



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

MCCG NEWSLETTER Spring 2023



ABOVE: KSHS students hard at work on July's National Tree Planting Day (image credit: Kortnee Morcus). For more, turn to page 9 for Alena Teh-Kobe's Moggill Magic article.

ABOVE RIGHT: A glorious image of a young *Astrebla* National Park bilby (credit: John Augusteyn). For more, turn to page 7 for Dr Manda Page's latest *Threatened Species* update.



YOUR HELP NEEDED!
Community Tree Planting, 8 October 2023
Turn to page 4 for more from Jim Pope



ABOVE: An impressive 'after' photo from Alicia Wain, following the hand removal of over 2,000sq m of Lantana at their Upper Brookfield property (including some that was over 4m high). Thanks for the inspiration, Alicia. ABOVE RIGHT: Eminent entomologist, Geoff Monteith, showing plasmids (stick insects) to Kids' Day visitors. Turn to page 8 for more.



Your latest issue: A Warm Welcome (p6), *Black Bean History* (p5), Bush Bite (p3), *Chairman's Report* (p2), **Don't Forget the Environment** (p5), *Froggin' Around* (p6), *Moggill Magic* (p9), *'Photo Comp'* (p3), *Pasture Grasses & Weeds* (p7), *Threatened Species* (p7), *Wildlife Musings* (p3)

Chairman's Report

The changing of the season, from the cool of winter to the warmth of spring, heralds new work and activity for people and animals in the catchment.

In a welcome return to an old favourite location, renewed effort into further tree-planting at Rafting Ground Reserve is about to start again. Rafting Ground Reserve has received much revegetation effort over the years—starting with the excellent 1980s-1990s work of Brian Hacker under the auspices of the Rural Environmental Protection Association (REPA), which initiated several large Rafting Ground revegetation projects. The Rafting Ground Reserve is significant as a notable area of rainforest present in the catchment—reminding us of the logging history of Brookfield and Pullenvale, and fully accessible to the public. Our thanks to Wesley Demuth, Brisbane City Council Creek (BCC) Catchment Officer, for his support for this renewed initiative.

Incidentally, we have the capable and hard-working Brendan McIntyre filling in while Wesley Demuth is on holiday (until mid-September). Please welcome Brendan as our BCC Creek Catchment Officer for Moggill Creek during this period.

I am delighted to congratulate our hard-working Secretary duo, Chris and Zoe, for their success in obtaining their Lord Mayor's Better Suburbs Grant (Community Support Category). This grant will be used to update our membership database and payment systems, which we hope will make payment and membership renewals a lot easier for all current MCCG members. Thanks also for the strong support of local Brisbane City Council Pullenvale Ward Councillor Greg Adermann in obtaining this funding. Many members (including myself) are gearing up for the September Platypus survey, with renewed interest from people in and out of the Moggill Creek Catchment. This annual survey helps us check on the local population of Platypus within Moggill Creek and, consequently, tells us something about the ongoing health and condition of our waterway. Now is also the time to consider getting out into the catchment and snapping with whatever camera or camera-phone you favour, and to then enter our annual, fabulous and famous MCCG Photography Competition! There is a great range of prizes, and this is such a good way to show your skill and flair at image composition, lighting and subject matter (see our website for further details).

Finally, spring is a time of significant animal movement and activity in the catchment (and in many other areas in Brisbane). Please watch out for animals crossing roads when driving, and be respectfully

snake aware as our resident carpet snakes and other snake species move across gardens and bush blocks in the warmer weather. And look to the skies for the much-anticipated return of migrant birds from the north!

Sandy Pollock

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.

Editorial

Thanks to everyone who sent in articles for this issue. The MCCG Committee members and fellow volunteers have certainly been busy. As a result, the *online* version of the newsletter has many more photographs and slightly longer articles than the *print* version. Lovely to have two articles about Kenmore school activities. If YOU have news for me about activity at other local schools, do please drop me a line. The absolute deadline for the next issue is **10 November 2023**. Start now! Don't wait until the deadline to [email me](#).

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.**

Newsletter Editor: Dr Catherine A. Lawrence (Cathi)

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MCCG Photography Competition

Photography Competition month is almost upon us! As October approaches, the 'Photo Comp' committee is finalising all the behind the scenes details: securing a judge, hiring our display boards, preparing for submission day, *and* promoting the event!

Storming into our 25th year, we'd love for this year to be one of our best yet. **YOU** can help by entering a photo and/or encouraging friends, family, neighbours, and colleagues to enter photos. All of the details and entry forms can be found on the [MCCG website](#).

This year we are also proud to be hosting a Kids' Nature Photography Workshop in September. Led by MCCG members and local photographers, Ed Frazer and Geoff Lawrence, this special event is being held on Ed Frazer's property. The workshop was booked out within days of the event being announced, and we're sure the primary school-aged kids will have a great time as they hone their skills.

My thanks to all of the committee members. I'd like to give a particular shout out to Janine Nicklin, one of our Photo Comp committee members, for creating such eye-catching flyers for us again this year.

I'm looking forward to seeing some fabulous 2023 entries.

Rebecca Bain

Bush Bites: Red-necked Wallabies

Do visit the MCCG [website](#) for more. This is just a 'taster' of Ed's latest *Bush Bite*!

We have about ten Red-necked Wallabies living on our property in Brookfield, and see many of them every day at dusk and dawn when they are generally eating the lush grass around the many small dams on our property. As well as the grass they eat several weeds including the tough *Sida retusa*, which is almost impossible to pull out by hand.

This year our huge avocado tree has had over 200 fruits—many which are too high for us to pick, even with an extension picking stick. Once the avocados fall off the Red-necked Wallabies feast on the windfalls. They don't wait for them to ripen, as they eat the hard flesh and skin, and only leave the seed.

Most of the Wallabies on the property are females with joeys. Until recently we have had a large male we could identify because of his floppy ear, which looked like it had been half chewed off in a fight. Now he seems to have been replaced by this male (*pictured above right, chewing on an unripe avocado*).

We have known these Wallabies since the early 1970s, and we are pretty sure they are all related. They are fairly confident around us, but don't allow us to come too close. When we first came to the property we used



to feed them bread at the back door until, after a neighbour's dog visited, we noticed that the wallabies disappeared for several days. This made us realise that we shouldn't make them vulnerable to attack, so we stopped feeding them. Dog attacks and road kills are their main danger, so please watch out when you are on the road at dusk and dawn.

Ed Frazer

Musings: Wildlife Visitors

Thanks, Robyn, for your email referring to this lovely article as the 'musings of a local resident who has become enchanted by our diverse wildlife, and is increasingly concerned about its future' (& thanks to Malcom for Robyn's photo, below).

Recently, when sorting some documents, I found an old notebook labelled 'Wildlife Visits to Our Garden from January 2022.' Since our property was adjacent to Moggill Creek, it was not surprising that many of our visitors were aquatic creatures.

A memorable first visitor was the small freshwater turtle that was intent on climbing up our steep driveway, away from the creek, until a neighbour carried the protesting creature back to the water.



Many generations of water dragons found homes in our garden, but it took me some time to understand that the dragon swimming in our pool was *not* drowning. That was except for the unsuspecting creature that did not recognise that the pool cover

presented an insurmountable barrier to its survival. An early MCCG Platypus Survey (2005) showed platypus were living in the stretch of creek below our

garden. Then there were the frogs. With its characteristic 'tock tock' we identified the presence of a striped marsh frog in the garden pond, and the occasional green tree frog studied us through a kitchen window.

Snakes were frequent visitors that we, as ex-Melbournians, needed to learn to identify and respect. Perhaps the most common snakes were the different carpet pythons, but there were yellow-faced whip snakes, green tree snakes and, fortunately only once, a fleeting visit from a brown snake. Lizards, skinks, blue tongued skinks, geckoes, and land mullets visited over the years—sadly sometimes falling victim to our inquisitive dog (who never conquered the ubiquitous Asian house geckoes, however).

Always there were the birds! During our 18 years in that property not only did we identify many, but we also began to recognize the seasonal patterns of birds such as the koels, the channel-billed cuckoos, kookaburras, whipbirds, and the annoying brush turkeys (at one time with 13 roosting in a garden tree). I particularly remember a pheasant coucal parading through the garden with its chick. But perhaps the strangest sight was that of two adult crows feeding the insatiable appetite of a channel-billed cuckoo that had been dropped into their nest by some cunning parents. Memorable too were the generations of tawny frogmouths, raising their babies in some of our larger trees—although, sometimes, their flimsy nests were destroyed by wild storms.

Secretive birds heard at night, but rarely seen in the day, were powerful owls and mopokes. Daytime was the time for the showy birds, rainbow lorikeets, scaly-breasted lorikeets, Pacific bazas, pale-headed rosellas, and king parrots; some solitary, others seeking the company of their friends. Butcher birds often fed on the insects gathered under the eaves of the house. Mind you, the 100 mm stick insects or the rhinoceros beetles would not have been such popular mouthfuls. After heavy rain, we often found dead land hoppers inside the front door. Early spring meant the fireflies flashing beside the creek to bring excitement, and a late night to bed, for the local children.

Then there were the possums and bats—nocturnal creatures that screeched, ran across the roof, and raided parts of the garden.

We arrived in Brisbane with little knowledge of Brisbane's wildlife, but we learnt much from the first edition of [Wildlife of Greater Brisbane by the Queensland Museum](#). Our much-thumbed and torn copy shows how often it has been used to illustrate that Brisbane has the greatest diversity of wildlife of any of Australia's other capital cities. *Robyn Frost*

MCCG: KSSS Under 8s Day

Kirsten Cowan, a Teacher at Kenmore South State School (KSSS), heard about the MCCG through a colleague, and invited us to set up a Moggill Creek activity for the KSSS [Under 8s Day 2023](#) (9-11am, 23rd June). This event aligned beautifully with their 'Positive Agile Community' work. Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 children were able to pot their own plant to take home, gaining a better understanding of why planting local plant species in their backyard is



important. Two of our Committee Members, Suzanne Philp and Simon English, set up and ran the activity (*see photo, above, just before the kids arrived!*), and we provided the native plants, soil and pots (with support from Bryan Hacker and colleagues). The activity was overrun with around 100 kids potting up their plants. Thanks again to all involved! *Chris Bruton*

October Community Tree Planting

On Sunday 8th October (8:30–11am) we are holding a Rafting Ground Reserve Community Tree Planting. We are planning to plant around 700 native trees and shrubs—aiming to transform areas near the south-eastern end of the park that are currently dominated by very long (exotic) grasses and weeds such as Caster Oil plants (*see photo of one of the areas to be cleared, below*). Wesley DeMuth, our Creek Catchment Officer, has secured BCC funding to prepare the areas for planting—which will include clearing the grass and



weeds, spreading mulch, and auger-ing holes for the plants. BCC will also supply the plants. All that we will be required to do on the day is to put in the plants, provide stakes and plant protectors where appropriate, and water them in.

We need plenty of volunteers to help with this event. **No previous experience** of bushcare is necessary, but you are encouraged to view [this video](#) about planting tubestock on the MCCG YouTube channel.

Children are very welcome to attend, if accompanied by an adult. Volunteers should wear old clothes, covered shoes, gardening gloves, and a sunhat. Hand tools, insect repellent, and sunblock will be supplied. There is plenty of parking at the northern end of the reserve (the entry is at the traffic lights opposite the intersection of Moggill and Pullenvale roads). Morning tea and refreshments will be provided. For more information or to book your place, please email JimPope@moggillcreek.org.au. I look forward to seeing YOU then!

Jim Pope

PS And if you can't make the 8 October event, why not look at our [website](#) and contact one of MCCG's section leaders to see if they need any help. Or have a look at the [Plant Trees Australia](#) 'hub' that advertises restoration projects across Australia (funded by [Carbon Positive Australia](#)).

Black Bean History

Black Bean, Bean Tree, Mai (Turrbal/Jagera name) or Moreton Bay Chestnut (*Castanospermum australe*) can be found in the Moggill Creek Catchment at Rafting Ground Reserve, close beside the creek banks. The pods and seeds resemble a very large woody scaled-up example of green peas in a pod, and are often a favourite of children as the empty pods make fine toy boats. The large, greenish, and poisonous seeds float in water, and are tolerant of salt-water influence. Black Beans are attractive plants when in flower, with very large red pea-shaped flowers with abundant nectar that parrots find irresistible (*see photo, below*).



Picture: *Castanospermum australe*— Australian rainforest flowering tree (Credit: Tatters, licensed under CC BY 2.0).

Recent genetic and anthropological [studies](#) from NSW researchers strongly suggest that Black Bean seeds were brought from northern tropical areas of Queensland and distributed in northern NSW (and probably also SEQ) by First Nations peoples as, once intensively treated, the toxic but starchy seeds were highly valued as a food source. This certainly fits the puzzling distribution of this species elsewhere in SE Queensland, where some isolated populations such as in the Bunya Mountains seem overwhelmingly likely due to human agency.

Sandy Pollock

Bandicoot Banter

Northern brown bandicoots (*Isodon macrourus*), as pictured below, seem to be making a comeback in the Moggill Creek Catchment, after an apparent long absence. There are numerous social media reports of their presence, most notably in people's lawns and nature strips and often in places close to dense bushland. Most MCCG members would welcome these native animals into their gardens, but some friends may wonder how to deter them from their digging activities. Be reassured that they are eating garden pests like grubs and beetles that cause lawn dieback. But, if you are seeking a deterrent, NSW Parks and Wildlife Service suggest the use of floodlights (bandicoots don't like strong light) or adding chicken manure or dynamic lifter to lawns (the ammonia smell supposedly being a deterrent).



Image credit: Rob Foster, licensed under CC BY 4.0, [16113610](#).

Please keep bandicoots safe by keeping your pets locked up when they are known to be around, or perhaps temporarily fence off areas to restrict pet-bandicoot (and lawn) interactions. A wildlife ramp of wood or heavy rope in a swimming pool also helps animals self-rescue if they fall in.

Sandy Pollock

Don't Forget Our Local Environment

The Queensland Conservation Council invites us all to make sure that the environmental issues are not forgotten as part of the current SEQ Regional Development Plan [review](#). The QCC argues that 'koala, owls, gliders, quolls and many other precious species are at threat of extinction in SEQ, if we continue on the current path of development, destroying and fragmenting their habitat. We must ensure the rush to build new housing doesn't come at the expense of remnant forest and wetland habitat.'

For more information, and suggestions about how to make a submission, [click here](#) (submission deadline 20 September 2023). **AND don't forget to keep an eye on the encroaching problems caused by the apparent determination to put a flight path directly over our local area.** There is significant concern about the proposed night-time over land flight departures, and it appears that one route would introduce excessive nighttime flights over the catchment—further affecting local wildlife and residents. You can access the map and search your address [here](#). If you do want to make a submission regarding the different flight path options, **you need to do so by 10th September** by registering and then completing the survey at https://engage.airservicesaustralia.com/nap4b/survey_tools/phase-2-night-time-over-land-departures-north.

Welcome, Murray

MCCG members will welcome the appointment of our SEQWater contact, Field Ranger Murray Oke. Murray works for Adam Milne, throughout the SEQWater Central Region (including the Mt. Crosby, Wivenhoe, Somerset, Gold Creek and Manchester areas). Murray has substantial experience working with community organisations, focusing on enriching the partnerships between volunteer groups and larger corporations and government entities. Murray (*pictured, right, image supplied by Adam Milne*) has an environmental background and is keen on building the relationship between MCCG and SEQWater.



Froggin' Around: News

It's great news that spring is here. After a dry winter the creek is drying up, with the few remaining waterholes tadpole-free. Frogs are calling from the dam, showing the importance of these water bodies. I have recently [FrogID](#)-verified calls from striped marsh frogs, eastern sedge frogs and tussock frogs. Recording calls from same location over time allows for the tracking of frog populations, and it was great to hear that the co-founder of the FrogID citizen science project, Dr Jodi Rowley, has received a [Eureka Prize](#). The 2023 Australian Museum Research Institute (AMRI) Medal recognises Dr Rowley's multi-disciplinary and innovative work, at the forefront of biodiversity conservation.

Interestingly another bioacoustics project, recording calls of eight frog species in the Murray-Darling Basin, used machine learning software to identify and count frog species. [Researchers](#) were able compare different sites to help in better managing water flows to provide breeding opportunities.

Last month's [National Science Week](#) gives me a great excuse to share some 'frog geek' news. Webb and Waddle's *chytridiomycosis* [review article in Microbiology Australia](#) discusses a fungus that infects the skin of amphibians. *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) is linked to declines and extinction of many amphibian species across the world. There is a current spike in deaths, including cane toads (as reported in the [OFSI Frog Sheet](#), Spring issue), and it has been found there are differences in Bd susceptibility among frog species. Approaches to conservation include the anti-fungal drug treatment of captive animals, but it is not feasible to treat wild populations. Potential mitigation strategies are to target Bd by modifying natural areas with salt content, or creating basking opportunities, to help hosts overcome infection. Tools may also include viral biocontrol (in plants), to allow for development of natural Bd resistance of captive bred and released animals. But, currently, the most effective strategies are strict biosecurity, and field hygiene.

For more Froggin' news, [Mongabay](#) is a good source of news—including a [recent report](#) that restoring and reconnecting habitats protects amphibians from disease, with improved healthy outcomes. *Phil Bird*

Myrtle Rust: MCCG June Talk

Kristy Stevenson, PhD candidate from The University of Queensland, gave an engaging presentation on the concerning and continuing impact of Myrtle rust on native plants in the catchment, and elsewhere in Australia (Kenmore Library, 27 June 2023).

Kristy (*pictured below*) outlined some of her recent



findings as to how Myrtle rust appears to be changing the composition of some recolonising native plant communities in a study site in wet sclerophyll forest near Tallebudgera. This rust species was changing the way the forest regenerated, by killing some rust-susceptible native pioneer plant species after natural disturbance. The talk highlighted how several similar large-scale pathogens have affected the world's forest flora in very significant ways, where pathogens all appear to be caused, or at least assisted, by the movement of plant material across continents.

Kristy noted that there are other (exotic) strains of Myrtle rust that may be even more pathogenic of our native *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* (gum trees, ironbarks and stringybarks) species, but do not currently occur in Australia. MCCG members were urged to be vigilant if observing sudden and severe death of local eucalypts that appeared to be related to a Myrtle rust infection event. Such observations need to be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or the Federal Agriculture Department on **1800 900 090**.

Despite the somewhat dire nature of this pathogen, it was also noted that a many plant ecologists and horticulturalists were working to try and save some of the more readily infected *Myrtaceae*, such as native guavas (*Rhodomyrtus spp.*) by looking for resistant individual plants in the wild, or by crossbreeding them with resistant related native species.

An interesting and animated question and answer session from many members of the audience concluded the evening. Sandy Pollock

Dates for YOUR Diary

MCCG event dates are always available on our [website](#). The next quarterly talk, *Vines of Moggill Creek Catchment*, is by Sandy Pollock (our Chair, and Newsletter roving reporter!). So do put 26 September in your diary now: Kenmore Library, 6:30 for 7pm (finishing by 9pm), refreshments served. The MCCG Annual General Meeting, also at Kenmore Library, takes place on 28 November (6:30 for 7pm, guest speaker *tbc*).

Pasture Grasses & Weeds

Rhodes grass (*Chloris gayana*) is an environmental weed (see Upper Brookfield Working Group update, *Winter 2023 Newsletter*), but it is also one of our more important tropical pasture grasses. The species was introduced to Australia c1900, and seed was distributed to NSW farmers in 1903. It was given the cultivar name cv. Pioneer in Queensland in 1966. Other cultivars include cv. Katambora (from Northern Rhodesia in 1951), cv. Callide (from Kenya, in 1963),



Picture: Confused? Rhodes grass (L) and tall chloris (R).

the vigorously [stoloniferous](#) cv. Samford (Kenya, 1967), and the more recently released cv. Reclaimer. Also in the genus *Chloris* is the native tall chloris (*Chloris ventricosa*). Native to eastern Australia (from north Queensland to Victoria), this is a commonly found species in local eucalypt woodlands, and should be included when planting understorey.

The two species may easily be confused (see my photo, below left). Botanically they are distinguished by spikelet details; in the field they may be distinguished by leaf blade width (2-3mm in tall chloris, and 5-10mm in Rhodes grass), and the number of flower head spikes (2-15 in tall chloris [usually <10], and Rhodes grass has 6-18 spikes). Spikes are more delicate in the native species. Both are stoloniferous, but tall chloris may have few or no [stolons](#). Bryan Hacker

MCCG Annual Platypus Survey

Just a reminder that the 2023 survey takes place on 10 September 2023. Results will be in our next newsletter, on our [website](#), and on MCCG social media.

Threatened Species

The second Sunday in September is **National Bilby Day**—the only official gazetted day of celebration for an Australian animal. In 2023, this special day falls just a few days after *Threatened Species Day* (7 September) which is the anniversary of the death of the last Tasmanian tiger. That means that September is an ideal time to: *consider* the plight of our threatened species and how they got into this mess, *help* raise awareness, and *support* the recovery efforts being made across Queensland.

[National Bilby Day](#) is especially significant to Queenslanders, as it came off the back of a campaign led by Queensland's Bilby Brothers, Frank Manthey and Peter McRae (both of whom worked for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service [QPWS]). Sadly, both Frank and Pete have now passed; I miss them both dearly, but I am extremely grateful that we have this national day to commemorate their legacy. Queensland is home to one of the largest wild bilby populations in Australia, located in and around [Astrebla Downs National Park](#) in far western Queensland channel country. In fact, this National Park was gazetted specifically to protect the bilby. But bilbies are a flagship species for the many threatened species that have had a similar plight, especially in our arid and semi-arid lands. In western Queensland they share habitat with Kowari (vulnerable), night parrots (critically endangered) and plains wanderers (critically endangered), just to name

a few. All of these species, and many more have been devastated by a common threat; the feral cat. But there is hope. Bilbies, like many other threatened species affected by cats, are thriving in areas protected by large predator-free fences. Here in Queensland, bilbies have been re-established at [Currawinya National Park](#), thanks to a collaboration between the *Save the Bilby Fund* and QPWS. Bilbies breed well in captivity and thrive in these predator-free safe havens. But this is not the endpoint for bilbies. Once we have the tools to control feral cats effectively across the broader landscape, bilbies in the safe havens can then help to re-establish them in the wild. In September, spare a thought for the bilby—a true Queensland battler—and, if you can, support the great work of the [Save the Bilby Fund](#). *Dr Manda Page*

2023 Kids' Day at The Cottage

We did include a quick report about the June MCCG Kids' Day at The Cottage in the Winter Newsletter. But here are a few more photographs as a reminder of quite how busy—and successful—the 2023 MCCG Kids' Day at The Cottage was.

Tracey Read counted at least 300 people attending, commenting that it was great to see so very many local families out in the sunshine and learning about our very special local environment.



Picture: Dale Borgelt with Dr Christian Rowan MP (Credit: Sandy Pollock)

Thanks to all of the many volunteers (including from Young Rotary), helpers, partners (including BCC), and our Committee Members for another great MCCG event. Here's to Kids' Day at The Cottage 2024.....!



Picture, above: Martin's wombat, a star attraction of the [Geckoes Wildlife Display](#) (picture credit: Sandy Pollock).



Picture, above: A close encounter with some of our native gastropods (Credit Tracey Read).



LEFT: Young Rotary volunteers, modelling their MCCG craft, pictured with Dale Borgelt; **ABOVE:** The traditional Kids' Day Sausage Sizzle, staffed by our very hard-working team! (both images credit Tracey Read).

Moggill Magic: KSHS Tree Planting

It is always wonderful to hear of the impact that members of our local community are having in our local environment—and, in particular, to hear from our future leaders. Thanks, Alena (KSHS, Year 12), for this great article.

On the 28th July, it was a sea of green as students from Kenmore State High School (KSHS) enthusiastically took part in the annual National Tree Planting Day (*see front cover image*). What a turn out—the number of volunteers was astounding as always! Even more incredible was that 1,080 native plants such as lomandras, blue gums, bottlebrush and celery wood were planted and watered, rejuvenating the area of bushland near the School's basketball courts.

Another interesting activity for some of us was rubbish collection, because we always seem to stumble across 'treasures' scattered in and around the bordering Moggill Creek. Our mission to keep rubbish from polluting waterways, and the excited anticipation to top the discoveries of previous years (which have included a rusty bench, boogie board and school ID card from 2005), spurred us into action, resulting in an overflowing bin. Our strangest find? a wooden door.



Since the first tree planting day in 2002, led by KSHS staff member Michael Walker (*see image, above*), students have made a significant contribution to our school environment. Returning to the same spot this year where KSHS students began the tradition, it was amazing to see the growth of their plantings 21 years later (*see image, right*)—a reminder that every little action helps!

Not only have students contributed positively to the environment through Tree Planting days, but KSHS has its own environmental club (otherwise known as the Worms Club) dedicated to preserving and improving our environment and caring for wildlife. Together, we have actioned a number of activities and measures. This year's projects included a school 'fashion swap', where students donated clothes to swap with others, a composting system for the school kitchens, and four new possum boxes. We are now

working towards introducing a Containers for Change program.

At KSHS, we are fortunate to have such an important and diverse range of life right outside our classrooms, which is why we must do everything possible to reduce our detrimental effects. Moggill Creek is an integral part of our environment; home to a variety of native flora and fauna—for example platypus, possums, bandicoots, and microbats—it remains an important biodiversity corridor to the Brisbane River. But, over the years, humans have been leaving a destructive footprint through littering and insufficient maintenance.

Particularly after witnessing the devastating impacts of the 2022 floods on creek vegetation, which saw trees ripped out of the ground, the creek beds damaged and rubbish swept into bushland, it was great to see so many people putting up their hands to help restore and preserve our school environment and its ecosystems for generations to come. None of this would have been possible without the financial support of Toyota Australia, Sci-Fleet Toyota and Planet Ark. We also are indebted to the Brisbane City Council and Damien Egan for preparing the site, and spreading the mulch—and not forgetting support from teachers (particularly Mr McNicol, Mr Hynes and Ms Hawkes), groundsman Darren, and the administration staff of the School.

With another Tree Planting Day under our belts, I'd also like to acknowledge the contributions of Bruce Dymock, who has always been an enthusiastic participant. As a member of the school P&C group, and organiser of the school's monthly environment working bees, he has provided the community with much wisdom and made a huge improvement to our environment.



Ending the day with sun-kissed and smiling faces, I know that everyone, including myself, felt the satisfaction of doing our bit to help save the planet. Here's hoping the bush turkeys won't destroy all our hard work, and that in 20 years' time, our plants will have grown into big, beautiful trees.

Alena Teh-Kobe