



MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

MCCG NEWSLETTER Winter 2024



ABOVE: MCCG showcase and community award at the 2024 Brookfield Show, reported in Rosemary Pollock's page 7 update (thanks to Sandy Pollock for the photo of [L to R] Andrew Wilson, Simon English, and Tracey Read).



ABOVE: Brisbane's short-beaked echidnas **need your help!**
Turn to Dr. Kate Dutton-Regester's page 4 request for more
(image, above, courtesy Maureen Gribbles).

BELOW: For Simon English's report on a Bushtekniq workshop, turn to page 8 (image supplied by Simon English).



ABOVE: A 'weedy big' problem in our catchment. For more about 'seeds and weeds' turn to pages 6 & 7 (blue dawn flower image credit: Sandy Pollock).



Your latest issue: A Valuable Jewel (p4), Brookfield Show Success (p7), Chairman's Report (p2), Help Echidna Research (p4), Froggin' Around (p6), Geography in Conversation (p4), Glider Recovery (p5), Koala Reintroduction (p5), Moggill Magic (p8), Nursery News (p3), Our Creek Champion (p8), 'Photo Comp' (p5), Seeds & Weeds (p6 & 7), Welcome to our New Secretary (p3).

Chairman's Report

What a wet Autumn and lead up into Winter it's been. I'm sure you have all been marvelling at the plant growth associated with all this moisture, both in your gardens and out in the catchment. Moggill Creek, and its associated feeder creek systems, has never looked so good. Appropriately, we can now also see the results of our e-DNA studies into which creatures can be detected from samples of our clear Moggill Creek water. Thanks to Lewis Peach and Tamielle Brunt for coordinating this.

This wet weather has certainly been a boon to any recent plantings, such as the one in the Brookfield area. Unfortunately, the local weeds have also been growing well with such good conditions. May and June bring together some of our much-anticipated activities in the MCCG. Of course, we all look forward to the wonderful Kids Day Out at the Cottage. The 2024 Brookfield Show was a great event, as MCCG received the Brookfield Show Society State Member for Moggill Community Shield with much surprise and pleasure. This award acknowledges ALL the volunteers who contribute countless hours supporting our wonderful catchment.

We've also been successful with a few grants recently, thanks to the very hard work of our "grant-whisperer" Chris Bruton, who seems to have the gift of writing what grant fund managers want to hear! Grants help make our regular events happen, and help new initiatives, such as the e-DNA studies, into reality. If you have grant ideas or suggestions, or want to help coordinate new projects, [please let Chris know ASAP](#).

We are delighted to welcome our new Secretary, Diana Medina, who is admirably taking over the busy Secretary role from past members. Please make Diana feel at home as she helps keep the flow of information and correspondence moving across our Group.

Finally, a plug for our next Quarterly Talk, which takes place on 25th June 2024. Dr Vanessa Gorecki, will be talking about her studies into the astonishing fishing bats, *Myotis adversus*, which use unpolluted creek systems such as Moggill Creek for highways and feeding areas. This is a talk not to be missed, so mark your calendars! *Swap your screen time for creek time.*

Sandy Pollock

Date Claimer: 25 June 2024 Quarterly Talk
Dr Vanessa Gorecki's talk about Large-footed Myotis Fishing Bats will be held at Kenmore Library (6:30pm arrival, 7:00 pm start, ~9:00 pm finish).
Registration & further [details on the MCCG website](#)

Editorial

It would be WONDERFUL to have stories for the next Newsletter—from new members, or from long-standing volunteers.

The absolute deadline for the next issue is 7th September 2024. Start now! Don't wait until the deadline to [email me](#).

Cathi

Local Matters

Thanks to our hard-working Chair, the MCCG 'has a jar' at Grill'd Kenmore. [Local Matters](#) is the Grill'd 'way of giving back to local communities across Australia.'



Every month, each restaurant splits \$500 between three groups doing amazing work in the community—and that's where customer votes count. Keep an eye out to see how successful the MCCG might be.

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

Chairman: Sandy Pollock

Secretary: Diana Medina

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Articles of interest to Members are *always* welcome.

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

Newsletter Editor: Dr Catherine A. Lawrence (Cathi)

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Nursery News

Members will be aware that Bruce Siemon is one of our very hard-working volunteers—with roles including maintaining a comprehensive record of the MCCG Nursery activity. Here's a quick snapshot of Bruce's first quarter numbers.

During the first four months of 2024 (January–April) the Nursery provided 4,600 plants free to current paid-up members. Looking at the same four months in 2023, this was an increase of over 1,000 plants. Rainfall during this period played a big part in the increase. I checked my rainfall data (for Kenmore) for these months; this year it was 680mm, compared with only 295mm in 2023.

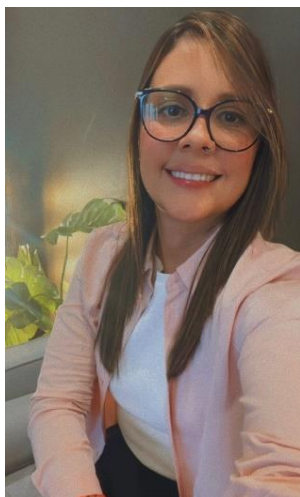
The Nursery stocks increased over the four months with more than 7,000 plants being potted by our volunteers. There was quite a variety of species – 81 in fact. Lomandras, approximately equal numbers of hystrix and longifolia, made up almost 20% of the total. The other main species were narrow leaved gardenia (*Atractocarpus chartaceus*), native ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*), red cedar (*Toona ciliata*) and river she-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*).

Bruce Siemon

Welcome to Our New Secretary

Thanks again to Rosemary Pollock for acting as Secretary, and for handing the reins over to our new MCCG Secretary. Here's a little more from our new Committee Member, Diana (pictured below).

I am Diana Medina, and I'm glad to join the Moggill Creek Catchment Group as the new MCCG Secretary. I am passionate about conserving natural areas, promoting biodiversity, and fostering sustainable communities. As an Environmental Management professional from the Autónoma de Occidente University, with Project Management and Fitness



Management qualifications, I hope to bring valuable skills to our group and projects. Throughout my career, I've collaborated with local councils, NGOs, and private organisations in Colombia, focusing on research for the conservation of the natural areas system while supporting local communities through bio-

trading planning in the Western Mountain range of the Pacific region. My experience has strengthened my stakeholder management, strategic problem-solving, and analytical thinking abilities—skills that I hope will contribute MCCG well.

As a dedicated advocate for sustainable development and well-being, I believe in promoting sustainability-conscious communities to achieve long-term conservation success and economic development. This means encouraging environmentally responsible practices and engaging the community in conservation efforts while empowering healthy habits.

I'm excited to contribute to MCCG's efforts to protect and enhance our local ecosystems. My immediate goals as Secretary are to ensure our communication run smoothly and efficiently, and to seek new opportunities for community involvement and education. I look forward to supporting our team and ensuring that our region's biodiversity thrives for generations to come.

Diana Medina

Our Extra Nursery Volunteer!

This volunteer (see Sandy's photo, right) at our Gold Creek Nursery was helping keep rodents away from germinating seedlings in the seed-raising section.

When reptilian helpers aren't around, we tend to rely on small cages to keep foraging rodents away. We also welcome other volunteers too!



Sandy Pollock

Kids' Day at the Cottage

Sunday 9 June (10am-1pm) is the date and time of our ever-popular Kids' Day at The Cottage—held at The MCCG Cottage, at the end of Gold Creek Road.

It is a no-frills bush setting with marquees and expert presenters giving kids so much to see and do—including Geckoes Wildlife Shows at 11am and noon. There's fresh town water to refill your water bottles and a lunchtime sausage sizzle. No need to book or RSVP. Bring your youngsters to enjoy Kids' Day at the Cottage. It is FREE.

I look forward to seeing some of your photos, and lots of you stories about the day, in our next newsletter.

Dale Borgelt

A Valuable Jewel

For ecologists, this is a jewel which is more valuable than diamonds. The leaf mining jewel beetle (*Hylaeogena jureceki*), present on Cats Claw vine (*Dolichandra unguiscatii*), has been found in an urban outbreak of this persistent and troublesome environmental weed (located in the lower part of the catchment).



The beetles spend their entire lives on the Cats Claw plants: the beautiful (but small to 3mm long) black obsidian or opalescent adults eat the leaves directly, and the larvae mine the leaves from inside. Note the distinctive feeding marks, making comma-like notches in young *Dolichandra* leaves (see *Sandy's photograph, above*). This local discovery is most welcome, as it was thought this biocontrol agent was much less widespread across the catchment.

This species is a welcome ally to all of those trying to remove or control this weed of urban, bushland and rural residential areas in the Moggill Creek catchment. Keep an eye out for it, and let us know where and when, if you see it.

Sandy Pollock

HELP NEEDED: Echidna Research

Hi. I'm Dr. Kate Dutton-Regester, a wildlife biologist with expertise in echidnas. I am conducting a multi-year study on the abundance of short-beaked echidnas in Brisbane. Which means that I am seeking landowners who are willing to have 5-20 camera traps (dependent on property size) placed on their property for 2 weeks, to help gather information.

Echidnas are understudied, and while they are assumed to be plentiful, there is currently no supporting data. *Your* participation will greatly contribute to understanding echidna distribution in southeast Queensland. If interested, please contact me at k.duttonregester@uq.edu.au or call 0478 353 878. Thank you for supporting this important research.

Dr. Kate Dutton-Regester

Seqwater Public Safety Mobile App

The Seqwater mobile app provides users with information about dam releases, dam levels, and Southeast Queensland updates on recreation at their fingertips. Users can: receive water release alerts from gated & ungated dams, and about recreation and safety at Seqwater lakes; view the latest dam level information; search for things to do at Seqwater recreation sites; and quickly access a list of emergency contacts with tap to call links. The app is available on android and iOS compatible devices and has offline compatibility. For information, visit www.seqwater.com.au/seqwater-public-safety-app

Transport Ecology Research

A website of an organisation that aims 'to provide free resources for those involved or affected by all types of linear infrastructure and transport, including roads, railways, powerlines, pipelines, tracks, and trails, in order to include the world's best ecological-practice in projects' may sound like it's of little interest to BCC residents. However, it looks like this has some fascinating, peer-reviewed research that may be of general interest to anyone interested in seeing the latest ideas about making transport infrastructure more wildlife friendly. From the quickest of glances, I was fascinated to read about steps being taken to improve outcomes for the Leadbeater's possum in south-eastern Australia ('[critically endangered possum uses two different types of canopy bridges to cross forestry roads](https://transportecology.info/research)'). Browsing is very easy—just visit <https://transportecology.info/research> (and thanks to Wesley DeMuth, BCC Creek Catchment Officer, for sharing information about this free resource).

Cathí

Geography in Conversation

Did you know that the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland hosts a regular program of *Geography in Conversation* talks and events? This month this includes the 25 June [A Plastic Problem](#) talk (\$5 for Members/\$10 for non-Members, including refreshments). Information on the RGSQ website invites registration to attend the talk in order to learn more about Australia's current plastic issues—and the solutions now being implemented—from representatives of Ocean Crusaders and from the Australian Marine Conservation Society.

New research from the University of Toronto and CSIRO estimates that up to 11million tonnes of plastic pollution is currently sitting on our ocean floor—and Ellen MacArthur Foundation research has concluded that there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050. Thanks to Pamela Tonkin, Co-convenor of

Geography in Conversation, for alerting us to this fascinating series of talks and events. For more information, and to register, visit <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5738631>.

Threatened Glider Recovery

Earlier this year Karin Cox hosted presenters Paul Revie (Wildlife Queensland), Rachel Lyons (Noosa & District Landcare Group), and Liz Gould (Healthy Land and Water) in a [Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland](#) webinar discussion about the conservation needs of SEQ's large gliders post-bushfire, and the techniques and survey methods being used to find and safeguard these species. The webinar had a particular focus on the endangered greater glider (*Petauroides volans*) and yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*)—elaborating on the outcomes of multifocal surveying methods and public awareness-raising activities that are helping conserve these and other species following the severe bushfires of 2019–2020.

This project was funded by the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and their Habitats Program. For more information, visit the website shared with us by Wesley DeMuth. The [Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland](#) link provides access to the full webinar recording, downloadable PowerPoint presentations, additional Q&As not recorded in the webinar, and information about how to support the Queensland Glider Network.

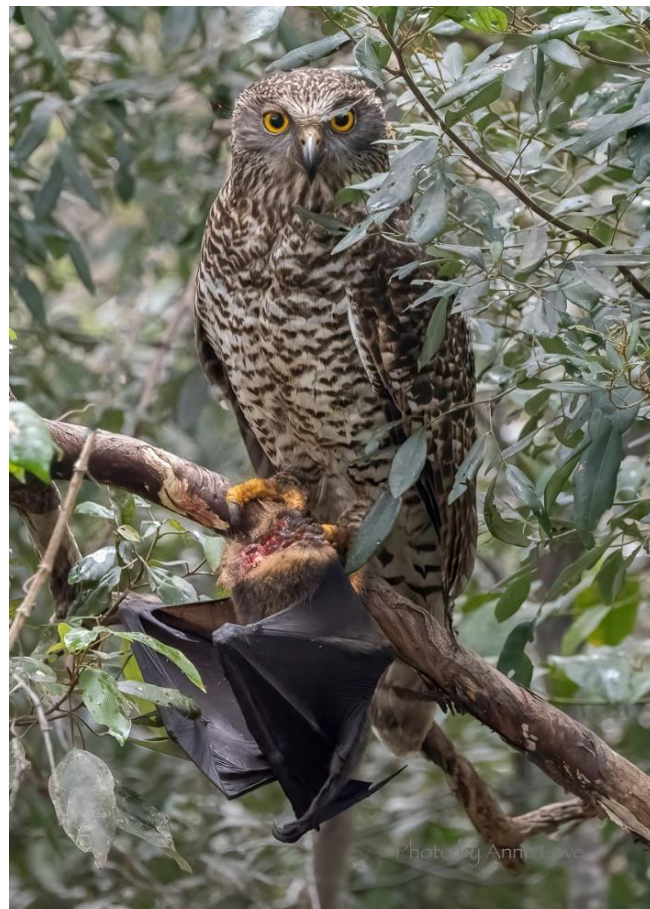
Koala Reintroduction

BCC has previously announced plans to actively reintroduce koalas into key Brisbane bushland areas and to invest in new koala conservation initiatives. In Cr Greg Adermann's April 'Pullenvale Post,' it was confirmed that two of the four areas identified in BCC's Koala Recovery and Resilience Project are in the Pullenvale Ward: Mount Coot-tha Reserve, and Marstaeller Road Reserve, Mount Crosby. The newsletter further notes that the four-year project will be undertaken in conjunction with The University of Queensland's Koala Ecology Group, to better understand, maintain and boost koala populations. This will include the use of drone monitoring. It is hoped that, by releasing healthy koalas into habitats where population is known to be in decline, the population can be restored—ensuring a healthy genetic diversity for koala breeding in that area. Cr. Adermann also noted that BCC will deliver 10 new Wildlife Awareness Monitors, adding to the existing 50 signs (since monitors were introduced four years

ago BCC estimates they have been seen by 239m-plus motorists, reducing the risk of animal strikes).

2024 MCCG 'Photo Comp' Reminder

The October 2024 MCCG Photography Competition is coming soon! **Don't forget**, it's never too early to start taking your winning pictures.



For more information, and inspiration from last years' competition (such as this glorious Powerful Owl image, above, one of Anne Love's 2023 competition entries), visit our [website](#). Entry forms will also be available on the website nearer the time. **Rebecca Bain** 📷

Peaks to Points Festival

The Peaks to Points Festival is a biennial event that celebrates the local governments and their communities' work to care for creek catchments along the southern side of the Brisbane River. Around 60 environment-based events and activities will take place across the 16 days of the festival (20 July to 4 August 2024, with locations across Ipswich, Brisbane, Logan, Redland and the bayside). This includes a Sunday 21 July Family Day event at the Oxley Creek Common, Rocklea, with displays, activities, entertainment, and food (10am-3pm). More information is available at the [Peak to Points Festival website](#).

Froggin' Around:

The wet continues, and Striped Marsh Frog, Emerald Spotted Frog, Easter Sedge Frog, Great-Barred Frog, Bleating Tree Frog and Tusked Frog have all been calling. We have sighted Great Barred Frog tadpoles in rock pools in the creek but, as it gets cooler, only Striped Marsh Frogs are persisting.

The Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk, one of the banjo frogs thought likely to be in our catchment, is [listed](#) as *Limnodynastes terrareginae*. However, an extensive [study of banjo frogs](#), by Tom Parkin and co-workers has reclassified some frogs. In particular, four medium-to-large burrowing frog species, three of which are found in southern and eastern Australia: Giant Banjo Frog (*Lim. interioris*), Northern Banjo Frog (*Lim. terrareginae*), and Eastern Banjo Frog (*Lim. dumerilii*)—plus the South-west WA Western Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dorsalis*). In addition, the Northern Banjo Frog is now thought to be five subspecies.

A combination of genetic, morphological, and FrogID acoustic data was used to reclassify the species. In their publication, the Cape York population was redescribed as the Superb Banjo Frog (*Lim. terrareginae*), being a large and exquisitely patterned frog. Two new species were described in the populations covering the southern range: the Scarlet-sided Banjo Frog is now *Lim. Grayi* (a widely distributed species ranging from NSW to north QLD), and the Coastal Banjo Frog (*Lim. superciliaris*—a small species confined to sandy habitats spanning from Sydney to mid-north coast of NSW, that was formerly misidentified as *Lim. dumerilii grayi*). Following this analysis, all FrogID records have been revalidated.

I was also interested to hear that Melbourne University's Ella Kelly and Ben Phillips [have explored the possibility](#) of speeding up natural selection to protect Northern Quolls from cane toad toxin. Queensland populations of Northern Quolls have plummeted by more than 95% since the 1935 introduction of toads. However, it appears that some quolls have become toad-smart and recognise the importance of not to eat the poisonous toads. Sadly, toads have now spread through the Northern Territory, wiping-out populations of Northern Quolls—and are now moving through the Kimberley region, which threatens endangered Northern Quolls in WA. Kelly and Phillips' propose that, with support of local Kenbi Traditional Owners and Rangers, toad-smart quolls could be moved to Indian Island, and hope that their naïve off-spring can then survive living alongside cane toads. This targeted gene flow method for conservation purposes could be applied to other threatened species. The project is assisted by the local

Kenbi Traditional Owners and indigenous Kenbi Rangers. [For more, turn to the fascinating Pursuit article by Andrew Trounson.](#) **Phil Bird**

Weeds: Easter Cassia

With its bright, golden yellow flowers, Easter Cassia (*Senna pendula* var. *glabrata*) is very noticeable come the Easter period in SEQ. As you can see in Rosemary Pollock's photograph, *below*, it has pinnate, dark green leaves, with 3-6 rounded leaflet pairs.



This season's flowering appeared to be very prolific, with examples in both urban gardens and bushland margins being obvious while moving around the catchment. Its impact can be reduced by hand weeding small plants and digging out larger individuals with mattocks. **Sandy Pollock**

Seeds/Natives: Helmet Orchid

Associated with wet weather, and the moist seasonal autumn and winter conditions, the Helmet Orchid (*Corybas barbara*), is one of the more exotic and unusual flowering plants to be found in our catchment (see Sandy's image, *below*). With small, heart-shaped leaves that are closely appressed to the soil surface, the



pale, helmet-like flowers never fail to fascinate and impress, when or if they appear (certainly not every year). The genus name, *Corybas*, refers to the resemblance of the flower to the pale helmets worn

by a group of ancient Greek priests, the Korybantes. The flowers also strongly resemble small pale macrofungal fruiting bodies, and it is thought that

small insects pollinate the flowers as the result of mistakenly identifying them as edible fungi. Marked with pale purple suffusions, these egg- or lantern-shaped flowers may be hard to spot in their typically heavily shaded habitats in wetter eucalypt forest, as they are often under dense shrubs or close to gully lines, frequently on south-facing slopes in humus-rich soils.

Always admire these ground-dwelling jewels respectfully. Please watch your footfall carefully when observing these small plants, and never try to disturb or move them for any reason. Keeping ground-smothering weeds away, such *Tradescantia* or creeping lantana, also helps them to reappear for another season – yet another reason to try to reduce the impact of exotic species within our catchment.

Sandy Pollock

More Weeds: *Ipomoea indica*

April 2024 saw the large and not-unattractive flowers of *Ipomoea indica* also known as purple morning glory or blue dawn flower across our catchment. The long tubular flowers are distinctive, with broad spade-like leaves that can be three-lobed or entire, with a prominent acuminate tip (see Sandy's front cover photo). I am sure all our members will have seen it around the area, as I noted it was prominent in places along Moggill Creek such as upper Brookfield, Gold Creek Road, and near Rowena Street Park. It forms a very dense cover over trees and shrubs, which means that it is another of the long list of weedy vines that need to be eliminated! Like many others, it can prove hard work to remove. However, as the plant is thought to reproduce by vegetative means only, removal by any means should be effective and relatively permanent.

Sandy Pollock

Brookfield Show Success

We all know quite how special our catchment is, and what a wonderful contribution the MCCG makes. But it is always great to hear that this work has been recognised by fellow community members and volunteers. Read Rosemary Pollock's update for more.

The Moggill Creek Catchment Group was awarded the Brookfield Show Society State Member for Moggill Community Shield at the 2024 Brookfield Show. This was presented, at the Show, by Dr Christian Rowan, MP, the State Member for Moggill, to the MCCG for services by the Moggill Creek Catchment Group for the community over many years. The award was accepted on behalf of the MCCG by Sandy Pollock,

Chairperson, and Dale Borgelt, MCCG member and volunteer (both pictured below, in Rosemary's photo).

The MCCG again had a successful stall at the Show (see Sandy's front cover photograph). This year our double-space stall was a great promotion for the catchment—spruiking *Kid's Day at The Cottage* and



offering members free plants. It is great to hear that several new members joined the MCCG at the show. Huge thanks to Dale Borgelt for again organising an amazing, colourful stall, and to all those who volunteered their time to staff the MCCG stand during the Show. What a wonderful community effort! Thank you and well done all!

Rosemary Pollock

Noise Pollution

Make sure **you** find out more about the possible further increases in noise pollution in our local area. Airservices Australia actively engaged communities across Greater Brisbane in August and September 2023 to seek input on options developed for Phase 2 of the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane. These proposals focused on **noise-sharing options** for overland departures to the north, expanding the use of Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations and additional segregated modes. You can review the options assessment summary documents online at [Phase 2 Options Assessment Summary](#) (the full documents are at [Phase 2 Options Assessment Report](#)). Options that proceed to the preferred stage will be subject to detailed design, safety and **environmental** assessment. There will be a subsequent round of community and industry engagement based on this more detailed level of

assessment where changes to flight paths are required. Options that do not require a flight path change and that are assessed as providing a noise improvement, can be implemented following safety work. All of this means that it is **VITAL** that we all take the time to review this information and respond if at all concerned. Feedback on the Phase 2 Options Assessment Report [here](#). **Feedback on the report is open for a four-week period and will close on Sunday 16 June 2024.**

Moggill Magic: Bushtekniq

Simon English reports on a 2024 Bushtekniq workshop. For more information about Bushtekniq, visit their [website](#). But first, read on for more from Simon.

In early March, Rafting Ground Bushcare Group members were excited to participate in a bush regeneration Bushtekniq workshop (see Simon's photographs—both on the front cover, and below)



The workshop was based on the Bradley System which focuses on 3 major areas: 1) Work outwards, from healthy bush to areas of weeds; 2) make minimal disturbance to the environment; and 3) do not over clear. Fifteen people had first-hand experience identifying good *Commelina diffusa* and the bad *Commelina benghalensis* ground covers, as well as methods for on-site composting using hessian sacks. There was a walkthrough of the native food forest, with identification and discussion, and 'hand tools' practice of weeding with minimal impact in the area. The attendees also spent some time appreciating nature. I am delighted to report that some sleeping

tawny frogmouths were spotted, along with kookaburras, cockatoos, and some inquisitive magpies.

As part of the program, which is sponsored by Habitat Brisbane, Bushtekniq will also be on-site again for a more targeted discussion on specific regeneration plans and opportunities.

Simon English

Our Very Own Creek Champion!

Brisbane City Council's Creek Catchment Officers (BCC CCOs) recently recognised Sandy Pollock as 'May's Creek Champion.' Featured in the BCC CCO newsletter, alongside this garlanded image (see below left), was a short interview with Sandy:

As a botanist and ecologist, getting into all the nerdy detail of flora and fauna is thrilling. I've been privileged to enjoy Moggill Creek in many ways over the years: canoeing, fish and invertebrate sampling, water quality sampling, identification of local plants, and making observations of local creek fauna. I've taken my children paddling in the creek many times. People need to spend more time beside their creek, and I'd like to think I help make that happen. Change screen time to creek time!

Moggill Creek is always changing; its many moods and seasons continue to fascinate. It's a shame that only floods seem to bring it directly back to most people's attention.

As almost certainly Brisbane's cleanest creek, it's important to try and maintain its water quality. That's where catchment management comes in. I hope to get more people in the catchment up to speed with modern mapping tools, these are important for landholders to use to make better property management decisions.

Congratulations Sandy. We're delighted you are our very own creek champion!

Cathí



e-newsletter? Just email the **MCCG Secretary** with 'email newsletter' in the subject line, and add your name and address in the message.

Thank you!