



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

MCCG NEWSLETTER Summer 2021

As confirmed in the Spring 2021 Newsletter, Jim Pope has now completed his term, and stepped down after four valuable years as our Chairman (*see page 2*). We also thank Kathleen Walmsley, MCCG Secretary, who also plans to step down soon, due to other commitments.

Malcolm Frost (Interim Chair) reminds all Members that, as an Incorporated Association, the MCCG NEEDS a Chairman and a Secretary in order to continue to operate. We are therefore *delighted* that Alexander (Sandy) Pollock has accepted Jim and Malcolm's nomination as our new Chair, subject to Member approval at our February AGM. As Members will note from the brief biography included in this Newsletter, Sandy is highly-qualified for this role (*turn to page 3 for more about Sandy*). And we all hope that there will be a nominee for the role of Secretary, and also future volunteers to join the Management Committee.

So, if YOU are considering helping out, please contact Malcom Frost direct (*turn to page 3 for details*).

Come along to the AGM to welcome Sandy. The AGM will be held on 17 February 2022 (7pm, Brookfield Hall).



Your latest issue: A Warm Welcome (p3), *Bush Bite* (p7), Chairman's Report (p3), *Froggin' Around* (p9), Moggill Magic (p10), Old Gold Creek Sawmill Forest Walk (p6), Past Chairman's Report (p2), 'Photo Comp' (p3-6), Seeds & Weeds (p10), *Threatened Species* (p8). **Image:** The 2021 Photo Competition top award winner, 'Fairy Wren' (Mandy Watson, p4)

Immediate Past Chairman's Report

We had to postpone the MCCG AGM scheduled for 25th November, because the Committee had been unable to identify any nominees for the positions of Chairperson and Secretary. Fortunately, I think we now have found an excellent candidate for our Chairperson.

After 4 years as Chairman, I am no longer able to continue, for a range of reasons, both personal and practical. Kathleen Walmsley would also like to relinquish the role of Secretary, due to other commitments, but has agreed to continue for the time being. The role of Chairperson primarily involves chairing the monthly MCCG Management Committee meetings and acting as a front-person for the organisation as a whole. Several members of the current management committee have occupied the position in the past, so anyone taking on the role would receive plenty of support and advice. However, we desperately need some 'new blood'.

Without a Chairperson and Secretary, MCCG would not be able to operate. It is with great relief therefore that Sandy Pollock has agreed to be nominated for the position of Chairman in 2022. Sandy is a Senior Ecologist at the Queensland Herbarium, and is also Weed Spotters Network Queensland Coordinator. He is a long-standing MCCG member and lives locally in Kenmore. With his background as a botanist he is very well qualified for the role of chairman, and I feel sure he will do an excellent job.

Finally, I would like to thank the MCCG Committee and Membership for their support over the last four years. In particular I would like to thank our excellent Secretary, Kathleen Walmsley, Treasurer, Alan Walmsley and PR Officer and Website Coordinator Tracey Read for their outstanding service. *Jim Pope*



Above: Jim Pope (left) presenting Ed Frazer with his 2020 Chairman's Choice prize (Ed's image was 'My Friend 'Kook').

Editorial

There are two changes to the format of this issue. We had so many wonderful stories from 'Photo Comp' entrants that **this online version is much longer than the print copy**. In addition, there is extended news about our Incorporated Association, and the need for new Committee volunteers. I am sure everyone will join me in thanking Malcolm for stepping in as Interim Chair, and welcoming Sandy Pollock as our incoming Chair. Certainly, Kathleen Walmsley has set the bar high, but we also hope that there will soon be a candidate for the role of Secretary, enabling Kathleen to focus on other commitments.

The absolute deadline for the next issue is 10 March 2022. Start now! Don't wait until the deadline to [email me](#). And let's all hope that the front cover story is about our new Committee Members. *Cathi*

Date Claimers:

1. AGM: 17 February, 2022.
2. The next MCCG Public Talk will be held on 17 March 2022

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.

Interim Chairman: Malcolm Frost

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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Chairman's Report

We all must give a big vote of thanks to our retiring Chairman, Jim Pope. Jim's energy and dedication throughout the last four years has allowed MCCG to continue to flourish. Not only has his lower section of Moggill Creek shown much progress, with many volunteers adding considerable value to the riparian zones, but he has also initiated the creation of another volunteer group downstream in Rowena Park, adjacent to Rafting Ground Reserve.

Jim's leadership, as Chairman of the Management Group, has resulted in the smooth and successful operation of activities—including the Kids' Day, the MCCG Nursery, the annual MCCG Photographic Competition, our website, and MCCG Newsletters. The finances of the group are strong, and the membership of about 500 is by far the most numerous of any community catchment group in Brisbane. Jim has given so much to our local community and to the catchment. Whatever Jim decides to do in the future, we wish him well.

I am delighted that Sandy Pollock has agreed to accept our nomination. Subject to Member support at the February AGM, Sandy will make a great Chairman, and we are all looking forward to working with Sandy, and to benefit from Sandy's expertise.

We are still looking for a nominee to undertake the role of Secretary. Kathleen Walmsley would like to step down, following her term as Secretary. This is a key role, and we are all certain that there are a number of our Members who would be more than capable of joining our Committee as Kathleen's successor. If YOU are considering volunteering to help us, *please* come and see me. I'll explain what these positions entail, and would be delighted to support you in joining the Committee, particularly if you can volunteer as our secretary! Contact me: mr.frost@bigpond.net.au, or on 041 833 2409. **After all, the MCCG needs 'new blood' on the Committee to ensure we can operate for the next 25 years, and beyond.**

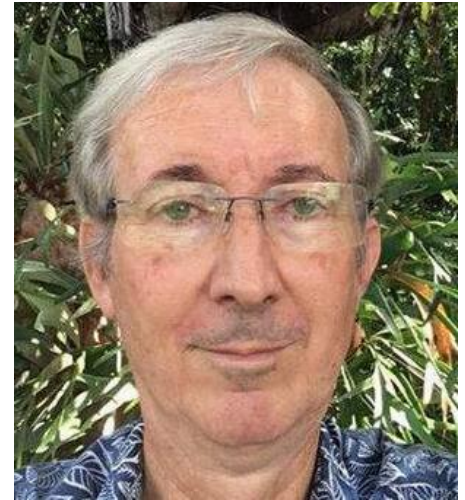
Malcolm Frost (Interim Chairman)

A Warm Welcome

All Members will extend a warm welcome to our Incoming Chairman (appointment subject to Member approval at the AGM). As briefly outlined below, Sandy brings a wealth of valuable experience and expertise to the MCCG Alexander (Sandy) Pollock has a long history of plant and ecological knowledge. Sandy studied botany at the University of New England in Armidale, NSW, and was employed as a botanist in East Gippsland

(Victoria), a QPWS ranger in central Queensland in Mackay, and finally as a senior botanist and vegetation mapper at the Queensland Herbarium. Such broad experiences in plants and their habitats continues to this day, and Sandy finds the curiosity and thrill of encountering new plants never fades.

Sandy (*pictured, right*) brings extensive skills and experiences on plant knowledge and community engagement to the MCCG, having worked on the Plant Identification Service in the Queensland Herbarium since 1997, helping the public with their



plant queries. Previously he was involved in control measures for the Weeds of National Significance (WONS) rubber vine and Parkinsonia while a QPWS ranger in Mackay, among many other duties. Sandy has been involved in tree-planting works since 1986, assisting with the nursery for the Armidale Tree Group as a volunteer (and undergraduate), and then working on revegetation assessments following logging within East Gippsland in the Victorian Department of Conservation Forests and Lands. Later work involved attempting to revegetate part of the hills below Eungella township, west of Mackay, and planting beach she-oaks at Slade Point, on the Mackay coast. Sandy is experienced in dealing with many environmental consultants, local councils, State Government entities, and interested individuals. He has a consultative and team-based approach to undertaking environmental projects, and also a broad knowledge of the local natural history of the Moggill Creek district.

MCCG Photography Competition

I think I can safely say that the 2021 MCCG Photography Competition was a resounding success! The Photography Competition Committee had very positive feedback from the photographers (and parents of the Young Persons photographers), the judge revelled in his judging duties (thanks again to our 2021 Judge, Geoff Lawrence), and the visitors to Kenmore Village who stopped to check out the photos during display week were spoilt with diverse, high-quality photos. Several sponsors (or their

representatives) attended the prize ceremony and seemed to enjoy the proceedings just as much as the winning photographers. To provide a quick overview of this year's competition, we had:

- 📷 13 entrants submit 64 open category photos;
- 📷 12 kids submit 19 photos for the digital Young Persons (grade 1-6) category;
- 📷 389 People's Choice (Open) votes cast over the six days of the display at Kenmore Village;
- 📷 378 votes (likes) tallied up over five days (Mon to Fri) on our Facebook and Instagram pages; and
- 📷 at least 9 new members sign up over display week.

A big thank you must go to the Photo Comp committee members whom I had the pleasure of working alongside again this year: Geoff Lawrence, Robyn Frost, Bruce Siemon, Janine Nicklin, Bostjan Kobe, and Tracey Read. Thanks to Dale, Tracey, and all the MCCG members who volunteered their time to man the display during the week And thanks again to our sponsors. Here's to 2022!

Rebecca Bain

From Behind the Lens

Congratulations to the 2021 entrants. Mandy Watson's striking front cover image won the top award (and 1st, Native Birds category). Enjoy reading about some of the winning entries, starting with Mandy's 'Fairy Wren.'

I had very few images of birds taken in the catchment during the last year. Earlier this month I went to Oxley Creek Common, just to see what I may get, forever hopeful that it might be suitable material to submit to the MCCC Photography Comp. I knew when this lady was hopping around rather close to me that if I could focus quick enough, then I should get good detail. It was only once I got home and looked at my images did I see that she had been collecting dog hair for her nest!

Mandy Watson

Ava MacGeorge (year 6) won 1st Prize in the Young Persons category ('Juvenile Python')

Earlier this year, my Papa and I had a walk in the backyard after dinner as we like to see what animals are out at this time. An abundance of native animals are nocturnal.

As we walked down the side of the house, I looked up and there I saw the juvenile carpet python, right there on a piece of timber above our heads, which gave me a fright. He was only a few centimetres from the top of Papa's head. We were really happy to see him. I was so surprised and impressed to see the python right there, with the beautiful colours and markings (shapes) on the skin. Those stunning eyes were



looking at me, but I did not feel threatened nor did the python worry that I was there. The bright light had made a shadow of the python against the brick wall, and I began to think to myself, it was a beautiful scene and an opportunity not to be missed by taking a photograph (see Ava's image, above).

I named him Jeff, as he seemed to suit this name. I took the photo and captured the shadow in the background. I was amazed to see how he had wrapped himself around the timber in such an unusual manner that I had not seen pythons in this way. He was beautifully positioned and shaped, in addition, his markings were vivid in the light.

The python appealed to me, as a naturalist and a photographer and an artist. I feel that it is an honour to have wildlife and nature in our gardens, it means that they are happy there and comfortable with sharing this space with us, together.

Jeff is still around as Mama and Papa went into the roof space of the house and we found his shredded skin hanging from inside the roof. Clearly, Jeff is happy sharing the space with us and getting bigger.

Ava MacGeorge

Emily Laing (year 4) was awarded 3rd place in the Young Persons category for 'Morning Dew.'

This photo (*overleaf*) was taken shortly after sunrise on Wednesday. The grass was wet with dew, and I went



to the garden to look for photos. I found this spider web glistening in the morning light. I was astounded at the unusual heart shape in the centre, looking something like the shimmering necklace I received for my birthday. Out of all my photos, I singled out that one, as the morning sun and dew make a nice touch to the spider web. It was so detailed; you could see all the individual dew drops, all in line and evenly spaced out. There were lots of other webs, but the one I chose was better than the rest. *Emily Laing*

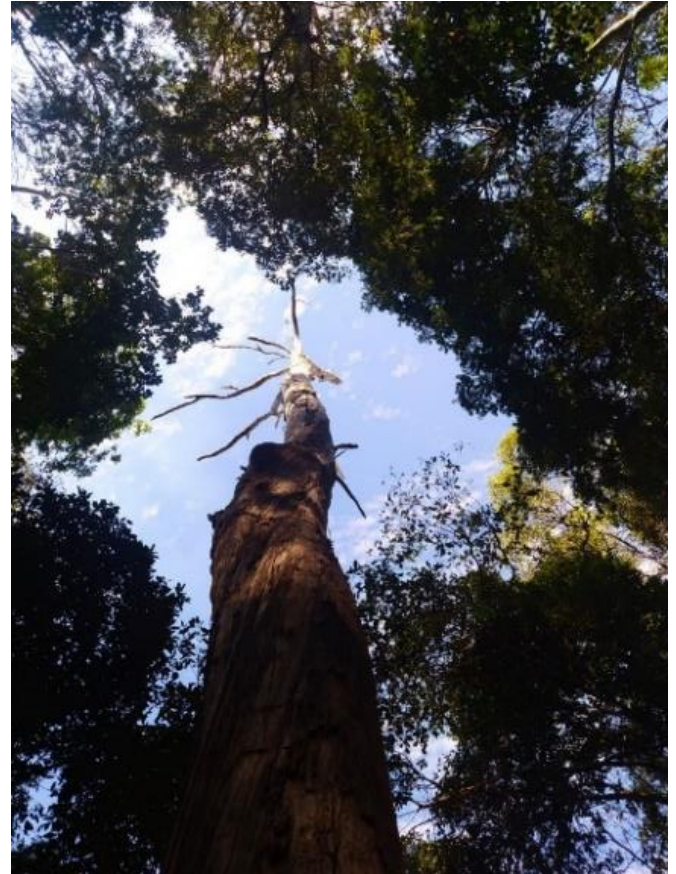
Lyuna Kim (grade 6) won 'Young Persons' Chairman's Choice' with 'Need Some Rest.'



I took this photo in my garden (Brookfield, *above*). It was a very hot and sunny day. The white butterfly sat on a leaf. She looked like she was resting under the shade. *Lyuna Kim*

Amelia Seeber (Grade 1) 2nd place, Young Person's Category. Proud Mum, Amber, shares some 'Fallen Crown' background.

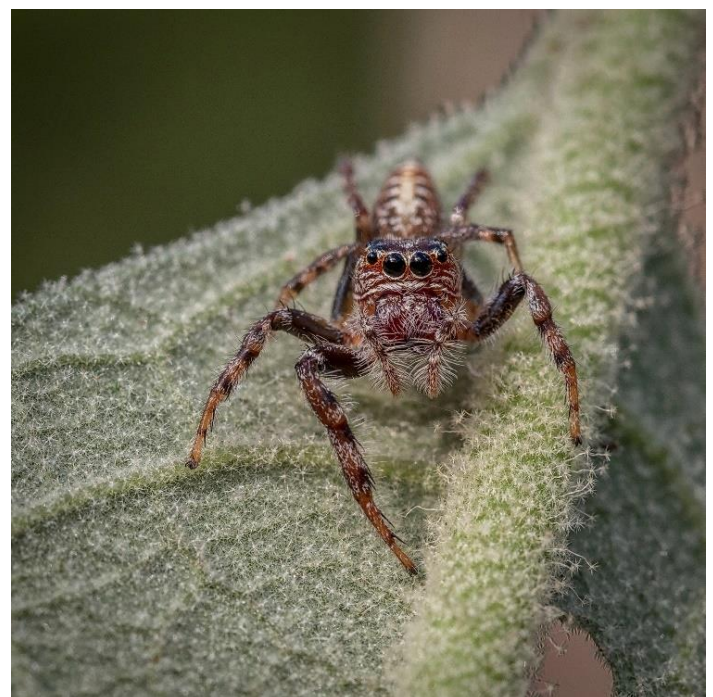
When we were thinking about places to go for this competition we decided on JC Slaughter Falls, as it is one of our favourite places to go hiking in Brisbane. We started on the Hovea Track, and Amelia was very interested in taking macro photos of all the flowers and spider webs that she could find. As we walked



along the trail, I reminded her to look up into the trees and that was when she noticed a huge dead tree on the side of the trail (*above*). She thought that the gap it left in the canopy was really cool and so decided to take a photo.

Anne Love's 'Minute Jumping Spider' - 2nd place in Native Animals (excluding birds)

I am actually surprised that the spider (*below*) was placed; not many people can see the beauty in spiders!



This tiny Jumping Spider (Upper Brookfield) is smaller than a grain of rice. *Anne Love*

Tracey Read sent through background on two winning photos.

The 'Steel-Blue Sawfly Larvae' (*below*, 1st place in 'Native Animals, excluding birds') was only around for a day on my Eucalyptus tree, but long enough to photograph and watch for a bit—from a distance!



'Chocolate and Marshmallow Fungi' (2nd place, Native Plants and Fungi, *below*) was located at the base of a

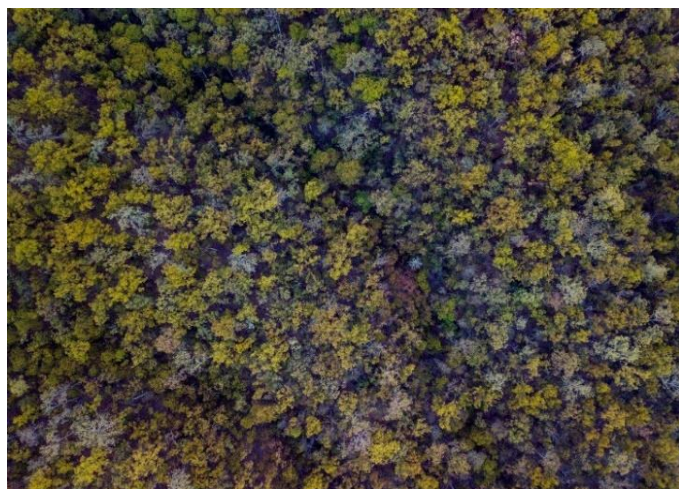


large Fig Tree at The University of Queensland. It was so huge and beautiful and looked like toasted marshmallow with chocolate!

I enjoyed seeing it while it lasted. *Tracey Read*

Alan Hayter won 1st Prize in Native Plants & Fungi with 'Our Backyard'

Living in Upper Brookfield has many pleasures, especially being able to share this amazing forest with the plants, animals, birds and the local humans who inhabit it.



This vertical drone shot, 'Our Backyard: Pullen Pullen Creek tributary' (*above*, Camera: DJI Drone Mavic Pro Platinum) was taken directly after some storms passed through, providing some unique lighting for the image. *Alan Hayter*

Drone Research

Hello! I am a James Cook University PhD student, researching barriers to the use of drones in conservation and environmental management. I have designed a 15-minute survey aimed at discovering how drones are currently being used by conservation & environmental managers/ environmental community groups, and would be grateful for responses (visit: [https://jcu.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9v7bIUyexBRRLxk](https://jcu syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9v7bIUyexBRRLxk)).

Thank you.

Sophie Walker

Old Gold Creek Sawmill Forest Walk

As promised in the last newsletter. Definitely worth waiting for—and do visit the [website](#) article, which has great volunteer photos.

The Old Gold Creek Sawmill Forest Walk is now open, and we encourage members to have a look. Helped by a grant from the Federal Government's 'Communities Environment Program,' a few MCCG volunteers got together to open up a sinuous walking track through forest at the end of Gold Creek Road, Brookfield, close to the MCCG Cottage. About 80 species of tree, close to the track, have been labelled. Work is now underway to label many more, as there are at least 100 species in that bit of forest—a striking

representation of local species. The track goes past what remains of the sawmill that operated here from 1919 to 1923. It is on Seqwater land, and our activities are under an MoU between Seqwater and the MCCG. There are two easy access points, the top entry is close to and just to the SE of the Catchment Cottage, the lower entry is just inside the cottage's 'back gate' (see photomap). The track is wide, and gradients are gentle. There is no mobile coverage here, so there is no on-site access to more information about labelled trees via the list of species on the [website](#).



Above: Walk map, created by volunteers Bob Dale and Peter McMahon

The forest had become so overgrown with lantana and numerous other weeds that few people ever ventured into it, but some of us thought making it easily accessible would be worthwhile. Perhaps a person getting plants from our Nursery might like to see a larger specimen in the forest close by? Perhaps some people would like to learn about the local trees from an easily accessible labelled collection? Perhaps some would just enjoy a pleasant walk through the forest? And it might be appreciated by bird watchers.

With our funding we were able to employ weeding contractors to 'break the back' of the work needed to get rid of the largest weeds, and also to purchase a substantial number of labels suitable for trees. We made the track, and maintain it, using a brush cutter. We left the weedy ground cover (mostly Freckleface and Coral Berry) which now help define the track, and by leaving them we avoided the use of herbicides. There is more information on the website, including a list of labelled trees (www.moggillcreek.org.au/events-activities/forest-walk/), Future work is planned, including the installation of some possum boxes, labelling of many of the smaller trees close to the track, and installing a couple of simple seats along the walk. We are also looking at geocoding locations of trackside trees, plus others of general interest, using the what3words app. Thanks to all those who joined

me in contributing to the planning and development of the track: Warren Hoey, Dick Tumman, Kees and Tina Heybroek, Andrew Wilson, Cathie and Adrian Mortimer, Keith Rickart, Tracey Read, Andrew Ness, Robert Dale, Peter McMahon, and Jan Grigg.

If any members would like to be involved in any part of this project I will be pleased to hear from you (contact me at g.grigg@uq.edu.au). *Gordon Grigg*

Bush Bites: Lacewings

For the longer version of Ed Frazer's latest Bush Bite, and more of Ed's stunning images, do visit the MCCG Website. This is just a 'taster'!

Lacewings are a diverse and interesting group, but little is published on the life history of this interesting group. Equipped with highly effective 'fangs,' lacewings are vicious predators for many insects (including pests), and are an important part of the insect fauna in our catchment area.



The eggs are unusual in that they are usually laid in rows under leaves hanging from slender stalks (see Ed's photo, above). The hatched larvae vary hugely.



ABOVE: Lacewing larva with camouflage (Ed Frazer)

One group, the Ant Lions, live in dry areas, such as under the eaves of a house, where they build a steep-sided inverted cone in the soil. Ants that fall into the cone struggle to get out, and are captured and eaten

by the Ant Lion, which lies concealed at the bottom of the cone.

Another group attach objects to their backs and move around on the ground or on the stems of plants, well-camouflaged as they track down aphids and larvae of other insects.



The group of Split-footed Lacewings (see Ed's image, above) is now only found in Australasia. Some of their larvae adorn their backs with camouflage litter, but others live on the undersides of leaves (usually near creeks) feeding on anything they can trap in their fearsome jaws. Adult Lacewings range in size from c.1cm to 5cm. All have translucent, heavily-veined wings. Most are highly predacious in the larval and adult stages, with efficient jaws.

Ed Frazer

Did you participate in Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count?

To keep up to date with all things butterfly, visit www.brisbanesbigbutterflycount.org.au/, or follow their fascinating Facebook page (@BrisbanesBigButterflyCount).

Brisbane Catchments Network (BCN) and its member groups last year started a community driven butterfly census for Brisbane. BCN's Biodiversity Strategy is based on the understanding that to protect our natural wealth we need to gain knowledge about it first. What a great opportunity for us to join in and identify which butterflies are in our own local catchment.

My photo, below, shows two "blue" triangle butterflies, which are different species. On the left is Blue Triangle *Graphium sarpedon* whose caterpillars need native laurels such as *Cryptocarya* and *Neolitsea*.



On the right is a Pale Green Triangle *Graphium eurypylas* (in its freshly out blue stage), which needs different food plants for its young (*Melodorum*).

Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count has an illustrated flyer depicting 31 common and easy to identify Brisbane butterflies, which is an excellent help, but it has only 31 species and Brisbane is known to have over 160. 94 species were found in the 2020/2021 surveys. On the flyer, the Tick boxes serve for quantity allocation as well as identification, but we are interested in counting the number of butterfly species rather than number of butterflies.

Many of you will have seen the Gardening Australia program segment about BBBC activities butterfly chasing. We are hoping to find our own enthusiasts happy to swing a net, and we especially want to find members who are expert, or already know quite a bit about butterflies, to help with onsite identifications.

If you can help, please [email me](#)

Dale Borgelt

Threatened Species

With the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, where nearly 200 countries signed up to *The Glasgow Climate Pact*, the potential impacts of climate change on threatened species is a relevant topic to explore.

The potential impact of a global increase of temperatures of a few degrees may seem insignificant, but for our species that are already at risk of extinction, it could be the pressure that sends them over the edge.

There are only a few species that will likely succumb to the stresses of increases temperature directly. Some plants and aquatic species that are temperature sensitive will not be able to cope and we will most certainly lose some populations. But it is the *indirect* implications of global warming that will have far reaching impacts, for far more species, due to changes in climatic extremes, and subsequent food and resource availability.

Models are predicting that southeast Queensland will be hotter (with more frequent very hot days), and reduced rainfall overall, but with more intense downpours. It will exacerbate the frequency of climate extremes we already experience, such as floods and droughts, and there will be harsher fire weather.

We are already seeing problems for species where temperature determines the sex of the offspring. For example, the sex of marine turtle hatchlings is determined by nest temperatures and rising temperatures are resulting in over feminisation (more

females than males). Too many of either sex is potentially a problem for any species and though the repercussions will not be felt for decades, we can predict a devastating outcome if this trend continues. Work is underway to trial ways to cool nests, but this is not the only threat faced by turtles that comes with climate change. There are also predicted increased sea levels and more catastrophic weather like cyclones that will impact nesting beach profiles and availability. Some coastal beaches and islands will erode away and disappear completely.

More droughts and bushfires are also predicted for much of Australia. Fires will be more intense and more extensive. This will definitely be detrimental for many species already on the brink of extinction in Queensland.

The bushfires the summer of 2019-20 was a preview of this issue, especially in southeast Queensland where we don't normally experience the types of conditions that led to those fires. Vegetation communities, that have never experienced fire, burnt and their capacity to bounce back remains unknown. Although most Australian vegetation communities are adapted to fire, or even need fire to regenerate, frequent intense widespread fire is beyond their tolerances. Our response to this increased risk will of course be to undertake measures to protect life and property—like increased prescribed burning and clearing fuel in strategic areas—but this too may inadvertently be detrimental to many species. We are still understanding the implications for many species impacted by the 2019-20 fires and continue to combat the post-fire threats like increased weeds, introduced animals, and altered habitat.

We are reliant on our global community to combat carbon emissions which will ultimately determine the level of change in our climate, but what can we do locally?

We need to *plan* for these extreme events that will be more frequent, and understand *how* to respond to them while also protecting important wildlife refuges. For a few species it might be possible to move the most vulnerable populations, but for most threatened species this is not a plausible solution. In the meantime, we need to continue to battle the threats we can manage in the hope of making these at risk species more resilient to future climate change.

Dr Manda Page

Froggin' Around: Summer

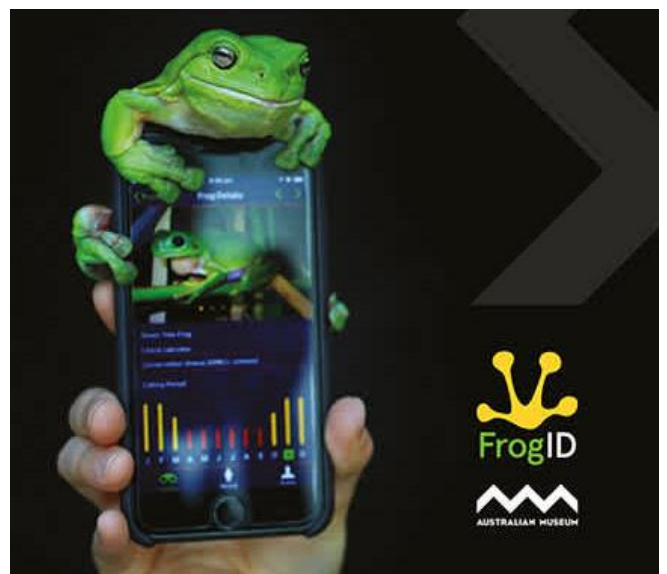
The creek has been flowing with the recent rains. I have heard the faint whirring call of stony creek frogs, the tuk-tuking of striped marsh frogs, and the soft

clucking of tusked frogs. Waterholes have filled, and numerous tadpoles of stony creek frogs are present.

For some time now I have been restoring our local creek, part of the upper reaches of Moggill Creek—removing sediment build-up and some creek-bed rocks, to reform the banks (*see picture, below*). With time, the lower bank will be stabilised with native grasses, lomandras, and rushes, to reduce erosion. Shrubs will provide turbulence, to reduce the speed of the water, and trees planted on the mid/higher bank will provide scaffolding (to protect the bank). With the re-formed waterholes, native wildlife of all types will continue to exist, such as the frogs and even platypus. The creek is an important breeding site of specific frog



species—and is a refuge for others, acting as a conduit between sites. Dams are another habitat, where resident eastern sedge frogs sit on the reeds, and striped marsh and tusked frogs call from among the lilies. During the rains, I heard graceful and green tree frogs calling. They are looking for temporary water, such as the ephemeral pools, drain lines, and ditches, which are dry most of the year. But I am aware that, after the dry summer, emerald spotted and great barred frogs are no longer found at my local sites.



In other news, the annual FrogID Week, Australia's Biggest Frog Count (12-21 Nov.), helps us better understand frog distributions and frog population health across the continent.

Recording frog calls through the free **FrogID app**, the FrogID Week aims to monitor Australia's frogs. This helps us to understand how frogs and their ecosystems are responding to threats such as climate change, habitat loss, and disease.

Even if the same frog, from the same pond, dam, or stream every day, every call submitted during FrogID Week helps contribute to our annual 'audioshot' of Australia's unique frog species.

Phil Bird

Seeds: Native Witch-hazel

Having a significant area of native forest on our property, as well as some areas which I have planted with local natives, I sometimes go for a wander to see what is about. Late in October, I was delighted to see a shrub of Native Witch-hazel (*Turraea pubescens*)—which I had planted more than 15 years ago—in full flower and truly spectacular, with scores of showy white flowers along the mostly leafless branches (*see below*). Flowers were highly-perfumed, with five narrow petals and the anthers combined in a tube, surrounding the style.



We published an article on this species in the Autumn 2010 Newsletter, with a photo from the same shrub. Despite now being around 15 years old, it has never flowered as spectacularly as it has done in 2021. Will it produce seed? I do not recall us having seedlings at our Nursery, but perhaps.....?

Native witch-hazel is a deciduous shrub or small tree growing to a height of 3m, occurring in dry rainforests in our region. Leaves are 5-10cm long, 2-4.5cm wide, both surfaces minutely velvety hairy, especially when young. Fruit are reported to carry up to five seeds.

It is in the family Meliaceae, as is the more common white cedar tree.

Bryan Hacker

Weeds: Creeping Lantana

We have all heard of lantana, a widespread weedy shrub which has invaded woodlands through much of South East Queensland. At least on smaller properties, it is comparatively easy to control, by hand or the cut stump method.

Far more difficult to control, though, is creeping lantana, *Lantana montevidensis* (*see below*).



This is truly a 'groundcover' plant: a trailing herbaceous plant with stems rooting at the nodes and opposite hairy leaves up to 2cm long, with toothed margins. Leaves have a strong smell when crushed, and the flowers are purple and clustered in small heads. In eucalypt woodlands, it is very competitive with most native ground cover species. Controlling by hand is recommended but, as it roots at the nodes, it is easy to leave parts of the plant behind. For chemical control, I use AFFRAY 300, which is also recommended for Mother of Millions and does not affect grasses. Also recommended for creeping lantana are the herbicides Hotshot, Grazon Extra, Lantana 600, Flagship 200, Starane Advanced, Brushoff + Roundup and Fightback (all as foliar sprays).

BCC lists this as a Category 3 plant "which must not be distributed or disposed."

Bryan Hacker

Moggill Magic: MCCG Nursery

Ed Frazer's popular Moggill Magic feature has highlighted the work of many individuals who are making significant contributions to the catchment. In this issue, Ed highlights the important volunteer work at the Nursery.

With few resources, but an amazing amount of effort, skill, and knowhow, the MCCG Nursery volunteers are providing about 16,000 plants each year—encouraging the growth of a marvellous range of local native plant species.

The foresight of the MCCG Committee, in establishing a nursery to supply free native plants from the area, was a bold move that has made a huge contribution to MCCG's success. Plants from the nursery have formed the basis for many successful rehabilitation projects in the suburbs of Kenmore, Chapel Hill, Brookfield, and

Pullenvale. The nursery supplies plants free of charge to members of the Cubberla-Witton Catchment Network and Pullen Pullen Catchment Group, as well as to MCCG Members and bushcare groups.

The success of the nursery has been due to the efforts of a number of people. It is very important to acknowledge that the direction of the late Graeme Wilson—and also now of his son, Andrew Wilson—and the work of our Landcare Adviser, Bryan Hacker, has been indispensable. But everyone involved knows that none of it would have been successful without the great group of volunteers who turn up twice each month to propagate the local trees, shrubs, and creepers (*see Ed's photo, below*). Some of the volunteers have been involved since the nursery's inception, 21 years ago, and they have tremendous expertise and propagating skills that they pass on to newer volunteers.

My recent visit was very enlightening. There were 20 volunteers—all sowing seeds, potting up seedlings, weeding, making up soil mixture, and preparing a new stock plant growing area. What impressed me was the genuine pleasure the volunteers were getting from working together. The transfer of ideas and skills, from the more experienced to the new helpers, was obvious—and where a problem was outside the group's experience they 'tapped' Andrew Wilson's remarkable knowledge of our local plants.

From talking with several volunteers it was obvious there was a huge socialising and friendship aspect of the regular twice-monthly activity. Everyone seemed to be familiar with the tasks and some of the experienced volunteers had more specialised responsibilities, and some undertook leadership roles with the different groups. Some newer volunteers told me that joining the group had been an excellent way to get an understanding of the local plants, and a way to meet locals when they moved from interstate.

As a nursery owner myself I was amazed at the quality and quantity of the plants produced. This was especially so with what can only be described as the minimum of facilities, when compared with a commercial operation. While I was there ten visitors arrived and were supplied with about 500 free plants. Not only did they get the plants, but also received a lot of valuable information from Bryan Hacker.

The work of this enthusiastic and important voluntary group is **Moggill Magic at its best.**

Ed Frazer

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.

