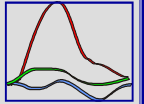




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



**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

June 2012

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*'Nature, time and  
 patience are the three  
 great physicians'*

*(Old Proverb)*

## Special interest points:

- *What is a Horiba?*
- *Elephant grass is a favourite food of elephants*
- *Nundah State School students become Catchment Kids*
- *Trail bike pathways expand in Arbor Park*

## Revegetation project at Keperra Golf Club

In 2008, destructive winds from an extremely severe storm caused many large trees to be de-branched or felled between The Gap and Arana Hills. The debris from these falls was immense and also wrecked some of the understory in parts of the Brook adjacent to the Keperra Golf Club (KGC).

Following previous discussions, a meeting was held between representatives of KBCB, Jacinta Hamilton (BCC), Mal Cadioli (contractor), Peter Hayes (Land for Wildlife) and Keith Johnson (Head Grounds man, KGC) at Keperra Golf Club on Thursday, 31 May.



**Brook Park Bushcare Group area adjacent to Keperra Golf Club** (Photo: Jacinta Hamilton)



**View towards the golf course from the Brook.** (Photo: Jacinta Hamilton)

They considered ways in which the previous bushland atmosphere of the grounds could be regained and enhanced, especially from an environmental point of view along the wildlife corridor served by Kedron Brook.

Moreton Bay Regional Council has already conducted substantial work on the opposite side of the creek within their area (see picture to left). The intention of this meeting was to see ways in which the group could work with KGC management to assist in a similar manner on Brisbane City Council's side.

There is a decent sized area right on Kedron  
*(Continued on page 4)*

## Queensland Rail Project– Bob Cassimaty Park

The rains came again and caused cancellation of another planting for this project on 28 April. However, this was followed up with perfect weather on the following Saturday, 5 May, with a very productive and incredible day. There was a great turn out of volunteers including some employees from the Marriott Hotel and we had over 1,000 plants planted.

On 2 June, despite an overcast sky, we completed Stage 4 of our plantings at Cassimaty Picnic Grounds. There now remains only a few small areas to follow up. We will only have one more group planting for the project on Saturday, 23 June, when we will conduct the final planting of the project and celebrate this work with a social BBQ.

Ongoing maintenance has been organised to continue on the site for a minimum of two years with the possibility of future funding to come. We look forward to seeing you at the next planting.  
 (Jacinta Hamilton)



**Planting and relaxing at Bob Cassimaty Park on Saturday 5 May**  
 (Photo: Robert Standish-white)

# State of the Brook

The recent SEQ Catchments Community Update in the B4C building was uplifting in that it reminded us that in spite of all the gloom and discouragement swirling about at present there are structures out there that are maintaining and growing the efforts for a biodiverse future.

From the legal framework of the regional plan to small grants, support can be found in the often seemingly overwhelming fight to preserve the environment around us. What is often missing are the links between these various crusaders, so that knowledge and encouragement can be shared.

Perhaps the internet can be the medium that starts to grow these connections, so we find ourselves in a supportive network of likeminded citizens. When we act together we will be become a force to be reckoned with – the modern age is impressed by quantity whether as voters, shareholders, consumers or just plain irritants! Thus fortified we should then be making links others who can make a difference, starting with our (largely new) state and council representatives. Let's see if we can make



**Attentive juvenile watches while parent Pied Cormorant dries feathers**

(Photo: Robert Standish-White)

positive connections and overcome prejudices so a triple bottom line society becomes reality.

We may sometimes grumble about all our bureaucracy, and it may indeed need the odd shake out, but on those bad days think of Africa where most systems have crumbled and often only creak along with the application of frequent "facilitation fees". There, a continent rich in the last of the big game is being stripped for commercial gain or by the impoverished with little option.

So use the organisations we have to make the best of what we have here, as

Australia is also losing species at an alarming rate in the face of ferals, habitat loss and general apathy.

Another link we should think about in this "Year of the Farmer" is with those on the land. How do we urbanites better understand their conundrums, trying to make a decent living whilst succouring the land, fighting rising costs and intense commercial pressures, apart from the whole mining conflict?

So believe it or not, things are not all dismal. We have some tools to take to the problem and many who support the cause. Getting more of them actually out there would be good so chat, phone, email, post, tweet, connect however you see fit and let's work this thing together!

Robert Standish-White,  
President



**All creatures great and small!**

(Photo: Robert Standish-White)

## Snippets

### Clayfield College explores our brook

Clayfield College Year 11 Geography class are taken on a tour of Kedron Brook each year and asked to submit an assignment on what they have seen, with ideas for what could be done better.

As one of the speakers at their various stopping points I gave them an outline of the management strategies applied in the Catchment, related to what we do within that framework. It was sadly easy to gather an armful of weeds to show them in Kalinga Park, and I tried to impress upon them the concept of looking at the entire catchment rather than just the creek-line.

Whilst we got a glowing response from the teacher, I feel we shall need to present the facts in a more engaging format next time to elicit more response from the students! There may be possibilities for further interaction with the school based on such cooperation.

(Robert Standish-White)

### Catchment Kids flourishes in 2012

The 2012 Catchment Kids project flourishes over another year. Nundah State School is back on board with the school starting junior and senior science clubs.



**Wahminda Grove-Powerlink Project area being planted** (Photo: Lyn Ellerman)

On Friday, 3 March, the senior students made a pledge to commit themselves to look after the environmental health and wildlife of Kedron Brook.

As Acting Creek Ranger, I followed up on 31 May to address the students of the Senior Science Club (Years 5 to 7). The students were excited at being accepted for the second year as the Catchment Kids for Kedron Brook.

I visited them on 1 June to present the 'Catchment Story', from which they learnt about the problems occurring from various types of pollution in Kedron Brook. They then received their own Catchment Kids hats. On 5 June, they will be celebrating World Environment Day with an event at Kalinga Park.



**Wahminda Grove-Powerlink Project area nearer creek** (Photo: Lyn Ellerman)

On Friday 4 May, I also made a visit to the Junior Science Club, the students of which gave some great ideas on how they can look after Kedron Brook. The development of our future environmentalists is well in progress.

(Jacinta Hamilton)

### Powerlink Project at Wahminda Grove

I am pleased to advise of the early completion of our regeneration efforts on Area 1b of the Powerlink Ferny Hills site. (Photos of the revegetated area are shown above).

Over the last month or so, our group has planted 490 tube stocks over Area 1b. This is well ahead of our timeline for the areas

(Snippets continued on page 4)

## Bushcare along the catchment

### A big 'hello' from Fleur!

This month I will be featuring the Ferny Grove Bushcare Group. John Jordaan has been the Group Leader here for more than nine years. He works in partnership with the Keperra Kings Lioness Club which is a group initiative for young adults with a disability. This Lioness Club is supported by both the Golden Valley and the Keperra Lions Clubs.

The Keperra Kings joined the bushcare program in August 2003 and since this time John has worked with the group. He helped changes to take place that benefited both the local environment and group members.

The purpose of the Keperra Kings group is to develop member's personal skills and social interaction and to carry out projects in support of the community. Bushcare is a great vehicle for achieving these objectives and John has done a great



**John Jordaan,  
Ferny Grove Bushcare Leader**

job with the Keperra Kings to restore riparian vegetation to a lower portion of Cedar Creek (a tributary of Kedron Brook) at Arbor Park.

The group is working to improve natural habitat by removing weeds and replanting, where necessary with local native species. There are three different Regional Ecosystems within the bushcare site. One of them (12.3.1 Riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland) is endangered. Therefore the work the group are doing is vitally important in helping to conserve and restore this very special area.

One of the biggest challenges for the group is keeping on top of the Madiera vine infestation; however nothing seems

*(Continued on page 4)*



**John with some members of the  
Keperra Kings at Arbor Park, Ferny  
Grove, in July 2004**

## Learn that weed!



**Elephant Grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*)**

Also called Barner or Napier Grass, or Cow Cane, it is a class C (Containment and reduction) declared plant under BCC legislation.

Elephant grass is a tufted perennial grass that can grow in stands up to 4 m high.

It has pale green leaves up to 4 cm in width, with a strong midrib tapering to a fine point.

The large flower heads range in colour from yellow to purple, and can be up to 30 cm in length. Each flower head has fine bristles along the spike.

[Wikipedia](#) states the name 'Elephant grass' derives from it being a favourite food of elephants. Others may say it is because it grows so high! It usually grows along river banks, wetlands, roadsides and wastelands or is cultivated in parks and gardens.

Elephant grass has an invasive score of 3.5 out of 5 and is ranked 125th out of the 200 species listed in the Qld Herbarium's 'Invasive Naturalised Plants in SE Queensland'.

(CI)

## Instrument available for water quality measurements

Northside Creek Rangers have recently bought one of those handy instruments that is used in Fish Snapshots.

The instrument is a Horiba U-52 series multi-parameter water quality checker. For those who are wondering what this means, the Horiba instrument is a piece of equipment that is used for water quality testing of up to eleven parameters, including the measurement of pH, Turbidity, Temperature, Conductivity, Dissolved Oxygen and Salinity.

Any water quality testing that is obtained by a Horiba meter, used by a trained operator, is taken as reliable data that can be updated onto the South East Queensland Catchments website.

KBCB has been using a similar instrument for a few years along the brook during Fish Snapshot surveys.

This device is also used by Brisbane City Council employees and catchment



**The Horiba U-52 series meter comes  
with a protective case** (Photo: J. Hamilton)

groups; however there will be specific booking procedures in place and anyone using the Horiba meter must have completed a Certificate III in Water Quality Testing through SEQ Catchments. This Certificate is offered free to volunteers and is a two day course. See the SEQ Catchments website for more details.

Once the 'Standard Operating



**Anna Bourke, Philip Rowland and  
Debbie Dolby use a Horiba meter**

Procedures' guide and the borrowing register are put onto the Northern Catchment Networks web site, the instrument will be ready for use by everyone that has had the training.

(Jacinta Hamilton)

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**Trail bikers expanding bike trial  
pathways at Arbor Park (20 May 2012)**

*(Keperra Golf Club Project continued from page 1)*

Brook that will be perfect to get some revegetation work started.

Keith Johnson was enthusiastic about the general proposals and will begin with some of his own work to the area. He will also get their local volunteer bushcare group to start removing some bitumen which was washed up from the severe storm.

It is vital that persistent weeds such as the Japanese Sunflower, Madeira Vine and Guinea Grass are eliminated quickly to prevent spreading into other areas.

It looks like it's going to be a very large ongoing project with the golf course staff who appear to be very keen to assist where they can.

(Jacinta Hamilton)

*(Bushcare along Catchment continued from page 3)*

to deter the group's enthusiasm for continuing their bushcare work.

When asked what keeps him motivated, John's reply was, 'I don't fully know... I know I find it relaxing. This is an escape for me. I am a country person at heart and this is as close to the country I can get, I enjoy the peaceful surroundings'.

John works full time but still manages to fit in being Group Leader for two bushcare groups; the other Group is in Logan where he does similar work with the Logan Kings. A very big thank you to John and the Ferny Grove Bushcare Group, your hard work is greatly appreciated!

John is always looking for extra hands to assist with bushcare work so if you are interested in helping please call him by phone on 38512817.

(Fleur Sanderson)



**Glider being examined during scientific  
survey of gliders in SE Queensland**

(Photo: Sarah Bell)

*(Snippets—Powerlink continued from page 2)*

revegetation. With the creek beside the site continuing to flow so strongly, we took the opportunity to revegetate the area, minus the need for hauling water too far.

Our group can now move onto revegetating Area 2 of our project. Our planting in this area will commence early in June, and being a bigger area for revegetation it will take us some time to complete.

We have the Moreton Bay Rovers visiting us on Tuesday, 3 July, to help us plant out during part of Stage 2.

All volunteers will be most welcome!

For further details, please contact Lyn and Ann Ellerman on phone 33511805.

(Lyn Ellerman)

**Dates for your Diary:**

Tuesday 19 June	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch AGM and Network Meeting</b> at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. 19 June After short AGM, our speaker, Sarah Bell, will present her latest research on squirrel glider ecology from both mainland and island sites in South East Queensland. Join us at 7.00 pm for pre-meeting drinks and nibbles. Meeting is 7.30 pm-9.30 pm. RSVP Secretary Lennert Veerman on 0401 265 973.
Saturday 23 June	<b>Queensland Rail Community Tree Planting Day - Final Planting and Celebratory BBQ</b> on 23 June 2012, 8.30 am to 12 md at Bob Cassimaty Park, Ferny Grove (opposite BP service Station on Samford Road) (UBD Map 137 ref LI). This project involves QR, Men of the Trees and KBCB. Celebrate our achievements with a final BBQ! Please contact Creek Ranger, Jacinta Hamilton, on 3407 0925 for details. Find where on our <a href="#">web site!</a>
Sundays 17 June and 1 July	<b>Bird Observation Walks</b> Rain caused shift of our Albert Bishop Park walk from Sunday 2 June to Sunday 17 June. Meet at Hedley Ave. Toombul at Nundah Cemetery entrance at 7:30 am. This is followed by Sunday 1 July walk at 7:30 am Nudgee Waterhole, Kedron Brook Floodway, to Nudgee Beach. Meet in car park at the Nudgee Waterhole Reserve. (UBD Map 121 Ref K9) Check out our web site or contact Jenny Ivin on 3851 0160 for further details.



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