



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

MCCG NEWSLETTER: Winter 2021

Your latest

issue: *Bush Bite* (p8), Chairman's Report (p2), Editor's Request (p5), Foam Bark Gully Gang (p3-4), Froggin' Around (p6), Moggill Magic (p7), 'Photo Comp' (p3), Quiet Achiever (p3), Seeds & Weeds (p4), Threatened Species (p5-6).



ABOVE: Kids' Day at the Cottage. Can you see what they were looking at?
Turn to page 7 for more from Dale Borgelt (picture credit Dale Borgelt).

BELOW: An endangered Loggerhead turtle at Mon Repos. For more, turn to p5 (Picture: Dr Manda Page).



ABOVE: A Mealybug Ladybird, on a ficus leaf searching for mealybugs. For more, turn to p8 for Ed Frazer's *Bush Bite*.

MCCG Member Survey: Your Committee wants to hear from YOU. Turn to page two for details



ABOVE: Bryan Hacker has us 'spotting the difference' in this issue! Above is the Pepper-leaved senna. **BELOW** is the Easter cassia weed. Turn to p4 for Bryan's *Weeds and Seeds*.



Chairman's report

Brisbane City Council recently announced that it is 'developing a high-level concept plan for a diverse range of nature-based recreation activities and facilities within the Anstead Bushland Reserve'. This raises the question of what sort of activities are appropriate in nature reserves and other areas set aside for conservation of the natural environment. Some politicians and other community leaders seem to attribute little or no value to our bushland reserves unless they can be exploited for some forms of human activity. At the same time, our wildlife is under increasing pressure from urban expansion, introduced pests, bushfires, drought, and climate change. As a result, the list of vulnerable and threatened species is growing and many are only able to survive with the protection of reserves where they can find respite from threats posed by human activity. While some management of nature reserves is necessary to control pests and invasive species, their use for other activities that cause disturbance, damage or erosion should in most cases be prohibited.

Of particular concern in recent years has been the ever-expanding use of bushland for mountain bike riding. While we need to facilitate healthy outdoor exercise, such activities should be excluded from more sensitive areas. Where allowed, they need to be confined to designated sites and specific trails. Unfortunately, experience has shown that controlling such activities can often prove problematic, resulting in conflict between bike riders and environmentalists. Part of the solution might be to enlist the help of the mountain bike riding fraternity themselves in encouraging riders to value nature and stick to the designated trails.

A case study on the impact of introduced pests on vulnerable native species will be the subject of our next public talk in Brookfield Hall on the evening of Thursday 24th June. Dr Paul Campbell from 'Save the Bilby' Fund will speak on the subject of 'Eradicating Feral Cats'. Following feedback received in response to previous talks, we have asked Paul to use big fonts and large photos in his presentation, to offset limitations imposed by the size of the available screen. I hope to see many of you there.

Jim Pope

Editorial

There is a distinct 'insect' theme to this latest MCGG Newsletter—a happy coincidence of ideas and information from a number of authors. Apologies to anyone who suffers from entomophobia. But I hope even an entomophobic will find something to enjoy—perhaps when reading about fellow volunteers, or

when learning more about local seeds and weeds and the work of the Foam Bark Gully Gang. **Drop me a line about your own 'gang,' revegetation project, or local flora and fauna.** The absolute deadline for the next issue is 1 September 2021. Start now! Don't wait until the deadline to [email me!](#) *Cathi*

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?

Member Survey: Advice Needed!

The MCGG Committee wants to hear from YOU. How do you use your membership? Which activities do you enjoy participating in? What would you like to hear more about? What would you like the committee to know? **Please take five minutes now** to fill in our Members Survey. Your feedback will help us plan and deliver the MCGG events and activities more effectively for you. The survey can be found at <https://forms.gle/APBNbQmpZfbfZ5Hr5>

Or click on the *Member Survey* link on the MCGG website homepage.

Tracey Read

Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCGG) 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.**

Newsletter Editor: Dr Catherine A. Lawrence (Cathi)

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Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Quiet Achievers: Janine Nicklin

Who are the often-silent achievers who work behind the scenes at the MCCG? Welcome to a new occasional feature from Robyn Frost (who is also one of our quiet achievers herself, I think). In this issue, Robyn focuses on Janine Nicklin.

Janine grew up in North Queensland, before studying Occupational Therapy at UQ. On discovering a hitherto unknown talent for graphic design, she worked at a well-known Brisbane architectural company, and pursued additional study. Janine now works with a local graphic design company *and* has also shared her talents with the MCCG.

In 1997, Janine had moved to Kenmore Hills with her three young daughters. She remembers meeting Bryan Hacker at the Brookfield Show information stall, but with small children and a large house and garden to maintain, it was to be some years before she had time to spare.

In 2015, Janine, together with Kate McVicar, set up a Facebook page to promote the MCCG to a wider audience. You might also have admired the banners and posters she has created for the MCCG's membership drives and Kids' Day promotions. And perhaps you also remember the wonderful 2017 Photo Book she compiled for the MCCG's 20th Anniversary? If you need any further evidence of her creativity there are the advertising leaflets, posters, and entry forms for the annual MCCG Photography Competition.

It is obvious that Janine enjoys an active life. She and her late husband, Bill spent some happy years in the United States, where he undertook postgraduate studies. She enjoys camping, bird watching, walking, painting, and cycling (even after a recent nasty accident). She is now looking forward to walking the Larapinta Trail later in the year.

Family is important to Janine. Her mother Yvonne Quinlan has settled happily in Bellbowrie and is an MCCG Nursery volunteer (see the Summer 2020 MCCG Newsletter). Janine has also welcomed her first grandchild, Harriet, who is currently the inspiration for the creation of a special story/picture book. I would imagine that Harriet will be the recipient of many such original books in the future.



Janine believes that there is an urgent need for volunteers to be involved in all aspects of social media in the future, especially as she has the strong belief that the MCCG needs to communicate and inspire a love of, and respect, for nature.

Robyn Frost

MCCG Photography Competition

October is almost around the corner, so now is a great time to start thinking about YOUR entries for our annual MCCG Photography Competition. Here are some 'insider' tips from our 'Photo Comp' Chair.

Planning for the popular MCCG Photography Competition is already underway. As always, there are wonderful cash prizes up for grabs. We would **love** to see more entries in our *Young Persons* category this year! **Please spread the word** to any budding young photographers or nature lovers.

An insider's tip, for anyone considering entering photos into the Open categories, is that the *Native Plants and Fungi* category has been quite underrepresented in the last few years. Therefore, you've got a good chance to win a prize in this category, as it doesn't tend to get as many entries as the *Native Birds* and *Native Animals (excluding birds)* categories. As a reminder, Saturday 16th October is the day for the submission of Open entries. The display will be at the Kenmore Village Shopping Centre (18-23 October), with the prize ceremony on Saturday 23rd October.

Rebecca Bain

Foam Bark Gully Gang

Niki and Vernon Hill contacted the MCCG Committee earlier this year, with kind comments about the MCCG. Having had a quick look at the marvellous Foam Bark Gully blogsite, I thought that all our members would be interested to see the photographs and information shared by these three western suburbs residents. Before you turn to their fascinating blog (foambarkgully.blogspot.com), do read the following introduction by Niki and Sylvia.



In 2005, three neighbouring *Land for Wildlife* properties in Fig Tree Pocket formed the *Foam Bark Gully Gang*. The properties have varied habitat, with an ephemeral creek that runs down to the Brisbane River.

The Foam Bark Gully Gang agreed to: (a) rehabilitate the approximately three hectares, by eliminating weed species that were threatening native vegetation; (b) replace with new plantings; and (c) encourage natural regeneration. In 2005, the major threats were Cats Claw Creeper, Madeira Vine, Glycine Vine, Balloon Vine, Ochna, Chinese Elm, and Camphor Laurel. More recently *Dyschoriste depressa* has become a real problem.

We also established a blogsite in 2005. Since then there have been nearly 1,800 posts documenting the abundance of wildlife and native plants. Of special note is the regular sightings of a pair of Powerful Owls (including with their two chicks in 2019). Recent butterfly walks, as part of the *Brisbane Big Butterfly Count*, have identified 50 species. Since 2014 we have also had twice yearly bird walks in conjunction with Cubberla Witton Catchment Network. The usual species count is over 30, and the total species identified over the years is 119.



Picture: Powerful Owl juvenile (picture credit: Sylvia Alexander, who also supplied the picture of the sign on page 3)

From 2010, we started planting *Pararistolochia praevenosa* to encourage the return of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, and in 2014 we became a conservation corridor as part of the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network program. There are currently over 200 vines growing on the three properties. This area is recognised as one of significant

biodiversity and we hope that continued documentation will save it from future development.

Sylvia Alexander and Niki Hill

Seeds: Pepper-leaved Senna

Pepper-leaved Senna (*Senna sophora*) is a low-growing native shrub which may be mistaken for the Easter cassia, also covered in this issue. Pepper-leaved senna grows to a height of 2m and, like the Easter cassia, has alternate leaves with 4–7 pairs of opposite leaflets and no terminal leaflet. Leaflets on established plants are acutely pointed. Flowers are yellow, with five petals (see picture, front cover).

In flower, the two species are readily distinguished. As compared with the broader pendulous pods of Easter cassia, pepper-leaved senna has slender curved pods to 10cm long (and lacks the two ‘mammoth tusk’ anthers). Also, pepper-leaved senna has a small gland between the base of the leaf and the first leaflet pair (whereas, in the Easter cassia, there is a brownish margin to the leaflets, and the gland is between the first pair of leaflets).

As seedlings, the pepper-leaved senna leaflets have more rounded ends, and one needs to rely on the colour of the leaflet margins and position of the leaf gland to be sure.

In our Nursery this year pepper-leaved senna was targeted by one of our local butterflies, possibly the Lemon Migrant. Their caterpillars enjoyed the many seedlings available.

Bryan Hacker

Weeds: Easter Cassia

A shrub which is very evident in forests in our part of Brisbane during April and May is the aptly-named Easter cassia. With numerous bright yellow flowers, Easter cassia is classified as *Senna pendula* var. *glabrata* and is in the plant family Caesalpiniaceae. Until comparatively recently it was known as *Cassia coluteoides*, hence the common name.

Easter cassia is a shrub to about 4.5m tall, with compound leaves with 3–6 pairs of leaflets and no terminal leaflet. Leaflets are up to 2cm long.

Readers will be keen to distinguish this exotic weed from the native *Senna sophora*, also covered in this issue, particularly when weeding and finding small plants before flowering. Easter cassia has rounded ends to the leaflets, which are generally brownish, or light coloured along the margins, as shown in the front cover photograph, and there is no gland along the petiole (leaf stalk), although there is a very small gland between the first pair of leaflets. The five yellow petals are about 2cm long and two of the ten stamens have

anthers which are large and curved, like mammoth tusks. Seed pods are up to 10cm long and 6mm wide.

Bryan Hacker

Newsletter: A Request

It is my pleasure to be the MCCG Newsletter Editor. I enjoy hearing from readers, and it is always good to learn from our valued regular columnists *and* from our occasional contributors. It is also great to hear that many new members join us because they enjoy the quarterly newsletters, and that the newsletter has an important role to play in the MCCG's program of profile-raising and community connection.

However, what *really* cheered me up was hearing that around **90% of our members have now opted to receive the MCCG Newsletter in electronic format!**

I hope you are all enjoying reading the newsletter online: it arrives more quickly than by post, is in full colour when online, and it takes up less space in your recycling bin! This is also wonderful news because it costs our environmental group over \$2.50 to print and post a *single* copy of the newsletter. **Which is over \$10pa for each MCCG member who receives a printed copy.**

If *you* are a member who continues to like to receive our Newsletter in printed form through the post, I wonder if you would consider paying more for your membership? And/or decide to start receiving the electronic version of the Newsletter?

We are all aware that raising money—from our members, through promotional activity such as our annual MCCG Photography Competition, and through vital grants—is an important and time-consuming task. So if you are able to help—by opting for an e-copy only, or by covering the costs of your printed copy—that would be *greatly* appreciated. Many thanks.

Cathí Lawrence

Bee Observations

Over the last few years, I've gradually been paying more attention to insects visiting the flowers in our garden. After the rain we've had this past summer, a foam bark tree (*Jagera pseudorhus*) had by far its best flowering in the 20 years since we planted it. Being next to the veranda meant I was high enough not only to keep an eye on the insects visiting the flowers, but also to try to take some photos of them.

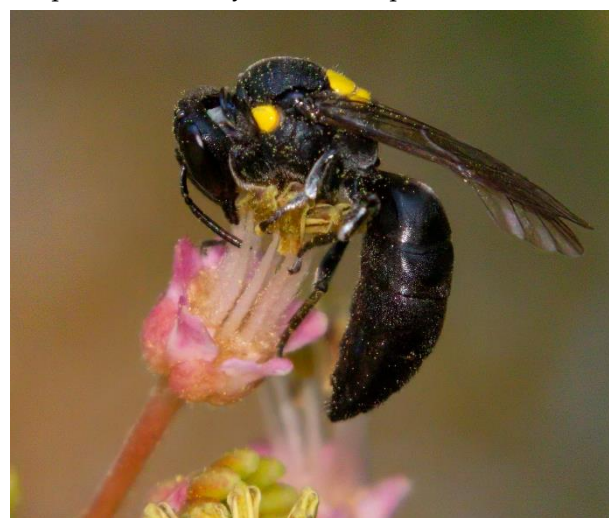
Trying to take photos of small creatures that are moving rapidly, and seemingly at random from flower to flower, is a bit tricky, even with a decent camera. I was mostly interested in the different types

of bees visiting the tree. Apart from the non-native European honeybees, there were at least a dozen different types of native bees, although they were not all identified by me or photographed.



Picture: Leafcutter bee at foam bark flowers (picture: D&A)

Once I started looking at the photographs of the bees, it was interesting to observe that I had captured bees gathering pollen in three different ways. Some bees, from the small stingless bees *Tetragonula carbonaria* to the much larger teddy bear bees and blue banded bees, gather their pollen in baskets on their hind legs. But the leaf cutter bees collect pollen on specialised hairs on their abdomen, and other bees—such as *Meroglossa itamuca* (pictured below, credit D&A)—carry the pollen internally, in their crops.



If you are interested in learning more about our native bees, there are a few books about now including a fine one by Tim Heard (*The Australian Native Bee Book*) and quite a few on-line resources.

Dave Edwards

Threatened Species

What an evocative image of a Loggerhead Turtle, on our front cover! Read more from Dr Manda Page about sea turtles.

16th June is the annual World Sea Turtle Day. Queensland is lucky enough to have six species of marine turtles that call Queensland home during some

part of their very long lifecycle (50+yrs). They spread from the Gulf of Carpentaria, along the Torres Strait, throughout the Great Barrier Reef and down to southern Queensland coastal waters. Unfortunately, all six are threatened species and listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1999* (see table, below).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (QLD)
Green turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Vulnerable
Flatback turtle	<i>Natator depressus</i>	Vulnerable
Hawksbill turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered
Loggerhead turtle	<i>Caretta</i>	Endangered
Olive Ridley turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	Endangered
Leatherback turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered

Note: The [Queensland Marine Turtle Field Guide](#) provides useful identification tips.

Marine turtles are a vital part of our marine environment, contribute to our unique Queensland way of life, and are charismatic marine creatures that hold a special place in the hearts and minds of many people in the community. Marine turtles are also of enduring cultural, economic, social, and spiritual significance to coastal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Historically, marine turtles supported early exploration of the coastline by European navigators and were unsustainably utilised in early commercial enterprises. A combination of historic and of continuing human-caused threats, operating at international to local scales, have seen many global marine turtle populations decline. We now recognise their importance and undertake a range of programs to help them survive and thrive along the Queensland coast and adjacent waters.

Their biggest threats come from climate change, marine debris, national and international take, terrestrial predation (e.g. pigs, foxes, and dogs), fisheries bycatch, and light pollution. The challenge to protect and recover these species is particularly difficult, as they migrate across the globe. But when they are foraging in Queensland waters, and nesting on our beaches, we must protect them.

One of the most amazing wildlife experiences is to see the giant loggerhead turtles nest at Mon Repos Conservation Park, near Bundaberg (see front cover image). From November to March you can join Park Rangers for a rare and wonderful night experience as they lay eggs on the beach. Last season saw around 1,200 nests made and around 150,000 eggs laid. This is a particular important nesting site for this endangered

species. For more information visit: <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/mon-repos/attractions/mon-repos-turtle-centre>; and <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/discovering-wildlife/turtle-watching>

Dr Manda Page

Froggin' Around in Winter

20th March was World Frog Day, and now it is the start of winter. Frogs are quiet around the dam. The eastern sedge frogs (*Litoria fallax*) are no longer seen on the reeds. They are now most likely tucked under vegetation, in rock crevices and hollows, in order to find moisture and enter a state of torpor-like hibernation.

During the autumn months there have been frog sightings along Moggill and Gold creeks, and by local dams—including stony creek frogs (*Litoria wilcoxii*), graceful tree frogs (*Litoria gracilentia*), green tree frogs (*Litoria caerulea*), and bleating tree frogs (*Litoria dentata*). Naked tree frogs (*Litoria rubella*) and bleating tree frogs (*L. dentata*) were also found living in a hydroponic system.



Picture: From the hydroponic system—a naked tree frog (Credit: Tina Heybroek)

Information about our local frog species can be found at Queensland Frogs (a Facebook [group](#)), and also at the MCCG website. If you see or hear frogs and want to know more, the Citizen Science project *frogID* might help. Download the app (<https://www.frogid.net.au/>) to record and submit frog calls.

It rained in April and the ephemeral frog pond at Brookfield Creekside Park filled up, and numerous green tree frogs and graceful tree frogs were seen around the pond. Later, hundreds of tadpoles were seen swimming in the water, and the pond was topped-up a few times to prevent drying. This was a late breeding event, as these frogs often breed during the warmer summer months, and the fate of these juvenile frogs is unknown. Plans are now in place to

improve the frog breeding area. A clay bentonite layer will be laid and then covered with soil and turfed, to increase the length of time it holds water. When the frogs breed the pool will be fenced off from the mowers. Happy frogging.

Phil Bird

e-newsletter? Just email the MCCG Secretary with 'email newsletter' in the subject line, and add your name and address in the message. Thank you.

Kids' Day at the Cottage

Dale Borgelt continues to work hard as the organiser of the popular MCCG Kids' Day at the Cottage. The 2021 event took place on 13th June. As a COVID-safe event, there were a few changes, including a requirement for pre-registration. But regular visitors would have been delighted to see that many of the popular features of this annual event were still a vital part of the program.

The MCCG is fortunate to have a number of generous sponsors of this popular event. Thanks also to Dale, and to the many enthusiastic volunteers who help on this special day at the MCCG Cottage.

Kids' Day at the Cottage 2021 was different, but again a most enjoyable event.

Covid meant attendance limits, pre-registration, larger marquees, and spacing. But there was plenty for kids to enjoy, make, and do—and they did.

Visitors made pendants from gumnuts, and potted a seedling to take home.

They had the opportunity to find out more about snails, insects, and tiny creatures in creek water.

Plus, they had a close up look at our native furry, feathery, scaly, and leathery wildlife in Martin Fingland's *Geckoes* presentation.

Live insects are always popular with the kids, but this year amazingly-camouflaged leaf insects were a highlight. These insects, *Phyllium monteithi* (named after presenter Geoff Monteith), were almost indistinguishable from the Golden Penda leaves.

The front cover photograph is of Geoff Monteith, together with Kids' Day helper Tiana Oldridge, looking at two *Phyllium monteithi*, leaf insects on some penda leaves.

MCCG Kids' Day at the Cottage is proudly supported by The Lord Mayor's Community Fund, the Pullenvale Ward Councillor (Councillor Greg

Adermann), the Brisbane City Council Creek Catchment Program, and Seqwater.

Dale Borgelt

Moggill Magic: Tracey Read

You will have noticed a surge of energy in some of the activities of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group in the past 12 months. This has a lot to do with Tracey Read's involvement. In addition to taking on responsibility for the MCCG website, and social media, Tracey is now also involved in helping out with many of our public activities such as the MCCG stalls at Kenmore Village, Brookfield Show, and Pullenvale Hall.

When Tracey gets time off from working on her PhD in Chemical Engineering, she is also a lively contributor to the monthly MCCG Committee meetings. Chairman Jim Pope says that, since being invited to join the Committee: "Tracey has been like a breath of fresh air—full of enthusiasm, and helpful suggestions. In particular, she has been instrumental in significantly expanding our online presence, in areas where we have lacked expertise in the past."

Tracey and her family returned to Australia from Hong Kong in December 2017, and purchased a 2.5acre bush block in Pullenvale. A complete contrast to the concrete and traffic of Hong Kong, the family felt this is an ideal place to bring their two teenagers up to be Australians.

For several years, Tracey was running an environmental NGO, focused on plastic marine pollution. Work included showing students the problems of plastic pollution, *and* then connecting students to the beauty and biodiversity of the beaches and sea. The tragic human impacts on marine life fuelled Tracey's interest in seeking solutions to the global plastic rubbish problem, resulting in her researching biodegradable plastics for her PhD.

Tracey's NGO experience has a direct bearing on her interest in bringing the work of the MCCG to the attention of the public. "Whether it's a Hong Kong harbour, or Moggill Creek and its catchment, people need to connect with their environment before they will value and look after it," she said. "We are lucky to be living in this biodiverse part of Brisbane."

Tracey is using Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to help us to reach a wider audience, and has produced some fun videos of work on our replanting projects. On joining the MCCG, Tracey was very surprised at the number of activities and events that the section leaders, committee members, and volunteers have taken on—as well as the huge amount of energy, passion, expertise, and commitment there is within

the group. She is incredibly supportive of the large number of activities of the MCCG. As Tracey observed, "We don't need more activities, we just need to get more people involved and reach a wider range of locals, especially the schools."



Picture: Tracey Read (picture supplied by Tracey)

Tracey has found being involved with the MCCG is a wonderful way to meet a large number of interesting people, and to learn a lot about managing their own heavily vegetated property. "Volunteering my time and skills has been a great way to really feel part of and give back to our community."

Ed Frazer

Bush Bites: Ladybirds

Ed Frazer's latest *Bush Bite* is a fascinating introduction to a new Ladybird Field Guide, soon to be available on the MCCG Website.

When I started working on an MCCG Ladybird Field Guide, I thought I might find about eight species on my own property. In a relatively short time I found over 20 species.

Ladybirds are just as prevalent in the gardens in Kenmore as in the large properties of Brookfield and Pullenvale, so they are easy to find if you look closely. Many ladybirds are important beneficial insects, helping control pests on citrus, and for some organically grown vegetable crops (such as broccoli and cucumbers). There are two species locally that eat plants, but their damage is minimal.



Picture: A common spotted ladybird feeding on aphids which are oblivious of the danger and even climbing over their predator (Picture credit: Ed Frazer).



Picture: A Red chilocoris ladybird, feeding on young scale insects on a grapefruit leaf. This species is sold for biological control of several varieties of scale in the citrus industry (Picture credit: Ed Frazer).

Many of the most colourful species feed almost exclusively on aphids, on a wide range of plants that includes roses, hibiscus, and some vegetables.

Another important group of Ladybirds eat scale insects, which are important pests on citrus, roses, and several native plants.

The fourth group feed on Mealybugs, which are an important pest of a wide range of commercial crops, and even on native plants. These ladybirds are most easily found on some of our Brisbane Box trees, and



Picture: A Fungus-eating ladybird grazing on powdery mildew, under a pumpkin leaf (Picture credit: Ed Frazer).

their larva are an amazing imitation of a mealybug. The Fungus-eating ladybird is the sole fungus specialist. It eats powdery mildew, which is a major crop disease of a number of vegetables and other plants (occurring when temperatures fall and moisture condenses on the leaves in the mornings). The mildew is commonly found under the leaves of pumpkins, as the fruit are ripening, and it is thought that the beetles can detect powdery mildew by smell.

The full *Bush Bite* on Ladybirds, with more photographs, is on our website, and the new MCCG Ladybird Guide will be on-line soon.

Ed Frazer