

# MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

[www.moggillcreek.org.au](http://www.moggillcreek.org.au)

## MCCG NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2017

### Inside your Spring 2017 issue:

- p2: Chairman's Report
- p3: The Pacey Road Approach
- p3: Bush Bites
- p4: Anzac Tree Daisy Threat
- p5: MCCG Platypus Survey
- p6: Photo Competition Update
- p7: Cottage Talks Report
- p8: Seeds & Weeds



*Right: A Wandering Percher, picture courtesy Ed Frazer. To read more about an exciting new website feature, Catchment Field Guides, turn to page 6.*



*ABOVE: The front cover of our limited edition 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary photobook.*

**Win a copy of our commemorative photobook! Bring your gold coins to buy \$2 raffle tickets at our AGM, 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2017 (7:30pm, Brookfield Showground, Art Pavilion). Copies may also be available for purchase.**

*Turn to page 3 for more information.*



*ABOVE: Warren Hoey to step down at the November 2017 AGM, after 5 years hard work as MCCG Chair.*

*Turn to page 2 for his final report as our Chairman.*

## Chairman's report

*"The MCCG was established in 1997 to galvanise community action around important local environmental challenges to ensure that the area retains its natural advantages. In doing so we work with all levels of Government, and other relevant organisations, to try to achieve what none can do alone. Our real strength comes from the practical support of our members who accept a high level of personal responsibility for our natural environment whether it is on their land, on public land, or in the catchment as a whole."*

These words form a preamble to our strategic plan, and I think it sums up what the MCCG stands for. Of course, our objectives count for little unless we have the support of the local community, and hence the resources to do the job. We are fortunate to be able to draw on a number of very committed people who devote many hours each year to carry out the work of the MCCG. Every little bit helps. But as the years pass, we need new people to take over these tasks.

Yes, **succession** is the major challenge for our hardy group. We need people to run the management committee, to organise events such as the Photography Competition, and to get involved in the Bushcare Groups and projects. The MCCG is only a name without *your* involvement.

This is my final Newsletter report, as I am stepping down after 5 years as Chair. Each year has brought new environmental challenges, and we have worked hard to find resources to tackle them—or at least to draw attention to them. Adrian Webb has been tireless in addressing Cat's Claw, Aquatic Weeds, Creek Health, and now Anzac Tree Daisy. The Section leaders do a great job in their respective areas. Our communications team of Dale Borgelt, Cathi Lawrence, Michelle Johnston, and Janine Nicklin have greatly improved our ability to keep our members informed. The MCCG has also benefited enormously from the first class support of Cathie Mortimer as Secretary (who also steps down, after 4 years as Secretary—thank you Cathie), Joanna Yesberg as Treasurer, and Letitia Norton as Grants Officer. Finally, but not least, Bryan Hacker is everywhere as our Landcare advisor. I thank you all.

*Warren Hoey*

EMAIL ONLY? Help us to keep our costs down by electing to receive the newsletter via the website. Just put 'newsletter by email only' in the subject line, and confirm your name and postal address to our Secretary at [mccgsecretary@live.com.au](mailto:mccgsecretary@live.com.au).

## Editorial

The last issue of our newsletter included a fascinating reflection on the first twenty years of the MCCG by our first Chairman, Gordon Grigg. Gordon's article included some 'before' and 'after' photographs of early revegetation projects. Many readers have told me how much they enjoyed reading Gordon's piece, and seeing the impact of the early work of the MCCG members. In this issue we have a report on a Cottage Talk given by Laurie Muller, which also included pictures of his property taken 3 years apart. Such stories of the results of hard work undertaken by members on their own land, and about the work of our bushcare groups, are of great interest to our readers. So if YOU have some photographs of your own property, or some tips for your fellow members as to how to go about Land for Wildlife or revegetation work, then we would all love to hear from YOU.

All news, reflections, initiatives, or new ideas gratefully received. And if you have a younger member of the family who might like to share their thoughts on being co-opted to help with planting and weeding then do encourage them to drop me an email at [mccgeditor@outlook.com.au](mailto:mccgeditor@outlook.com.au). I am sure EVERYONE has at least 100 words they could write ...

I look forward to the flurry of letters and ideas! *Cathi*

Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) is a volunteer action group, aiming to conserve & improve the natural environment of our catchment on both private & public land.

**Chairman: Warren Hoey**

**Secretary: Cathie Mortimer**

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore 4069 [mccgsecretary@live.com.au](mailto:mccgsecretary@live.com.au)

This quarterly Newsletter is *printed on recycled paper*.

Articles may be cited but should not be reproduced without consent of the authors who alone are responsible for the views expressed. Illustrations are copyright and should not be reproduced without permission of the photographer and of the MCCG.

**Articles of interest to Members are always welcome.**

The Editor reserves the right not to publish any item submitted. Material will be edited for clarity, style and space. The decision of the Editor is final. *Please email your ideas direct to [mccgeditor@outlook.com.au](mailto:mccgeditor@outlook.com.au).*

Editor: Dr Catherine A. Lawrence (Cathi)

Printing: The Print Shoppe, Kenmore

**Proudly supported by**



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

## The Pacey Road Working Bee 2017

**It was great to hear from Brian Krieger, Pacey Rd co-ordinator (Area 6a), who shares a short update about the progress of this collaborative project. A fantastic example that other neighbourhoods might consider?**

The *Pacey Rd Working Bee* was formed in 2011. The aim of the group was simple: to reduce weeds beside the creek on properties that are privately owned along Pacey Rd. Since that time, and with much support from the MCCG, the working bee has flourished. Each year we have had a full calendar of working bees.

2017 has been a busy year for the Pacey Rd Working Bee group. So far we have had seven successful working bees (including one with a street workshop). It has been wonderful to welcome four more families into the group, expanding the working bee calendar even more (and maybe even now starting to move beyond Pacey Road itself).



**Pictured above: The Pacey Road April Workshop, with Council officer Catherine Madden, building floating wetlands and boxes!**

This year's activities have been two-fold—opening new revegetation areas on four properties, and consolidating existing projects on the remainder. On one property, the working bee team and the property owner have cleared a 70 m section of creek. The area contained all the classic weeds: lantana, madeira vine, tree tobacco, and the ever-present glycine. With planting along the banks, and the many natives found under the lantana, the site has good prospects coming into 2018.

One of our new working bee families has the same challenge as faced by one of the long-standing members—a very large madeira vine problem. Both families have taken on the challenge, but there is much work to be done.

With many of the areas being reworked, it is really encouraging to see the growth of the trees and shrubs we planted six years ago. Many are now reaching

above 1.8 meters in height. It is easy to forget what these parts looked like so many years ago.

It couldn't have been done without the support of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, and the hard work of the local families who have an interest in our fauna and flora surviving into the future.

*Brian Krieger*

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 'Photobook'

**To celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the MCCG has produced a commemorative photobook.** In more than 40 pages it briefly describes our history and our achievements. The project team were delighted at the overwhelming response to the request for photographs (so thank you to everyone who responded). As a result, the book includes pictures of our founders and shows off the catchment. Pictures of local flora and fauna are supplemented with images of floods and of weed infestations.

Janine Nicklin—with the help of Michelle Johnston, Kate McVicar, and Cathie Mortimer—compiled the book. Thanks also to Gordon Grigg and Michelle Johnston who joined me in writing the text.

We hope to offer the photobook for sale at the AGM (price estimated at about \$20). During the meeting, on 27<sup>th</sup> November, there will be a raffle with a copy of this limited edition publication as the prize. Tickets will be \$2 each—so bring your gold coins to the AGM!

*Malcolm Frost*

## Share Your Stories: "Bush Bites"

The Moggill Creek Catchment is an amazing place to call home. It abounds with natural beauty and it is rich with history. Many years ago the region was home to traditional owners including the Jagera people. Later it supported our early pioneers in ventures such as dairy farming and timber-getting. Now our Catchment includes a tapestry of bitumen roads which connect acreage properties perched on rolling hills, large



dwelling in forested foothills, small businesses, shopping centres, and residential estates.

One thread which has remained constant throughout these changing times is a connection with nature. Our Catchment still contains more bushland than any other catchment in Brisbane, defining how we live.

We wake to the sounds of so many birds, and we share our decks with carpet pythons. We are surrounded by native plants, but we struggle with invasive weeds and erosion. We treasure the beauty of our waterways, but we seek to mitigate the threat of floods, bushfires and prolonged drought.

Life in our Catchment is unique. Which means it abounds with resilient people who have many amazing stories. **We invite YOU to share your stories—no matter how small or trivial, you think your items may be—in a new online feature. “Bush Bites” is your opportunity to share your encounters with wildlife, nature, and people... your love of the Catchment and of local characters... forgotten pieces of history.** All stories are welcome.

Ed Frazer has started the ball rolling with some great stories about his encounters with wildlife—and illustrated them with some beautiful photos (including the ‘bush bite’ picture on page 3). Read about his version of Brookfield nightlife, sightings of fairy wrens, and Ed’s thoughts on how to deal with ticks. Stay tuned and we’ll add more stories...and hopefully yours too. To check it out, select “**Bush Bites**” from the main menu of our website. To submit a story, please email me [webedit2@moggillcreek.org.au](mailto:webedit2@moggillcreek.org.au)

*Michelle Johnston*

## **Anzac Tree Daisy Threat**

**Adrian Webb has been working hard to alert local households about the latest weed to be assessed as a serious threat to our ecosystems, circulating an update to local residents to encourage vigilance.**

Several infestations of *Montanoa hibiscifolia*, known as Anzac tree daisy (see picture, right), have been identified in the upper Wonga Creek and Gold Creek sub-catchments, and about one kilometer downstream of Upper Brookfield school. Anzac tree daisy is a native of Central America and was introduced to Far North Queensland as a garden plant. It grows rapidly and invades rainforest margins, gullies, disturbed areas and road embankments (Dept. of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, 2010).

A small infestation was identified by a BCC officer in the upper Wonga Creek sub catchment in the sclerophyll forest in the mid-1970’s. Several

infestations were later noted in the dry rainforests of the sub-catchments, but were not recognised as a major threat to our ecosystems. Approximately 4 years ago several infestations were identified in the upper part of Wonga Creek sub-catchment (currently managed by landholders), and SEQ Water officers are treating an infestation on the catchment divide in the Gold Creek Water Reserve. Anzac tree daisy is now well established across the upper catchment, and has moved into the gullies and Wonga Creek itself.

There is a lack of readily available information for managing this weed in our environment. Early indications are that cutting and removal, or killing by basal bark spraying with herbicides, are effective. At least 2 follow-up programs of spraying are required before attempting to revegetate.



The plant is a prolific seeder and shows potential to be highly invasive in the riparian zones and fringes of the local dry rainforests. Invasion by Anzac tree daisy is a clear risk to a substantial proportion of our remnant forests, and it appears to be spreading rapidly. It seems to enjoy our local environment, and is easily missed until April-May when it is a mass of flowers. You can see more information (including a copy of the Biosecurity QLD Factsheet, and of the picture, above) at [www.moggillcreek.org/news-1/critical-weed-alert-anzac-tree-daisy](http://www.moggillcreek.org/news-1/critical-weed-alert-anzac-tree-daisy) . A copy is also on our website.

MCCG is working with landholders and BCC in a concerted effort to manage the Anzac tree daisy infestations on properties on both sides of Wonga Creek downstream to the junction with Moggill Creek. We are encouraging all landholders to look around their properties to help in their fight against this weed.

*Adrian Webb*

## MCCG Platypus Survey

The MCCG survey began in 2005, producing excellent data on platypus sightings in the creek. Jim Pope shares some personal observations on the experience of being part of the 2017 'platypus survey crew.' For an overview of the trends, and a detailed report by Tamielle Brunt on the September 2017 survey, go to our website ([www.moggillcreek.org/activities-events/platypus-survey](http://www.moggillcreek.org/activities-events/platypus-survey)).

I recently participated in the 2017 MCCG Platypus Survey—organised this year by Tamielle Brunt. Tamielle is a University of Queensland (UQ) PhD student. Over seventy of us (a record number) assembled at 4.30 am at the front of the Brookfield Store—quite a challenge for me, because I am not naturally a 'morning person.'

The majority of participants seemed to be students from UQ, but there were lots from MCCG. People I know included Bruce Siemon, Damien Egan (whose bushcare group looks after the area around the Brookfield Showgrounds), and Dave Hargreaves (from my own Huntington/Tuckett bushcare group). After being divided into groups, and assigned to a leader, we drove off in a convoy of vehicles to our monitoring area, dropping people off at their appointed sites as we went. It was quite a logistical exercise, but well-organised. It all seemed to go smoothly, although I was slightly concerned about sending individual UQ students off into the night with the instruction "you'll find the creek somewhere over there." I wondered whether they would ever be seen again.

When I got to my site it didn't look at all promising. Fortunately I had come prepared with warm clothes, a folding chair, a thermos of tea and some biscuits, as well as binoculars and a camera, just in case something interesting of the platypus variety turned up. Of course in my case it didn't. But I spent quite a pleasant couple of hours watching the sun come up,

perusing nature, and contemplating the 'majestical clockwork' of the universe. Around 7:00 am I took a stroll along the creek to what I thought might be more promising locations, but still no platypus. However, I did see lots of birds and short-necked turtles warming themselves in the morning sun.



Picture: Jim's view on the morning of the Platypus Survey

Afterwards we returned to the Brookfield Pony Club for a very hearty breakfast, prepared by the local Guides. I was relieved to see that the young UQ students had survived unscathed. More surprising was the fact that the people assigned to the site next to mine—which on the face of it appeared no more promising than my own—had indeed seen a platypus. They had even watched it climb up the bank of the creek! It seems that, despite the drought and the low water levels, platypus are alive and well in Moggill Creek.

*Jim Pope*

### 2017 MCCG Platypus Survey: Highlights

- 76 volunteers
- 15 platypus sightings in total
- 12 individual platypus (checking descriptions of times and behaviours, the organisers believe there were possibly 12 individual platypus active on the morning of the survey)
- The habitat quality is consistent with fair to good results; no major changes from last year. Key areas included Kilkivan Avenue, Huntington Estate, mid to lower Gold Creek, Mumford Bridge the fig tree pool at Brookfield and Smith Rainforest Reserve.

## Website News: Online Field Guides

**Michelle Johnston, our hard-working Website Editor, updates us with news about a fantastic new feature on the MCCG Website.**

We are excited to announce a new website feature — **Catchment Field Guides**. This new menu item currently leads you to two online bird lists *and* a dragonfly identification guide. You can find the lists by selecting “Catchment Field Guides” from the main menu on our website ([www.moggillcreek.org/](http://www.moggillcreek.org/)).

All of the animals featured are local to our catchment. If you click on the thumbnail images, each picture can be easily enlarged. **Handy hint:** to find a particular species in a list, press *Ctrl + F*, and then type the name of the species you’re after!

Note that the original bird list, launched in August, has been modified slightly. We now have 2 listings: one list of birds which are commonly seen in the catchment, and a second of rare and vagrant birds. These online field guides have been made possible thanks to a fruitful collaboration between two local bird lovers — Jim Butler and Ed Frazer. One of the field guide pictures taken by Ed is on the front cover of this newsletter (*A Wandering Percher*).

Ed and Jim would love to receive your feedback, and any suggestions for improvements. Feel free to email Jim at: [james.butler.11@optusnet.com.au](mailto:james.butler.11@optusnet.com.au).

*Michelle Johnston*

## Photography Competition Update

The Photography Competition Committee continues to be grateful for the generous support of our many sponsors, old and new. **Kenmore Bridge Club** is our newest category sponsor, funding the prizes for the winning entries in *OP3: People Enjoying their Catchment Area*. Kenmore Bridge Club members are delighted to support the MCCG, seeing the *People Enjoying their Catchment* category as an ideal fit. Their committee notes that “this theme mirrors the spirit of our not-for-profit club, whose more than 400 local community members (of all ages) enjoy a friendly, socially-inclusive environment where active minds flourish.” Thanks to *all* of our sponsors for their generous support: [All Seasons Garden Management](#), [Aussie Beaver Chipping](#), [Brookfield Produce](#), [IRIS and IVY Hairdressers Kenmore Village](#), [Cr Kate Richards](#), [Kenmore Bridge Club](#), [Kenmore Village](#), [Dr Christian Rowan MP](#), [The Pet Chalet](#), and [Westside Printing](#). Despite the torrential weather on ‘receiving’ day, a large number of photographers (and their supporters)

submitted a total of 115 entries. The Committee was unable to run the special competition for local schools this year. Although entries from local students were lower than the record entries received in 2016, it was pleasing to see a continued increase in photographs from older children, and a number of newer entrants who ‘tried their hand’ in this iconic local event.



We do hope that many members visited the Kenmore Shopping Centre display (picture above, of part of the display, includes some of the top prize-winning pictures in the *Native Wildlife* category). The People’s Choice voting certainly meant that our information desk volunteers were kept very busy, chatting to the many visitors (and voters!). A full report on the results of the People’s Choice voting (and photographs from the awards presentation) will be included in the next newsletter.

Thanks to the Photography Competition Committee for all their hard work (Bruce, Janine, Jocelyn, Robyn, and Tony). It was lovely to have one member offer to join the committee next year. But remember, MORE HELP is always NEEDED. Contact [mccgphoto@gmail.com](mailto:mccgphoto@gmail.com) for more info.

*Geoff Lawrence*

### Did you know about our website calendar?

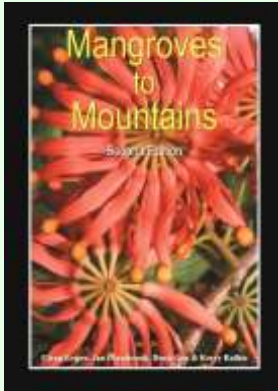
November events include a *Talk by Dale Arvidsson, Curator of Brisbane Botanic Gardens (7<sup>th</sup>)*, *CCCP Workshop: Restoring Habitats (12<sup>th</sup>)*, *Seasonal Harvest Farmers Market (12<sup>th</sup>)*, *Brisbane Biodiversity Seminar Series: Community Engagement (16<sup>th</sup>)*, *CWCN Workshop: Lizard Identification (18<sup>th</sup>)*, *MCCG AGM (27<sup>th</sup>)*. More at [www.moggillcreek.org/calendar-of-events](http://www.moggillcreek.org/calendar-of-events).

**And why not ‘like’ and ‘follow’ MCCG on Facebook for latest news?** Search for us, or go to [www.facebook.com/moggillcreek/](http://www.facebook.com/moggillcreek/)

## AGM: 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 (7:30pm).

The November 2017 AGM will take place in the Brookfield Showground Art Pavilion, as the Brookfield Hall is unavailable (due to planned renovation work).

The very good news is that Glenn Leiper will be the guest speaker. Glen will speak about the changes and updates contained in the new edition of the popular *Mangroves to Mountains* book ([www.mangrovestomountains.com](http://www.mangrovestomountains.com)).



We are so very lucky. Glenn was our guest speaker at the popular 2009 mid-year talk, soon after the release of the combined revised edition of *Mangroves to Mountains* that so many of us own - and use.

Dale Borgelt

## Cottage Talks Report

In September, Tamielle Brunt gave an excellent talk on platypus, before giving insights into the 12 years of platypus surveys in the MCCG catchment.

In August, Laurie Muller (a local landholder) gave an inspirational talk about a restoration project along the creek line of Wonga Creek. Laurie is a local landholder, and Wonga Creek passes through his property.

It was wonderful to be shown the steps he has taken, and to hear about progress made in just 3 years. Elephant grass and weeds (see below for the 'before' picture) have been replaced by more than 300



thriving native plants. In Laurie's words, "the taller species are some five to six metres tall, and the understorey shrubs have filled in the spaces, bushed up, flowered and fruited, creating a smorgasbord for birdlife, butterflies, small animals and reptiles." And of course, as a result of his hard work, the creek has been rejuvenated.

Keep a look out for another Cottage Talk by Laurie next year.



'After': Pictures supplied by Laurie Muller, showing the results of 3 years revegetation work (above and below, right), transforming the 'before' landscape (pictured bottom left).



Dale Borgelt

**Editor's note:** Do YOU have a revegetation story (ideally with photographs) you would like to share? I'd love to hear from you. Land for Wildlife projects of particular interest, but all submissions welcome. **Email me now ([mccgeditor@outlook.com.au](mailto:mccgeditor@outlook.com.au))** and I can hold some space for you. Deadline for submissions for the next issue is 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

Cathí

## Weeds: Tipuana – *Tipuana tipu*

Tipuana, sometimes known as rosewood or Pride of Bolivia, is an invasive tree that is becoming an increasing problem in our catchment. As far back as 2000, this species was included on the *National Environmental Alert List*, a list of 28 non-native plants that threaten biodiversity. In Brisbane it is noted as 'Common and Widespread' with a requirement to 'Reduce' (*Brisbane Invasive Species Management Plan 2013-17*). Native to South America, it is also classed as a weed in South Africa. It is easily recognised as a seedling, and in our catchment is increasingly being found invading natural areas.



Tipuana is a fast-growing tree in the pea family (Fabaceae), growing to about 10 m or more in height, in open situations forming an extended canopy. Leaves are bluish-green in colour, alternate, and pinnate, up to about 25 cm long, with 8-15 pairs of opposite or alternate leaflets and with a terminal leaflet. Leaflets are 2-7 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide. Flowers are yellow, up to 22 mm in diameter. These are followed in June-July by fruit about 5-6 cm long, each containing a single seed and bearing a long wing, a clear adaptation for wind dispersal.

It should be noted the common name 'rosewood' also applies to *Dysoxylum* spp., these being native rainforest trees also occurring in our catchment.

Bryan Hacker

**See you at our AGM on  
27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 (7:30pm)**

**Brookfield Showground  
Art Pavilion**

## Seeds: Brisbane lily – *Proiphys cunninghamii*

The Brisbane lily, sometimes known as the Moreton Bay lily, is surely one of our more ornamental herbaceous species. It occurs naturally in the Upper Brookfield area of our catchment. Leaf blades are dark green and heart-shaped, carried on long petioles up to 25 cm long from an underground bulb about 5 cm in diameter. Flowering is in spring. The attractive white flowers, each with six petals, are in clusters of 5-12, and are carried on peduncles 25-80 cm long. Brisbane lily is well worth a place in your garden and I have found it to be an attractive pot plant.



This species occurs naturally only in Australia, being largely confined to South-East Queensland and northern NSW, where it grows in wet eucalypt forests and rainforest margins, apparently preferring more fertile soils. The name *Proiphys* is from Greek *proi*, early and *phyo*, to bring forth, and refers to the 'early' germination of the seed whilst on the plant. *The Flora of South-eastern Queensland* notes '...embryos absent, but seed-like bulbils apparently form in ovary, as bulbils mature the fruit is ruptured...' A most unusual reproduction procedure.

We often have plants of this species available at our nursery.

Bryan Hacker