

MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

www.moggillcreek.org.au

MCCG NEWSLETTER: WINTER 2018

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ABOVE: Wombat at work! Our June Kids Day at The Cottage was a great success (picture credit Jim Pope).



ABOVE: Do YOU have any photographs of mammals in our catchment? This picture, of a Grey-headed flying fox, was taken by Jim Pope—and Ed Frazer is seeking more photos. Turn to page 6.



ABOVE: MCCG volunteers hard at work at the Nursery (Picture credit: Bryan Hacker). For Nursery News, turn to page 3



ABOVE: Congratulations to Dale Borgelt (pictured front, 2nd from right) receiving a very well-deserved Community Award from the President of the Brookfield Show Society and from the Brisbane Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk (pictured right. Picture credit: Jim Pope). For more, turn to page 4.

Chairman's report

Many thanks to all those volunteers who helped out on the MCCG stalls in the Kenmore Village Shopping Centre on 20-21 April and at the recent Brookfield Show (18-20 May). Thanks especially to our Public Relations Officer, Dale Borgelt, who organised these events. They proved to be very successful both in promoting our activities and in recruiting new members. Dale's enormous contributions to the local community over 40 years, including her work for the MCCG, were recognised by her receiving the Brookfield Show's annual Community Service Award, presented by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Graham Quirk (see article on page 4).

Several MCCG committee members had a very useful meeting recently with Councillor Kate Richards (Pullenvale Ward) to discuss how we could collaborate more effectively with Council to achieve benefits for the environment and for our local community. Councillors and other political leaders are faced with many competing interests (see my article on page 7) and it is important to ensure where possible that environmental concerns are front of mind in the decision-making process.

Finally, I recently attended a very interesting talk on Bird Feeding, presented by Professor Darryl Jones from Griffith University. While most people think that putting food out benefits all birds, in general it helps only a few, to the detriment of other, more timid species. It can also modify bird behaviour in quite spectacular ways, even changing migration patterns. It was fascinating to discover from the talk that the most commonly fed bird in Australia is the magpie.

Jim Pope



Picture, above, of (L to R) Richard Woodhead, Geoff Lawrence and Ian Hancock visiting the MCCG stall at the Brookfield Show, May 2018. *Picture credit* your roving reporter, and Chairman, Jim Pope!

Editorial

It is wonderful to see that Dale Borgelt's hard work and tireless service to the local community—including her work at the MCCG—has been recognised with a special Community Award. Let's hope that Dale's example attracts more people to join our Catchment Group, or even attracts some more volunteers who might wish to take part in working bees (or volunteer to support Dale and fellow Committee Members—now or in the future). As Letitia Norton outlines in her article, the MCCG NEEDS YOU—or at least needs someone to step up and help with at least one vital role on the MCCG Committee (see page 8), and more support is certainly needed to help with organising the photography competition.

This newsletter includes some very interesting articles from several familiar voices, and I thank Bryan, Jim, Ed, Michelle and Phil for their contributions. It is also great to catch up on some of the Nursery News from Bruce, and to hear from Sanja about the recent Indigenous Workshops (see overleaf). But, at the risk of repeating myself, I am sure EVERYONE has at least 100 words they could write... so email me soon at

mccgeditor@outlook.com.au

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: Jim Pope Secretary: Sanja Oldridge

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore 4069 mccgsecretary@live.com.au

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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.

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Nursery News

Bruce Siemon undertakes a number of key tasks for the MCCG, including maintaining important records for the MCCG Gold Creek Reservoir Nursery. Such statistics are important for a variety of reasons – including for those all-important grant applications. It also demonstrates the impact that our nursery volunteers, working bee recruits, and Members are having on our catchment.

Members may be interested in some statistics about MCCG's nursery. The nursery provides local native seedling plants to landholders to assist in revegetating private land, as well as providing plants for use in public land within the catchment. The nursery has now been active for almost 20 years (see the front cover for a picture of some of the many hard-working nursery volunteers). As Members will know, the nursery is managed by Andrew Wilson, who took over its management from Graeme Wilson in 2016. Bryan Hacker assists recipients in the selection of appropriate plants for their properties. In 2017, 14,300 plants were distributed from the nursery to 161 recipients. As might be expected, there was quite a variation in the number of plants provided to individual recipients. During the year, 19 recipients were provided with more than 200 plants each, 26 recipients received between 100 and 199 plants, 33 recipients between 50 and 99 plants, 38 received between 25 and 49 plants, and 45 recipients were provided with fewer than 25 plants each.

Over the almost two-decade life of the nursery, 228,480 plants have been distributed. Over the last five years, the average number per year has been 13,600. The highest number of plants distributed in any single year was 19,100 (2007). Interestingly, rainfall in that year, although below the long-term average, was higher than in 2005 and 2006.

Over the life of the Nursery, there have been 470 different species distributed. The range of species depends on the seeds collected by members, and the subsequent success in germination. Lomandras accounted for more than 17% of all plants distributed, with *Lomandra longifolia* taking the gold medal, closely followed by *Lomandra hystrix*. The Acacias were next, representing 5% of the total (mostly Brisbane golden wattle). Dianellas made up 4%, Ficus spp. 3.5% and Eucalypts 2%. Other plants distributed in sizeable numbers were Callistemons, Barbed wire grass, Native ginger, Large-leafed hop bushes, Cordylines, Red cedars and Carexes.

Bruce Siemon

BCN Workshop Update

Sanja Oldridge, MCCG Secretary, recently represented our Group at Brisbane Catchments Network (BCN) Indigenous Workshops, held in April and May 2018. Sanja shares a quick update on the workshops, with some suggestions as to how information from the event might prove useful for MCCG.

Two BCN meeting sessions were held with local Traditional Owners, Kerry Charlton and Steve Coghill. Both sessions were organised by *Healthy Land and Water* at the Red Shed, Oxley Creek Common, Rocklea. The aims of the meetings were to build relationships and partnerships between Brisbane indigenous groups and catchment groups, in order to work toward identifying a better way to work together (with the common goal of catchment protection and sustainability).



At the first meeting (23rd April 2018), Traditional Owners sat down together with representatives from Brisbane's catchment groups (the picture, above, is of participants, taken on the first day). Stories shared that first morning opened up a number of important matters—including individual, historical, legal, communal and cultural issues. The values expressed in that first discussion were based on good intentions, custodianship, and respect towards each other and our environment. From this very first point, I found myself very pleased to be part of this group of people. My interest reached another level when the workshop facilitator moved our discussions on to issues and questions about waterway management. In considering how we might answer the question as to how the First Peoples looked after Country, I kept thinking that to be able to truly understand and apply this ancient knowledge we need to see ourselves as part of nature to begin with. In particular, I caught myself thinking about how we (as catchment groups) can reach out to this traditional knowledge and to local Traditional Owners and Indigenous people. There is clearly so much knowledge to be shared.

The April meeting also covered some practical topics—from naming protocols (for places/streets and geological features), through to managing waterways (including flora and fauna and hunting). The meeting ended with our collective agreement to start to work on building meaningful relationships, in order to learn and work on problems together, and to create a common solution with integrity and respect.

The second meeting with local Traditional Owners was held on 14th May 2018. The program started with the Welcome to Country, where Kerry reminded us of the purpose of the meeting as being to establish direction, and to identify agreed actions. The key actions agreed at the meeting included a number of specific tasks necessary to build partnerships between catchment groups and Traditional Owners. This included agreement on the need for action plans and protocols for communication, engagement and the inclusion of 'indigenous aspects' for the attention of government planners. Indigenous Cultural Training was also proposed for BCN members.

A list of potential joint projects, to be carried out in collaboration with Indigenous Rangers included the aim of spatially presenting relevant indigenous features/sites within catchments through mapping, interpretation trails and land management. Or, to quote our Facilitator, Craig Jones, our proposed actions seek to "weave Aboriginal story, knowledge, and land into catchment management story and activities."

A symbolic signoff of the proposed action items by all of the people present closed this memorable event. I am most grateful for the efforts of everyone involved—in particular for the input and guidance of the Traditional Owners, and for the support of Healthy Land and Water (and of the BCN) in working with groups such as the MCCG. I look forward to updating MCCG Members on future steps.

Sanja Oldridge

Who's Calling?

Attention all MCCG bird lovers. The latest news from our Website Editor comes with a personal guarantee of pleasing bird lovers!

I am delighted to let you know that we have recently added links from our digital Bird Field Guides to Tim Siggs' *Australian Bird Video Collection*. Tim's YouTube videos are renowned and loved by birders across the country. They are quite simply exceptional. We are immensely grateful to Tim for allowing us to link to

his collection as we believe these links add an extra dimension to our online bird field guides.



Picture, above: A female Australasian Darter (picture credit Ed Frazer).

Please note that although the videos were all taken on the Sunshine Coast, the birds featured in our selection are only those which are found in our catchment area. Now, when you're out and about, not only can you identify a bird by its appearance, you can match its call to one of those in Tim's collection. Or you can simply browse through the lists on your device at home, and be charmed by the beauty of the many native birds who call our catchment home.

We hope you enjoy these wonderful videos and make use of this resource to increase your birding prowess.

Michelle Johnston

Well-deserved Recognition: Award for Dale Borgelt

At this year's Brookfield Show, our hard-working and long-serving Public Relations Officer, Dale Borgelt, was presented with the show's annual Community Service Award for her services to the local community over more than 40 years, including her contributions to the MCCG and to Neighbourhood Watch.

Dale was presented with the award by the Lord Mayor (Graham Quirk) with Hon. Jane Prentice (Federal Member for Ryan), Councillor Kate Richards (Pullenvale Ward) and Dr Jenny Paratz (President of the Brookfield Show Society) in attendance. Senior Sergeant Murray Watson of the Qld Police Service (representing Neighbourhood Watch) was also present, as were Dale's daughters Deborah and Julie (see picture front cover). The award is commemorated on a plaque which will be displayed in the Brookfield Showground Members' Bar. Congratulations Dale!

Jim Pope

Weeds: Glycine

Bryan Hacker describes this article, in the very popular and incredible useful 'Weeds' series, as 'Looking After the Margins.'

There is always some maintenance needing to be done, especially along the margins of planted areas. Where rainforest species are planted, as along creek margins and more fertile soils, the high level of shade under the established canopy limits the development of the more invasive vines. But as the vines can still flourish along the margins, it is good (where practical) to reduce the proportion of margin by having a roundish or short and broad planted area, rather than a long, narrow one.



Clearly such a strategy is not feasible where planting is along a stream. This is the situation at McKay Brook, where glycine (*Neonotonia wightii*) is a major problem (see photos, 'before' above, and top right 'after'). Our Bushcare Group has therefore been attacking it with enthusiasm.

'Glycine' takes its name from the fact it used to be called *Glycine javanica*. We have several native species of *Glycine* in our catchment, all being delicate understorey plants of eucalypt woodlands.

This particular species is in the pea family and was introduced from Africa for pasture purposes. Like other species in the pea family, such as clover and lucerne, it has value as a high-protein forage. Glycine is readily identified by its leaves which comprise three large rounded leaflets, up to 10 cm long and 7 cm wide. Note that other local species which may be confused with glycine are siratro, with a lobe on each lower leaflet, and horse gram, but both of these are also environmental weeds.

Lower stems of glycine may be distinguished by their whitish colour, most of which may be pulled out by



hand (or taken out with a mattock). Stems twine up young trees to several metres, enjoying the light along the forested margins. Time allowing, cutting away the twining stems from the young trees is worthwhile. It is crucially important to control glycine before it flowers and produces seed during the cooler months—especially as the seed may lie dormant in the soil for more than ten years.

Bryan Hacker

Seeds: Hairy Psychotria (*Psychotria loniceroides*)

Often MCCG members coming to our Nursery are looking for shrubs, either for planting as under-storey in treed areas or in garden areas close to their homes. A local native which is good for these situations is



hairy psychotria *Psychotria loniceroides* (photo above). This species grows naturally on rainforest margins and some eucalypt forest areas, including Mt Coot-tha. Hairy psychotria is considered to be endemic to Australia, with natural distribution from southern NSW to north-east Queensland. It is a well-branched shrub which can grow to a height of 4m but is commonly lower growing. Leaves are opposite and softly hairy, up to 15 cm long and 5 cm wide, and have

prominent veins. Flowers appear in spring to summer and are in clusters; they are white, each usually with 5 lobes about 3 mm long. These are followed by whitish to pale yellow spherical fruit (6-8 mm in diameter).

Psychotria is a genus of about 700 species occurring in warmer parts of the world, with three species occurring in South-east Queensland. Another occurring in our catchment is the small-leaved psychotria, *P. daphnoides*. This also is a well-branched shrub and grows to a height of about 3m; it is readily distinguished from hairy psychotria by having hairless upper leaf surfaces. A plant of this species is growing in our Cottage garden, to the left as one approaches the entrance steps.

Bryan Hacker

?? Working Group Updates??

If YOU have been on a recent working bee, why not drop me a line and let me know about the experience? I'm sure your fellow MCCG members would love to hear more about work in your part of the catchment. Email me soon at

mccgeditor@outlook.com.au

Cathi

Photography Competition Update

We are sure that everyone will have been inspired by Ed Frazer's tips in the last newsletter. The Photography competition is almost around the corner now, so do start thinking about your entry now. Key dates? Entry submission will be Saturday October 20th, 2018. The display of all entries (subject to space and the decision of the organisers) will be at Kenmore Village Shopping Centre from Mon 22nd-Sat 27th October, 2018. Get taking those pictures now!

A Guide to Mammals in Moggill Creek Catchment

Not content with his fantastic work as part of the team on the Guide to Birds in the Catchment, Ed Frazer is now working on a Guide to Mammals in our Catchment. And needs YOUR help.

We are preparing a Guide of the Mammals in the Moggill Creek Catchment, to go with our popular Catchment Field Guides.

If you have any photos of mammals in the catchment, please email edfrazer@piscenenterprises.com. We are particularly interested in the following: Grey Kangaroo, Pretty-faced Wallaby (Whiptail), Black and Little Red Flying Foxes, Any Microbats, Dunnart,

Planigale, Bettong, and any old photos of the Tiger Quoll (now extinct in the area). But all photographs are greatly appreciated! I look forward to hearing from you.

Ed Fraser

Something Very Unusual

One of the reasons why readers are so keen to hear from Bryan Hacker, author of our ever-popular *Seeds and Weeds* features, is because he has such a wealth of knowledge about our catchment. But even Bryan finds new and unusual things in our catchment...

It's always a good idea to keep your eyes open—you never know what you might find!



Working along by the Moggill Creek near the Showground on 25th April, Jenny and I found the strange looking *Lomandra hystrix* (see picture, above). Close inspection indicated that the 'seeds' within the inflorescence all seemed to have germinated, a phenomenon known as 'vivipary'. We kept watch on this plant for eight weeks and observed no obvious change. No roots appeared at the base of the 'plantlets'. Despite searching carefully, no other plants with a similar inflorescence were seen.

The phenomenon of vivipary in plants, defined as being when 'the embryo (the young plant within the seed) grows first to break through the seed coat then out of the fruit wall while still attached to the parent plant' occurs occasionally in a number of plant species. For some plant species there is also the phenomenon of 'pseudo-vivipary' defined as 'a condition in which vegetative propagules replace some or all of the normal sexual flowers in the inflorescence.' Despite close inspection, we were not able to decide whether vivipary or pseudo-vivipary had occurred in this lomandra.

According to the Queensland Herbarium, neither condition has been noted in the genus *Lomandra*. Perhaps this example was associated with the intermittently wet summer we have enjoyed this year ... who knows?

Bryan Hacker

Queensland—Beautiful One Day, Degraded the Next!

Jim Pope shares with us some of the frustrations of keeping environmental issues on the agenda—and acknowledges the support from our local Council.

Some of you may take exception to my headline, which parodies the slogan used in several Queensland Tourism advertising campaigns. But if it has captured your attention, that was my aim.

As environmentalists, we greatly value our beautiful natural environment in Queensland. At the same time we should be aware of threats posed by population growth, climate change, uncontrolled development, poor agricultural practices and other human activities such as mining and inappropriate waste disposal. As MCCG members, we are only too aware of the damage caused to our local environment by introduced species notably Chinese elms, weed vines such as cat's claw (see picture, below), Madeira vine, balloon vine asparagus fern, and feral animals.



Pictured above: The impact of Cat's Claw in Upper Brookfield. *Picture Credit Jim Pope.*

Controlling the damage caused by these pests requires eternal vigilance, detailed knowledge of best practices, and a lot of hard work. With the support of organisations, such as MCCG and our associated bushcare groups, this can be achieved.

In Brisbane we are fortunate to be supported in this endeavour through the Brisbane City Council's *Habitat Brisbane* and *Land for Wildlife* programs. However, the extent of this support is ultimately determined by priorities set in Council, that in turn are driven by the wider community. Politicians of all levels and persuasions reflect the views of their electorates and tend to focus no further ahead than the next election.

Protecting the environment from the negative aspects of human activity requires a much longer timescale, of decades and beyond. Consequently, it is important that we do all in our power to raise the level of consciousness in the community as a whole to the longer-term threats to our quality of life and wellbeing posed by environmental damage and degradation. It is particularly important that we reach the next generation—hence the importance of our annual *Kids' Day at the Cottage* event.

Of course, we must always seek a balance between economic development and environmental protection, but that requires vision, forward-thinking and a willingness to seize opportunities as they arise, combined with a wide awareness of emerging dangers. Unfortunately, I believe long term vision is a quality that is sadly lacking in many politicians. Consequently I urge all of you to take every opportunity to raise these issues with our local representatives, so they don't get lost among the apparently more pressing issues of better roads, healthcare, public transport, unemployment and the parlous state of Australian cricket!

Jim Pope

What is that Weed?

It's official. We think that our hard-working website editor must be volunteering around the clock on our behalf. We have another new initiative to report on—a further addition to the MCCG Online Field Guides. Congratulations to Michelle Johnston on this latest collaboration—this time with Bryan Hacker (and with the support of Ed Frazer).

We have some very exciting news about the MCCG website! Dr Bryan Hacker is the mastermind behind the latest addition to our online field guides—a list of declared plants that has been tailor-made for the Moggill Creek Catchment. The new list will replace the existing "*Undesirable and Invasive Plant Species – National, State and Council.*" You will find it under the "Catchment Field Guides" option on the main menu.

The new guide is in tabular form, showing which weed species are known to occur in our catchment (recognised by Country, State and City). With few exceptions, each includes a photograph taken in or near our catchment, together with hints for recognition and control methods, and links to relevant sources (photos courtesy Bryan Hacker and Ed Frazer).

It is worth pointing out that many species we all consider as weeds are not listed in the source

documents for our new list. Also, some species which are not invasive, such as Oleander, are listed (as they are listed by Brisbane City Council).

Our next challenge is to provide an illustrated table providing local information on these other invasive weeds too. Meantime, please enjoy the new information. We hope you find it very useful. Any feedback or additional photos you may be able to share can be sent to jbhacker@powerup.com.au.

Michelle Johnston, Bryan Hacker
& Ed Frazer

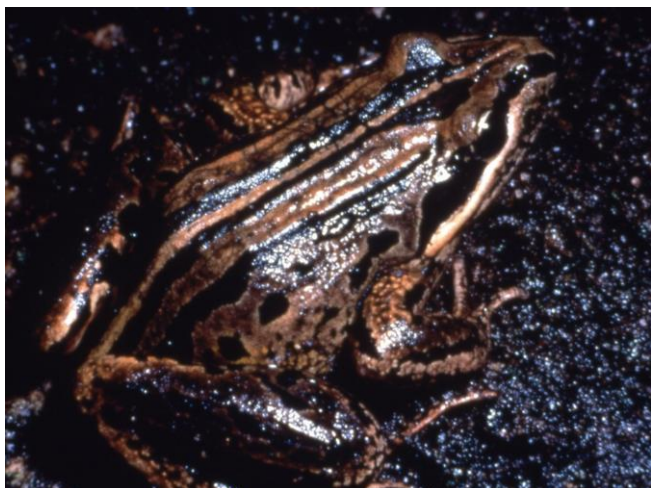
Froggin' Around

An update from Phil Bird, our regular correspondent on all things frog and toad.

It has been very quiet around the dam over the past few weeks. A couple of cane toads ventured out during the recent showers, but I have seen very little evidence of many frogs.

I am often asked where frogs go during the cooler months. The answer varies, depending on the species. Some bury themselves deep into the ground or can be found tucked under vegetation or in rock crevices, where they can find moisture. Others climb up trees and find shelter in deep hollows. At this time, frogs enter a state of torpor-like hibernation and can significantly reduce their metabolism. Remarkably, when they emerge after rains, their muscles have not wasted, and their digestive system is fully functional.

Some frog species can breed during the cooler months—such as the brood frogs, where eggs are laid in clusters and are guarded by the male until the fully mature tadpole emerges into the pools formed by the early rains. A number of local frogs are generalist species that breed in a wide range of environments. For example, the Striped Marsh Frog (pictured below)



has benefited from backyard frog ponds and is normally the first species to colonise the new pond. This frog has a call that is a loud “tok” (sounding a little like a tennis ball being struck). It calls at any time of the year from in the water, often from under the foam egg mass.

Some frogs breed in permanent water, as their tadpoles require longer maturation time, and breed in creeks (such as the Stony Creek frogs) or dams (including the Emerald Spotted frogs). Other frog species, such as the Graceful tree frogs and Green tree frogs have restricted breeding patterns and breed in ephemeral ponding of water away from predation by fish (such as in gutters and swales that fill after heavy rain during the warmer months). Such frogs only need a few weeks for metamorphoses before emerging from the water as young frogs. Therefore, it is very important that we care for all areas, our creeks, dams, wet land areas, drains and ditches where our frogs will breed.

Phil Bird

YOUR HELP NEEDED !!!

The work of the MCCG relies on grants to ensure that many of the important projects our volunteers undertake are funded. Letitia Norton has undertaken this role for a number of years but, as announced at the last AGM, Letitia will be stepping down later this year. NOW is the perfect time to take on this task, with the chance to learn from Letitia's expertise and have a proper handover. YOUR CATCHMENT GROUP NEEDS YOU!!

The volunteer role of Grants Officer for MCCG will be available later this year.

Grants provide essential money to run our community events such as Kids' Day at the Cottage, the Photo competition, Wildlife Night, the production of our newsletter and maintenance of our website as well as important environmental projects in and around the creek habitat.

The existing Grants Officer is willing to provide training time, and support, for a smooth handover.

If you are interested to assist by giving a few hours of your time each month, to apply for grants, or would like to know more about the role, please email me letitian1@optusnet.com.au

Letitia Norton