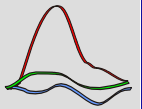




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



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 2010

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*"There was no significant change in the overall health of South East Queensland's freshwater streams from 2008 to 2009."*

*Healthy Waterways Report Card 2009*

## Special interest points:

- Will we be the cause of the sixth great extinction?
- Brisbane's native fauna risks localised extinction.
- WSUDs—the latest acronym.
- European eels populations crashed by poor habitat ?

## Restoring Corridors Project – A New Chapter

One of the final achievements for previous Creek Ranger, Emma Maltby, and the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch (KBCB) has been the obtaining of further funding to continue the successful Restoring Corridors project. Carrying on from the initial round of funding, Restoring Corridors 2 (RC2), as it will be more commonly referred to, has been made possible through the acquisition of funds from the Federal Governments Caring for Our Country Community Action Grants.

With more than 70% of Australia's land in private ownership<sup>1</sup>, the continuation of this project, providing support and encouragement to private landholders to care for their "patch" is important to the protection of the whole of the catchment.

As many of us know, there are many projects occurring in the Kedron Brook catchment that are achieving great outcomes in terms of waterway health improvements and habitat restoration and enhancement. However, if issues such as erosion and invasive species are not addressed at the top of the catchment they will continue to flow down and affect the progress of these other sites along with the general health of the catchment. Such is the nature of our creek catchments,



**RC2 will help Lyn Farrel address erosion issues in Cedar Creek (Anna Bourke)**

and hence the importance of the Restoring Corridors project.

In a similar way to the first project, KBCB's Restoring Corridors 2 will provide financial and contractor assistance to private landholders to restore waterway and habitat corridors on their properties. While some participants will be those previously involved in the project, we are also hoping to create further corridor continuity and habitat enhancement by encouraging new participants to join in as well. Additionally, there will an opportunity for

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Kalinga Park Restoration Project Update

On 27 February, a group of residents from the suburbs surrounding Kalinga Park met to discuss the potential for becoming a Habitat Brisbane group. It was apparent early on that this was an idea that the group was keen to pursue and the first step to solidifying their commitment was to decide on a name for the group. In a very democratic way, the apt name Kalinga Park Bushcare Group was decided upon.

Following this important decision the group has elected to meet every two months in the



**Volunteer group get initial guidance on the morning priorities at Kalinga Park**

lead up to their bid to become an official Habitat Brisbane group, at which stage if they are successful, they will consider revising to more frequent meetings. In keeping with this decision, another working bee was locked in for Saturday 27 March. However, the group decided that after this working bee, future meetings of the Kalinga Park Bushcare

Group will occur every two months on the third Saturday of the month, except this July will be on the 10th .

The 27 March working bee was focused on

*(Continued on page 4)*



Participating in this year's Clean Up Australia day brought several thoughts to mind, starting with the very obvious fact that most of the garbage we collected was food packaging, and much of that plastic. Is this really the best use for our dwindling hydrocarbon resources? Why are we packaging "instant" goods in virtually indestructible disposable containers? While annual scrounges may make us feel better and focus the mind, obviously most of this waste ends up going on down the Brook, or any river, and in to the oceans.



**A fine crop of glycine ready to spread down the Brook**

Another vast oceanic garbage patch has recently been confirmed in the Atlantic (see <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/03/100302-new-ocean-trash-garbage-patch/> ) with the worrying unknown of what all that varyingly toxic detritus is doing to the ecosystem. Strikes me that crashes in populations like that of the European eels (see [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/northern\\_ireland/8556477.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/8556477.stm)) may have just as much to do with pollution and habitat degradation as with overfishing. Measures to address this might include more reusable items (glass bottles with deposits? See also <http://www.greenerdesign.com/browse/packaging>), some monetary reward for

recycling, truly biodegradable containers and education campaigns in schools.

Getting to refuse at high flood marks is becoming more difficult too as the rampant spread of weeds, particularly the dense rank stands Para and other big grasses, blights our riverbanks. Singapore Daisy has rapidly spread down Kalinga Park in the last few years, obliterating many previously open areas. Do make the time to lobby your local councillor on this serious environmental threat.

Without much scientific basis for saying so, I would suggest that the brutal rock banks installed to channel increasingly swift flood waters are also far more weed than local flora friendly, with no apparent effort being made to "soften" or plant them. This particular local certainly finds them nasty to traverse...

UK palaeontologist Professor Richard Fortey gave a brief overview of life on the planet at the Queensland Museum in early March, with the geological record reminding us that while life is certainly resilient it can collapse, and has several times. Who survives is an open lottery, so perhaps in this Year of Biodiversity we should be making extra efforts to reverse our record to date, and not go down as the cause of the sixth great extinction!

Robert Standish-White  
President

Hello again.

Although this newsletter only gets out six times a year, I often get feedback from a variety of sources throughout our community that indicates to me the personal effort that goes into it is worth it!

Our branch uses it to tell the world what a great bunch of volunteers we have along this catchment, the wonderful support we get from WPSQ, from our local governments and the many groups and organisations within our Network that are working to improve the environmental and esthetical values of our Brook. We also point out our concerns and work towards improvements even when support may not be as forth-coming as one would like.

Would you believe that possibly only five people actually contribute any regular news to this newsletter and the Network web site? Perhaps we are just extremely gifted to be able to focus on all those thoughts, successes, experiences and environmental needs of the people who work for and enjoy the Brook... but we'd really like these two forms of communications to be more representative. And I'm sure, so would you.

Please send along your snippets, beautiful photos taken along the brook, news of group projects, and so on, via the email address [news@kedronbrook.org.au](mailto:news@kedronbrook.org.au) .

Talk directly to our Committee members if you're shy of using the internet. Details are on the Contact Us page of the web site or on the last page of this newsletter.

Cheers!

Charles Ivin

## Snippets

### Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)

Healthy Waterways define WSUD as being an approach to the planning and design of urban environments that supports healthy ecosystems, lifestyles and livelihoods through smart management of all our waters. Look at their web site <http://waterbydesign.com.au/> for a comprehensive introduction.

Recently the Queensland Government brought in legislation to empower local government to assess and require the use of various measures to improve sustainability. By requiring new urban development to incorporate proper use of WSUDs in the expansion of these new developments, it is expected that these



**BCN Group examine a waterway bioretention unit at Wakerley in 2008**

design objectives will better manage stormwater quality, waterway stability and flow frequency. These changes should help Kedron Brook catchment in the future.

At our next general meeting on 20 April, Paul McAntee, Brisbane City Council, is

presenting an approach being used by BCC on waterway health enhancement along our catchments.

(CI)

### Bird Studies Program

Rainy weather caused a few changes in our program and there have been some good birding walks. See the "Bird studies 2010" news item on the web site or check our diary for the latest program.

(CI)



**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**

## The search for the desirable tree hollows

Words from the BCC website: "Brisbane has more species of plants, animals and insects than any other capital city in Australia. However, less than 33% of wild-life habitat cover remains and Brisbane's native fauna risks localised extinction."

KBCB supports the BCC "Green Heart City Smart" program through it's interactions with our catchment network in close cooperation with Habitat Brisbane and it's bushcare groups. The program includes the intentions to preserve biodiversity by restoring 40% of Brisbane to natural habitat by 2026 and reconnecting ecological corridors. Kedron Brook is shown on the "wildlife movement solutions" plan as a "core corridor" with a "zone of influence". It is one of the few links from forested hills to the internationally significant north-east wetlands region.

Given all these obvious imperatives, it seems these ideals are being subverted or given mere lip service in the face of enormous development and engineering pressures. Although numbers of many species are declining, there are those that hang on, but in order to do so for much longer they will need more than mowed lawns and legally compliant trees. They will need homes, and for many that means tree hollows or their equivalent. Since a eucalypt can take up to 150 years to develop a useful range of habitat hollows, and broken off branches and fires that often promote such



**It's easy to plant a tree but it takes many years before it provides a nesting hollow.**



**A pair of rainbow lorikeets think this tree hollow is the "bee's knees" for their nest**

hollow formation are hard to come by in the city, we have been considering a nest box program to supplement the few remaining nesting trees.

A first step in this initiative will be to assess what does remain, and try to pin down what species are using the remaining big trees. With a basis to start from we will then get advice on which species we could usefully try to encourage, and then seek out the best box designs for them. Any program will have to include ongoing monitoring and maintenance, with appropriate safety guidelines in this litigious society.

You can see there is some way to go, but some better information will enable us to lobby for habitat even if the boxes idea proves too, too hard. In the meantime, we will continue to work towards improving any other habitats we can in the catchment.

(Robert Standish-White)

## Learn that weed!



**Brazilian Nightshade (Solanum seafortianum)**

Yes! A native of Brazil, this is a perennial naturalized ornamental vine, often climbing over fences or shrubs, up to 5 m. high.

The dark green leaves are up to 13 cm long, non-prickly, deeply lobed, often cut to midrib, with leaf-stalk 2-4 cm long.

Large bunches of flowers form in pendant clusters, mainly in spring and autumn, star-shaped, 2-3 cm in dia., are lilac to bluish-purple with a tuft of yellow stamens in the centre.

The globular berry fruits are fleshy bright red, 8-12 mm dia. The hairy seed is round to kidney shaped.

Fruits and leaves are toxic if eaten.

Ranked 55th in the Qld Herbarium's list of 200 Invasive Naturalised Plants in Southeast Queensland (2002) with a medium to high invasive score of 4.0, as is the wild tobacco tree (Solanum mauritianum). (5.0 is maximum score)

Neither are "declared weeds" by State or local council.

(C1)

## Stream Snap Shot (SSS)

Following legislative requirements for volunteers to first be registered under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Fish Snap Shot surveys have been cancelled and less-restricted basic water quality measurements were put into their place.

Four SSSs were completed after substantial rainfall events and flooding drastically changed the profiles of the locations used in past years. Past shallow stretches became much deeper and required dedicated assistants to wade waist deep to lay the transit lines and to obtain stream depths for the profile data.

Snap shots were carried out at Dawson Parade and Pony Club Bend on 13 March,



**Robert Standish-White and Debbie Dolby laying transit line, Kalinga Park SSS (AB)**

Grinstead Park on 14 March, and Kalinga Park on 21 March. The latter location was difficult to access along



**Anna Bourke, Philip Rowland and Debbie Dolby at the Dawson Parade SSS**

one bank and much wading resulted in a wet morning. Good fun!

(C1)

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***" It is thrifty to  
prepare today for  
the wants of tomorrow. "***

***(Aesop)***

*(Restoring Corridors 2—continued from page 1)*

other landholders and residents in the Upper, Middle and Lower reaches of Kedron Brook catchment to learn more about the project and gain skills that will assist them in restoring their patch of the catchment.

This will be possible through a couple of workshops and a field trip aimed at up-skilling the Restoring Corridors 2 participants, but will also be made open to a limited number of other Kedron Brook catchment dwellers. The first of these workshops will be held on Sunday 11 July at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, and will cover the topic of Weed Identification and Control.

If you are keen to be involved be quick to register your interest!

You can contact Anna on 3407 0836 or email [anna.bourke@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:anna.bourke@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

<sup>1</sup>Australian Bush Heritage Fund (2010) Conservation partnerships webpage.

[http://www.bushheritage.org.au/what\\_we\\_do/conservation\\_partnerships](http://www.bushheritage.org.au/what_we_do/conservation_partnerships)

(Anna Bourke)

*(Kalinga Park project—continued from page 1)*

dealing with weeds at the site in order to aid the native plants that have previously gone in at the site. However, after such good rain in the month leading up to the working bee it was decided that a few more plants to fill the gaps could be put in, along with two larger trees on the Brook side of the path, while the soil was still nice and moist.

The main weeds targeted on the day were woody weeds such as Ochna and small Chinese Celtis, weedy vines such as Balloon



**Restoring Corridors 2 will assist the Cunz family tackle a large Lantana infestation on their property (Anna Bourke)**

Vine and Madeira Vine, and various weedy grasses. As for the in-fill plantings, these included a variety of native ground covers, shrubs and trees, such as Blue Flax Lily (*Dianella* sp.), Australian Indigo (*Indigofera australis*), Foambark tree (*Jagera pseudohus*) and Tulipwood (*Harpullia pendula*). The two trees planted on the Brook side of the pathway, a Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus marcophylla*) and Creek Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium smithii*), have been put in to replace a large weed tree that had previously been removed. They will eventually fill a large gap in the riparian canopy, which will help shade out weeds in the future while providing bank stability.

All in all, the future of the Kalinga Park Restoration Project site is looking very bright! Hopefully the groups bid to become a Habitat Brisbane Group will be successful. For more information on the project, or to become involved, please check out the special website project page (or contact our Kedron Brook Creek Ranger, Anna Bourke). (Anna Bourke)

**Dates for your Diary:**

Wednesday 7 April	<b>Northern Seminar Series</b> Wednesday 7 April at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. "Geology, soils, plants & fungi" Presented by John Wrench. Finger food from 6:30 pm and Presentation from 7 pm till 8 pm. RSVP: Contact Anna Bourke on 3407 0836.
Sunday 11 April	<b>Bird Surveys - Pony Club Bend &amp; Teralba Park</b> Meet at 7am at end of McConaghy St., Mitchelton (UBD Map 138 ref. L1) Contact our Coordinator, Jenny Ivin, on 3851 0160 (H) to register or to obtain more details. Check on our <a href="#">website home page</a> to link to the overall program or to learn any last minute changes.
Tuesday 20 April	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting</b> Tuesday, 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. (Note change of location) Paul McAntee, Brisbane City Council, is presenting the approach being used by BCC on waterway health enhancement along our catchments. The usual social hot drink and cake at the end. RSVP Contact Robert on 3862 1186
Saturday 5 June	World Environment Day "Footprints of Hope" event at Kalinga Park. The event will include a symbolic tree planting, the installation of footprint art from Nundah State School and a low carbon BBQ supplied by Food Connect.



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