

# The 20-year story of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network



1999-2019



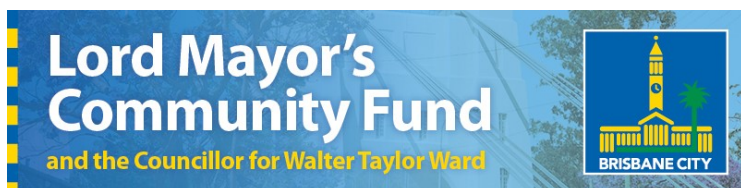
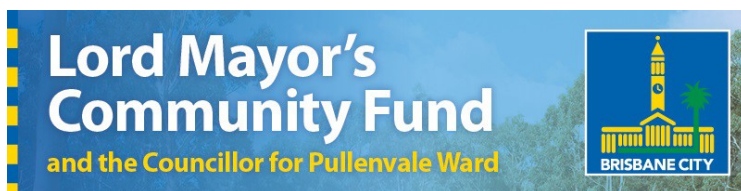




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CWCN gratefully acknowledges the support of **Cr Kate Richards** and **Cr James Mackay** through the Lord Mayor's Community Fund as well as the support of our long term corporate partner **Golder Associates** for the print version of this publication.



# The 20-year story of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network

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# **The 20-year story of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network**

**1999-2019**

***This book is dedicated to all volunteers caring for  
Brisbane's inner western catchments***





Botany Bay Diamond Weevil (*Chrysolopus spectabilis*) SA

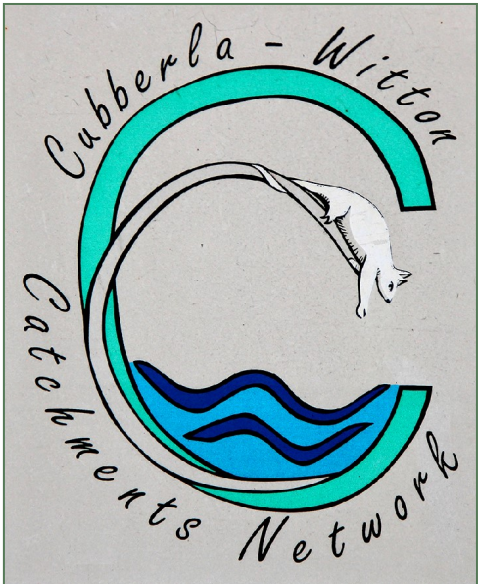


# The 20-year story of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network

This booklet details the history of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network Inc, a not for profit environmental association located in Brisbane's inner western suburbs through which five creeks flow from Mt Coot-tha into the Brisbane River: Cubberla Creek, Witton Creek, Toowong Creek, Sandy Creek and Western Creek.

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The first CWCN logo 1999 (above), photographed on street sign "You are now entering the Witton Creek Catchment. Please care for it" - The original idea for the logo came from Ros Laundon and was adapted by Nona Cameron.— The current logo (below) was developed in 2003.

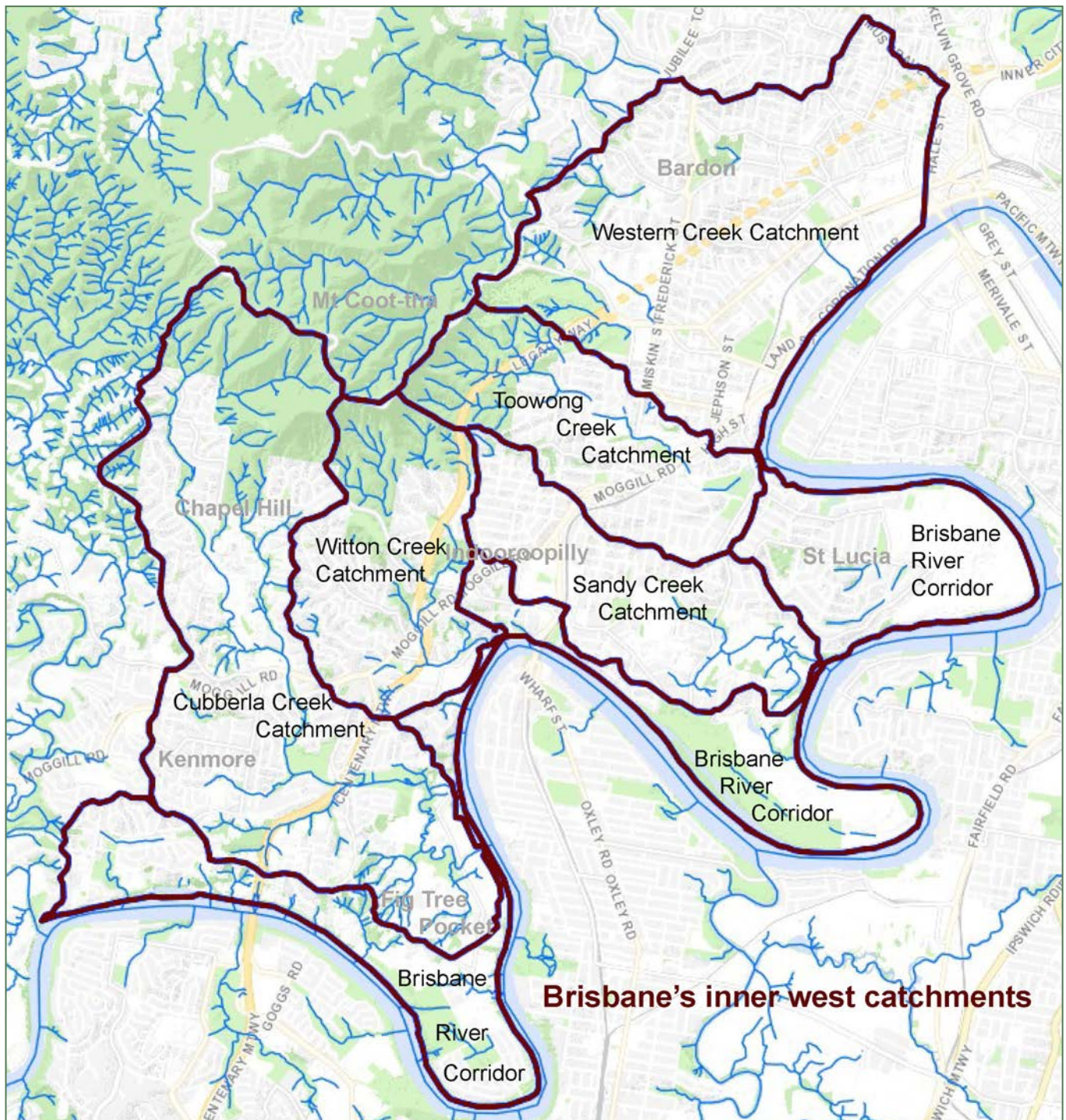




*Megachile sp—SA*



# Brisbane's Inner West Catchments and Creeks



Base map courtesy BCC Community Conservation Partnerships Program

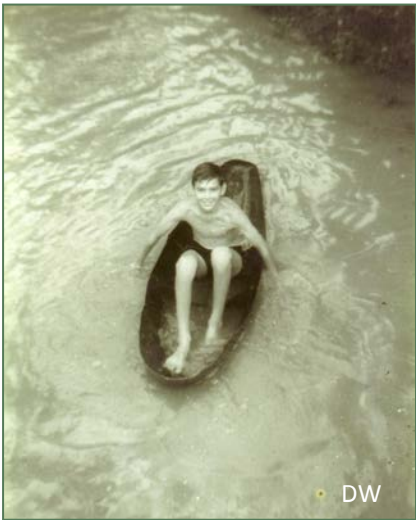
While CWCN members and supporters are passionate about working with the five creeks and their catchments in the inner west, many other people only become aware of them if they live nearby. Even local Brisbane travellers along Moggill Road to Kenmore are often surprised to learn they have crossed three of these creeks.

## **Cubberla Creek Catchment:**

Cubberla Creek rises on the southern slopes of Mount Coot-tha. A number of small tributaries merge just above Moggill Rd and are joined by Little Gubberley and Gubberley Creeks; the stream then flows to its mouth at Fig Tree Pocket near Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary.



Along its course are small pockets of open eucalypt and remnant rainforest, the most extensive of which is Rainbow Forest. Most of the forested areas were cleared long ago for farmland. There are some invasive weed trees such as camphor laurel and Chinese elm as well as other smaller weeds. While most of the area is closely settled, Fig Tree Pocket, Chapel Hill and Kenmore still retain some acreage properties, all of which are zoned as ‘emerging communities’ destined for development. Several parks and playing field areas line reaches of the creek.



Witton Creek Fun. Year unknown. Photo courtesy of the late Doreen Woolard

**Witton Creek Catchment:**

Witton Creek and its tributaries rise on the slopes and in the foothills of Mount Coot-tha. It flows at first steeply through Chapel Hill, then through Indooroopilly. Large sections have been modified or piped, mainly

due to landscape changes resulting from urban development and construction of the Western Freeway, for example at Moore Park it has been realigned to the east. The creek flows through pipes under Moggill Rd and then open channels before flowing into the Brisbane River under Radnor St, Indooroopilly.

**Sandy Creek Catchment:**

Sandy Creek rises in Taringa, and is known as the ‘hidden creek’ for most of it is now piped underground. It emerges as a rock-lined drain at Robertson Park (off Lambert Road) and crosses under Indooroopilly Rd before entering St. Lucia Golf Links. There it first meanders through a series of tree-covered pools, then flows through most of the golf course without any shade cover or meaningful riparian vegetation before it reaches mangrove habitat and eventually enters the Brisbane River.



Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*) at Biami Yumba lagoon

**Toowong Creek Catchment:**

Toowong Creek and its tributaries have their source on the eastern slopes of Mount Coot-tha and flow through pipes under the Western Freeway at three points. One of the branches provides water to the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens dam. It and another branch merge at the top of Kent Street while the third joins them near Gower Street Park.

The area having been settled quite early, much of the surrounding vegetation has been greatly altered, most notably where it passes through the grounds of the Queensland Academy of Science, Mathematics & Technology and then forms the boundary between Brisbane Boys College and Oakman Park. The lower reach of the creek passes through pipes under Moggill Road and apartment buildings into Perrin Park where its course has been altered and straightened considerably. From there to the river it flows through mangroves and then into the river.

**Western Creek**

Western Creek rises east of Mt Coot-tha, flowing through Bardon, Rainworth and Rosalie almost entirely underground. It flows under Milton Rd at Frew Park and into a concrete drain under near Lang Parade and into the Brisbane River. Rehabilitation work has been done only in the upper reach.

**Brisbane River Corridor**

This includes the areas draining directly into the Brisbane River from Fig Tree Pocket, Long Pocket and the St Lucia reach of the river.





Graphic Flutterer (*Rhyothemis graphiptera*) - SA



Eastern Water Dragon (*Intellagama lesueurii*) SA





# CWCN — Beginnings

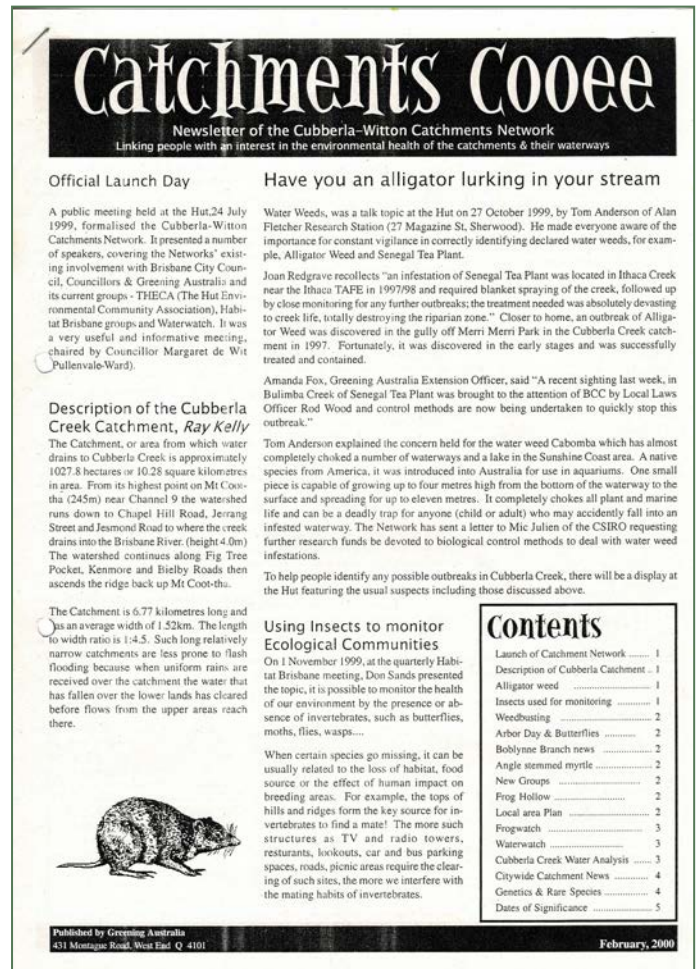
The idea for a **Cubberla-Witton Catchment Network** came about through discussions in 1996 between Chris Kahler, the first Cubberla Creek Catchment Coordinator, Judy Nightingale, the Gould League's Waterwatch Coordinator for Cubberla Creek, Friends of the Hut (now THECA - The Hut Environmental and Community Association), and members of bushcare groups in the Cubberla Creek Catchment. A meeting was organised of 'residents and others who have an interest in the future of Cubberla Creek'.

The vision was a network enabling the groups working in the catchment to share ideas, collaborate on events, and seek funding for projects from Council and further afield. It would represent a united voice able to be involved in community consultation, discuss catchment-wide issues and co-ordinate works by acting strategically.

Active in the catchment and grouped as Cubberla Creek Catchment Care Committee at that time were:

- Waterwatch testers, who monitored water quality in the creeks and conducted awareness raising events, co-ordinated by Judy Nightingale;
- Six Habitat Brisbane Groups, working on bush regeneration projects at a number of sites and involved mainly in the hands-on work of re-establishing bushland, raising awareness and recruiting;
- Friends of the Hut, also involved in community engagement and education, maintaining a library and fundraising.
- The Gould League, represented by Judy Nightingale.

While the Brisbane City Council had Environmental Advisory Committees, there was no representation from the western suburbs, possibly because of the small number of local groups. This was the catalyst for a public meeting in February 1999 to ascertain support for the formation of the Cubberla



February Issue 2000

Creek Network. It received a unanimous endorsement and some of the advantages discussed were:

- improved communication and coordination between all the groups,
- a stronger voice in decision-making on environmental matters within the area,
- input into the development of a catchment management plan,
- the opportunity to access resources through Brisbane City Council (BCC) Water Resources,
- representation at quarterly meetings of Catchment Coordinators with BCC.

THECA agreed to sponsor grant applications by the network where an incorporated association was needed. A Steering Committee was formed consisting of Scott Hetherington, Robin Trotter, Suzie Lim, Ray Kelly, Joan Redgrave, Judy Nightingale, Ros Laundon and Rachel Griffiths. A further public meeting was held in April 1999 to discuss the name, rules and objectives, organisational structure and operational procedure of the Network. By now there were eight bushcare groups, including one in the Witton Creek catchment. It was agreed that the name should be the **Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network (CWCN)** as two creeks were now included, and roles and objectives should be developed.

The Network would provide a link for groups and individuals with an interest in the environmental health of the catchments and their waterways. It would also provide, for example, representation on the Citywide Catchment Group, coordinated through Council's Waterways program.

The following organisational structure was decided upon:

- Incorporation unnecessary: THECA would act for the Network.
- Environmental groups working in the catchments, such as Waterwatch, THECA, Habitat Brisbane groups to be invited to send delegates to the Catchments Network meetings.
- A delegate from the Catchments Network to be elected as a representative to the Citywide Catchment Group meetings in order to represent the interests and concerns of the Network at the meetings of that body and report back to all network members on the outcomes of such meetings.
- Formal reports would be distributed to participating groups and also published in the *Catchments Cooee* newsletter (succeeding 1996-8 *Coot-tha Catchment Cooee*).

The original network logo featuring a ring-tailed possum and wavy water lines was designed by Ros Laundon, modified by Nona Cameron and accepted by Brisbane City Council. This logo was later replaced by the current version.



The formation of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network (CWCN) officially took place on 24 July 1999; by then it encompassed all the Habitat Brisbane bushcare groups in the Cubberla and Witton Creeks catchments, (at the time eleven plus five sub-groups), and THECA and Waterwatch.

A list of matters for the new Catchments Network to address was advanced:

- Council policy on private and public land use;
- Network to lobby on behalf of member groups and support their activities;
- Funding;
- Policy Advisory Committees - Network to ascertain current activities and activate a reporting/communication mechanism so that groups were kept up to date;
- Need for people with database recording skills to support environmental effort in the area;
- Consideration of community gardens in the area;
- Educational role for the Network;
- Liaison between the Network and Qld Frog Society for monitoring, surveying and developing a database on frog species distributions etc;
- Bimap access availability to the Network through Greening Australia.





## Incorporation

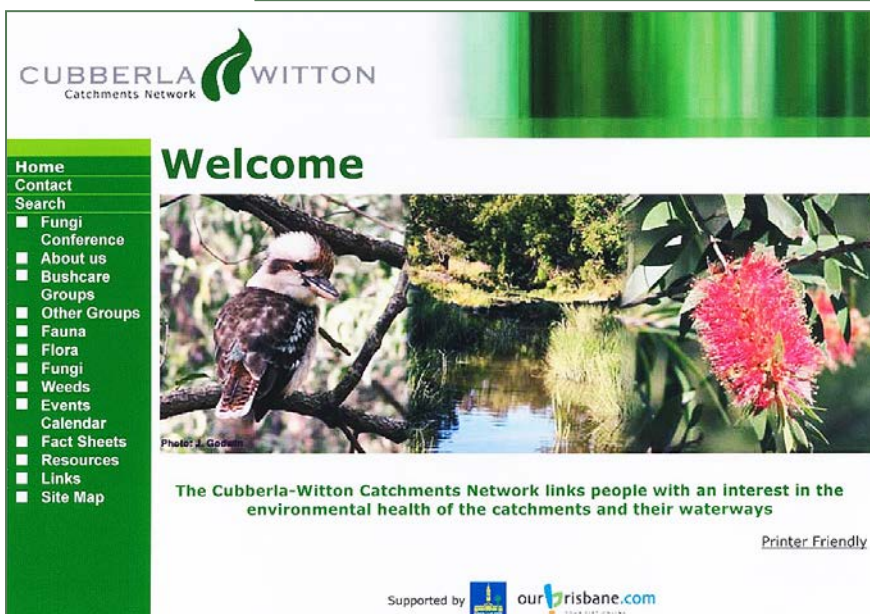
In April 2003, Lisa Cattanaach (WaterWatch Coordinator, Gould League Environmental Education Officer and acting CWCN Convenor) advised that she could not continue as Convenor because of the cessation of National Heritage Trust funding for Waterwatch. Robin Trotter then took over as CWCN Convenor.

THECA had been the auspicing body for the Network from its inception in 1999, allowing office and meeting space to be rented, looking after finances, and actively supporting many CWCN activities and events. A Network meeting decided that CWCN should become incorporated. This occurred on 8 Oct 2004.

A second organisation deserving thanks for helping CWCN over the years was the Gould League, extending their friendship to the Network, sharing their expertise, initiating the Waterwatch activities and providing the WW Coordinator and a developed work program.

The two local Councillors at the time, Jane Prentice and Margaret de Wit, gave their continuous and engaged support throughout this period. Brisbane City Council provided guidance through Water Resources and Habitat Brisbane, and a generous Community Grant to allow for administration expenses to be covered.

From bottom: CWCN's first website and the Dec 2004 newsletter ; road signage still in place today; Incorporation Certificate





## Coot-tha Catchment Cooee

The Cubberla Creek Bushland Care Coordinator position is funded jointly by the Brisbane City Council and the Commonwealth Government through Bushcare: the National Vegetation Initiative, a program of the Natural Heritage Trust. Bushcare is administered through Environment Australia.

Welcome to the October and November edition of the Coot-tha Catchment Cooee. If you'd like to do a little environmental work around the suburbs, please get in touch with me or a local Bushland Care Group. Remember, you're welcome to do as little or as much as suits you. Happy reading!

Chris Kahler, Bushland Care Coordinator. Ph: 07 3844 0211 or 0414 837 508

Merri Merri Park Bushland Care, Chapel Hill Contact: Karyn Hyatt Ph: 3844 0211 or 0417 727 450.

The planting at Merri Merri Park is looking pretty good now that the weather has warmed up and we've had a spot of rain. The park was the site for the Weebusters Week activity day - an event organised by the Department of Natural Resources which is aimed at raising awareness of the threats and problems presented by weeds in our state. The Weebusters which met at Merri Merri Park, including the Kenmore Girl Guides and local Bushland Care Group members, concentrated on weeding and planting a small plot adjacent to last year's Weebusters site. Good as it looks now, it'll be even better in a few months time! Next working be will be on Saturday 6 December, 2 - 4 pm

The Hut Bushland Care Group, Chapel Hill Contact: Joan Redgrave Ph: 3378 9704

A few extra hands will be most welcome at the Hut's next working bee, near the bus stop on Fleming Road, to help with planting in the group's young rainforest. Also on the agenda will be some weed removal in the creek itself. Weeds will be replaced with native species immediately they're taken out of the creek in order to limit the degree of bank and bed erosion. The next working bees are on Saturday 8 November, 2 - 5 pm and Saturday 13 December, 9 - 12 noon

Greening Australia - Queensland (Inc.)

Gubberley Creek Bushland Care, Kenmore Contact: Jan Johnson Ph: 3379 6651

A large turnout greeted local Councilor Margaret De Wit at the group's last working bee, where the Councilor presented the concept plan for a proposed mini wetland which is being considered for the lower end of the creek where it meets Cubberla Creek. Around 50 to 60 plants were planted around the edge of one of the group's more established plantings in order to enhance the cool, shady rainforest microclimate already developing under the young trees. The mini wetland concept plan can be viewed at the Pullenvale Ward Office. The next working bees will be on Saturday 6 December, 8.30 am and Saturday 5 January, 8.30 am.

Bardon Bushland Management Group Contact: Andrew Massey (07) 3369 5792

Despite a fairly small turnout at the last working bee - an arbor day planting - around 70 plants were put in and 10m<sup>3</sup> of mulch spread. Thanks to the efforts of Andrew, Mary, Thelma and Toowoong ward Councilor July Mayrho the open forest understorey plants were given the very best treatment and in no time should be presenting local residents with a colourful floral display.

Cubberla Creek Bushland Care Group Contact: Jill Skenehol Ph: 3378 5183

A problem spot in one of the group's more established areas has been the centre of some attention. The area is a steep bank which is open (ie. not vegetated) on the eastern side. This allows a good deal of light into a fairly shady area. In order to seal the edge of the planting to exclude excess light and drying wind, the bank needs to be planted with fast growing edge species. Getting plants established on a steep bank can be quite difficult - it may be hard to plant them deep enough and water may simply run off the bank when watering. The answer? A series of very deep benches were cut into the bank using a hand bladed mattock. Hopefully these benches will provide suitable planting sites, trap leaf litter and harvest water. Working bees will take place on Sunday 22 November, 9 - 12 noon and Sunday 28 December, 9 - 12 noon.

Rainbow Forest Bushland Care Group Contact: Ros Laundon Ph: 3378 4906

The nest boxes installed last year at the site have been visited recently by a pair of Pale Headed Rosellas (*Platycercus adustus*) which may be interested in raising a family in Rainbow Forest. Ros is interested in taking some python wood (*Austromyrtus bidwillii*) cuttings for propagation at the nursery. There's a small group of these beautiful trees downstream of the groups regeneration plot and as they seem to fruit infrequently, propagation by cuttings may be the best way to make new plants from old. The next working bees will be Saturday 15 November and Saturday 20 December.

Kimba Street Reserve Bushland Care Contact: Lynne Farlie Ph: 3378 4248

Four new members helped the group plant mat rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) and other understorey plants at the last Kimba Street working bee. About 15mm of rain a couple of nights later was just what the seedlings needed to help them settle in to their new home. Thanks to Councilor De Wit, maintaining plantings in the reserve will be made easier now that a tap has been installed in the park. The next working bees will be on Saturday 15 November, 2 - 5 pm and Saturday 20 December, 2 - 5 pm.

Bowman park frog habitat restoration group Contact: Jenny Holdaway (07) 3366 1806 or Phil Bird (07) 3366 4909

The site at Bowman Park looks great after the group arranged for a section of it's fenced habitat area to be excavated in order to provide a suitable breeding site for the green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*). Once the excavations had taken place, the group then engaged the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) to carry out a some planting in the remediated area. Designed to hold water for a few weeks at a time, the fairly shallow depression should meet the needs of the green tree frog which has not been recorded as breeding in the area as yet.

DocRef: SAM.SPCK.CCC.OctNov97

Newsletter covering Cubberla Creek and Ithaca Creek; preceding the formation of CWCN, published by Greening Australia—1997



## Catchments Cooee

Newsletter of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network  
MAY 2003

Linking people with an interest in the environmental health of the catchments and their waterways

THE CUBBERLA-WITTON CATCHMENTS NETWORK PRESENTS -

### A DISPLAY AT INDOOROOPILLY LIBRARY

Celebrating: **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**  
FROM: **Monday 2 JUNE** TO: **Friday 27 JUNE**

AN INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO ALL NETWORK MEMBERS TO

A LAUNCH OF THE DISPLAY  
FRIDAY 6 JUNE 6.00 to 8.00 pm Wine & Cheese  
In the Meeting Room at the Library

GUEST SPEAKER: CLEM CAMPBELL "HOW TO LIVE MORE LIGHTLY ON THE PLANET"

### LAUNCH OF THE DISPLAY

GUEST SPEAKER: **CLEM CAMPBELL**  
Visiting Fellow at the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance, Griffith University, Consultant to the Eco Centre at Griffith University and State Co-ordinator for Qld. Earth Charter Committee

TOPIC: "HOW TO LIVE MORE LIGHTLY ON THE PLANET" - THE EARTH CHARTER INITIATIVE

The Earth Charter is an organization dedicated to developing a World Ethic on Sustainability and will be focusing on what the community can do for developing sustainability at the local level.

FRIDAY 6 JUNE 6 - 8 PM Wine & Cheese  
ALL WELCOME

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Forum "Waterways and Water Ways"	8
Saturday 26 July The Auditorium, Brisbane	
Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha, Bookings	
essential	

### DIARY DATE

We hope you will all note the date for RIVERCLEAN on your calendars, so you can enjoy the Sausage Sizzle and family entertainment on the day as well as help with the plantings and the children can join Lisa with her Waterwatch activities. We hope to see you and your families there.  
SUNDAY 15 JUNE 9.00 to 11.00 AM.

The Network thanks Brisbane City Council for financial support through the Environmental Grants Program

The Network thanks THECA members and volunteers for the production of this issue of Catchment Cooee, and for the great articles from all groups. Keep up the good work and GREAT NETWORKING

Newsletter with original CWCN logo and new name after the formation of our Network and including two of our catchments—2003

CUBBERLA WITTON

# Catchments Cooee

ISSN 1832-8008

Newsletter 2007-03

August/September 2007

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Brisbane Golden Wattle  
(*Acacia fimbriata*)

CWCN's newsletter evolved to become a comprehensive illustrated publication issued on a quarterly basis—2007

CWCN

# Catchments Cooee

Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network Inc

April 2012

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Leucocoprinus birbaurnii

Geastrum sp.

What's all that fuss about fungi?

Read pages 13-17

Campanella sp.

Coprionellus domestica

Photos: Jutta Gockwin

The internet eventually enabled the cheaper publication and distribution of a colour-illustrated newsletter—2012



# CWCN — The Organisation and its Roles

The Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network (CWCN) is focused on the re-establishment and maintenance of ecologically healthy catchments to deliver both environmental and community benefits. CWCN encourages community engagement and connection with the environment. CWCN is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

The Network since 2007 has expanded to include Sandy, Toowong and Western Creeks as well as reaches of the Brisbane River Corridor. It provides a wide range of regular programs and activities as well as innovative and influential conferences and special events that reach a wide audience and involve not only local residents but participants from Brisbane, South East Queensland and interstate.



## CWCN's Principal Roles and Objectives

- Supporting whole of catchment projects for Cubberla Creek, Witton Creek, Sandy Creek, Toowong Creek and Western Creek (the Catchments), and in adjacent areas along the Brisbane River in the inner western suburbs of Brisbane;
- Linking 26 (current figures) local bushcare groups with an interest in the environmental health of the Catchments and their waterways;
- Supporting the establishment and maintenance of wildlife corridors linking the catchments from their source to the Brisbane River and beyond;
- Facilitating research into the condition and environmental trends of the catchments;
- Facilitating collection and management of data to support action which enhances the environmental health of the Catchments and their waterways;
- Liaising with government (local, state and Commonwealth) and other agencies on environmental issues affecting the catchments;
- Promoting the environmental values of the Catchments to the public;
- Supporting and facilitating funding for projects to improve the environmental health of the catchments;
- Promoting the liveability of the Catchments for residents of the inner western suburbs .

Perfect nature spot for families:  
Biami Yumba Park, Fig Tree Pocket







# The Centre

## at 47 Hepworth St, Chapel Hill



By 2009 it became clear that CWCN had outgrown the limited space rented at The Hut. Additional room was needed to work to our full potential, to enable an accessible and effective administration as well as provide educational activities, allow for storage of equipment in one central place, and to make life for our volunteers easier.

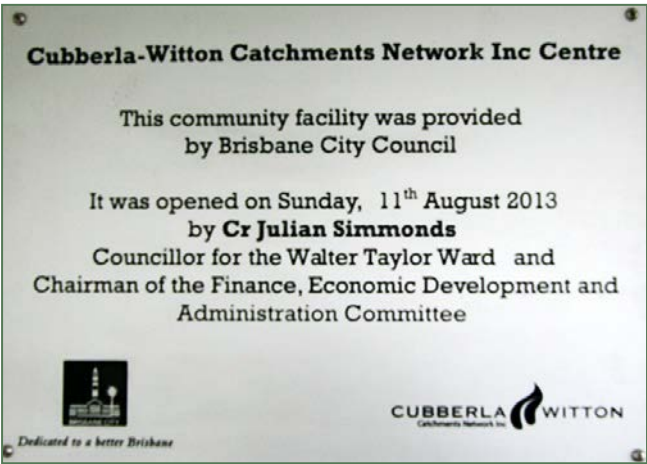
After immense support from then Councillor Jane Prentice (Walter Taylor Ward) who found funding and convinced the City Cabinet, CWCN's president Jutta Godwin received a letter from the Lord Mayor Campbell Newman confirming we would receive a facility suitable for our needs.

In 2012 Brisbane City Council moved a house, obtained via their flood buy-back scheme, from The Gap to 47 Hepworth Street, Chapel Hill. Council generously adjusted this former family home for public use and disability requirements. Cr Margaret de Wit (Pullenvale Ward) came to the rescue when the roof needed replacing. CWCN gratefully acknowledges the role above Councillors as well as Cr Julian

Simmonds, Jane Prentice's successor, and BCC's Local Asset Services West's Keren Sweeney and Tom McHugh as well as architect Peter Brown played in the establishment of CWCN's Centre. Size, location and many features made the house very suitable as a community hub. Finally we had a Catchment Centre.

Grants received from the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefits and Solar Sports and Community Funds allowed for fit-out, furniture, and equipment.

The highlight in 2013 was the move into the Centre. We finally had a home where our organisation could work and expand our activities. Around 100 people attended the official opening in August 2013, a day of celebration supported by Cr Julian Simmonds who generously footed the bill for the day, by the BrizWest Concert Band and by our friends from the Brisbane Inner West Lions Club who organised our catering with great skill and enthusiasm. A commemorative plaque next to our entrance door marks the occasion.



The Centre is well equipped thanks to many donations from members and friends, to the above mentioned (and later) grants, and thanks to the hands-on hard work of members.

Since its opening the house has truly established itself as a community centre for plant nursery work, school holiday activities, workshops and meetings (general and committee). It has also been used by other organisations including the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network, Brisbane West Conservation Network, Queensland Frog Society, Queensland Mycological Society, Conservation Volunteers Queensland, Kenmore East Neighbourhood Watch, and the Brisbane Catchments Network. The latest addition has been the Edible Native Plants Garden which is progressing well with regular watering and we look forward to tasting its delights in the future.



From top: Plaque at entrance to CWCN Centre commemorating the opening—Photo Display of fungi pictures by Paul Vallier—Establishment of native edible garden with Maggie Deeth, Caroline Golding, Maureen Diamond and Maria Miller—Morning tea time during our 2019 fungi workshop. Photos: JG

Photos on page 10 clockwise from top left: CWCN holiday activity; CWCN holiday activity; workshop held by the Queensland Mycological Society; holiday activity; recycling during holiday activity; CWCN macroinvertebrates workshop; CWCN workshop on fungi; QUT students engaged by CWCN. Photos: JG





# Bat Festival

Sat, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015

CWCN Centre, 47 Hepworth St, Chapel Hill  
(Brisbane UBD 178 A11)

- ★ Face Painting
- ★ Prize for Best Bat Costume
- ★ Craft Activities
- ★ Bat Games for Kids



- ★ **Nightly Neighbours:**

Presentation of Inner West Survey Results

- ★ **Bat Rescue Inc**

Display - Orphaned live bats - **Stella** a costume bat.

- ★ **Displays**

Bat skeleton, microbat specimens from the museum, harp trap used by researchers, more.

- ★ **Microbat Discovery Walk**

with Julie, Monika and Martin & bat detectors.

- ★ **Win the Bundy Rum, Green Beans and Mosquitoes Quiz**

- ★ **Sausage Sizzle, Cake & More**



For more information visit [www.cwcnc.org.au](http://www.cwcnc.org.au)

This event is proudly sponsored by



Dedicated to a better Brisbane





Juvenile Powerful Owl  
(*Ninox strenua*) SA



# Office Bearers of CWCN after Incorporation (AGM to AGM)

(Prior to incorporation, the designated Conveners were Lisa Cattnach followed by Robin Trotter)

## Presidents

Jutta Godwin	2004-15
Tony Pressland	2015-17 (acting in 2017 for Brian Venz)
Brian Venz	2017-2019
Don Begbie	2019-

## Treasurers

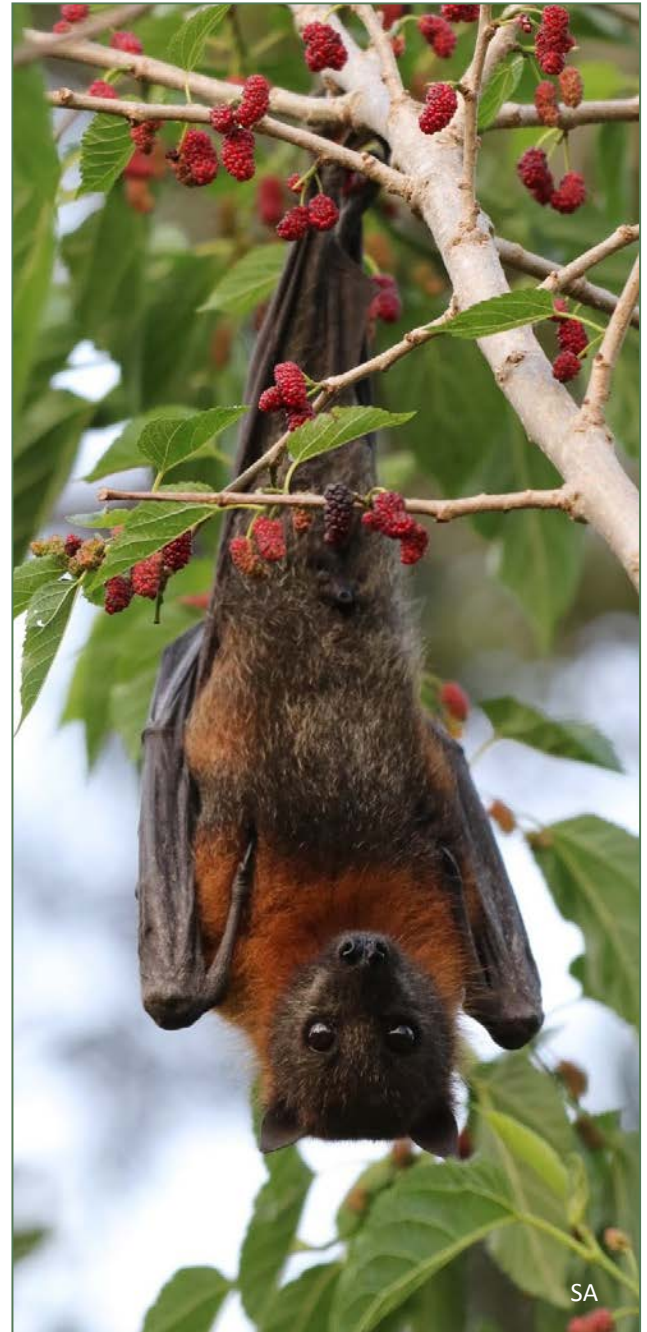
Lois Eden	2004-6 and 2008-17
Lisa Cattnach	2006- 8
Lisa Grimmie	2016 (under supervision of Lois)
Roxane Eden	2017-18
Paola Jell	2019-

## Secretaries

Jayne Seebeck	2004-5
Kon Michnowsky	2006-7
Lois Eden	2007-8
Robin Trotter	2008-15
Mick Capelin	2015-16
Don Begbie	2016-19
Jef Cummings	2019-

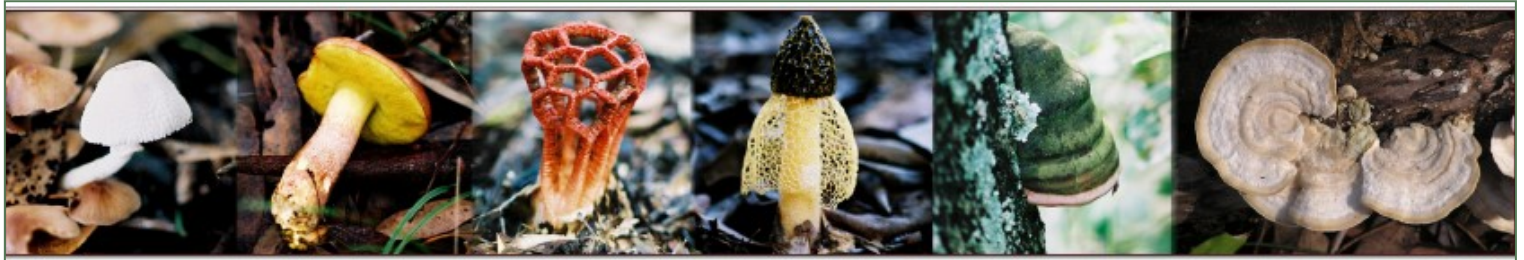
Executive members were also at times on the committee but not office bearers. Other **committee members** have been:

John Hewison, Val Petersen, Joan Redgrave, Stuart Ackerman, Des Hoban, Sue Robb, Maggie Deeth, Henry Camacho, Megan Burfein.



Grey-headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)

Conservation status: vulnerable



# FUNGI CONFERENCE

**Sat, 5 Nov 2005**

Undumbi Room/Parliament House  
Parliamentary Annexe, Cnr George/Alice Streets, Brisbane

## PROGRAM

Cr Helen Abrahams/Chairperson Environment and  
Sustainability Committee, Brisbane City Council  
Opening Address

Dr Tony Young/Mycologist Queensland  
The Rotten World Around Us: Introduction  
to the Fungi Kingdom

Nigel Fechner/Mycologist  
Queensland Herbarium  
History of Mycology in Queensland

Dr Neale Bougher/Mycologist Western Australia  
Perth Urban Bushland Fungi Project

Dr Roderick W. Rogers/Lichenologist,  
Queensland Herbarium  
Lichen Biodiversity in Queensland

Dr Karl Vernes/Ecosystem Management  
The University of New England  
Mycophagous Mammals, Truffles, and Forest Ecosystem  
Processes

Dr Chris Burwell/Entomology Curator  
Queensland Museum  
Mushrooms for Breakfast: Fungi as Food  
Source for Insects

Dr Neale Bougher/Mycologist WA  
Using Native Fungi in Bush Restoration  
– Wheatbelt Western Australia

Nigel Fechner/Mycologist, Qld Herbarium  
Taxonomic Revision of Ramaria Species  
in Australia

Dr Adrian Volders/CEO NRMSEQ Inc  
Launch of "Fungi of Australia" Vol. 5 (Hygrophoraceae)

Dr Tony Young/Mycologist Queensland  
Edible and Poisonous Fungi

Dr Tom May/Senior Mycologist  
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne  
Approaches to Conserving Australian Macrofungi

Katrina Syme/Hon. Associate RBG Melbourne,  
Denmark/Western Australia  
Fungi in Regional Natural Resource Management  
Planning

Dr Gordon Guymer  
Director Botanical Sciences Unit,  
Environmental Sciences Division/EPA  
Summary/Conclusion

Conference Proceedings are moderated by

Dr Elizabeth Aitken/Senior Lecturer Plant Pathology, Postgraduate Coordinator, School of Integrative Biology, UQ  
Stacey McLean, Senior Program Officer Biodiversity Planning, Environments and Parks Branch, Brisbane City Council

**POST-CONFERENCE BBQ RECEPTION**  
**Grounds of Queensland Maritime Museum**

For more information phone 07-3878 4581 or write to [mail@cubberlawitton.org](mailto:mail@cubberlawitton.org) or visit  
[www.cubberlawitton.org/conference](http://www.cubberlawitton.org/conference)



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# Significant Events

Since formation in 1999 CWCN has conducted many awareness raising events with the aim to inform, educate and engage the wider community. Some stand out for their significance.

## 2000

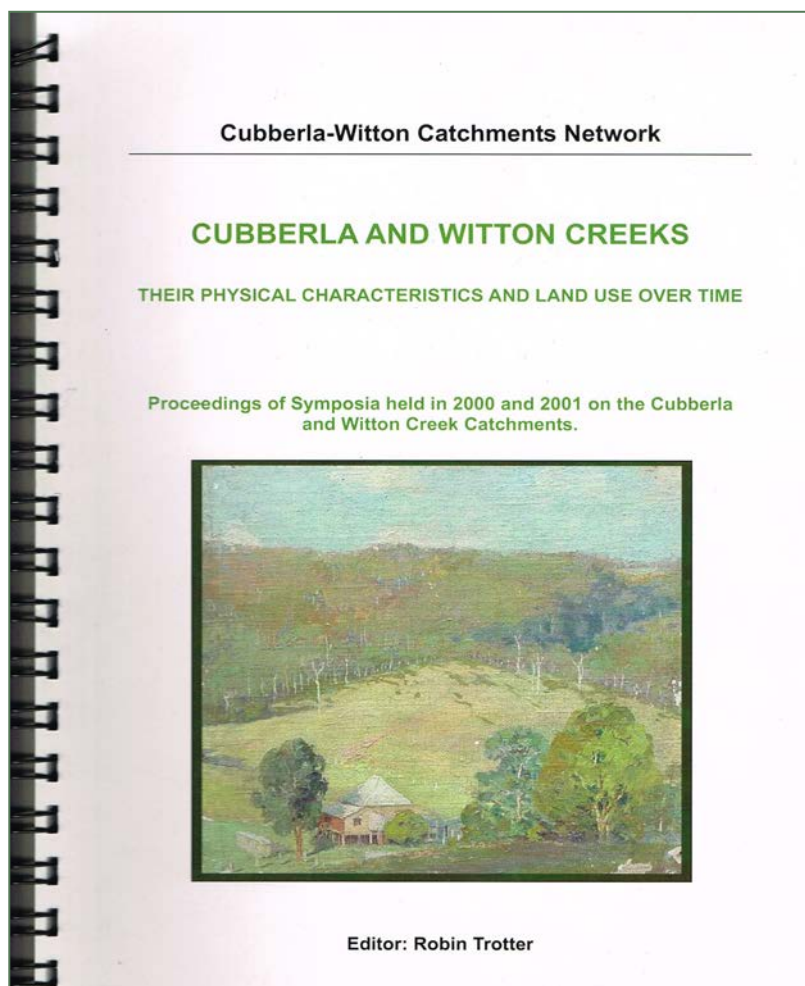
### **Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network Symposium I - 2 Sept.:**

This symposium on the land features and biology of the Cubberla Creek catchment was based on the study by Ray Kelly *Lands of Cubberla Creek Catchment*.

This study documented the natural features of the Cubberla Creek catchment in the year 2000. The framework set up by Ray broke the land down into recognisable parcels, each with individual characteristics, so units of land could then be used by groups such as ornithologists, botanists, entomologists, zoologists and bush-land regenerators to record their activities and research findings.

Most of the catchment was by then committed to urban land-use with housing, roads and drainage systems already in place. The balance was occupied by parkland, sports-fields, drainage corridors, and timbered forest used for many diverse interests. The framework was set up for perusal at the Hut and comments were welcomed.

The well-attended symposium attracted a very professional array of speakers. The topics covered Land Use History, Land Systems, Climate and Hydrology, Geology and Geomorphology, Soils, Native vegetation and Habitats.



## 2001

### **Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network Symposium II—15 Sept:**

Topics included the following:

- Historical records from the mid-1880s identifying probable native fauna in the catchment at that time.
- The growth of Brisbane and the influence of the various transport networks over time, including the effect of the disastrous 1893 flood in causing the abandonment of a plan to build a railway through the area.

- The recording of birds in the catchment over many years, with the disappearance of some and the arrival of others.
- Fish and aquatic plants and the contribution of local naturalists to the study and breeding of native fish species.
- The effects of modifications to Cubberla Creek and its surroundings causing changes in flow, deposition and erosion. It was revealed that the Council had plans to restore some of the meanders to the creek.
- A walk down memory lane from 1939 to the 1970s and the changes from rural to urban land in one part of the catchment.

#### **Waterwatch Water Festival 18 October:**

More than 100 students from primary schools around Cubberla Creek participated in an interactive festival as part of Water Week 2001 in Moore Park Indooroopilly. The Festival was an opportunity for students to learn about issues affecting urban environments and included hands-on activities related to water quality, native plants and animals, weeds and human impacts. With assistance from the Landcare Education Officer this Festival provided a practical and colourful education program for students in the catchment.

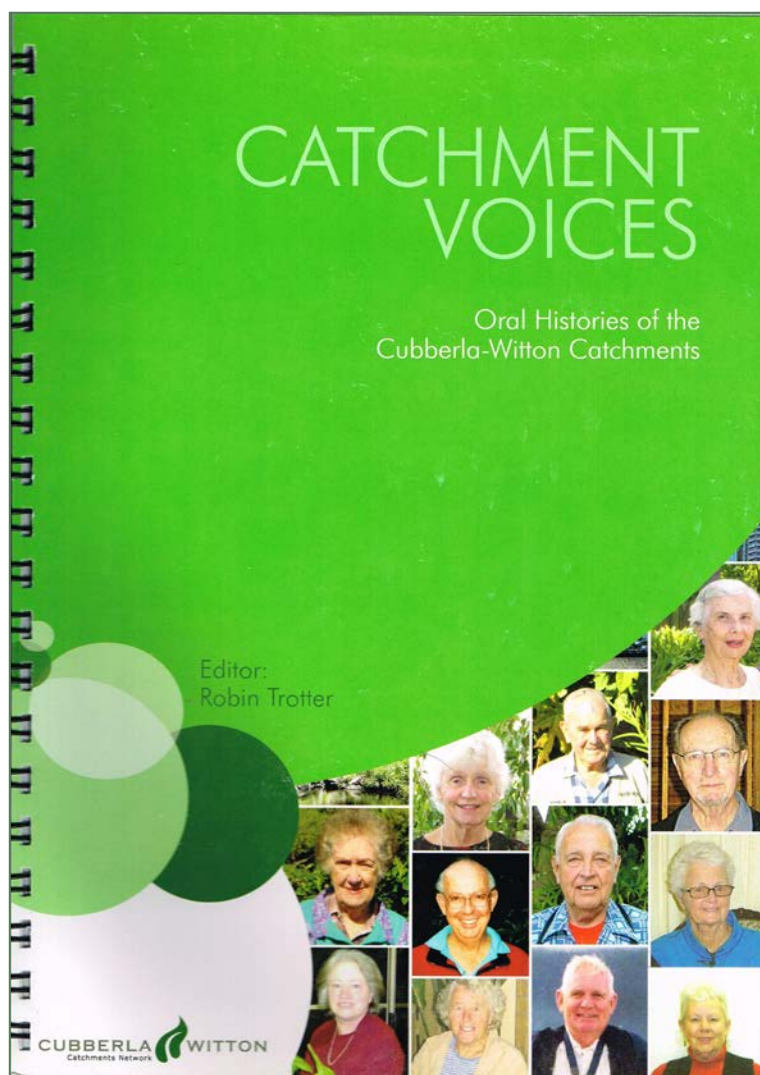
#### **2002**

November. - **Launch of *The Papers of the Land Study Symposia for Cubberla-Witton Creek Catchments*** at which information from the symposia held in the two years prior was collated and made available in print format to the general public.

#### **2004**

##### **Launch of *Catchment Voices 1***

December. - A major milestone was achieved when the first volume of our oral histories project was published and introduced to CWCN members and interested parties. All contributors to *Catchment Voices. Oral histories of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments* were present at the launch and rightly proud of their contribution. Dr Robin Trotter pulled it all together and has presented CWCN



and future generations with an invaluable treasure which tells local history through personalised stories.

#### **2005**

**CWCNs First Strategic Plan.** To achieve effective working outcomes for our catchments and waterways and align our activities with our objectives, CWCN's committee set out to develop a **strategic plan** and held a workshop for that purpose. BCC Water Resources kindly agreed to sponsor our endeavours, and we were able to engage Mark Creyton/community development specialist with Volunteering Queensland to streamline our efforts and to have all input recognised. This process gave our work a focus. Over the course of time the strategic plan was adjusted to include our growth and increased capacity.





JG

CWCN Conference on Macrofungi—5th Nov 2005 , Parliamentary Annexe, Parliament House, Brisbane

In November, CWCN hosted, at Undumbi Room, Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane the first **Conference on Macrofungi** in Queensland (also the biggest of its kind in Australia), with almost 150 attendees listening to speakers from Queensland and interstate. Topics and overall program can be viewed on page 1 .

As a direct result of the conference, the Queensland Mycological Society (QMS) was formed a month later and has developed into an important organisation contributing to Queensland’s research into macro-fungi.



HW

## 2006

Investing heart and soul, imagination, lots of volunteer energy and hours into the development and the execution of so many successful different activities in 2005, our project *Towards ecologically healthy and bio-diverse catchments through on-ground work and community education* paid off for our Network. We were the very proud recipients of the Natural Solutions sponsored community category of the **Healthy Waterways Award** and of the very prestigious **Minister’s Grand Prize**.



HW

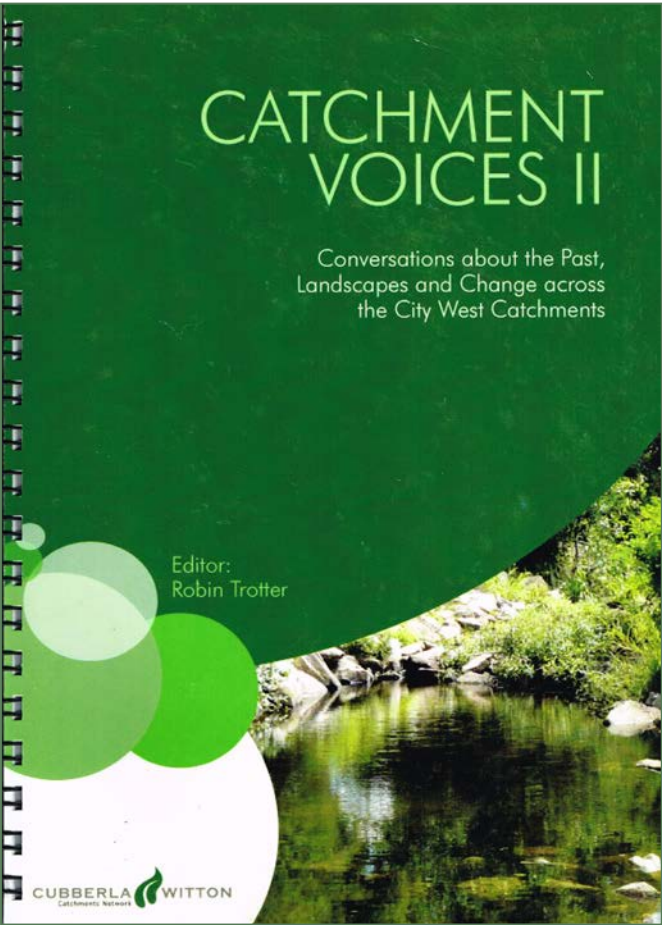
## Healthy Waterways Awards Night

Top picture from left: Lois Eden, Lisa Cattnach, Jutta Godwin and Norrie Sanders from Natural Solutions  
Bottom picture: The CWCN team celebrating the Minister’s Grand Prize



2009

We celebrated the launch of ‘**Catchment Voices II**’, the second volume in our excellent oral histories project. Having produced both volumes, Dr Robin Trotter as initiator, interviewer and editor has added to an immense treasure by capturing our catchments’ past. This edition, *Catchment Voices. Conversations about the Past, Landscapes and Change across the City West Catchments*, also reflects CWCN having adopted further catchments, and features memories from Toowong.



A highlight was our **Recycling Festival** at Moore Park in November. Amongst the many features were a children’s theatre, a ‘wildlife safari’ with animals made of discards, nature’s recyclers, second hand goods, sustainable fashion, exhibition of sculptures by three artists using cardboard, scrap metal and old tyres, music made on instruments that started as oil drums as well as music made on instruments created of a variety of discards, sustainable food, and information provided by environmental and history groups. The winners of CWCN’s school competition ‘*Reduce the Paper Mountain*’ were announced on the day.



# Recycling Fest

Sunday, 15th Nov 2009  
10.00am—3.00pm  
Moore Park, Indooroopilly

**Art Show**  
Amazing sculptures made from old tyres, scrap metal and cardboard as well as other works of art using discards and sustainable materials.

**The Fantastic Steelband**  
Rhythms on steelpanels! Terrific sound from instruments that started out as oil drums.

**Shift – Sustainable Fashion**  
Catwalk extravaganza with creations by fashion design students of Queensland University of Technology.

**Eat sustainably!**  
Food Connect with locally produced food. Minimise your food print and live healthily!

**School Competition**  
CWCN will announce the winners of their 2009 school competition titled ‘Reduce the Paper Mountains’.

**Pre-Loved!**  
Lifestyle’s stall will offer a range of second hand clothing and other pre-loved goods.

**Nature’s Recyclers**  
Composting, worm farming, insects, fungi and more. Take inspiration from nature.

**Food Court**  
Great food and hot as well as cold drinks all day.

**Interactive Storytelling**  
For prep and early primary school age. “How did the rubbish end up in the river?”

**Mobile Muster**  
Bring your old mobile phone and dispose of it sustainably in the bins provided by the mobile phone industry.

**Children’s Theatre**  
Children’s theatre Bazz Grumble with the much loved and acclaimed performance of ‘Which Bin is Which?’

**Reverse Garbage**  
Craft workshop where nothing is wasted. Use your imagination and create your own magic with discards!

**Bob Mud**  
Interactive mud painting and other activities highlighting sustainable use of resources.

**The Dumplings Junk Band**  
Music created with instruments made from the most unlikely discarded materials.

**Wildlife Safari**  
Explore and discover an abundance of native critters, small and large, all made from different types of discards.

**Recycling in Brisbane**  
BCC Waste Services with extensive information on recycling and sustainable living in our city.

**Wearable Art**  
Indooroopilly State High students present wearable art titled ‘Modern Day Paper Alchemy’. It reminds us to reuse, recycle and recreate.

**Sustainable Living**  
Extensive information on all aspects of sustainable living. Receive inspiration and reminders.

**Face Painting**  
and so much more...

Come and join the fun, learn how to make this planet a healthier place for the benefit of future generations.


Hosted by Cubberla Witton Catchments Network Inc. PO Box 5230, Kessmore East 4089  
Contacts: Jutta Godwin mob 0407 583 441, Michael Thorley mob 0408 158 407

The event is proudly supported by

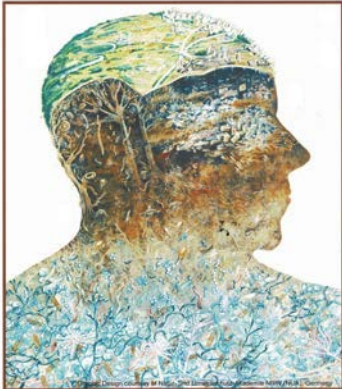


2010

CWCN held a highly successful event ‘**Soils are Alive!!!**’ on soil biology at the Parliamentary Annexe. The event was sponsored by Golder Associates and there was participation from across South-East Queensland. Speakers from Queensland and interstate emphasized the importance of the life below our feet through a large range of interesting topics.



# Soils are Alive!!!



## Conference

Saturday, 27 Nov 2010  
Undumbi Room, Parliamentary Annexe,  
Parliament House, George St, Brisbane

For more information ring Jutta Godwin on 0407 583 441



**CWCN's Second Strategic Plan.** Having widened the scope of activities and having grown volunteer capacity and numbers, CWCN revisited its first strategic plan to obtain a clearer picture about where we wanted to go and what we wanted to achieve in the foreseeable future. The committee invested in extensive evaluation and planning efforts before widening the discussion by calling members and the wider community to participate in several strategic planning events. Intense debate throughout the process focused on a corporate strategy, community engagement, caring for land and biodiversity, and on water care and pollution. All key themes were developed so that goals and actions. The process helped us to improve and streamline our work approach.

**2012**

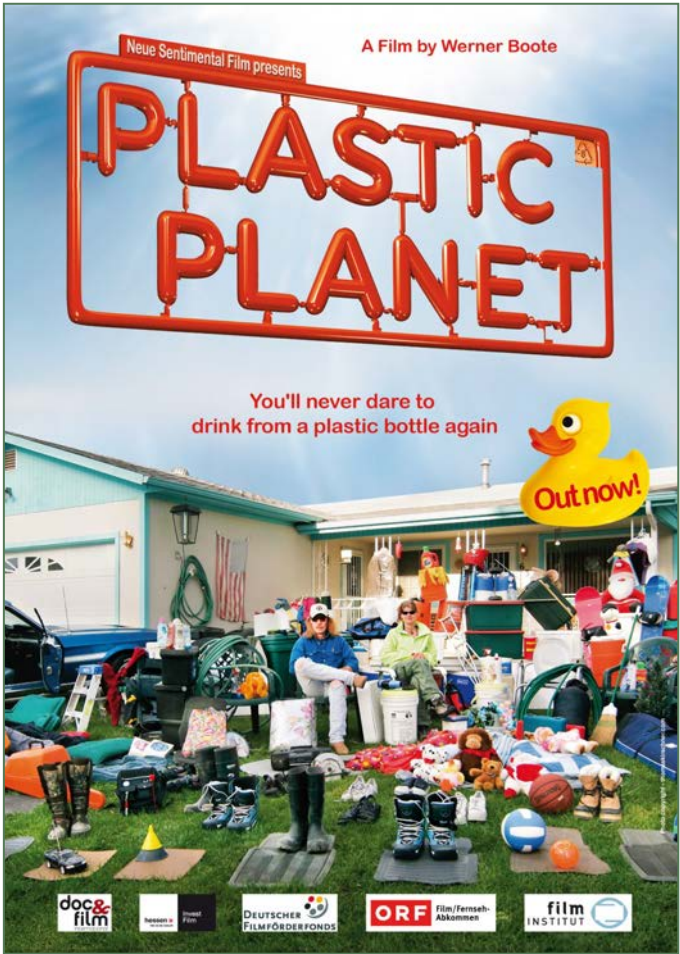
In October a community event, the **Forest Festival** with around 150 participants honoured the International Year of the Forests. The event was the result of an effective cooperation between Men of the Trees (MoTT), Queensland Urban Utilities (QUU), Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network (CWCN), and the Ecological Services Unit of the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (B4C).

QUU sponsored all on-ground preparation and plants to offset extensive work done at Cliveden Park, and contracted B4C to carry out the work. MoTT and CWCN co-planned and coordinated all educational activities and entertainment, with MoTT footing most of the bill thanks to a grant provided by Queensland Government. CWCN had been invited by MoTT to lead the organisation due to our experience in such events.

**2013**



**National Recycling Week** saw a week of community engagement for young and old at the CWCN Centre including the screening of two documentaries 'Bag it' and 'Plastic Planet'. Star of the week was Natrasha Turtle, a creation by Brisbane artist Tim Rice, provided by Healthy Waterways and carrying plastic rubbish from Moreton Bay under its shell.



**2015**

A **Bat Festival** held in **May 2015** attracted more than 250 patrons, many of them families, to the CWCN Centre to learn about bats. This event followed CWCN's microbat survey and was one of many events under the banner of Australasian Bat Night. There were displays, a harp trap in action (with toy bats), many children's activities, bat walks , a competition, live bats (secured in large cages), and the presentation by Monika and Martin Rhodes on bats and the results of CWCN's microbat survey, conducted with them and funded by Brisbane City Council.

Testing the harp trap with plush bats during CWCN's bat festival



JG





## 2016

**Fungi Festival.** In October CWCN conducted another very successful community event in the grounds of the CWCN Centre, this time with Queensland Mycological Society, Australian Mushroom Growers Association, and Chapel Hill Community Kindergarten. Financial and in-kind support was received from SEQ Catchments through the Australian Government funded 'What's your nature?' project and Brisbane City Council. Several hundred people attended this very successful event led again by our communications and education specialist Jutta Godwin.

Highlights were presentations by Tony Young and Sandra Tuszyńska creating awareness about fungi, their importance and their potential, the Queensland Mycological Society stall with real mushrooms, a wonderful display on fungi at the CWCN marquee kindly donated by Fungimap, Paul Vallier's photo exhibition 'Mycelium Magic', CWCN's 'Mushroom Murder Mystery' Walk as well as our

fairy ring below our scarecrow family, children's activities with Chapel Hill Community Kindergarten, MasterChef Ben Macdonald cooking up a storm with mushroom delights, our friends from Lions Club Brisbane Inner West organising snags, cake and coffee on our behalf, and the wonderful Kate Street Mob with their jazz music.

## 2017

CWCN's key event was the **Pollinator Festival** held on **8 October**, with some 300 members of the public attending. This was a classic opportunity to deliver against one of our objectives of: 'Promoting the environmental values of the Catchments to the public.'

The festival had participating organisations covering bees, bats, butterflies, birds and pollinating small mammals. Our sponsors were Healthy Land and Water, the Australian Government and the 'What's your Nature?' Project as well as Brisbane City Council's Community Conservation Partnerships Program.

Speakers Dr Tobias Smith, from Bee Aware Brisbane and native bee researcher, Dr Anna Persson, Lund University, Sweden and researcher at the University of Queensland, and Sue Morris from Bat Rescue fascinated the audience with talks on our pollinating native bees and bats and on planning for urban biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Chapel Hill Community Kindergarten engaged the young crowds with activities and judged the best pollinator costumes, and the Lions Club Brisbane Inner West looked after the catering.







### Craft Activities

Little artists and crafters can be at their best and use imagination to create their very own mushrooms and other exciting items with materials provided.

### Fungi Fun Games & Other Exciting Activities

Find out how fairy tale and other mushrooms get their spots, figure out how fungi find their own food and grow and what happens when they do. There is a lot of hands on fun involved, and children and grown-ups will learn many important facts about fungi at the same time.

### Face Painting

Sport the magic mushroom or fairy look at the Fungi Festival. Have your face painted.



### Mushroom 'Murder' Mystery

An activity engaging the entire family. Be a detective for a day and find and solve the 'crime'. You'll have to visit potential 'crime' scenes in a bushy fun setting to find the culprit.



### The Wonderful World of Fungi

Mycologist (fungal scientist) *Dr Tony Young* will capture our attention with an introduction into the fascinating world of fungi, explain and illustrate their importance for the environment, human health, as food source, as facilitators of carbon capture, to name just a few. In a second always very popular presentation Tony will delight us with his knowledge of edible and also poisonous fungi while environmental mycologist *Dr Sandra Tuszyńska* will enlighten us and send us on a fast learning curve when she talks about how fungi are able to help clean up the environment (from oil spills to heavy metals) and all applications possible. All talks are highly engaging and a great opportunity to get to know the fungi kingdom and its potential.



### Best Fairy or Elf Costume

Dress up as fairy or elf, come to the Fairy Ring on site and win a fantastic prize for best costume

### Photo Exhibition

Marvel at the stunning beauty of fungi in photographer *Paul Vallier's* exhibition "Mycelium Magic" at the CWCN Centre. Paul has not only captured exquisite detail in his pictures but has created works of art at the same time.



### Displays

Talk to *Queensland Mycological Society* members and ask them any question you may have related to fungi. QMS is a driving force in Queensland when it comes to identifying fungi, collecting data and educating the community. QMS was formed after CWCN's highly successful Fungi Conference in 2005 and has since built a strong following and a reputation of scientific excellence. All members are volunteers. QMS and CWCN will also have ample display material on fungi and lichens.

### Trivia Quiz: What do bread, heart transplants, and bandicoots have to do with fungi?

Find out many fascinating facts about fungi, participate in our quiz (forms available on the day) and win a prize. The answers to all questions can be found during the Fungi Festival.



### Jazz at the CWCN Centre

The Fungi Festival will be swinging to the tunes of the *Kate Street Mob*, the western suburbs' very own jazz big band. Get up and dance with a selection of swing, Latin, jazz standards, ballads, rock and lots more.

### Sausage Sizzle, Cake, Mushroom Food & Refreshments



Our friends from Brisbane Inner West Lions Club will help us with the catering and be the smiling faces behind the BBQ. There will be snags, refreshments, coffee and cake. Of course, there will also be mushroom food. Nobody will go home hungry.



### For Children



### Arts and crafts

Little artists can be at their best and use imagination during craft activities to create their very own bees, bugs, butterflies or bats or colour in/draw pictures of their favourite pollinator. We provide all materials. We also need little helpers to build insect hotels so that our pollinating critters have a place to stay.

### Exciting bee introduction and pollinator fun games

In a special session *Toby Smith* from *Bee Aware Kids* will give a special talk to children: *Thank you bees: Native bees and pollination*.

*Fun Games* will help them to understand how some of our pollinating critters behave in everyday life. There is a lot of fun involved, and children and grown-ups will learn many important facts about fungi at the same time. *Chapel Hill Community Kindy* will be there to lend a hand.



### Dress up and win a prize for the best pollinator costume.

All children are invited to dress up as a bee, bug, butterfly, bird or bat and win a fantastic prize for best costume.

### Face painting

Sport the pollinator look and have your face decorated with one of the many pollinating critters or the flowers they visit. You'll be the envy of your friends.

### Pollinators and their importance

A series of interesting talks will inform about aspects of pollination: Ecologist *Dr Tobias Smith*/Founder and Director of *Bee Aware Brisbane* and native bee researcher at the University of New England and Queensland University of Technology will speak about *The secret life of Australia's native bees* while *Dr Anna Persson*/Centre for Environmental and Climate Research at Lund University, Sweden and visiting researcher at University of Queensland will talk about *Planning for urban biodiversity and ecosystem services—How pollinators and pollination are affected by the urban context*. Our third speaker *Sue Morris* from *Bat Rescue SEQ* will talk about *Flying Foxes and their important role in the pollination of our eucalypts and other native trees*. All talks provide a great opportunity to learn about pollination, native pollinators and plants.



### Sausage Sizzle, Cake & Refreshments

Our friends from Brisbane Inner West Lions Club will help us with the catering and be the smiling faces behind the BBQ.

There will be snags, refreshments, coffee and cake. Nobody will go home hungry.



### Trivia Quiz: What do hoverflies and urban planning have to do with pollination?

Find the answer to this question and learn many fascinating facts about pollinators and pollination. Participate in our quiz (forms available on the day) and win a prize. The answers to all questions can be found during the event.

### BRIZWEST Concert Band

No festival without music. One of Brisbane's West best bands will set the tone and the atmosphere for an enjoyable event.



### Displays

Our native pollinators are losing their habitat at a rapid pace. We often forget how important they are. To protect pollinators means protecting the services they provide and generally means protecting biodiversity. There will be ample display material on the day. Take the opportunity and talk to all our participating organisations and learn about the multitude of different pollinators and their value, learn about their needs and find out what you can do to support them in your garden. You may want to take some food plants home and enrich your own backyard. Not only will you have more native critters visiting your garden, you will also help to create more habitat for pollinators.









# Seed Propagation

A desire to raise plants local to CWCN’s catchments area was voiced as early as 2005. Enthusiastic volunteers from CWCN and bush-care groups came together in Jutta and Ron Godwin’s home to discuss how to go about it, where to collect seeds, and how to raise seedlings to planting stages. With the support of Brisbane City Council’s Habitat Brisbane Program and its then Officers Tom McHugh and Neil Millstead a very well attended workshop was subsequently called. Moore Park was the setting and SOWN’s Brian Sait provided a comprehensive introduction into seed propagation.



Nursery Convener Henry Camacho



Photo above: Seed capsule of Richmond birdwing butterfly vine (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*)

Photos opposite page clockwise from top left: Foambark (*Jagera pseudorhus*), Brown Pine (*Podocarpus elatus*), Brisbane Laurel (*Pittosporum revolutum*), Banana Bush (*Tabernae montana pandacaqui*), Peanut Tree (*Sterculia quadrifida*), Native Ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*)

CWCN, at the time, lacked their own facilities to set up the operation. However, with Habitat Brisbane support mini greenhouses for the home garden were built at a subsequent event. Many plants were now propagated and found their spot in local rehabilitation sites. SOWN upgraded their own propagation facilities at the time and generously donated two larger greenhouses. They plus an additional one also gifted to CWCN remained for several years in members’ gardens and resulted in more variety and larger numbers of native plants being produced over time.

Students from The Glenleighden School in Fig Tree Pocket joined our seed propagation efforts with enthusiasm. They sowed and later transferred seedlings into tubers and little pots and nurtured them until they were ready to be planted out in their school yard and at Rainbow Forest. These students suffering from



speech, language and related disorders gained a hands-on experience and learned to value the importance of their contribution towards a healthier environment. They were rightly proud of their achievements.

Lack of social interaction limited the early home garden propagation efforts. After CWCN moved into its catchment centre in Hepworth Street, Chapel Hill, seed propagation work could finally be formalised and an effective and much loved operation be started. The first meeting of the group was called for April 2016, and our seed propagators haven't looked back. They look forward to their regular working bees, enjoy each others' company, have attended several workshops with support from BCC's Community Conservation Partnerships Program and our friends at SOWN, and have contributed substantially to large planting events in the inner western catchments.

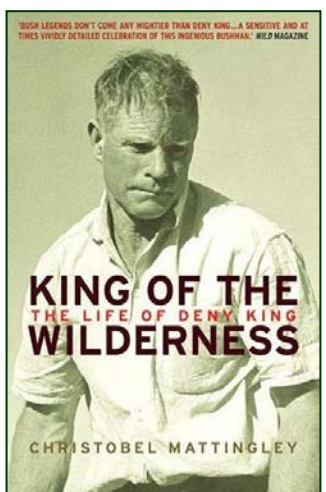
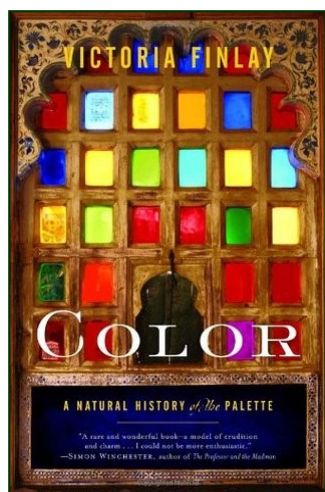
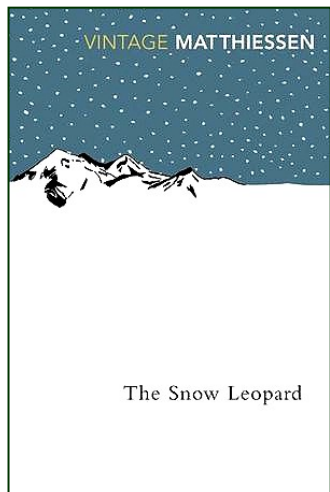
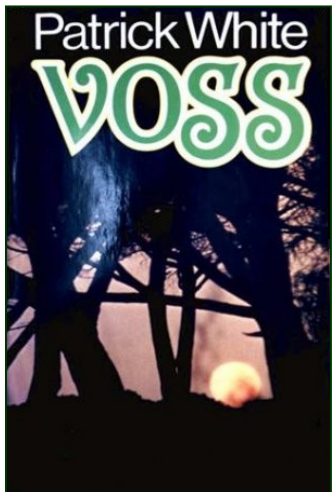
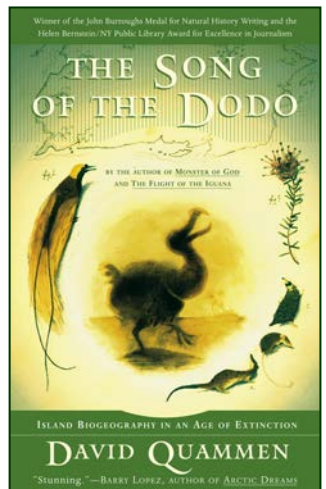
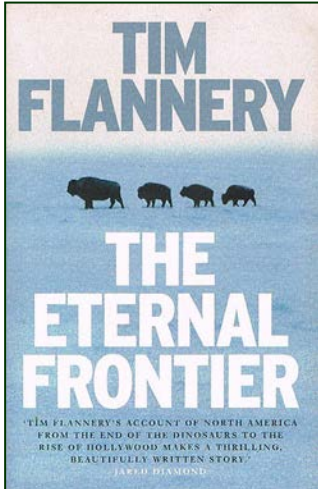
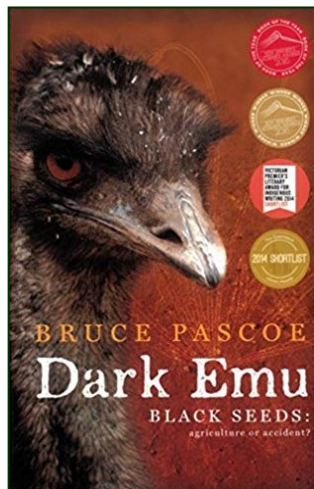
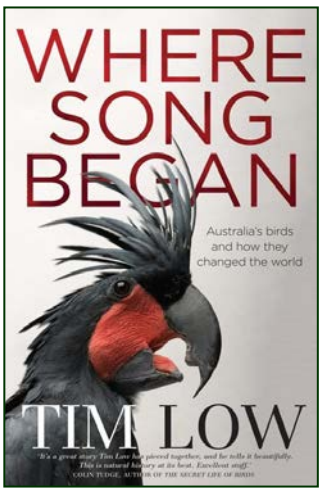
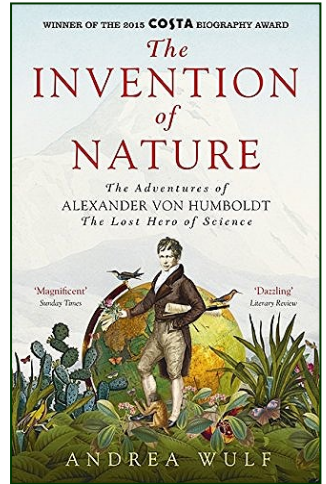
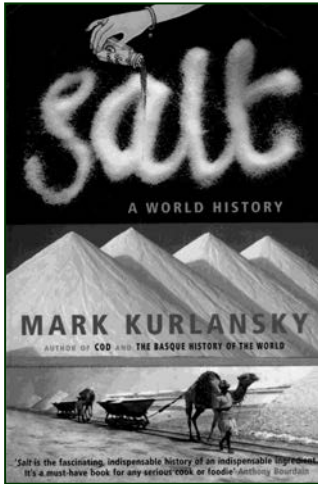
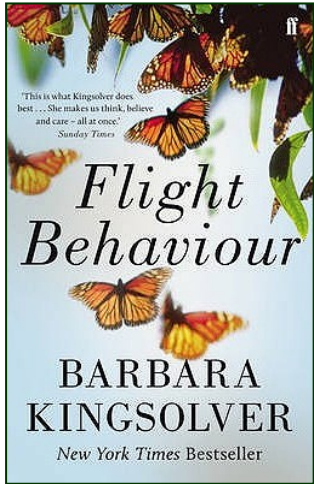
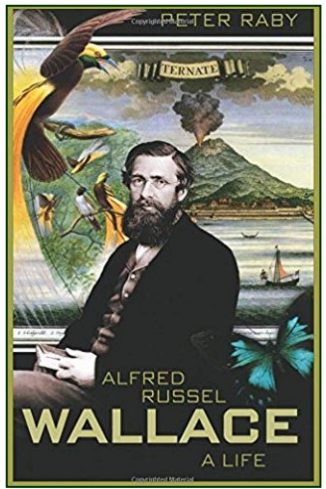
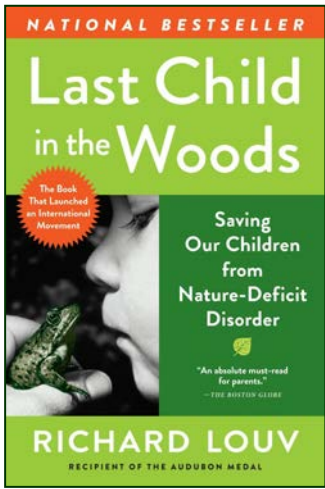
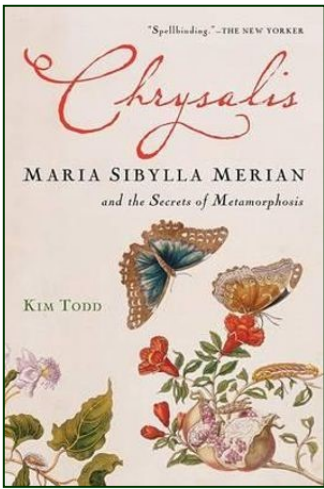
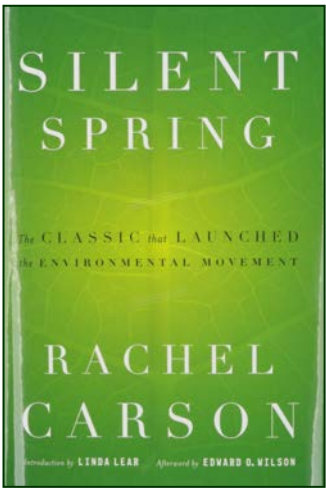
Below: *Mallotus* Harlequin Bug (*Cantao parentum*) on seed pods of Red Kamala (*Mallotus philippensis*) - Right: Velvet Leaf (*Callicarpa pedunculata*)













# Book Club

CWCN's Book Club started as an initiative of Robin Trotter in 2014 and has gone from strength to strength. Robin continues to lead the group. Books chosen are highly engaging. They cover a large variety of issues related to the environment. Some are classics like *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carsons, the title chosen for the first ever book club meeting, others are new publications like *Griffith Review 60: First Things First*, a publication engaging with Australia's indigenous people following the *Uluru Statement of the Heart*. Titles range from biographies to novels, to travel journals, to non-fiction topics on different aspects of our natural environment.

One book club meeting per year is dedicated to nature poetry. All participants bring their favourite nature poems, be they from Australian or poets from other nations.

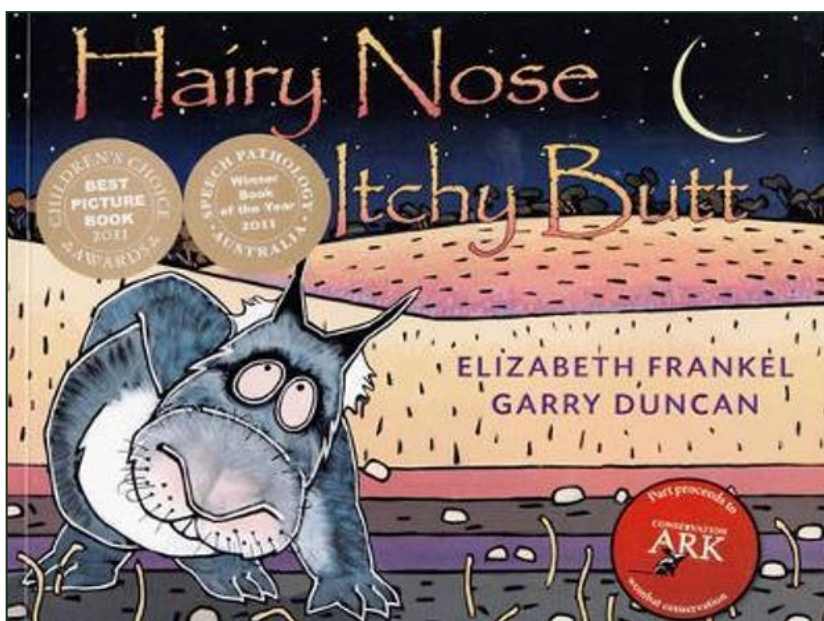


Book Club Session at the CWCN Centre—2019

The early years also saw discussions around environmental children's literature, a topic potentially being reintroduced in the future. Meetings are held once every month except in December. All participants contribute their knowledge and interpretation to every debate.

Now in its sixth year, the Book Club continues to attract book lovers, bookworms, and food for thought gour-

mets, those who appreciate the natural world, those who enjoy a debate, and those who love having a good time. The kettle is on, the biscuits are waiting, and the comfortable chairs are out at the CWCN Centre. Although there are intense debates surrounding each title, the atmosphere is relaxed and lots of laughter is a given part of the afternoon







Macroinvertebrates sampling during school holidays at Witton Creek, Moore Park - JG



# Community Engagement and Education



Throughout its existence CWCN has conducted multiple educational and awareness raising activities and events, this being a special focus in our organisation's strategic plans.

We have engaged with local schools and universities as well as Brisbane's inner west community. We have provided water quality monitoring, macroinvertebrates sampling, and photo displays. We have conducted multiple workshops for beginners and at an advanced level, and made information available via CWCN publications. Many of these activities have been ably planned, prepared and run by Jutta Godwin. CWCN now works with schools in the catchments and events are conducted at all levels of the formal education spectrum as well as with the wider community.

Symposia, conferences, and festivals have been key elements in reaching the wider community and enhancing the knowledge of members and others. Examples are featured under **Significant Events**. Other ways of engaging and educating are listed below and provide examples of what CWCN is all about and capable of doing.

## School holiday activities

Since moving into our CWCN Centre in 2013, school holiday activities for children at prep and lower primary school level have been planned, prepared and carried out by Jutta Godwin and a team of volunteers including Melanie Venz, Judy Haines, Claudia Schipp, Caroline Golding, Danyelle Miller, and early on Masayo Friedler, Annette Flower and Gitta Siemund-Edwards.

It all started with topics for young *Enviro Detectives* who continue to lead multiple hands-on investigations while having fun. Themes explored include water, weather, soil, butterflies, fungi, sound and noise, plants, trees, and tracks and scats. To combine fun-filled learning with physical activities other topics have been added. Our map and compass challenge is always a hit, as is being a pirate on Cubberla Creek in search of treasure, sampling macroinvertebrates and getting your feet wet while doing so, building cubby houses or creating scarecrows which then find a prominent spot in CWCN's backyard. The success and the reputation of our school holiday activities led to an invitation to Jutta Godwin to conduct a children's workshop on fungi on the Sunshine Coast.





Left: Nature Diaries are filled in at Biami Yumba Park , 2019 — Right: How many children does it take to hug a tree, Akuna St Park , 2019

Observation skills are enhanced when we go to Bi-ami Yumba Park with a young crowd observing waterfowl and other birds or eagerly filling their nature diaries. A spider attacking a caterpillar was one of the high points for our young naturalists.



Melanie Venz and children listen to and observe microbats 2018

Night activities have become a yearly highlight when inquisitive kids explore what nocturnal animals we have in the Cubberla Creek Reserve, listen to microbats (via special devices, of course), discover animals in trees, hear sounds, build their own lanterns, and sit around a fire.

Naturally, sustainability issues have been added and recycling is a large part of our craft activities with the results decorating CWCN's Centre, providing ornaments for home, or creating music with instruments made from dis-cards.

### Local schools and kindergartens

CWCN has continued the Gould League's tradition of engaging schools with Waterwatch activities and offers a wide variety of educational and awareness raising undertakings. Thanks to National Heritage Trust funding, we were briefly able to employ a part-time Waterwatch Coordinator (Dot Lim) who, post Gould League, was able to involve schools, teach e.g. Indooroopilly State School staff about water quality and how to monitor it, and participate in community engagement activities. BCC's Creek Catchment Program developed programs for schools and our Creek Ranger Michael Thorley visited local schools during his time with us and enabled many highly valuable learning experiences with students.

Today our education program for children is ever expanding and can be adapted to different age groups. For instance, we have worked with **Chapel Hill** and **Kenmore West Community Kindergartens** to teach young children about butterflies and waterway pollution.

CWCN Waterwatch Coordinator teaching Indooroopilly State School teachers







Students from The Glenleighden School at Moore Park (Taringa Parade) tackling Purple Succulent—2007

For over a dozen years CWCN and Moore Park’s two bushcare groups conducted **Arbor Day Activities** with all Year 5 students of **Indooroopilly State Primary School**. Lois Eden, Norm Morwood, Des Hoban and Jutta Godwin supported by bushcare volunteers, BCC’s Habitat Brisbane Program, Water Resources and often Environmental Education Officers, conducted a rotational program for all students consisting of planting native vegetation combined with three learning experiences involving either talks or other activities. It was a beautiful cooperation between CWCN, bushcare groups, BCC, ISS teachers and the school’s P&C, and always resulted in contented faces all around and learning about the importance of looking after the local environment.

CWCN also developed a rewarding relationship with **The Glenleighden School** which caters specifically for children with severe childhood language and related disorders.

Tony Pressland addressing Indooroopilly State High School students 2017



School students learned about waterway pollution, raised plants for their own school yard and CWCN, weeded at Moore Park and planted at Rainbow Forest, all guided by school staff and local bushcarers. The students were so inspired that they chose Cubberla Creek and the Richmond Birdwing butterfly for a touching performance at their annual school fete.

There are many more examples of cooperation with schools, for instance, Corinne Unger initiated several catchment walks with **St Peters Lutheran College** students, supported by BCC Creek Ranger Michael Thorley, while Tony Pressland has engaged with students of **Indooroopilly State High School** at their outings with the **Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre** (below left).

Jutta Godwin has attended school engagement events on specific topics in other Brisbane catchments, guided weekly planting and weeding sessions on Toowong Creek with students from **Brisbane Boys College**, and works with their Outdoor Education Officer on engaging students with nature through observation and mindfulness.



Brisbane Boys College students plant at Toowong Creek—2012

Jutta Godwin and Tony Pressland have engaged with staff and students of **Brisbane Girls Grammar School** beginning with their very first Open Day at the newly acquired sports campus in Fig Tree Pocket and provided guided tours for teaching staff and advice and material as well as hands-on support for their rehabilitation where required and possible. BGGs chose CWCN repeatedly as their favourite environmental institution and generously donated to CWCN.

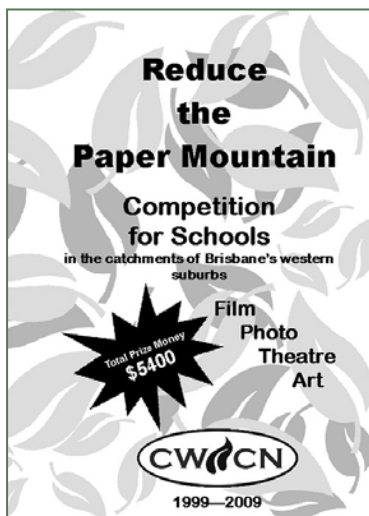




Jutta Godwin at Chapel Hill State School Environment Club, 2018

CWCN currently has a particularly close relationship with **Kenmore South** and **Chapel Hill State Schools**. Tony Pressland conducts regular activities with the

Environment Club at KSSS while Jutta Godwin, Tony and Judy Haines have contributed to CHSS's Environment Club. The good connections to these schools are also supported by CWCN members and parents including Henry Camacho, Melanie Venz, and Shelley Walton.



In 2009 CWCN invited local schools to participate in a **school competition** focusing on sustainability; very good results were achieved by Indooroopilly State

School and Indooroopilly State High School, who took home the three main prizes at CWCN's Recycling Festival in that year.

### Community workshops

Workshops for members and the wider community have been an important part of our work. They were originally designed to enhance the knowledge of our local bushland and waterway rehabilitators. However, their popularity spread, and they now draw in interested parties from across Brisbane.

Among past events were workshops on **seed propagation** with Brian Sait from SOWN (2005), on **freshwater algae** with biologist/limnologist Dr Thorsten Mosisch from Healthy Waterways (2006), on **lichens** with lichenologist Dr Nell Stevens (2006), and on **insects** with entomologists Dr Chris Burwell and Dr Geoff Monteith from the Queensland Museum (2009). Our Workshops on **soil and climate change** with John Carter from the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence, mycologist Nigel Fechner from the Queensland Herbarium, and soil conservationist Bruce Carey (2009) and on **creek rehabilitation** with hydraulic engineer Grant Witheridge supported by Habitat Brisbane Officer Jenny Leask required a change of venue to accommodate the well over 80 attendees at both events. Our event on **small birds and their habitat needs** (2012) with Richard Noske from Birds Queensland and Jutta Godwin exceeded expectations and had to be repeated because of demand.

Our two **Nature Journaling** workshops in 2017 with scientist and artist Paula Peeters were fully booked and provided inspiration and enjoyment for all

Below left: Insect Workshop with Dr Chris Burwell, Queensland Museum at Mt Coot-tha in 2009, here explaining different sampling techniques.—Right: Insect Workshop with Dr Geoff Monteith at the CWCN Centre in Chapel Hill, here explaining night time activities, 2018.







CWCN Macroinvertebrates Workshop at CWCN Centre and Witton Creek, Moore Park—2018

attending the events at Biami Yumba Park and in the grounds of the CWCN Centre.

The four **Wildlife Brisbane** workshops conducted in 2017 were so successful that all had waiting lists. The ten **Biodiversity Workshops** in 2018 to 2019 surpassed expectations with the audience often overflowing onto the deck of the CWCN Centre. Topics were macroinvertebrates, mistletoes, common garden and bushland insects, fungi, bats and their habitat, native edible plants, owls and other avian predators, small mammals, threatened species, and creating habitat for frogs and small birds. Some had field components incorporated which served to enhance the experience.

### University engagement

CWCN has a continuing involvement with educational institutions.

- We cooperated with **Griffith University** as one of their Industry Partners and had two students helping us with oral histories and business planning.
- We worked with **The University of Queensland's** School of Education and their 'Service Learning' combining their students' volunteering with theory and curriculum. Also CWCN arranged to sponsor a prize for a project where UQ students combined science with media presentation.

- In 2015, CWCN signed an agreement with QUT and the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation for a tertiary student project to monitor catchment conditions in western Brisbane. This was carried out using LiDar (airborne radar scanning). Four QUT students from the School of Earth, Environmental and Biological Sciences undertook this project in Cubberla Creek. The students presented their findings to us at our November 2015 meeting. Whilst their study did not result in definitive information, they were able to show that LiDAR could be used for tracking vegetation changes over time.
- QUT students undertook a **QUT Capstone Project**, completing a vegetation study at three sites along Cubberla Creek and presented their results to CWCN in November 2016.
- UQ student Hannah Barham conducted a study on the demographics of CWCN members compared with the background city demographics.

Maggie Deeth (left) and Lois Eden(right) during SCIP project with students from QUT assessing riparian and aquatic vegetation at Toowong Creek - 2017





- In 2017, Queensland University of Technology students volunteered their time and participated in a **Student Catchment Immersion Project (SCIP)** on Cubberla and Toowong Creeks assessing riparian and aquatic vegetation. The enthusiastic engagement by all 18 students provided benefits all around for the students and participating CWCN members.

### Community education and awareness raising activities

In October 2007, CWCN initiated and organised the **Toowong Creek Catchment Tour** to provide an opportunity to get to know this small urban catchment, newly adopted by CWCN, and to inspire locals to help with Toowong Creek's rehabilitation. More than 50 people gathered for a walk to learn about the natural history, about changes in land use impacting the creek located in a now highly urbanised part of Brisbane. Local Councillor Peter Matic generously funded the catering for morning tea and lunch. Today Toowong Creek has a thriving bushcare group.

In 2018, Claudia Schipp introduced the app-based **QuestaGame** to CWCN members with the aim of engaging citizen scientists to record our biodiversity and to entice younger people in particular into environmental learning and data collection. Claudia generated our very own CWCN **QuestaGame Clan**. Via a reward driven process and photography, clan members now contribute their local 'discoveries' to citizen science with results being added to the Atlas of Living Australia.

Brisbane City Council, in collaboration with CWCN and Moggill Creek Catchment Group (MCCG) ran an adult **Cane Toad Capture** night in March 2018. The purpose



Young CWCN QuestaGame participants

of the event was to assist in supplying the **Cane Toad Challenge (CTC)** team from The University of Queensland with adult toads. The toxins from these adult toads are used to synthesise baits used in toad tadpole traps. Three groups including entire families went out to catch some 300 cane toads.

In June 2019, CWCN ran a workshop presented by Dr David Manning, Springfield Lakes Nature Care, on **Frogs in a Changing Climate** and the Australian Museum's national citizen science project "**Frog ID**", using the frog app to record frog calls.

### Other activities

CWCN has a long history of involvement in **National Tree Day (NTD)** activities. The **2010 NTD** planting was held in Moore Park by Witton Creek, with the efforts of Moore Park Bushcare Group volunteers under the leadership of Des Hoban and supported by Habitat Brisbane. The event was one of Brisbane's biggest NTD events and attracted large community participation.

Toowong Creek Catchment Tour—2007







National Tree Day Planting 2012 — Toowong

Having finally achieved successful Habitat Brisbane registration of the Toowong Creek Roving Rehabilitators group, the **2011 NTD** event, involving many local families was held near the corner of Broseley Rd and Kent St. The second NTD event at Toowong Creek in July 2012 attracted a good 150 individuals, families and corporate groups to plant and enjoy a wonderful morning. The bushland was teeming with volunteers, making this National Tree Day event one of the biggest in CWCN history. Catering was funded by Cr Peter Matic and the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund. This event was so successful that CWCN held NTD events at Toowong Creek each year over the next four years. In **2015**, the fifth planting took place at Toowong Creek under the banner of Planet Ark and in fulfilment of grant conditions with around 650 plants planted by around 80 to 90 participants. A team from Bunnings Indooroopilly helped, and also donated gloves and trowels, tools and watering cans.

For **NTD 2017**, volunteers from CWCN, GEMS/UQ, Girl Guides Moggill, St Lucia Golf Course Bushcare Group, neighbours and the wider community established over 1000 plants in a cleared area overlooking the golf course at the end of Handel St, Indooroopilly. Golf course staff led by Ryan Watterson assisted with the follow-up watering to produce another very successful NT planting.

**NTD 2018** was conducted at Handel Street Park, Indooroopilly, as a Landcare for Singles event, in collaboration with the *Brisbane Catchments Network (BCN)*. Volunteers from CWCN, GEMS/UQ and the local community planted over 400 plants on the high bank overlooking the Brisbane River.

The **2019 NTD** event was also held at Handel Street Park, with CWCN joining forces again with BCN and with *Nature Freedom* for an inclusive National Tree Day event suited to people with disabilities. CWCN's Nursery provided a great choice of 350 plants.

Matthew Townsend from Nature Freedom initiated this first inclusive NTD event in Brisbane, which welcomed many enthusiastic planters including courts, Intrepid Landcare and local volunteers.

Larva of Lesser Wanderer (*Danaus chrysippus*)





**Local BCC libraries** have supported our work and on numerous occasions hosted themed CWCN displays and activities. As part of the BCC initiated Library Program, *Growing Brisbane*, CWCN hosted a poetic afternoon at Indooroopilly Library in 2005 under the title



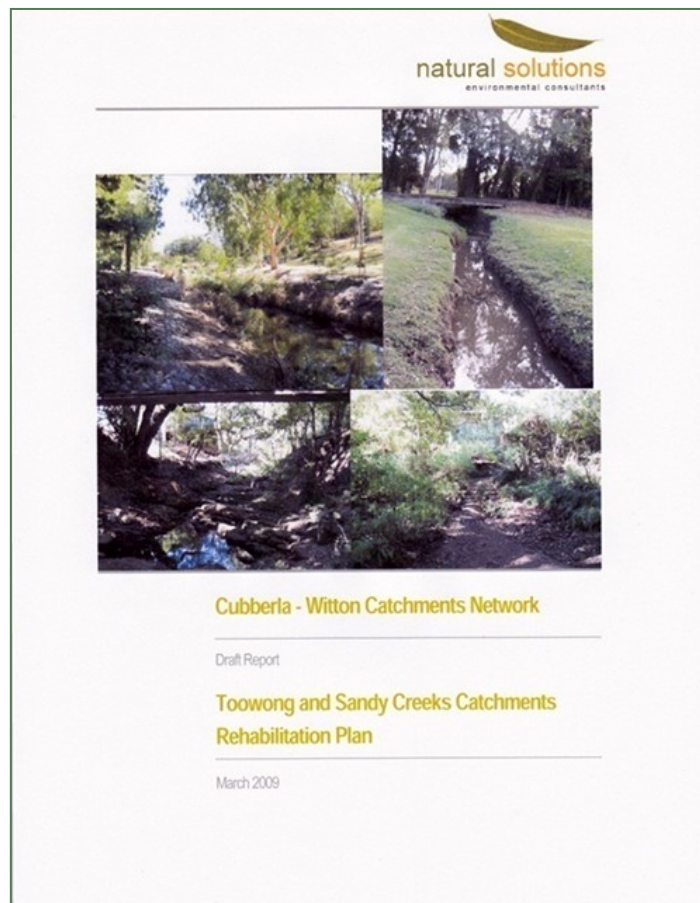
**Writers on the Green.** Featured was well known linguist and ABC radio host Roly Sussex with *The Naming of Weeds*. Wolfgang Kreuzer and Robert Taylor from the German Theatre Company recited in English and German a beautiful poem *The Metamorpho-*

*sis of Plants* by famous German writer and scientist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832). Bush poet Sam Parker from Oxley Creek read from his work and gave us local impressions.

Toowong Library hosted a large illustrated **CWCN biodiversity display** throughout the *Growing Brisbane* program period, and CWCN hosted visitors to Moore Park as part of a bus tour visiting three 'growing' sites in Brisbane, welcomed and guided by Lois den.

Indooroopilly Library had previously showcased segments of our biodiversity information and continued to do so for several years around World Environment Day. Both libraries allowed us to exhibit our **Water-watch display** and provided space for patrons to watch the ev Warburton initiated teaching video on fish sampling, '**Cool Pools**'.

Both libraries supported our **interactive storytelling activities** on waterway pollution. On one occasion, the meeting room at the newly opened Toowong Library burst at the seams because of the many children, parents and grandparents. We gave up on **wildlife presentations** at Indooroopilly Library after the staff became worried that the number of patrons wanting to attend was more than the space could hold.



Both libraries generously provided space in 2009 when we invited community opinion on our draft **Toowong Creek Rehabilitation Plan** through displays and presentation of the draft copies in prominent positions.

CWCN has participated in **Clean Up Australia Day** since the formation of our organisation. The late Joan Redgrave

Waterwatch Coordinator Dot Lim explains pollution through interactive storytelling at Indooroopilly Library, an activity we repeated many times.







Clean Up Australia Day on Cubberla Creek—2008

continued to come back to ‘inspect’ their site at Moore Park to ensure that the bushcare volunteers looked after their work.

Five years later, a second team worked on the Whipbird Gully off Taringa Parade. This time a job agency was the partner. While the previous project goal was exceeded, the second team stayed below the targeted outcomes, had to replace team leaders and only three members of the original team remained to the end half a year later. CWCN was saddened to see that youth development had disappeared as a program focus and with that motivational issues fell short.

began the tradition and was the stalwart in Kenmore (cnr Marshall Lane and Moggill Rd) for many years, handing over the reins after around ten years, with committee members, in particular Tony Pressland, stepping up to continue this worthwhile activity which sees many locals and groups return year after year. Sal Gardner has continuously participated in Clean Up Australia events at the mouth of Witton Creek at the Indooroopilly Canoe Club.

In June 2005, CWCN was successful in gaining Federal Government approval for its **Biodiversity Enhancement Project** involving a **Green Corps** team working across our catchments area. This project aimed to improve our local environment and to benefit youth development. Greening Australia was the key partner and provided the team leader. CWCN took particular care with the educational component and engaged scientists from Queensland Museum, Queensland Herbarium, Queensland Frog Society, Birds Queensland and Brisbane Rainforest Information and Action Group to contribute to successful project outcomes. We were delighted to learn that all members of our youth team successfully and proudly finished their projects and obtained their Certificates. Two members

Green Corps team working on the banks of Witton Creek at Moore Park in 2005







In 2007 CWCN conducted three family fun days combined with plantings at Merri Merri Park, Moore Park, and Rainbow Forest. The photo of a frog race was taken at the one at Moore Park.— The photo on right shows Martin Fingland from Geckoes Wildlife presenting native animals life at CWCN’s National Tree Day event at Toowong Creek in 2015 and explaining the value of native plants for habitat, as food source, and for the establishment of wildlife movement corridors.

**Family Fun Days** became key features in CWCN’s life. The first of these events took place at Kimba Street Reserve (now Clarina Street Park) in 2006. Most events were held to support local bushcare groups and intended to help recruit new local volunteers, some were the culmination of successful projects funded by a government body. Brushbox Court, Rainbow Forest, Gubberley Creek, Cubberla Creek Reserve, Merri Merri Park and Moore Park were among those sites chosen for a fete combined with planting, children’s activities, raffles, sausage sizzle or morning tea, sometimes music, and usually a wildlife presentation.

For a long time, CWCN participated in the joint production of the **Brisbane’s Wild West** calendar featuring nature in the western suburbs. The digital age and the changes in diary and calendar uses saw us withdraw from this cooperation with THECA, MCCG and REPA.

Starting in 2003, CWCN conducted **bi-monthly General Meetings** at Indooroopilly Library. These meetings are now held at the CWCN Centre in Chapel Hill. The format has remained the same. Our events enable social interaction and information exchange as well as providing updates on completed and planned activities. Guest speakers are always part of the evening and topics are wide ranging. They inform on local infrastructure projects, on aspects of our biodiversity and enhance our knowledge on topics relevant to our work and interests. They also inspire us with presentations like that of artist Sophie Munns on her ‘Homage to the Seed’ project. We are grateful to all our speakers for sharing their expertise and time with us.

Photos opposite page (clockwise from top left): Holiday workshop Reef Experience—Outdoor wildlife presentation— Holiday Activity Creating Habitat— Workshop on threatened species—CWCN Bat Festival—Mistletoe Workshop with Dr John Moss— Owl Workshop with Martin Fingland from Geckoes Wildlife— Fungi Workshop with Dr Sapphire McMullen-Fisher.

CWCN’s General Meetings always have a guest speaker, here entomologist Geoff Monteith allows insects to come alive via 3-D viewing.











Maiden veil fungus (*Phallus multicolor*) - JG



# Corporate Volunteering and Sponsorships

There are many opportunities in our catchments for corporate volunteers to demonstrate their community spirit and sense of social responsibility by contributing hands-on to habitat creation, the building of wildlife corridors and to healthier environments. We have been exceptionally lucky with corporate volunteers working in our catchments area and/or sponsoring our work financially.

On many occasions corporate volunteers were brought to different rehabilitation sites by **Conservation Volunteers Australia, Queensland (CVA)**, thanks to allocations via Brisbane City Council's Community Conservation Partnerships program and often a CWCN willingness to accommodate CVA requests for locations at short notice. Those engagements have not only helped to free rehabilitation sites of weeds but also brought a morale boost to many of our bushcare groups in need of support.

Additionally, we were either allocated corporate volunteers via BCC or recruited ourselves, and in many cases developed a wonderful relationship resulting in repeat visits to sites in the inner western catchments. Several examples are listed below.

Bunnings volunteers participating in a National Tree Day Planting and bringing tools to help CWCN's work.



JG

## LAING O'ROURKE

**Laing O'Rourke.** In June 2007, our first Creek Catchment Officer **Scott Edwards** took a group of volunteers from Laing O'Rourke to a highly weed infested section of Toowong Creek and cleared a large area of Madeira vine. 15 enthusiastic employees experienced a hands-on approach to bush rehabilitation as part of their World Environment Day celebrations. Unfortunately, follow-up maintenance and rehabilitation didn't occur as the local rehabilitation group had decided to put aside their gloves.

A few months later, CWCN organised a catchment tour through the newly acquired catchment to engage the local community and recruit rehabilitators. In the meantime, regrowth occurred, and rehabilitation had to wait until **Men of the Trees** adopted the area in 2010 and did a magnificent rehabilitation job.

Eventually, in 2011 the newly formed Toowong Creek Roving Rehabilitators group was admitted as a Habitat Brisbane Program group and started off activities with a National Tree Day event. The bush-care group continues to expand the rehabilitated area substantially.

# BUNNINGS warehouse



# Connell Wagner

**Connell Wagner.** In 2007-2009, BCC Creek Ranger **Michael Thorley** developed a site at Rainbow Forest with Connell Wagner which saw their enthusiastic volunteers come back transforming a riparian area over several working bees. Help for this site was also received from the **Queensland Youth Environment Council**. Eventually this section was linked to the existing bush-care site at Rainbow Forest. It is thriving to this day.



Lend Lease Retail Volunteers at Moore Park - 2009

**Lend Lease Retail.** In 2009, then CWCN President **Jutta Godwin** nurtured a relationship with Lend Lease Retail (Indooroopilly Shopping Centre). It was exciting news for Moore Park when Lend Lease volunteers came to repeat working bees at Moore Park, planting out an extensive area parallel to Taringa Parade (now half of it lost to Indooroopilly State School's new Drop and Go zone). When ownership of Indooroopilly Shopping Centre changed, the connection with the local branch of Lend Lease Retail was lost too.

**Golder Associates.** As part of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2010, all worldwide subsidiaries of Golder Associates (Golder) declared their interest in undertaking a project benefiting the community within which they work. Following an initial meeting with BCC Creek Ranger Michael Thorley and CWCN President



One of the many well attended working bees with Golder Associates and neighbourhood volunteers —Dillingen Street Park

Jutta Godwin, a large number of Brisbane Golder volunteers came to Merri Merri Park to start a cooperation with CWCN that lasts until today. Up to four working bees per year have been held with a participation reaching 50 at the highest point.

The volunteering at Merri Merri Park moved to adjacent Dillingen Street Park, and together with CWCN members, neighbours and funding and material support received from Brisbane City Council, Golder volunteers have rehabilitated an important part of our Cubberla Creek Connect wildlife movement corridor and have turned it from a highly weed infested bushland and riparian area to a much improved natural area

Early working bee with Golder Associate in 2010







Golder Associates volunteers work in heavy rain (left); they were finalists in the Volunteering Queensland Awards in 2018

that is teaming with native wildlife again. Golder volunteers are known to be real troopers, showing their enthusiasm; even heavy rain can't deter their determination.



Golder also provided generous sponsorship for our event "Soils are Alive!!!". In 2010 CWCN nominated Golder Associates for their immense contribution to our

natural environment for the Volunteering Queensland's Corporate Volunteering Award. We were delighted to see 'our' corporate volunteers being selected as finalists. Golder Associates Brisbane remains the only Golder subsidiary to have continued their corporate volunteering commitment, now uninterrupted since the first working bee with CWCN in 2010.

**SAP Australia.** 2012 saw additional on-ground support come through corporate volunteering. Brisbane employees of SAP Australia worked at Rainbow Forest and donated tables and tools for CWCN's use to the value of \$500, all still in use today.



Tobias Raub from SAP Australia loads Jutta Godwin's car with donated goods for CWCN.

**Coles Indooroopilly.** Moore Park's Whipbird Gully had repeat visits in 2015 from a large group of Coles volunteers approaching their weeding and planting work with enormous enthusiasm and making it fun events for everyone involved.

An enthusiastic volunteer crowd from Coles Indooroopilly worked in the Whipbird Gully at Moore Park, organised by Moira Matic.







**Sunsuper.** Keen corporate volunteers from Sunsuper joined CWCN members at the Clarina Street Park bushcare site in October 2017. Native tube stock was planted where the unseasonal hot and dry weather required replacement plants and a helping hand.

**Sugar Research Australia.** The Sugar Research Australia (SRA) office and research facility backs on to the St Lucia Golf Course. In July 2017, SRA volunteers joined with community volunteers and CWCN members to plant a site immediately behind their fenceline with funding support through Habitat Brisbane in the lead up to the formation of the St Lucia Golf Course Bushcare Group. Local bushcare group volunteers continue to maintain this site.

All these contributions are valued highly and are always seen as welcome opportunities to partner with corporate volunteers. Our experience tells us that great working bees can be had not only with a group of colleagues but also when families are being brought along.



In 2011 **ILUM-A-LITE** generously sponsored CWCN's conservation efforts for the vulnerable Glossy black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), the endangered Angle-stemmed myrtle (*Gossia gonoclada*) and the Richmond birdwing butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*). \$15,000 supported dedicated rehabilitation across CWCN's inner west catchments. **SEQ Catchments** facilitated this sponsorship.

## Other corporate support

In addition to hands-on help on rehabilitation sites, CWCN has received further support on many occasions and is grateful for much sponsorship received over the years. Again, only examples of corporate support can be listed here.



**The Local Bulletin** has generously supported our educational and community engagement events for young and old with editorials and helped us to spread the word about issues and event. We are very grateful to Barry Searle and his team.

**Bunnings Indooroopilly** not only participated in two working bees during a National Tree Day Planting at Toowong Creek and our **What's your Nature?** event at Akuna Street Park, but also surprised us with their generous donation of equipment and gloves at the event in Toowong.



**Australian Mushroom Growers' Association**

**The Australian Mushroom Growers Association** sponsored not only our 2005 Fungi Conference but also provided material support for our 2016 Fungi Festival and had a participant in the TV program MasterChef cook up a mushroom storm on the day.





Bat scientists Dr Monika Rhodes (left) using Titley's Anabat Walkabout and Dr Martin Rhodes using another Anabat device during CWCN's workshop in 2019



**Titley Scientific** sponsored the 2015 Bat Festival run by CWCN and provided equipment and a scientist for bat walks on the night, and again allowed us to use their equipment at the field component of our 2019 bat workshop.

Local **Coles** and **Woolworths** stores have provided vouchers helping us with catering on several occasions, in particular for sausage sizzles and for our General Meetings.

**Brisbane City Council** has provided support on many occasions, event based as well as materially, and has sponsored CWCN's invaluable trailer .



CWCN's much used trailer, generously sponsored by Brisbane City Council





Flood 2011—Rainbow Forest—JR



Cubberla Ck survey off Tristania Street—2006—JG



Sampling 2009—RT



Jessica Lyon with bait trap—2007—JG



Surveys 2006 - RT



Surveys 2009—JG



# Water quality monitoring, fish snapshots and macroinvertebrates sampling

Catchment dynamics influence the health of our waterways. To understand these dynamics we assess water quality and aquatic life, obtain and analyse data, and let the results not only guide our rehabilitation efforts but also use them to create community awareness. To fully understand the results we also need to compare them with historic assessments where possible.

Before CWCN was founded our local creeks had experienced significant changes:

Creeks were straightened to accommodate residential developments and infrastructure, or they disappeared underground and ran through pipes. For instance, Cubberla Creek between Fig Tree Pocket Road and the rehabilitation site at Rainbow Forest lost all its meanders and is reduced to half its original length in this section. Gubberley Creek runs through pipes under Ijong Street, Kenmore before it joins Cubberla Creek off Akuna Street.

Witton Creek tributaries were placed underground (e.g. below Lytham Street, Indooroopilly). The

Witton Creek at Moore Park ca. 1960s, before the freeway was built and the creek realigned and moved eastwards



Waterwatch Coordinator Dot Lim investigating the depth of Cubberla Ck at Rainbow Forest Park during 2006 fish survey

creek was also shifted eastwards at Moore Park because of the Western Freeway construction. One tributary received a concrete creek bed downstream from Kennewell Park as well as concreted banks, again because of the Western Freeway and enhanced stormwater and potential erosion issues.

Sandy Creek flows underground for most of its length, sees the light of day only at Robertson Park where it enters a gabion lined channel before it runs through the land of the St Lucia Golf Links where most creek banks are kept clear of vegetation to allow for golf balls to pass, and where the creek is dammed for irrigation purposes.

Toowong Creek's flow is interrupted by the above mentioned Freeway and the Legacy Way tunnel entrance. Its water is dammed for Botanic Gardens irrigation with flow consequences downstream. Sections of the creek also flow underground. The previously meandering creek has been radically straightened at Perrin Park, and residential buildings were constructed on top of the culverted creek where once a Council depot operated.



Effects of culverts below roads rather than bridge spans limit aquatic and terrestrial fauna movements. Loss of native vegetation, narrow and interrupted riparian zones have led to a decline in native fauna in our inner western catchments. Past creek modifications affect how our waterways function today.

CWCN works to enhance and protect biodiversity and uses various means to assess our creeks' health:

**Water Quality Monitoring**

The waters of our local creeks are sampled on a monthly basis. We monitor for temperature, turbidity, salinity, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and pH. The results are then entered onto a data base. Periodic statistical reviews provide us with trends and changes in creek water chemistry and sediment load over time.

**History**

The **Queensland Gould League** for Environmental Education Inc. commenced a Creek Watch Program in Brisbane's West. Education Officer Judy Nightingale was employed to coordinate the project. Regular monitoring of the water quality of Cubberla Creek began in January 1996. Training and in-kind support as well as funding were provided by BCC and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources. Community members were encouraged



Water quality monitoring at Toowong Creek with (from left) Dot Lim, Richard Wilson, Steven Wilson, Sue Lefevre - 2007

to participate. The Gould League's Environmental Education Officer worked closely with local schools to enable them to test the waters of their creeks; for instance, students from Chapel Hill State School tested Cubberla Creek and exchanged data with students who tested Kilcoy Creek which flows through farmland in the upper reaches of the Brisbane River.

In early 2001 **CWCN Waterwatch** obtained water quality monitoring equipment through a Brisbane City Council grant, and water quality assessments continued to be an important part of CWCN's activities especially with our dedicated member Ray Kelly monitoring our creeks on a monthly basis. Thanks to the support of Cr Margaret de Wit and the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund, from

2010 onwards we were able to use a modern water quality monitoring device, a Horiba, later replaced with a newer model through a grant from the Gambling Community Benefits Fund.

For a substantial number of years **SEQ Catchments** provided the regular calibration of the Horiba and accredited training, with Ray Kelly, Robin Trotter and Reynard Poels being the first CWCN members to receive their Certificates. By 2013, SEQ Catchments were also providing support through the establishment of the uniDap database.

Henry Camacho (left) and Tony Pressland using the Horiba to monitor the water quality of Cubberla Creek downstream of Moggill Road bridge off Akuna Street, Kenmore —2017







Left: Fish Survey at Cubberla Creek (off Akuna Street below Moggill Road bridge) in 2007 with (from left) Jutta Godwin, Richard Bull, Ruxandra Bursaru, Steven Wilson, Ray Kelly, Robin Trotter, Dot Lim — Right: Richard Bull and Dot Lim with dip nets in Cubberla Creek off Akuna St.

By 2016 **BCC's Community Conservation Partnerships Program** established **W.H.A.T.** (Waterway Health Assessment Training) consisting of a series of workshops covering the important aspects of waterway health. A number of CWCN members attended the offered workshops, and apply their knowledge to CWCN's monitoring of our creeks.

Since Ray retired from water quality monitoring Tony Pressland, Henry Camacho, Don Begbie and Sila Felix have continued the monthly sampling. It continues to deliver an impressive temporal longitudinal water quality monitoring data set.

Ray Kelly and Colleen Strickland examine bait traps at the old bridge over Cubberla Creek, Cliveden Park, Fig Tree Pocket, 2006



This data (both historical and current) is now being recorded in a new database established by **Healthy Land and Water (HLW)**. Brisbane City Council now provide the regular calibration of the Horiba through Queensland Urban Utilities.

### Fish Snapshots

Anecdotal evidence indicates that our local waterways were once brimming with aquatic life. We know that purple-spotted gudgeon, spangled perch, rainbow perch, carp gudgeon, glass perch, blue eye, eel, catfish and even bull trout were common in Cubberla and Witton Creeks in the 1960s before the freeway was constructed, housing density increased, and before bridge structures were replaced by culverts.

Fish surveys in Brisbane's inner western creek grew out of a regular annual sampling program developed by Dr Kev Warburton from the University of Queensland as part of a final year undergraduate course 'Fish and Fisheries'. They moved into the standardised Fish Snapshot program that included sampling by community groups such as CWCN and expanded coverage by Kev Warburton's research group at UQ. The latter resulted in the identification of a genetically unique strand of the Purple-spotted gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*) in Cubberla Creek.

The results of above sampling activities were summarised in a series of annual reports to the Natural Environment and Sustainability branch of BCC which funded the Aquatic Biodiversity Research Partnership between BCC and UQ. Standardised methods for the sampling of fish and other creek biota by community





Dr Kev Warburton often participated in CWCN fish snapshots, here checking turbidity tube and examining fish species in bait trap .

and school groups were eventually described in educational material produced as part of the "Cool Pools" project, in collaboration with BCC (NESB), the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and a number of community groups including CWCN.

Following the above described development of community fish survey protocols and keys for freshwater fish identification CWCN conducted regular fish snapshots between 2003 and 2008, at times with support from University of Queensland students and often with Kev Warburton. Standard sampling sites visited twice a year were in Cubberla Creek downstream from Moggill Road and near the bridge off Moorfields Street, Fig Tree Pocket as well as in Witton Creek at the Jack Bowers Oval, Indooroopilly.

Occasionally additional sites were surveyed, e.g. upstream of Moggill Road and downstream of Cliveden Park. Apart from freshwater fish data collection, the surveys included water quality assessments and macroinvertebrates sampling as well as a general creek health evaluation including a description of creek morphology and vegetation cover.

Although our highly modified creeks showed an abundance of exotic gambusia (*Gambusia holbrooki*) platies (*Xiphophorus maculatus*), mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) and swordtails (*Xiphophorus helleri*) during all our surveys, native species such as the purple spotted gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*), firetail gudgeon (*Hypseleotris galii*) and striped gudgeon (*Gobio-morphus australis*) were caught, and spangled perch

Left: Fish Sampling at Cubberla Creek's Hairpin Bend in Fig Tree Pocket with (from left) Colleen Strickland emptying a bait trap, Dot Lim and Lisa Cattanaach observing fish, and Lois Eden assessing creek vegetation—Right: A school of sea mullets was sighted at the same fish snapshot in the lower reaches of the creek — 2006.







From left : Jayne Seebeck, Christopher Lyon, Sue Lefevre, Richard Bull, Jessica Lyon—Cubberla Creek 2013

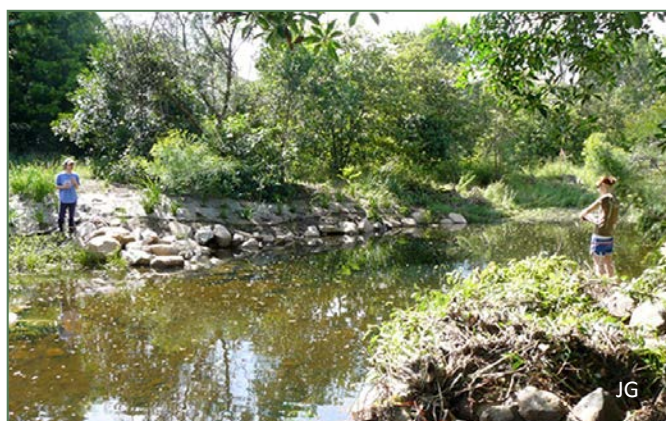
(*Leiopotherapon unicolor*) and even a school of sea mullets (*Mugil cephalus*) were sighted during our snapshots. Cubberla Creek below Moggill Road had only recently been returned to a naturalised channel design after a long period of running through a concrete drain. The hope was that, as creek restoration matured and better aquatic and riparian habitat was created, the native species would return.

Catchment groups conducted fish surveys under Council’s Animal Ethics Permit. When Council decided not to renew the permit, fish surveys came to a halt. It took several years before the Brisbane Catchments Network successfully applied for the permit which now enables catchment groups to restart their sampling program. CWCN’s intention is to reinstate these once regular and valuable fish snapshots.

Lara Fahey at fish survey in 2012



By 2007 one of the worst drought periods on record led to cooperation between Brisbane City Council (Natural Environment and Sustainability and Water Resources branches), University of Queensland, catchment groups, schools and the Wildlife Preservation Society with the aim to better understand aquatic ecology and threats to biodiversity and to develop strategies for protecting aquatic biodiversity in times of drought. As a result and with the involvement of environmental engineer Ross Kapitzke of James Cook University, pools were established in Cubberla Creek downstream of Moggill Road. These pools provide habitat during drought and opportunities to monitor conditions. They are also suitable for community education and awareness raising about creek health and local aquatic conditions.



An enhanced pool in the mid reaches of Cubberla Creek with Dot Lim on left and Colleen Strickland on right - 2007

Thanks to cooperation with Ross Kapitzke and funds from Brisbane City Council, Cubberla Creek under the Moggill Road bridge saw the development and installation of a fish ladder prototype. This artificial passage was intended to allow fish to move upstream despite man made barriers, in the case of box culverts with a concrete base replacing the creek bed. Although permanent fish ladders were not installed, this prototype helped to further develop a system that will benefit aquatic biodiversity.

Ross Kapitzke







Male Water Bug (*Diplonycys sp*) carrying eggs on his back

## Macroinvertebrates

Healthy creeks are rich in biodiversity, and water quality can be measured by assessing creek life. There is great value in determining types and quantity of aquatic macroinvertebrates in our waterways. Abundance, diversity and the resilience of particular species in particular habitats give an indication of water quality in our heavily modified and impacted urban catchments.

In recent times CWCN members have participated in macroinvertebrates workshops offered under BCC's W.H.A.T. training program. Additionally, as part of a series of biodiversity workshops the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network ran its own macroinvertebrates training workshop in October of 2018, made possible thanks to Federal Government funding and further financial support through BCC's Community Conservation

Partnerships Program. Following this workshop, macroinvertebrates were sampled in four of Brisbane's inner western creeks in the spring of 2018. During this participation in the nationwide Waterbug Blitz, multiple sites were categorised according to riffles, pools and edge margin locations, and samples were taken and identified.

Long-term local macroinvertebrate monitoring remains an important aim for CWCN. We can expand on data collected by CWCN over several years, monitor habitat creation (or loss) and measure the success of our rehabilitation work.

Water quality has always been a part of CWCN's community engagement and education activities. These include water quality monitoring with local schools, themed storytelling, live macro-invertebrates and photo displays, hands-on workshops for beginners, support for surveys, and information via CWCN publications. We continue to be grateful to Brisbane City Council for providing training and calibration of monitoring equipment, and Brisbane Catchments Network for support with animal ethics permits.

Below left: Macroinvertebrates sampling during fish survey — 2006; right: Don Begbie and Maggie Deeth identifying—2018







Lisa Cattnach—Cubberla Creek—fish survey 2004—CW



Fish Survey = Sandy Creek  
St Lucia Golf Links. 2010—JG



Sampling at Biarni Yumba Lagoon—2006—JG



Brian Venz sampling aquatic  
invertebrates—2018—JG



Lois Eden  
assesses  
riparian  
Vegetation—2006



Jutta Godwin empties her boots—2012



Kev Warburton places  
a bait trap 2006—JG



Jef Cummings and Tony  
Pressland identify macro-  
invertebrates—2018



Akuna Ovals during a flood







# Bushcare groups and Land for Wildlife

Brisbane's highly urbanised inner west has a rich and often surprising natural wealth in bushland remnants and along local waterways. CWCN works to protect and enhance these natural assets

At the core of CWCN's approach is the safe guarding of our remaining local biodiversity by repairing and enhancing corridors for wildlife movements. Bushland and waterway rehabilitation is channelled through corridor projects:



Planting Day on Cubberla Creek off Burns Parade— 2018

## Cubberla Creek Connect:

12 groups, registered with BCC's Habitat Brisbane Program rehabilitate along Cubberla Creek by removing weeds and planting native vegetation to encourage wildlife use. Cubberla Creek and its tributaries as well as their riparian zone form a core corridor for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife movement between Brisbane River and Mount Coot-tha. This corridor is an essential part of Brisbane's biodiversity network and identified as having high ecological value under Council's City Plan (2014). Apart from CWCN's own projects (e.g. at Dillingen Street Park) and the work Brisbane Girls Grammar School carries out at their sports campus in Fig Tree Pocket, the following groups are active in the catchment:

- Ardes and Lomandra Street Parks Bushcare Group, Chapel Hill
- Brushbox Court Bushcare Group, Chapel Hill
- Burns Parade Bushcare Group, Chapel Hill
- Butterfly Bushcare Group, Chapel Hill

- Cubberla Creek Revegetation Group, Chapel Hill
- Little Gubberley Bushcare Group, Kenmore
- Kenmore South Creek Care, Kenmore
- Kersley Road Bushcare Group, Kenmore
- Merri Merri Park Bushcare Group, Chapel Hill
- Rainbow Forest Experimental Rehabilitation Group, Indooroopilly
- The Hut Bushland Care Group, Chapel Hill
- Wandering Weeders, Chapel Hill

## Witton for Wildlife:

Volunteer groups from Green Hill Reservoir in Chapel Hill to the creek mouth near Indooroopilly's Walter Taylor Bridge work on improving the health of bushland remnants and highly modified Witton Creek through weed management and the establishment of native vegetation. Their work influences the repairing of a wildlife



corridor along Witton Creek, identified under CWCN’s Witton for Wildlife project. This corridor is recognised as having high ecological value under Council’s City Plan (status January 2014). A close co-operation has also been developed with the University of Queensland Mine in Indooroopilly which forms an important part of the corridor, and with Indooroopilly Scouts Group in Finney Rd. The following groups, registered under BCC’s Habitat Brisbane Program, are working in the small catchment:

- Clarina Street Park Bushcare Group, Chapel Hill
- Goldsbrough Road Bushcare Group, Taringa
- Greenhill Regenerators, Chapel Hill
- Heather’s Patch Bushcare Group, Taringa
- Indooroopilly Woods Bushcare Group, Indooroopilly
- Moore Park Bushcare Group, Indooroopilly
- Taringa Parade Bushcare Group (Moore Park), Indooroopilly

Below: Community Day at Moore Park/ Taringa Pde reach — March 2017— Bottom left from left: Moore Park bushcare group convenor Des Hoban with botanist David Moore and Lois Eden— 2018 — Bottom right: National Tree Day planting on the Brisbane River, St Lucia 2018



Erosion control at Toowong Creek— 2018

**Toowong Creek:**

Toowong Creek is a stepping stone corridor within the Brisbane Biodiversity Network and in a highly urbanised area close to the CBD. However, the creek’s and the corridor’s importance for local wildlife and Toowong residents is not sufficiently recognised. CWCN continues to work with the local bushcare group

- Toowong Creek Roving Rehabilitator, Toowong

**Sandy Creek Habitat Drive:**

Sandy Creek has suffered through urbanisation with most of the waterway piped and placed underground. However, the lower reaches of the catchment, especially downstream from Indooroopilly Road and in the St Lucia Golf Links show excellent potential for habitat repair. This section links up with the Brisbane River system. CWCN supports the important work done by

- St Lucia Golf Links Bushcare Group, St Lucia





**Brisbane River Corridor:**

Bushcare groups working outside of the system of our Inner West creeks but within the Brisbane River system focus on restoration of remnant riverine and other habitats adjacent or near the Brisbane River. Weed removal and planting endemic species are key measures to enhance biodiversity and restore habitats. Many of these areas are important stepping stones for connectivity along the river or linking up with existing corridors. CWCN supports the local bushcare groups working under the Habitat Brisbane Program in this area:

- Banksia Park Bushcare Group, St Lucia
- Ironside Bushcare Group, St Lucia
- Manaton Park Bushcare Group, Indooroopilly
- St Lucia Esplanade Bushcare Group, St Lucia

**Western Creek Habitat Drive**

This catchment has lost a lot of its natural potential to urbanisation, yet pockets of bushland remnants in the upper reaches of the creek survive and provide important habitat for native wildlife. The proximity to Mount Coot-tha Forest Park makes rehabilitation highly desirable for reasons of connectivity.

- Western Creek Bushcare Group, Bardon



Niki Hill in front of Whalebone Tree on Land for Wildlife property in Brisbane’s inner west. - JG

**Retired Bushcare Groups**

Few of our bushcare groups have downed their tools. They worked tirelessly and achieved amazing results. They were the **Gubberley Creek Rehabilitation Group**, **Boblynne Street Rehabilitation Group**, and the **Indooroopilly Canoe Club**. Whether the reason for closing down the groups was age, the achievement of the original goals or flood inundation and bikeway construction, we are grateful for the immense work invested. We as a community benefit from the work done by volunteers and are grateful for amazing achievements.

Engaging families in bushcare has always been important to CWCN; here a family fun day at Rainbow Forest 2007







Our environment is in good hands with these four enthusiastic planters. From left: Isobel Golding, Ruby Golding (front), Arianna Camacho and Joaquin Camacho. They have taken ownership of their patch on Cubberla Ck as members of the Burns Parade Bushcare Group. - JG

College in Indooroopilly, has done remarkable student driven rehabilitation work in a small creek gully running through their property into the Brisbane River.

Since formation CWCN has worked closely with the Habitat Brisbane Program and later the Creek Catchment Program to further the aim of healthy habitats and connectivity. We are grateful for the regular support received from Brisbane City Council for the purpose.

Committed to improving the environmental health of the inner western catchments CWCN has also written and/or sponsored numerous grant applications supporting rehabilitation by bushcare groups or by CWCN itself. Funding has been received from all levels of Government and in a variety of forms, be it through Federally funded Green Corps support, or through direct funding originating from Brisbane City Council's *Environment and Sustainability* as well as *Community Conservation Assistance Grants*, State Government's *Everyone's Environment* and *Community Sustainability Action Grants*, and the Australian Government's *Caring for our Country Grants*

and *The National Landcare Program Environment Small Grant*, to name a few. Additionally, we were beneficiaries of Brisbane-wide grant allocations, devolved by SEQ Catchments under the banner 'What's your Nature?'.

CWCN and our catchments have also benefited from the allocation of funding offsetting larger infrastructure projects. All funding has enabled inroads into transforming our catchments into healthier natural environments providing recovery help and benefits for our fauna and, not to be forgotten, for our local residents. We continue to be grateful for all support.

The love for the environment continues, no matter the age: John and Annette Flower at a community planting event in 2019





From left: Lyn Fairlie, Kon Michnowksy, Phil Carter—2003



Geoff Dalton-Morgan, Lois Eden with cats claw tuber., 2004



## To tell the truth...



To tell the truth, I never want to go to Bush Care. The idea of getting up at 6:30 on a Saturday, to scrounge around in the dirt and lantana, pulling up weeds and digging holes, with a bunch of old fogies, for no pay or benefit, somehow never seems appealing on Friday night at the end of a long week!! I would much rather sleep in, then enjoy a slow breakfast while reading the papers.

But, I just have to remind myself that I felt this way last month and I try to remember how I felt at the end of the working bee.

I remember the pride and satisfaction I felt with the good work we had achieved that day. I remember that I felt good for having done some decent exercise for once. I remember the excellent morning tea provided by Lois and the good company of the friendly and selflessly hard-working members of the group. But most of all I remember the way the park looked before the Bush Care Group was set up and contrast that memory with the way the park looks now after all the hard work that has been done.

This contrast certainly makes me feel that all the time I have put in has been worthwhile. And it inspires me to get up at 6:30 on a Saturday to scrounge around in the dirt and lantana because I know that what we do this time will make a big difference to our local environment in the future. Putting in a few hours at Moore Park once a month helps me to feel less anxious about the state of the environment because I know that I have done something small, yet significant, to help. More importantly I know that many others are doing the same. It gives me hope for the future.

Kirsten Hoban

ca. 2006



Ron Godwin (left) and Graeme Taylor—2005

Stephen Wilson, Lare Shordon and Stephanie McKinnon—2003



Janelle Kingston, 2003

Carolyn Fitz-Gerald, 2003

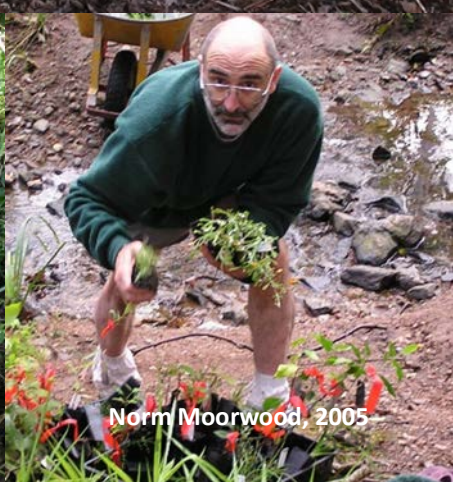


Kay Smith, 2005

Ceri Benson, 2004



Norm Moorwood, 2005







JG



SA



JG



JG



JG



SA



JG



# Surveys & Contributions to Research

At the core of CWCN’s strategic plan are the protection and enhancement of the still rich biodiversity in Brisbane’s inner western catchments. Equally important is the repair of links connecting intact sections of wildlife movement corridors to enable free fauna movements between the Brisbane River, Mt Coot-tha and the D’Aguilar Range. We realise that, due to land use changes over time, increased housing density and construction of the Western Freeway/Centenary Highway many species are now lost to our catchments or large parts of it. To protect and enhance our remaining natural assets CWCN assesses what species still call our highly urbanised catchments home, compares these data with historical records, and works on understanding habitat requirements. In addition to educational activities supporting this process by awareness raising, CWCN has for years conducted or participated in fauna and flora assessments with highly valuable and sometimes surprising results.

Citizen science plays a large part in our biodiversity assessments. Many CWCN’s members contribute to the **Atlas of Living Australia** database, and some are CWCN Clan Members to **QuestaGame**, participating



Claudia Schipp - **QuestaGame** at Biامي Yumba Park 2018

in themed quests and challenges. Many have contributed not only to the success of surveys listed but to a better understanding of what makes up our natural world.

Targeted and larger surveys have provided a more comprehensive picture, especially when indicator species were assessed; these provided habitat health evaluations valid beyond the target species.

**Bird Surveys** have been a constant among CWCN activities. A first comprehensive picture of our avian fauna

was established when lists, dating back to the 1960s and provided by individual local birders, were collated for CWCN’s symposia papers in 2001. In more recent years, our Network has set out to compare these data with current sightings and has expanded the activities to include newer catchments.

Under the guidance of Lyn Cole, sites across our catchments are regularly visited and have gradually expanded in number to improve the evaluation of our local birdlife. Most sites see surveys twice a year to also capture seasonal changes in our bird populations. These surveys provide an insight into the health of our


Noisy Friarbird (*Philemon corniculatus*)





catchments, note the results of landscape changes (e.g. due to developments) and changes resulting from successful rehabilitation work. The many birding events per year have a large following and have raised awareness about habitat requirements not only for small birds but also for vulnerable species like the powerful owl and the glossy black cockatoo see below .

### MICROBATS OF BRISBANE'S INNER WEST


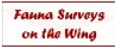



White-striped free-tail bat (*Austronomus australis*)  
Photographer: Michael Pennay©

A report for the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network Inc.  
& Brisbane City Council

Monika and Martin P. Rhodes  
Fauna Surveys on the Wing®

May 2015



**Microbat Survey.** Thanks to a Brisbane City Council grant, in 2014/2015 CWCN was able to work with bat biologists Dr Monika Rhodes and Dr Martin Rhodes on a comprehensive survey of echolocating microbats by conducting transect walks with recording equipment and by using stationary bat detectors capturing calls in many locations over longer periods. The results showing 15 different insectivorous bat species in our highly urbanised catchments remain significant beyond Brisbane. Our survey results have strengthened the argument for functioning wildlife movement corridors.

**Dung Beetle Surveys.** Together with entomologist Dr Geoff Monteith, CWCN surveyed dung beetles across our catchments in 2006. Dung beetles are ideal indicator species as almost all of them are not only linked to vertebrate fauna because of their diet, they are also influenced by soil type and vegetation cover.

Following a fully booked introductory workshop, Geoff and Jutta Godwin placed the vast majority of traps (baited with dung and fungi), with locations reaching from the summit of Mount Coot-tha to the edge of the Brisbane River. species were recorded, a remarkable result for our highly urbanised catchments, especially when compared to survey results of the mostly rural Moggill Creek catchment a year later which noted 31 native species.



*Onthophagus tweedensis*

**Dragonflies and Damselflies** were first surveyed with participants of CWCN’s first Greencorps project at Moore Park in 2005. Entomologists Dr Chris Burwell and Dr Geoff Monteith from the Queensland Museum led this small survey at Moore Park (Witton Creek) and at Rainbow Forest (Cubberla Creek). It was remarked at the time that five of the species discovered were not recorded in the then recent City Council funded *Terrestrial Invertebrate Status Review*, mainly because the examined creeks lacked running water. A year later, and this time together with Deniss and Joan Reeves from the Australian Dragonfly Society and several members of the Butterflies and Other Invertebrates Club including president Ross Kendall, the survey continued at Biami Yumba Park where the lagoon and a little stormwater tributary allowed for records of additional species





An individual survey done by entomologist Richard Bull with Jutta Godwin at Little Gubberley Creek and the pools on Cubberla Creek, as well as previous observations by dragonfly enthusiast Alexander Pollock, and by Ric Natrass and Deniss Reeves provided us with more data. As dragonfly and damselfly larvae are excellent indicators of waterway health, we may be well advised to continue our observational activities.



Eastern Sedge Frog (*Litoria fallax*)

**Frog Surveys.**

As early as 1999 frogs were focus species for CWCN as they are important indicators of environmental health, especially where creeks and riparian areas and other freshwater bodies support their semi-aquatic lifestyle.

In 2013 CWCN gained the support of frog special-ist Harry Hines who with support of Jesse Rowland introduced CWCN frog lovers to our local species and indicated which likely species we should find. Field trips helped our understanding, and CWCN members went out with recording devices to capture frog calls across our catchments. The calls of nine native frog species were captured along different creek lines, among them, unfortunately, cane toads (*Rhinella marina*). However, we are proud to state that Cubberla as well as Witton and Toowong Creeks host the vulnerable Tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*).

Information on **fish surveys, macro-invertebrates sampling** and the **assessment of water quality** can be found in the section *Water Quality Monitoring*.

Data on local **flora** have not only been kept by local re-habilitators but are also continuously assessed in coop-eration with BCC’s Habitat Brisbane Program. Most of them have entered CWCN’s database, and have been compared with historical data.



Starfish Fungus (*Aseroe rubra*)

On a smaller more personalised scale based on CWCN members’ interests, records have been kept on **fungi** and **lichens**, and also on **mistletoes**, all worthy of larger surveys. Records of local **butterflies** should be compared through a survey to assess whether populations are stable or follow a seemingly interna-tional trend of decline in insect numbers.



Chequered Swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*)



On a smaller more personalised scale based on CWCN members' interests, records have been kept on fungi and lichens, and also on mistletoes, all worthy of larger surveys. Records of local butterflies should be compared through a survey to assess whether populations are stable or follow a seemingly international trend of decline.

Not to be forgotten is the research done by others. It has resulted in CWCN and individual members participating in the Recovery Plans of species such as:

**Angle-stemmed Myrtle (*Gossia gonoclada*).**

Under the care and watchful eye of Ros Laundon, Rain-bow Forest has become a successful recovery site for this threatened species. This is of particular importance as our catchments contains locations where this extremely rare tree occurs naturally.

**Richmond Birdwing Butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*).**

Plantings of the larval host plant *Pararistolochia praevenosa* have occurred across our catchments, but nowhere in such large numbers as on connected Land for Wildlife properties in Fig Tree Pocket. Niki and Vernon Hill, Ian Yeo and Sylvia Alexander have set the path for the re-establishment of this vulnerable species, once common in Brisbane.

**Glossy black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*).**

Multiple plantings have occurred in the upper reaches of our catchments to accommodate the food plants for this vulnerable species. CWCN member Lyn Cole is the local Conservancy Officer for the Glossy black-cockatoo, raises awareness of the bird's plight and needs, and encourages rehabilitators to plant *Allocasuarina littoralis* and *AA. torulosa*.

**Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*).**

The largest Australian owl calls our catchments home. It has been sighted not only on Mount Coot-tha but also in the upper reaches of Toowong Creek. It is a regular presence in Fig Tree Pocket on Land for Wildlife properties and has been nesting there for years. With vertical hollows in old growth trees being of particular importance during the breeding season, CWCN is fully aware of its responsibility to protect vegetation for this vulnerable and very special local species.

To advance CWCN's vision, our Network and individual members have written submissions or provided support, material, information, or have actively participated in or contributed to the Regional Plan, the Brisbane City Plan, the SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan, the Kenmore Bypass debate, the Long Pocket project, the Mt Coot-tha Visioning project, and the Indooroopilly Centre Community Planning Committee, and more. CWCN and CWCN members have also contributed with submissions or via direct liaison and participation to a range of regional and local topics and issues, among them Queensland Biodiversity Strategy, Brisbane City Council Recreation Strategy, St Lucia Golf Links Masterplan, and Indooroopilly Neighbourhood Plan and Cubberla Creek Reserve Precinct Plan. We will continue to provide input where we consider it appropriate and necessary.

Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) at Fig Tree Pocket







Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) - SA





Elegant lynx spider (*Oxyopes elegans*) - SA



# Our Vision

A protected and enhanced biodiversity in inner western catchments of Brisbane, supported by a dedicated and involved community actively participating in the restoration and protection of bushland, waterway and wetland habitats.

## Strategies

- Develop and implement creek assessment framework for Cubberla, Witton, Sandy, Toowong and Western Creek catchments;
- Monitor and improve the condition of creeks and water quality in each catchment;
- Monitor, protect and improve biodiversity in the catchments and support the establishment and maintenance of wildlife corridors linking the catchments from their source to the Brisbane River and beyond.
- Work with bushcare groups to develop longer-term strategic plans to protect, maintain and improve the health of natural areas in each catchment;
- Investigate and document catchment health through citizen science and collaboration with universities, schools and other nrm organisations;
- Generate enthusiasm and participation across all ages in the catchment in environmental issues and catchment rehabilitation and protection;
- Promote and support environmental education and awareness in all levels of schooling and the general community;
- Promote environmental values and CWCN activities and achievements through electronic media, community and science publications;
- Attract corporate involvement and sponsorship in protecting and improving natural areas and biodiversity in the catchments; and
- Collaborate with and actively involve the indigenous community in our environmental efforts.

Dogwood (*Jacksonia scoparia*) - JG







Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) - JG



# Significant Contributions

## By Members/Committee/Others

### Chris Kahler:

Chris Kahler majored in Botany and Ecology and worked as a field supervisor with Brisbane City Council's (now defunct) Bushland Rehabilitation Unit working with the Landcare Environment Action Program volunteers/participants around Brisbane. He later became the Extension Officer for Cubberla and Ithaca Creek Catchments with Greening Australia. Chris was subsequently appointed as a Technical Officer with the Queensland Herbarium Vegetation Mapping Team, Environmental Protection Agency. He is presently based in Townsville.

Chris had worked with local bushcare groups on Cubberla Creek and cooperated with The Gould League's Environmental Education Officer and Waterwatch Coordinator prior to initiating the discussions that led to the formation of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network.

### Toni Tyson-Donely:

Toni Tyson-Donley, B.Sc. (Honours), worked as Environmental Consultant for Greening Australia and was the BCC commissioned Extension Officer for the Cubberla and Witton Creek catchments during 1999-2000.

Her expertise in habitat restoration, community extension, vegetation survey and natural asset auditing as well as overall vegetation management enabled her to effectively work with Council and Community and to produce the comprehensive *"Cubberla and Witton Creek community habitat restoration plan: a blueprint for community action in protecting and restoring vegetation on public land in Cubberla and Witton Creek catchments"* (2001), a manual continuing to be of immense value until today. Today, Toni lives and works in Tasmania.



Lisa Cattanach (left) and Robin Trotter during fish survey in 2006

### Lisa Cattanach:

Lisa's connection with CWCN started during her time as The Gould League's Waterwatch Coordinator and Environmental Education Officer working out of what was originally called The Gould League Hut and later became the premises of The Hut Environmental and Community Association. As a teacher Lisa excelled in her educational work with local schools during this period.

Together with Ray Kelly she anchored water quality monitoring activities firmly into the work of CWCN. Lisa became CWCN's first convenor in 1999, handing over to Robin Trotter in 2003.

Lisa established the working pattern of CWCN after formation and continued to support our activities for years to come. She was part of the team integrating regular fish surveys into our activities in cooperation with BCC Water Resources and Dr Kev Warburton from University of Queensland.



**Ray Kelly, Life Member CWCN 2019:**

Ray, a Master of Environmental Science, had a professional career in the field of land and catchment management. In his working life, he worked for the Soil Conservation Authority in Victoria, reporting on the condition of the large Hume and the management of alpine land. He also assisted the Land Conservation Council in determining land-use for all public lands, and in the planning for the Albury-Wodonga Development Area. In Queensland, Ray was responsible for planning environmental monitoring and land rehabilitation programs in the Bowen Basin coalfields, and for environmental studies Australia-wide.

In his retirement, Ray has been a conscientious environmental volunteer, and is a founding member of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network, with a passion for recording and analysing rainfall, water quality and changes in the creeks of Brisbane’s inner west. For more than 25 years until quite recently, Ray maintained excellent scientific records of the local waterways as well as implementing training standards to establish best practice for a team of volunteers.

Ray has also maintained photographic records of runoff generated from rainfall events in the catchments, as well as vegetation and soil changes which have



Ray monitoring the water quality of Cubberla Creek—2011

occurred. Not only does he use this data to report back to various local catchment groups, he has also provided public presentations on the meaning and importance of these studies.

Ray has been instrumental in guiding and mentoring members of catchment groups to undertake water quality assessments. As a result of Ray’s encouragement and coaching, several members of the group have undertaken training in water sampling and testing as a component of a Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management. Through Ray’s dedication to the environment, he has made a major contribution to the safe urbanisation of our waterways.

Ray was a Healthy Waterways finalist in the 2015 Waterways Champion category. In 2017 he received the Australia Day Achievement Award from Brisbane’s Lord Mayor.



Ray Kelly participating in fish sampling in 2004





Jutta Godwin with Indooroopilly State School students, Arbor Day 2009

### Jutta Godwin:

Long-time member Jutta Godwin is dedicated to protecting biodiversity through community education, awareness building and on-ground activities through her volunteer services. As President of CWCN (2004-2015) and in her other roles, Jutta has been a driving force, taking CWCN from a small organisation focused on providing moral support to bushcare groups in the Cubberla and Witton catchments, to an organisation that has taken on the responsibility for the entire inner-west catchments area, now extending to include Too-wong, Sandy and Western Creeks.

Jutta has written many successful grant applications for CWCN and bushcare groups, has run rehabilitation projects, initiated fauna surveys, been responsible for the organisation of numerous successful public events including themed festivals (fungi, bats, pollinators), conferences on fungi and soil biology, numerous workshops, family fun days and National Tree Day plantings in support of many bushcare sites. Jutta has also led the involvement of CWCN in environmental planning initiating CWCN's first strategic plan. Her dedication is an example of how an individual can promote biodiversity and protect Brisbane's natural assets.

Jutta was the editor of our newsletter *Catchments Coo-ee* from 2004 onwards including the later electronic version, created our first website (launched in 2003) and attends to our current one. She handles CWCN's social media and most of our PR work with commercial

print media. She was also the driving force behind efforts to obtain our very own and essential catchment centre.

During her time as president Jutta has hosted multiple corporate volunteering events across our catchments. Together with Creek Catchment Officer Michael Thorley she accompanied the now long term involvement of Golder Associates, took over the running of working bees with up to 50 volunteers from him before eventually handing over to Tony Pressland and Don Begbie.

She continues to be involved in bushcare activities, and develops and runs hugely successful educational activities for adults and children.

Jutta was a recipient of the Lord Mayor's Australia Day Achievement Award in 2015.



### Dr Robin Trotter:

Robin is an Adjunct Research Fellow at Griffith University with an interest in museums, heritage, history, arts and cultural development and a special focus on regions in all their possible forms – ranging from political and geographic regions to local catchments.

Robin is a founding member of CWCN and has been a committee member since incorporation. She succeeded Lisa Cattin as CWCN Convenor in 2003 but in 2004, due to her professional workload she stepped down from that role. However, she still found the time to complete the oral histories project *Catchment Voices I and II*, a brilliant collection of personalised stories from our catchments, giving insights into the development of the local area.



Robin was a member of the Cubberla Creek Revegetation Group, then commonly known as the Sutling Street mob. Robin is a founding member of CWCN, has been a committee member since incorporation. She was an integral part of our fish surveys due to her extensive knowledge of native fish species. Robin started CWCN's very successful Book Club in 2014 and convenes it to this day.



Lois Eden (right) congratulating Moore Park bushcarer Doreen Woolard for her 80th Birthday. 2002

#### Lois Eden:

Lois was the longest serving treasurer in CWCN's history. An overwhelming professional workload resulted in several attempts to find a replacement. She supported predecessors and successors in their endeavours, stepped into the role again when she had to, and ended up with well over a dozen years of either being the treasurer or the supporting or acting treasurer.

Lois co-carried many of our activities hands-on, whether they were community planting events, family fun days, conferences or festivals, fish sampling or other survey events, whether she ran our book sales, or organised catering for our general meetings for many years. She was a consistent and reliable force. Without her involvement many of our activities wouldn't have had the quality they became well known for.

Lois is a founding member of the Moore Park Bushcare Group and was its first convenor mobilising the neighbourhood to participate in large numbers. She looked after the relationship with Indooroopilly State School (ISS) which resulted in a close cooperation between both Moore Park rehabilitation groups, CWCN and ISS over many years.

#### Joan Redgrave:

Joan was passionate about our local environment. She was a founding member of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network and was on its committee for many years. Joan edited our newsletter *Catchments Cooee* until 2004. Her excellent job as editor of the *Cooee* provided members with important support for their rehabilitation activities and information on issues relevant to CWCN's work.



Joan Redgrave

Joan started CWCN's long running Clean Up Australia Day participation, recruited many local individuals, families and groups such as Kenmore Rotary and Kenmore Girl Guides to return year after year.

She was the Convenor of The Hut Bushland Care Group and ran additional working bees dedicated to the removal of Mother of Millions from Mount Coot-tha. Joan also actively supported the work of the Cubberla Creek Revegetation Group. Furthermore, Joan was a committee member of The Hut Environmental and Community Association.

Joan passed away in 2015.

The lichen *Cladonia neozelandica*— Mt Coot-tha



JG





Birder and rehabilitator Lyn Cole

### Lyn Cole:

For many years, Lyn has tirelessly given her time to nurturing and rehabilitating Brisbane's natural environment and has contributed to the environmental health of our catchments in a variety of ways. She is an active member of Birds Queensland, but as member of the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network, Lyn has been conducting frequent and highly popular bird walks in different parts of Brisbane's inner west to assess bird populations, to advise on seasonal changes or changes based on local developments or rehabilitation results, to advise on habitat status and appropriate habitat creation for birds and other animals.

In 2004, along with her husband Phil, Lyn formed the *Wandering Weeders*, a rehabilitation group registered with BCC's Habitat Brisbane Program. Since then this group of like-minded locals has been undertaking working bees twice weekly on the Chapel Hill slopes of Mount Coot-tha. Additionally, Lyn and Phil support the work done by the Little Gubberley Bushcare Group.

Lyn is a past President of The Hut Environmental and Community Association. She promotes awareness about the protection of the threatened Glossy black-cockatoo in her role as its local Conservancy Convenor.

In 2017 Lyn was the recipient of the Lord Mayor's Green Heart Award for an individual, singled out for her work in birding and bushcare and as a volunteer leader. She became a finalist for the Healthy Land and Water 'Volunteer of the Year' Award in the same year.

### Dr Tony Pressland

Tony is a long-time member, a past vice president and president of CWCN. He is also an active member of the Little Gubberley Bushcare Group, supports corporate working bees with Golder Associates at Dillingen Street Park and community planting events across our catchments.



Tony Pressland at National Tree Day—Toowong 2014

He succeeded Ray Kelly in monitoring the water quality of our inner western creeks in multiple locations on a monthly basis and ensured that results were added to a central data base. Tony also took over the co-ordination of CWCN's Clean Up Australia Day activities following the passing of Joan Redgrave in 2015.

Tony's love for the nurturing of young people shines through with his educational work. He has adopted Kenmore South State School's Environment Club and attends their meetings on a regular basis providing hands on learning experiences for local school students on water, soils and other environmental topics. He has enjoyed his involvement with high school students at occasions facilitated by the Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre, and has guided university students through research activities in our catchments.



Right: Lacebark Tree (*Brachychiton discolor*) - flowers



**Brian Venz**

Brian Venz is a past president, and the current vice president of CWCN. He is also a past treasurer and vice president of Brisbane Catchments Network. Brian currently serves on the Board of Queensland Water and Landcarers.

Thanks to Brian, CWCN became a charity. Together with past treasurer Roxane Eden, Brian achieved tax deductible gift recipient status for CWCN and was instrumental in establishing the Brisbane Inner West Environment Fund (BIWEF).

Brian is a member of Clarina Street Park Bushcare Group. He is a keen and active supporter of conservation along the Brisbane River Corridor reaches of our catchments area and actively supports rehabilitation work at Handel Street Park. He has also enabled extensive grant-based rehabilitation work done at Ambrose Treacy College and accompanied and supported the progress throughout the project.



Don Begbie (left), Brian Venz at Chapel Hill State School Fete 2018

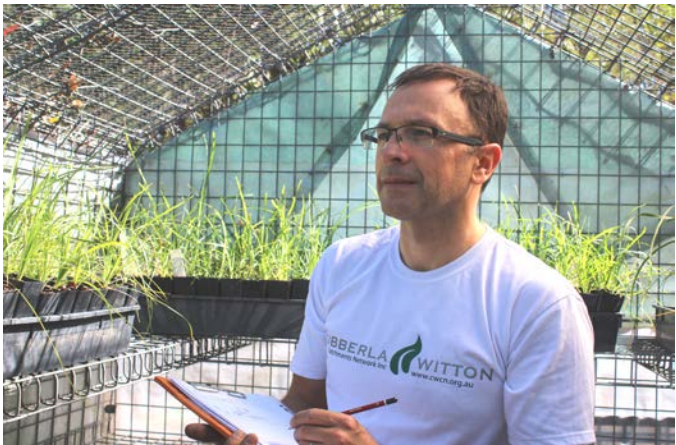
**Don Begbie**

Don is the current President of CWCN and was Secretary for three years before that. He is a member of the South East Queensland Catchment Management (SEQCMA) Board, representing the Lower Brisbane River, Bayside and Stradbroke Island catchments. He is a member of the St Lucia Golf Course Bushcare Group and an active participant in rehabilitation work at Dillingen St Park and at Handel St Park.

Don has a leading role in water quality monitoring in the catchment area and is actively involved in macroinvertebrates sampling. He is a keen supporter of

university research activities in the catchments, and National Tree Day, Clean Up Australia Day and Golder Associates corporate tree planting day events.

**Henry Camacho:**



Henry Camacho evaluating progress of plants in CWCN greenhouse

Henry is a former CWCN committee member. He has been convenor of CWCN’s very active Plant Propagation Group and the coordinator of the Burns Parade Bushcare group, one of our highly successful younger rehabilitation groups, which with innovative approaches attracts many local families and other volunteering residents from the surrounding area who have taken ownership of their bushland area along Cubberla Creek.

Henry has also participated in water quality monitoring. On many occasions he has supported our educational activities during school holidays and has made sure that CWCN members contribute to Chapel Hill State School’s Environment Club.

Native Lassiandra or Blue tongue (*Melastoma affine*)









