



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

MCCG NEWSLETTER Winter 2023



ABOVE: For more about prized fish in our local creeks, turn to Ed Fraser's regular *Bush Bite* (pages 4-5). Please also turn to page 8 for a request for future contributions for our popular *Moggill Magic* feature (thanks again, Ed, for such wonderful work over so many issues!).

RIGHT: Zachary and Anna checking out the health of Gap Creek, where they found a number of 'critters,' including a crimson spotted rainbowfish (image credit: Chris Bruton). For several MCCG updates from Chris, turn to pages 4, 7 & 8

ABOVE LEFT: 2023 MCCG Kids' Day (image credit Chris Bruton). For two more of Chris' photos from the day, turn to page 7.

ABOVE RIGHT: The MCCG stand at the 2023 Brookfield Show attracted many visitors (image: Dale Borgelt). Turn to page 7 for Dale's report.



Your latest issue: Australia Post Grant (p7), Brookfield Show (p7), Bush Bite (p4), Chairman's Report (p2), Dr Karl & the MCCG (p3), Froggin' Around (p5-6), Kids' Day at The Cottage (p7), MCCG Bird Walk (p4), Moggill Magic (p8), Myrtle Rust (p6), 'Photo Comp' (p4), Sticky Native Rainforest Shrub (p6), Upper Brookfield Working Group (p4), Wi-Fi Service at The Cottage and Nursery (p8)

Chairman's Report

Many iconic Brisbane landmarks were last month lit up in bright red lights, making a spectacular display for our river city to celebrate National Volunteer Week (15-21 May). It's wonderful that volunteers are acknowledged and celebrated in this flamboyant way. You can check out the Volunteering Queensland [website](#) if you missed this colourful spectacle.

It brings to immediate mind the many volunteers in Queensland that we just can't do without. As a volunteer-based organisation, the Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) celebrates and acknowledges all of our hard-working volunteers who make things happen across our catchment. Volunteers are our very essence. It therefore is highly appropriate to pass on congratulations on the nomination of our very own Dale Borgelt for a Volunteering Queensland *Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award*. While unsuccessful this year, Dale is the very model of a committed, passionate, and persistent volunteer, who readily includes everyone in her volunteering works. We are so glad she's one of ours! You will most certainly always see Dale at the annual and much-celebrated event, the MCCG Kid's Day at the Cottage. Dale is one of many in the MCCG, but Dale is integral to making Kids' Day such a success—ensuring that young people get to experience wildlife and the natural environment close-up, in the outdoor setting of the Gold Creek Cottage. Thank you, Dale!

Our updated Rules for the Catchment Group (required for all Incorporated Associations) are now available on our [website](#). I invite all members to look at our Rules—and to engage with the committee if you have concerns or questions about the Rules.

Recently, we've been fortunate that several grant applications have been successful, to help keep our regular catchment work going. Please do contact us regarding any grant opportunities that you may think are worthwhile for the MCCG.

I hope you were able to get to our stall at the 2023 Brookfield Show. Better yet, if you are not a Member, why not get involved with our group and meet all the other interesting and passionate volunteers more often than just once a year! **We'd love to have you**, dear reader, as another volunteer for the MCCG; we certainly still need more volunteer help to get all our engaging annual activities done.

Finally, 22nd May was World Biodiversity Day. I hope you spent some time thinking about, and appreciating, the many forms of fascinating life, big and small, that we share in our species-rich catchment. Don't forget that our [website](#) is an invaluable source of information about our catchment.

Sandy Pollock

Editorial

A number of our regular contributors have not been able to send in their much-loved features in this edition. But you will see that the Newsletter is still full of news and information, thanks to many busy authors and volunteers. **More is always welcome**. In particular I would love to hear from members—either as a personal introduction (such as Simon's piece on page 5), or when written about anyone you feel to be of interest to your MCCG colleagues (particularly those making a difference, for example Jim's article on page 8). And if you come across something that you find interesting, then do think about sharing it here!

The absolute deadline for the next issue is 1st September 2023. Start now! Don't wait until the deadline to [email me](#).

I look forward to hearing from **YOU!**

Cathí

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.**

Newsletter Editor: Dr Catherine A. Lawrence (Cathi)

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Thank you.

Dr Karl: MCCG 'Q & A'

Earlier this year, the MCCG was invited by ABC Radio Brisbane to provide questions to Dr Karl Kruselnicki. I thought members might be interested in a quick run through the subjects covered in the program.

MCCG Q: Usually gum tree sticks have ragged broken ends. But the broken ends of sticks of Moreton Bay Ash (*Corymbia tessellaris*) and Pink Bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*) are often clean flat surfaces (see Anna's photo, below). How and why does this happen?

A: Dr Karl suggested that breaks are related to the age of the tree, species, angle of the break and weight of the branch. He wondered if there was a botanist out there who might be able to help answer this question.



I came across a report by Dr Dadswell, a pioneer of eucalypt wood studies (CSIRO 1928-1964). He remarks that the wood of *Corymbias* has different anatomy to most Eucalypts, and is very similar to Angophora (which are eucalypt relatives commonly known as 'apples'). However there is no mention of clean flat fractures (reference [Dadswell HE \(1972\) The Anatomy of Eucalypt Wood](#)).

MCCG Q: How do pythons climb up walls?

A: Climbing snakes use concertina locomotion to climb. In pythons it's called rectilinear locomotion. This involves blocks of muscles working with belly scales lifting and pulling forward, then downward and backward. In this way the scales 'stick' to the surface, allowing the snake's body to be pulled over them. This cycle is repeated over and over, along the body of the snake, enabling it to climb up walls.

MCCG Q: Have you seen hundreds of Huntsman spider babies in your bathroom? Why do they suddenly disappear in a few days? **A:** Apparently baby Huntsman are ready to hunt and feed as soon as they emerge from the egg sac. They are cannibals, and the little ones like hiding in cracks and crevices to avoid hunting parents and siblings. As their numbers decrease rapidly, it seems that not all are good at finding hiding places.

MCCG Q: Apostlebirds (*Struthidea cinerea*) are common in woodland areas of Western Brisbane, and

they usually hang around together in small flocks, walking across the ground looking for food. If you startle them, they emit a strong odour. Why? **A:** The smell is thought to be for protection, and is a glandular secretion (from a gland near their tail) to deter or repel predators.

MCCG Q: Many MCCG members are involved in revegetation of their property and sections of Moggill Creek. Have you noticed weeds are growing faster than the local natives? **A:** Weeds are opportunists and move in whenever there is a ground disturbance or conditions that allow them to grow and reproduce rapidly.

Anna Williamson

Kristy Stevenson will give a talk on 'Myrtle Rust: A Growing Problem' on 27th June (7pm, Kenmore Library). Kristy's short talk will provide some background on the pathogen, and will include early results from her PhD research (undertaken in a wet sclerophyll forest that has experienced high levels of tree mortality due to myrtle rust).

Kristy is a UQ PhD candidate, with research interests in disturbance and restoration ecology in native forest systems.

For more information about Myrtle Rust, turn to page 6

Platypus Survey: 10 September 2023

After a few years of Covid-related disruptions, the MCCG annual platypus survey will be ramping up again this September. More details to come, but be reassured that breakfast is back on!



Email the [MCCG Secretary](#) if you want to express your interest. The call for volunteer registration will be out at end July/in early August.

Tamielle Brunt

MCCG Bird Walk

The early May MCCG bird walk with Professor Hugh Possingham went well, with solid full RSVP-capped turnout of 34 (see Chris' photo below). Hugh identified 48 different [species](#), and it is not surprising that we had great feedback from attendees. Many left with a new appreciation of the abundance of birdlife in the catchment, and a positive MCCG event experience.

If you missed the walk, you may be interested to learn more about some of Hugh's many exciting projects—including [Marxan software](#) (which has changed the face of the earth) and the fabulous Australian Threatened Species Index ([TSX](#)). You can support



nature conservation research at UQ's Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science by donating at <https://donations.uq.edu.au/Centre-for-Biodiversity-and-Conservation-Science>.

We thank Hugh for his time and expertise, and appreciate the offer of future MCCG assistance.

Chris Bruton

Upper Brookfield Working Group

In April, Phil Bird shared an update on recent Upper Brookfield Section working bees. It sounds as if they are making a great impact!

Lots of weeds came down in the recent flood, which meant that we found kidney leaf mud plantain in the creek, that came from somewhere upstream. We are now getting quite a lot of Singapore daisy, which we never had before, and I'm currently dealing with roadside weeds (from the Galvin Rd culvert downstream to the bridge). The main weed is *Dyschoriste depressa*, which is growing unmanaged; mowing and brush cutting doesn't cut it, as it just

'carpets' the growth, and the weed then still flowers and seeds.

On the riparian zone, the weeds include grasses (Embu panic, Rhodes grass and elephant grass), vines (asparagus, glycine, madeira, cat's claw, black eyed susan, Brazilian nightshade), succulents (inch plant Benghal dayflower, Trad), Caster oil plant, tobacco, lantana, Indian stick weed and cobbler's pegs...to name but a few.

Recently, I have cut a track—through embu panic and lantana—to the creek, to reach a patch of mature castor oil plants, so that we can then remove them. Further tracks will also allow us to restore some areas, and to rescue some of our earlier plantings. We will also continue to manage the encroaching Elephant grass that's in the creek. To end on a good note, I am delighted to report that we often see a swamp wallaby near the creek, and there were still firetail gudgeons in the remaining pools.

Phil Bird

MCCG Photography Competition

Planning is in full swing for this year's photo competition (open entries submission on 14 October, with our Kenmore Village Shopping Centre exhibition, from 16-21 October). To celebrate reaching our 25th year, we have added an extra 2023 category: the Silver (Anniversary) category! We can't wait to see what creative entries we receive in this special class.

We are humbled by the fact that all of our sponsors from the last several years have again come on board to help make this year's competition possible ([The Pet Chalet](#), [Amcal](#), [Cr Greg Adermann](#), [Fiori Kitchen & Bar](#), [Kenmore Bridge Club](#), [Pisces Enterprises](#), [Dr Christian Rowan MP](#), and [Kenmore Village](#)).

Thanks also to the local businesses who are providing prizes for our Silver (Anniversary) category this year: [Haemen Mendis Jewellers](#), [The Tropic Gardener](#), and [Kenmore Village Florist](#).

A Kids Photography Workshop is also in the early stages of planning, so keep a lookout on the website, Facebook and Instagram pages for updates. Happy snapping!

Rebecca Bain

Bush Bites: Local Prized Fish

In this latest Bush Bite, Ed writes about prized aquarium fish that come from our local creeks.

We have two small fish in Gold and Moggill Creeks that have hit the world stage as popular aquarium fish. They are the Pacific Blue Eye, *Pseudomugil signifier* (see front cover photo), and the [Southern Rainbowfish](#), *Melanotaenia duboulayi* (previously named *M. splendida fluviatilis*).

These fish are interesting, both for their attractiveness and for their unusual method of reproduction. Both come from a group of Rainbow Fish that are predominantly found in northern Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG), and have been gaining interest in the Aquarium hobby community (particularly in Germany, which has the largest number of Aquarium hobbyists in the world).

The Pacific Blue Eye and Southern Rainbowfish spawn in the warmer months, and quite large numbers can be found in the more vegetated reaches of our creeks. Unlike most freshwater fish they lay a small number of eggs every day over several days, rather than a big spawning in one go.

In our creeks the fish eat a wide range of small crustaceans, mosquito larvae, midge larvae and small worms. They are ideal fish for outdoor ponds and farm dams, and can cope well with our winter temperatures. In recent years many other Blue Eyes and Rainbows have been discovered in Australia and PNG, and we have a club devoted to their preservation (the Australia and New Guinea Fish Association, [ANGFA](#)).

It is interesting that we have two local fish that are prized overseas. Protecting the quality of our local waterways is essential to preserve these popular aquarium fish in their natural habitat. **Ed Frazer**

MCCG Committee: Simon English

Here's a short personal introduction from one of our newest Committee Members. Don't forget that all notes from Members—including quick comments about *your* own experience of being an MCCG Member—are *always* welcome!

Hi. My name is Simon English (*see photo, below*). I've been living in Kenmore for just over 20 years. When our kids were little, I was quite active in their local school (Kenmore South State School) and local sport (UQFC and Kenmore Cricket).

Once our kids grew up with my wife, Victoria, and I wanted to engage again with the local community. So about 4 years ago we started volunteering at our local bush care group at Rafting Ground Park. It was a great experience and, even with the challenges of Covid and the floods, we have stuck at it. I was



intrigued about how the broader catchment activities occurred and so, after some discussions with Sandy (the MCCG Chair), I joined the committee. My aim is to help MCCG strengthen its capabilities around community engagement, and continue to drive improved outcomes for Moggill Creek.

Simon English

Froggin' Around: Local & Global

Think global and act local is the way to go. The frog stories I write are about just that: what's going on, and how you can be involved. It's winter, and all quiet locally—except a few reliable striped marsh frogs, toking away from the dam—until a downpour of rain means that a chorus erupts. I couldn't see any tadpoles in the creek, and only a stony creek frog foraging in leaf litter. Locally, I have had reports of emerald spotted tree frogs, bleating tree frogs, and eastern sedge frogs—and, over the past couple of months, I have had confirmed frog species from FrogID for emerald spotted tree frogs, striped marsh frogs and eastern sedge frogs—and I have just submitted the chorus of calls from the dam.

Recently, there has been some excellent news in the froggin' community. The [FrogID](#) citizen science project has just recorded its 216th frog species, as the glandular toadlet (*Uperoleia grandulosa*) was found in the WA Pilbara region. In addition, earlier this year, 24 captive-bred, critically endangered Kroombit tinkerfrogs (*Taudactylus Pleione*) were released at Kroombit Tops National Park. This was a huge milestone, after 30 years of persistent work on surveying by QPWS (Dr Harry Hines) and QFSI members (led by Dr Ed Meyers, QFSI), and a successful captive breeding program at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary (Michael Vella) ([source: QFSI Winter Frogsheet](#)).

I have also picked out three ABC News reports of interest, each looking at froggin' issues outside our catchment. Firstly, a lovely [ABC report](#) about the Autumn rains in Perth Hills which lure scientists to the sounds of moaning, whooping and hooting frog calls from five species of burrowing frogs which are only found this time of year. Calls are recorded on FrogID and verified by the Australian Museum. The Western spotted frog and sand frog, all of the *Heleioporus* genus, are also native to southwest WA. Secondly, a report about discoveries in New Guinea, which has the most diverse array of tropical island frogs in the world. Its mountains and forests are still revealing their secrets as no less than five new species of frog have recently been described by scientists from the Queensland and South Australian Museums and

Griffith University, who published their [results in Zootaxa](#). One appears to have developed bird poo mimicry, but changes colour as it matures ([see ABC Science for more](#))!

Finally, I did see one dead cane toad, flat out in the open the other day, but I haven't seen as many this year. Since cane toads were introduced into Australia in 1935 lots of animals have eaten cane toads, including rodents and birds. Ibis are often seen feeding on food dumped by humans, but citizen scientists are increasingly reporting them dining out on toxic cane toads. Gold Coast coordinator of Watergum's Cane Toads program, Emily Vincent, [reported](#) citizen scientists seeing a 'stress and wash' method. The ibis pick up cane toads and then flick them about, to stress the toads, who then release toxins from the parotoid gland at the back of their neck. The ibis then take the toads down to the creek, and wash them before eating. Fascinating! Happy froggin', and recording. **Phil Bird**

Myrtle Rust: 'The Silent Killer'

Kristy Stevenson will give a talk on 'Myrtle Rust: A Growing Problem,' hosted by the MCCG at Kenmore Library (27th June, 7pm). Kristy's short talk will provide some background on the pathogen, and will include early results from her PhD research.

Members may also be interested in information circulated by Wesley DeMuth, Brisbane City Council Creek Catchment Officer & Community Conservation Partnerships Officer earlier this year. Wesley reminded all catchment groups about the impacts of myrtle rust, which causes significant damage to the natives we all try to protect and replant. This will have already been shared with many of our members who are involved in the various Sections and working bees, but it is repeated here as our readers might find this information of interest.

[Myrtle rust](#) is a fungal disease that threatens the nursery and garden, forestry and tea tree oil production industries, as well as natural ecosystems. Sadly, myrtle rust is known to infect close to 400 species of the Myrtaceae plant family in Australia, with a range of impact from minor to devastating. There is a wide range of information available online about myrtle rust. The Australian Network for Plant Conservation ([ANPC](#)) has a 'Myrtle rust: The silent killer' [video](#). ANPC resources also include a myrtle rust [National Action plan](#).

The current priority myrtle rust impacted critically endangered plants are *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* and *Rhodamnia rubescens*. If you have seen these species, please let Wesley DeMuth know, so that the

information can be passed on to the relevant people at the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries. Wesley Demuth also circulated a table of priority species, including the following which were listed as in SEQ: *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*; *Rhodamnia rubescens*; *Rhodamnia maideniana*; *Gossia inophloia*; *Gossia hillii*; *Lenwebbia prominens*; *Lenwebbia* sp. 'Main Range'; and *Lenwebbia lasioclada*.

Sticky Native Rainforest Shrub

Native Plumbago (*Plumbago zeylanica*) is a modest and often overlooked plant. However, fresh new flowers show a clarity and brilliance that belie its modesty ([see Sandy's photo, below](#)). Notable for its characteristic ribbed calyx lobes with prominent sticky glands (leading to another common name of Native Catchfly), and white, 5-petaled flowers, this plant is a widespread member of the Plumbaginaceae family. This woody herb or soft-wooded shrub occurs across a broad array of classic Queensland environments—as



diverse as the harsh shores of coral cays, western riverbanks of coolabah, gidgee woodlands on heavy clays, or forming a ground layer beneath Bottle tree (*Brachychiton* spp.) deciduous vine thickets. In the Moggill Creek catchment, it is often found in rainforest or sometimes wetter eucalypt forest. There are good examples growing in the native gardens next to the Gold Creek Cottage.

Note that contact with leaves or roots may cause skin irritation, which can be severe, so this plant is best appreciated from a distance or use gloves if necessary.

Sandy Pollock

MCCG in Action: Brookfield Show

As noted in Sandy Pollock's report (see page 2) Dale Borgelt was recently nominated for a Volunteering Queensland Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award. While unsuccessful this year, we all know what a fantastic contribution Dale (pictured below) continues to make to the MCCG. Thank you, Dale, for inspiring future



generations of MCCG volunteers—and for encouraging local kids to spend time learning more about our natural environment.

The MCCG stand at the Brookfield Show attracted many visitors, including young people making joyful contact because of happy memories of past Kids' Days at the Cottage. We had visits from tall teens, who feature on posters from years past (which picture them enjoying activities when they were very young). We also had visits from Kids' Day enthusiasts who have become regular attendees, and even helpers, such as the family in the front cover photo.

As I write this, I am looking forward to the 11th June MCCG Kids' Day at the Cottage, where the seeds for making the 2023 pendants include Hakea and candlenut.

Dale Borgelt

Australia Post 'Shout Out'

I was thrilled to learn that a member of the Kenmore Branch of Australia Post, Gillian Josiah, recently nominated the Moggill Creek Catchment Group for a [2023 People of Post Grant](#).

Nominations for these awards can only be made by Australia Post Team Members, as a way for Australia Post to support 'the projects our people are passionate about and helping to create positive outcomes in local communities across Australia.'



The even more exciting news is that we were successful, receiving a \$1,000 grant to assist in providing potting materials for the Gold Creek Nursery—which will help to keep our happy band of volunteers producing plants for the catchment and for the local community. **Thank you**, Gillian, for thinking of the MCCG.

Sandy Pollock

Student Catchment Immersion (SCIP)

MCCG has been advised that we have been successful in our bid to host a Student Catchment Immersion Program, at Gap Creek (Section 12), on Sunday 17th September 2023 (9am-2pm). If you are interested in attending or assisting in facilitating the SCIP activities on the day, please let me know. There will be 3 activities, each with 5-10 university students: post flood bushcare; iNaturalist activity; and an erosion and sediment control challenge. The program includes lunch and tends with a discussion led by Deb, Sandy, and me.

Chris Bruton

2023 Kids' Day at The Cottage

It sounds as if the 2023 Kids' Day at The Cottage was another resounding MCCG success. Chris Bruton estimated numbers in excess of 200 (possibly nearer 300), with over 70 people enjoying the wildlife show (see Chris' photo, below).



It is marvellous that the weather also played its part, as 11th June was a glorious Queensland winter day. So great to see so many local families out and about, and celebrating our local wildlife and native plants.



It would be great to hear from some of the kids who attended the event, and to perhaps hear how these native plants are doing in their own backyard. As Chris captured in this photograph (left), there was a lot of care and concentration employed by the 'nursery apprentices,' as they learned how to correctly pot up a native plant. Let's hope that the same care has been given to those plants once they were taken home. **Thank you to all of the volunteers, organisers, and presenters who created such a special 2023 MCCG Kids' Day.**

Moggill Magic: Tree Planting Fun

Ed Frazer's popular *Moggill Magic* feature has highlighted the work of many individuals who are making significant contributions to the catchment. Ed has now asked us to open up the *Moggill Magic* feature to other authors. Thank you again Ed, for all of your contributions. We continue to look forward to your wonderful MCCG Newsletter photos and other articles (including *Bush Bites*). And, if anyone wants to send a *Moggill Magic* article for a future issue of your newsletter, just send your article to mccgeditor@outlook.com.au. Thanks to Jim Pope for this latest *Moggill Magic* update.

The 'Huntington/Tuckett' bushcare group working bee, held on Sunday 23rd April 2023, was a great success. A total of 36 volunteers participated in tree planting on an area of parkland behind Brompton Place in Brookfield. The riparian zone of Moggill Creek between the Branton Street footbridge and Tuckett Street park is dominated by exotic Chinese elms (*Celtis sinensis*) weed trees, which create such dense shading that they suppress the growth of native species. This part of Moggill Creek is important because it is platypus habitat. With the assistance of Brisbane City Council's Habitat Brisbane, our bushcare group has been gradually removing some of the larger Chinese elms and replacing them with native vegetation.

At our April working bee, we planted almost 200 native trees and shrubs (see *Jim's photos, below and above right*). We were assisted in the work by members the local Baha'i youth group, as well as our normal hardy bunch of dedicated volunteers. The kids all seemed to have a lot of fun, while learning about how to plant trees and care for the parkland. When the work was completed, we all enjoyed a delicious morning tea that



included some home-made vegetable soup prepared by one of our regular volunteers.

The Huntington/Tuckett bushcare group (as well as others throughout the catchment) are always seeking new volunteers, across all generations and skill levels. Much of the work involves keeping our plants free from exotic weeds that otherwise would smother the native trees and shrubs, if not kept at bay while the native plants establish themselves.

Our group meets once a month on a Sunday morning for working bees between 8.30-11.00am. Working bee sites can range from the Branton Street bridge upstream all the way to Rafting Ground Road.

No previous experience is necessary, and we provide hand tools and work gloves etc. We always finish up with a refreshing morning tea, which is an opportunity to socialise, meet new people, and catch up with old friends. For more details on the Moggill Creek Catchment Group or about working bees across the catchment visit our [website](#), check our [working bee calendar](#) or contact the [MCCG Secretary](#).

Jim Pope

Gold Creek Wi-Fi Now Available!

Following the installation of Starlink and outdoor access points at the Gold Creek Nursery and Cottage, Wi-Fi is now available to all MCCG volunteers and guests. Turning on 'Wi-Fi calling' on your phone will enable you to make and receive calls with minimal or no mobile phone reception (including in an Emergency). Connect to your strongest of the three Wi-Fi names. For password details ask a fellow 'Volunteer.'

Chris Bruton