

MOGGILL CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP

P.O. Box 657, Kenmore. 4069

MCCG NEWSLETTER Summer 2024



ABOVE: Celebrating another great MCCG Photo Comp, this issue includes several stories 'from behind the lens.' David Edwards' image 'Erythrina vesperilio' (above) was awarded first prize in the Native Plants & Fungi Category. For more, turn to pages 3-7.

RIGHT: Congratulations also to the many talented younger photographers in our catchment. Turn to page 4-5 for more about Asher Bertram's winning photo of a bedraggled kookaburra and enjoy more of the various YP entries.



ABOVE: Pock-marked bark and woody capsules of *Flindersia australis* (Crows Ash). Image & more by Sandy Pollock at p8.

LEFT (L-R): Anne Russell, 2024 Judge, and Rebecca Bain, MCCG Photo Comp Chair, at the Kenmore Village presentation (image: Geoff Lawrence). Turn to p3 for more.

Your latest issue: 3D Weeds (p11), Butterfly Workshop (p10), Chairperson's Report (p2), Committee Updates (p10), Compost (p9), Froggin' Around (p8), 'Landcare Champion' Recognition (p11), Moggill Magic (p12), New MCCG Chair & Secretary (p3), 'Photo Comp' (p3-7), Seeds & Weeds (p8 & p10), Treasurer's AGM Report (p8)

Outgoing Chairperson's Report

As the year draws to a close, there are many good things to reflect upon for the Moggill Creek Catchment Group in 2024. Let's look at our year that was, with some very positive numbers. MCCG maintains a significant membership of over **420** people, and our new online self-service membership system has been embraced and is also facilitating significant donations to our group. I urge all renewing and new members to give this system a go.

Warm sunny weather smiled upon our *Kids Day Out at the Cottage* in June 2024, with over **350** visitors engaging in learning activities featuring insects, plants and aquatic animals, and enjoying the Geckoes wildlife display.

Our **four** *Quarterly talks* in 2024 covered many natural history topics, including insects such as the Giant Wood Moth, the creek-loving Large-footed Myotis (a bat that goes fishing!), and discovering just how biodiverse a Brisbane backyard can be (with over **1,300** species present). A surprise UNSW presentation on detailed studies of platypus within our catchment was most welcome and, finally, we've also learnt the finer points of keeping native bees, a popular pastime in many Brisbane gardens. Thanks to all our presenters for these fascinating talks, including Dr Jessa Thurman, Dr Vanessa Gorecki, Dr Matt Holden, Dr Gilad Bino and Aislinn Spencer from Sugarbag Bees. It was a platypus-centric year in 2024, not only with UNSW researchers tracking Moggill Creek's marvellous monotremes, but also with our annual MCCG platypus survey, facilitated by the fabulous Dr Tamielle Brunt, and reinforced with the groundbreaking creek eDNA surveys conducted by our Catchment Health Officer, Lewis Peach. We've learned so much about this wonderful waterway animal this year, and this surely cements Moggill Creek as a flagship creek for platypus conservation. Our annual MCCG Photo-Competition has again brought Moggill Creek into the public eye at the Kenmore Plaza shopping centre, with a very wide range of stunning images of the creatures and the plants of our catchment, all there for the general public to admire and appreciate.

Our *Gold Creek Nursery* has supplied nearly **16,000** plants (trees, shrubs, grasses and herbs) across our catchment and, indeed, has also assisted Cubberla Witton and Pullen Pullen catchment groups' planting efforts. As in previous years, the Nursery has proved to be a desirable place for volunteers to get together to complete nursery activities and enjoy native plant horticulture (**142** plant species potted FY23-24). During the 23-24 Financial Year, **61** working bees were

completed, contributing more **2,300** hours of voluntary labour, with almost **5,000** plantings. Thanks again to all the Section Leaders, and volunteer children, adults, and students (and supporting BCC staff), who put in the hours to make those working bees a success. Finally, I'd certainly like to thank all the members of the MCCG Committee for their support—particularly my wonderful Rosemary, who took up the vital role of Secretary (twice) this year, and worked so hard to get minutes out, emails sent, and correspondence swiftly responded to.

Though I'm stepping down as Chairperson, I've enjoyed working with, and hopefully contributing to, the many volunteers who make the MCCG the respected and effective organisation it is. I welcome our incoming Chairperson, Tracey Read, into the role, and wish her the very best in this engaging duty. I also know that the very capable Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside will be an excellent Secretary, having undertaken this role with distinction but a short while ago.

We within MCCG also have much to look forward to, with significant direct funding promised from our State Member for Moggill, Dr Christian Rowan. 2025 is also going to be a very good year for the MCCG!

Sandy Pollock

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.

Chair: Sandy Pollock (outgoing) Tracey Reed (incoming)

Secretary: Rosemary Pollock (outgoing),
Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside (incoming)

PO Box 657, Kenmore 4069 Secretary@moggillcreek.org.au

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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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Our New MCCG Chair

Congratulations and many thanks to Tracey Read, who has accepted the role of MCCG Chair. Here's a short background piece and photo from Tracey.

Tracey has been part of the MCCG team for over 4 years, in various roles, including maintaining the website, and also taking on the PR role for a couple of years. Tracey was a committee member for much of this time, stepping back for the last year to focus on finishing her PhD (thesis submitted in November 2024). Tracey's [PhD research](#) focused on the degradability of biodegradable plastics in aquatic environments and was through the School of Chemical Engineering at The University of Queensland. She is very much looking forward to taking over the Chair role, and to working with the exceptional people on the committee and with support from the MCCG community.



Our New MCCG Secretary

In 2025, Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside returns as MCCG Secretary, previously holding the role in 2022-23, stepping down in 2024 to complete her Juris Doctor (postgraduate law degree). By day, Zoe is an Environmental Planner specialising in statutory environmental approvals and environmental impact



assessments. Zoe started volunteering for MCCG in 2021 through the Gap Creek Bushcare Group, led by Section 12 Leader, Deb Craig (*see my photo, left, of Zoe at the November Gap Creek working bee with some weeds that the group removed including*

Asparagus fern, Ochne, Cats claw creeper and Chinese elm). A keen gardener, Zoe enjoys spending time at home growing fruit and veggies and spotting native flora and fauna with her partner Chris and two children, Zachary and Anna. Zoe also supports Dale Borgelt in the collection, folding and distribution of the hardcopy MCCG newsletters.

Chris Bruton

Editorial

Normally the Editorial sits on page 2 of the Newsletter but, as Sandy Pollock understandably had a longer than normal report as outgoing Chairperson, I am temporarily here on page 3!

I am sure I am not the only Member who warmly thanks and acknowledges the work of Sandy Pollock (as Chair) and Rosemary Pollock (as our twice-temporary Secretary). We have been so lucky to have their leadership and support, and I hope Sandy might consider extending the excellent weeds, seeds and roving reporter work for the Newsletter. I also congratulate and thank Tracey and Zoe for stepping 'back and up' in their roles as Chair and Secretary.

The absolute deadline for the next issue of the MCCG Newsletter is 6 March 2025. Start now! Don't wait until the deadline to [email me](#). *Cathi*

MCCG Photography Competition

Rebecca Bain continues to lead our Photography Competition Committee, delivering another fabulous, high-profile, MCCG community display at Kenmore Village.

The October 2024 MCCG Photography Competition was another success, thanks again to our generous local sponsors, to our photo competition committee (Geoff Lawrence, Robyn Frost, Bruce Siemon, Janine Nicklin and Bostjan Kobe), to our Judge (Anne Russell), and to the MCCG members who manned the display at Kenmore Village. My thanks in particular to each and every photographer that entered.

Here are some MCCG 2024 'Photo Comp' stats:

- 📷 \$1,300 in prize money awarded
- 📷 12 entrants submitted 52 photos in the Open categories
- 📷 12 kids submitted 15 photos in the digital Young Persons category
- 📷 182 votes for the People's Choice (Young Persons) were tallied up on our Facebook and Instagram pages
- 📷 377 votes were cast for People's Choice (Open)

All of the winning photos can be found on our [website](#), so if you missed out on seeing the display at Kenmore Village you still have the opportunity to have a look at the amazing photos online.

We'll be back next year, it's never too early to start snapping! *Rebecca Bain*

From Behind the Lens

Many of the MCCG Photo Comp entrants have kindly provided us with information from 'behind the lens' – starting with the 'YP crew' (*overleaf*).

MCCG 'Young Persons' Photos

The MCCG Photography Competition (or 'Photo Comp,' as it is often referred to), attracts many fantastic entries from Young People. It is great to feature some of the many 'YP' (Young Persons) entries featured in the 2024 MCCG Photo Comp display at Kenmore Village. Photographs and stories supplied to our tireless MCCG Photo Comp Chair, Rebecca Bain.

Asher Bertram's front cover photograph of an aptly titled 'Post swim kookaburra' was awarded first place in the 2024 YP category. Asher describes the image as being a "photo of a bedraggled Kookaburra who was rescued from a swimming pool in a Jindalee backyard."

Ada Li won honours with this second-placed photograph (right). Ada called the image 'Quiet Companions,' and



described this as "two birds sit close together on a branch, their forms blending in a peaceful, intimate silhouette against the cloudy sky." And the third placegetter was this lovely photo (left) by Georgina Watkins, called 'A morning guest,' which Georgina tells us is a "photo taken at Upper Mount Gravatt."

In addition to images selected by our Judge, the 2024 MCCG Photo Comp included two additional YP prizes. The YP Chairman's Choice prize went to Mathilda Buchberger, for this lovely photograph, 'Koala' (right). Congratulations also to Thomas Devos, for winning the YP People's Choice vote with a 'Kookaburra' photo. The Devos family notes that "Kookaburras are regular visitors (to our home), but this particular morning the kookaburra stayed quite some time and



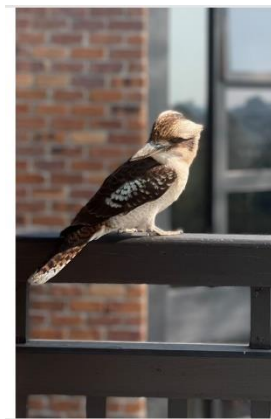
allowed Tom to take several photos of him." A lovely photo (right) that clearly won the support of our visitors and voters. Our Judge this year also awarded several 'Highly Commended' (HC) certificates, to YP entries by Ada Li ('Blossom's crown,' right), Sophie Moore ('Princess Parrot,' below left) and Ian Tseng ('Aristolochia preparing to land on the ground,' below right). Ada's caption read "the flower stands tall, its pink petals



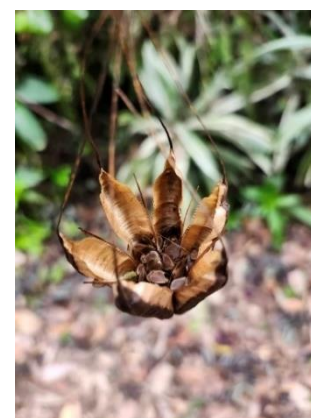
unfurling with a quiet grace, exuding a gentle confidence amidst its lush green leaves." Sophie had two photos on display, with her HC 'Princess Parrot' described as "a beautiful bird. Photo taken at the Ipswich Nature Centre." Thanks also for Ian's great *Aristolochia* image (right), which we hear "was taken at Kenmore State School, where Ian is in Prep." Congratulations to all of



these YP Winners. And well done to each of the YP entrants. It was obviously a difficult choice for our Judge, as everyone submitted such great photos. The 2024 display also included images by Arlo Usher, who submitted two great photos of the sky, including this 'Early Rise in Brookfield' (above) of "the early morning sun coming up over Brookfield creek trees." I am sure I am also not alone in enjoying Blake Kelleher's "photo of a



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Cattle Egret on top of a pile of green waste at Willawong Dump" (left), which Blake called 'King of the dump.' Joshua Watkins' photo 'Clinging to a tree' (below right) was described as "a cicada shell. If you look closely, you can see it has a tiny hole in its back. I saw this in the

Mount Gravatt outlook reserve which is in the Bulimba Creek catchment." Jackson Kelleher captioned 'Wise Guy' (below left) as "this tawny frogmouth was outside our bedrooms at Camp



Hill, Brisbane." Emily Watkins' tells us that she took her image 'A lying lizard' (below) after "I woke up one morning and found this

water dragon lying in the sun" Congratulations again to all of the 2024 YP entrants, and thanks to our YP sponsors: Pisces Enterprises (generously providing all of the YP Category and YP People's Choice awards), and Discount Drug Store Kenmore (YP Chairman's Choice prize).



We look forward to seeing even more YP entries next year!

The Sherwood Arboretum Centenary Celebration is proposed for the afternoon of Sunday 23rd March 2025 (which is the closest weekend to the Arboretum's official 100-year milestone on Friday 21st March). Keep an eye open for details.

Epic Web Battle

Not every image gets to win a prize, but they all contribute to an eye-catching display and often come with great stories from 'behind the lens.'

By sheer chance we saw this amazing battle on a spider's web high in the sky over our driveway. The strong web was between two trees on either side of the driveway with a Common Tree Snake (also known as a Green Tree Snake) being attacked by a Golden Orb Weaver spider (see Rosemary's photo, below). The snake was contorting and writhing as it swayed precariously on the web.

We don't know whether the snake was eating the other prey caught in the web, but the spider wasn't too happy to have it there. Was the spider was looking for its next big meal?



A quick online search confirmed that it is possible for this spider to catch, bite (and envenomate), and then eat a small snake. We also wondered at how vulnerable the snake was, with kookaburras frequenting the area and the snake clearly visible. When the snake suddenly dropped a little lower, as part of the web gave way, we hastily moved away. The snake escaped the large sticky web and vanished into our garden. We take care when gardening!

Rosemary Pollock

Open Categories Success

David Edwards received *two* first place awards in the 2024 MCCG Competition, including the striking front cover image 'Erythrina vespertilio.' David comments that "this was the one photo of my entries for this year that wasn't taken in our own garden. We often go for a walk along the ridge between Gold Creek and Enoggera Creek catchments (South Boundary Rd) and I always carry my camera and zoom lens just in case. Despite the number of times we have walked along the same track, we surprisingly often see something different including one (and only one) sighting of a pair of glossy black cockatoos. This particular day we suddenly noticed the flowers of a few bats wing coral trees ('Erythrina vespertilio') for the first time just off the ridge in the upper part of the gold creek catchment being visited by a very enthusiastic Lewin's honeyeater."

David was also awarded first place in the Native Birds category, with 'The Launch' (pictured below). David comments that "Crested hawks (aka pacific baza) are often seen or heard in our part of the catchment and are often in our garden hunting frogs and large insects. Although they are often partly obscured by branches and leaves, I have been trying to get at least



one satisfactory photo of them to enter in the competition each year. I still have an unsatisfied goal of trying to get a good photo of one with a frog or large stick insect in its mouth or claw (maybe next year!). This year there has been a pair sighted every day for the last few weeks, and they often seem to be breaking small twigs off our eucalypt to take away to use as nesting material. Each time I hear them, I have headed onto our veranda, and this was one of the many photos taken." Congratulations, David.



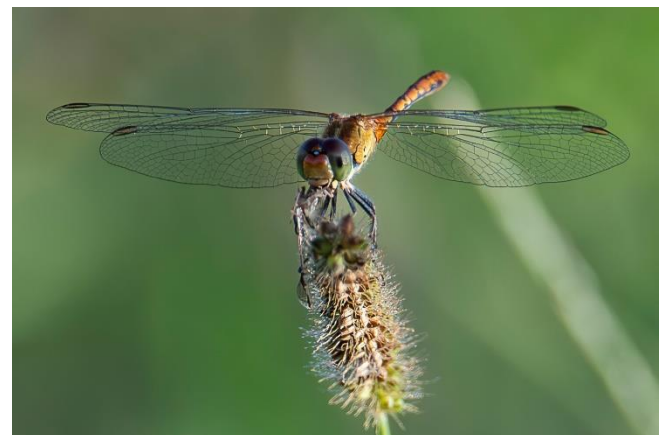
The People's Choice award is always the subject of much conversation with visitors to the Kenmore Village Shopping Centre Display and is taken very seriously by all concerned. In 2024, first place People's Choice honours went to Stephen Mudge, with the evocative image of 'Fireflies at Karana Downs' (above). Stephen notes that "the long exposure image captures the trails of male fireflies (*Atyphella scintillans*) as they fly around flashing approximately every half a second. This species is active in Southeast Qld in late August and early September."

Stephen also received 2nd Place in the People's Choice category, with 'Powerful Owl with prey' (also awarded HC by our Judge). Stephen notes that "I was looking for frogs near Cubberla Creek one evening in November last year and noticed something large on a branch in front of me. Torchlight revealed this amazing scene (turn to our [website](#) to see the photo)... a Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) with Ringtail Possum prey. This is Australia's largest owl species, and one of the largest in the world. Ringtail Possums are one of their favourite prey. Finding one in the suburbs like this was an amazing experience!"



Stephen also received a 2nd place in the Naïve Plants & Fungi category, with this striking image of Bioluminescent Ghost Fungi (above). Stephen notes that "these spectacular large fungi (*Omphalotus nidiformis*) are naturally bioluminescent, and their glow can clearly be seen with the naked eye. These specimens were photographed in May 2024 near East Ithaca Creek at Mt Coot-tha."

Tony Thulborn's photograph 'How to swallow a whole cockatoo' was recognised with the first place in the 'Native Animals (excluding Birds)' Category (turn to our [website](#) to see the photo). Congratulations Tony on this award.



John Stephens' great photograph of 'A perched percher' (above) may not have won a prize, but still drew many admiring comments. John modestly notes "I was in the right place at the right time. A Wandering

Percher dragonfly rests a moment. Taken at Marstaeller Road Reserve, Mt Crosby, March 2024.” Congratulations also to Joseph Pappas on winning 2nd in the Native Birds category, for a photograph



titled ‘Brown Goshawk.’ Joseph’s photo of a ‘Brown tree Snake’ (left) was awarded HC in the ‘Native Animals excluding Birds’ category.

Joseph tells us that “the brown tree snake [image] was actually taken last November when I attended a Moggill Creek citizen science event at Gold Creek Reservoir for waterway health. It was such a great event and was the start of a huge fish interest for me that remains today. I’ll hopefully be able to attend another event soon.” We hope so too, Joseph!



Melanie Harris was awarded 3rd place in the Native Plants and Fungi category for a striking picture of a Pink Grevillea (left), noting “I couldn’t walk past this Grevillea; it was really lovely with its colour and form.” Melanie also tells us that the image of ‘The Assassin,’ (above), “is of a strange looking bug I had never come across before and I just couldn’t help myself. It was too interesting not



to photograph. This Assassin was wandering around on the leaves of our fruit trees. Not sure who’s watching who?”

Two images each awarded HC in the ‘Native Plants and Fungi’ category demonstrate how difficult the job was for our diligent Judge. It



is great to see that Cooper Jarrold’s photo ‘Gum’ (above right), and Rosemary Pollock’s picture of ‘Plant sculptures’ (top right) were both recognised with HC certificates.

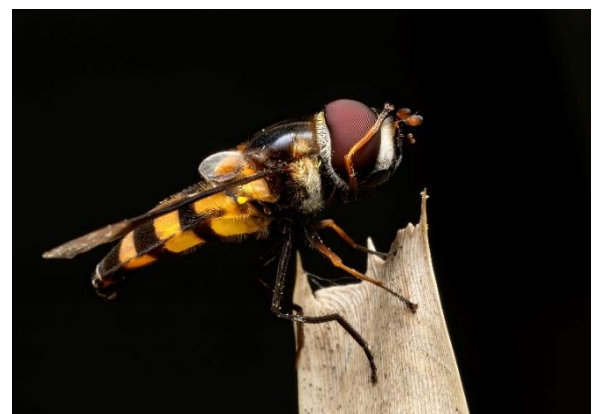
Our Chairman’s Choice winner was Alan Hayter, with this image of ‘Birds of a Feather’ (below). Alan notes that “On my way back from a hard-working morning with our local bushcare group, I spotted our resident pair of wedge-tailed eagles perched in an ironbark just off the road, gazing into the distance. I quickly dashed home to grab my camera and, somewhat surprisingly, they were still there upon my



return—though they took flight one by one shortly after. This encounter serves as a wonderful reminder of the importance of caring for our bushland and the incredible wildlife that we share it with.”

David Edwards’ image ‘Hover Fly’ was awarded 3rd place in ‘Native Animals (excluding Birds).’

David notes that “we often see hover flies around the flowers of some of the more than 100 species of local native plants in our garden sharing pollination duties with the bees and other insects. This particular hover fly however had been taking quite an interest in the parsley we had left to flower. I didn’t want a photo with the parsley in it, but fortunately the hover fly



landed on a nearby *lomandra longifolia* leaf to brush the stray pollen from its eyes and allowed me to capture this photo.”

Look out for the next issue of the newsletter, as there are still several stunning images that haven’t been included here. Or look at the [MCCG Website](#) or the [MCCG Facebook page](#).

Treasurer's AGM Report

I recently presented the CSG Accountants audited MCCG financial statements for 2023/24 at our AGM. The report was accepted by the Members present, and CSG Accountants were appointed as Auditors again for the 2024/25 financial year.

Key highlights include noting that accumulated funds, represented by cash at bank at 30th June 2024, was \$135,077.19 (up from \$113,906.74 in 2023). This includes Trust Account balances (donations, bequests etc) of \$24,871.96, and committed unspent grant funds of \$36,657.87. The remainder represents working capital of \$73,547.36.

Our total income for the year was \$81,405.59 and total expenditure \$60,235.14 giving a 2024 surplus of \$21,170.45. Grant income was \$65,344.41. General income from other sources was \$16,061.18 and primarily came from memberships of \$9,801.05 and interest of \$4,373.13 –

Grant expenditure was \$40,422.53 and general expenditure \$19,812.61. This includes expenses which were covered by the BCC Operational PR and Nursery support grant of over \$9,000. Other expenditure included cottage grounds, website, and section leaders' expenses.

The MCCG is in a sound financial position. Working capital is greater than 3 times the annual general expenditure, and our general income is greater than general expenditure.

Alan Walmsley, MCCG Treasurer

Native Seeds: Crow's Ash

Crow's Ash (*Flindersia australis*) is a large and sometimes emergent tree in the somewhat drier rainforests of the greater Brisbane area. An important native plant, contributing to the Queensland community, it can reach up to 40m tall and can dominate some rainforest sites beside the Brisbane River (such as around the Kholo district). Crow's Ash is relatively common in some parts of the catchment with vineforest and regrowth rainforest and has been planted extensively.

At this usually drier time of year, many planted examples have become partially deciduous, with the large and aromatic pinnate leaves shed – leaving the somewhat circular, pock-marked and scaly bark on full display. Several examples have produced their small, five-merous flowers over the last few months, and the large, 7-10cm capsules are now hanging from branches. They open like five-cornered wooden stars, and the prickly outer casing apparently protects the dry winged seeds, that spin out like little helicopters (see Sandy's front cover photo).

Crow's Ash was renowned as a timber that produced solid dance floors, which were both hard and greasy (although apparently the greasiness caused occasional issues with gluing and nailing). Many community halls in regional Queensland had this species as flooring – contributing to the success of countless dances and other community events. It seems possible that the name refers to the use of the species by [Torresian Crows](#), who congregate in large, tall emergent trees for roosting, as described by local ornithologist Dr Darryl Jones in his recent book, [The Curlews of Vulture Street](#).

Sandy Pollock

Froggin' Around: Summer

Summer rains are early and there have been choruses of frogs throughout the valley. During FrogID week (8-17 November) there were 17,800 submissions of recorded calls to the FrogID app. It was common to hear *Mixophyes fasciolatus*, and *Litoria balatus* (the newly named slender bleating tree frog) throughout the valley – plus *Litoria gracilentata* during the rains. The creek is now flowing, and waterholes have been replenished. The calls of *Adelotus brevis*'s soft cluck can be heard coming from under vegetation, and *Litoria lesueuri* was seen foraging alongside the creek. Most nights, I also hear *Litoria peronii*, *Litoria fallax*, *Adelotus brevis* and *Limnodynastes peronii* calling from the dam. As it was also common to hear many striped marsh frogs (*Limnodynastes peronii*) in any pooled water, dams, and waterholes, I wonder if this is an indicator species for changing conditions and an abundance of frogs? The frog is a large species up to 7.5cm in body length, with a white belly. It has a brown back with dark brown longitudinal stripes, and a pale stripe from under the eye to the top of the arm. A common frog found in many habitats along the entire east coast, eggs are laid in a foamy mass on the surface of still water. Tadpoles can reach 9.5cm and are dark brown or black and can take 7-8 months to develop into frogs.

Phil Bird

It's Not Just Tigers That Have Stripes

I recently had the good fortune to hear and see one of our largest native frogs, the Great Barred Frog (*Mixophyes fasciolatus*). The call of this anuran has to be heard to be believed, with a loud and powerful "Wawk, Wawk, Wawk", that is more bird-like than frog to my ears. This happened during the last bout of very heavy November SEQ rain.

The Great Barred Frog is very attractive and striking, with prominent black striping over brown-orange legs and body that, once heard and seen, is not to be forgotten. It was my very first viewing, although not

in our catchment, and I was amazed at what I had missed over all these years.



Image: "Mixophyes fasciolatus 363947328" by Greg Tasney is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.

Great Barred Frogs have been recorded frequently in our local area, especially in the Gold Creek district, and most often from October to February. Rates of frog data collection seem to have climbed since the introduction of the [Frog ID app](#), a marvellous means of introducing frogging to the new generation of tech-savvy people. Of course, our recent eDNA sampling has recorded them widely across the catchment, but especially in our upper reaches. When out frogging, remember to take photographs only, and do not touch or otherwise handle them. Also take care during the very heavy rain that often co-occurs during these frogging encounters!

Sandy Pollock

e-newsletter? Just email the MCCG Secretary with 'email newsletter' in the subject line. Please make sure that you also include your name and address in the message.

Thank you.

Compost

Terry O'Shea is probably well-known to many fellow members as the Centenary Landscaping Supplies Group Chairman. Thanks for this interesting article, Terry.

Compost is one of the most valuable additions you can make to your garden, enhancing soil health and encouraging vibrant growth. But not all composts are created equal and, unfortunately, home composting often yields inconsistent results. Let's dive into what makes compost so important, how to spot mature

compost, and how some products can help bring life back to your garden soil.

At its core, compost is organic matter that has broken down into a nutrient-rich, humus-like substance that feeds soil and supports plant health. True compost is mature; it has completed its decomposition process and stabilised, becoming a fine, dark material with a pleasant, earthy smell. However, many store-bought composts, and even some homemade versions, are simply organic mulch or partially decomposed matter. These can look similar but lack the full benefits of mature compost and can even harm soil by drawing nitrogen away from plants as they continue to decompose. This phenomenon, called nitrogen drawdown, often requires adding extra fertilizer, which defeats the purpose of using compost to naturally enrich the soil.

A mature compost is key to soil health. According to experts, mature compost is one in which decomposition has slowed down significantly, thus providing ready nutrients, and enhancing soil structure without causing nutrient deficiencies. Compost that is dark, fine-textured, and cool to the touch with a pleasant, forest-like fragrance indicates it is fully mature and ready to nourish your garden soil. Nourished, healthy soil is a bustling ecosystem full of beneficial organisms like bacteria, fungi, earthworms, and other tiny creatures that all play vital roles: breaking down organic material; aggregating soil particles to improve structure and prevent erosion; releasing nutrients in plant-available forms; protecting plants by degrading harmful substances; and boosting water penetration to support root growth.

A rich compost feeds these important organisms, fostering a self-sustaining cycle that supports healthy, resilient plants.

While home composting is a fantastic way to recycle kitchen scraps and garden waste, the resulting compost often falls short due to factors like incomplete decomposition and varying nutrient levels. If your compost pile isn't quite up to par, bio stimulants such as UltraGrow Fusion Humate can provide an effective liquid compost alternative to revitalise soil health, especially after fertilising.

With mature compost or the help of such UltraGrow liquid composts, your garden soil becomes a rich, fertile environment where plants can thrive naturally. Whether you're looking to improve a struggling lawn or boost your vegetable garden, compost plays an invaluable role in creating the thriving, sustainable garden you want.

Happy gardening.

Terry O'Shea

MCCG Committee Updates

In addition to the appointment of the new Chair and Secretary (see page 3), changes confirmed at the recent MCCG AGM included the appointment of Kate Dutton-Regester as a committee member, and Rebecca Bain as PR Officer (in addition to Rebecca chairing the MCCG 'Photo Comp' Committee). Dale Borgelt will continue to lead the MCCG annual Kids' Day at the Cottage, but Gardon Grigg will now be responsible for the management of the MCCG Cottage. Thanks to all for their MCCG voluntary work and leadership.



Photo: Guest Speaker Aislin Spencer, of Sugarbag Bees, showing a native bee (*Tetragonula Carbonaria*) hive to John Crowley at the November 2024 MCCG AGM (image credit: Chris Bruton).

Damien 'Landcare & Section 11' Egan

Damien Egan has kindly stepped up to become the Section Leader for McKay Brook (section 11, working together with Simon Fox from the Brisbane City Council), and is now also our Landcare Advisor, after the well-deserved retirement of Bryan Hacker. Damien will be very skilled at these roles, as he has exemplary people skills and is also very 'hands-on.' Damien has been working hard on behalf of the MCCG this year, as he also had a key role in digging trenches for the electrical conduit for our upgrade of the electrics for the Gold Creek Nursery. This was a difficult and dirty job that he completed—together with others—in the rain in August 2024. In addition, Damien supported Bruce Dymock and others in organising the National Tree Day planting with 83 students from Kenmore State High School. Thanks again to Bryan for his incredible support over many years. And thanks to Damien for taking on these various roles and tasks.

Sandy Pollock

Weeds: Singapore Daisy

Singapore Daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*) is a very problematic mat-forming weed on banks of the Moggill Creek and feeder systems, seen here in my photograph below, growing in dense pasture beside drainage lines adjacent to lower Moggill Creek.

Originally from South and Central America, it is a member of the Asteraceae (or daisy family). In our catchment, it can persist in relatively dense shade, being particularly common along stream banks, and it often grows swiftly after heavy rains (sadly, heavy flooding and inundation also seems to spread this plant to downstream areas). Singapore Daisy can even persist in the lower parts of our catchment that are subject to saline tidal waters, and fragments can float in seawater for some period, without harm.



Singapore Daisy is notable for bright-yellow daisy flowers, and sandpapery opposite-lobed or toothed leaves. The plant can show great variability in shape and size of leaves and in overall 'look.' But the bright-green leaves occur on stems that usually form runners or stolons across the ground, forming dense mats that completely outcompete any native species. Control is via intensive hand-pulling, or appropriate herbicide spot-spraying using all appropriate safety equipment and methods (*Metsulfuron-methyl*). The use of Glyphosate alone appears to be relatively ineffective in the control of this weed, and is not recommended by most approved control methods and authorities.

Sandy Pollock

Butterfly Workshop

The 'Blues and Coppers Workshop' takes place on Saturday, 14th December 2024 (\$10pp, 9:00am-noon, Archerfield Wetlands Community Hub). Organised in conjunction with [Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count](#), this is described as 'a unique chance to get to know our largest butterfly family.' Dr Peter Samson, a retired sugar cane entomologist and program manager, has a particular love of 'Blues and Coppers,' and has been researching *Lycaenidae* in detail. After receiving some

tips from Peter on how to go about it, teams will be given the task of identifying specimens in cases rotated between them (field guides and magnifying glasses will be available), and the winning team will take a little prize home. This event also provides a fantastic opportunity to visit the Archerfield Wetlands Community Hub, a new facility in the only recently opened Archerfield Wetlands District Park in Durack. [Tickets and more information available online.](#)

Jutta Godwin

Nursery Saturday Opening

Thank you to Andrew Wilson, Anna Williamson, and our amazing nursery volunteers for this extra member opportunity.

Our fabulous nursery, located at the end of Gold Creek Road, just below Gold Creek Dam is trialling *extra* opening times for member plant collection. Saturday 8th December 2024 is *not* a full volunteer day but enables Members to collect free plants (opening only between 8:30-10:30am). Remember to bring a box or bucket to take your plants home.



Photo: Members of the Nursery crew hard at work (*image as presented at the 2024 MCCG AGM*)

If you are not sure if you are a member, please use our website to check your membership status *before* heading to the nursery (or [join now](#)... only \$20).

Rosemary Pollock

3D Weeds!

There is an impressive range of online resources now available to help with weed identification and removal, which has now been further improved with the addition of 3D models. A quick browse this morning produced the following helpful information about Parthenium Weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*), a Weed of National Significance. Parthenium is [described](#) as an 'annual fast growing toxic aggressive

herb to 1.5–2m tall, that is capable of germinating and setting seed in 4 weeks.' It favours cracking clay soil and is widespread in Queensland.

Such descriptions and photographs are certainly helpful, but I suggest also checking out the 3D digital models of weed plants produced by [Rachel Klyve](#). As Wesley DeMuth commented, when sharing information with us, these images "are excellent! on the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Weedwise pages you can click on the digital model on the reference numbers, and it gives you a zoomed in view of different parts of the plant. You can spin in around and see it from all angles. What an incredible reference tool for teaching everyone what weeds look like!" Have a look at the impressive images of [Parthenium Weed](#), and then get ready to use herbicide and hand tools to remove it all when you are next in the garden or at a working bee. *Cathi Lawrence*

MCCG 'Landcare Champion'

Cody Hochen recently nominated Moggill Creek Catchment Group as a 'Landcare Champion,' resulting in the publication of a Landcarer website [feature story](#). Champions Stories shine a spotlight on to individuals, groups and organisations involved in land care who inspire others to leave their local environment in a much better place for future generations.

Thank You to our Donors

All of our very generous donors were acknowledged at the November 2024 AGM. As an organisation that relies on the support of our community, volunteers, and grants every donation helps. All funds go towards supporting MCCG activities, projects, events, supplies and equipment. MCCG is a registered charity and donations over \$2 are tax deductible. [Visit our website for more information \(or to donate\).](#) **Thank you.**

September BioBlitz

Lewis Peach hosted a very successful September [BioBlitz](#) event at Gold Creek Dam, near the MCCG Gold Creek Nursery. About a dozen people attended, and learnt about Creek Health Monitoring, biodiversity surveys of leaf litter, and some attended a botanical walk and talk held by Sandy Pollock. The participants enjoyed the refreshments, and everyone stayed until nearly dark! Thanks to Lewis, and his able assistants, who made the day a success. A definite highlight (*see overleaf for my photo*) was the large number of Crimson-spotted rainbow fish saw that everyone saw! *Rosemary Pollock*



Moggill Magic: Unlocking Moggill Creek's Secrets

Many Members will be familiar with the regular *Wildlife Matters* column, organised and edited by Jim Pope, that appears in *The Local Bulletin*. Dr Tamielle Brunt thought MCCG members might like to read the longer version of this article.

Imagine being able to detect the presence of various animals in Moggill Creek without seeing them. This is the exciting method of environmental DNA (eDNA) metabarcoding, a revolutionary technique that enables scientists to identify multiple species from tiny fragments of genetic material found in the environment. Whether it's skin cells, hair or poop, every creature leaves a trace of its DNA in its habitat. By analysing water samples, we can uncover a hidden world of biodiversity.

On May 29th, 2024, citizen scientists collected water samples across 6 sites to determine vertebrate and invertebrate species in the local waterways of Moggill and Gold Creeks. Overall, 31 vertebrate taxa were detected, including 6 introduced species. Eighteen fish, 3 frog, 4 bird, and 6 mammals. Interestingly, bullroter was detected upstream near Brookfield Showgrounds, indicating they have travelled up from the Brisbane River. A variety of gudgeon species were detected, and the great barred frog and Leseur's frog were found at sites. Pig DNA was detected in the Gold Creek reservoir and was reported to authorities. This shows how eDNA can be used to manage invasive species by discovering their distribution and acting before the situation gets worse.



Picture: eDNA sampling (image by Lewis Peach)

64 macroinvertebrate taxa were detected across all sites and included an array of segmented worms, insects, crustaceans, and molluscs. The major aquatic insect families of mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, beetle larvae and fly and mosquitoes were detected. The presence of pollution-sensitive species like

mayflies and stoneflies in the upper sections of Moggill and Gold Creeks indicate cleaner water in these less urbanised areas. This is a common occurrence as we move from rural or reserve areas to high-density residential estates with more infrastructure and stormwater runoff, water pollution tends to increase, leading to a decrease in these sensitive aquatic insects.



Picture: Crimson-spotted Rainbow fish (image credit: Rosemaru Pollock)

The variety of species detected is great to see and can tell us about the health of the waterway at each site. Generally, the more species means that the more likely the habitat is favourable and healthy to sustain them. Environmental DNA is a powerful tool for conservation efforts to monitor ecosystem health. It allows us to detect biodiversity more comprehensively, as it can identify species that are difficult to observe directly, including elusive or nocturnal animals, as well as those that are rare or endangered. By regularly testing the water, we can track changes in species populations over time, which is crucial for detecting early signs of ecosystem stress or pollution. For more information head to the [MCCG website](#).

Dr Tamielle Brunt



Photo: Certificates of Appreciation for Lewis Peach and Tamielle Brunt from the Brisbane Airport Corporation (source: image as included in the MCCG AGM Presentation).