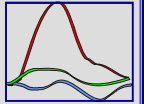




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

August 2012

Tenth Anniversary of Kedron Brook Catchment Branch – Wildlife Queensland

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The 'ayes' have it in a vote for the formation of KBCB-WPSQ on Tuesday 30 April 2002

On Tuesday 30 April 2002, it was decided that a Kedron Brook Catchment Branch - Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland be formed to facilitate administration of our network. An interim committee consisting of members of the informal steering group was formed at a public meeting on 30 April 2002. These people became the formal committee and consisted of Philip Rowland as President, Helen Moriarty as Secretary and Donald Hopkins as Treasurer.

While BCC provided the vital support, construction of our original web site including detailed web design and group development planning was all undertaken by volunteers from the KBC Network, mainly associated with the Habitat Brisbane bushcare groups.

Since inception in 2002, a small but

dedicated group of advocates from KBCB - Wildlife Queensland and its associated Network have worked tirelessly to raise awareness to the delights and especially the plight of the Kedron Brook environment arising from urban, and infrastructural impacts.

This group, through its various members and volunteers, has re-vegetated and maintained bushland habitat to restore wildlife corridors, monitored water quality and weed incursions, surveyed birds and other wildlife and educated countless children, adults, politicians and friends in the continued importance and environmental viability of the brook.

On Saturday 28 July 2012, a small but representative group of KBCB members and Network volunteers came together to celebrate the overall progress resulting from our first ten years of projects, activities and events. Our President, Robert Standish-White hosted a most enjoyable event at his Queenslander home. (C1)

'My experience of gentleman's agreements is that, when it comes to the pinch, there are rarely enough bloody gentlemen about.'
'In Crisp, Ben Chifley' (1960)

Special interest points:

- Members get a free lunch!
- Vale Bob Robbie ...
- Four Creek Rangers to cover one of the world's biggest city areas; Brisbane!
- Schinus species has a bite!
- SEQ Catchments framed!



A past Catchment Coordinator, Nathan Kirby, with Philip Rowland at the KBCB 10th Anniversary Luncheon on 28 July



*Gathering at the Luncheon
 (Photo: Robert Standish-White)*

State of the Brook

You will all have been aware of our ten year celebration, and can see the report in this issue. Apart from some cheerful consolidation, what else does such an event tell us? I'd say an indication that there are those among our society who are not altogether seduced by the lures of commerce and comfort, and retain a valued link to the natural world from whence we all came, and ultimately still rely on.

There is a great satisfaction in undertaking actions that we believe will benefit both wildlife and our community in the long term. There continue to be large pressures towards decline. We need to do our best to keep our energy levels up to carry on, and encourage others to join what we all believe are both vital and enjoyable projects.

We also bid farewell to and thank our "stand-in" Creek Ranger Jacinta Hamilton, who so capably and cheerfully took over from Anna Bourke. All is not lost because Jacinta will take over her new role as our Branch Secretary!

The whole program has been drastically scaled back, and following a "holding" period to September we will



This group started with a celebratory drink at our KBCB 10th Anniversary function on Saturday 28 July.

(Photo: Robert Standish-White)

find out what the job description is for the four BCC rangers remaining to look after the whole area of Brisbane City.

We will no longer be able to rely on that "during working hours" back-up, so may have to scale back our ambitions, and could be calling on more volunteer assistance. Whilst there is some new funding out there it remains to be seen how new official attitudes towards the environment will unfold.

The new tunnels are now taking traffic under the catchment, while their landscaping appears to be limping along

towards completion. The ducks and cormorants are exploring the new rocks and reaches, and it will be interesting to observe how these currently raw stretches mature. Perhaps we'll have to wait another ten years; our city and world may be quite a different place by then.

So as ever we have a swag of challenges laid out to tackle, from weeds to funding to manpower; grab a jumper and let's get out there!

Robert Standish-White,
President



Branch Treasurer Lennert Veerman with our new Secretary Jacinta Hamilton

Snippets

Moreton Bay Rovers Bushcare Group visit Wahminda Grove

A strong sunny morning greeted the Moreton Bay Rovers Bushcare Group on Tuesday 2 July when they gave a hand to [Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group](#) at Ferny Hills.

This volunteer group roams with time over sixty sites between Arana Hills to Bribie Island visiting the various bushcare group areas being re-vegetated or maintained by local volunteers under care of the Moreton Bay Regional Council.

Not only do the 'rovers' help the group they visit, they gain new ideas from each other's area and sometimes give that extra bit of muscle to a job that a smaller local group can't handle.

After working on this large revegetation project, the visitors were taken over other parts of the bushcare area and shown the results of successful plantings conducted over the past ten years or so.

All enjoyed the morning tea and cakes provided by MBRC staff at the finish of the tour.

(Cl/Lyn Ellerman)

Men of the Trees (MOTT)—National Tree Day Planting

Men of The Trees had a wonderful



The group at the Wahminda Grove-Powerlink Project on 2 July

planting at Arbor Street Park, off Tramway Street behind Ferny Grove Police Station on National Tree Day Celebration on Sunday 29 July.

It was a warm, sunny winters morning for the seventy or so people, counting children, attending.

Kedron Cub Scout Leaders, Sean Kennedy and Cameron Langton, attended with a small group of Cub Scouts that were most welcome for their efforts.

A significant proportion of the gathering consisted of members of The Shah Satnam ji Green S Welfare Force Society Branch in Brisbane, that has around fifty members and belongs to the spiritual group Dera Sacha Sauda, based in India. They have a great reputation for their social and



Kedron Cub Scout Leader Cameron Langton with his daughter Isabell at the Ferny Grove Tree planting with MOTT on 29 July

environmental welfare services (e.g. crisis response such as clean-up of post-flood Brisbane and working with MOTT and the NCN on habitat regeneration)

Over 825 trees, shrubs and ground covers were planted in what seemed to be a huge area to cover. But it was nicely done with a free BBQ at the end so people could recuperate and enjoy a chat together before making their way shopping or home.

Another well-organised [MOTT](#) activity.

(Charles Ivin)

(Snippets continued on page 4)

Bushcare along the catchment

Vale Bob Robbie

On the 15th of December 2011, we lost one of our much loved community members and bushcarers, Bob Robbie from the [Sparkes Hill Bushcare Group](#). Sadly, Bob passed away late last year from cancer. Bob had the most delightful nature. His enthusiasm and passion for the conservation of Sparkes Hill, a 21.5 hectare bushland area, will never be forgotten.

Bob started the one-person bushcare group at Sparkes Hill about 20 years ago when he was an Ambulance Officer. Bob who lived locally used to walk on Sparkes Hill and began cleaning it up after a Clean up Australia Day event (when his family and one other person turned up!) After this, Bob went on to become the eyes and



Vale Bob Robbie
Sparkes Hill Bushcare Leader



Flying foxes at Sparkes Hill

ears (and arms!) for this piece of previously neglected bushland. He spent up to six hours a week there before he retired and, after retirement, a couple of days a week.

Bob carried out an enormous amount of work at Sparkes Hill. He started by pulling out and stock piling rubbish that required thirty-five truck loads to remove. He removed hundreds of cubic metres of weeds by hand. This has promoted regeneration of understory species and native grasses that were once dominated by green panic and succulents such as *Callisia fragrans* and Mother of Millions. Bob also kept the walking track that ran around the reserve clear and spent many hours controlling weeds such as Cats claw

(Continued on page 4)

Learn that weed!



Broad-leaf Pepper Tree
(*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

A large, spreading tree, Broad-leaf Pepper Tree is distinguished by branchlets not hanging; leaves and fruits smell peppery when crushed; leaflets number 5–17, are 1.5–5 cm long and 1–3 cm wide.

Male and female flowers on separate trees, petals white to cream; fruit almost globe-shaped, 6 mm wide, initially green, red when ripe, outer membranous layer separating from next layer at this time.

Infests coastal wetlands, disturbed sites, and water courses. Dispersal is by seed, mostly by birds and mammals, also by water flow. Toxic to birds and mammals.

This serious environmental weed has an invasive score of 4.8 out of 5 and is ranked 9th out of the 200 species listed in the Qld Herbarium's 'Invasive Naturalised Plants in SE Queensland'.(CI)

Partnerships Developing to Monitor Water Quality

Partnerships are being developed between Kedron Brook Catchment Network and the Northern Catchments Network to monitor water quality in the northern areas of Brisbane City Council.

Are you passionate about your local environment? Want to learn more about water quality in your area and/or develop skills in the strategy and planning of a Water Quality Monitoring Program? Then the time has come to get involved with an exciting initiative in development with two outstanding community-led catchment groups with support from Brisbane City Council, Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments!

We need you to help us with:

- Coordinating logistics and people
- Administrative support
- Networking / liaison / research
- Water Quality Monitoring



Hayley Schultz (nee Cambourn) and
Robert Standish-White at Fish Snapshot

The minimum time commitment is 3 hours per month practical work with monthly meetings of approximately 1 hour. There is scope to increase your participation if you like. Excellent opportunities exist for students or those looking for strategy, planning and implementation experience in the field of water quality monitoring.



Identification of fish species—Ferry Grove

For more information, please contact Donna Edwards, Creek Ranger, North Region on 07-34070865 or by email donna.edwards@brisbane.qld.gov.au or read more through our web site on www.northerncatchmentsnetwork.org.au in Newsletters section. (Donna Edwards)

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Secretary : Jacinta Hamilton

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Brook!**

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au



**Noisy
Friarbird,
Grinstead
Park**

(Bushcare along Catchment continued from page 3)

Creeper, Climbing Asparagus, Mile a Minute, Madeira vine, Celtis, Ochna and Small-leaved Privet to name a few.

Sparkes Hill is home to Grey Headed Flying Foxes and Black Flying Foxes. Little Red Flying Foxes are nomadic summer visitors to the area. Bob spent many hours removing hundreds of small Cocos palms and saplings as these are a huge threat to Flying Foxes. His vision was to remove them all from the reserve.

Bob was also a keen bird watcher and reported that a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles predate on bats approximately once a month in the reserve. He always got excited when the Channel-billed Cuckoos arrived and roosted at the reserve from October to February.

In 2001, Bob worked with school students in the Clover Street Park across the creek from the bat roost site to do Food for Wildlife plantings. The plantings were carried out to protect existing food trees and to provide an additional food source for the bats

Clover Street Park is where we have decided to install a seat and plaque in memory of Bob. We are planning on having a tree planting ceremony and morning tea in his memory at the end of the year with his family and friends. I will also send an invite to members of the Kedron Brook Catchment Network so please keep an eye out for this.

It is very difficult to capture on paper the enormity of Bob's contribution to the conservation and restoration of Sparkes Hill. His inspirational work as a bushcare volunteer will not be forgotten and lives on in the plant communities that he helped to restore and protect.

(Fleur Sanderson)



Sediment Settling Pond at McGregor Way, Ferny Grove, to be upgraded and public facilities artistically enhanced this year

(Snippets continued from page 2)

Ecological Restoration Framework

Good news story! The SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework is out and available to all – a standard throughout SEQ to ensure that ecological restoration is done consistently and well. Of course, all of you already undertake your restoration very well indeed as I know from all the brilliant projects I'm constantly seeing, but it's fabulous that we all have a standard now that we can take to help others.

This Framework has been endorsed by the Council of Mayors, and so will now be used by Local Government and includes a guide for policy makers as well.

We are contacting as many groups and organisations to help spread this valuable resource. The Framework is available as a PDF on our SEQ Catchments website.

Link via

<http://www.seqcatchments.com.au/seq-ecological-restoration-framework> or,

contact Louise Orr, SEQ Catchments on mobile 0439 024 400.

(Louise Orr/CI)

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 21 August	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Tuesday 21 August Our speaker, Dr Robert Raven , will talk about Trapdoor and Funnel Web spiders in relation to our catchment. Join us at 7.00 pm for pre-meeting drinks and nibbles. Meeting is 7.30 pm-9.30 pm. RSVP Robert Standish-White on 3862 1186
Friday 7 & Saturday 8 September	Talking Wildlife—WPSQ Special Anniversary Forum— 7-8 September at Bardon Conference Centre, Brisbane. Some of Australian's leading biodiversity researchers and campaigners are celebrating Wildlife Queensland's 50th Anniversary by Talking Wildlife this September. Link to Wildlife Queensland to find out further how you can share this special celebration.
Sunday 9 September	WPSQ AGM and 50th Anniversary Celebratory Forum for Members Sunday 9 September. 10 am—2 pm: Displays, morning tea, reserve bushland walks, Geckoes Wildlife presentation, free lunch and birthday cake cutting. 2 pm to 4 pm: Wildlife Queensland AGM. 4 pm to 5 pm Wine and cheese to round off the day. See flyer! Please RSVP by 2 September for catering to brisbane@wildlife.org.au .



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