies are now underway. Some examples of possible outcomes for the project in the long term include:

- Σ Better predicting the likelihood of new plant introductions becoming future bird-dispersed weeds Σ A better understanding of dispersers and their fruit choices to refine selection of replacement spe
- A better understanding of dispersers and their fruit choices to refine selection of replacement species or management of landscape structure (e.g. edges, fragments/isolated perches or corridors) and the potential impacts of weed removal on birds, and having a better knowledge to recommend targeted removal of major seed sources contributing to weed expansion.

Brisban's Unique Wildlife Needs Our Help

'Biodiversity' means the variety of living things. It also underpins the very health of our environment and therefore our own existence.

Our suburbs enjoy amazing biodiversity, but it is under ever-increasing pressure. If we want to prevent becoming a severely degraded environment, lacking in variety of microorganisms, invertebrates, birds and marsupials such as possums, gliders, bandicoots and wallabies from our suburbs, there are things we can all do to help.

- Plant native trees, shrubs, etc. Native animals need native plants for food and habitat. The MCCG nursery has a
 wide variety of native plants that are given at no cost to members with approved plans for their use. The Greening
 Australia nursery at The Gap also has well-priced native plants and offers advice.
- Erect possum/glider/bat/bird boxes in our gardens. With trees and important undergrowth being cleared at a fast
 and furious pace, these animals need shelter that is not longer available, such as the holes in old-growth eucalyptus
 trees. The added benefit is that possums will move into these boxes and out of your roofs!
- Retain logs as homes. Wildlife uses old fallen logs for habitat, and also these logs decompose and add nutrients to the soil.
- Do not feed wildlife. If native animals and birds become accustomed to being in the proximity of humans, they are at
 risk of being attacked by pets and becoming too dependent on humans for their food. Bird feeders can also spread
 diseases among birds, create imbalances in populations; and what happens when you go on holidays for a couple of
 weeks? The best way to feed them is to grow native plants!
- KEEP YOUR PETS INDOORS FROM DUSK TILL DAYLIGHT. Most native animals are nocturnal, meaning that from around 6.00 p m they become active, foraging for food. This is the time that they are vulnerable to attacks from cats and dogs.

Just this simple measure will protect wildlife immensely!

NB. If you have time to spare, love our furred and feathered friends and fancy a thankless but incredibly rewarding voluntary job, consider becoming a Wildlife Carer. Our suburbs are full of injured and orphaned native animals and more Carers are urgently needed. Or, your property may be an ideal 'release site'. For further information contact me on 3374 3453.

Christine Hocking

Habitat Brisbane Achievements 2002-2003

Our involvement in BCC's Habitat Brisbane program is described elsewhere, under the heading Related Environmental Programs. BCC has circulated a report on achievements for the year 2002-2003. An indication of the size and importance of the program which covers the whole of Brisbane, and to which we contribute, is given by the following facts:

- 76 ha of land were being restored by community participants.
- 38.8 km of waterways were planted for erosion control and habitat restoration.
- Community participants contributed 49,153 hours to those activities.
- 129,718 native plants were established.
- 81% of the groups involved reported an increase in a sense of local community generated through their activities.

Yes, we have a website

www.moggillcreek.org.ourbrisbane.com

We have plants for you

Until we get some useful rain, those without a water supply can not plant. However, those with some water are advised to get on with the job because the sooner plants go in, the longer the growing season they will have and thus be better established; in particular, have deeper roots. That enables them better to withstand the likely dry period of Winter and early Spring.

We are well stocked at the nursery with plants for the purpose. We have a good supply of the "basic" species required as a starting point for land with little or no tree and shrub cover. In addition, we have expanded our species range, allowing for interplanting where that initial cover has been established.

Perhaps some readers do not know that plants, mulch and herbicide are given free to members with approved plans.

To get supplies, contact Bryan Hacker or Graeme Wilson. It is preferable that you come to the nursery, but do so only by arrangement. If that is not possible, some other arrangement may be made. Should you want mulch, you must come and get it. If getting herbicide, a suitable safe container, properly labelled, is essential.

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