

Since the last report to Council was prepared, John Piper has left the MCG, having recently moved house and needing to concentrate on his own property and garden maintenance. We have completed the process of clearing vegetation from the ponds. Thanks go to Alan Rawlinson for permitting a large amount of waste material to be dropped off at his yard. During the second clearing-up session, a lady arrived in a search for “rare snails”. We have not had any feed-back from that visit.

On 25th January, the team re-installed 15 bird nest boxes. We are hoping that their new, higher location may deter some of the interference suffered by the boxes in previous years. The boxes are occupied mainly by *blue tits* and *great tits* but will be monitored through the nesting season.

On 27th January a *kingfisher* was once again spotted in the pond area. It is uncertain whether this is a resident bird or a regular visitor; either way, we have to hope that it will not wipe out the other aquatic wildlife.

Cattle are due to be brought on to the meadow areas at the time of writing this report. It has been necessary to wait for a window of drier weather to do this, and the cattle will be there for a short period only.

As mentioned previously, a considerable amount of work will be needed, once the cows have done their bit, to clear the re-generated willow growth from the meadows. With some time available on 1st February, the team started this work on a trial section and it is proving to be particularly difficult with hand tools.

Martin Spenser
February 2022