



Streamlines

Newsletter of the Pullen Pullen Catchments Group Inc.

November 2020

Welcome to the final issue of Streamlines for 2020. Our first article by one of the 'activists' of the period, John Griffiths, describes the beginning of the Woodcrest Estate on Moggill Road, Pullenvale and the establishment of Pullenvale Forest Park. John and Rachel have been staunch supporters of PPCG since its inception. We thank them for their contribution and wish them well as they move away from the area. If other readers would like to add to this story, please feel free to do so in future issues of Streamlines.

Next, Brian Dean entertains us with a description of over fifty years of developing his and Nola's property in Anstead. He particularly mentions inch weed (*Callisia repens*) which is described in the subsequent article.

John Ness brings the immense numbers involved in global warning down to more understandable terms as a property owner walks along one boundary of her 1 ha block of land. Finally, our Wildlife Officer, Irene Darlington, describes the consequences for household pets and wildlife of using conventional rat poisons.

Streamlines would never make it to publication if it weren't for the members who contribute items, Brian Dean who proofreads every issue, the ladies at PEEC who print the hard copies to go by mail and Nola Dean and Liz Dominguez who between them make sure email announcements of each issue are sent out and each issue is uploaded to our website. Thank you all. You make my job very easy.

All members are welcome to submit articles to Streamlines via helian@pretirementresorts.com.au. Articles by members on what they have done to restore habitat on their own land are always popular. If you would like to share your story – either written by yourself or in conjunction with me – I would love to hear from you at the above email address. The deadline for the next issue is 15 February 2021.

Very best wishes for the
Christmas Season and the
New Year

Helen Ogle
Editor



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Pullen Pullen Catchments Group

A Landcare Group

Meetings

Meetings are held at 7pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre, 250 Grandview Road, Pullenvale.

Website

www.pullenpullencatchments.org.au

Working Bees

Anstead Bushland Reserve – 1st Sunday of the month, 8.30 - 11 am.
Pullenvale Forest Park – 2nd Sunday of the month, 8.30 – 11 am

Tools, gloves, etc are provided at Working Bees. Just wear sturdy boots, tough clothes and bring water and a hat!

Committee Members 2020

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Membership Options

Membership fees are:

- Annual Membership – \$10 per person payable on March 1 each year
- Life Membership – \$100 per person

We are delighted to accept donations.

- a) Send a cheque payable to PPCG to PO Box 1390, Kenmore, 4069 or
- b) Transfer the funds electronically to BSB 064 152, Account No.10107038 Ref: your name.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

“The PPCG acknowledges the support of the Lord Mayor’s Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Programs for a grant to help with administrative, bushcare and educational costs”

NEWS

Committee News We are back meeting at the Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre which is a great relief. Thank you, Ron, for making the facilities available to us. Our next meeting will take place at 2 pm on Sunday December 6 immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 3:00 pm on Sunday, 6th December 2020 at the Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre, 250 Grandview Road

We are delighted to welcome our guest speaker Jutta Godwin. Jutta is a great friend of the environment. She will be speaking on Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count, a current project continuing into 2021, involving many members of the community from all walks of life. Her presentation promises to be very interesting.

Members are encouraged to apply for committee or office positions. Nominations should be made prior to the AGM but can be called for at the AGM for any positions that are vacant or have insufficient nominations.

If you are unable to attend, we would appreciate your proxy. You can nominate any PPCG member, including our president John Ness, to be your proxy. Please send it by post before Friday, 4th December 2020 to PPCG, PO Box 1390, Kenmore, Qld 4069. Alternatively, you may email a scanned, signed proxy form to contactus@pullenpullencatchments.org.au.

The meeting will be followed by our usual generous, but COVID-compliant, afternoon tea. To assist with catering it would be helpful to know if you are attending the AGM. Please reply to the above email address or let a member of the committee know. We hope to see you there.

Dr Christian Rowan has very kindly donated a lucky door prize.

Anstead Bushland Reserve A few applicants for the position of Bushcare Coordinator have been contacted but no decision has been made and the position has been re-advertised. Some replanting in the fig tree garden took place at the November working bee. The area is virtually weed-free at the moment but this will change with the recent rain so the next working bee will probably concentrate on weeding. **Working bees take place on the first Sunday of the month from 8.30 to 11am.**

Pullenvale Forest Park Work has begun on clearing weeds and vines from the Fisher Place end of the Park. There is some water back in the creek and the possibility of installing a camera to monitor wildlife in the creek was discussed. Contractors have begun nodal plantings so infilling community plantings can go ahead next year. Nest boxes are also being installed. **Working bees take place on the second Sunday of the month. During the hot weather they will begin at 7.30 instead of 8.30am.**

Airlie Road Park Mowing and weeding has continued. The water level in the billabong is the lowest in about 40 years. Recent rain has not increased the water level although it has kept the trees alive. Further plant replacement will be dependent on more rain.

Moggill State School Nursery Project The ~ 50 trees provided to Moggill School were planted and appear to have survived so far. There's been no further progress partly due to school holidays.

PPCG Website Nola reported that test sites for both Membership and Plants are ready but that obtaining pictures to illustrate plants was an issue. Several suggestions of possible sources were made.

Woodcrest Estate and the Genesis of Pullenvale Forest Park

John Griffiths

Preamble. Rachel and I arrived in Brisbane in 1992 and set about looking for a house or land in Pullenvale. We learned that the area that is now Woodcrest Estate was about to be sub-divided. It would have suited us perfectly but it was just as well that we did not wait, because lots only began selling in the late 1990s. However, in the intervening years we became involved with the way in which the eventual subdivision progressed. This memoir is for local residents who may not know the history of the area, and particularly for those who enjoy the excellent Pullenvale Forest Park. It is an incomplete account because I do not have all the documentation. It relies on my memories and on the few papers that I have kept.

Prior History of Development Applications (DAs) in the area

Several DAs were lodged with Council between 1983 and 1988. Almost all were rejected (although an application for 15 rural residential blocks was approved in 1990).

December 1993 Development Application

The owners of the land, the Becton Corporation, submitted a DA for rezoning about 143 Ha and for a subdivision into about 1200 allotments. This was later modified to 623 lots. The DA was refused by Brisbane City Council (BCC) in June 1994 and Becton duly appealed to the Planning and Environment (P&E) Court later that year.

The local Brisbane City Councilor, Bob Mills, encouraged residents to object and over 430 objections were made. The Pullenvale Residents Action Group, PRAG, was formed in about August 1994 with David Nicholls as the convener. PRAG's objective was to support BCC in the P&E Court by mounting a separate and independent case.

The case in the P&E Court. The case was heard over 3 weeks in January/February 1995. Becton was the appellant, BCC the Respondent and PRAG was represented by a Barrister and 5 expert witnesses. PRAG included 19 "respondents by election": namely, the Rural Environment and Planning Association Inc (REPA), Roadwatch Inc, and members of 8 local families (Barton, Dempsey, Griffiths, Galowski, Kelly, Nicholls, Rowell, Svenson) showing the local community commitment to the case. The PRAG witnesses were experts in:

- Traffic engineering (congestion on Moggill Road)
- Botany (implications for Pullen Pullen Creek)
- Zoology (loss of fauna habitat)
- Hydrology (increased risk of flooding)
- Town planning (the relatively small lot size compared to the existing acreage subdivision)

In addition, several residents (and, indeed, REPA) gave evidence about their appreciation of the character or "amenity" of the area.

Judgement was given in June 1995, rejecting the developer's appeal. The judgement runs to 49 pages and can be found at <https://www.sclqld.org.au/caselaw/QPEC/1995/24>. After the judgement, the developer reached a compromise solution with BCC and PRAG. *First*, the number of allotments was reduced to 220. Almost all allotments would be 6000 m² of which 2000 m² would be the building envelope and 4000 m² would be a conservation area. *Second*, the riparian zone with an area of 12.6 ha and bordering Pullen Pullen Creek was set aside as the Pullen Pullen Forest Park.

Comments and Conclusions

The court case. The Judge found that a combination of factors had informed his decision: these were the traffic impacts on Moggill Road and the environmental and water quality issues raised by the expert witnesses. As one of the PRAG members said – all the dominos fell our way. The success was due to several factors.

1. Strong support from Brisbane City Council.

2. A well-organized local group (i.e., PRAG) that canvassed almost all the local residents and raised ~\$50,000 (~\$95,000 in today's terms. PRAG estimated that 80% of residents were opposed to the DA. Residents, collectively, had expertise in most of the relevant disciplines and several of the PRAG expert witnesses offered their services gratis. Knowledge of planning law was crucial and so was knowledge of local history (a Becton expert witness commented on the cleared land around Dahmac Place as evidence of a lack of interest in preserving bushland – only to be told that the area had been a dairy farm only a couple of decades earlier).

Pullenvale Forest Park. Setting aside 12.6 ha adjacent to the creek as a park was an important legacy of the court case. But parks need nurturing, whether as garden parks or bushland. In August 1998, the new councilor, Margaret de Wit, called a meeting to discuss the management of the Pullen Pullen Creek Catchment. The Pullen Pullen Catchments Group (PPCG) was formally incorporated later that year, with Ian Cameron as President and Ron Tooth as Vice-President. Ian served as President until mid-2004 and was followed by Ron Tooth and, now, John Ness. The PPCG has overseen five parks beside Pullenvale Forest Park – Lather Road, John Wilson Memorial Park, Moggill Wetlands, Anstead Bushland Reserve and Airlie Road Park.

Accounts of the progress of the Pullenvale park are in Streamlines (Ian Cameron, Vol 1, Issue 4, 1999 and Dean Beaumont, Vol 11, issue 4, 2009). A vegetation survey of the park was made in 1999 by Brenda and Floyd Williams, George Diatloff and Bob Johnson and a "Concept and Operational Plan" was produced in 2000. The first step was to build the vehicular access track that goes through the park. This was done by the Woodcrest contractor at no charge – a most generous contribution from the loser of the court case. The walking track and boardwalk were built in two stages in 2002 and 2005.

The continued health of this park owes everything to the support of Habitat Brisbane and, especially, to the dedication and enthusiasm of the leaders of the Pullenvale Forest Park Habitat Brisbane Working Group. The leaders of this group have been:

- Ian Cameron 1999 to 2002
- Ian Cameron and Sandra Bishop 2002 to 2005
- Sandra Bishop 2005 to 2008
- Dean Beaumont 2008 to 2013
- Lynn Brown 2013 to the present time.

The Care and Maintenance of Rubble

Brian Dean

I have been asked by an authority not to be questioned to give an account of some 50+ years' occupation of 2.5 acres of land in what was known at the time Nola & I bought the property, as 'Moggill'. It's now a hectare in Anstead, a wedge-shaped ridge of rocks and rubble, some thumping great Spotted Gums and, most importantly, wetly wonderful Pullen Pullen Creek, marking its eastern boundary. This last was the clincher, the deciding factor as we hewed our way through thickets of lantana, following the sound of rushing water – there had been heavy rain – and there was the creek in full spate. Lovely.

Papers signed, done deal, and a few years' wait until the debt was paid and the land was 'ours'. In those days you couldn't build a house until you fully owned the land, but meantime I decided to 'begin cultivation' and planted three or four citrus trees in a patch cleared of lantana. Each planting involved hacking out fist-sized rocks and conserving what bits of soil I could scrape up, about half an hour's work. Water was bucketed from the creek on a weekly basis, (sometimes mid-week, after work), and I looked forward to the fruits of labour. Alas, they all died before a single lemon could be plucked and sucked.

Lesson number 1: Plant mortality is higher than you ever imagined.

So what did grow on the rocky slopes? As noted, spotted gums, ironbarks, blue gums, some wattles, a few silky oaks, and down by the creek, black bean – so there was some life there, but much of the ground was covered in lantana and a dastardly *Caesalpinia* wait-a-while which forbade all passage.

So began a slow process of ‘weed’ removal, and the planting of those trees which, in the 1960’s, were considered necessary and desirable – jacaranda, poinciana, leopard tree, and gifts from kind acquaintances who ‘didn’t have room’ for such large trees as hoop pine and kauri pine. Some of these have actually survived.

In short, I had no vegetation plan whatsoever, and any planting that was done was haphazard, whimsical and (if you want a posh word), aleatory – as the die falls.

By 1967 we had a house, permanent residence allowing us to review the landscape and attend to it on a more continuous basis. The earliest earthwork I did was to level an area suitable for – guess what – a barbecue (what else?), and pave it with breeze blocks brought home, 20 at a time in the seat well of a VW beetle. But this is where the many rocks about the property came in useful, and rocks, dear reader, are the dense, impacted, ancient bones of the land. Magnificently rugged, everlasting, mossy and grainy – and bloody heavy. I love ‘em.

Lesson number 2: Let what’s there be your guide,

So the rocks, placed around the lower part of the barbecue area gave me an inkling (though I didn’t know it at the time) of what I think is an important aspect of landscape ‘design’ – the identification and defining of levels. If you follow contours, for example, you have terraces, platforms, a bit like paddy fields. Getting from level to level involves steps, stairs which in themselves can be – should be – congruent with the fall of the land.

Stones, of which I have plenty, are ideal for this, being flexible in arrangement, and able to conform to what I somewhat uncouthly term ‘couth’ curves. These are the natural bends in nature, seldom straight, which wind through plants and hillsides, they are the subtle edges of a sea-worn pebble or the shifting cloud contours. By harvesting the myriad stones on our block, I started to build walls embracing the terraced levels, getting better at it, as can be seen when you compare my early jagged efforts with later ones. When our Hills Hoist turned 40, I built a terrace around it surfaced with gravel. It’s got buttresses and a sundial – and don’t let me hear anyone sneering at this Queensland icon, which has no pretensions to the chic, being solar & wind powered and proud of it.

The other element which has guided my ideas in the landscape is water. I am an unashamed aquaholic. Soon after the barbecue, I dug a small pond, fringing it with yet more rocks. It’s still there, but now serves as either a receptacle for water from a higher level or a lower level; it’s become a ‘level-definer’, part of the array of water ‘punctuation points’ that are scattered about the place. There is, I found (again later, after the event) a sort of logic to their placement: the closer they are to the house, the more formal they are. There’s a hexagonal fountain – it’s got a Turkish centrepiece – adjacent to the house, while a large pond 50 m away has a marble arm rising from it, looking suitably gothic, though it’s based on a Tennyson poem about Excalibur and the Death of King Arthur!

Lesson number 3: Landscaping is about definition – of levels, distances and placements.

From time to time most of the hillside which falls down to the creek has had take-overs by waves of plant species – ochna, climbing asparagus, Chinese elm, coral bush & so on, which is no doubt why, after several years I’m still in the limbic state of “Working TowardsWild Life”. Must try harder. Some of these ‘weeds’ I have removed, but since a large area of wall-to-wall Chinese elm was banished, nothing, or very little, has taken its place in the rubble.

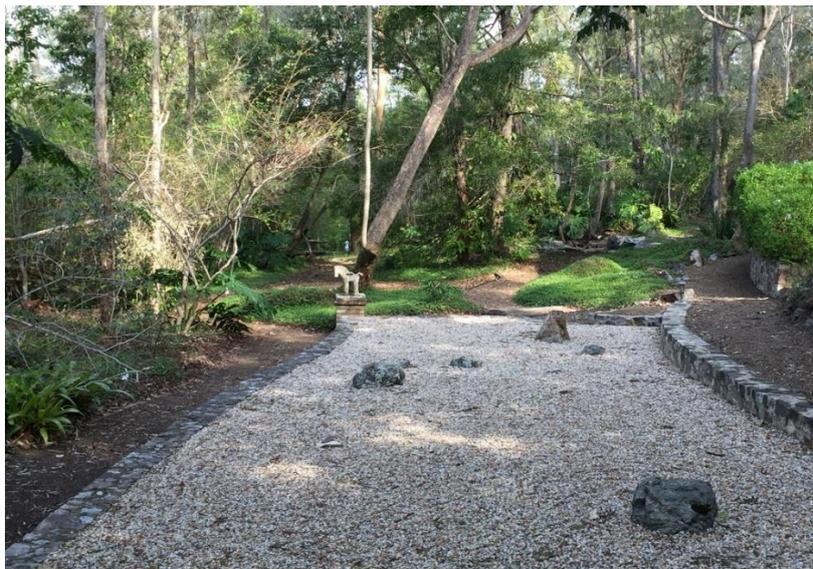
So now I do as little as possible in this rainforest remnant, merely maintaining the unobtrusive, couthly-curved pathways which penetrate it. A bit Freudian, maybe, but the creek needs to Keep Calm and Carry On.

There is one ‘weed’ which I have actively incorporated into my ‘Hardscaping’ – inchweed (*Callisia repens* – see below). This came from I know not where, but spreads at the rate of 1 inch per hour,

and clammers over *anything*. I had some spare rocks and had the notion of creating a sort of model andscape reminiscent of the woolly mountains of North Queensland which look as if a knotty green rug has been draped over them. The inchweed quickly got the message and duly swathed the rocks in surprisingly sculptural ways. Inchweed is immortal, so I think this will last a good while.

My last enterprise was in an utterly barren area – nothing would grow – which I'd previously made into a terrace filled with pea gravel. Zero maintenance, but boring. So I got some more rocks and replaced the fine gravel with larger stuff and made a sort of Zen garden – seven rocks & raked gravel.

In a way, this non-living 'garden' sums up a good deal of what goes into living within and alongside a little bit of bushland – the importance of placement, the landscape's 'punctuation', intervals, and the varied tempo of nature; it's all a bit musical, actually, but I've come to the conclusion that whatever we do to 'conserve' or 'restore' the landscape should be guided as much by aesthetics as by botany and the sometimes rather judgmental tenets of environmental orthodoxy.



Brian's Zen garden

Here endeth this brief, rambling account of a prolonged, rambling time spent coming to terms with some trees, rocks, water and dirt.

Creeping Inch Plant (*Callisia repens*)

Creeping inch plant (*Callisia repens*), also known as basket plant, Bolivian Jew, creeping basket plant, inch plant, itsy bitsy inch plant, jellybean plant, little jewel or tiny buttons, is a long-lived herbaceous plant with stems that creep along the ground forming dense mats. Its fleshy stems branch frequently and produce roots at their joints.

Its leaves are arranged alternately and are densely clustered along the stems. The leaves consist of a very short sheath, which encloses the stem, and a fleshy leaf blade. The leaf blades (1-4 cm long and 6-12 mm wide) are egg-shaped in outline to somewhat elongated in shape with entire margins and pointed tips. Their upper surfaces are usually green, often with numerous tiny purple spots and/or purplish margins, while their undersides vary from slightly purple-tinged to bright purple in colour.

Its flowers are produced on short, semi-upright stems. Leaves gradually become smaller and more distant from each other along the flowering stems. The small white flowers which appear in summer and autumn are arranged in small stalkless clusters in the forks of the smaller upper leaves. Its flowers have three rounded petals. Its tiny oblong capsules (about 1.5 mm long) have two compartments, each containing two seeds.



Dense infestation in the understorey of riparian vegetation (Photo: Sheldon Navie)



Densely arranged small fleshy leaves with purple spots (Photo: Sheldon Navie)

The genus *Callisia* belongs in the family Commelinaceae along with a number of plants with which it may be confused. Creeping inch plant is very similar to striped inch plant and relatively similar to purple succulent and trad. These species can be distinguished by the following differences:

- creeping inch plant (*Callisia repens*) has small purple-spotted green leaves (1-4 cm long) with purplish undersides. Its white flowers have three rounded petals.
- striped inch plant (*Callisia elegans*) has small green leaves (3.5-10 cm long) with white stripes and purplish undersides. Its white flowers have three rounded petals.
- purple succulent (*Callisia fragrans*) has large green, purplish-green or purple leaves (5-40 cm long) with green or purplish undersides that are arranged in clusters. Its white flowers have three rounded petals.
- trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*). has small glossy green leaves (3-6.5 cm long) with green undersides (its upper surfaces are sometimes white-striped in cultivated plants). Its white flowers have three pointed petals.

It is also very similar to Tahitian bridal veil (*Gibasis pellucida*) and relatively similar to zebrina (*Tradescantia zebrina*), hairy wandering Jew (*Commelina benghalensis*) and native wandering Jew (*Commelina diffusa*). However, Tahitian bridal veil has flowers in loose stalked clusters, while the other species have pink or blue flowers (see Streamlines February 2018 for a comparison of wandering jews).

Creeping inch plant is native to Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America but is becoming relatively widespread and common in the Moreton district in south-eastern Queensland. It is occasionally also naturalised in the coastal districts of central and northern Queensland. It is a weed of riparian vegetation, coastal environs, roadsides, forest margins, urban bushland, disturbed sites and waste areas.

Creeping inch plant reproduces by seed and vegetatively via its creeping stems. Stem segments and seeds are mainly spread in dumped garden waste, and may also be dispersed by water. Dense infestations smother other plants. It is best managed by complete removal or foliar spraying.

Information extracted from Brisbane City Council weed identification tool

This Week by the Creek, a monthly e-news, contains updates from Brisbane City Council's Creek Catchment Officers for the Brisbane Catchment Community. It includes information about training opportunities, grants available and upcoming events. Members interested in receiving This Week by the Creek electronically, should advise the Secretary at contactus@pullenpullencatchments.org.au.

Global Warming – a Personal Contribution

John Ness

Regular reports and news items are released on the emissions of gases and particulates into the atmosphere and the effects of this on temperature, animals, corals, sea levels, rainfall patterns, storms and cyclones. The numbers quoted can be very large such as millions or billions of tonnes of gas emissions or sometimes quite small such as changes in sea levels of millimetres per annum.

In terms of equivalent CO₂ emissions, which is the primary driver of the warming, a more user friendly way to think of this may be in terms of physical size with respect to a 1ha land area which is a fairly standard block size in the Pullenvale area.

Perhaps the first point to note is the conversion between carbon and carbon dioxide since storage in the land and oceans is often described in terms of carbon whereas in the atmosphere it is as carbon dioxide (CO₂). The simple conversion is that 1kg of carbon if burnt will produce 3.3kg of CO₂. Conversely, if photosynthesis produces 1kg of carbon in the wood of a tree it will have removed 3.3kg of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

Now, the first visualization is between kg and volume. In round figures accurate enough for this analysis, 1kg of CO₂ will take up a volume of 1m³, that is, a space 1m x 1m x 1 m.

Australians in 2020 are expected to collectively emit (excluding exports and bushfires!) about 530 billion kg of CO₂. This is around 21,000kg of CO₂ per person. Over a 1ha block this equates to about a 2m thick layer of CO₂ per person. If 4 average people lived on that block, each year they would cover it in a layer of CO₂ 8m high.

What goes into this blanket of CO₂?

One way to see this is to go for a walk along one side of the nominal 100m square block. (A 1ha block would be 100m x 100m if in a square shape). To visualize this consider the householder who sets out along one side of her 1ha block to mark off her CO₂ contributions.

To account for just breathing for a year will take her a distance of about 2m. Then a further 20m will cover her annual electricity supply assuming it is all from the grid. Her personal car transport will take another 20m or so to pace out. Assuming she works in an office then a further 8m or so will cover all the emissions associated with her share of office contributions. She has now reached the half way mark of her block and the remaining 50m is not directly attributable to her immediate personal activities but is allocated to the food consumed, the transport and infrastructure to deliver her goods and services, the land taken to grow food, the electricity required to run communication services, the occasional air travel (prior to COVID 19) and so on.

About the only way for her to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere is to plant trees. In the Brisbane climate if she planted her whole 1ha block, apart from a small area for her house, with trees this would each year, on average over 30 years or so, lock up 2500kg of carbon above ground and around 800kg of carbon below ground. The stored carbon in her growing forest would then remove about 10,000kg of CO₂ per annum or about half her total contribution.

So this would account for the last 50m or so of her carbon emissions walk. Her challenge now is what to do about the first 50m of her walk. This will be considered in a later article.

From the Wildlife Desk

Irene Darlington

Lately I have been writing a lot of responses in the community Facebook pages about rats. Yes rats and mice! People hear the scratching and patter of feet in the ceiling, thinking its rats. They ask for help and always some fool recommends they just throw a rat poison in the ceiling.

This results in terrible problems. Firstly, that animal is eating a huge dose of an anti-coagulant for the blood. Meaning, the rats and mice do not die immediately. They progressively die drowning in their own blood. Their abdomen, lungs, every crevice fills up with their own blood. As the animals are dying, they are running around everywhere at any time of the day and night desperately looking for water. They're dehydrating and need to replace the fluids in the blood they're losing. As they search for water, often from your dog and cat bowls, your kitchen taps, garden hoses etc, they present another problem. This time for the wildlife and your pets.

The poisoned, dying rodents are now easy to catch in the daylight and out at night, searching for a drink. And they're losing blood by now as well from their mouths, ears, noses etc. Everywhere they take a drink, some poisoned blood containing the anticoagulant poison, is left in that water. If dogs and cats actually find the dying mouse/rat, they often have a bit of a taste, that's if they don't eat the whole mouse/rat. And this is how your pets get secondary poisoning.

That poison killing the rodent is now killing your pets. But it also kills every wild bird or animal that normally hunt the rats and mice. Such as our beloved kookaburras, currawongs, butcherbirds, magpies, owls, snakes, etc, etc. And this time of the year these wild animals are raising their young, so they feed the carcasses to their babies, also poisoning and killing them as well. They don't explain this on the packets of Rat Poison you buy at your supermarket do they?

So you can be faced with huge vet bills for your poisoned pets, you've killed off the wildlife you love so much singing in your yard, and it doesn't stop there. Some of these poisoned rodents will also fall down the cavities of your walls in your house. As will any possum which may have been visiting your roof. I've attended many jobs where the smell inside the home from the decomposing animals who fell into wall cavities and died there, was so terrible that walls had to be demolished to remove the carcasses. Costly, isn't it?

People, poison has far too many effects for other animals in the surroundings. Get a humane trap. It just closes behind the animal when it enters the trap to eat, and you then release it into bushland far away. No mess. No problems. Trap is hosed out, left in the sun for a while, and you can reload to catch more rodents again. No mess, no suffering, no dead and dying animals.

Remember also that if a possum is in your roof, it is sleeping there. It is NOT attracting rodents up there with food as possums don't drag food back to where they sleep. Possums are not rodents, thus they do NOT chew wiring or other surfaces from a need to file down their teeth. Rodent teeth grow very quickly and the rats/mice chew on hard surfaces to file their teeth down. Possums do not. Possums may sleep in your roof, but they do not do the damage rodents do.

So trap your rodents humanely and save yourself the costs and horror of watching wildlife disappear as they die from secondary poisoning and the pain of your pets should they come across a poisoned rodent.

If anyone has possums in their roof and want to talk about what to do to deter them, you can ring me directly. See contact details on p.2 or look me up on our website. There are things you can do to make them move on. I've been doing this for decades and it works.

Is this a suitable alternative??

Natural Ratsak At a recent Committee meeting, a member drew our attention to Natural Ratsak, a Yates product that kills rats and mice but is safe for use around livestock, dogs, cats, birds & wildlife when used as directed. Its main ingredients are corn and sodium chloride (salt). It kills rats and mice by causing them to dehydrate. Rats and mice have strong stomach sensors that tell them when they are thirsty. When they eat the Ratsak Naturals it turns off the stomach sensors and the rodents stop drinking. These stomach sensors are unique to rats and mice so other animals are not affected.
