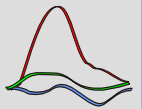




The Kedron Brook Babbler



The Newsletter of Kedron Brook Catchment Branch - Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Covering the environmental interests of the individuals, groups and organisations living in and near the Kedron Brook Catchment Area, Brisbane, Australia

August 2007

Inside This Issue:

Special funding available	1
State of the Brook	2
Future Planning Sessions	2
Riparian Management	2
Threatened Species Day	3
Learn that weed	3
Diary	

“Riparian zones... are often referred to as the ‘ecological arteries’ of our landscape”

(Prof. Stuart Bunn, Riparian Management Forum, Brisbane, 15 July 2007)

Special interest points:

- Weeds threaten biodiversity
- Workshop plans future directions for Kedron Brook
- Lace Monitor terrorizes Annual General Meeting!
- Riparian Management Forum reports new weeds

Restoring Ecological Corridors

The Kedron Brook Catchment Branch has recently received funding to implement a new project aimed at protecting biodiversity and water quality values in the Kedron Brook catchment.

The project has been made possible with a \$30,000 grant from SEQ Catchments and the ongoing support of Brisbane City Council and Pine Rivers Shire Council.

SEQ Catchments is the responsible Regional Body for the planning and implementation of integrated natural resource management (NRM) for South East Queensland under the Australian Government’s Natural Heritage Trust.

The project will focus on three key areas

- addressing the causes of habitat degradation in areas of significant vegetation;
- reducing the impacts of various land uses on water quality; and

- restoring vegetation in identified ecological corridors.

The upper reaches of Kedron Brook and its major tributary, Cedar Creek, have been identified as one of the focus areas for the project. These parts of the catchment maintain strong corridor linkages with Brisbane Forest Park and are important for protecting downstream water quality.

The project will build new partnerships with land managers in this area as well as supporting community groups who are already involved in catchment management activities.



David Fitzgibbon and Lexie Webster viewing the KBCB display at M2M Festival Day

Funding for plants, herbicides and other materials are available for landholders or community groups interested in undertaking revegetation, bushland regeneration and weed control projects.

Private landholders are also eligible for funding to install riparian fencing to manage stock access to waterways and undertake suitable property management planning.

(Continued on page 4)

Visit to Gateway Upgrade over Brook

On Saturday June 30, a small delegation of catchment members were given a professional and detailed introduction to the portion of this project that directly affects the Brook.

Representatives from both management and construction staff of Leighton-Abigroup Joint Venture first gave an overview of the project and their roles within it, at their site office within the airport grounds.

Works are now in hand all along the extent of this almost 2 billion dollar undertaking, with fill material being



Barge bridge over Brook near Nudgee (R Standish-White)

brought in for the various built-up sections of roadways from the Nudgee end, over the Brook.

This is made possible firstly by preliminary access from the “Northern Bifurcation” off the existing Gateway Motorway into a fenced area that then leads over a small creek to the ramps and barge over Kedron Brook.

This considerable floating steel bridge was installed in May, and will remain for some time. Corrugated sections rattle mud off the trucks going over the “bridge”, and wheels are also washed as trucks leave the site onto the

State of the Brook

After some years retreat we have had a breath of winter, to remind us that the seasons do indeed keep turning over, and time and change wait for no man.

As part of lesser changes, I have inherited the lofty position of President of the Branch, held so ably by Philip Rowland for so long. His determination and enthusiasm have kept activities bubbling through times thick and thin, and I believe he has built up a significant instrument for the betterment of the environment of our catchment. He shall certainly be relied upon to continue providing guidance to the Committee – thanks Phil!

I was sorry to miss the AGM, which I am assured was a big hit with the Gecko's animals no doubt stealing the thunder from the annual reports. On the 18th August, we aim to clarify our actions for the year ahead at our day workshop with which our bimonthly regular meeting will be concurrent.

The weeds survey has been successfully led and completed by our coordinator Nathan Kirby, and while we will lobby for that information to be put to good use we will be looking to take on new challenges.

One major one will be administration of the funding for improvements to bushland on properties in the upper catchment – watch our coordinator's



Branch President Robert Standish-White at the M2M Dinner

reports for progress there.

Most of you will be aware that the EIS for the Airport Link has been approved, thus tendering and planning move ahead on this huge infrastructure undertaking. Work on the North-South Bypass tunnel over the Enoggera Creek at Bowen Hills will give some idea of the upcoming effects on Kedron Brook.

Work on the Gateway Duplication proceeds apace, and some of us were taken to see how the contractors are dealing with working over the Brook in its lower reaches... and the extra runway is still to come. By default, dealing with such impacts will take a deal of attention.

My own passion is to work towards restoring a semblance of balance between

(Continued on page 4)



The Editor's Bit

Hello again!

No time to be bored along Kedron Brook. Our 5th Anniversary Meeting went off with a bang, particularly with thanks to Fiona and her mates from the Geckoes Wildlife Presentations. It was fun to be so close up to our Aussie natives and to be able to learn so much about them from Fiona. This lace monitor drew a few gasps from the group.



For those who missed out, you'll get another opportunity to see them at one of the Threatened Species Day Events detailed on page 2.

The Sustainable Riparian Management Forum was great value. (See page 3) It pays to keep an eye out for these opportunities and apply as soon as they are advertised or appear on our website. Some people were sad to have missed out!

Note that our normal Tuesday evening bi-monthly meeting for August is being combined with our special planning session on Saturday 18th between 11 am and 3 pm. Should be a ball and all! I've heard that Secretary Leah is on the catering committee!

Cheers!
Charles Ivin, 'news@kedronbrook.org.au'

If you are planning on attending please let Leah Salo know on 0413 446 665 or email enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au

(Nathan Kirby)

Platypus Presentation

A presentation on the Platypus Watch Project and Surveys will be held at the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre on Thursday 23rd August, 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Glen Costello from the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland will provide an overview of the Platypus watch project and an update on the latest survey results. If you are interested in learning more about platypus please come along.

(Nathan Kirby)

Snippets

KBCB August General Meeting

Please note that this regular bimonthly meeting is being held on August 18 with the planning workshop (details as follows), and not on 21st August as originally planned and advertised.

Catchment Planning Workshop

A catchment planning workshop will be held on Saturday Aug 18th at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre 11am to 3 pm. The workshop is an opportunity for you as a member of the catchment group, or resident of the Kedron Brook catchment, to share your ideas and vision as to what projects the catchment group should progress over the coming years.

The previous input, from brainstorming sessions held over the last year or so, has been collated. The idea of the workshop is to review the plans and



Philip Rowland leading a previous planning session

strategies, build on them and map out a way forward for implementation.

All interested people and members are invited to attend.

Mark Creyton from Volunteering Queensland will facilitate the session. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

This well-organised Forum was held at the Griffith University EcoCentre on Sunday 15 July. The Forum being part of the Brisbane City Council's Catchment Coordinator program, there were plenty of BCC contacts present and a good mixture of community and environmental group representatives.

Professor Stuart Bunn (Griffith Univ.) set the scene with his talk, "Life on the edge: the importance of Riparian Vegetation".



Rejuvenated area In Les Atkinson Park



**Red cotton bush
(Asclepias curassavica)**



**Di and Ray Loughrey
Join the bus**

Bruce Hargreaves (Merri Merri Bushcare Group), covered the subject "Managing Species Selection in Times of Change" well, giving good examples of the importance of using "tried and true"

native species in revegetation projects. In question time, concern was expressed about the danger of introduced seeds with mulch. It is important to properly dry to sterilize the mulch before use.

Dr Sheldon Navie (Univ Qld) detailed "New and Emerging Riparian Weeds in South-Eastern Queensland". Newcomers were East Indian hygrophilia (*Hygrophilia polysperma*), Pencil willow (*Salix humboldtiana*), Alexander palm (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*) [noted as

a significant pest in the local wetland] Himalayan ash (*Fraxinus griffithii*), Paper Mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*) and Satinleaf (*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*).

Dr Carla Catterall (Griffith Univ) gave a stimulating talk, "Biodiversity Indicators for Riparian Corridors", in which she stressed the importance of properly defining and monitoring the indicators in relation to the specific riparian lands of concern.

After the usual generously served finger food luncheon, bus transport was used to convey the gathering to nearby Les Atkinson Park and associated wetland.

Practical bushcare solutions were illustrated to each of four groups led by BCC bushcare coordinators. These were held amongst plenty of birdlife, huge walls of weeds (*Ruellia*, *Syngonium*, *Alexandria* palms, amongst other pests), and conversely, beautifully cleared or revegetated areas, a testimony to the endurance and energy of the local Les Atkinson Park Bushcare Group. A most useful and enjoyable day! (CI)

A South American native from the *Asclepiadaceae* (milkweed) family that has become somewhat a weed in the tropics. Erect perennial up to 1 metre tall, with opposite narrow leaves up to 15 cm long.

Umbels of brilliant orange-red flowers followed by spindle-shaped 8 cm long seed pods. The seeds have a tuft of long silky hairs.

The plant has a milky white sap that is acrid and poisonous.

It is ranked 126th with a moderate invasiveness score of 3.4 in the Qld Herbarium "Invasive Naturalised Plants in Southeast Queensland".

This was found in a fine crop moving up and down a small rivulet feeding Cedar Creek near Selkirk Crescent, Ferny Grove.

(CI)

Threatened Species Day

National Threatened Species Day is held on 7 September each year to encourage the community to help conserve Australia's unique native fauna and flora. It was first held in 1996, to commemorate the death of the last Tasmanian Tiger in captivity in 1936 in Hobart.

In order to raise community awareness about our locally threatened species the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and Brisbane City Council are organising not one but two activities at the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre in the first week in September.

A threatened species forum will be held at the on the evening of Wednesday

September 5 followed by a family fun day on Sunday 9th September. Both events promise to be fun filled and educational, so check the Kedron Brook website for more details shortly.

If you would be available to assist with setting and manning displays at the family fun day, or with preparing some background information on some of Kedron Brooks significant fauna and flora species please advise Nathan.

We can all take action to prevent further extinctions by restoring healthy numbers of endangered species and ecological communities in the wild. (N. Kirby)



Ruellia and Syngonium Vine at the Les Atkinson Park Field Tour



Dusky Morehens, not immediately threatened, at Teralba Park

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**You'll get hooked with Kedron
Brook!**

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

*" Faith is, a bird that begins
singing in the new dawn
whilst it is still dark"*

*(Adrian Caneris from unknown source,
Riparian Management Forum, Brisbane,
15 July 2007)*

(Gateway Upgrade continued from page 1)

highway. Prior to any new work a fauna spotter sweeps the area for nests and possum drays.

At the Kedron crossing, the mangroves have been cut back but with the roots left to help hold the banks. Geofabric mesh is laid and clean rock used to build up the ramps, followed by approved fill (including recycled concrete) as road surface. Silt fences are then erected around works to trap erosion, and where possible mulch berms are laid in addition. The site maintains "spill response kits" to deal with various contingencies.

Ongoing monitoring is part of the process, together with community information efforts. The first piles are due to be installed in the Brook in January, and later planting will be undertaken in liaison with the Brisbane Airport Corporation.

While we may question the wisdom of the whole exercise, it appears that those tasked with carrying it out are doing so with due diligence. Have a look on www.gatewayupgradeproject.com.au for further details and ongoing updates.

(Robert Standish-White)

(State of the Brook continued from page 2)

our rampantly commercial world and the natural one that ultimately supports and nurtures us. There has been a surfeit of taking, a casual or aggressive assumption of abundance that has for some time begun to reveal itself in symptoms like



Winter sunshine at Teralba Park

(Restoring Corridors continued from page 1)

Interested landholders or community groups should download an expression of interest form from the Kedron Brook Catchment website via the link; http://www.kedronbrook.org.au/News_Store/260707A/260707A.html for posting to Nathan Kirby. Contact him on 3407 0836 or via nathan.kirby@brisbane.qld.gov.au to find out more. *(Nathan Kirby)*

WEED THREAT TO BIODIVERSITY! We have the legislation but don't seem to use it for control. See what one expert says on this link: <http://www.sciencealert.com.au/features/20071507-16098-2.html> What can YOU do about it?

erosion, species loss, pollution and possibly largest of all, global warming. In our consciences we know we must make reparation if we are to hand on a sustainable society, and we trust that our small efforts along the Brook will be a useful addition to that greater momentum.

Robert Standish-White, President

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday August 18	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch & Network Planning Meeting Saturday, August 18th, 11am to 3 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Mark Creyton, Volunteering Queensland, will act as facilitator to keep the ideas and action plans flowing. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. Please RSVP to Leah Salo on 0413 446 665 or email enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au Note Branch Meeting changed from 21 Aug.
September 5 & 9	National Threatened Species Forum Sept. 5, Wednesday Evening, Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Family Fun Day Sunday Sept. 9, Wildlife Queensland and Brisbane City Council invite you to Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 9 am-1 pm Displays, fun, educational. Bring the whole family. Free entry.
September 14 -16	The Southern Branches Get Together and WPSQ AGM hosted by Upper Dawson Branch in Taroom. Contact Adam Clark 4628 6140 Includes all day bus trip on Saturday 15th to boggomosses and other scenic and interesting spots at Murphy's Lake, Glebe Weir and Isla Gorge. Costs and final program being arranged soon.
Tuesday October 16	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch –WPSQ General and Network Meetings Tuesday, October 16, 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall.



**The Kedron Brook Catchment Branch—WPSQ gratefully acknowledges
support by Brisbane City Council**

