ISSN 2208-4584 (Online)

MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP
P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

MCCG NEWSLETTER Summer 2026





ABOVE: Congratulations to Joseph Pappas, who won several MCCG photo comp prizes, including the People's Choice Open Category 2nd prize for *'Little face, big smile.' For more turn to p4*

ABOVE: Beverley Clarke's charming phascogales photo. For more about these fascinating marsupials, *turn to page 4.* **RIGHT:** For more from David Edwards, about this winning image of Turner's Beautiful-masked Bee, *turn to page 4.* **BELOW***:* Congratulations to Eloise Lever on winning *two* photo comp prizes for this charming image of a water dragon *(for more about the Young Persons [YP] winners, turn to p 4).*





Your latest issue includes Chairperson's Report (p2), *Froggin' Around (p7),* KSHS Tree Planting Report (p3), *MCCG 'Photo Comp' stories (pp3, 4, 5, 8),* MCCG Successes (p7), *Membership Renewal Reminder (p8),* Moggill Magic (p8), *Phascogales (p4),* 'Seeds & Weeds (p6).

Chairperson's Report

As another year draws to a close, it's a good opportunity to reflect on the work, achievements, and contributions that make the Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) such a valued part of our local community.

Throughout the year, our members, volunteers and supporters have continued to show their commitment to protecting and enhancing the natural environment of our catchment. Whether through the thousands of hours spent on bushcare and habitat restoration, tireless work at our Nursery growing and nurturing seedlings, or community education, *every* contribution helps make a difference to the health and biodiversity of our local environment.

Connecting our community with nature is arguably the most important part of our work. Our three big annual community events include Kids' Day at The Cottage in June, the platypus survey in August, and our Photography Competition in October. Each of these events is a wonderful way to encourage people of all ages to take a closer look at the natural world around them. This year, it was particularly good to see the enthusiasm of our younger photographers, with the Young Persons category in the photo competition providing an opportunity for budding photographers to share their observations and appreciation of local wildlife and landscapes. Encouraging the next generation to value and care for our natural environment is an investment in its future.

One of the things I particularly value about MCCG is the way it brings people together through a shared interest in nature and our local environment. Our dedicated volunteers give generously of their time and knowledge, often working quietly behind the scenes to achieve lasting environmental benefits. I would like to sincerely thank all our committee members, section leaders, members, volunteers, and supporters for their ongoing commitment and enthusiasm. MCCG simply wouldn't be able to achieve what it does without you.

As we head into summer, we are reminded of the seasonal challenges facing our catchment. Summer storms, periods of heat and dry weather can all have an impact on our waterways, vegetation, and wildlife. It is a timely reminder of the importance of protecting creek banks, maintaining healthy vegetation and providing habitat for the many species that depend on our local environment.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of MCCG's efforts this year. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to another year of working together to protect and enhance our wonderful catchment.

Tracey Read

Editorial

Congratulations to Rebecca Bain and everyone involved with the 2026 MCCG Photography Competition. This is a wonderful annual event, thanks to the work of the Photo Comp Committee Chair (and committee members), the skills of our local photographers, the generosity of local sponsors, *and* the participation of the volunteers staffing the stand.

I am delighted to have so many 'new voices' in this issue, sharing information about staffing the MCCG stand and also about taking the photos. All of this 'photo comp' information has been carefully gathered by Rebecca Bain (thanks again!).

Don't forget to send me YOUR news and ideas for the MCCG Newsletter. After all, what is a Member Newsletter without news from members…. **The absolute deadline for the next issue is 6th March 2027**. Start now! Don't wait until the deadline to **email me.**

Cathi

Check the MCCG Website Events Calendar for key 2027 dates

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.

Chairperson: **Tracey Read**

Secretary: **Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside**

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore 4069

secretary@moggillcreek.org.au

Any MCCG printing of this quarterly Newsletter is on recycled paper. Articles may be cited but should not be reproduced without consent of the authors who alone are responsible for the views expressed. Illustrations are copyright and should not be reproduced without permission of the photographer and of the MCCG.

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 OAM (Cathi)

MCCG is Proudly Supported by

I ♥ BNE® That's why I'm learning about sustainability.

BRISBANE CITY Dedicated to a better Brisbane

MCCG Photo Comp Snap Wrap

Oh snap, that's a wrap! Once again, our annual photo competition was a wonderful community event. Let's start with some stats:

- 10 kids submitted 17 photos into the digital Young Persons category
- 14 entrants submitted 59 Open Category photos
- 576 People's Choice votes were cast (and yes, once again there was a tie!)
- 17 volunteers encouraged the 576 vote casters to make their choice during display week
- $1325 in prize money was awarded, thanks to our wonderful local sponsors: Cr Greg Adermann, Dr Christian Rowan MP, The Kenmore Bridge Club, the Pet Chalet, Dr Sue Turner (in memory of Dr Richard Anthony 'Tony' Thulborn), Fiori Kitchen and Bar, and Discount Drug Store Kenmore.

My heartfelt thanks go out to every single person who played a role in this year's competition including: the long-serving Photo Comp committee (Janine, Geoff, Bostjan, Bruce, and Robyn); Margaret O'Grady (judge); Tracey (chairperson); Alan (treasurer); Chris (speaker system set up); the 17 volunteers who manned the display during display week; *and* the talented photographers (and parents of younger photographers) who took the time and effort to enter.

I'm not going to lie…. October is a VERY busy month for me, but receiving kind words from those involved, witnessing the camaraderie between photographers, and seeing the community engagement this competition fosters makes it all worthwhile.

Rebecca Bain

July National Tree Planting

On Friday the 24th of July, students engaged in Kenmore State High Schools's annual National Tree Planting Day (KSHS). Our crew included 58 eager student volunteers, as well as teachers and staff. This has been an annual event since 2002.

In total, we planted 618 plants on the day. They included a range of native plants, mainly tube-stock and smaller shrubs such as Native Ginger and Mat-rush. Together, we worked to not only plant them, but also to protect them with mulch and provide them with adequate water. Our planting site was chosen by volunteers, and was just west of our basketball courts on school grounds.

This year, we had a new initiative to involve KSHS Year 7 students. Students from all 14 classes were given a plant to represent their class. This encouraged a lot of new high schoolers to be involved in environmental projects around our school.



We are thankful for our generous supporters: Sci-Fleet Toyota and Toyota Aust, who donated $1,500; Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP for tree saplings (*pictured above, with students Maia and Charlotte*); and our P&C, for donating the mulch. We are also grateful for the staff members who took time out of their day to support us. Looking forward for next year!

Lucy Harris, KSHS Student

What bird is singing?

That beautiful birdsong in the garden might sound familiar, but do you know who's singing? Is it an Oriental Dollarbird, a Black-faced Cuckooshrike, or a Spotted Pardalote? Next time you're curious, try the free Merlin Bird ID app! Developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this clever little app can turn you into a backyard bird detective. Simply open the app, select Sound ID, and let your phone listen. It will pick up nearby bird calls, and help identify the different species as they sing. It's a wonderful way to discover just how many birds share our neighbourhood and the Moggill Creek catchment. You might even discover feathered visitors you never knew were there! Take a moment, tune in to nature and see how many local birds you can identify.

Tracey Read

MCCG Nursery, 2025-26

During last financial year, the MCCG nursery team distributed 14,460 plants. These plants were provided to current financial MCCG members. Plants are also provided to Pullen Pullen Catchment Group (PPCG) members, in recognition of the support provided by PPCG members at the nursery working bees (held on the first and third Mondays of each month).

An average of 16 volunteers attended each working bee, and nursery volunteers contributed 1,190 hours during the year (a number that does not include additional time provided by Andrew Wilson, Damien Egan, John Crowley, and others). Damien is the main point of contact for nursery plants, and Anna

Williamson also opens the nursery on the first Saturday morning of the month for plant collection. Seeds from 149 different plant species were collected by 21 members for nursery germination—with 154 different species of plants potted during the year.



***Photo**: Bruce (standing) hard at work with fellow MCCG Nursery volunteers (credit: Chris Bruton)*

Vegetative propagation of those species proving more difficult to propagate was also undertaken at the working bees. Moggill Creek Catchment, Upper Brookfield, and Wonga Creek were the main destinations for MCCG nursery plants. Around 40% of plants went to areas outside the Moggill catchment, often to members from Karana Downs and Mt Crosby. Members are encouraged to seek advice before undertaking extensive clearing work on their land. Property visits by Damien Egan, of which there were five last financial year, are followed by member visits to the nursery, to select appropriate species for their revegetation projects.

Bruce Siemon

Phascogales

My thanks to Beverly for introducing me to phascogales, described by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy as marsupials that 'live fast and die young.'

Phascogales, also known as tuans, wambengers or mousesacks, are marsupials that belong to the family Dasyuridae. Native to Australia, phascogales occupy fragmented habitats across various regions. Nests are in tree hollows, and the young may return to the nest for up to 5 months.

Phascogales are extremely fast little creatures, with doglike teeth. The body is more like that of a squirrel glider, and they grow to about the size of a rat—but can be distinguished from rodents by their tuft of black silky hairs on the end of their tail (*see Beverley's front cover photo*). They are arboreal, nocturnal, insectivorous, and carnivorous--eating insects; and bird eggs. They also take down birds and small mammals, and have been known to enjoy the occasional chicken.

Phascogale males do not live past the age of one, as they die from stress after a frenzied reproducing (males in captivity might last up to three years, but are not capable of breeding after the first year). Females can live for two, or sometimes three, years—which means that, at one point during the year, there are only adult females and young females/males.

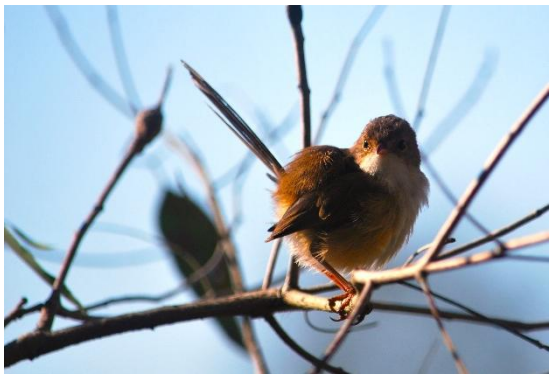
Beverley Clarke

2026 MCCG Photo Comp Winners

Congratulations to all of the participants—and thanks to those who told us about their shots…

Each year when the foam bark trees flower, many different species of native bees that I never see during the rest of the year suddenly appear. I think I have counted over 15 different species without trying too hard. There are many challenges with photographing the bees on the foam bark trees including having a branch low enough and being patient enough to just stake out some likely flowers waiting for the bees to come to you, rather than chasing them around and just scaring them off. Turner's Beautiful-Masked bee (*Palaeorhiza turneriana, pictured front cover,* awarded Chairperson's Choice Open Prize, *category sponsored by Fiori Kitchen and Bar*) certainly isn't the biggest bee I've seen around the flowers, or in very large numbers, but when you get close enough, it is quite striking.

David Edwards



Congratulations to Stefan Marquardt (YP 1st prize for Perched, an image of a female fairywren at Oxley Creek Common, *above*), Lincoln Bennett (YP 2nd Prize for The Bush Rockstar, *below,* plus Lincoln was also awarded the Chairperson's YP Choice for a photograph of a baby mantis), and Eloise Lever (awarded YP 3rd *and* People's Choice prizes for front cover Water Dragon). Well done to every student who participated in the competition, with YP entries also submitted by Lyla Heatley



(awarded two highly commended certificates), Ian Chen-en TSENG (also awarded a highly commended certificate), David Roberts, Emily Watkins, Leo Bennett, Joshua Watkins, and Tom Devos.

Joseph Pappas won first place in the OP1 Native Animals (excl. Birds) section, for the photo 'Chasing the Last Light' (category sponsored by Dr Christian Rowan MP, *pictured below,* congratulating Joseph who is holding the winning image [*award event photos this page credit Geoff Lawrence*]). Joseph notes:



From the warm golden lighting and the kangaroo moving across the field to the dark background creating a beautiful silhouette, all the conditions came together to create this photo I'm really proud of. Wildlife photography takes patience and a bit of luck, and this was one of those moments where waiting for the right conditions made all the difference.

Joseph Pappas

The People's Choice category is always hotly contested, thanks to votes from across the community. The four winning photos in the People's Choice Open category (sponsored by The Pet Chalet) were Byron Hall (1st place for 'Echidna,' also highly commended in the OP3 Category, *see image, left*), Byron modestly notes that 'the echidna also wandered into my yard and I was lucky enough for him to stay for some photos.' Joseph Pappas (2nd place for *the front cover image* 'Little face, big smile,' *and* joint third place for 'Chasing the last light'), and Leanne Hester (joint third place for 'Scarlet Honeyeaters'). Leane was also awarded fourth place in the OP2 category for 'Whistler bathing at sunset' (*right*), and tells us more about taking both pictures:





On a late winter afternoon birdwatching, I was lucky to notice some Scarlet Honeyeaters coming down to drink from a rock pool in the creek. I sat quietly in the creek hoping to catch one on my camera. Watching them was a rare and beautiful experience. I felt privileged. It was then made even more special when a bright male Golden Whistler just plopped itself down into the water right in front of me. I couldn't believe my eyes, or my luck. I am new to bird photography, so I thought to myself… don't panic… just hold it still and take the photo. I am super happy to have this photo, and I will always remember that afternoon.

Leanne Hester

Congratulations also to Gail Bryant, who was awarded 1st place for 'Snack time', winning the popular OP2 Native Birds category *(pictured below,* with the winning image, receiving the congratulations of the sponsors, Kenmore Bridge Club).



Not every winning photographer was able to attend the awards. Penny Siemon accepted the OP1 1st place award on behalf of Sue Wilson (*Penny is pictured right,* with category sponsor Cr Greg Adermann, holding Sue's photo 'Paper daisy and friends')



I look forward to being able to include more photos from the awards ceremony, and images and information submitted by our many photographers, in 2027 Newsletters. Cathi

Seeds: Celerywood

Celerywood (*Polyscias elegans*) is no vegetable—but it's a great ingredient for revegetation. A very distinctive native tree, Celerywood is commonly present in the wetter parts of the Moggill Creek Catchment, and can be found in habitats such as wetter sclerophyll forest and the margins of rainforest, and is also present in old regrowth (there are good examples near the Gold Creek car park, by the creek).

The tree is unmistakeable due to its large, umbrella-like bipinnately compound leaves, each made up of between 13-55 individual glossy green leaflets, reaching up to 1.5m in length. These form a dense crown by themselves—and, together, cast dense shade. When freshly crushed, the leaflets have a smell reminiscent of celery. The whole impression is of a palm or tree fern, but this tree can reach 20m tall, and rare old examples can have trunks reaching 1m in diameter.



In dense forest (as *shown in Sandy's photo, left*), it is easy to identify thanks to the distinctive whitish trunk, with obvious lenticels (small corky wart-like projections on the trunk surface), the upper trunk U-shaped old leaf scars, *and* the umbrella-like leaflet shape. Primary branches tend to diverge from the main trunk at the same location.

The inflorescence of Celerywood grows above the tree crown, and occurs in dense, much-branched panicles of very small reddish flowers, with strongly exserted yellowish stamens (maturing to form flattened, 2-lobed, purplish to blackish drupes only 0.5cm long, which are a favourite for fruit-eating birds).

Celerywood is excellent for rainforest regeneration, being relatively fast-growing and adaptable in open situations in full sun—and it can make an excellent indoor plant, coping well with periodic low light,

Sandy Pollock

Weeds: Depressing Dyschoriste

Dyschoriste is the lawn and environmental weed you've all seen at your feet. In April 2000, an unusual and novel exotic plant was discovered at Anzac Park, Taringa. This plant—reaching up to 60cm, with tiny square stems, rounded opposite leaves and very small pink to white tubular flowers, borne in leaf axils—was noted as locally common in frequently mown areas.

The subsequent spread of this small plant—now firmly established in most lawns and many locations across the greater Brisbane and SEQ region—has been remarkably swift. The ability to compete successfully with most kinds of Brisbane lawns has earned it the ire of many houseproud homeowners. Unfortunately, this plant can also outcompete native ground cover plants, colonising native environments successfully (particularly in gullies & drainage lines).

Previously known as *Dyschoriste depressa* (now correctly considered *Dyschoriste nagchana*)—with common names Dyschoriste, Double D, or butterfly heaven (it can supply nectar for butterflies), this weed has surprised and dismayed all who encounter it.

Spread by its tiny, explosive sticky seeds (ejected from small capsules via internal hooks), Dyschoriste is also commonly, and rapidly, spread by plant fragments—as mowing, whippersnipping and slashing readily scatter fragments of this plant into new locations (*see Sandy's close up, right, of* Dyschoriste nagchana, *showing oval leaves, small pinkish flowers and capsules with linear appendages*).



Current iNaturalist maps clearly show the distribution of Dyschoriste as firmly established across Brisbane and Ipswich, with a clear pattern of spread along north and south coast areas.

So how to control or manage this spreading species? Small areas can be hand-weeded, but ensure you've removed the entire plant, including roots and stems, when doing so. Bag all material and place in your red bin. Foliar herbicides (especially broadleaf formulations) can be highly effective, but check authoritative websites on suggested methods. Some catchment groups use layers of newspaper or cardboard to smother low-growing plants. Key is the consideration of very careful hygiene, when using powered tools. Keep mowers, slashers and whipper snippers clean before and after use (and clean scrupulously between locations).

Sandy Pollock

Be Prepared

The Queensland Government website has tips for disaster preparedness—including a checklist for a home emergency kit, suggestions to help with a Home Emergency Plan, and tips to prepare your home.

Brisbane City Council has a useful emergency dashboard that you might also wish to 'bookmark' if keeping an eye out for local emergency alerts, road closures, power outages and service disruptions. And, if you are yet to register to receive BCC severe weather alerts, the sign up is available here.

MCCG Successes

Earlier in the year, Tracey Read and I completed MCCG's annual review, which focused on celebrating achievements, future planning, forecasting expenditure, and grant opportunities.

MCCG continues to do an outstanding job restoring and protecting the natural environment, educating and engaging the community, and working collaboratively with stakeholders to achieve positive social and environmental outcomes. Since its establishment in 1997, MCCG has delivered numerous community engagement activities that strengthen connections between residents and their local environment, *and* contribute to Brisbane's broader social sustainability. **Thank you** to everyone in the MCCG for your ongoing commitment and the significant positive impact you continue to make.

Active MCCG sites and projects included in the schedule at the time were:

Platypus Monitoring Project: Established in 2005, this project provides valuable community engagement and baseline data collection for this important species. Ongoing monitoring is essential for tracking populations, supporting conservation efforts, and securing future funding. The strong partnership between the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, BCC, and volunteers is critical to the success of this highly regarded project.

Nest Box Project: Comfy Creatures nest box installations across multiple sites provide real-time wildlife monitoring through a mobile application—and is an important initiative that supports citizen science, community education, and greater awareness of local wildlife—helping to foster long-term stewardship and conservation efforts.

Upper Brookfield Rd. Bush Regeneration Site: Managed by Phil Bird and local community volunteers, this site continues to achieve excellent outcomes for both biodiversity and the community. The group's efforts have enhanced an important biodiversity corridor, connecting surrounding Land for Wildlife properties and reducing weed impacts along the riparian corridor. Council support through Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) Grants and Public Works Order funding has enabled targeted weed control and creek line revegetation, improving erosion control, habitat values, and riparian resilience. A $16,000 CCA Grant to support ongoing exotic vine control and the restoration of areas impacted by Tropical Cyclone Alfred is being delivered by Brisbane Bushcare (including installation and maintenance of 300 endemic plants through to June 2027).

The Brookfield Rafting Ground Park Bushcare Site: Established and maintained by MCCG's founding members, the site now has strong resilience and provides important habitat, food resources, and wildlife corridor connectivity. Currently managed by Ken Edie, Habitat Brisbane Support Officer, work is targeting woody weeds and invasive vines within the rainforest area. An $18,000 CCA Grant for targeted exotic vine control and canopy restoration, will include the planting, watering, and maintenance of 681 endemic plants through to June 2027. This was one of the first Bushcare sites to be managed by Brisbane Bushcare, and they are pleased to be returning to support restoration works in the area.

My sincere thanks for all of the MCCG volunteers' achievements: for the environment and for society, when bringing the community together and sharing knowledge. I am personally thankful for this, and Brisbane City Council also recognises this. I'm glad to be able to help, and to support MCCG's initiatives where I can. Wesley DeMuth

Froggin' Around: Summer 2026

The 9th annual FrogID week, which provides year-on-year data set of frogs across Australia, has recently concluded (6-15 November). Hopefully you all took part, as even a 'no frogs calling' report from areas where you would expect to hear frogs can be helpful.

My early morning recording of frogs from the dam this month included Striped marsh frogs, Tusked frogs and Eastern Sedge frogs—*and* I also recorded 28 different bird species on the Merlin App. In the evening, calls included purple spotted treefrogs (Peron's tree frogs) and Great Barred frogs.

Regular readers will know I am always on the lookout for *froggin'* news. Nationally, I was fascinated to read about the call out for Central Australians to listen for elusive frogs after rain—including for the Tanami toadlet and the desert spadefoot, which are burrowing frogs that can spend months or years hidden under ground (the article has some great photos of these elusive frogs—first described in 1981, but only recorded 43 years later, after significant rains.

In other news, the latest bid to halt the ongoing cane toad invasion of NW Australia is set to begin. The current estimated front line has the pests c100km from Broome (2,200km north of Perth). Scientists are hoping that a 'waterless barrier,' will make the difference. The project involves modifying water points across six pastoral stations (covering 7,500km²), in collaboration with traditional owners, landowners, Rio Tinto, the Rhodes Ridge joint venture, and Curtin University.

Phil Bird

Moggill Magic: Volunteers

Here's a new one for you! I asked for some quotes or a favourite experience from the volunteers manning the photo display throughout display week. They delivered (*see comments, below*)! Rebecca Bain

Volunteering at events like the Photo exhibition is always interesting. The photos prompt a broad range of people to share lots of stories about their own local wildlife and their experiences with them.
I most like observing the time and patience the little ones take to pick their favourite photo for the People's Choice. The photo exhibit is a nice thing for the community. Leanne H

I really enjoyed my time on the stand. I had some lovely conversations, including with one woman where we shared the wonders of using the Merlin Bird App to identify local birds.
I also liked explaining to children that voting is what happens in a democracy and how special it was to be able to do that. Linda C

Saturday was a great day manning the stall. There were plenty of people about, and everyone I approached was happy to vote for their favourite photo. It was a great atmosphere. While many people were enjoying the photos, I don't think they would have voted if they had not been approached and the suggestion made. Note to self: be proactive, you will meet lots of interesting people. The photos were all wonderful; we have some fabulous photographers among us.
Bridget B



Above (R to L): Tracey Read congratulating Rebecca Bain at the Kenmore Shopping Village 2026 MCCG Photo Awards Celebration (*image Geoff Lawrence*).

Two Canadian tourists spent time looking at the photos, after which they complimented us for presenting such an interesting and informative display. Robyn F

I had a mum with 3 kids in tow thank the MCCG for providing joy to the community through the photo competition. I witnessed another lady profusely thank us for giving her the opportunity to vote for her favourite photo. Rebecca B

I enjoyed the opportunity to talk to those wandering past and encouraging them to submit an entry for the People's Choice Award which I think most were very happy to do. Thanks again to all contributing and I look forward to next year's competition and display.
Bruce D

I had a wonderful time, met lots of lovely people, got them involved in voting and got lots of votes. It's a wonderful way to raise awareness of the group in the community! Meeghan G

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewals are now due for the forthcoming year. Our membership runs from January to December, and costs only $20. Financial members receive free local native plants from our nursery, expert advice and a quarterly newsletter. To renew, just log in to your membership account.

MCCG AGM

A report on our 24th November 2026 Quarterly Talk and 2026 AGM will be included in the Autumn 2027 issue of the Newsletter.

Updated Guide: The *latest* **Invasive aquatic plants of Queensland: Identification and Management Guide**' can be found here.

New MCCG Members Welcome!

MCCG Members receive *free* locally native plants from our volunteer nursery, access to expert advice, and a quarterly newsletter. Annual membership is only $20 per person (membership year restarts 1st January). Joining is easy. Just scan the QR code, or visit www.moggill creek.org.au/membership

Need to change your membership details or newsletter preferences?

Just log in to your **membership account** via the MCCG website to check your membership status, update contact details, switch to online newsletters, and/or to make membership renewal payments.
Thank you. Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside