



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

MCCG NEWSLETTER Autumn 2025



ABOVE: Hopefully our native fauna will have enjoyed the recent 'Alfred' rains. Chris Bruton supplied this photo of a local Water Dragon (*Intellagama lesueurii*), which prompted a quick re-read of Ed Frazer's [MCCG Website](#) Bush Bite. Turn also to Tracey Read's 'p6 'Paradox' article
LEFT: Phil Bird photographed these signs at Creekside Park. Turn to page 4 for more of Phil's latest Froggin' thoughts.

BELOW: A little inspiration for the 2025 MCCG Photo Comp, with a few more of the 2024 entries.: **BELOW RIGHT** is John Stephens' 'Will the Branch Hold,' and **BELOW LEFT** is David Edwards' 'Abutilon oxycarpum.' Turn to p7 for more, and p8 for 2025 dates.



Your latest issue: Behind the 2024 'Photo Comp' Lens (p7), Chairperson's Report (p3), Echidna Digs (p3), Froggin' Around (p4), Hop Along (p3), KSHS Australia Day Clean Up (p4), Melioidosis Risk (p2), Nursery Tubes 'Recall' (p8), 'Save the Dates' (p8), Seeds & Weeds (p5), The Paradox of our Creeks (p6)

Chairperson's Report

Hello!

I'm excited and a little nervous to step into the role of MCCG Chairperson, especially as I follow in the footsteps of those with such deep knowledge of our local flora, fauna, and the natural environment. This year, we have a fantastic committee with a solid mix of experienced long-standing members coupled with the enthusiasm of our newest members, including (returning) Secretary Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside, PR Officer Rebecca Bain, and Kate Dutton-Register (*see MCCG Committee photograph, page 4*).

The wet weather last year has sparked an explosion of growth across the catchment. Personally, I'm struggling to keep up with the rapid spread of weeds on my 2.5-acre bush block and feel like I'm losing the battle. *Dyschoriste depressa* (an aptly named plant!) wasn't an issue last year, but now it's spreading so fast it's overwhelming, along with Blue Billygoat weed (*Ageratum houstonianum*). Where native grasses and plants once thrived, these weeds have taken over. Still, I've been trying to stay positive. I'll keep chipping away, expanding the weed-free areas, and slowly tipping the balance back in favour of native plants.

In February, I joined the first bushcare event of the year at Rafting Ground Dog Park, where the situation was much the same. The weeds had overtaken the previously planted and well-established food forest, but thanks to the hard work of a small number of volunteers, we made great progress in just a few hours before morning tea, focusing on weeding and laying mulch. It was a very satisfying Sunday morning, with great conversation and all topped off with cake! With 12 bushcare sites across the Moggill Creek Catchment, there are plenty of opportunities to suit people of all abilities to get outside, get your hands dirty, and connect with your community. Don't hesitate to join in; whether you attend just one event or commit to the whole year, everyone is welcome. There's nothing more rewarding than walking through local parks knowing you've contributed to making these spaces better for both people and wildlife.

This month we have our first quarterly talk for the year when Dr Richard Noske will be presenting 'Birds and Eucalypts of Gap Creek Reserve environs' at the Kenmore Library on March 25th (7pm). The quarterly talks are a great chance to not only learn about interesting topics but also meet other members. We hope to see even more of our members enjoy the free talks this year. All [upcoming events](#) are listed on our website.

Tracey Read

Editorial

During the recent cyclone preparations, it was lovely to read articles submitted for this latest Newsletter, including a number written as the weather system approached. I particularly enjoyed reading Tracey's reflections on 'The paradox of our creeks' (p6) and Rosemary and Sandy Pollock's 'Hop Along' rescue of a Graceful Tree Frog (p3). I sincerely hope that all members of our local community, and all MCCG members, have kept safe and well during this recent weather event. I am sure we are all looking forward to spending more time by the creek and within our catchment again. After all, those weeds will be growing....

This issue also includes a few more images from the 2024 photography competition (*see front cover and p7*) – perhaps acting as inspiration for the 2025 event, as it is always good to start taking pictures early!

Just a reminder, too, of the deadline for the next Newsletter. **The absolute deadline for the next issue is 26 June 2025.** I'd LOVE to hear from YOU, dear reader. After all, what is a newsletter without news? Start now! Don't wait until the deadline to [email me...](#)

Cathí

Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) is a volunteer action group, aiming to conserve & improve the natural environment of our catchment on both private & public land.

Chairperson: Tracey Read

Secretary: Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside

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Articles of interest to Members are always welcome.

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

Newsletter Editor:

Dr Catherine A. Lawrence OAM (Cathi)

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Hop Along

Just ahead of Cyclone Alfred, we took advantage of the still conditions and took our dog for a quick walk. To our surprise, as well as several cane toads, we spotted a Graceful Tree Frog in the middle of the damp road. It was about 4cm in length and its eyes gleamed in the light of the torch. It is distinctive and common in the Moggill Creek Catchment, although quite hard to spot when amongst vegetation due to its size and colouring. According to the [FrogId website](#), it calls frequently in January and February and can reach up to 4.5cm in body length. It is distinguished from other related *Litoria* species by the pale green or yellow stripe from the nostril over the eye and an orange iris.



Sandy relocated the frog to the side of the road, so it didn't become part of the roadkill statistics, and Rosemary took the photo, *above*.

Rosemary and Sandy Pollock

YOUR Help Needed

If you would like to be a little but more involved in your catchment group there is an upcoming vacancy for the Membership Secretary. The part time workload varies throughout the year for this important but well-structured position. If you would like to know more, please email Zoe at Secretary@moggillcreek.org.au

Tracey Read

Melioidosis Risk After Flooding

Following recent coverage about the rise in melioidosis cases in Queensland, Tracey Read has provided a timely summary of information provided by WorkSafe Queensland.

Following heavy rainfall and flooding, the risk of melioidosis increases for those working with soil and surface water. This tropical disease, caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, is more common in north Queensland but can occur in other regions,

– Page 3 Moggill Creek Catchment Group Newsletter, Autumn 2025 –

For more, visit our website (www.moggillcreek.org) or Facebook page (@MoggillCreek).

particularly after wet weather when the bacteria thrive in mud and water. Those involved in flood recovery are at risk, especially if they have existing health conditions like diabetes, chronic lung disease, or weakened immunity. To reduce the risk, practice thorough hand hygiene, cover cuts and wounds, and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). It's vital that you wash up after exposure to muddy water and soil and seek medical attention if you feel unwell. By implementing safety measures the risks associated with melioidosis can be minimised during and after flood events.

Tracey Read

Echidna Digs

One of our newest Committee Members, Dr Kate Dutton-Regester, is working to uncover the secrets of echidnas, and would welcome YOUR help. An extract from a recent Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (*Wildlife Queensland*) article is reproduced here. For more information, and to read the whole article, visit the [Wildlife Queensland website](#).

The 'Echidna Digs' Project explores whether the diggings of [short-beaked echidnas](#) (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) and bandicoots (family *Peramelidae*) can be distinguished by measurable traits.

Echidnas and bandicoots leave similar foraging marks, such as 'nose pokes' and foreleg diggings, making it tricky to identify which species created them. By carefully measuring individual diggings and analysing their spatial patterns, Dr Kate's study aims to uncover unique, identifiable traits for each species. The findings will help landowners, field naturalists, and outdoor enthusiasts accurately identify echidna and bandicoot diggings in the wild. This improved understanding will enhance ecological observations and species monitoring efforts (see *Wildlife Queensland photo, below, of an echidna and digging, showing scale*).



In time, the research could lead to the development of an AI-based identification tool. Users could upload photos of diggings and receive automated species identification, empowering citizen science initiatives and contributing to conservation efforts for echidnas and bandicoots across their habitats.

Dr Kate Dutton-Regester needs **your help** to build a digital library of echidna diggings as part of the Echidna Digs Project. Your photos and measurements will help differentiate echidna diggings from those of bandicoots and will support conservation efforts.

Here's how to contribute: (1) Take a **photo** of the digging; (2) **Measure** the length (L), width (W), and depth (D) of the digging; (3) **Upload** your images and measurements. **TIP:** If you don't have a measuring tool, use your phone's 'Measure' App, or place a recognisable object (like a coin or pen) next to the digging for a scale.

Source: Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Wildlife Queensland) [website](#) article dated 30 January 2025.

Froggin' Around: Autumn

More from Phil Bird, with news about all things 'froggin,' both locally and at a national level.

The best local news is of course about the various calls heard by your froggin' friends. Calls from the dam that I have recently recorded include hearing *Litoria peronii*, *Mixophyes fasciolatus*, *Litoria gracilentia*, *Limnodynates peronii*, and *Adelotus brevis*.

Nationally, the [FrogID project](#) has now recorded 1.2 million frogs with a new tally of 230 species (**Editor's Note:** Keep an eye on the [Frog ID Facebook page](#) as their tally of frog species continues to grow!). This includes a recording of a new frog species, the critically endangered Mount Elliott nursery frog (*Copixalus mcdonaldi*), in Townsville's wet tropics; their tadpoles develop entirely in eggs and hatch fully formed frogs.

One of the best ways to help our native frogs is to assist with the removal of cane toads wherever possible. A previous MCCG Newsletter *Froggin' Around* newsletter story (see 2021 [Autumn](#) and [Winter](#) issues) featured the frog pond at Creekside Park, Brookfield, located off Rafting Ground Road. Recent rains flooded low-lying areas in the park, creating an ideal environment for several frogs to breed—including striped marsh frogs (*Lim. peronii*), and Green tree frogs (*Litoria caerulea*). Sadly, cane toads (*Rinella marina*) also bred. Many cane toad tadpoles were sighted in the water, which alarmed a local resident who is a member of MCCG. Having never done anything like this before, they took on the challenge of removing the toad tadpoles using a net and a cane toad trap. Hoping to enlist the help of members of the local community, and raising awareness of the problem, she also put up some fantastic signs (see [front cover](#)). With the help of her family and a local biologist, a few toad-busting nights resulted in the capture of around 280 toads and over 3,000 toadpoles.

All community efforts to reduce cane toads in our local environment is important. If **you** are looking to make a difference, I suggest that it is best to *remove* the easily identified eggs after a breeding event, and also to *capture* adults to reduce the number of breeding pairs (as each pair can lay 30,000 eggs). I also think that nature will control the explosion of young toad metamorphs; many will die, with a smaller number eaten by predators which provides 'aversion training' for larger animals. As the removal of toadpoles by netting can risk removing native tadpoles, I recommend that the best possible way to help is to go out at dusk and capture adult cane toads. All the information you need is available on the [Watergum website](#).
Phil Bird

MCCG Committee: 2025



2025 Management Committee meeting photograph (L to R): Simon English (Vice chair), Malcolm Frost, Sandy Pollock, Alan Walmsley (Treasurer), Gordon Grigg, Jim Pope, Rebecca Bain (PR officer), Tracey Read (Chair), Dale Borgelt, Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside (Secretary). Also attending the meeting but not pictured were Suzy Philp (Membership Secretary) and Kate Dutton-Regester.

KSHS Australia Day Clean Up

Encouraged by the School's *Kenmore Worms* environment group, 48 Kenmore State High School (KSHS) students gathered first thing in the morning of 28th February. To collect rubbish, the students worked their way along the banks of Moggill Creek, which borders the School on three sides. This [Clean Up Australia Day](#) activity covered an area of more than one kilometre, from near the Branton Street bridge through to the park adjoining the Dumbarton oval. The students collected a wide range of discarded items, including a lawnmower with catcher attached, a child's bike, a wheely bin, a mattress, a car tyre, a

shopping trolley, and a couple of lengths of chain-wire fencing ... *plus* general rubbish such as paper and plastic food packaging, and old items of clothing. In just over an hour the students assembled a collection weighing more than 140kg—which is a significant increase over the 50kg collected in 2024.

The activity was overseen by teaching staff Tom McNicoll, Harper Smith, and Emily Smith—and, as a member of P&C's Environment Group, I also gave a hand. If it was able to speak, the local environment would be very appreciative of the effort by 46 female and 2 male students.

Bruce Dymock

Seeds: Queensland Beech

In my garden, a magnificent *Gmelina leichhardtii* tree, more commonly known as White Beech or Queensland Beech, has truly flourished this year (see pictures, supplied by Tracey, below). As someone who often struggles to remember plant names, I once again turned to my trusty gardening guide, *Mangroves to Mountains*, to identify this fabulous tree.

Last November, it put on an incredible display of purple and white flowers (about 20mm in size), which has led to an extraordinary fruiting season this year. Bunches of purple fruit (around 25mm) dangled from the branches like grapes, marking the most prolific fruiting I've seen in years.



Tracey Read

Seeds: Don't Eat These Bananas!

Tabernaemontana pandaciqui or banana bush, is a distinctive native shrub in the wetter parts of our Moggill Creek catchment. The plant produces attractive five-petaled white flowers (see Sandy's picture, below), with a windmill or propeller like shape, thus responsible for another common name of windmill bush. The flowers fade and drop and



produce bright yellow capsules somewhat resembling a tiny woody banana, splitting open lengthwise to reveal sticky red seeds. **But please don't eat or consider any parts of the plant edible.** This species occurs within the plant family *Apocynaceae*, which is the same

as the well-known and toxic oleander tree of cultivation. Banana bush shares the milky white sap familiar to that plant family, and these are obvious if the thin glossy opposite leaves are broken. However, it is an excellent feature plant, and highly useful for infill plantings in areas of low light. It can be seen growing in the Old Sawmill Forest Walk near the Gold Creek Cottage, and in many areas in the upper Moggill Creek and Gold Creek catchments.

Sandy Pollock

Weeds: Golden Rain Tree

Brisbane City Council [website](#) has some fantastic resources and information about native plants and local weeds, including this extract of information about the *weedy awful* (sorry!) Golden rain tree.

Golden rain tree (*Koelreuteria elegans* subsp. *Formosana*) is also known as the Chinese flame tree, Chinese rain tree, Flame gold, Flame golden rain tree, and Golden raintree.

A medium-sized tree, usually growing 5-12m tall, its main trunk is covered in rough greyish-brown bark. The twice-compound leaves are very large (25-60cm long and 15-44cm wide) and have numerous leaflets (5.5-10cm long). The golden rain tree has large, branched flower clusters, 30-50cm long, which are borne at the tips of the branches in late spring or early summer. The bright yellow flowers (up to 2cm across, pictured below) usually have four or five yellow petals and the same number of stamens; its three-sided papery capsules (3.5-6 cm long) turn from bright red to pink and then eventually brown as they mature.

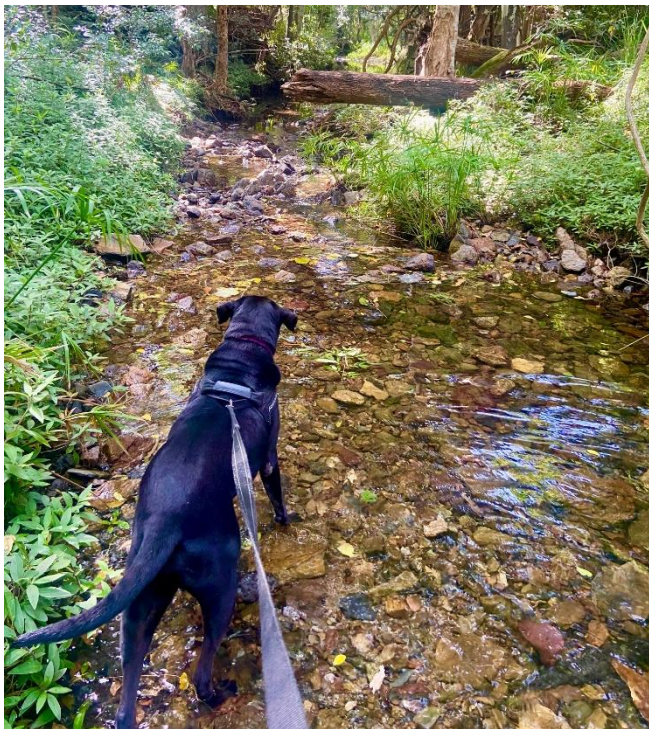


[BCC Website image of large, branched flower clusters](#) (Photo: Sheldon Navie).

Golden rain tree is regarded as an environmental weed in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales, and as a potential environmental weed in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. It is on the Alert List for Environmental Weeds, a list of 28 non-native plants that have the potential to seriously degrade Australia's ecosystems.

The Paradox of our Creeks

I woke up this morning not expecting the blue skies and slight gentle breeze, especially since I write this on the day that was supposed to mark the arrival of Tropical Cyclone (TC) Alfred. I guess this is the 'calm before the storm'. I took my dog for an early walk alongside my local waterway the Pullen Pullen creek; exercise for him and a way to decrease my growing anxiety about the predicted destructive winds and flooding (see Tracey's picture of Jersey, below). The peaceful trickling of water over river stones and the mossy logs dappled in sunlight, coupled with the morning birdsong, calmed my mind. Research into this effect is known as the Blue Mind Theory. It is the idea that being in or near water puts us into a semi-meditative state which positively affects our minds and bodies.



Yet, I couldn't help thinking about the paradox of these small waterways. Whilst I felt calmer in this present tranquillity, I was acutely aware that the presence of these small tributaries all around Brisbane were the source of massive amounts of stress, as newly released flood maps showed the likely and extensive areas to be impacted. For many people this is their only interaction with their catchment waterways—when they negatively impact their lives and their livelihoods. These quiet hidden waterways will impact tens of thousands of people in the days ahead, with visible reminders evident for a period as cleanup efforts remove mud and debris from homes and streets. The mental reminders stay for much longer though.

For those who care for our catchment waterways in-between these flood events, it is a constant battle to

restore what was lost and prevent further damage. The efforts of rebuilding riparian zones, and planting bank-stabilising vegetation, often go unnoticed until disaster strikes. The true value of these waterways is not just in their tranquil beauty, but in their resilience and capacity to provide life—when managed well. As the floodwaters recede, the damage is assessed, and the clean-up begins. For the creeks, recovery means more than just clearing debris; it requires replanting, weeding and community resilience. It's a reminder that recovery is a slow process, but one that is worth investing in for the future: the health of our waterways, our environment and ourselves.

Tracey Read

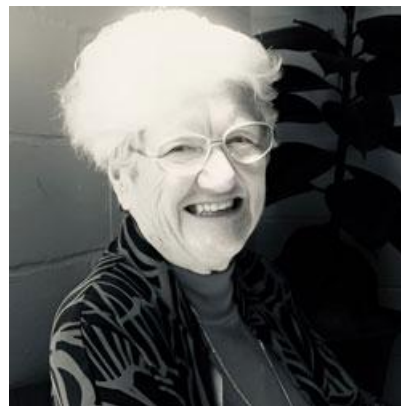
Medal of the Order of Australia

We are thrilled to hear that Cathi Lawrence, our incredible editor of the MCCG newsletter since 2016, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her [outstanding service to tertiary education](#). Please join us in congratulating Cathi on this well-deserved and prestigious honour!

Tracey Read

Connie Arthur: 1922-2025

My mother and MCCG Life Member, Connie Arthur, passed away peacefully in late [January](#). She was 102 years young (picture, below, as used in the February 2025 [Order of Service](#)).



As a long-time resident of Brookfield, Mum was involved in many local projects to care for the land and its fauna and flora. I still recall my REPA shirt from when I was in Brookfield School,

'Happiness is Green Hills and Valleys.'

Ginette Arthur

Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside, MCCG Secretary, replied to Ginette's note as follows: On behalf of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group I would like to extend our sincere condolences regarding the recent passing of your Mother, Connie. We very much appreciate you taking the time to let us know at this difficult time. I am so pleased we were able to recognise Connie's longstanding membership, care and support for the catchment and local Brookfield community as our inaugural Lifetime Member.

From Behind the Lens

Congratulations again to everyone who entered the 2024 MCCG Photography Competition. Our much-loved 'photo comp' is a popular annual event that reminds us all quite how wonderful our catchment is—and how very observant and patient the photographers can be!

Our [Summer 2024 Newsletter](#) featured many photographs from last year's competition. In this issue, as promised, it's great to feature a few more. Thanks again to Rebecca Bain for her work as the MCCG Photo Comp Chair, and for collating this information for the Newsletter Editor! Thank you also to the many photographers who provided some background information to accompany their stunning photos. Don't forget, as there are still several images that haven't been included here, do look at the [MCCG Website](#) or the MCCG [Facebook page](#).

Hopefully this will all inspire a few more of us to get out into our local area, and to start to take pictures ahead of the 2025 Photo Comp (see 'save the date' information overleaf, or visit our [website](#) for more).

John Stephens' evocative front cover photo, 'Will the branch hold?', is accompanied by this lovely note from John: 'I was watching and photographing a group of *Welcome Swallows*, flying in and out of a small she-oak. In this photo, two swallows are perched rather precariously on a thin she-oak branch. They appear to watch anxiously as another approaches for landing at Kookaburra Park, Karana Downs (April 2024).'



David Edwards' photo, 'Ssslipery when wet' (above) was Highly Commended (HC) in the 'Native Animals (excluding birds)' Section, and was also voted 3rd in the People's Choice competition. David notes that 'we often see carpet pythons in our yard, but I was a little surprised to see this one out and about during one of our summer storms. Fortunately I had the shelter of our veranda to stand out of the rain to try and get some nice photos of this larger specimen. I had some photos with the forked tongue out, but I eventually

chose this one to submit with the large number of water drops and the eye in quite good focus.'



David also entered a beautiful image of *Abutilon oxycarpum* (see front cover), noting 'Bryan Hacker gave us a couple of plants of this from the MCCG nursery a few years ago. We now have a number of these plants in our yard—none of them in places where they were planted, but the small yellow flowers are a nice splash of yellow and I quite like the shape of their seed pods. Presumably the plants and flowers also provide some benefit for some of our local insects.'

Stephen Mudge's image, 'Stony Creek Frog' (above), was awarded HC in the 'Native Animals (excluding Birds)' Category. Stephen notes that 'this male Stony Creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*) was photographed in summer 2023 on the bank of Cubberla Creek in Fig Tree Pocket. The males of this species are bright yellow during the breeding season, whereas the larger females are brown in colour.'

A Dragonfly Jewel of Our Catchment

Perhaps a photograph of this 'jewel' will be entered into the 2025 MCCG Photo Comp?

The [Scarlet Percher \(*Diplacodes haematodes*\)](#) is a spectacular local dragonfly that first appears locally in September and October, after a long winter absence. It is a much-photographed species, with males being brilliantly iridescent red and most readily seen in the middle of the day—usually in clear, warm and very sunny conditions, making it relatively easy to photograph by the creek or dams. This strong association with sunlight and the middle of the day almost seems to make them solar-powered, but it has probably more to do with the species eco-physiology. Like many other dragonflies, males are territorial, holding on to prominent locations to observe potential females, or to take prey moving past. To photograph, remember that they have excellent vision, so approach them slowly from behind if you want to get a good picture.

Sandy Pollock

Save The Dates – And MCCG Nursery Request !

Richmond Birdwing Butterfly (RBB) Workshop, 29th March 2025

Pullen Pullen Catchments Group, in conjunction with Wildlife Queensland, is hosting a Richmond Birdwing Butterfly 'walk and workshop' later this month. The promotional information describes the event as a 'fun and educational experience,' and as 'an opportunity to learn all about these beautiful creatures in person.' The Pullenvale activity takes place on the morning of 29th March 2025, opening with a 9am presentation by [The Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network](#) (RBCN)'s Matt Cecil.

'Discover the fascinating world of the RBB and how to help protect and enhance their habitat. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with nature and make a difference!' **Free:** Registration required, via [Eventbrite](#)

e-newsletter? Just email the MCCG Secretary with 'email newsletter' in the subject line and include your name and address in the message.
Thank you.

2025 Platypus Survey

The MCCG 20th Anniversary Platypus Survey will take place on **14th September 2025!!!**

More details to come, to include plans for our celebrations (I hope). If you would like any further information, or wanted to register now, visit <https://www.moggillcreek.org.au/events-calendar/#!event/2025/9/14/mccg-annual-platypus-survey-20th-survey-year> *Tamielle Brunt*

2025 MCCG 'Photo Comp'

If the start to 2025 is anything to go by, October is going to be here before we know it!

Further details are to come, but here are some important 'save the dates':

Sat 18th Oct: Submission day for open category entries (Brookfield Showgrounds)

Mon 20th Oct to Sat 25th Oct: Photo display at Kenmore Village

Sat 25th Oct: Prize ceremony at Kenmore Village

Rebecca Bain

MCCG Nursery Dates

The MCCG nursery has been successfully running Saturday morning opening hours, in addition to the regular 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. As a result there is a big call out for the return of tubes for reuse.

Please return any tubes you have at home to the nursery. If the nursery is closed, please leave them at the nursery entrance—or check the [events calendar](#) for upcoming dates
Tracey Read

MCCG Quarterly Talk: 25th March 2025

Mark your calendars for the first MCCG quarterly talk of the year, scheduled for **25th March** at the Kenmore Library (7pm). Everyone is welcome to join this **free** event.

Dr Richard Noske will be speaking about 'Birds and Eucalypts of Gap Creek Reserve environs.'



Richard (see picture, supplied, above) has been monitoring bird and flowering phenology (timing) at over a dozen sites in Southeast Queensland for 12 years. This presentation focuses on his findings near Gap Creek Reserve in Mt Coot-tha Forest. From May 2012 to March 2017, Richard recorded 91 bird species, with honeyeaters being the most frequent. Bird numbers peaked in March and early winter, reflecting migratory patterns. Local eucalypts, including Ironbarks, Spotted Gums, and Gum-topped Box, provide vital nectar sources for these birds. Richard suggests that community groups can help monitor the effects of climate change on flowering seasons and bird populations.
Tracey Read

MCCG Winter Newsletter Stories & Photographs [Deadline: 26 June](#)

– Page 8 Moggill Creek Catchment Group Newsletter, Autumn 2025 –

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