



# MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

## MCCG NEWSLETTER Summer 2022



**ABOVE:** Almost all of the MCCG Photo Comp team, pictured just after the conclusion of the 2022 Prize Presentations (L to R: Bruce, Tracey, Rebecca [MCCG Photo Comp Organiser], Geoff, Robyn and Bostjan). *Picture credit: Cathi Lawrence. See pages 4-5 for more*



**ABOVE:** The AGM cake, celebrating MCCG's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday (MCCG turned 25 in June). 25 must be a magic number, as this is also the 25<sup>th</sup> issue of the MCCG Newsletter edited by Dr Catherine Lawrence (Cathi). *Picture credit: Chris Bruton.*



**PR Officer VACANCY**  
**YOUR Help needed. NOW.**  
*Turn to page 3 for more....*



**ABOVE:** Anne Love's 'Trooping Crumble Cap' was awarded First Prize in the *Native Plants and Fungi* category.

**LEFT:** Melanie Harris submitted a number of 'Photo Comp' entries this year, including this 'Cute Koala' entry into the '*Native Animals (excluding birds)*' category (*image credit: Melanie Harris...Koala spotting credit goes to Melanie's husband!*).

*See page 4-5 for more from some of our 2022 competitors.*

**Your latest issue includes:** *Bush Bite* (p9), *Froggin' Around* (p8), *KSHS Environmental Update* (p7-8), *Membership Hello* (p3), *Moggill Magic* (p10), *Mountain Bike Impacts* (p3-4), *Old Gold Creek Sawmill Forest Walk Opening* (p10), '*Photo Comp*' (p4-5), *Platypus Survey* (p6-7), *PR Support Needed* (p3), *REPA Donation* (p3), *Report from the Chair* (p2), *Seeds & Weeds* (p10), *Threatened Species* (p6), *Welcome to our New MP* (p9)

## Report from the Chair

Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) held its Annual General Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, at the much-loved Brookfield Hall. The meeting was attended by over 40 members and guests, including Dr Christian Rowan MP, the State Member for Moggill. In usual business, a new management committee was established, the accounts explained, and actions of 2022 outlined.

In addition, we had the fascinating and engaging talk by eminent Lepidopterist Dr Trevor Lambkin, on the mistletoe butterflies of Brisbane, and their intimate and beautiful relationships with both those hemi-parasitic plants and with native Australian ants. This talk gave a good background to the clouds of butterflies passing through on summer migrations, as warmer weather always brings them out.

The AGM was an excellent opportunity to review and reflect on the outcomes and actions from all those individuals who combine to make the MCCG what it is, a hub for interest, care, education, and action for the natural values of the Moggill Creek district. Collectively, members have contributed to 56 working bees, grown and distributed over 15,000 plants, and engaged hundreds of children and adults with the local natural world. We've marvelled at, voted on, and wondered who would win the annual MCCG Photo-competition. We've read the many articles MCCG members have contributed to local publications, and liked and followed our favourite MCCG Instagram and Facebook posts. This all helps keep the natural environment front of mind, in the ongoing clamour for clicks, comments, and eyeballs in the modern multi-media world we now inhabit.

It's been quite a year, with the strong sharp floods of March 2022 and ongoing COVID concerns, but we've continued doing our thing—now for 25 years!

Thanks are extended to our wonderful Tracey Read, social media and PR genius, a very hardworking person and generous of her time. But for Tracey, we would not have a continuing social media presence (or talks, or stalls, or.....). Thanks also to Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside and Chris Bruton, our dynamic duo of Secretaries (x2), who have cheerfully kept minutes, correspondence, and memberships running smoothly (together with Suzanne Philp, our Membership Secretary).

Thanks also to Rebecca Bain and the crew who made the Photographic Competition such a success. The grins of prizewinning children were more rewarding to us than the prizes we handed them, so thank you for your efforts. Thanks also to Gordon Grigg, whose tireless efforts are leading to the successful opening of

the Old Sawmill Forest walk (and we look forward to Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP, Federal Member for Ryan, officially opening the walk). I would sincerely like to thank the Management Committee and Section Leaders for all their work, and for the support they've given me as the new Chairperson. I've enjoyed our discussions and am always amazed at the talent and experience the MCCG contains. Season's greetings to you all.

*Sandy Pollock*

## Editorial

Happy 25<sup>th</sup> 'birthday' to everyone involved with the MCCG. Here's to the next 25 years (and beyond) of making a real difference in our local environment.

Thank also to all of the contributors to this, my 25<sup>th</sup> issue as MCCG Newsletter Editor. **Please note** that the print issue is a much shorter (and less colourful) version of the Newsletter, as we had so much to include. Keep up the great work.

**The absolute deadline for the next issue is 10 March 2023.** Start now! [Email me with your stories and ideas for new features](#) I look forward to hearing from you.

*Cathi*

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

**Chairman: Sandy Pollock**

**Secretary: Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside (Secretary) and Chris Bruton (Assistant Secretary)**

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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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## PR Help Urgently Needed

I am still continuing with my roles maintaining the website and social media channels (and as a committee member), but I retired from the MCCG Public Relations (PR) role at the recent AGM.

The main PR tasks are organising our regular events—including coordinating our quarterly talks (refreshments, setting up the venue), supporting the 'Photo Comp' committee, and assisting with *Kids' Day at The Cottage*. The PR Officer is supported by fellow committee members, and by other event volunteers. MCCG is an incredible organisation to be a part of. We'd love you to bring your unique skill sets, energy, and enthusiasm to help. Please do [get in touch](#).

*Tracey Read*

## Membership Hello

**Great to see members stepping forward to take on key roles. Here's a quick introduction from Suzanne Philp, our Membership Secretary. Don't forget, if you know anyone who might join us, just point them to our [website](#). If you are yet to renew for 2022 (or want to renew for 2023), renewals can be made via the website (download & return your [membership form](#)).**

Hello! My name's Suzy, and I take care of the MCCG membership database. I have been a member of MCCG since 2010. I have participated in many Platypus surveys, and previously helped out with the Creek Health Monitoring Project. I live in Kenmore with my partner and 7-year-old on a medium-size suburban block (*see the lovely photo of Pedro, Suzy and*



*Elisa, left).* Despite our proximity to Kenmore Road, am constantly blown away by the wildlife found in our garden, including the southern boobook owl, fig

bird, pheasant coucal, eastern koel, tawny frogmouth, graceful treefrog, bush turkey, and red-bellied black snake, to name only a few.

When we bought the house, almost four years ago, there was a lot of exposed dirt and bark mulch, and our west-facing block felt hot and dry. With the fabulous plants from the MCCG Nursery (and other native nurseries around Brisbane) our block is slowly being transformed into an oasis for animals and

humans alike. While I currently work in Indigenous statistics, my degrees in zoology and environmental management have led to a lifelong interest in nature; I'm especially interested in how best to incorporate more local plant species into urban backyard environments. I am also interested in bush food and the family have been enjoying jam made from our Davidson Plum tree and native raspberry patch. Do email [mccgmemberships@gmail.com](mailto:mccgmemberships@gmail.com) with any membership queries. *Suzy (Suzanne Philip)*

## REPA Donation

The Rural Environment Planning Association (REPA) was formed by Western suburbs residents almost 50 years ago, to fight inappropriate development and to retain the natural/rural values that have helped protect our local lifestyle, environment, and wildlife. Following REPA's consultations earlier this year, members decided to close the Association.

I recently wrote to David McCullough (REPA Secretary) to express our sincere thanks for a very generous donation received from REPA, and to acknowledge REPA's vital service when raising many contentious issues regarding potential developments within our local environment. Notable issues have included the proposed Mt Coot-tha zipline, sealing Gap Creek Road, and limiting the impact and spread of townhouse development across the Kenmore and Brookfield area. REPA's impact has extended across very many issues within our local area, large and small—from interpreting the Brisbane City Council City Plan, through to consideration of the development of the Karana Downs Golf Course.

REPA's work to provide critical and timely information and advice has encouraged our community to respond to proposals that might adversely affect our special local environment. Importantly, REPA has ensured a focus on keeping our local environment at the forefront of planning matters (rather than an afterthought in major local proposed developments).

We greatly appreciate REPA's generosity in entrusting MCCG with the funds, which will be used to advance both MCCG and REPA's shared aspiration to preserve and enhance our most treasured and special local environment. *Sandy Pollock*

## Mountain Biking ?

The Brisbane Off-Road Cycling [Strategy](#) plans to develop mountain biking in nearly all of Brisbane's bushland reserves, but currently the intense focus is on Mt Coot-tha. Understandably there are concerns being expressed about bushland reserves being

available for the quiet and safe enjoyment of our natural environment, and an update is awaited as to possible future developments.

The online survey is now closed, but Members may like to review the Brisbane City Council information online, and to sign up for regular updates (see [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/mt-coot-tha-precinct/mt-coot-tha-reserve/mountain-bike-riding-on-mt-coot-tha/mt-coot-tha-reserve-mountain-bike-concept-plan-project](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/mt-coot-tha-precinct/mt-coot-tha-reserve/mountain-bike-riding-on-mt-coot-tha/mt-coot-tha-reserve-mountain-bike-concept-plan-project)).

Christine Hosking

## 2022 MCCG Photo Competition

**Congratulations, and thanks, to our very hard-working MCCG 'Photo Comp' organiser, Rebecca Bain, who provides this 2022 'wrap up.'**

The MCCG Photography Competition committee was proud to once again pull off a very successful event this year. As a quick 2022 overview, we had:

📷 22 entrants submit 82 photos (Open categories)

📷 14 kids submit 22 photos for the digital Young Persons (grade 1–6) category

📷 439 People's Choice (Open) votes cast over the six days of the display at Kenmore Village; and

📷 679 votes (likes) over five days on our Facebook and Instagram pages, selecting our Young Persons People's Choice winner.

Thanks must go to this year's judge, Martin Riley (President, [Queensland Camera Group](http://Queensland Camera Group)), who certainly had his work cut out. Thank you to Dale, Tracey, and all the MCCG members who manned the (very popular) display at Kenmore Village. Our local sponsors also deserve another round of thanks, and it is always so lovely to see their enthusiasm when presenting the awards at the prize ceremony. We were delighted with the number and range of photo entries this year, so three cheers for all of the photographers who took part! A final 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.

Rebecca Bain

## From Behind the Lens

**Congratulations to everyone who entered the 2022 MCCG Photo Competition. The display at Kenmore Village was a glorious demonstration of the beauty of our natural environment, and of the skills of our local photographers. Some of the entrants kindly supplied their images for us**

**to use in the Newsletter (together with a little information from 'behind the lens'). Thanks to Rebecca Bain for sending all of these through.**

Melanie Harris credits family support for the lovely 'Cute Koala' image, featured on our front cover, noting "My husband should definitely get a mention here. He is the Koala whisperer. He has a new hobby of spotting Koalas in the Anstead area, and of course I have snapped a few photos including this one. Isn't it adorable?!" Melanie is pictured, below, receiving congratulations from Sandy Pollock following the



award of 'Chairman's Choice (Open)' Prize for the image of a Red browed Finch (spotted in the Anstead Reserve, hiding among the twigs).

Anne Love provides a little more information about 'Trooping Crumble Cap' (front cover image). Noting that "it is also known as Fairy Inkcap," Anne adds that "it is found growing in wooded areas, this example was found in our yard in Upper Brookfield. The species was named by Jakob Emanuel Lange in 1939. Although edible it is not recommended."

Congratulations, Anne (pictured below, at the awards ceremony, receiving the congratulations of Cr Greg Adermann, category sponsor [award presentation images credit: Geoff Lawrence]).



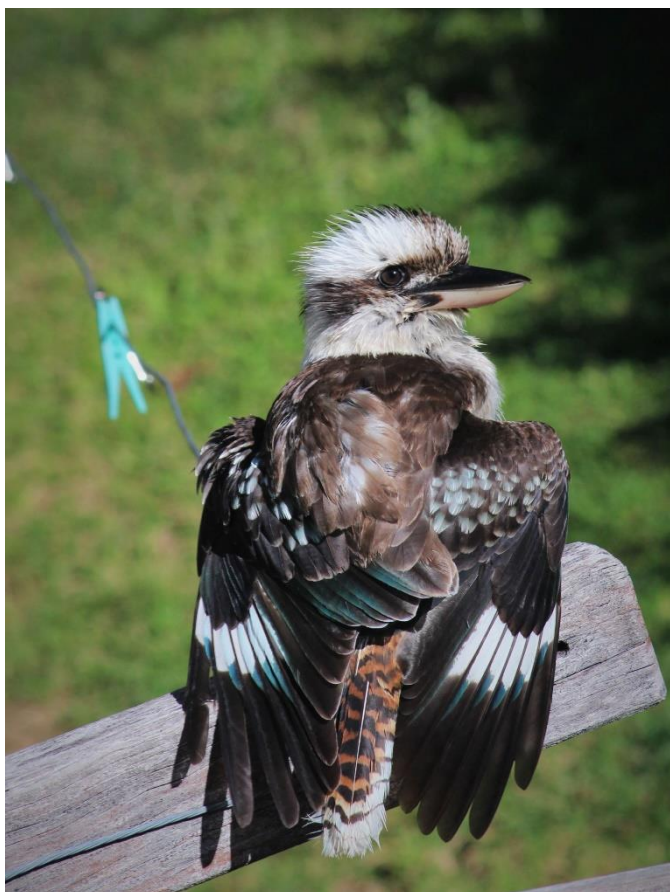


Stunning entries again from Ed Frazer, including 'Hibiscus Harlequin Bug,' awarded 1<sup>st</sup> in the 'Native Animals (excluding birds)' category (*below left*).



Ed notes that "the Hibiscus Harlequin Bug was taken using a 50mm macro lens. I had to herd the Hibiscus bugs on to the branch, which was no easy task as the macro lens was only a few centimetres from the bugs. The aperture was set at f8 so that the trees in the background were well out of focus."

Ciaran Turnbull's really lovely image of a 'Kookaburra catching the sun' (*see Ciaran's image, below*) was Highly Commended, and received the Chairman's Choice Young Person's Award. Ciaran said "This photo of a kookaburra was taken by me in my yard at Chapel Hill. I like photography, especially of nature. In our area I have seen lots of different bird species (even a powerful owl), black cockatoos, other animals like echidnas, blue tongues, carpet pythons, and micro bats. Thank you for liking my photo."



Aurelia Fischer is another talented local young photographer, awarded first place in the Young Person's (YP) category for 'Dragonfly resting on stripy leaf' (*above*). Aurelia notes "Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens is a great place for a walk among some amazing plants and animals. On this visit, several dragonflies fluttered around me before one rested on a broad stripy leaf. He patiently waited there for me to take my photo, before setting off into the canopy again." We hope you enter next year, Aurelia.



It is great to hear that taking photographs of our natural environment is a family activity. Eva Henricksen was awarded the YP second place for 'Detail of the Australian Tree Fern' (*see above*). Eva commented that "I was making a photo album when I went to the Botanic with my granad who introduced me to taking photos. My album was about the small details you miss in a big picture. I took this photo because the beauty is often in the small details. The whole tree-fern is beautiful, but the individual details are what makes it perfect." Perfect indeed, Eva!

**PS:** Congratulations to everyone who entered the 2022 MCCG Photography Competition. As we can't quite fit every photo that was submitted to the Editor (me) with an accompanying description or story, look out for the Autumn issue of our Newsletter, as I hope to include a few more images then. *Cathi*



## Seeds: Native Frangipani

This last season has been an exceptionally good one for both weeds (sadly) and also for our native plants. Native frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*) was flowering in October-November, with bunches of yellowish to white scented flowers (see photo below).



A small tree, growing to a maximum height of 20m, it is hardy in our area. The fruit is up to 3.5cm long and contains numerous winged seeds arranged like pages in a book (above left). Seeds are comparatively easy to germinate, and our nursery usually has seedlings. *Note:* This is not related to the tropical American native frangipani (*Plumeria* spp.). Presumably its common name derives from a superficial resemblance of flowers of the American plant. **Bryan Hacker**

## Weeds: Cat's Claw Creeper

Did you see the spectacular yellow flowers, often high up in trees, in October? These would often have been flowers of one of our notorious environmental weeds, cat's claw creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*, see photo below right). Imported from South America, cat's claw creeper was a popular garden plant in times before people were aware of/concerned about environmental impacts. The species is locally widespread, spreading by seed and (once established) by runners which peg



down and produce tubers. Over time, tubers can grow to be the size of a pumpkin! Stems climbing trees may be readily identified, growing vertically using the 'cat's claw' associated with each leaf (above left). Young plants may be controlled by pulling down the stems, wrapping in a ball and spraying with 50% glyphosate. Older ones are more of a challenge!

**Bryan Hacker**

## Threatened Species

**Avid readers will have noticed that our popular 'Threatened Species' feature has not been seen in recent issues. Fear not, it will return...**

Dr Manda Page's regular article on Threatened Species is currently on hold, as she is travelling overseas undertaking a Churchill Fellowship. The aim of Manda's fellowship is to explore, review and document case studies of successful private-public conservation partnerships that benefit threatened fauna species. This includes travel to South Africa, Rwanda, Canada, and USA.

Manda Page has worked in Threatened Species Recovery for over 20 years, and is currently the Director of Threatened Species Operation in the Queensland Department of Environment and Science. Manda coordinates a passionate team of scientists and conservation officers to deliver the State-wide Threatened Species Program.

Having worked in academia, private and public conservation agencies across Australia, Manda recognises that species recovery cannot be achieved by Government alone. This important Churchill Fellowship is part of a mission to grow public/private partnerships that benefit threatened species.

**Congratulations to Manda on the award of this prestigious Churchill Fellowship. We look forward to Manda's safe return (and to future Threatened Species updates).**

## Platypus Survey Report

The annual [MCCG Platypus Survey](#) gives a wonderful snapshot of the presence of the much-loved platypus in our local waterways. Here's an extract from Tamielle's 2022 report.

The observational survey was particularly important this year, following the major flooding events in early 2022. Flooding can either be beneficial or detrimental for platypuses. A slow increase of water fills the system, washing out nutrients and built-up sediment, but more water means an increase in waterway connectivity for platypuses to move. During breeding season (June – October) a 'flush' can also help the habitat of aquatic insect larvae (platypus food sources), as pollution and sediment impact the quality and quality of insects.

Of major concern is where there are human-impacted environments where water enters hard and fast off impervious surfaces (roads, roofs, concrete paths etc.), instead of naturally soaking into the system. In an urban area, stormwater exacerbates water flow,

causing bank erosion (which impacts burrow and nesting sites), scouring the substrate from the instream channel (which washes away food and can temporarily displace platypuses), and causing foraging difficulty (fighting against fast flowing water decreases the chances of a good feed), and burrow sites can be inundated (devastating if there are babies, which are in the nesting burrow until February).

The 2022 flood impact was noted by many of our volunteer observers. The creek has areas of erosion, where sediment deposits and the vegetation loss has opened up the canopy and side banks, all of which means less protection when foraging or moving in the creek, and can make burrow entrances visible).

Platypuses are robust, and have coped in floods for hundreds of years, but we still need to monitor the species because urbanisation exacerbates such population threats; we need to make sure they aren't being pushed to the point of no return.

Our 2022 results identify a distribution consistent with previous years, although it was interesting that platypuses were not sighted in the lowest section around Kilkivan Avenue (they like to keep us on our toes!). Overall, seven survey sites recorded platypus sightings, and distance and timings suggest these were discrete individuals. With this year's low number, it is important not to speculate a decline in numbers. We didn't have as many observers this year, which may have contributed to the low observations (as, in other Wet years, we have seen platypus observations *increase* across the catchment). Equally, we are aware that the creek has been dramatically affected this year, which may have hindered platypuses in the area (and, concerningly, two carp were sighted at Tuckett Street Park and at the site behind Manyung Street).

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with the survey. If you see any platypus before next year's survey, please report your sightings to the [ACF platy-project](#). And, if you haven't taken part, why not sign up in 2023....as Aaron Wiggan's footage demonstrates, you may just get to see platypus in our local waterways (Aaron's wonderful platypus puddling around in Upper Brookfield is available [online](#)).

Tamielle Brunt

## My Platypus Morning

One Sunday in September. The annual MCCG Platypus monitoring survey. The only day of the year I willingly wake up at 4.30am. I got myself set up at my designated site on Gold Creek Rd at 5am, and settled in for the next two hours. The sun began to rise, accompanied by a chorus of deafening sulphur-crested cockatoos. I also heard my first channel-billed

cuckoo of the season (a migratory bird that visits from New Guinea and Indonesia, every August-October).

And then....I heard a plop in a body of water just out of sight. A few minutes later I could make out an animal briefly swimming along the surface of the water. A few minutes later, at 5.47am, I had a confirmed platypus sighting! It disappeared behind a tree trunk, so I got my camera out and ready, and waited, and waited... and didn't see it again. I suspect it either returned to a burrow in the bank or continued along the creek through an underpass at the roadside.

Around 6.30am I heard several birds noisily moving about in a large fig tree on the neighbouring property. Once 7am came around (the official end time of the survey) I investigated further, and was delighted to realise they were topknot pigeons! I was happy to finish my morning with a few good photos of these interesting-looking birds (*see above*). Rebecca Bain



## Slope Success

A group of Nursery volunteers was invited to see the good work being carried out by John Stephens, also a Nursery volunteer. As we observed in October, during our visit, the land at John's Karana Downs property slopes down to the Brisbane River (a circa 45° angle!). John moved there three years ago and has since removed the lantana and balloon vine, and installed pathways for safe access. John has also planted a wide range of shrubs and understorey plants, most of which came from our Nursery. The plants are now carefully labelled, and most appear to be thriving. It was fascinating to see such good work going into such a challenging site. Congratulations, John.

Bryan Hacker

## KSHS Environmental Update

Kenmore State High School (KSHS) continues to value the environment and to make the best of its enclosure on three sides by Moggill Creek and McKay Brook. Over the years, with the assistance of Brisbane City Council, we have installed 14 nest boxes. When fitting the two newest boxes, we also removed two boxes infested by ants (cleaning them out before relocating them), and repaired a third (the bottom had fallen



out!). We were encouraged to undertake this work following Cody Hochen's earlier inspection of the boxes, and discovery of two or three gliders in one box and a Brushtail Possum in another. These animals have been found in boxes before, as have Ring-tail Possums, Pale-headed Rosellas, Rainbow Lorikeets, and Squirrel Gliders (not to mention spiders and other such creatures). One box was found to be housing what is believed to be a Chocolate Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus morio*), and in early October I spotted a nesting Rainbow Lorikeet occupying another!



We have also installed nine purpose-built tubes for micro-bats over the last few years, which have housed Gould's Wattled Bats (*Chalinolobus gouldii*) on a number of occasions. Our three native beehives accommodating the *Trigona carbonaria* species are going well. We also have a long-established hive in the wall of one of the classroom blocks – great to see nature taking advantage of whatever is available.

Cody recently arranged to install a motion sensor camera in the School grounds, in a revegetated section within a few metres of the bank of Moggill Creek. Over a few weeks, there were sightings of Long-nosed Bandicoots, Brush-tail Possums, Brush Turkeys, and the ubiquitous Moggill (Water Dragon)—and of rarer species, including the Pacific Emerald Dove and Eastern Whipbird (the latter not viewed often at ground level). Aside from a rat and mouse, no feral animals were photographed.

In addition, in early October, I observed a Short-eared Possum or Bobuck (formerly called a Mountain Possum), sleeping in the fork of a large Black Bean tree, close to the creek bank. A fascinating sight.

It is encouraging to see the native mammals in the area, particularly after the devastating damage caused to the School grounds by the early March flooding. Such results encourage us to continue with our revegetation work and provide a good base for students to appreciate our adjacent waterways.

KSHS students continue to show appreciation for their environment with 43 volunteering for teacher Mike Walker's August National Tree Day planting along the bank and flats of Moggill Creek. The students, assisted by community volunteers and teachers, planted over 1,100 plants—a great effort by a limited number of young people over a three hour period (see photo, left). Several buckets of rubbish were also collected at the same time. Recent rains have ensured the plants have established well, but we are wary of flooding over the next few months while the plants are still very vulnerable. We would like to thank Toyota and Sci-Fleet Toyota for their financial support of the activity.

Bruce Dymock

### Froggin' Around:

The citizen science [FrogID week](#) has now finished, so I hope you all went out and recorded local frog calls. My recent FrogID capture from the dam identified four species, including *Litoria peronii* (Peron's tree frog or emerald spotted tree frog). This was a delight, as I hadn't heard this high-pitched cackle since the Dry. Part of my FrogID submission was to comment that it is important to record at the same location for weeks or months, so that populations can be tracked over time. *Litoria wilcoxii* have been seen in the creek and local dams, and I have also been told of local populations of *Litoria dentata*, a small frog with a very



load bleating call. Creekside Park, Brookfield, pond filled with recent rains and, in an early morning chorus, many *L. peronii* were heard. In a recent conversation with our local Punxsutawney Phil (aka John Smith) predicted a dry summer, which means that these striped marsh tadpoles are unlikely to reach metamorphosis (as they require 3-4 months of water).

Phil Bird



## Bush Bites: Vernacular Loss?

We have already lost names that may have been in use hundreds or thousands of years ago. In this latest *Bush Bite*, Ed Frazer writes in support of common names, expressing the concern that 'we are losing our vernacular.' Do visit the [MCCG Website for more](https://www.moggillcreek.org/); this is just a 'taster,' to start the conversation.

We are losing some of our most colourful and descriptive language. What is worse we are replacing names of our plants, birds, mammals and fish with names we cannot pronounce, spell inaccurately, and have no idea what they mean (as very few of us have the necessary background in Greek or Latin).

*Dendrobium bigibbum* is our Queensland floral emblem. I couldn't find out what or who was 'bigibbum.' What's more, nearly any Cooktown orchid you happen to buy from our nurseries won't be a scientifically accurate specimen of *Dendrobium bigibbum* (it is likely to be a selected horticultural Cooktown orchid cultivar, or a hybrid, neither of which deserve a scientific label). And what about our faunal emblem, the Koala? There may be a few who know it as *Phascolarctos cinereus*, but 'Koala' is easier! Birders have tried to simplify bird names, and have a standardised list of common names of all Australian (and most of the world's) birds. There are claims scientific names are unique, and comments that there are many common bush-names for the same species. However, there is also some credibility in the view that scientists are changing the names of our flora and fauna to an even greater degree, now they are using DNA to sort out the vague divisions of some of our species. For instance, a Google search resulted in three different scientific names for the Brolga (Queensland's bird emblem): *Antigona rubicundra*, *Antigone rubicundra*, and *Grus rubicundra* (and, previously, it has also been *Ardea rubicundra*, *Grus antarctica*, *Mataheusia rubicundra* and *Grus australasianus*). The common bush-name of Brolga has been much more consistent!

I am disappointed to see the use of scientific names taking over local common names, especially in the horticultural field. We are replacing very descriptive names, in a language we all understand, with Greek- or Latin-derived names. The binomial nomenclature system is great, as it means every species has a unique name that should be understood by other scientists (no matter what language they speak). However, it is much clearer for most of us to communicate with names we can pronounce and understand, and which are descriptive in our own language. A few years ago you could go to a local nursery and ask for a Red



Picture: Red Bottlebrush 'Captain Cook' (Credit: Ed Frazer)

Bottlebrush (and a few of us knew it was a *Callistemon viminalis*). Now it should be listed as *Melaleuca viminalis*, but in commercial nurseries you will find all sorts of *M. viminalis*, with different colours, shapes, and heights, as they have been cloned or bred into different forms that really should be labelled *M. viminalis* c.v. (cultivated variety), or *Melaleuca viminalis* (hort), or *Melaleuca* X (hybrid). Isn't it much clearer if you just ask for a Pink or Red Bottlebrush, which is much more descriptive?!

I cherish our local names for birds and other animals. Our *Trichoglossus haematodus* (or is it *Trichoglossus moluccanus*) is a Rainbow Lorikeet—but to a Brookfield local a few years ago it was a "Bluey," to distinguish it from a "Greenie" (a Scaly-breasted Lorikeet). Sure, they may be called by some other name in another area, but we have our own local common names. So I really do hope that we can all hold onto our local vernacular. Perhaps we need to maintain a list of local names from some of our old hands, while we still can. **What do YOU think?**

Ed Frazer

## Meeting the new MP for Ryan

Malcolm Frost, Jim Pope, and Sandy Pollock (Members of the MCCG Management Committee) met with Elizabeth Watson-Brown, the new Federal Member for Ryan, on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2022. Elizabeth was introduced and welcomed to our Group, and we outlined the objectives and history of our Association. We invited Elizabeth to join the MCCG, and explained how working with us continues a long tradition of local Federal members' support. Elizabeth endorsed this, and thoughtfully provided funds to support part of the AGM proceedings (and is also opening the Old Sawmill Walk at Gold Creek). Please welcome Elizabeth when you next meet our new MP.

Sandy Pollock

## Moggill Magic: 'Sawmill' Success

Following on from a previous Newsletter article about the work by Gordon Grigg and colleagues to establish the Old Sawmill Walk, Ed Frazer's popular *Moggill Magic* gives us an introduction to the work behind-the-scenes.

A new attraction in the catchment is soon to be officially opened—a testament to the foresight and hard work of Gordon Grigg, who lives next door to where the sawmill operated a century ago (1919-23). Gordon began the project about two years ago, and it is already a very pleasant easy stroll that will appeal to native plant enthusiasts and bird watchers (located just before the entrance to the Gold Creek Reservoir at the top of Gold Creek Road, with access from the parking area).

The area is remnant dry rainforest and vine scrub, and retains many of the species common to this fast-diminishing landform that used to be prevalent in the Moggill Creek catchment. There is an amazing range of trees, some of considerable size; so far 100 species have been identified, and 200 saplings and mature specimens are now labelled. Previously the area was difficult to access, with heavy Lantana undergrowth, until Gordon Grigg and Andrew Ness developed a sinuous track (and employed some contract weeders to 'break the back' of the clearing job). Robert James and Keith Rickart have now become regular contributors to maintaining the track, and clearing the worst of the weeds. Mulched pathways are located around the few remaining remnants of the sawmill, and through the forest, some of which was planted by Gordon's Upper Gold Creek Bushcare Group (Section 9) about 20 years ago. There are a lot of mature trees, which were there before the sawmill was operating, as well as significant regrowth. Surprising finds include a beautiful, unidentified, fern that cropped up in the middle of one of the paths after the recent rains (see Ed's picture, right, of Gordon by the fern).

While there is little recorded about the sawmill, it appears it employed about 12 men—contributing to quite a sizable community (including the establishment of a school, at the end of Gold Creek Road, during that time). By 1923, the immediate area had been logged out of suitable trees and the sawmill was moved on to another area. Remnants still visible include the large concrete platform (for the steam engine that operated the mill) and many smaller relics (including a huge flywheel, which is thought to be a governor for the sawmill engine).

Gordon secured a \$10,000 grant, which was used for Lantana clearing and for the labelling of specimen trees. Working closely with Andrew Wilson, who has

identified the tree species and helped with the labelling, Gordon has ensured that high quality aluminium labels are used for many of the trees. The plan is to replace any necessary temporary labelling once additional funds are available.

Birders can expect to see some interesting birds in an early morning visit to the Sawmill Walk. Rarities such as the Black-breasted Button Quail and the White-eared Monarch have been found in the area. Spotted Quail-thrush and Wompoo Fruit-doves are relatively common, and Swamp Wallabies, Pademelons and Mountain Brushtail Possums are known to frequent the area. The Sawmill Forest Walk provides excellent habitat, and I am certain that—as people visit the site—more interesting animal and plant species are sure to be found.



The Gold Creek reservoir is a well-known birder and bush walker location. The Sawmill Forest Walk will be a valuable extra attraction for visitors, thanks to Gordon and his colleagues. *Ed Frazer*

## Old Gold Creek Sawmill Walk

A reminder that the **official opening** of the Sawmill Forest Walk, to be officiated by Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP, is postponed to 4 March 2023.

The Cottage event will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the work of Gordon Grigg and colleagues, and to connect with fellow MCCG Members.

Registrations are required, for catering purposes. Tickets are **free**, and available on [Eventbrite](#)

**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.*