



# MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

## MCCG NEWSLETTER: Autumn 2021

**Your latest issue:** *Bush Bites* (p3 and p5), Chairman's Report (p2), Defending Sticks (p3), *Froggin' Around* (p6), Moggill Magic (p8), New Plant & Weed Database (p4), 'Photo Comp' Dates (p7), Platypus Survey Memories (p7), Seeds & Weeds (p6-7), Thanks Mike (p2), Threatened Species (p3-4), Volunteers Needed Now (p3, p4 AND p5).



**ABOVE:** Can YOU spare some time to organise or participate in a Bushcare Group? See page 5 for more about the work at Rowena Street Park (picture credit Tracey Read). **BELOW:** How best to attract the Azure Kingfisher? For Bush Bite tips about Dams, turn to p5 (Picture: Ed Frazer).



**ABOVE:** Savages Road Bush Bite! Visit our [website](#) for the full story of Tim Spencer's encounter with a persistent Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (and another photo from Tim). Turn to p3 for a short extract from Tim's Bush Bite.



**ABOVE:** Celebrating the leadership of Mike Humphreys, at a special Gap Creek Bushcare Group tree-planting (picture credit Muffin Rowlands). Turn to p2 for more from Deborah Craig). **BELOW:** Always important to look closely at local trees as you collect seeds! For more, turn to Bryan Hacker's p6 article.





## Chairman's report

It has struck me recently that there are parallels between the way governments around the world have responded to the Covid-19 pandemic and to climate change. With a few exceptions, the responses have been characterised by a reluctance to take effective action early, due concerns about the short-term economic impacts weighing more heavily on decision-makers than the longer-term, and less predictable, consequences of inaction. Some politicians even promote spurious claims by anti-vaccine campaigners or climate-change deniers as an excuse for doing nothing! This lack of decisive action has resulted in a failure to control the growing threat, with far worse outcomes in the longer term. Overall, the responses can generally be described as 'too little, too late'.

In the case of Australia (and Queensland in particular), the way in which the pandemic has been handled has fortunately been ahead of the game, and we are generally seen as a model for the rest of the world. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of climate change—where Australia's response has become an international embarrassment, and the Queensland government generally lags other states. This lack of effective action, and the mind-set that tries

to cling on to obsolescent industries and outdated practices is likely to have dire consequences for future generations (economic, social, and environmental). Without more effective support from governments, the efforts of organisations such as MCCG to promote planting of native species, prevent land clearing, adopt more sustainable practices, and protect the local environment, are in danger of being overwhelmed by global changes that we will not be able to control.

*Jim Pope*

## Editorial

Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue. Read on for information about our vibrant program of events and activities (and how to participate). Thanks to Dave Edwards, Tim Spencer, Deborah Craig, and John Crowley for being some of our 'newer voices' in the newsletter. If you have any news, photos, or requests for help to share, **the absolute deadline for the next issue is 10 June 2021**. I am sure EVERYONE has at least 100 words they could email to me .... **Start now**. Don't wait until the deadline!

*Cathi*

## Thanks Mike: Amazing Work!

The Gap Creek Bushcare Group organised the planting of a special tree for Mike Humphreys, in appreciation of his leadership and dedicated efforts working on the site since 1999.

The bushcare group gathered with Mike, his family, and some friends, to share memories and stories of the early years (*see front page picture*). Memories included work trying to transform weed-filled undergrowth, and grazed paddocks, into a creekside rainforest filled with a wide variety of local native plants. The many stories also celebrated Mike's achievements, including establishing a walking track along one side of the creek from Brookfield Road (near Deerhurst Road) to Kookaburra Street. This track allows the local community to appreciate the site's on-going transformation into good habitat for native fauna. One of Mike's favourite trees, the *Gmelina leichhardtii* White Beech, has been planted beside the walking track, in the revegetated paddock area towards Kookaburra Street.

Due to ill-health, Mike has stepped back from active bushcare duty. While the weeds seem to be rejoicing that Mike isn't doing his regular weekly patrol of Gap Creek, the team is wondering how many extra workers they need for getting through Mike's jobs list. I have apprehensively, but enthusiastically, taken on the leadership of the volunteer team. More volunteers are *always* welcome to join us!

*Deborah Craig*

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: Kathleen Walmsley**

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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, and no correspondence will be entered into. **Please email YOUR news direct to [mccgeditor@outlook.com.au](mailto:mccgeditor@outlook.com.au).**

**Newsletter Editor: Dr Catherine A. Lawrence (Cathi)**

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## YOUR Chance to take part

MCCG achieves all it does through the dedication and continuous work of volunteers. Our volunteers make our local communities even better places to live and enjoy. With so many ways to contribute to the successful running of this much appreciated organisation, there really is something for everyone to be involved in. Whether it is through working bees for tree planting or maintenance, supporting the nursery, or putting your skills to use in event organising, social media and marketing, admin or IT support, we want **you** to get more involved. Your time and energy will be greatly appreciated. Please do get in touch; there is so much more we can achieve with more people involved! *Tracey Read*

### Volunteers needed now for:

**March:** Brookfield Market Stall (20<sup>th</sup>) and Brookfield Hall Evening Talk (25<sup>th</sup>)

**April:** Creek Health Monitoring Project (17<sup>th</sup>), and Kenmore Village Stall (30<sup>th</sup>)

**May:** Kenmore Village (1<sup>st</sup>), Brookfield Show (14-16<sup>th</sup>)

**Contact Tracey at [PR@moggillcreek.org.au](mailto:PR@moggillcreek.org.au)**

## Bush Bites: Persistence Pays Off!

**Don't forget that the MCCG website has a fascinating selection of *Bush Bites*. Tim Spencer's encounter with a Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoo is a great read. Here is a short extract to 'whet the appetite.'**

Several weeks ago I wandered up the back of my place near the end of Savages Road, camera and 300mm lens on my shoulder. I heard a close-by noise and looked to my left, and there, not more than 3m away and at head height, was a Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. This bird had an agenda and was in no way concerned about my close proximity. A tall but narrow Wattle tree was the focus of attention. Half the tree had been stripped of bark and wood exposing a cavity within.

*Tim Spencer*

*Tim's patience resulted in some great shots (including his marvellous front cover picture). For the full story, visit <https://www.moggillcreek.org.au/news/persistence-pays-off-yellow-tailed-black-cockatoo/>.* *Editor*

## Butterfly Talk

Find out about the 87 species of Butterflies found so far in Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count 2021. Guest speaker **Cliff Meyer** will 'show and tell' all at our MCCG Public Meeting in Brookfield Hall on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March (7pm start). **We hope you can join us.**

## In Defence of the Humble Stick

Over the last few years, and especially over winter, I have observed a number of people gathering fallen branches and sticks from our bushcare area along McKay Brook. Some people even try to collect fallen branches from our property.

Fallen timber that slowly decomposes provides habitat and food for many species. In the narrow corridor of habitat in our bushcare areas, within an urban landscape, every little bit is very important.



Even before the fallen timber starts to decompose it helps to collect other leaves and sticks, and provides areas for smaller creatures to shelter. Many birds, like whip birds and pheasant coucals, enjoy hunting in the leaf matter that collects around the fallen branches (as do water dragons and other lizards). The local bandicoots and echidnas (*Echidna* pictured above, *image credit Dave Edwards*) that surprisingly appear in our suburban areas rely upon these decaying branches to support the food they need. The fallen timber also helps to slow the water flow, which reduces erosion and gives the soil more time to absorb the water. Next time you want some kindling for the fire or that funky timber sculpture, *please* don't gather it from our local bushland. *Dave Edwards*

## Threatened Species

It is not a local threatened species, but the northern hairy-nosed wombat is considered to be Queensland's most endangered mammal. Their conservation status is about to be changed from *Endangered* to *Critically Endangered* under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act (1992). It could be assumed that this change in conservation status means that this species is edging closer to extinction, but I am delighted to report that is not the case.

In the early 1980s, the last remaining population of the northern hairy-nosed wombats, located at Epping Forest National Park in central Queensland, contained only 35 individuals. This population was then precariously close to going extinct. A major threatened species recovery program, led by the Queensland



Government, has been operating since then. I am pleased to report that the current population estimate is 315 wombats, across two locations.



**Picture:** Northern hairy-nosed wombat (Credit: Queensland Government).

It has taken nearly 40 years, significant investment, and a diverse army of people—including dedicated scientists, conservation officers, park rangers, private organisations (investment), and community groups. There is still a long way to go to avoid extinction, but I am delighted to be able to congratulate my colleagues on the amazing achievements so far.

With such success, why the change to *Critically Endangered*? Until recently there was no category of *Critically Endangered* under Queensland legislation. We have been working to change the legislation and update the threatened species list, seeking to align terminology across the country. Now we have a Critically Endangered category, sadly the northern hairy-nosed wombat meets the criteria for that list.

The northern hairy-nosed wombat remains Queensland's most endangered mammal. Rest assured there are many dedicated people working extremely hard to reduce the risk of losing this wonderfully unique species forever. For more information, see:

<https://www.wombatfoundation.com.au/>;  
<https://www.actforbirds.org/ratpoison>; and  
<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/threatened-species/featured-threatened-species-projects/northern-hairy-nosed-wombat>.

Dr Manda Page

## Creek Health: Help Needed

**Calling all Citizen Scientists to help at our bi-annual survey, on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> (8:30-2pm).**

Volunteers are needed to take part in a water bug, fish identification, and water health survey. The day is suitable for budding beginners through to macro-invertebrate maestros. By participating in this project you will be assisting in collecting data on what is regarded to be some of the most pristine creek lines

close to Brisbane. **For more information and to register go to [www.moggillcreek.org.au/creek-health-monitoring-project/](http://www.moggillcreek.org.au/creek-health-monitoring-project/).**

## New MCG Plant & Weed Database

**We are fortunate to have hard-working volunteers who can also share specialist skills with fellow MCG Members.**

Hello! I am known to some of you as the Savages Road Section Leader. I am also a happy nursery group volunteer, on the first and third Monday each month.

For some time, I have been working on a **native plant and weed database of the Moggill area**, which incorporates native plant information and photos. Resources include plants in our website [Local Natives List](#), *Putting Back the Forest* (by Bryan Hacker et al.), *Mangroves to Mountains* (by Leiper et al.), and many websites (including the Brisbane Rainforest and Information Network [BRIN] and [BCC Weed identification tool](#)). And, of course, the invaluable resource list of Kees and Tina Heybroek!



The database is designed to provide information about native plants in the catchment—including species, common name, family, and growth form of many plants—with separate reports about the various growth forms (tree, shrub, herb etc.). In addition, it includes a database of native plants, and the date they were added to the nursery. The database will also help the nursery team—enabling us to print out/ save lists of volunteers and of the number of plants potted-up (see screenshot, above).

To use the database, you will need a copy of Microsoft Access 2003 or above. Alternatively, you can use a new, free, lite version of Microsoft Access, which can be downloaded at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=50040>.

If you'd like to install a copy of the database to your home computer, [email me](#) for a link. If you have any problems downloading and installing the database or Access on your computer, please contact me at [jcrowley1255@gmail.com](mailto:jcrowley1255@gmail.com) or phone 07-33740723. I am happy to come to your house to install the database or talk you through it.

John Crowley

## Bush Bites: Dams

Aside from the Gold Creek Dam, and Gold and Moggill creeks, there is little other permanent water in our Catchment (and the upper parts of Moggill Creek have even dried out in recent droughts). Non-permanent creeks dry out rather quickly, as most have porous, rocky bases in the upper reaches.

There were a few farm dams left over from former dairy and fruit farms, and a few dams have been built on private acreage. Unfortunately, sites are often difficult; many have leaking problems, and their water holding capacity is small.

To make the most of what is available to encourage the wildlife—and especially the small birds, reptiles and mammals that are dependent on reliable water sources—we need to improve the habitat around those existing water sources.

Dams with clear areas around their shores only attract a range of aggressive birds, such as Magpies, Butcherbirds, Magpie Larks, Ibis and Kookaburras. The same is true of the creeks that have been cleared of overhanging vegetation. Ideally, creeks should be planted with overhanging trees—such as Sandpaper Figs, Melaleucas, and creek Lillipillies. These trees should be reinforced with significant plantings of shrubs, and patches of sedges, grasses and Lomandra. This provides habitat, *and* controls water weeds.



**Picture:** Little Pied Cormorant, Great Egret and Royal Spoonbill attracted to a well-planted farm dam (*picture: Ed Frazer*)

Farm dams need similar treatment, but only the high sides of dams (and where the water comes) need to be planted. Wattles make a useful planting higher on the banks, and Grevilleas also do well around dams. Planting in dams should include some broad-leaved plants, as well as sedges. Be careful with water lilies, particularly if the dam is shallow. Avoid Hardy waterlilies; select Tropical Waterlilies and Night Bloomers (they don't spread and choke out the dam).

If you establish a good habitat around the dam or creek side, you will be rewarded by a large range of beautiful birds such as Azure Kingfishers (*see Ed's front cover photograph*), a wide range of water birds, and small mammals such as echidnas and water dragons. A well-planted dam or creek side, with a good tree canopy, will go a long way to keeping out invasive water weeds. It will also help to make the creek a more suitable Platypus habitat. *Ed Frazer*

## Rowena Street Park: Help Needed

An ongoing major MCCG project over the past few years has been the restoration of Rowena St. park (*see article by Ed Frazer in the last Newsletter*). Following the excellent initial work at the park (then driven by Malcolm Frost), in 2019 I set up a collaboration with Challenge Employment & Training to continue the work, and at the same time to provide practical experience for students undertaking the Certificate 1 in Conservation & Land Management (CALM).

At the time, we obtained funding from the Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, to support two groups of about 15 students who worked on the bushland throughout the park for several months (in 2019, and again in 2020). As well as clearing masses of weeds (cat's claw creeper, sickle bush, Chinese elm, ochna, castor oil plants, Madeira vine, glycine etc.), the students planted over 1,000 trees and shrubs native to the area. It is a testament to the success of the project that almost all of the CALM students now work full-time. This work has transformed the park. But there is still much more to be done, and unfortunately the current funding has run out. Since the start of this year, with support from Habitat Brisbane (Simon Fox), we have begun organising working bees in the park. Our aim is to try to keep on top of the weeds, and to continue the process of revegetation with native species.

Our most recent working bee, held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February, was attended by 18 volunteers (*see front cover picture*). About half are local residents and half ex-students from the CALM course (including Jason Pardoe, the Challenge supervisor!). Everyone is keen to support the ongoing restoration of the area, and volunteered their time accordingly. And of course, every session includes a well-deserved morning tea! One of the volunteers at the working bee was our Public Relations Officer, Tracey Read. Tracey's short video of the event conveys very well the enthusiasm of the participants. I recommend having a look at the video (available at: <https://youtu.be/8Btozb1FZzE>).

Our aim is for local residents to form a bushcare group themselves, and take over the running of the working



bees. More volunteers are urgently needed. If you, or anyone you know can assist, please contact me via email ([j.pope@qut.edu.au](mailto:j.pope@qut.edu.au)).

*Jim Pope*

## **Froggin' Around: To Relocate—or not?**

Recent rains have kept the creek flowing and the dam topped up. In the creek: tadpoles of stony creek frogs and tusked frogs; juvenile stony creek frogs; and, a real delight, a juvenile emerald-spotted tree frog. Round the dam, clustered on reeds, are eastern sedge frogs. Cane toads out foraging (no breeding observed) collected for a deep sleep (RSPCA-approved method: bagged in small numbers (3-4), 24 hours in the fridge followed by 24 hours in the freezer, disposal in a closed compost bin). A number of sightings of bleating tree frogs—a lovely little frog, with a loud voice.

During the mid-December heavy downpours, a depression in an open space in Creekside Park, Brookfield, filled with water. Frogs visited this ephemeral pool and laid eggs, which developed into tadpoles. But, by mid-January, the pool dried up. I managed to rescue some green tree frog tadpoles.



**Picture:** Creekside Park, depression circled ( *Phil Bird* )

Such ephemeral breeding sites are as rare as hen's teeth. So what to do? One idea is to relocate the breeding site 15m towards the creek, but frogs do "home" to their original breeding site.

Queensland Frog Society colleagues shared ideas. Julia Squires (QFSI) shared mixed experiences of relocations, and wrote to me recommending "Keeping both sites is best until they use the new one. Also, somewhere to transfer tadpoles. They just hate change, and it may take until the second summer. So I would say yes it's well worth doing as long as the new one holds water well for a reasonable time (and gets toad checked regularly and frequently in the season, tadpoles certainly deter the frogs)." Jenny Holdway, QFSI Secretary, also noted "I think 15m is in keeping with the frog's area and if the tadpoles emerge from the new pool they should go back there as adults. Adults, which spawned this year in the depression, will most probably go back to the old spot."

More to come on this one!

*Phil Bird*

## **2020: Some MCCG Statistics**

During 2020, our nursery, at the end of Gold Creek Road, provided 16,360 plants for planting at 245 different locations, mostly within the catchment. This number represents around 20% more plants than the average number over the previous five years (and was the highest number of plants distributed since 2007, when 19,120 plants were distributed).

Bryan Hacker is kept busy in assisting members to select appropriate species, meeting members at the nursery usually once or twice a week.

The nursery group, under the management of Andrew Wilson, meets on the first and third Mondays every month—including public holidays (many of which fall on a Monday!). Over the life of the nursery, more than 300,000 plants have been potted-up by volunteer members from both Moggill and Pullen Pullen catchment groups. Of course, for various reasons, a number of plants don't survive to being available for distribution, but losses are minimal. Over the years, 475 different species of plants have been provided to members.

Regarding working bees on public land, in the various sections of MCCG, a total of 1,728 hours of work were recorded by members during 2020. Weeding was the predominant activity, and 3,355 plants were planted. Many of these plants were provided by Habitat Brisbane, and the remainder came from the MCCG nursery. The number of hours worked on public land during 2020 was the lowest for the last decade – about 30% lower than the average. Undoubtedly, the pandemic contributed to this.

*Bruce Siemon*

## **Seeds: Red Kamala Tree**

**Collecting seeds can lead to some unexpected bonuses, as Bryan Hacker reports in his latest 'Seeds' article.**

The Red Kamala tree, *Mallotus philippensis*, is an important pioneer tree in our district, and we always aim to have stocks of seedlings available at our Nursery. Late February this year was a good time for seed collecting. The small spherical fruit, which had been coloured red for many weeks, had begun to open, revealing the three small black seeds in each fruit. It is important to collect seed when fully ripe, to maximise the chance of successful germination. So I had been watching several Red Kamala trees, awaiting the 'moment of truth.'

Checking bunch after bunch of fruit, on a fruiting tree along Gold Creek Road, I suddenly noticed something different. A quite large insect, was perfectly disguised among the Red Kamala fruit (see front cover picture).

The Queensland Museum advised that it was a Mallotus Harlequin Bug (*Cantao parentum*). This insect is native to northern NSW and south east Queensland, and remains inactive over winter. Looking [on-line](#), I learned that “The species name ‘parentum’ refers to the fact that the females demonstrate parental care by guarding the eggs and young nymphs from predators.” Adult bugs suck the sap of Red Kamala or Green Kamala, which brings me back to Red Kamala!

Red Kamala is also native to parts of Southern Asia, Melanesia, and Pacific islands. When collecting fruit you will find a fine red powder rubs off the surface. This power has been used in parts of India for dying textiles, as well as various foodstuffs, and other parts of this species also have medicinal value.

Many thanks for help from the Queensland Museum.

Bryan Hacker

## Weeds: Lax Panic Grass

Working recently, close to Moggill Creek near the Showground, I noticed a grass which looked rather different from others in our Catchment. What I particularly noticed about it was its small panicles with narrow branches with clusters of spikelets (see picture, below).

So I took a specimen to the Queensland Herbarium. It turned out to be *Steinchisma laxa*, (previously known as *Panicum laxum*), a naturalised exotic species, occasionally reported from around Brisbane. Checking in ‘Atlas of Living Australia’ there are just 23 records of this species, all in the Brisbane area or coastal north Queensland.



The common name is Lax Panic Grass, which is native to parts of Central and South America where it occurs in ‘open wet spots.’ This species is a perennial, with culms to 80cm tall and open panicle to 20cm long.

Technigro’s *Weed Watch* (August 2013) notes that Lax Panic Grass “[...] forms a thick mat of vegetation in wetter

habitats and has the potential to become an environmental weed in northern and eastern Australia.” This is clearly a weed species we should endeavour to control now, before it is too late.

Bryan Hacker

## 2020 Platypus Survey Memories

Once again I dragged myself out of bed before dawn, in the hope of spotting a platypus in the annual survey. By 5am I was set up, in the dark, beside a pool of water off Gold Creek Road—listening to a symphony of frogs, a Boobook, the occasional plover, and distant roosters. A little later, the butcherbirds and sulphur-crested cockatoos joined in.



Picture: Gold Creek reservoir (Credit: Rebecca Bain)

Unfortunately, I did not have any luck sighting a platypus. The highlight of my morning ended up being the presence of a pair of whipbirds who allowed me to watch them make their way over to my side of the pool, and then returned past me again a few minutes later. It was a pleasure to be able to clearly see them for a few minutes, instead of just hearing their vocalisations in the undergrowth.

With the survey ending at 7am, I decided to then walk around Gold Creek Reservoir (see Rebecca’s photograph, above), where I was lucky to spot an emerald dove foraging along the ground. A cheeky Eastern yellow robin then farewelled me as I returned to my car.

Rebecca Bain

## October 2021 MCCG Photo Comp

Don’t forget to put the dates in your diary now, and start to think about shots for our annual MCCG Photography Competition. As always, wonderful cash prizes will be up for grabs! Further details will be available over the coming months, so save these dates:

- 🚩 NOW until Oct. 16: get out, and get snapping!
- 🚩 Saturday Oct. 16: Submission of Open entries
- 🚩 Monday Oct. 18 to Saturday Oct. 23: Kenmore Village Shopping Centre Photo display.
- 🚩 Saturday Oct. 23: Kenmore Village Shopping Centre prize ceremony.

Rebecca Bain



## ***Moggill Magic: Ask a Busy Person...***

**The old adage, possibly first spoken by Benjamin Franklin, "if you want something done, ask a busy person," certainly seems to be true for Jim Pope. Another fascinating Moggill Magic feature from Ed Frazer.**

Jim Pope has a lot on his plate, chairing the Moggill Creek Catchment Group's Management Committee and successfully obtaining bush care grants for the group. But his real passion is on-ground bush regeneration work.

The Huntington/Tuckett Bushcare Group has been operating for 22 years, nearly as long as the MCCG itself. The results of this hard work are obvious. Mature trees adorning the park were mostly planted by the group, originally under Malcolm Frost's leadership.

Jim joined the Huntington/Tuckett group ten years ago, and has led the group for the past eight years. Recent projects have included clearing areas dominated by Chinese Elms, Lantana and weed vines and their replacement with a wide variety of native trees and understorey species.

The Huntington/Tuckett site extends through the parklands from Rafting Ground Rd to Tuckett St, and includes riparian zones on both sides of Moggill Creek. An extension down to Branton St was added to the site recently, making the overall length of the site about 2km. These parklands are among the most loved

in the catchment, and are used by large numbers of locals on a regular basis. The bushcare group is supported by Brisbane City Council's *Habitat Brisbane* scheme. *Habitat Brisbane* supplies plants, tools, mulch, and occasional contractor support. But most of the regeneration work is carried out by Jim's team of volunteers at their monthly working bees.

New plantings occupy about one in four working bees, which are well attended by up to 28 volunteers. The remaining three out of four working bees are for maintenance, involving mostly weed control.

A lot of the regeneration involves extending the plantings alongside the creek, to widen the riparian zone. Gradually the team members have been replacing the Chinese Elms (*Celtis sinensis*), which originally dominated large sections of the creek, with native species local to the area.

Much attention has been paid to planting undergrowth species, and maintaining a canopy over the creek, to keep water weeds at bay. This has provided suitable habitat for animals and birds, in spite of the park being adjoined along its length by houses in the Huntington and Kensington Estates.

The local residents are incredibly supportive of Jim's team. Many locals are members of the group, or support their efforts with drinks and refreshments following a hard morning's work.

The MCCG Platypus Survey regularly identifies platypus in the creek and local users encounter echidnas, wallabies, lots of bird species, water

dragons, pythons, and frogs.

Unfortunately, feral deer also frequent the park and occasionally damage some of the newly planted trees.

Huntington/Tuckett Park is a much-used amenity in the district and a great example of community activity and support. That is great credit to the MCCG and to Jim and his fellow volunteers.

*Ed Frazer*



**Picture:** Jim Pope (picture credit: Ed Frazer)

### **KEEPING IN TOUCH:**

**Meeting and event dates are understandably subject to change, so why not 'like' our Facebook page to ensure you always have the latest updates?**