



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

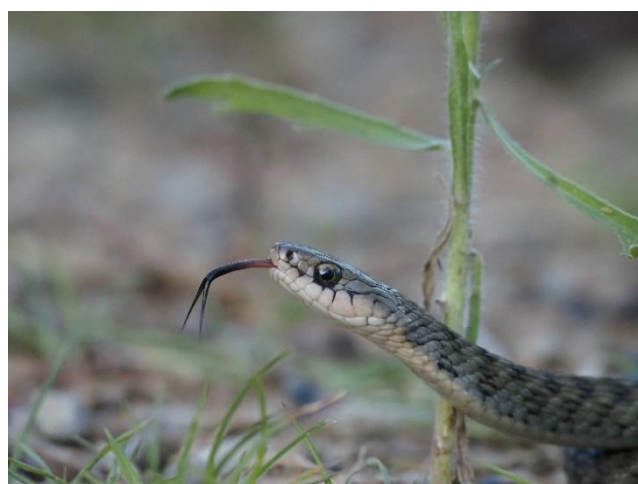
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MCCG NEWSLETTER Autumn 2024



ABOVE: Aliana Hoole is looking forward to attending the 9 June 2024 Kids' Day at the Cottage (turn to page 5 for more, article & image by Dale Borgelt).

RIGHT: Turn to page 4 for more about this 'unfashionable and toxic' Dutchman's pipe vine (article & image credit: Sandy Pollock).



LEFT: Intrigued? Turn to page 3 for more about this new home (article & image by Bruce Dymock).

ABOVE: For more about this attractive and low maintenance brushbox turn to page 6 (article & image by Sandy Pollock). **RIGHT:** Turn to page 6 for more from Andrew Taylor about his striking 2023 'Photo Comp' entry, an evocative image of a Keelback or Freshwater snake—plus a reminder of the 2024 dates.

Your latest issue: Chairman's Report (p2), Date Claimers (pages 2, 3, 5, 6), eDNA Investigations (p5), Feathertail Glider Nest Boxes (p3), Freshwater Gold Clam Alert (p6), Froggin' Around (p4), Microbats reporting (p5), Moggill Magic (p8), 'Photo Comp' (p6), Seeds (p6), Weeds (p4).

Chairman's Report

Welcome back to another year of Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) activities—be they Citizen Science biodiversity surveys, weeding an established patch of riparian vegetation, getting involved in tree-planting, or attending some of many activities available throughout the year. We especially warmly welcome new members and thank those long-term members who have stuck with us throughout the last 25 years. We only exist because of your support; we're glad to have you.

The new online membership system appears to be working well, and many members are using it to renew their annual MCCG membership. While this may seem a significant change to previous years, this new process helps make reconciling membership within MCCG a lot simpler.

I'd like to welcome our new Secretary—none other than my very capable wife, Rosemary Pollock—who generously assented to filling in the vital and vacant Secretary role. Rosemary has filled the role admirably, but we really would like someone else to have a go at this key committee position. The Secretary role is an interesting and fulfilling volunteer occupation, suitable for someone who likes to interact and socialise with other environmentally minded people. We await suitably enthusiastic volunteers! We have a full induction system and documented processes for any (perhaps younger?) members who would like to give this a try.

This is also an appropriate time to thank last year's Secretarial dynamic duo, Chris Bruton and Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside, who really worked hard in that shared position for the last two years. We are relieved that Zoe and Chris are staying on in other vital roles within the MCCG Committee. I'd also like to thank people who've taken on new roles—especially Damian Egan, who will assist local landholders who wish to conduct Landcare activities on their own properties. With the much commented upon recent humidity, many plantings have been doing well, and it's a relief that the predicted drought and heat has so far not materialised. This also seems to have benefited Moggill Creek, with almost all feeder systems and the main creek running freely. With such good weather to see the creek in flow, why not get out and see your local creek again. Maybe replace some screen-time with 'creek-time?' You won't regret it.

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.

Date Claimer

MCCG Quarterly talk, 25th June 2024

Dr Vanessa Gorecki, will give a talk about 'The Extraordinary Fishing Bat, the Large-footed Myotis (*Myotis macropus*), of the creeks of Brisbane's Western Suburbs.' For more information on forthcoming events, check the website [calendar](#): which includes information about nursery days and other events of interest to MCCG Members.

Editorial

2024 seems to be flying by, and it looks as if the MCCG calendar is filling up nicely, with lots of activities in our catchment. Don't forget your Newsletter Editor when you are participating in MCCG events. I am always keen to hear from 'new voices,' and it's great to see pictures of what you are *seeing* or 'MCCG-related *doing*' in our local environment. **The absolute deadline for the next issue is 17 May 2024. [I look forward to hearing from YOU ... just email me.](#)** Thank 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: Rosemary Pollock

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Articles of interest to Members are *always* welcome.

The Editor reserves the right not to publish any item submitted. Material will be edited for clarity, style, and space. The decision of the Editor is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. ***Please email YOUR news direct to mccgeditor@outlook.com.au.***

Newsletter Editor: Dr Catherine A. Lawrence (Cathi)

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Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Thanks for stepping up, Rosemary!

Following in the footsteps of Chris Bruton and Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside, the previous MCCG Secretary duo, is a big task. I'm so grateful that they are still assisting, particularly with the new Member database. A huge *thank you* to Chris and Zoe, and to all members who have joined and renewed online. When Chris and Zoe stood down at the last AGM, I stepped in as a temporary measure, in the absence of any other volunteers for this role. If YOU can now step forward to fill this role, [please email me](#).

A little about me...Sandy, my husband, is the chairperson of MCCG, so I've heard a fair bit about it in the last couple of years. I have had a long association with MCCG through the photo competition—both in my own right, and when previously supporting the Kenmore South State School students with their entries to the competition over several years. I am proud to say that the school



ABOVE: Rosemary Pollock, at the October 2023 MCCG tree planting event (credit: Sandy Pollock)

won the MCCG Schools Trophy over multiple years with my support. For me, it wasn't just about taking the photos; it was also about the walk to the local creek, encouraging the students to explore and appreciate nature.

Sandy and I enjoy getting out into the natural environment. As the MCCG supports the riparian habitats through revegetation, creek health measurements etc, our MCCG involvement is a great fit for our shared interest. *Rosemary Pollock*

Fire Ants Talk

Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network (CWCN)'s forthcoming AGM will conclude with a presentation from Dr Ross Wylie on *Why are fire ants a super pest?* Ross is currently Science Leader for the National Fire Ant Eradication Program within Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Details in connection with the Monday 25 March 2024 evening meeting are available on the [CWCN website](#).

New Feathertail Glider Nest Boxes

Great to hear from their convenor about this latest Kenmore State High School (KSHS) Environment Group (great work, Bruce!).

Over recent years, the KSHS P&C Environment Group has designed, built, and installed 10 nest box-type homes for micro-bats along the banks of Moggill Creek and McKay Brook. Regular checks have occasionally identified occupants as native micro-bats, usually Gould's Wattled Bats (*Chalinolobus gouldii*). Recently many of them have been stuffed with fresh Eucalyptus leaves, leading us to wonder what may have done this as it restricts the access of micro-bats. Research has led us to believe that there must be a colony of the Broad-toed Feathertail Gliders (*Acrobates frontalis*) in the area, as such behaviour is a trait of these very small marsupials. Here I'd like to acknowledge the support of ecologist Melanie Venz. One of our volunteers has therefore designed and built a home for installation in the areas where we believe the gliders might be living. Using discarded 100mm plastic tubing, and other materials purchased from a hardware shop, 10 of these new homes were installed in the school grounds in February (see front cover photo). The tubing includes two small holes (one of which can be used as an escape route should a predator approach), a top, a base (with some small holes to allow any rainwater to exit), and an inside which is lined with gauze (to enable the occupants to move around). The exterior of has been painted and then covered with a sprinkling of sand, to make it easier for the gliders to hold onto the box—although we do understand that their large, serrated toepads enable them to hold on to materials such as glass. Feathertails are the world's smallest gliding mammals. As they eat insects, plant exudates, pollen, honeydew, nectar, and seeds, they mainly forage in trees and shrubs—particularly on trees with shedding bark, such as *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *E. moluccana*, *E. pilularis*, or *E. seeana*. As they occasionally forage on the ground, **please** keep your cats indoors at night. We will regularly check on these new homes, and we are hopeful of positive sightings of these incredible little animals in the years to come! *Bruce Dymock*

2024 MCCG Platypus Survey

A quick date claimer for Moggill Creek Platypus Survey, which will be held on the second Sunday in September (8th September 2024). Details about this, the MCCG's 19th Survey (!!!), will be included in the next newsletter and on our website.

Tamielle Brunt

MCCG Grants Officer

After a busy couple of years in the Secretary roles (2022 and 2023), Zoe and I have handed over the reins to the very capable new successor, Rosemary Pollock (*see previous page*). We thank Rosemary for stepping in; the Secretary role is dynamic and rewarding, giving a deep insight into the fabric of the catchment group, and the volunteers that drive it. We've found it truly inspiring to get to meet and know the people who *collectively* bring a passion and desire to see positive outcomes—benefiting our local environment, and the mental health of the many volunteers who organise and/or participate in the packed calendar of events. Volunteering is an exceptional way to bring value and purpose to yourself and others as much as the community.

Having had exposure to the inner workings of the MCCG, and leveraging off my professional background as an engineer and project manager, I saw an obvious opportunity in the 2024 committee lineup to take on the Grants Officer role. After successfully applying and receiving over \$45,000 in grants already on behalf of MCCG, you might say that I had a significant head-start into the role.

One of the grants included funds for the new Membership portal that allows members to maintain their own personal payment and membership preferences, as well as opt in to make secure online donations (*see article, page 7*). The configuration and rollout of this system was largely self-deployed by me, in parallel with my 2023 MCCG Secretary role.

Other grants have covered the cost to replace the outdated audio visual and computer setup for events as show cased at the November 2023 AGM, as well as technology for the **Moggill Natives App** that is being developed by enthusiastic nursery volunteers.

Grants allow MCCG to significantly *leverage* volunteer effort by providing them with the resources and tools to make their contribution more efficient or rewarding such that volunteering is a pursuit rather than a burden. There are many ways to contribute to the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, if you have a project or passion that is aligned with the goals of the catchment, and that is ripe for grant funding, please reach out to me (email grants@moggillcreek.org.au).

Chris Bruton



Picture: Chris Bruton's self-portrait with local wildlife!

Weeds: Unfashionable & Toxic Pipe!

With recent humid weather, the spectacular flowers of the Dutchman's pipe vine (*Aristolochia elegans*) have become prominent in unkempt gardens and bushland areas. The very large, inflated purple and white blooms are unmistakable, and are widespread in some parts of the catchment (*see front cover image*).

But this slender vine-like plant holds an unpleasant toxic secret. Its thin stems, rounded leaves, and large flowers, contain compounds (aristolochic acid) that are injurious or fatal to animals that eat it. Sadly, this affects native insects such as the Richmond birdwing butterfly. When deceived into laying eggs on this vine, the butterflies doom their larvae, as they cannot grow to maturity on this non-native plant.

We recommend gardeners and bushcarers target this plant for removal, to assist regeneration of native plants smothered by this vine weed, and to lessen the harm caused to the Richmond birdwing. This poisonous vine is thought to have contributed to some of the great reduction in the population size of the only birdwing butterfly found in south-east Queensland (SEQ).

Sandy Pollock

Froggin' Around

Following heaps of rain, the frogs have been having a glorious time. The [November 2023 FrogID review](#) included a capture of a beautiful chorus from Moggill Creek of eight frog species: *Litoria caerulea*, *Litoria peronii*, *Litoria balatus*, *Litoria gracilentia*, *Litoria fallax*, *Litoria chloris*, *Mixophyes fasciolatus* and *Rhinella marina*. There are a few interesting aspects to this capture.

Firstly, if the site was the dam, it would have also included *Alelotus brevis* and *Limnodynastes peronii* (and a couple of years ago *Crinia parainsignifera* was also calling). *Litoria lesueuri* also calls from the creek—with a very soft short trill that can be difficult to hear among other calls. The Moggill Creek and surrounding areas are very rich in frog species—with 12 of the 17 frog species found in and around my local area ([see also the MCCG website for more](#)).

Secondly, the bleating tree frog is now three species (previously it was only one). Among our loudest calling frogs, they each have a short, rapid, painful, high-pitched screech, and two can be found in Queensland. The slender bleating tree frog (*Lit. balatus*) is found SE Qld, including Brisbane, and the robust bleating tree frog (*Litoria dentata sensu stricto*) is found from NE NSW and up to the NSW/Qld border (the screaming tree frog, *Litoria quiritatus*, is around the Victorian border to mid coast NSW).

Thirdly, one of our largest Australian ground frogs, *Mixophyes fasciolatus*, which is also one of the barred

frogs, has been calling regularly during our recent wet summers. They have interesting breeding biology, where the female kicks eggs out of the water to rest on muddy banks and rock faces next to stream pools. The tadpoles (up to 8.5cm long) then drop into the water after hatching and can take up to 12 months to develop into frogs. Some of these tadpoles are currently present in rock pools in the creek, so I am hoping for their quick development before a drying creek provides food for the ever-present herons.

In closing, do have a look at the [Watergum website](#), to learn more about their great work in removing cane toads from the environment. I recently witnessed an ibis carrying, and shaking, a small cane toad before eating. Clearly, we need more ibis! **Phil Bird**

Weed Identification

Did you know that there is an excellent BCC [online](#) resource to assist in identifying local weeds?

Microbats: Reporting

This update is extracted from information produced by Brisbane's Land for Wildlife Team, as recently circulated by Wesley DeMuth.

Insectivorous microbats account for at least 20% of the total mammal diversity in terrestrial bushland sites in SEQ. [Microbats](#) provide ecosystem services we often take for granted: they are essential pollinators, and consume a boggling amount of insects every night (including mosquitoes—thanks bats!). It is suspected that there are 19 species in Brisbane but—as they are very small, cryptic, and nocturnal—little is known about where and how their populations are going. Robin Rowland's University of Southern Queensland PhD project is investigating stress in microbats roosting in buildings versus those in natural roosts (trees and caves). Robin is asking for the help of the public in reporting any roosts found in natural SEQ areas and man-made structures (such as bridges, umbrellas, roofs, and buildings). If you have microbats living in or around your property, or know where clusters of microbats are roosting in SEQ bushland Robin Rowland would love to hear from you (email: stressedoutbats@gmail.com).

For the safety of native wildlife, please do not make roost information public—and, if you use the iNaturalist app to log wildlife sightings, please always obscure any observations of roost locations whether it be for bats or birds. As always if you find microbats on the ground, powerlines, or fences, please DO NOT touch the bats. Keep your pets away, and please call Bat Conservation and Rescue Queensland 0488 228 134 who have trained carers who can collect the animals.

9 June 2024: Kids' Day at the Cottage

Each year this popular MCCG event attracts kids of all ages who enjoy seeing, making, and doing while they find out more about the world of nature. Some (*like Aliana in the front cover photo, and her sister Mimi*) have enjoyed coming for years and are delighted to see pictures of themselves from earlier events.

Kids' Day presenters enjoy creating displays and activities to interest, engage, and entertain young minds—and the Geckoes Wildlife show is always a highlight (*Sandy Pollock's picture, right, is of the Wombat star attraction in the 2023 Kids' Day*



Geckoes Wildlife Show). **Mark the date in your calendar now: Sunday 9th June.**

Dale Borgelt

2024 eDNA Investigations

There may still be tickets available for the 23rd March 2024 citizen science event, **but you will need to be quick to secure a place**. The Moggill Creek eDNA Investigations 2024 event is a unique opportunity to dive into the world of environmental DNA (eDNA), and to discover the unseen biodiversity of Moggill Creek. [Spaces are limited, so act quickly to secure your spot and be part of this exciting initiative!](#) **And remember, if you attend, your [MCCG Editor](#) would love to receive your event report!**

Environmental DNA (eDNA) is a ground-breaking method used in biodiversity research. It involves collecting water samples from various ecosystems and analysing them for DNA fragments shed by organisms living in those environments. DNA can come from skin, scales, feathers, fur, faeces, or urine—so the eDNA method provides a non-invasive way to monitor biodiversity and ecosystem health, offering insights into the presence and distribution of species within waterways like Moggill and Gold Creeks.

Activities during the three-hour program include an interactive eDNA workshop, a live sampling demonstration, and the opportunity for hands-on sample collection (plus a morning tea). **[RSVP is essential](#)**. Open to all individuals with a reasonable level of fitness who aren't afraid to get their shoes wet (including Young Citizen Scientists, ages 10-15, when accompanied by an adult guardian).

2024 MCCG 'Photo Comp' Dates

Please save the dates for our 2024 MCCG Photography Competition:

- **Sat 19 October:** Submission of open entries
- **Fri 4 to Fri 18 Oct:** Young Person category email submissions

• **21-26 Oct:** Kenmore Village Photo display
• **Sat 26 Oct:** Prize ceremony, Kenmore Village
Don't forget... it's never too early to start taking your winning pictures...!

Rebecca Bain 🇺🇸

Sniffing Snake

I entered my *front cover* photograph of a non-venomous Keelback or Freshwater snake, *Tropidonophis mairii*, into the 2023 MCCG photographic competition. The snake is 'sniffing' the air with its tongue out, as snakes detect prey items by smelling the air—using a special organ which receives and processes the collected molecules, so the snake knows *what* is about (and, because the tongue is forked, *which direction* the smell is coming from). Looking closely at the scales on the side of the face, you can see that this species has a loreal scale, between the nostril scale and the preocular scale in front of the eye. This and other marking differentiate this snake from the similar, but dangerously venomous, Rough-scaled snake (*Tropidechis carinatus*). The Freshwater snake is particularly good to have around as it can eat cane toads, as they are immune to the poisons the toads emit when distressed.

Andrew Taylor

Seeds: Brushbox

As such a familiar shady street tree in Brisbane, it is easy to take brushbox (*Lophostemon confertus*) for granted. Flowering very strongly across SEQ in January, these trees produced a widespread massed display of their white petals and frilly bundles of pale staminal filaments (*see front cover*). Brushbox has had a long history of use as a street tree in eastern Australia, which means that a lot is known about it by horticulturalists and arborists.

Brushbox is an important tree in our catchment, especially within steeper gullies and wetter lower slopes—and close to vine forest areas, where it may dominate such areas, or co-occur with species such as tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*). Dark green whorled brushbox leaves cast deep shade in such areas, and the smooth-brown or salmon-orange upper bark makes it instantly recognisable. The trees can reach heights of nearly 30m in protected catchment areas, but it can also be found in so-called 'whipstick' form towards the tops of dry ridges (often as a smaller, 2-4m multi-stemmed woody shrub).

Readily grown from seed, it is available from our Gold Creek nursery for planting in areas with plenty of space, forming a large spreading tree in cultivation that is generally considered hardy and low maintenance once established.

Sandy Pollock

QLD Ross River Virus Risk

Last month, Queensland Health issued a warning of a heightened risk of Ross River virus infection across the State, after a sharp rise in detections of mosquitoes carrying the virus (in areas from Mackay down to SEQ).

The Queensland Chief Health Officer notes it is critical for people to take measures to protect themselves from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases, as there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment available for Ross River virus. As the virus is spread from infected mosquitoes to humans, and not from person to person, *avoid* outdoor activities at dusk and dawn, and *wear protection* (insect repellent containing DEET, picardin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus, with loose, light-coloured clothing to cover up arms, legs, and feet). At home, remove standing water, empty containers, and check your flyscreens. The full press release is [online](#).

Freshwater Gold Clam Alert

Wesley DeMuth, BCC Creek Catchment Officer, recently circulated a Queensland Department of Agriculture & Fisheries Biosecurity Update.

More information is available [online](#).

A highly invasive species of clam, freshwater gold clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), has been detected for the first time in Australia at several places along the Brisbane River at Savages Crossing, Colleges Crossing, and Riverside Park.



The highly invasive freshwater gold clam has an inflated, yellowish brown to black round to triangular clam shell with evenly spaced ridges (*see Queensland Government image, supplied, above*). The shell length is usually less than 25mm, but it can grow to 50–65mm. Freshwater gold clam breeds quickly and spreads easily, causing significant damage to our rivers and

waterways by clogging infrastructure, displacing native clams, and diminishing water quality. If you think you have seen a freshwater gold clam, [report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland](#). If possible, take a photo for identification. For more, look at the [fact sheet](#), and at information on the [website](#).

2024 Cane Toad Bust

Did you participate in the January 2024 Cane Toad Bust? Over 35,000 cane toads and 19,000 tadpoles were humanely trapped and euthanised. For information, or inspiration, visit the [Watergum website](#).

MCCG Website: What's New

Eagle-eyed MCCG members may have already spotted several new features which have been added to our website, including:

- **[Events calendar](#)**: Users can now view events by type and date, pre-register, and also receive calendar reminders and updates;
- **[The Affiliates directory and noticeboard](#)**: A great way to discover organisations or groups with likeminded goals and aspirations. This includes the many [Brisbane Catchment Network \(BCN\) members](#) that represent the 12 Brisbane member groups; and
- **[Donations](#)**: Donations can now be made online by using our secure payment options. The new system allows donors to add an optional message, and to receive automatically generated receipts.

Please visit our website for more!

Chris Bruton

WH&S Advice: Heat & Hydration

Don't forget that it is important to stay hydrated in hot weather. Water is the recommended liquid for hydration—so please *drink* plenty of water regularly, even if you don't feel thirsty, as this is critical to help prevent heat stress.

When engaging in activities, hydrate:

- *before* you start, and then carry a full water bottle (or bottles), or use a hydration backpack;
- *during* your activity, drink smaller amounts at shorter intervals, as this is more effective than drinking large amounts infrequently; and
- *after* finishing, continue to hydrate.

It is also best practice to consider adjusting activities to reduce the potential for heat stress:

- *begin* the activity earlier in the day or later in the day after the midday heat;
- *shorten* the activity duration; and

- *work smarter*, by working or resting in the shade where possible, and take regular rest breaks.

Remember your clothing protection: hat, lightweight cotton, and breathable clothing (and perhaps a wet bandana around your neck to assist cooling). Finally, don't forget to check on others, to ensure they are ok.

Please note: This article is not medical advice and is a general description only, having been put together from sources available on the internet. Rosemary Pollock

Membership Portal Update

Many of you will now be familiar with the MCCG Membership Portal, introduced in late 2023, which replaced our old, manual database. Members can now self-manage their profile, payments, and preferences—all in one secure, live, web-based environment. With over 400 financial members, and thousands of local supporters, membership management and engagement has always proved to be a significant administrative task. With members now in control of their own personal data, and using a new system that is capable of automatic reconciliation of credit card payments, a good portion of our volunteer effort can now be re-deployed. The new approach also provides a more transparent experience for MCCG members. The MCCG Committee preference is therefore for members to 'self-cater' (to use the portal and credit card option for payments or donations). But individual support, catering to traditional payment methods, is still available (membership queries to Suzanne Philp (membership@moggillcreek.org.au)). Please look out for emailed membership reminders, and [read our website](#) for more about the benefits of membership, and why your membership is important to us.

Chris Bruton

Pullenvale Roadkill Report



I found 2 squashed cane toads on the road (see Lyn's photo, above). Guess what they had for dinner?! I am assuming jewel bug population is a bit smaller now.

Lyn Cook, Pullenvale

Moggill Magic: Alan Walmsley

Thanks to Robyn Frost for this lovely article about Alan 'I'm Just the Treasurer' Walmsley! We are so fortunate to have quiet achievers such as Alan, Kathleen, and Robyn, who make valuable contributions to our local community.

'I'm just the Treasurer' is just the kind of self-effacing comment we might expect from Alan Walmsley, current Treasurer of the MCCG management team. A slightly built, physically fit man who works out regularly at a local gym, Alan does not perhaps seem the type of person to have taken on the role of Treasurer in 2018.

A civil engineer, graduate of Salford University, Alan came to Brisbane for a 3-month contract in 1997. Alan returned on a work-sponsored permanent visa with his wife, Kathleen, and 3 of their 4 children, in March 1998. Alan first worked for Maunsell Consulting Engineers (later AECM), before moving to Sinclair Knight Mertz (later Jacobs) as a consulting engineering and project manager for the planning and design of roads and bridges.



Alan and Kathleen (both pictured above, image courtesy Robyn Frost) became Australian citizens in November 2001, and the family settled in a quiet location opposite Moggill Creek in Kenmore Hills. Their outlook, with its treed parkland, was very different from their former home in Manchester, UK. The wildlife was certainly very different: possums on the roof at night required some adjustments... and brush turkeys, other birds, insects, and reptiles also entered their lives.

Alan believes he now has a working knowledge of introduced weeds, but not always such familiarity with many of native plants.

An invitation from Malcolm Frost to join the Huntington Bushcare group, formed a few years before they settled in the area, led to Alan and Kathleen becoming keen Bushcare members. In addition, Kathleen, another quiet achiever, was a wonderful secretary of the MCCG management group from November 2017 to February 2022.

Alan admits that he is not a dedicated environmentalist. But, as an experienced project manager, with extensive exposure to invoices and meticulous attention to detail, Alan is ideally suited to the job of Treasurer. His predecessor, Joanna Yesberg, introduced him to the necessary cash accounting skills, and Alan now manages cash transactions, bill payments, donations, bank accounts, grants, and the supervision of project acquittals.

Alan believes groups such as the MCCG have important roles to play in Brisbane. But Alan is also concerned that there do not seem to be enough local residents who have the time and energy join in—whether in taking on Committee roles, or participating in the sometimes physically demanding work of Bushcare regeneration.

Alan retired from his engineering work a few years ago, but such an active person was never going to sit back. To his MCCG and gym commitments he adds home gardening, grandfather duties, and the hobby of slot car racing. As Alan says, his retirement has been, 'after 45 years, the best thing that ever happened.'

Robyn Frost

MCCG Quarterly Talk: February 2024

Our quarterly talks program had an excellent start this year, with an engaging and informative presentation by Dr Jessa Thurman, author of the popular Australian Geographic hardback book, *Australia's Incredible Insects* (2022). Dr Thurman's presentation, about the life history and ecology of the giant wood moth (*Endoxyla cinereus*), the heaviest moth in the world, was fascinating—and led to many questions from audience members.

Dr Thurman's detailed local studies highlighted the significance of this moth species to predators such as yellow-tailed black cockatoos, and touched on First Nations use of the moth as a culturally important food source. The talk also included information about the extraordinary relationship the moth has with parasitic wasps, and the role of the moth in tree hollow formation within smooth-barked Eucalyptus species. Another marvellous MCCG event, and we all enjoyed the enthusiasm and obvious authority of Dr Thurman.

Sandy Pollock