

MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT NEWSLETTER Spring 2004

Newsletter of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group

BACKYARD SNAKES

"There is a big snake in my backyard. What should I do?"

"Just walk around it" replies Martin Fingland

Recently, MCCG held its Mid-Year Public Meeting and invited, as Guest Speaker, Martin Fingland, Senior Ranger from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Based at nearby Brisbane Forest Park, Martin is familiar with many of the local wildlife issues and delivered a tallk focusing specifically on reptiles. Despite subzero temperatures, he held everyone's attention for 90 minutes as he displayed a variety of live reptiles, ranging from a juvenile carpet snake to a fully grown bearded dragon.



Martin talked about the nature and habits of the reptiles he was showing and dispelled many myths and misconceptions, in particular about snakes. He pointed out that most snakes are more scared of humans than we are of them and generally will move out of our way. Most snakes will only bite in self defence or if they are accidentally startled. For this reason snake bites are rare (more people die per year by falling over in the shower).



The key message he delivered was that we, as humans, have unwittingly provided a habitat for wildlife within our backyards and homes. Wildlife is here to stay and by learning more about the animals we will be more accepting of them and come to appreciate their value.

If you find any injured wildlife, or have any questions about the local wildlife, contact QPWS Wildlife Enquiry and Emergency Number (24hours) 1300 130 372

SOME TIPS ON SNAKES

- · Always wear sensible shoes when walking or working in the bush (not thongs!).
- · Do not try to kill a snake, as this will provoke it.
- · If you are unsure about the identity of a snake, assume that it is poisonous and do not attempt to handle it. (Positive snake identification can be very difficult.)
- · If you find a snake skin and want it identified, you can send it to Brisbane Forest Park Headquarters, Mt Nebo Rd, Brisbane; telephone number 3300 4855.

Editorial

We have decided to restore the Editorial which was discontinued a couple of years ago. It is a convenient place for small things.

The Chairman having just returned after two months away, we do not have his usual report, but he has found time to write other things for us.

The Newsletter has the two main functions of giving notice of events and reporting happenings which affect our program, and of providing an understanding of plants, animals and land on which it is based. Such depends largely on a small number of contributors who thus dominate the Newsletter. But it would be nice if there were evidence of wider membership participation in activities. Surely there are among our more than 300 members, some who have seen, done or thought something of interest to others. We would like to hear from you.

Our climate does not give us the conspicuous seasonal changes which are a feature of higher latitudes. Still, things happen which are looked forward to by those interested in nature. Some eagerly await the return of the Channel Bill Cuckoo! One of the great sights enjoyed by the few who know about it is the annual firefly display, and so an entomologist member has written about these insects for us. Are there members who enjoy a particular seasonal event? If so, do tell us; it could provide us with ideas for articles. (Jacarandas are out; they are exotics!)

Since the MCCG program got under way we have had some miserable rainfall years. This seems to be the worst ever, and it is a bit much to hope for real relief in the near future. Nevertheless, quite a lot of planting continues, for over the three months May- July our nursery gave out 3400 plants. That is well short of our intake of 5600 during that period; another reason for our wanting rain to encourage planting. The intake depends greatly on our growing team of happy nursery volunteers.

Fireflies

When I was asked to write an article on fireflies I jotted down all I could remember from my days as an entomology student – not much! I then added what I had observed while living at Brookfield – still not sufficient. So I tried the internet. I found plenty of information on a TV series, a stunt flying unit and a rock band, but very little on the insects. Then I typed in "Lampvridae" and fared better.

Lampyridae is the scientific name for the family of beetles that produce the tiny winking lights commonly seen after dusk in Spring in the Moggill Creek Catchment area. We are fortunate to have two species in our area, *Atyphella scintillans* and *Luciola nigra*. A third species, *Atyphella atra*, is found in the rainforest at MLGlorious. They are most numerous on warm, humid evenings immediately after dusk in damp areas such as creek banks and gullies. Few will be seen if it is cool or windy.

The flashing lights are produced by the male beetles as they fly in search of females sitting on the ground or on low vegetation. The females respond with a weaker flash. They often have reduced wings and do not fly. Fireflies are slow fliers, so you can catch one by hand and turn it over to see two transparent segments at the end of the abdomen where the luminescent organ is located. A good photograph of this is seen in the Queensland Museum publication 'Wildlife of Greater Brisbane' on page 92.

The larvae live in leaf litter and feed on snails which they paralyse with a toxic secretion. Larvae also glow but do not flash. They are sometimes erroneously referred to as glow worms. However, the true glow worms, such as those seen at Natural Arch in the Numinbah Valley and Waitomo Caves in New Zealand, are larvae of a tiny fly which, as an adult, is not luminescent at all.

Fireflies are found in warm areas worldwide. In Australia they occur in the tropics and down the east coast as far as the Illawarra district. In North Queensland where they occur in larger numbers they may flash in synchrony but this phenomenon has not been seen around Brisbane. There are twenty-five species described from Australia, classified in four genera.

Scientists have been fascinated by natural luminescence for centuries. In 1667 Robert Boyle demonstrated that the light goes out if deprived of oxygen. In 1887 Raphael Dubois discovered a compound in luminescent cells that he named luciferin which interacts with oxygen in the presence of water and an enzyme named luciferase to produce light. Unlike our domestic light bulbs, the light production is extremely efficient and very little heat is generated. The insect controls the flashes by varying the amount of oxygen it breaths in. There are many kinds of luciferin and luciferase found in nature, and similar bioluminescence is found in other insects, luminous fungi and many marine organisms including plankton and fish.

Unless we get some rain, this Spring may not be the best for fireflies but there are bound to be some about, so keep a good lookout when you are out walking in the lower lying, damper areas. Children particularly get a great kick out of seeing the firefly magic grow as the light fades. Everyone knows about the benefits of revegetation for birds, and even frogs (Summer 2003 MCCG Newsletter) but fireflies will benefit too.

2

Glycines ain't Glycines - what's in a name?

One of our commonest (and nastiest) weeds is popularly known as glycine, but its botanical name is *Neonotonia wightii*. The plant is a robust, twining legume with tiny peaflowers. It is capable of totally smothering small trees and other vegetation. There is also a group of quite common, locally occurring native plants in the genus *Glycine*. These are much more delicate and include *G. clandestina* (twining glycine), *G. tabacina* (glycine pea), *G. cyrtoloba* (no common name) and possibly one or two others. You might wonder why the weed species has the common name glycine – it is quite a complicated story.



Glycine: (Neonotonia wightii) is a serious weed in our district

Forty years ago the botanical name of the plant we know as glycine was *Glycine javanica*. The name *Glycine* comes from the Greek word *glukus*, meaning sweet (the roots of some species are reputed to be sweet). It is native to central Africa and was found to be a good species for grazing livestock and so was released as a pasture plant. In common with several other pasture species the genus name served as a common name (cf. *Leucaena leucocephala* and leucaena). *Glycine javanica* was initially described by Linnaeus (the founder of modern taxonomy and plant nomenclature). It was not until the 1960s that the type specimen (i.e. the specimen that is regarded as basis for the species) was checked out by a botanist by the name of Bernard Verdcourt, who found it was quite different from the



Glycine tabacina, a native woodland species

specimens collected in Central Africa and belonged to a genus that we now know as Pueraria. Clearly, the collectors had relied on descriptions for identification rather than checking on the type specimen. The rules say that all plants which are essentially similar to a type specimen should bear the name given to the type specimen. Thus, in this case, the name Glycine javanica should be applied to all those plants similar to the type specimen but then known as Pueraria. And, consequently, all plants which were known as Glycine javanica should have a different name. Because of the economic importance of the genus Glycine (which includes the crop plant soya bean), the generic name was conserved, but as specific names (with rare exceptions) may not be conserved, the next name in priority was used and our plant became Glycine wightii. Not long after, chromosome and morphological studies showed it to be quite distinct from other species in the genus and so it was renamed Neonotonia wightii; the other species, including soybean and our native glycines, remained in Glycine. In the Flora of South-eastern Queensland, N. wightii is distinguished from Glycine in that flowers are in clusters, rather than single. However, there is no need to worry about counting the flowers as the weed species is readily recognized, being so much more robust than the native Glycines.

Bryan Hacker

ONE FREE NATIVE PLANT IN EXCHANGE FOR ONE BAG OF WEEDS!

Weedbuster Week, initiated by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy takes place again this year from 16-24 October. The theme for 2004, 'fighting the weed invaders', focuses on the invasive characteristics of weeds.

Hundreds of activities are held during the week by local governments, community groups, schools and individuals. These activities may include weed clean-ups, field days and machinery demonstrations, weed identification walks and seminars, displays at shopping centres, libraries and local councils, and competitions.

Weedbuster Week aims to raise public awareness of the problems weeds cause, and equip communities with the skills and knowledge they need to prevent and control weeds in their areas. Its success depends upon community groups' support.

The MCCG is planning Weedbuster events at some of the Group's local working bee sites. Join in the fun and pull a few weeds! Just bring along gloves, hat and water, and take home a native plant for every bag of your own weeds you bring along!

The Moon Memorial Tree Reserve

The foresight and generosity of Bill Moon has provided Brookfield with this unique reserve nestled in the heart of the rural residential development of Moons Lane and Nioka St.

Generations of Moons have lived in this area since Thomas and Susan Moon purchased a dairy farm in Brookfield in 1881. The land had been mostly cleared for timber in the 1800's but later when one of their sons, Bill, took over the running of the farm he developed an interest in tree conservation. He set aside one paddock which still contained mature cedar, hoop pine and silky oak, to enable the forest to regenerate.. In 1959, when the dairy farm was subdivided, Bill established a private trust for the "Moon Reserve" so that 7 acres of regenerating forest could be saved for posterity. He dedicated the area as a perpetual memorial to his parents and other pioneering families of the district. Bill was well known for his commitment to the community, acting as local Alderman on the Brisbane City Council from 1937 to1955. Following a vigorous campaign within government circles, he won acceptance for a National Trust of Queensland (NTQ) as a government statutory body and became its first President in 1963. In 1966 Moon Reserve was officially transferred to the NTQ, to be kept as a public area to revert to original Brookfield bush and to remind future generations of the early pioneers of Brookfield.

The Reserve, zoned as "Heritage Place - Cultural", is situated on a bend of a tributary of the Moggill Creek and consists of a grassy creek flat and two hillsides. One is covered with hoop pines and the other is of natural dry rainforest which has been allowed to regenerate. The main entrance from Moons Lane (adjacent to 213) is an avenue which contains the remaining hoop pines planted in memory of the early pioneers and there are two cairns in memory of the Moon family and other pioneers. Several plantings have taken place over the years to improve the reserve and replace trees lost to drought and lightning strikes. The most recent was in 1993 when NTQ planted cedars and silky oaks, including those at the second entrance to the Reserve at 46 Nioka St. While most of the surrounding properties have little of the original vegetation many have Vegetation Protection Orders placed on them.

More recently, in April 2002, a survey of plant species in the reserve was conducted by B. Hacker and S. Nikles on behalf of NTQ. It showed a good diversity of native species naturally regenerating in both the hoop pine plantation and the dry rainforest. They noted several fine trees in the creek area, including a giant water gum and a fig (species uncertain). However, serious environmental weeds were also evident. Control of cat's claw and climbing asparagus was noted as a high priority, both for the Reserve and to avoid Moons Lane being a locus of infection for surrounding areas.

In August 2002, Cr Margaret deWit organized a public meeting with Pat Comben, President of NTQ, because of uncertainty regarding the future of the Reserve due to the financial difficulties of NTQ (recent media reports indicate lack of funds is still a problem). At the meeting there was great community response for working with NTQ to remove weed infestations and improve the reserve but nothing has eventuated. In fact it has been neglected, with uncut grass and uncontrolled weeds.

Bryan Hacker, Chair of MCCG, recently contacted NTQ to express concern about the reserve and suggested ways MCCG could assist with management. As a result, NTQ will meet with MCCG shortly to discuss it. It is hoped that interested Brookfield residents will hold regular working bees to control the weeds and help with suitable revegetation. This is one of few rainforest remnants in Brisbane, and this tranquil reserve has historical and environmental significance offering a wildlife haven, with fresh water even in the current dry conditions.

For further information:- Judy Walker, tel 33741505, email ejdwalker@powerup.com.au

Acknowledgments - the article includes information provided by Mary Moon and Councillor Margaret deWit.

Judy Walker

A Weed to Watch

Our more serious weeds weren't serious or perhaps even noticed until they had got out of hand. Balloon Vine (Cardiospermum grandiflorum) does not appear to be a problem in our catchment although it is very much so in adjacent areas. A substantial infestation was recently reported within a few hundred metres of the Brookfield roundabout. The new owners are working on it. Landholders are asked to watch out for it and if found, remove it or at least inform us.



THINGS THAT GO WOOK-WOOK IN THE NIGHT

During June the unmistakable, dog-like, wook-wook call of a Barking Owl was heard in three locations in Moggill Creek Catchment: Gem Rd, Greentrees Av. and Bundaleer St. In July, a reliable observer heard a duet of two birds, indicating a pair was present. The female has a higher pitched call than the male. Since then a bird has been heard regularly in one location and it is thought that this is the male out hunting while the female sits quietly in a nearby nest. The site is being monitored to see if successful breeding occurs.

Barking owls (Ninox connivens) are uncommon to rare residents in open forest, woodland and wooded watercourses in drier country, mainly west of the Divide; they are rare visitors to Brisbane. Has the drought forced them eastward?

Barking Owls belong to the Hawk-owl family (Strigidae). They have rather hawk-like faces and large yellow eyes. The Strigidae are easily distinguished from the Barn Owl (Tytonidae) family by the lack of the distinct, heart-shaped facial mask of the latter.

Two other members of the Strigidae occur in the catchment. The more common is the Boobook Owl (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) whose well-known boo-book or morepork call is often heard during the night. The Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), the largest Australian owl, is sparsely dispersed throughout the area. Its voice has been described as a low, slow, far carrying whoo-hooo. The Powerful Owl is readily distinguished from the Barking and Boobook Owls by its large size, 60cm, and the bold, chevron markings of its underparts. It is more difficult to separate the Barking from the Boobook. The Barking Owl is slightly bigger, 40-45cm, the area around the eye is a pale grey-brown and the upperparts are a shade of grey brown, whereas the Boobook, 30-35cm, has dark areas around the eyes and the upperparts are a warm brown.

These three owls nest on decayed debris in tree hollows. They are entirely carnivorous preying on mammals, birds, reptiles, insects and other invertebrates.

Other members of the owl family recorded from Moggill Creek Catchment are Barn Owl (Tyto alba), Masked Owl (Tyto novaehollandiae), Tawny Frogmouth (Podargus strigoides), Owlet-nightjar (Aegotheles cristatus) and White-throated Nightjar (Caprimulgus mystacalis). Our catchment has a rich owl fauna that hopefully, can be maintained by proper management of the woodlands, particularly by retaining the old trees that provide hollows for nest sites.

Dawn Beck

A New Manual on Lantana Control

A 'Lantana Control Manual' has just been published (May 2004). This 88 page book draws together practical experience from more than 1,000 landholders as well as researchers working on lantana, a weed classed as a 'Weed of National Significance'.

Sections cover

- · 'The lantana profile' (description, biology, climatic effects, infestation),
- Managing lantana in different production or natural systems,
- · Control methods and
- Planning a control strategy.

Appendices include a list of herbicides registered for using on lantana, information sheets on 17 biocontrol agents (insects and fungi) that have been developed for lantana control and a reference table detailing control methods recommended for various situations (e.g. orchards, pastures, natural ecosystems, etc.).

The Manual has been attractively produced, with excellent colour photographs throughout. It includes useful information for the large-scale producer as well as those of us living on smaller properties and attempting to restore a native vegetation system. If you have a lantana problem and are wondering how you should tackle the weed, this manual is a 'must have.'

Copies are available for \$11.95 + \$4.95 postage from NRM&E (phone 3224 8383 for further details). Alternatively, MCCG members are welcome to borrow my copy for a few days (ph. 3374 1468).

Bryan Hacker

Do you want to know what MCCG is and what it does, read previous Newsletterand more? Then visit our website:

www.moggillcreek.org.au

What Plant is That?

Many of our members want to identify native plants. How is that to be done? There are two ways; to ask someone who knows (which is not dealt with here) or to look in the literature. And to do that, the only convenient thing is to have some.

Books are of two kinds. The first are keys, which in effect ask a series of questions, the answer to one leading to the next and so on until a point is reached where the plant specimen has agreed with enough characteristics to distinguish it from all other plants, thus identifying itself. The usefulness of a particular key is limited to the extent that species in the area are covered. For us, the only one doing so fully is *Flora of South-eastern Queensland, Stanley, T.D. & Ross, F.M. Qld. Dept. Primary Industries.* To use it requires a knowledge of terminology, not overly difficult for a person with a genuine interest in plants, and most useful in being able to discuss plants with other informed people. It comes in three volumes and is relatively expensive.

Non-comprehensive keys (in species content) are frustrating because the inquirer comes often to dead ends; i.e. the key comes to questions to which the specimen has no answer. Nonetheless, if the user accepts this, we do have a few keys which can be quite useful to the extent that they are used to identify the commoner species, for which the key is designed. For example, our grasses are well covered in the CD Common Grasses of Moreton and Wide Bay, available from Bryan Hacker (ph. 3374 1468) who authored it. If you know you have a wattle, you can identify it quite easily with Key to the Wattles of Greater Brisbane, Environmental Protection Agency. Likewise,our eucalypts can be sorted out with Eucalypts of Greater Brisbane, Qld. Dept. Natural Resources, Mines & Energy.

Then there are keys for wider species ranges but based largely or wholly on vegetative characters which are much casier to handle than detailed parts of flowers. An example, which you might like to look at, is *Fragments of Green*, *Janet Hauser & Jan Blok, Australian Rainforest Conservation Society.* There are others, but I would give them lower priority for someone starting out in identification.

The other approach is by way of published illustrations (drawings or photographs). In the simplest form, one just has to turn the pages until a match is found, which is tiresome if a large number of species are included and frustrating if yours is not! In practice, most people find these useful.

Putting Back the Forest is really a must for our catchment, not only for identification but also for much other useful information. It was written specifically for our region. It uses drawings. It too is available from Bryan Hacker

There are three good books based on photographs. Probably the best is *Wild Plants of Greater Brisbane, Qld. Museum.*. It is made simpler to use than having to go through the whole book for a match, by grouping plants according to vegetation type (rainforest, open forest etc.) and then within each by plant habit (understory, vine etc.). Of course, it is not possible to include anything like a full range of species (we have about 2800 in Brisbane!). It can be conveniently (for at least some of our members) obtained from Tina Heybroek (3374 1401).Otherwise, it is in the bookshops.

What is happening to our creeks?

During the first semester of this year, Health students in year 12 at Kenmore High School conducted a 'Water Quality Evaluation of Moggill Creek Catchment'. Eight sites were tested and six are in our catchment, being: Moggill Creek (at Kenmore High School, Brookfield Showgrounds, Creekside Park and Rafting Ground Park), Gap Creek and Gold Creek.

Findings:

- All sites except Brookfield Showgrounds confirmed the presence of E.coli.
- Dissolved oxygen (affecting diversity of aquatic life) at all sites was well below Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) recommended guidelines.
- Field notes included the presence of pollutants such as beer bottles, rubbish and horse manure (Gap Creek, Gold Creek and Showgrounds).
- Weeds found at the various sites were Lantana, Madeira Vine, Asparagus Vine, Chinese Elm, Duck Weed, Cats Claw and Morning Glory.

The students' conclusion was: "According to the ANZECC guidelines, the evaluation of Moggill Creek Catchment does not indicate a healthy waterway".

The MCCG committee is very grateful for the information gained from the excellent research conducted by the Kenmore High students and their teacher Aaron Clohesy, and plans to continue to monitor the catchment's water quality (just as soon as funds can be obtained to purchase the necessary equipment!).

Anyone interested in becoming involved in this interesting and vital component of our catchment's management is welcome to contact Christine Hosking on 3374 3453.

Clearly the whole community must be united in taking responsibility for looking after our waterways. The platypus will thank us too!

Chris Hosking

The second is Mangroves to Mountains, Logan River Branch of Society for Growing Australian Plants, written specifically for a region a little south of us although having many species in common. It too has some grouping of species to simplify the search.

The third is the four-volume Native Plants of Queensland, Williams, Keith.A.W. CopyRight Publishing Co. It includes far more species than the two previous although because of its wider area of coverage, many of them do not occur here. There is no grouping, necessitating going through from the beginning, often not to find your plant until a few volumes later. And because of its size, it is expensive.

Of course, all three of these have a reverse use. If you know a plant name, you can find what it looks like by entering via the index.

Platypus are popping up in the Moggill Creek Catchment!

Attention all early morning walkers...platypus (Ornithorhynchus anatinus) are being spotted in Moggill Creek and Gold Creek. Who knows where else? Be on the lookout because these shy and unique monotremes (egg-laying mammals) are somehow managing to hang on in a landscape which is being rapidly degraded.

In addition to their 'icon' status, platypus are also very important because they are excellent indicators of how healthy our waterways are.

Platypus need a habitat that:

- · Has clear creeks that are not choked with exotic water weeds (such as Salvinia and Water Hyacinth),
- Is not affected by algae bloom (cattle grazing along the creeks and other sources of nutrients such as leaking septic systems can cause this),
- · Are not littered or polluted by chemicals used in gardens and in the home that run off into our creeks,
- · Have plenty of stabilising native vegetation along the banks and
- · Have logs and fallen branches for protection over their burrows.

They are very sensitive to disturbances such as noise, people and dogs that have been known to kill platypus. Their diet includes insect larvae, freshwater shrimps, fish and crayfish-food found in healthy creeks.

The best time to see platypus in the catchment is between 6 and 7am. At a distance, it is easy to confuse them with the native Australian water rats and freshwater turtles so look carefully. The rat will have a white tip on its tail, no duck-bill and can also be seen out of the water. Signs that platypus may be present include a series of bubbles rising to the surface and a small circular 'wake' made as they move along underwater.

Please report any platypus sightings to Chris Hosking on 3374 3453. Happy spotting!

Christine Hosking

Plant Families, 2 - Myrtaceae

The Family Myrtaceae takes its name from the genus *Myrtus* which in turn comes from the common name myrtle, a well known plant of Europe, with the genus being widespread around the world including Australia; but it is not here in our catchment. In fact, the family is more abundant in the southern hemisphere, particularly Australia and South America but also Africa. That is not surprising if you recall that all three continents were once a single land mass.

It is a medium sized family, comprising about 100 genera with some 3000 species. They are all woody plants; trees, shrubs and a few low creepers. As in most families there is no single character which sets it apart from others. Notwithstanding that, there is widespread among species of Myrtaceae a striking characteristic. Leaves, young shoots, flowers and fruits are often rich in essential oils, so that these parts are aromatic or fragrant when bruised. In the leaves, these oils are seen, when viewed against the light, as translucent dots. (Remember, though, that there are other families with this character, so it alone does not put a possessor in the Myrtaceae.) You are all familiar with eucalyptus and tea tree oils (from this family).

While the family does not, on a world scale, have a large number of species, it is strongly represented in Australia. Our flora is probably more known for its eucalypts than anything else, which remains so in our catchment. The family is divided into two sub-families by, among other things, the types of fruit. In one, they are dry nuts or capsules (think of gum nuts), and it is predominant in Australia; while in the other they are juicy berries or drupes and comprise most species elsewhere. Of the former, we know right here at least these genera: Angophora, Backhousia, Baeckea, Callistemon, Corymbia, Eucalyptus, Lophostemon, Melaleuca, Tristania and Tristaniaopsis. Among the latter are Acmena, Austromyrtus, Decaspermum, Rhodamnia, Rhodomyrtus, and Syzygium.

Our species are economically important for timber, as ornamentals and the various uses of oils, while some enthusiasts look at food-flavouring potential. While a few have edible fruit, it is more a matter of being able to eat them than particularly wanting to do so! As a matter of interest however, there are a number of exotics which rate well in those respects. For example there are cloves (dried flower buds of a species of *Syzygium*) and allspice from East Africa, important fruits from S.E.Asia, and both guavas and the Brazilian (as we call it) cherry from S.America. These latter two have long been established in Australia with the guava a serious pest in some places and the other with the appearance of being able to do the same thing.

Notwithstanding economic use of, or any other interest in individual species, in the context of our activities all species native to the area have the same and only use; that of presence.

Graeme Wilson

WANTED - A NEW SECRETARY FOR MCCG

As our current Secretary, Kate McVicar, will be resigning in November this year we are looking for a volunteer who is willing to take on this activity. The primary function of the Secretary is to organise the monthly Committee Meetings, which involves the circulation of an Agenda and Monthly report. The Secretary also takes minutes and circulates those to Committee members. The primary method of communication is by email and it is therefore desirable that the Secretary have a Personal Computer and knowledge of Microsoft Office (Mainly MS Word).

Here are some comments from Kate regarding the role:

My two years as MCCG Secretary has been a wonderful experience – I have met so many interesting, knowledgeable and friendly people and I have made many new friends! Through MCCG I have learnt much about our Catchment Area, about native plants and about native animals. Through MCCG I have attended numerous workshops, including Seed Collection and Plant Propagation, all of which have helped me on my own property. I can truly say I enjoyed every minute of being the Secretary and whilst I am resigning as Secretary, I am not leaving MCCG. I am simply shifting my focus - I will be participating in working bees and spend more time in the field identifying plants and collecting seeds. I will also continue to help out the Committee on other levels. So, for anyone who is interested, this is a GREAT opportunity.

If you want to know more about the job, please give me a call on 3374 1471.

Kate

Section 1	Rafting Ground	No set times	Claire Laycock	3878 5336
2	Lower Moggill Creek	3rd Sun 8.30-11.30	Rob Waller	3378 6897
3	Huntingdon	Last Sun 8.30-11 30	Malcolm Frost	3374 0649
4	Showgrounds	No set times	Peter Nielsen	3374 1563
5	Haven Road	No set times	Don Mumford	3374 1348
			Tina Heybroek	3374 140
6	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 121
9	Upper Gold Creek	Approx. 6 weekly	Gordon Grigg	3374 173
11	McKay Brook	3rd Sun 8.30-11.00	Bryan Hacker	3374 146
		1st Sat 2.00-5.00		
12	Gap Creek	4th Sun 8.30-11.00	Michael Humphreys	3374 1467

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