

Annual Report of Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) for the Financial Year 2018/2019

Introduction

This has been another very busy and productive year for the Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG). We have maintained or even slightly increased our membership (currently approaching 500). The plant nursery at Gold Creek Dam grew almost 14,000 trees and shrubs native to the area and distributed them free of charge to our members. Despite the adverse weather conditions, our bushcare groups carried out 69 working bees, performing almost 2300 hours of volunteer work and planting over 4,500 trees and shrubs, mainly on public land in the catchment. Our website and Facebook pages continued to be very well supported. The website received 108,957 unique visitors during the year (a 21% increase on the previous year), while 630 people currently follow our group on Facebook (up from 520 in 2018).

MCCG also participated in a number of public events and 'outreach' activities. Kid's Day at the Cottage in June as always was very well attended, with around 300 children participating in a wide range of activities. The annual Photographic Competition in October attracted a somewhat reduced number of entries, especially in the Native Plants section, (perhaps due to the adverse weather conditions), but the standard was extremely high and the display of entries in Kenmore Village shopping centre was a great success in publicising our work. We also held very well-attended public meetings for the first time in Brookfield Hall, with Tamielle Brunt talking about platypus and more recently Ed Frazer sharing his expertise on wildlife photography.

2018/2019 also saw some new initiatives. We participated in the Brisbane Garden and Plant Expo, which for the first time was held at Brookfield Showgrounds and we are hopeful that this will become an annual event. In partnership with Challenge Employment and Training, we were successful in obtaining funding from the State Govt. under the 'Skilling Queenslanders for Work' program to provide a program of practical bushcare experience for around 18 young volunteers over 20 weeks, leading to the Certificate 1 in Conservation and Land Management (CALM). This group are currently doing excellent work at Rowena St. Park, with support from Brisbane City Council/Habitat Brisbane.

We are also very grateful to Brisbane City Council for funding support under the Lord Mayors Environment Grants scheme, in addition to the extensive ongoing support they provide us via Habitat Brisbane and the Land for Wildlife team.

Last November we participated in a segment for the ABC program 'Gardening Australia' on the dangers posed to the environment by cat's claw creeper. The segment went to air in March - see:

https://abcportal-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/baddeley_melissa_abc_net_au/EcMOy5mqVsJMoFOnQdOksQkB26ndGs_0aP87uWMPVndwRg?e=hKmXaz



Jerry Coleby-Williams and the ABC's 'Gardening Australia' crew.

People

I would like to thank the Management Committee and Section Leaders for their efforts throughout the year, namely Kathleen Walmsley (Secretary), Alan Walmsley (Treasurer), Dale Borgelt (Public Relations), Bryan Hacker (Landcare Advisor), Malcolm Frost, Warren Hoey, Adrian Webb, Michael Humphreys, Gordon Grigg, Will Nicoll, Phil Bird, Brian Krieger, Damien Egan, Richard Woodhead, Judy Petroschevsky, Kate McVicar, John Crowley, Dick Tumman our Creek Catchment Officer, Andrew Wills and Habitat Brisbane Officer Paul Devine.

There are many volunteers who support the numerous activities and projects in the Catchment. I wish to thank:

- The ~200+ volunteers who assisted at the Bushcare working bees.
- Our able Nursery crew under the guidance of Andrew Wilson viz: Adrienne Forrestal; Anna Williamson; Anni Ritters; Bruce Siemon; Bryan Hacker; Dale Borgelt; Damien Egan; Dawn Beck; Gabby Bell; Ian Hancock; Joan Wilkinson; Joan Miller; John Crowley; Joyce Westenberg; Margaret Palmer; Maxine Binning; Maria de Jong; Millie Gardner; Richard Tumman; Sally Stinton; Stephan Majewski; Sue Cumming; Yvonne Midgley; Yvonne Quinlan and Jenny Hacker (for providing home-made cakes).
- Newsletter editor, Cathi Lawrence.
- Michelle Johnston and Janine Nicklin for managing our website and Facebook page respectively.

- Dale Borgelt, our Public Relations Officer for her tireless work in helping to organise our outreach activities including Brookfield Show and Kenmore Village Shopping Centre Stalls, Kids Day at the Cottage, Public Meetings, Photographic Competition and AGM.
- Paul Devine from Habitat Brisbane, the LFW team of Cody Hochen and Catherine Madden, and Karen Toms from Healthy Land & Water.
- Councillor Kate Richards (Pullenvale Ward), the Member for Moggill, Dr Christian Rowan and the Hon. Julian Simmonds, Member for Ryan for their ongoing support.
- Rebecca Bain and her Photography Competition committee: Geoff Lawrence, Malcolm Frost, Robyn Frost, Bruce Siemon, Janine Nicklin and Bostjan Kobe. Once again, they ran a brilliant competition in 2019. We also thank Anne Pappalardo, President of the Queensland Camera Group, for judging the entries this year.
- Bruce Siemon who works so hard behind the scenes collating and presenting all manner of data on our activities.
- Jim Butler & Ed Frazer (Birds) and Bryan Hacker (Invasive Weeds) for their work on the Field Guides. Ed Frazer has also initiated a new Field Guide on Mammals.
- Chris Hosking and Tamielle Brunt for running the 2019 platypus survey ably assisted by the ~60 wonderful volunteers who got to Brookfield promptly at 4:30 am!
- Adrian Webb for his work on the Creek Health Monitoring Program and on the control of Cat's Claw Creeper and Anzac Tree Daisy in the catchment.
- Adrian Mortimer for regularly assisting with IT issues.
- N. Bryan Hacker for his excellent Landcare advice to members.
- Phil Bird for his leadership of the Cane Toad Challenge.
- Particular mention should be made of Kathleen Walmsley and Alan Walmsley who took over the roles of Secretary and Treasurer this year.

MCCG Membership

Currently (Nov. 2019) we have 477 paid up members, which is a significant improvement on the 456 financial members we recorded at the same time last year.

Grants Officer (Will Nicoll)

Successful Grants

Two grant applications from the Brisbane City Council Environment Grants were successful during the year. The first was for Operational and Administration Expenses for the group (\$8k) and the second was for the costs of running our Native Plant Nursery and for some of the costs associated with transferring the MCCG website to a new platform (\$4.6k). These costs support the day to day operations of the group with the exception of the web transfer cost which was necessary due to the current website platform (Adobe Business Catalyst) becoming obsolete. Significant effort was put into developing these grant applications as corresponding applications the previous year had been unsuccessful. BCC had put on a training course covering the application process earlier in the year which was attended by Jim Pope and myself to ensure that grant applications were going to meet BCC requirements.

In conjunction with Challenge Employment & Training, Jim Pope also submitted a successful grant application for funding from the Queensland Government under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) program. This is currently enabling 18 students to work full-

time for 20 weeks on a program that includes both coursework and practical bushcare skills aimed at achieving a Certificate 1 in Conservation and Land Management (CALM). The on-ground practical aspects are being carried out on the Rowena St. Habitat Brisbane site.

Dale Borgelt was also successful in a grant application for Kids day at the cottage 2020 (\$3k) from SEQW / Community Grants Water for Life.

Un-Successful Grants

There were no unsuccessful grants throughout the year.

Acquitted Grants during the year

A total of \$9,920 was utilized from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (Application Number: APP-011154 CBFU:0047654), to purchase a Laptop computer, software, Brushcutters, Posthole Diggers, Water Pump, First Aid Kits, Hand Tools, Signs and a projector for the Brookfield Hall. This grant was very successfully utilized to update tools and equipment used by the group. The grant was successfully acquitted in April 2019.

Recently Submitted Grants – approvals pending

At the invitation of Julian Simmonds, MP for Ryan, Jim Pope has been submitted an application under the Federal Government's 'Communities Environment Program' for \$12,500 to fund an experienced bushcare contractor to supervise working bees by volunteer groups aimed at addressing invasive weed and erosion issues on private land in the catchment. Under the same scheme, Gordon Grigg has been invited to apply for \$9,700 for a project involving bushcare rehabilitation work around The Cottage and Old Mine Site at Gold Creek Dam.

Two Community Conservation Assistance grants have also been submitted by Phil Bird and John Crawley for the 'Upper Brookfield roadside margin project' and for 'Weed and plant an area of Gold Creek at the end of Savages Road' respectively.

Jim Pope is also currently in negotiation with the Queensland Dept. of Corrective Services to fund project under which volunteers on Community Service Orders (CSOs) would be employed to carry out weed management in the Upper Brookfield area. A particular target of this project will be the control of Cat's Claw Creeper.

Newsletter (Editor Cathi Lawrence)

The MCGG Newsletter continues to be issued quarterly (and is free to all Members). The publication is gradually moving to the online world, although a number of members still elect to receive a printed copy. The only costs incurred by the MCGG for the newsletter are those associated with print and postage - which means the move to *online* saves money and is more environmentally friendly. It also means the newsletter is more ... 'newsy'. I am most grateful to Kathleen Walmsley our Secretary, for issuing the electronic copy to all members so promptly—most recently on the day of issue, and to Michelle Johnston for posting the newsletter to the website. Thanks also to Dale Borgelt for coordinating the printed copies (mainly to assist in community engagement, with key influencers in our catchment, and to attract new members). During the last year, it has been great to introduce a number of new initiatives and features in the publication - including Ed Frazer's interesting features about members who have had an impact on our local environment. I thank our regular contributors (Ed, Bryan, Jim, Michelle, and Phil). More stories and features are always welcome from all of our Members (as regular or occasional items). I continue to hope that

everyone will find the time to share information about their work on their own properties (or as a member of a bush care group). New 'voices' are always very welcome (particularly if including a photograph or even a drawing). Email me soon (mccgeditor@outlook.com.au).



Rebecca Bain, Photography Competition Coordinator, out and about with Tamielle Brunt during a recent platypus survey.

MCCG Outreach Activities (Dale Borgelt)

MCCG's Environment Centre at the Cottage on Gold Creek Dam Reserve was open on Thursday mornings for members and visitors to find out more about the Moggill Creek catchment, its wonderful biodiversity and MCCG's activities. As well as being our home for committee meetings and seminars, the Cottage hosted kindred groups such as UQ students for Insect and Bat projects, and the Queensland Museum Biodiversity program.

Kids' Day at the Cottage Sunday 9th June 2019 was very successful with attendance of around 300 appreciating all the free biodiversity-themed attractions and activities. As well as having close-up contact with nature and wildlife, highlights included making bracelets using hand-made beads and seeds, loom weaving with nature, and personalising bags with their own artwork, stamping and painting.



Instant Art



Under the Microscope



Queen of Kid's Day – Dale Borgelt



The ever-popular snags



Martin Fingland's Wildlife Show



Kid's Day Bag Stamping

We are grateful to Seqwater Water for Life Community Grant as a major sponsor, Brisbane City Council Creek Catchment Program for the hiring of pagodas, and the continuing support

from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund and Pullenvale Ward Councillor Kate Richards. This support, plus the immeasurable contribution from expert presenters and volunteers is what enables us to offer this very popular event FREE to the community.

Mid-Year Public Meeting in Brookfield Hall on 27th June 2019 attracted an interested audience of around 60 for the talk by Tamielle Brunt about Platypus - from its quirky history to details of her research. This meeting was also notable because it celebrated the first use of the motorised projector screen which had been donated by MCCG and installed by Brookfield Reserve Trust. The screen has proved very successful, allowing everyone a better view, and we have now booked Brookfield Hall for public meetings in March, June, and September, as well as the AGM in November.

MCCG AGM 2018

Guest speaker, zoologist Dr Ian Gynther gave an insight into attempts to help a vulnerable species through a captive breeding and release project for the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly.

Other Activities

MCCG was also on public display at other venues and events:

Kenmore Village Shopping Centre (Friday 26 & Saturday 27th April)

Brookfield Show (Friday 17th – Sunday 19th May)

We were again a finalist in the Queensland Community Achievement Awards.

New long Banners and very large Teardrop banners gave us a more noticeable presence at these events.



Brookfield Show Stall 2019

MCCG Photography Competition (Rebecca Bain)

Our Photography Competition has been held every year in October since 1998. As well as providing an opportunity for local photographers to display their work and win prizes, the competition promotes awareness of the Brisbane catchment groups and encourages

community participation. Entry is open to all members of the public, with both open and young persons' categories.

Each year our Photography Competition aims to:

- raise awareness of local environmental issues especially with children
- encourage people to enjoy the variety of flora and fauna in our beautiful catchment
- promote awareness of the Brisbane catchment groups
- encourage MCCG membership and participation.

This year saw Geoff Lawrence hand over the co-ordinator role of the MCCG Photography Competition to Rebecca Bain. Geoff kindly stayed on as a Photography Competition committee member to assist with the hand over. The committee met several times between May and October, and comprised of Rebecca Bain (organiser), Geoff Lawrence, Malcolm Frost, Robyn Frost, Bruce Siemon, Janine Nicklin and Bostjan Kobe. The Brookfield Show (May) offered us our first opportunity to promote this year's competition (through the handing out of flyers). Kid's Day at the Cottage (June) and several MCCG meetings/talks also provided further promotional opportunities.

Open categories remained the same as last year, however the committee decided to remove category YP2 (grades 7 – 12) due to low numbers of entries over the last few years. These young adults could instead enter the open categories this year.

Another change this year was trialling the YP1 (grades 1 to 6) category as a digital category – once again due to low numbers of entries (in fact 0 for 2018). Entries were to be submitted via email and would be displayed on the MCCG Facebook page and newly established MCCG Instagram page. The People's Choice prize would be determined by the most votes (likes) across these two social media pages. The committee also decided to introduce a 'rolling judge' system. Anne Pappalardo, president of the Queensland Camera Group, was our enthusiastic and passionate judge this year.

The majority of this year's sponsors were businesses/local councillors/state members that have supported the competition over the last few years. Amcal+ Pharmacy Kenmore and Café Fiori were the only first-time sponsors.

Category	Prize money	Sponsor
OP1 Native Plants and Fungi	1 st : \$125, 2 nd : \$75,	Pisces Enterprises (\$250)
OP2 Native Birds	1 st : \$125, 2 nd : \$75, 3 rd : \$50, 4 th : \$25	Kenmore Bridge Club (\$250)
OP 3 Native animals (excl. birds)	1 st : \$125, 2 nd : \$75, 3 rd : \$50	Dr Christian Rowan, MP (\$250)
YP (grades 1 – 6) Our Catchment (digital category)	1 st : \$50, 2 nd : \$30, 3 rd : \$20	Cr Kate Richards (\$250)
CCO Chairman's Choice – Open	\$100	Café Fiori (\$100)
CCY Chairman's Choice – YP	\$50	Amcal+ Pharmacy (\$50)
PCO – People's Choice – Open	1 st : \$125, 2 nd : \$75, 3 rd : \$50	The Pet Chalet (\$250)
PCY – People's Choice – YP	\$50	Cr Kate Richards
	Total prize money: \$1275	Total sponsorship money \$1400

Whilst Councillor Kate Richard's sponsorship amount exceeded the prize money given out for her categories, the remainder helped to cover the costs of printing and mounting the winning YP photos, as well as changing this category from having a \$2 entry fee to being free entry this year.

10 entrants submitted 43 photos for the open categories (OP1: 3, OP2: 26, OP3: 14). 629 People's Choice (Open) votes were tallied up over the 6 days of the display at Kenmore Village. 8 kids submitted 13 photos for the digital Young Persons (grade 1 – 6) category. 262 votes (likes) were tallied up over the 5 days (Mon to Fri) the votes were being counted on our social media sites.

Photography Competition 2019 Winners and Sponsors

OP1 Native Plants and Fungi

1st Malcolm Frost - *Dendrobium speciosum*

2nd Jim Pope – Wattle

OP2 Native Birds

1st Mandy Watson - Welcome Swallow

2nd Anne Love-Hoskins - Azure Kingfisher

3rd Peter Koury - Bird on a wire

4th Lloyd Bullock - Eastern Yellow Robin

Op3 Native Animals

1st Mandy Watson - Parasitic Snail Blowfly

2nd Anne Love-Hoskins - Fiery Skimmer

3rd Alexander Davies - Clash of the Titans

Young Persons Our Catchment

1st William McConaghy - A kookaburra taking a rest from laughing

2nd Liam Kelly-Crawford - The matters of a leaf

3rd Molly Nearhos - Carpet Python

Chairman's Choice

Open: Mandy Watson - Eastern Water Dragon

Young Persons: William McConaghy - A pair of feathery acrobats

People's Choice Open

1st Ed Frazer – Fruit-dove Colour Study

2nd Ed Frazer – Back attack

3rd Ed Frazer – Me next

People's Choice Young Persons

Liam Kelly-Crawford - The Matters of a Leaf

Unfortunately, due to lower than usual photo entries for the open categories (that provide a \$5 entry fee), this year's competition ran at a loss, with the MCCG covering \$187. As I don't want this report to end on a negative (pun possibly intended...), I'm pleased to briefly highlight the successes of this year's competition:

1. The new judge was warmly received and also provided, as the committee had hoped, a bit of a more even playing field for all the photographers involved (new judge, new perspective, individual preferences).
2. The trial of the digital Young Persons category resulted in 8 entrants for its first year and further promotion next year will, I believe, result in even more entries.
3. An Instagram page was established which I believe will provide more exposure to the MCGG.



Welcome Swallow



A kookaburra taking a rest from laughing



Parasitic Snail Blowfly



Eastern Water Dragon

MCCG Website (Michelle Johnston)

The following table shows the number of unique visits to the MCCG website each month between July and June for the past 2 years:

Month	Unique Visitors 2017-18	Unique Visitors 2018-19
July	7,772	7,120
August	8,687	9,813
September	7,072	8,280
October	8,237	13,391
November	7,599	11,583
December	6,819	10,730
January	6,751	9,755
February	7,357	6,655
March	7,927	7,518
April	6,645	7,793
May	7,318	7,657
June	7,496	8,662
TOTAL	89,680	108,957

The table reflects a significant increase in the total number of visits, with most months also displaying an increase. The 4 most popular pages visited this year were the Digital Bird Field Guide, the Nursery page, our Calendar of Events and the Plants page. The spikes in October and November can be attributed to our Photographic Competition.

Reference guides which are continually visited are the “*Freshwater Fish Guide*” and “*Native Seed Germination*”. We continue to see a sizeable number of visits to our ever-popular quarterly Newsletter, indicating that the move away from printed copies has not in any way diminished the enjoyment that this quality publication brings to our members.

You will be aware that the MCCG website will be moving to a Wordpress platform. This is due to the fact that our existing hosting service (Business Catalyst) will be decommissioned from March 2021. The MCCG has engaged eStorm to manage the migration, creating a new site with the same “look and feel” and design. Significant progress has been made during 2019 by eStorm. A staging website has been created and will soon be available for testing. I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Adrian Mortimer, Kathleen Walmsley and Jim Pope in enabling the project to reach its current status.

We did not load any additional field guides to the website during 2019. Once the migration to Wordpress is complete however, we plan to create an online register of significant trees in the catchment, an exciting project for which contributions are warmly invited!

I would like to express my gratitude to the many people who contributed to our website during 2019. Each month Jim Butler submits a Bird Quiz and a wonderful *Feather Fascination* article. Jim also supplies comprehensive updates on the Deerhurst St Park Bird Project. Ed Frazer is unwavering in his support of both the website and our newsletter. Ed provides a feast of entertaining *Bush Bites* articles, is never short of ideas and new approaches, and is extremely generous allowing us to publish his stunning photos.

Special thanks also to Cathi Lawrence, Beck Bain, Bryan Hacker, Jim Pope, Janine Nicklin and Kathleen Walmsley. The contributions and support from each of them help to keep the website dynamic and fresh.

I welcome suggestions from members to ensure our website retains its relevance within the local community and to the wider Brisbane catchments network.

MCCG Facebook Report (Janine Nicklin)

MCCG started publishing to Facebook four and a half years ago. Today, 630 people follow our group on Facebook (67% women, 30% men). Facebook is valuable in sending out information regarding:

- a. MCCG events (MCCG Working bees/Meetings)
- b. Annual Photography competition
- c. CHMP activities

A number of other groups are sharing our posts on their Facebook pages, including: QLD 4069, Brisbane Catchments Network, Cubberla-Witton Catchments, Wild BNE, Dr Christian Rowan MP and Kate Richards (Councilor for Pullenvale).

MCCG Nursery (Andrew Wilson, Bryan Hacker)

During 2018-19, MCCG nursery distributed 13,913 plants. These plants were provided free to MCCG members as well as to Pullen Pullen Catchment Group members, in recognition of the support of several PPCG members at nursery working bees. Frequently members visit the nursery repeatedly in their work on restoring native vegetation and often report their success with earlier plantings of MCCG-grown plants. Some plants were also sold at public events such as the Brookfield Show. Limited numbers of advanced plants of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vine were also sold for \$8 each.

Volunteers at the nursery contributed 1,122 hours during the year, working on the first and third Monday mornings of each month, but this figure does not include additional hours provided by Andrew Wilson and Bryan Hacker. Over the year, an average of 16 volunteers attended each working bee. There were 140 different varieties of plants potted during 2018-19. Bryan Hacker continued to be the main point of contact for nursery plants, often servicing individual customer requests several times every week. During 2018-19, nursery plants were destined for 328 different locations.

Seeds of 112 different species of plants were collected by 19 members for germination at the nursery, with Joan Miller providing almost half of the seed varieties. Vegetative propagation of certain species difficult to propagate by other means is continuing. Seed collection is clearly a limiting factor to nursery activities.



Photo: R F Norris

Plants provided by the MCCG Nursery 2018-19

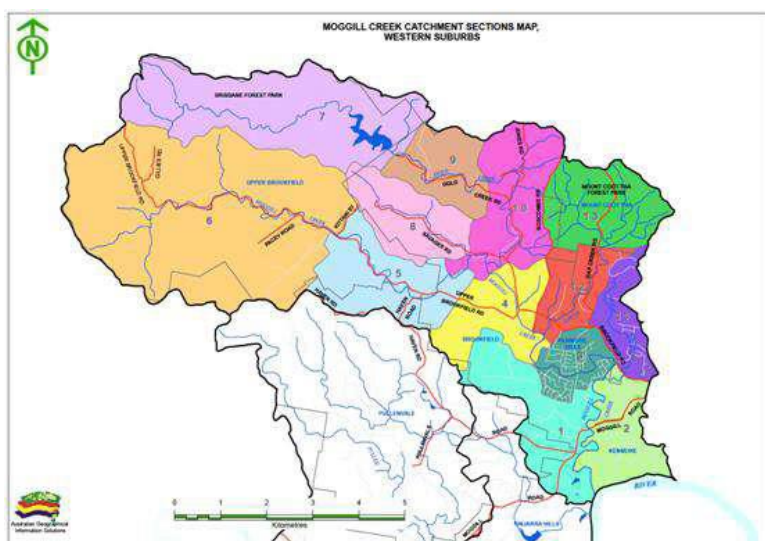
SECTION

Pullenvale Rd Moons Lane	136
Lower Moggill	369
Huntington	224
Showgrounds	820
Haven Rd	120
Upper Brookfield	2342
Gold Creek Reserve	128
Wonga Creek	1078
Upper Gold Creek	171
Lower Gold Creek	190
McKay Brook	843
Gap Creek	1381
Mt Coot-tha	0
Pullen Pullen	3742
Cubberla Witton	1539
Unknown destinations	830
TOTAL	13913

Landcare activities (Bryan Hacker)

Over the period July 2018 – June 2019 Landcare Adviser, Bryan Hacker, on invitation visited 15 properties, providing expert advice on revegetation, weed control and species identification. Properties visited generally range from 1ha to 4ha, varying from being largely cleared to some with native vegetation mainly intact. Landowners are encouraged to seek advice before undertaking extensive clearing work. Without such advice clearing work can have undesirable consequences. Frequently property visits were followed by visits to the MCCG nursery, enabling the appropriate selection of species for revegetation projects.

MCCG Section Data 2018-19



Section	Working bees	Average attendees	Volunteer hours	Hours outside working bees	Plants
2 (Lower Moggill)	12	8.5	268	31	816
3 (Hunting/Tuckett)	11	12.8	324	80	880
4 (Showgrounds)	4	3.8	39	194	137
6 (Upper Brookfield)	1	4.0	8	67	156
6 (Pacey Road)	4	14.3	203	5	116
8 (Wonga/Savages)	1	4.0	12	7	100
9 (Upper Gold Crk)	7	7.0	98	18	85
11(McKay Brook)	21	6.0	319	97	1200
11 (KSHS)	1	80.0	346	52	900
12 (Gap Creek)	7	4.9	71	48	205
Total	69		1688	599	4595

Treasurer's Report (Alan Walmsley)

Total income for the year ended 30th June was \$43,157 (down from \$59,057 in 2018), of which the major part was funds received from grants of \$29,142 (down from \$43,374 in 2018).

Projects receiving grant funding included Kids Day at the Cottage, Operational and Admin expenses, Nursery consumables and Web site replacement and Laptop and tools.

Other income for the year of \$14,016 (down from \$15,683 in 2018) primarily came from memberships, donations and plant sales from the nursery.

Total Expenditure for the year of \$28,242 (down from \$53,723 in 2018) was mainly Grant spending of \$18,284 (down from \$37,042 in 2018). Three grants were finalised and acquitted during the year, leaving \$14,709 yet to spend on Operations and Admin expenses, Nursery consumables and the website update.

General expenditure of \$9,958 (down from \$16,680 in 2018) consisted of Admin expenses of \$3,249 (down from \$5,393 in 2018), Public Relations expenses of \$2,862 (down from \$4,855), & nursery costs of \$1,103 (down from \$1,483), merchandise purchases of \$500 (down from \$1,868 in 2018)

A surplus for the year of \$14,916, was made up almost entirely from unspent grant monies. Accumulated funds, represented by cash at bank as at 30th June 2019, were \$66,876 which includes Trust account balances of \$8,928 and committed un-spent grant funds of \$14,709. The remaining working capital of \$43,239 (greater than 4 times the annual general expenditure) and general income being greater than general expenditure means MCCG is in a sound financial position.

Section Reports

Section 2 Lower Moggill (Judy Petroeschewsky)

This year has been a busy one. We have completed a large section of upper creek bank planting along a popular walking track beside Moggill creek. Habitat Brisbane have been very supportive of this and contractor support has assisted us in our work. Plants from the nursery have been well utilised in this planting. Our monthly working bees have been very

well supported. We have many young families in our area and it is pleasing to see parents with their young children attending regularly. Ages range from four to nearly 80 – a good community effort. We have also identified the large fig near the High School as possibly having the biggest canopy in Brisbane and will be focusing on this next year to ensure the surrounding area is well maintained. Feral deer are a major problem in our area and continue to ring bark mature trees.





Moreton Bay Fig in Dumbarton Drive Park, Brookfield

Section 3 Huntington/Tuckett (Jim Pope)

Our section encompasses the riparian zones on both sides of Moggill Creek through the parklands between Rafting Ground Rd (Brookfield) and Tuckett St (Kenmore Hills). This year it has been extended to incorporate the parklands on the south side of the creek opposite Kensington Circuit, as far as the bridge crossing at the bottom of Branton St., thus filling the gap between our section and the new extension of the McKay Brook bushcare group (see below).

In 2018 we received a Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) grant for \$18,000 from Brisbane City Council to remove most of the remaining large Chinese Elms (*Celtis sinensis*) from Tuckett Park, and replant the cleared area with natives. Chinese Elms tend to outgrow native vegetation and mature specimens produce copious quantities of seeds that are widely distributed by wind, water and birds. They have a very large canopy, producing intense shading of the undergrowth in summer. This suppresses growth and regeneration of native groundcover, shrubs and trees, resulting in a dramatic reduction in biodiversity. Work by contractors to remove the identified trees was commenced in March 2018, but was stopped almost immediately by Council, ostensibly due to objections from residents to the cutting down of trees. It seems that more efforts need to be made to educate local people on weed control and native bush regeneration. The matter was eventually resolved positively and most of the remaining trees were removed in November 2018, but dealing with the issue cost us a lot of time and effort and set back the replanting by 12 months.

As well as replanting the area in Tuckett Park cleared by removal of Chinese Elms, our group carried out significant new plantings in the parklands adjacent to Kensington Circuit and in Blackbutt Place Park. For the latter work we were aided by a group of Environmental Science and Environmental Engineering students from QUT, as part of a Student Catchment Immersion Project (SCIP) that was arranged by our Creek Catchment Officer, Andrew Wills.

This year because of the extraordinary drought conditions we have had to devote a lot of time to watering our plantings and as usual we also spent many hours on weed removal and control. In this respect the almost complete lack of rain over winter and early spring has been helpful in that it allowed us to access areas that previously were almost impenetrable due to the growth of exotic grasses and weed vines. However the drought also had a devastating impact on some of our wildlife (see below). Over the year, our group contributed more than 320 volunteer hours and planted 880 native trees and shrubs.



Planting in Tuckett St. Park



Morning Tea



Local (Feral) Wildlife



Dead Platypus in Blackbutt Place Park - Impact of drought?
(Photo Janine Nicklin)



Jim Pope with the SCIP students (Photo Andrew Wills)

Section 4 Showgrounds (Damien Egan)

The Showground Bush care group started in 1998 and is responsible for working on Brisbane City Council land from the culvert at Boscombe road along Rafting Ground Road to the Brookfield Road roundabout. From October 2017 Brookfield State School P&C volunteers will join our working bees each alternate month to work on BSS side of adjacent Moggill creek.

Rafting Ground Road Site: Total Hours 233 Plants 137

Starting at the Brookfield roundabout, Bryan and Jenny Hacker are continuing to do weed management on this site. Brookfield roundabout site is a very important back-drop to the Brookfield Showgrounds and highlights the importance of regenerating our catchment's bushland for all visitors to appreciate.

Brookfield Primary State School: Total Hours: 63 Plants: 70

This new site is the area bordering BSS on the opposite-side of Moggill creek bank running parallel with Rafting Ground Road. Working Bees are every second month on 4th Sunday with the combined volunteers from BSS and MCGG Showgrounds group.

Photographs: **Rafting Ground Road 2006 - 2008**





BSS Moggill Creek side 2017 - 2018



Kenmore State High School: Total Hours 320 Plants 1000

National Tree Day planting (26th July) with years 10/11/12 students established 1000 plants along creek bank between McKay Brook and Moggill creek junction with 80 students

participating. Toyota is our major sponsor providing funds for the plants / Hats / T shirts for the students and also BCC do provide 300 plants to help with the day.

KSHS: Photographs NTP - 2019



Section 6 Upper Brookfield (Kate McVicar)

This section of Council land is along Moggill Creek and is located approximately 800m beyond the Upper Brookfield State School. It is a designated Habitat Brisbane site, receiving Council support such as plants, herbicides and equipment.

At this stage we have divided this site into 2 sections. The first section is well established, but still requires ongoing maintenance such as hand weeding of madeira, glycine, cats claw, and newly arrived callisias and dyschoriste.

The second section on is the bank of the creek, which has been mosaically planted to mitigate erosion during floods. The area has extremely poor soil and plants take a long time to establish, so progress is slow. This last year's dry conditions have resulted in a significant loss of many of these plants, which will require replacement. The strategy is to leave an area of elephant grass along the bank to keep it intact, until we have new plantings.

The site is surrounded by large acreage properties, and many of these landowners are engaged in their own re-vegetation projects, which means that attendance at public working bees is negligible. This affects productivity and our progress is slow. Due to competing priorities, Habitat Brisbane (HB) support was also significantly reduced this year.

This year saw 67 hours on weeding, maintenance and planting of 35 trees on the bank for stabilisation. Next year we will be focusing on remedial planting – replacing those which have been lost, and infill planting in areas where it is required.

Section 8 Wonga Creek / Savages Road (John Crowley)

Extreme drought and the fact that the upper Savages Road corridor is well established has meant there were fewer working bees in 2018/2019. However, volunteers have kept in touch and volunteered in other working bee groups. Work continues on control of Anzac Tree Daisy and a \$2000 grant application for work on one individual's property is awaiting a decision as well as another large \$12,000 CCA Grant application for an area at the beginning of Savages Road, which has been the site of water testing for MCCG and a popular community 'stop and swap' venue for Savages Road. Thanks to all our volunteers both on site and in the nursery and to Habitat Brisbane for their continued support.

2018



2019



Section 9 Upper Gold Creek (Gordon Grigg)

The 'Upper Gold Creekers' met monthly and conducted maintenance work on our previous plantings on public land and some on private land also. Cats Claw management is a particular focus, but this year we helped a new arrival with a large planting on his property. Last year we planted many Butterfly Vines in an area we revegetated in 1997, now a closed canopy forest. This year we added many more, but with such dry weather it is a struggle to keep them alive. We have applied again for a grant to help with managing some land at the end of Gold Creek Road surrounding the old sawmill, adjoining the MCCG Cottage. As previously we have held a working bee in the creek (literally), removing the

invasive Arrowhead weed, *Sagittaria*, and we hope to progress further downstream at the next opportunity. I am happy to say that we have several new members again this year. More are always welcomed. As well as gaining satisfaction from the work activities, we also enjoy our morning teas. Leadership of the group is shared between Andrew Ness, Phil Blackler and Gordon Grigg.

Section 11 McKay Brook (Bryan Hacker)

A total of 21 working bees were held in Section 11 over the period July 2018 – June 2019, totalling 319 hours of voluntary work. On average, 6.0 workers attended each working bee (range 3 to 20). Most of McKay Brook has been fully and successfully revegetated and the focus is on controlling significant weed species in the early stages of development – cat's claw, balloon vine, glycine, Chinese celtis. In March 2019 a new area on the south of Moggill Creek (adjacent to Kensington Circuit) was planted with 1200 plants supplied by the Council, together with support in preparation and mulching.



Section 12 Gap Creek (Mike Humphreys)

Last year we did some infill planting on the Kenmore Hills side of the park and along Kookaburra Street. We also held several working bees where we cleared the grass and other weeds from the creek bank and carried out other maintenance activities. The rest of our time was spent working on the Deerhurst road side of the park. We had lost some of our new plantings in the very dry winter and spring, so we did some infill plantings in the areas we had planted in the previous year. We also extended our plantings on a private property adjacent to the park.

As mentioned in last year's report we had some Chinese Elms removed from the Deerhurst Road side of the park about 50 m up from Brookfield Road. This work had been delayed so we were not able to plant there until January of 2019. We put in about 200 plants which had to be watered for several weeks until the rains arrived.

Most of our effort was directed at clearing very dense stands of Ochna and Chinese Elms along about 130m of creek frontage around 100m in from Brookfield Road on the Deerhurst Road side of the park. Again, we were aided in this by the Brookfield Bike Riders Club. This effort led to a successful CCA application to remove and mulch the remaining large weed trees. Hopefully this will occur in January with planting to occur in March or April 2020.



Volunteers at Deerhurst Park site

Other Groups:

Pacey Road (Brian Krieger and Warren Hoey)

In 2018/19 the Pacey Road working bee has continued to improve the vegetation regeneration and the social fabric of the Working Bee (WB). 2018 closed with a street party which was a great success. Members of the WB letter box dropped the entire street inviting all to the event. The turnout was more than those that attend the monthly WBs and was a great success.

2018-19 saw the working bee go outside of Pacey Rd and into Upper Brookfield Rd. One of the group purchased property in what is known as locally as Boulder Valley. Two working bees have been conducted on this property with significant effort by the landowners to maintain and increase the natives and bio diversity. A population of Paddy Melons have been found in the area, much to council and the landowners surprise.

The top section of Pacey Road has a significant infestation of Madeira Vine and other climbing weeds. The area of concern is split between two properties. At the top of the two properties, there is a very large Moreton Bay Fig in the creek. Above this tree, the infestation stops. The two properties were once farming land with a Macadamia tree plantation on the northern side of the creek and the other open farming land, presumably for cattle or horses. On the northern side of the creek around 100m x 10m has now been cleared by both the WB and the landowners. In 2020, the WB will concentrate on removing the weeds from further up in the Macadamia plantation and working to reduce the seed drift down stream.

Moving down the creek, work was conducted on two properties around 192 -172 Pacey Rd. On 192 the WB focused on areas higher on the property, planting around 60 plants and removing some weed vines and lantana. The downstream adjoining block was heavily overgrown in 2017 but a huge improvement has been made since then. Madeira continues to challenge this landowner on both sides of the creek. The WB focused on clearing regrowth and planting into the creek banks to minimise erosion in the coming (2020) wet season (see photo).



The section of creek from 125,89 and 69 Pacey Road had three working bees during the year. At 125, work continued in the creek with planting and weeding the section near the causeway. The regrowth in this section continues to challenge the WB as every rainy season, seeds are washed from higher in the creek through this section. Despite much work by the landowners, regrowth is quick and very thick. At 86 Pacey Road, work commenced this year on clearing the creek back towards 125. A 10m x 20m section was cleared just in time for the drought to partially break. Some 60 plants were provided and the landowner has undertaken to plant these post the WB. At 69 the WB focused on the area bordering a normally dry gully approximately 100m from the creek. The area was mostly covered with lantana but the working bee also discovered *Myrsine angusta* and *Sophora fraseri* growing in this area which was very exciting.

In the last part of 2018 two working bees were conducted at 89 Pacey Rd and at 21 Pacey Rd. The activities at 21 Pacey Rd focused on removal of weeds grown in the creek near the road causeway and about 40m upstream. A small contingent of the WB ventured further up the block along the adjoining property fence line clearing weeds from higher in the property.

Of the planned 10 working bee's 9 were conducted with an average attendance of 12 people, the highest number being 21 and the lowest being 6. Approximately 430 hours of work were conducted. We were also joined by three families in a volunteering program for their kids and one new person has joined the working bee group.

Gold Creek Dam (Dick Tumman)

Planting has continued at the old weather station site which is viewed directly north of the dam wall. Due to the excessive dry there has been a 40% loss but plants like a variety of figs, black bean varieties of flindersia and hoop pines are now established. Seqwater machine cleared around their survey monument but plantings were established to the north of the monument. This is a difficult site with well drained heavy clay and well-drained silt soils with poor moisture retention. The site has been colonised with a variety of weeds, but the wild tobacco has been utilised as a shade and mulching plant.

Simpson's inlet is the only large reach at the dam with Simpson's Creek entering from the S-W and is attributed to the sawmiller Mike Simpson who made the original logging track up Gold Creek, complete with 18 bridges. Planting in the old footprint of the dam started after the late Brad Wilson, manager of Brisbane Forest Park, worked with Brian Leahy to open up the old logging road in 1999. It is now a weed free rainforest with blue quandongs to 600mm diameter and established birdwing vines. Birdwing vines have been planted here continuously in recent years and at the old "cultivation", the old dam footprint at the head of the dam where Michael Rief organised clearing of weeds and lantana in 1999. About a 60% survival rate has been achieved. Rainforest plantings on these alluvial soils have been spectacular with Moreton bay figs and Blue quandongs planted on the old windows, now with massive buttressing and upwards of 700mm diameter. One feels this might be having a slight effect on our carbon footprint and a new hope in our present predicament.



Birdwing Butterfly Vine at Gold Creek Dam planted circa 2008



Blue Quandong at Simpson's Ck inlet planted 2004



Plantings in flood zone, Simpson's Ck inlet

Upper Brookfield Road Working Group (Phil Bird)

Local residents have been working together since May 2016 to restore the riparian bushland along the upper reaches of Moggill Creek. This included a number of properties near Galvin Road, Upper Brookfield, including the culverts and road margins. For many decades, the area was covered with a number of exotic grasses and vine species, such as *Lantana camara*, elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), embu panic (*Megathyrsus maximus*), Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), cat's claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) and glycine (*Neonotonia wightii*). The first priority was to protect the existing native species by controlling the smothering canopy vines and removing exotic grasses, which dominated the creek banks. Creek banks were planted with natives, *Lomandra* species and shrubs such as cheese tree (*Glochidion ferdinandi*); red flowering bottle brush (*Melaleuca viminalis*) and river she-oaks (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), which all grow naturally in these areas.

Flooding events of April 2017 resulted in erosion of banks, more especially after removal of exotic grasses and before our plantings became more resilient to flooding. Selective clearing of the upper banks found many dry rainforest species. We are also mindful of local wildlife, like banded rails and platypus that are sighted in the area. Therefore, we work in a patchwork fashion to retain some of their habitat. Over the past 3 years, we have had help from a number of volunteers, locals and others from further afield, such as the Green Army, who planted some 900+ native plants.

We follow the natural way to re-construct creek banks, using rocks and sediment from the creek bed and restoring previous waterholes. With time these re-constructed banks, planted with suitable natives, improve stability to endured floods. Time will tell how effective this work has been.



MCCG Projects

Creek Health Monitoring Program (Adrian Webb)

The Moggill Catchment Creek Health Monitoring Program (CHMP) is a community-based creek health monitoring program, supported by the Moggill Creek Catchment Group, Brisbane City Council, Healthy Land & Water and 20-30 community volunteers from Moggill Creek Catchment and surrounds. The program is based on systematic monitoring over years to establish a good understanding of creek health and to identify any degradation or improvement through time. The main objectives are to understand how creek health varies across sites in Moggill Creek and its tributaries (Gold Creek, Gap Creek, and Mackay Brook), and then by continued monitoring twice a year, identify any trends / changes in the creek health, and provide early warning of changes that might threaten these ecosystems.

The first phase of the program, commenced in 2011, has been to develop an understanding of the baseline values of the creeks at 12 sites spread across the Moggill Creek catchment. Monthly water quality monitoring was introduced for approximately 2 years to give a better indication of the seasonal changes, and to check unusually big changes such as blooms in aquatic weeds. This type of information assists the Moggill Creek Catchment Group to identify risks to environmental values of the land and water ecosystems in the Moggill Creek Catchment and contributes to the strategic plans and development of on-ground activities. These have included: organising training workshops such as aquatic weed identification, water monitoring procedures, fish and aquatic macro-invertebrate identification; riparian conditions assessment and dissemination of information to the membership and the catchment community.

What is monitored?

The fish diversity and numbers along with similar data on aquatic insects, are acquired in conjunction with water quality, creek bed and bank conditions, riparian vegetation condition and invasive aquatic weeds as ecosystem condition indicators. These are used to make assessments of the creek health across the catchment, and to help identify trends or changes over time. These assessments may highlight preferred management changes to protect the health of the creeks. For example, a severe reduction in Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in water, changes in pH or nutrient content and a decline in diversity or numbers of sensitive fish species may indicate unsuitable land or water management activities at or upstream of the site being monitored.

Results to Date

The first phase gave sufficient data to allow a reliable assessment to be made about creek health. The results to date indicate that creek health in the catchment is generally good, considering that it has commercial and urban areas in the mid-lower catchment. Rainfall and run-off conditions along with the riparian zone conditions from time to time cause clear differences in the aquatic habitat, particularly in flow depths and rates, sedimentation loads and stream bed and bank. Water quality and biodiversity can become quite poor during extended dry periods. Episodic runoff events have caused bank erosion and loss of riparian vegetation in some sites across the last 5 years; this has resulted in migration of bed sediment loads downstream leading to shallower areas and banks which have become

infested in exotic weeds such as Senegal tea. Impacts of high velocities of flows have been common in the upper reaches of Moggill, Gold and Gap Creeks probably due to higher gradients than occur in the lower catchment. Two sites on Gold Creek were found to be unusually high in phosphates and nitrates and this was reflected in lush aquatic weed and algal growth found in the creek water, particularly in periods of low creek flow in drier periods. Dissolved oxygen was commonly less than 2mg/L. These conditions were associated with outfalls of wastewater. A report and explanatory data were supplied to Qld Environmental officers and BCC, and the matter was dealt with subsequently.

All the data are in the process of being put into a new database being developed in conjunction with the BCC. Data collection has been by 20-30 wonderful volunteers, many of whom have been trained through workshops provided through the BCC, Healthy Land and Water (HLW) and MCCG. In addition, the BCC has been very supportive of our program through access to Horiba water quality instruments and chemicals for in-field calibration.



Senegal Infestation - MC5

In the last few years Senegal tea infestations, usually accompanied by purple taro and Sagittaria have built up in Moggill Creek downstream of the Gold Creek junction. Most infestations have established at the ends of pools and runs where sediment has built up during periods of high flow. A good example can be seen in Gold Creek immediately downstream of the bridge near Jones Rd.

Exotic fish caught in dip nets or small traps are euthanised; Biosecurity Queensland regulations prohibit these species being put back into the creeks. There have been comments that some of these species have been released from home aquariums into our waterways.

Monitoring has occurred in Autumn and Spring- early Summer. We have had much appreciated assistance from Leo Lee from Save Our Waterways Now (SOWN) and several other members of the Australian and New Guinea Fishers Association who have regularly helped our teams with fish identification. Leo has been a wonderful mentor to us all! Dr Timothy Howell, a professional aquatic scientist, has provided much of the technical

guidance and procedures since the beginning of the monitoring program, and we still rely on his support. Plans are in progress to recommence the monitoring program soon.

Cat's Claw (Adrian Webb)

Many landholders in the Moggill Creek catchment are already aware of the threats from Cat's Claw Creeper to remnant forests and riparian zones. Their major threat is that they climb to the tree canopy where they slowly smother it, causing canopy collapse which often kills the trees. It also completely smothers bushes and smaller native plants and can create a thick carpet that covers the ground surface.

Some landholders have been battling this aggressive exotic vine from South America for several years and have learned how difficult it is to remove or control. The MCCG committee has been working with Healthy Land and Water, Brisbane City Council and officers of Biosecurity Queensland to bring together information on the ecological threats from this transformer weed; in addition, they are collaborating in efforts to support landholders to control its spread particularly in our remnant forests. A comprehensive fact sheet compiled by Kym Johnson of Biosecurity Queensland outlines much of what is known about this vine including methods of control.

Cat's claw creeper is distributed across many areas of remnant vegetation in Moggill Creek Catchment and some infestations are known to have been there for over 30 years. The most severe infestations are in the moister lower slopes and drainage lines. Although a number of the exotic transformer vines are known to be degrading ecosystems in the Moggill Creek Catchment, specific attention is being given to cat's claw creeper because it is not only one of the worst threats, it is also regarded as one of the most difficult to control and eradicate.

How do we respond?

The general strategy being followed is to identify infested sites and then direct control efforts into limiting further spread into important remnant vegetation. Where it is possible, treating the weed across neighbouring properties has some benefits in reducing the level of further infestation in an area. We are particularly aware of this in those areas where infestations are on properties adjacent to or close to major conservation areas such as the Mt Coo-tha Forest and the adjoining D'Aguilar National Park. Because the vine tends not to flower until it gets into tree canopies where there is plenty of sunlight, the first step in any control program needs to be cutting of any vines already on the tree trunks. This reduces the threats of seed production and dispersal by wind or water. The vine flowers in the latter part of the year and has been very obvious in the last month in bushland on both sides along Centenary Highway.

Progress

MCCG has an established working relationship with the Healthy Land and Water, BCC, Biosecurity Queensland and SEQ Water. Collaboration on selecting the priority infestation areas has resulted in a number of infestations being treated using different funding sources. For several years the Dept of Environment and Science and Healthy Land and Water have funded most of the MCCG driven cats claw management program on major infestations in the high value corridors of the mid and upper catchment.

Current aims

- Provide good information on the skills and other resources needed to manage the infestations in the catchment.
- Support landholders in gaining funds for on-ground treatment of Cat's claw creeper.

Anzac Tree Daisy management (Adrian Webb)

The project on managing Anzac Tree Daisy (ATD) had 4 main activities. The activities have been:

- the treatment of an ATD infestation on a private property in the upper Wonga creek sub-catchment,
- follow-up, planting and protecting native plants,
- identifying the current distribution of ATD in the Moggill Creek Catchment.
- And treating a scattered infestation of ATD in the riparian zone of Moggill Creek.

A contractor was engaged to undertake 2 sessions of follow up spraying of the ATD regrowth. They also removed some that were not treated in adjacent remnant forest in the lower gully and along the boundary with a neighbour. The gully forked at the top of the project area, and one arm is in the neighbouring property on the north west. The gully in this upper part is very steep sided and there are very few shrubs or trees in the gully itself. The soils are volcanic in origin, very friable overlying coarse rock fragments. The steep banks are highly susceptible to erosion during run-off events. Despite the difficult conditions the main objective of removing /controlling ATD in the defined gully area was achieved.

In addition to the contractor activities there were at least 4 occasions when MCCG volunteers carried out brushcutting and spraying of weed regrowth particularly prior to and following replanting activities. Most of the first planting had good quality corflute protectors pegged with hardwood stakes. As some plants grew rapidly, the protectors were then shifted to smaller weaker plants. This was repeated with each planting.



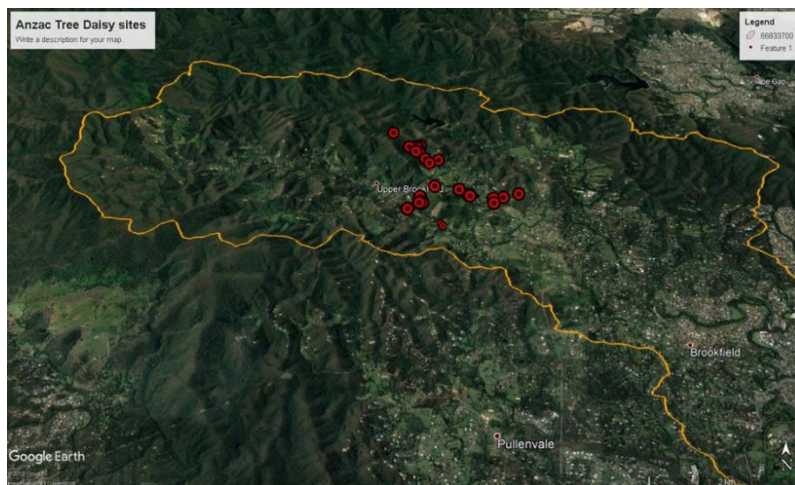
Anzac Tree Daisy

A milestone in the original proposal was to plant native species in the zone where ATD had been removed. In spite of adverse wet and extended dry conditions approximately 400 plants were planted in the channel and on banks. Our estimated loss of plants in the first

planting due to runoff erosion or subsequent hot dry conditions was at least 50 percent. We had at least four planting sessions and some infilling following the removal of the ATD infestation. The last planting was done on October 22 2018 despite the very dry conditions and was given several waterings using stored tank water (for firefighting) on the property.

Remediation of 2km of Wonga creek. A small number of volunteers in the Wonga creek sub-catchment have removed ATD from the creek in the upper 1km and I have checked the lower 1km to the junction with Moggill Creek. Several of the land holders in the upper part have been managing ATD but there are still a couple of properties with infestations away from the creek. There are other weeds in the ephemeral creek that can be confused with ATD and we are attempting to get more people to become adept at identifying it confidently. To that end, an impromptu session was run in Upper Brookfield using a freshly cut mature plant, and the key morphological differences were emphasised. This will be an ongoing requirement.

Distribution of Anzac Tree Daisy across the Moggill Creek Catchment. In addition to the known ATD infestations in the upper Wonga Creek catchment, ATD has been found on properties in the lower half of Wonga creek sub-catchment on the southern side of Savages road. In addition, there are several infestations on the southern side of the catchment divide with Moggill Creek. A map (attached) has been prepared to show the location of the sites on 20 properties.



In some cases, infestations have established intermittently along drainage lines from the higher land down to the lower parts. In most of these private properties there was limited opportunity to assess the numbers and size of the infestations; accuracy of the numbers of infestations does need closer verification. Because of the sensitive nature of the distribution information, a published map has not been released at a scale where the properties are clearly identifiable. Data were given to the BCC for their information in managing weeds which are part of the recent review of the Biosecurity plan.

Treatment of another significant ATD infestation was also carried out on riparian land of Moggill Creek approximately a kilometre downstream from Upper Brookfield school. The Dept of Environment and Science allowed some unspent funds from the original project to

be put to good use controlling ATD in this area where a number of properties front the creek. Contractors sprayed the ATD that had regrown following slashing. Subsequent to that a BCC officer provided assistance in identifying and spraying four small separate infestations on the creek bank very close to the main channel.

MCCG Platypus Survey September 2019 (Christine Hosking)

During the annual MCCG snapshot platypus survey, the same observation points are always monitored, incorporating Gold Creek and Moggill Creek (upper and lower). The survey is also always conducted at the same time of year (early September). Over the years we have been able to expand our survey spatially due to the increasing number of volunteers who come along each year. Remarkably, the annual MCCG platypus survey has now been running for 14 years!

This year, 11 individual platypus were seen, which exceeded last year's tally of seven. There were a further two reports, but the observers were not 100 percent certain, so they were not included. In summary, platypus were seen from upper to lower Gold Creek, beside Rafting Ground Rd, in the Huntington Estate (Boyd Terrace), along Kenmore High School and down to Moggill Road (Manyung Street). This means that all 11 sightings were in Gold Creek and mid-to-Lower Moggill Creek. Nothing, for the first time, in upper Moggill Creek (Upper Brookfield). Even past stronghold sites had no platypus. This is a serious concern and we believe is due to the severe lack of water in the creeks. This is not just from drought, but from the amount of pumping from the creek that was in evidence throughout Upper Brookfield at the time of the survey.

We believe that the reason platypus are persisting in Gold and Lower Moggill Creeks is due to the environmental flows (release of water) from the Gold Creek Dam. If this stopped, our platypus would be in serious trouble. We would ask all landholders to consider the creek ecosystems and wildlife when pumping from creeks. We even heard pumps still running despite the water level being lower than the extraction hoses!

Our first big thank you goes to the amazing efforts of the ~80 volunteers who reliably turned up at 4:15 am, keen to head to their observation sites! Secondly, thanks to the awesome 'support' team of Liz, Judy, Tamielle, Damien, Jesse and Alan, without whom the logistics would not have been possible. Thirdly, thanks go to Dot and her Guides for cooking the wonderful post-survey breakfast and the MCCG who funded the breakfast. We also greatly appreciate the wonderful support of the Brookfield Pony Club who again allowed us to use their kitchen for the breakfast. Thanks also to the private landholders who kindly allowed us to invade their properties to look for platypus!

Tamielle is also furthering our local platypus knowledge through her important PhD research in our, and other catchments in Southeast Queensland. Stay posted for her future publications!



Tamielle Brunt Speaking at the Mid-Year Meeting in Brookfield Hall, July 2019

The Cane Toad Challenge (Phil Bird)

The Cane Toad Challenge (CTC) is a University of Queensland (UQ) initiative led by Professor Rob Capon. His team discovered a way to use the adult cane toads' toxins to attract and trap their tadpoles before they can reproduce. The technology uses cane toad pheromones as baits in conjunction with traps, to achieve the large-scale capture and removal of cane toad tadpoles from managed waterways. A partnership developed with Brisbane City Council (BCC). Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) is an affiliate with the CTC for co-ordinated implementation of tadpole trapping. The hope is to reduce cane toad populations in the Moggill Creek catchment and to alleviate the environmental impact of this toxic invasive pest.

A workshop was held on the 17th November 2018 on construction and use of cane toad traps with over 20 MCCG members attending the workshop. Andrew Wills (Acting Creek Catchment Officer - Community Conservation Partnerships, BCC) outlined the Council's role

in the CTC. Handouts were available on identification of toads and trap construction was demonstrated. Further information can be found on the CTC webpage at <http://canetoadchallenge.org.au>

Kits and baits (supplied to BCC by the UQ CTC team) were distributed to interested MCCG members who wished to take part in this program. Baits were re-supplied to individuals who provided results of their trapping. Varied results were obtained for the 2018-19 summer, with some members reporting good capture of cane toad tadpole and others having disappointing results. It is unknown at the stage why there are differences in success rate. The program will continue throughout the 2019-20 season, when we get rain.



Summary

Overall 2018/2019 has been an excellent year for Moggill Creek Catchment Group, with lots of interesting and invigorating activities and talks and several new initiatives. Our bush care work was impacted by the ongoing drought but let's hope that conditions return to something more like normal soon! In the coming year I'm sure that with the help of our enthusiastic members and volunteers, we can continue to grow and flourish.

Jim Pope
Chairman – Moggill Creek Catchment Group