



Streamlines

Newsletter of the Pullen Pullen Catchments Group Inc.

November 2022

This issue begins with the announcement of our Annual General Meeting on Sunday December 4th at which Jim Williams will discuss aspects of Natural Bush Regeneration, especially in relation to recent experiences in Anstead Bushland Reserve.

Karen Roberts then entertains us with her account of family life inspired by their interest in the local environment and the activities of PPCG. Adam Barton then writes about his encounters with red-browed finches in his 'patch' and Gillian White reports on the Collared Delma Project that began in Anstead Bushland Reserve and has expanded considerably.

*While weeding in Anstead, Jim reported that in the area close to where Cr Adermann planted his Hoop pine on Tree Planting Day, a naturally occurring vine, *Diplocyclos palmatus* (native bryony) has emerged. I've summarised some information about this vine from resources from James Cook University, South African National Biodiversity Institute and Magnetic Island Plants. The photos are Jim's.*

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 Emma Barrie 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. The deadline for the next issue is 15th February 2023.

My very best wishes to you and your families for the festive season and may 2023 see you happy and healthy,

Helen Ogle
Editor



CONTENTS

Pullen Pullen Catchments Group.....	2
Annual General Meeting.....	3
PPCG Inspiring Increased Knowledge and Awareness of Our Local Environment.....	3
Collared Delma Project	7
Red-browed Finch.....	8
<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i> (Native Bryony).....	10



Pullen Pullen Catchments Group

A Landcare Group

Website

www.pullenpullencatchments.org.au

Meetings

Meetings are held at 6 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre, 250 Grandview Road, Pullenvale.

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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.

Working Bees

Anstead Bushland Reserve – 1st Sunday of the month, 8.30 – 11 am (April-September), 7 – 9.30 am (October-March); 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, 2-4.30 pm (April-September), 3.30-6 pm (October – March)
Pullenvale Forest Park – 2nd Sunday of the month, 8.30 – 11 am (April-September), 7.30 – 9.30 am (October-March)

See also the Events Calendar on the website (<https://www.pullenpullencatchments.org.au/events-calendar/>)

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



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"

Pullen Pullen Catchments Group

Annual General Meeting

3 pm Sunday 4th December 2022

Bellbowrie Tavern

Guest speaker, Jim Williams, will talk about

Natural Bush Regeneration

He will cover:

- What is it and how does it work?
 - Is it for you?
 - Pro's and Con's
- Progress summary after 12 months in Anstead Bushland Reserve

Jim's presentation will be followed by afternoon tea provided by the Tavern, and a time for mingling

Christian Rowan has donated a hamper as a prize for one lucky attendee

Please RSVP to contactus@pullenpullencatchments.org.au

PPCG Inspiring Increased Knowledge and Awareness of Our Local Environment

Karen Roberts

This article shares a few areas where PPCG (and neighbouring catchments group) activities have inspired and educated Team Roberts (and some of our friends) in enjoying activities within our natural areas.

In August Owen had to prepare a poster on a threatened species and present the information to his classmates. To his mother's great delight, he chose the Collared Delma (*Delma torquata*), a vulnerable legless lizard that calls Anstead Bushland Reserve its home. Owen has obviously heard us talking excitedly about "*Improving Collared Delma trajectories in Brisbane's western suburbs*" at bushcare sessions. You can

find out more about the Collared Delma project in Gillian's article on page 8 or Groups & Projects – Pullen Catchments Group. The knowledge Owen imparted upon his classmates infused yet further into the community when, in September, his good friend Amelie (and Stefan) baked him a Collared Delma birthday cake (complete with baby collared delmas).



Stefan and Amelie and their amazing (and tasty) *Delma torquata* cake creation.

Also in September was the CWCN school holiday marbling workshop (for 'kids' it said!). We spent a fun nature inspired creative morning with inks on the deck at CWCN headquarters (as well as a scramble along the creek during morning tea). A butterfly walk (for 'kids' it said) was a previous CWCN holiday activity which continues to inspire and fill our lives with colour and fun.



Owen preparing his ink (it turns out big kids can have fun with marbling too)

Following the marbling workshop we ended up with an impromptu play in Moggill Creek (near Creekside Street, Kenmore Hills), listening to the resident tusked frogs (*Adelotis brevis*) calling, identifying their tadpoles, and spending a couple of hours with some of the lovely (similarly minded) local kids under the shade of beautiful old grandfather *Eucalyptus tereticornis* trees. It was just like an episode from Bluey.

September also saw the first of Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count (BBBC) walks in Anstead Bushland Reserve for the 2022/23 season. The immaculately attired Cliff Meyer, local butterfly specialist who leads a great deal of BBBC surveys wearing his butterfly tie, guided us around a 3.5 km loop.

We briefly netted, then released after we identified, the Black-spotted Grass-blue (*Famegana alsulus*), which is a new butterfly species record for Anstead Bushland Reserve. In the three years of the BBBC surveys this species has only been recorded at 2 other locations, one of which was in another of PPCG's public reserves: the Hawkesbury Nature Reserve / Primley St Park.

If you're keen to find out more about butterflies, or join a butterfly survey, go to [Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count - Home \(brisbanesbigbutterflycount.org.au\)](http://Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count - Home (brisbanesbigbutterflycount.org.au)) and click on Diary or simply check out some of the resources. The next survey at Anstead Bushland Reserve will be Saturday 10th December 2022.

Not to be outdone by the community educational opportunity that Owen's Collared Delma talk led to, it seems my incessant excited butterfly chatter may have inspired the Moggill District Frangipani Junior Guides. At the request of Guide leader 'Kookaburra', we walked through Anstead Bushland Reserve to learn about butterflies, their host plants and the local environment within which they live. The excitement of all the butterflies was surpassed by finally seeing one of the resident Koalas in the Reserve.



Cliff's inspiring butterfly survey attire during the September BBBC walk through Anstead Bushland Reserve



Josie, Llewyn and the tiniest butterfly net in the world and the Black-spotted Grass-Blue (*Famegana alsulus*)



Guide leader 'Kookaburra' taking a photo of Koala in Anstead Bushland Reserve

October was a big month for walks – with Daniel Rekdahl's ecology walk through Pullenvale Forest Park and some walks through PPCG member's private properties to see their bushcare regeneration efforts. And what

do you know? While we've been spending all this time doing walks the lawn STILL hasn't learn to mow itself! However, before the mower FINALLY started I noticed some native bluebell flowers popping their heads up and quickly erected a vegetation protection zone. Jim's efforts turning his road verge into a nature strip (see February, May and August issues of Streamlines for 2022) and my involvement in the Anstead Bushland Reserve Bradley bushcare mornings, inspired me to start a small section of "Natural Regeneration" in my road verge. Hand weeding bindii, one by one, for half an hour each afternoon before dinner, is inexplicably satisfying. I've now got 9 species of native herbs, forbs and sedges flourishing, and I've supplementary planted with 6 more species of grasses and herbs.



Plantago debilis and *Wahlenbergia gracilis* (I think) dominating our regenerating native road verge 'garden'.

So, like a teacher reminding her kids – don't forget to pause, look, smell, breathe, and notice the extra in the ordinary. The suburbs of 4070 certainly have some amazing nature to inspire us, and my family finds endless inspiration in the activities our dedicated local catchment group members provide within our natural areas.



Lichen on Rock at Graham and Marcelle's and *Litoria gracilentia* on *Lomandra* in Pullenvale Forest Park



Collared Delma Project

Pullen Pullen Catchments Group (PPCG) and Kholo Creek Catchment Group (KCCG) have joined forces in a project designed to enhance habitat for the vulnerable legless lizard, the Collared Delma (*Delma torquata*), in our catchment areas. The western suburbs of Brisbane are considered a stronghold for this species, however its habitat (typically eucalypt forest with grassy understorey and rocks) is threatened by factors such as changing land use and the encroachment of invasive weeds.

The project, *Improving Collared Delma trajectories in Brisbane's western suburbs*, involves the assessment of local properties for suitable Collared Delma habitat, surveys to record populations and habitat enhancement measures. The latter include weed management and, in selected areas, the extension of habitat with imported rocks and native tussock grasses.

Thus far 22 properties in the catchment areas have been assessed, using a habitat assessment tool devised by project team members Paul Grimshaw and Jim Williams, with advice from local Collared Delma expert, Stephen Peck. The assessment process included observations of the topography, soil, rock types and vegetation (including weed coverage). Those with features consistent with known Collared Delma habitat, such as north or west facing rocky slopes, open eucalypt forest and limited weed encroachment, were ranked most highly.

Surveys for Collared Delma have now been conducted on 11 of the 22 properties, with sightings recorded at two of the most highly ranked properties. These findings underline the utility of the assessment tool developed for the project; it will be an important outcome from the project that can be applied in future research.



Area ranked highly for Collard Delma habitat, project property assessment, June 2022



Collared Delma on a project property, October 2022

Another crucial component of the project is weed management in areas with potential Collared Delma habitat. This work has commenced on several of the assessed properties, focusing on selected areas where invasive weeds such as Creeping Lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*) are affecting the capacity of otherwise suitable areas to support Collared Delma populations.

In the final stages of the project, weed management will be supplemented in selected areas with the planting of tussock grasses and placement of rocks. This will further enhance habitat for Collared Delma by providing protected areas for the lizards, and simultaneously assist in retarding the re-encroachment of invasive weeds.



Before and after weed management on a project property, showing removal of invasive species from rocks, October 2022

The project will continue until 31 March 2023. It is supported through funding from the Australian Government.



Australian Government

Compiled by the Collared Delma Project team (Paul Grimshaw, Liz Gould, Mervyn Mason, Justin Miller, John Ness, Stephen Peck, Gillian Whitehouse, Jim Williams), November 2022

Red-browed Finch

Adam Barton

Often when walking to the Bradley bush care areas from the Anstead Reserve carpark I am greeted by a flock of Red-browed Finches. Typically, I see them congregating in the grassed areas and thickets of lantana that border the walking track. This behaviour aligns with the reference material which states the bird's preference is for open grassy areas surrounded by dense shrubbery, enabling the Red-browed Finch to survive well in weedy areas along railway tracks and creek lines, where seeding grasses escape the lawnmower.

The Red-browed Finch is most easily recognised by its bright red eyebrow, rump and beak, on an otherwise green and grey bird. Upperparts are olive green with grey underneath. Juvenile birds don't have the bright red eyebrows. Both sexes are similar in appearance. They are often observed in small flocks of up to ten or more birds. However, I have never been able to count how many there are because they never stay still for long.

Adult Red-browed Finch



Juvenile Red-browed Finch



The Red-browed Finch feeds on seeds and insects on the ground, but sometimes perches on seeding grass heads. The nest of the Red-browed Finch is large and domed, with a side tunnel for an entrance. It is a rough construction of twigs and grass stems built in dense shrubs between one and two metres from the ground. Both parents share nest-building, incubation of the eggs and feeding of the young when they hatch. The breeding season is from October to April and they normally have a clutch of four to five.

So why the interest in these small birds? Since I commenced bushcare activities on Pegged Area B, I have noticed a significant increase how often I have observed these birds in the area. When the Bradley Bushcare activities commenced in the area, the understorey vegetation was dominated by billygoat weed (*Ageratum houstonianum*), cobbler's pegs (*Bidens pilosa*) and trailing lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*). The bushcare activities over the last five to six months have progressively removed this invasive weed transforming the area into a more open and grassier habitat - ideal for the Red-browed finch.



Bradley Pegged Area B – 27th May 2022



Bradley Pegged Area B – 10th September 2022

So, I look forward to the next few months when I am weeding in the mornings that I will be visited by these energetic little birds and their new season juveniles. I might even one day be able to count how many there are in the flock.

Diplocyclos palmatus (Native Bryony)

Also known as striped cucumber or lollipop climber, *Diplocyclos palmatus* is a member of the Family Cucurbitaceae along with cucumbers, pumpkin and zucchini. Most of the plants in this family are vines with hairy 5-angled stems with tendrils at 90° to the stem at the nodes. Leaves are alternate and variously lobed. Flowers are unisexual. Male and female flowers occur on the same plant or on different plants.

Native Bryony occurs naturally in Australia, Malaya, PNG and tropical Africa, mostly in warmer monsoonal forests, vine thickets and disturbed rainforest. In Australia, it is found from sea level to altitudes of 1,000 m across the north and southwards as far as the Hastings River in NSW. It is a slender, much-branched perennial climber with 2-branched tendrils. Stems may be slightly prickly. The leaves usually have five lobes and short stiff hairs on the upper surface. They are pale and smooth underneath. The edge of the leaf may be irregularly toothed. The leaves have an unpleasant odour when crushed.

The flowers are white to greenish-yellow and hairy. The male flowers are about 2 cm in diameter and occur in small groups in the leaf axils. The female flowers are a little smaller and occur singly. The fruits are about 2.5 cm in diameter, almost globose, hairless, red when mature with white longitudinal stripes (looking very much like lollipops). The seed is similar to a passionfruit seed, being covered in a 'gel'. All parts of the plant are toxic in large quantities.



Greenish-yellow, hairy flower



White, hairy flower



Slender stem, 2-branched tendril and immature fruit



Slender, hairy stem and 5-lobed, toothed leaves



Mature fruit and lighter underside of leaf

