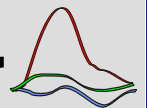




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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, Brisbane, Australia

April
2009

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"This massive planned increase in population will condemn SEQ to an ever-worsening quality of life and eliminate any chance we might have of living sustainably"

' Simon Baltais, 2009 '

Special interest points:

- Sighted...Real native fish !
- Learn how to stop wasting your secretarial skills. Join us
- Restoring corridors expands available meeting places for wildlife... and us as well.
- Baby brought up in a tree!

Restoring Corridors Project

In October 2007 the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch launched the Restoring Corridors (RC) program. Landholders were encouraged directly to restore waterway and habitat corridors on their property. Advice and financial assistance from the Branch was supported by Brisbane City Council (BCC).

Once the grants were allocated in early 2008, landholders set about organising contractors, ordering plants, and purchasing materials to implement the restoration plans developed with the then current Catchment Coordinator Nathan Kirby. (Lesley Collins took over this position in 2008.) These plans included various weed controls, revegetation, regeneration and erosion control measures.

One of my first projects as the new Kedron Brook Creek Ranger is to wrap up the RC program. This has involved talking with and visiting all the landholders involved in the program. To date, most landholders have completed the works outlined in the original plan, while others are in the final stages and are finishing off the Project Reports. The stories of success, heart break, frustration, enthusiasm and learning emerging from the RC's partners backyard's are moving, and I feel fortunate to be sharing in these final

stages of this very successful program.

Whether or not the RC partners were previously passionate about backyard bushcare, all landholders involved in the RC program have had significant learnings about the value and beauty of their backyard bush, but also about the techniques and principles of natural area restoration and the 'whole catchment' approach required to achieve successful nature conservation.

The repeated message I've heard is that the funding support provided by the RC grant was a great incentive to address that expanding thicket of lantana, that creeping madeira vine, that bare earth, that opening canopy...

All found that the results have been tremendous. I would like to thank and congratulate the RC partners for their efforts

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Debbie Ledger restoring corridors by controlling problem fishbone ferns (Photo: EM)

Fish Snapshot Project

Patches of sun through the uncertain clouds showed us good and bad news in the Brook at Kalinga Park; good in that there were shoals of various species moving about, bad in that one mob appeared to be *Tilapia*. Our traps and scoops could not catch them, and while numbers caught were generally low, one trap did catch a large number of Estuary Glassfish (*Ambassis marianus*)

The usual invaders were not too numerous, and there were also several little gudgeon on the roll call, so hope is not lost! A young eel came to investigate one trap, and late in the piece a toadfish nipped by to remind us this reach is still partly marine.



Estuary Glassfish from the Fish Snapshot survey at Kalinga Park (Photo: R S-W)

There was a large group of cane toad tadpoles; oh for a good rain to sweep them into the Bay!

Phil popped by to measure water quality with the Horiba probe, and the rain kindly held off until we were packing up - a most pleasant morning's effort. (R Standish-White)

At Pony Club Bend, we found quite a few Flyspecked Hardiheads, mostly small ones, lots and lots of freshwater shrimp, which are a favorite food of the larger native fish, and quite a lot of exotic fish.

(Helen Moriarty)

Surveys were also conducted at Grinstead Park, maybe also at Dawson Parade and Lutwyche. (CI)



Having been spared the perils of fire in the south and floods to the north, Brisbane has enjoyed a generally "fine" summer... except for the fact that we continue on a drying trend that is affecting our environment and particularly our waterways.

With the season's rainfall at a tad over 60% of the average, limited rain events have managed to keep the Brook flowing, albeit with increasing advances of weeds and ferals. This is a situation we need to address with both immediate and long term actions.

The recent state election seemed to produce little of either, with most effort devoted to accusations and counter claims rather than any visionary solutions.

I suppose we should count ourselves lucky we are not lumped with the Liberals paring back the limited protection recently afforded to Moreton Bay in a populist response to commercial fishing interests, but we still have to deal with Labor's (can't they *spell*?) cavalier attitude towards dams as the solution to water supply. By the time this issue is out we will have a "new look" cabinet; let's hope for some new thought too.



Emma Maltby with Dan Mort, (Healthy Waterways Clean Up Program) on Clean Australia Day, Toombul. (Sharon Marks)

Reports cover our participation in Restoring Corridors, Clean Up Australia Day and the currently running Fish Snapshots, indicative of the remedial and information gathering activities essential for improving the condition of the catchment.

Other "improvements" ongoing are the major infrastructure works of the Gateway and Airport Link roads. Both are having a significant temporary impact on the Brook, with loss of habitat, diversions, dust and noise despite the contractors working under strict conditions.

We can only hope that the end results with their landscaping and planting will offset these disruptions and the large increases in traffic foreseen.

The Gateway team are expected at our next branch meeting to cover their progress and these issues – hope to see you there.

Robert Standish-White
President

Hullo again!

You'll recall that last year, after that long drought, we suffered monster storms and the top section of the Brook received a monster smashing from high winds. Many trees were felled and branches and leaves stripped. But then we received reasonably spaced rains from more settled rain periods and all is green again.

Mind you, the trees up the top end look a bit woolly due to the surge in leaf growth over the bark of all trunks and branches. It's hard to see little birds amongst the bulky foliage now... and the weeds!

Veteran Bushcare Leader Ray Loughrey suffered a double blow since he works with Wahminda Grove, where many trees bit the dust...and also with the Dawson Parade area that continues to receive destructive washaways along the banks.

The Tuesday Tree Liberators are another group of dedicated volunteers that show it doesn't need a huge sized group to make a huge difference to their area.

I'm sure there are many other similar stories of joy and woe our volunteers could tell us along our revegetation areas. Yet, amongst it all, there is a strong will to journey onwards and keep plugging away.

If you or your group have a tale to tell then I'd be pleased to hear it and perhaps share it with others that are still to learn how it's all done!

Cheers!
Charles Ivin

Snippets

Mulching Effort Greatly Appreciated

This was a great effort by the Tuesday Tree Liberators. The small but energetic volunteer group moved 60 cu metre of mulch in a day to finish covering the whole of the Pony Club Bend section of the Brook.

Our large revegetation area is located near the present end of the Kedron Brook Greenway at Mitchelton. It is well worth while having a look, given the pleasant green surroundings, with artistic sculptures and mosaics along the way and great viewing from one of the longest Greenway bridges along the Brook.
(Helen Moriarty)

Cleanup Australia Day

Sunday, 1st of March, dawned clear and inviting as hordes of Aussies around the country set off like ants to scavenge



Mulching Day at Pony Club Bend (H M)

garbage. Our branch was invited this year to coordinate with the "Healthy Waterways" team and their boat, somewhat stymied by the Gateway 2 barge preventing actual joint efforts (for this year!).

Nevertheless, we assembled by the Nudgee Road bridge and piled in to the refuse there and downstream. The boat was soon taken to the slipway and

collected surface flotsam nearer the Bay.

The day turned into an extremely hot one, so we appreciated the help from the scouts upstream who ferried some of our bags in their canoes to the collection point. Collecting from the banks, most jetsam had floated in so there were plenty of bottles and polystyrene, together with fishing debris and occasional oddities like a broken arrow and a blue cats-eye!

Our thanks to those who joined our group, and congratulations to all who took part in the catchment as a whole.

(R Standish-White)

"Howdy" from Creek Ranger Emma

I'd like to say "Hello" to all Kedron Brook Catchment Branch members and network volunteers.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first month
(Continued on page 4)

Arana Hills Bushcare Group Flood Woes

When summer rainwater races down our water ways, considerable damage can occur to the riparian vegetation, together with erosion of the creek banks.

Bushcare Leader Ray Loughrey said "The causeway that runs from the Arana Hills League Club to the Leslie Patrick Park has had a hard time of it for some years. Not too surprising really, since we have been trying to force the Brook into a flow pattern where it didn't want to go."

"In August 2007, the Bushcare group had completed a large planting program and the area, being heavily mulched, flourished significantly.

Large storms had an affect from mid 2008, mainly due to the flood levels around the causeway, where turbulence allowed the water velocity to move a lot of gravel downstream. Plantings around the causeway have not always survived.", he added.

"After drought, we have experienced significant rain events on a number of times when the bridge railing bent



Turbulence underscores the causeway foundations and removes the vegetation.



Lush trees and plants along the southern banks of the Brook behind the Arana Leagues Club causeway to Leslie Patrick Park, August 2007



Same section of Brook as above, mid 2008, after large storms drenched the area

horizontally under the impact of a debris-loaded stream.

He said, "We are presently awaiting another rectification process, hopefully with a more secure future without wash aways."

(Photos and copy by R Loughrey)



Rectification by Main Roads Department

Learn that Weed!



**White Passion Flower
(*Passiflora subpeltata*)**

Thin stemmed, climbing vine with broad, pale-green three-lobed leaves. Pairs of large, stem-clasping bracts are to be found at the base of the leaf stalks, 1.5-4 cm long. The leaves are generally hairless.

The vine bears large white flowers, about 4-5.5 cm across. The sepals are 2-2.5 cm long tapering to a horn-like structure close to the tips about 0.5 cm length. Petals are 1.5-2.0 cm long.

The non-ripening fruits are leathery, green at first but turning yellowish, and are ellipsoid.

A native of tropical America but now naturalized in SE Queensland. It contains cyanic acid and is suspected to be toxic to humans and livestock if eaten in sufficient quantities.

Although listed amongst the weeds in "Wild Plants of Greater Brisbane", it is not listed in the BCC's Weed ID website tool. But it is ranked with a "moderate" score of 3.9 and is 63rd in the "Invasive Naturalised Plants in South-East Queensland", Queensland Herbarium. (CI)

Birds Surveys 2009

This season's surveys started off on a gloomy morning on February 1 that only got worse through continuous rain. Afterwards, we found hot coffee at home with recorded bird calls and picture book displays were a poor substitute for the real thing.

The next weekend Jenny and I followed up with a spontaneous walk through the previously planned walk from Coble Park, Ferny Grove through to Wahminda Park. We were delighted to find that despite the extensive tree damage from last November we found 34 species in the next few hours with the highlight being a Bronze-winged Cuckoo (our first observation of this bird).

We have often walked through bushland with more experienced birders and have



Baby Kookaburra in a termite nest

been told about the habit of Kingfishers and even Kookaburras to peck out a nesting hole in a termite nest up a tree.

We were not very convinced since we never ever had seen such a sight, that is... until this bright and sunny day. The photo on the left is the evidence. We were enthralled to see the parent bird swooping up from below to pop food into the mouth of the baby and then swoop down and away for the next round of grub.

It's really more fun and instructive to carry out a bird survey with other birders but this goes to show what you can do with a reference book, a pair of binoculars and a love of birds in a small group. April 5th and May 3 are our next two surveys. Check our website for details and come and enjoy some birding along the Brook. (CI)

**KEDRON BROOK CATCHMENT
BRANCH (INC.)**

PO Box 1385
STAFFORD QLD 4053

Email: enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au
ABN: 67 730 668 521

President : Robert Standish-White 3862 1186
Secretary :

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*" You may drive out Nature
with a pitchfork, but she
always comes hurrying back."*

(Horace (Epistles), 65-8 BC)

(Restoring Corridors - continued from page 1)

and energy to date in restoring the health of the Kedron Brook catchment.

This first round of the RC program will be completely wrapped up by the end of April. However, natural area restoration and conservation are on-going pursuits. Therefore, I am seeking funding opportunities for a second round of the RC program to extend on what has "grown" from the initial round.

Current partners have expressed interest in further weed control and revegetation works, conducting ecological burns, and joining Council's Wildlife Conservation Partnership Program.

New partners will be invited to participate in the second round but, of course, it will also be available to existing RC partners.

To celebrate and share the learnings gained from the first round of the RC program, a "Reflecting on Restoring" mini-tour will occur later in the year for existing partners. This will include site visits to a handful of properties and a celebratory morning tea. Keep your eyes peeled for further information on these subjects on our website and particularly a news item on this project.
(Emma Maltby)

(You can contact Emma on 3407 0836 or email emma.maltby@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

GRAB THIS! Power crazy? Get the feel of it in a non-obtrusive way. Burst into the thick of our sociable committee planning. Join our committee as Secretary. We'd enjoy your company and even let you off the leash sometimes!



Erosion Control and Revegetation Project of Ross and Catherine Purdon, Ferny Grove

(Photo: Emma Maltby)

(Snippets - continued from page 2)

in the role of Creek Ranger. I'd be lying if I said it's been a walk in Kalinga Park. In fact, it could be more likened to a peak hour drive down Gympie Rd past the Airport link construction. However, I have been very lucky to have the support and guidance of the Management Committee who have been very patient and have helped me in my game of "catch up cricket".

The multiple hats and responsibilities of a Creek Ranger within the catchment, and also within the city wide Creek Ranger team and the Water Resources Branch of BCC make the Creek Ranger role a diverse and very interesting one, no day is ever the same! The high level of social interaction and community centred work means that there is always someone to talk to, to seek advice from, or to give advice to – aspects of the job that I enjoy very much.

To those of you I have already met, it has been a pleasure, and for those of you I am yet to meet, I look forward to it!!

Emma.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 21 April	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch Meeting Tuesday, 21 April , 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Catchment Coordinator Emma Maltby will outline developments in the Restoring Corridors Project, a joint approach with Habitat Brisbane, and SEQ Catchments on a Flying Fox Food and Forage Project. Get results of March Fish Snapshots! Catch up with a yarn with your colleagues at the social supper afterwards. Contact Robert for more details. Phone 3862 1186 (H)
Wednesday 1 April / 6 May	Northern Seminar Series Presentations (Joint Northern Catchments Network and KBCB initiative) Regular first Wed. of month , Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 6:30 pm Finger food, prior to 7:00-9:00 pm session. April 1 "Did the Squirrel Glider Cross the Hamilton Road Land-bridge?" See website or Emma on 3407 0836 for details.
Sunday 5 April / 3 May	Bird Survey at Kalinga Park to Cressy St Wetlands UBD Map 140 Ref H3. Meet in car park at park entrance. 7:00 am Keep 3 May open for the following survey at Grange Forest Park . Contact our Surveys Coordinator, Jenny Ivin, on 3851 0160 (H) to register or obtain more details. Check on our website home page for any changes.
September 11 - 13	WPSQ Southern Branches Get Together . Bayside Branch has put up their hands as host so it will be held in Redland City Council area. Pencil in this weekend for a great time. We'll update details as we get closer



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