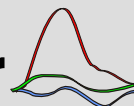




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

## Fish Snapshot Program in April

April 2007

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**"How dreary to be somebody!  
How public, like a frog,  
To tell your name the  
livelong day...  
To an admiring bog!"**  
(Emily Dickenson 1830-1886)

For the fifth year running, Kedron Brook Catchment Network will hold its Annual Fish Snapshot Program during the month of April. The program collects data on the abundance of native and exotic fish species within the Kedron Brook catchment.

Fish snapshot activities are conducted by a number of catchment groups across Brisbane. The survey results are utilised by these groups and also provided to Brisbane City Council and University of Queensland for inclusion in their fauna databases and monitoring programs.

New volunteers are welcome to participate in the surveys with full training provided on each day. By participating in the activities people get an opportunity to not only learn about native and exotic fish, they will also learn about water quality and vegetation.

The dates and locations for the surveys are:

Sat April 14 Dawson Parade, Arana Hills  
8 am (Arana Hills Football Club)  
Contact Ray Loughrey on  
3351 4625

Sat April 14 Mitchelton Pony Club,  
2 pm McConaghy St,  
Mitchelton. Contact  
Helen Moriarty on 3354 2396



Near Dawson Parade Fish Snapshot Site

Sun April 15 Toombul Terrace Footbridge  
9:30 am Kalinga Park, Kalinga. Contact  
Robert Standish-White on 3862 1186

Sat April 21 Lutwyche Reach,  
10 am Archer Street Park, Archer  
Street, Gordon Park  
(UBDRef 139P9)  
(After planting 8—10 am).  
Contact Donald Hopkins 3857 7757

In the long term, the data that is collected is useful for understanding changes in the populations of fish species and the impacts of current management actions such as revegetation and weed control programs on these species.

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## Brook Park Bushcare Group

### Special interest points:

- Our house proud geckoes are imports!
- Volunteers on weed surveys need hearty breakfasts.
- Bush Curlew waits for train!
- Ducks ARE watching us!

The Brook Park Bushcare Group was recently successful in obtaining a \$5000 Community Assistance Scheme (CAS) grant to enhance Kedron Brook.

This grant was allocated under the environmental category in Round Two of the Pine Rivers Shire Council 2006-07 Community Assistance Scheme.

The grant money will be used to clear a large section of weeds along the banks of Kedron Brook, and to establish a buffer of local native vegetation.

Medium severity infestations of Chinese elm,



Successful volunteer group at Brook Park with Deputy Mayor Brian Battersby (front right) (Amanda Fox)

Camphor Laurel, Lantana, Guinea Grass, Bamboo, Privet, Ruellia, and Climbing Asparagus currently affect this bushland area, classified as being of State significance.

Pine Rivers Shire Council Deputy Mayor Brian Battersby said: "This group of dedicated volunteers has worked tirelessly to remove environmental weeds in Brook Park for the past four years."

"Their grant will greatly improve the habitat value of this important environmental corridor," he said.

(Amanda Fox/CI)

# State of the Brook



## The Editor's Bit

It's going to rain – but when? While we have a few showers over the past months, with the summer gone and May and June fast approaching, it's not looking good.

We can all do our bit to conserve the water we have left, meanwhile the debate still rages in some camps about the use of recycled water.

From the reports I've seen on the projected level of demand in SEQld over the next 10 years, it will be difficult for us to meet that demand from surface water supplies only – regardless of how many dams we build.

Also, further regulation of flows and extraction of water will seriously reduce the health of our waterways. One way or the other, recycled water will need to play a role in meeting our future water needs.

On the topic of water, we are planning to explore Water Sensitive Urban Design – how to plan and manage stormwater quality and quantity in urban environments - at our next meeting on April 17.

This is particularly relevant to Kedron Brook as most of the catchment is urbanised and this area also contributes most of the runoff.

Other news is that we have lodged our application with SEQ Catchments for a



**Environmental Engineer Kim Nicholls signing in at the Cleaning Up Australia activity at Kalinga Park**

grant to undertake weed control and regeneration of riparian areas in the upper catchment. This is a substantial undertaking and the project is expected to take several years to complete.

Fish SnapShot is on in April. See the lead article for details. All welcome.

Also Debbie Dolby has launched a Frog Census in the catchment. It's really simple to participate and the anyone who is involved is sure to learn a lot about frogs as well as contribute to an understanding of frog species and their distribution in the Brook.

Lots more activities are going on in the catchment and elsewhere, so enjoy this edition and join in.

Cheers

Philip Rowland

Hello again!

A nice little mixture this issue; Fish Snapshot time, outcomes and follow-ups from the Weed Project, our massive Civil Construction Projects, launch of our Frog survey being run by Debbie Dolby and just a hint about a most satisfying Cleaning Up Australia Day activity run by Robert Standish-White at Kalinga Park.

There are a number of special activities in May-June following the April Frog Survey and Fish Snapshot. Get details at our bimonthly meeting on April 17th.

I've included a short extract on geckoes from an article, "Reptiles in the Brook", being prepared by Debbie Turnbull. This article will form part of an upgrade of the environmental section on our website together with a similar entry from the other Debbie (Dolby) on Frogs. Any other potential contributors, say on birds or ... ?

Wonderful news to hear that the Brook Park Bushcare Group received a special grant to enhance Kedron Brook over the coming year through a weeding and revegetation program. One of our many gems along the Brook, this park is a vital part of our environmental corridor. Well done!

That reminds me, keep some time clear between 16 June to 1 July for Mountains to Mangroves! In particular, we will be involved on the 17th June with a display at the Downfall Creek Get-Together.

Cheers!

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

## Snippets

### Frog Survey

Frogs have outlasted countless other species by existing on Earth for about 230 million years. They have survived the numerous ice-ages punctuated by periods of global warming.

Because of the amphibian's life style, they are highly dependant upon the quality of water and the surrounding habitat for their survival. Thus, their presence or otherwise, is a useful indicator of the state of our Brook's environmental health.

That's partly why KBCB recently commenced a Frog Census. This gives



**Frog in a bog? (Debbie Dolby)**

us a chance to learn more about the frogs that live in our area but also to add to our knowledge of their present types and numbers.

Contact Debbie Dolby on 3355 4134 to register your interest and to receive a Frog Census Kit with instructions.

I'm sure you'll find it to be interesting and a little bit of fun! (Debbie Dolby)

### Geckoes and Geckoes

Geckoes are small lizards (Family Gekkonidae), generally less than 20cm long. Their large eyes are permanently covered by a transparent lower eyelid which is fused to the upper lid. Cleaning

of the transparent eyelid with the tongue is characteristic of geckoes.

The fingers and toes of geckoes are well developed with pads or claws (or both) at the end of each digit. Those with pads are climbers and live on steeply sloping surfaces such as trees and rock-faces. Those with claws are ground dwellers.

Like the skinks, geckoes can drop part of their tail and it will regenerate. Geckoes feed only on moving prey, such as spiders, insects and scorpions. Geckoes have well developed hearing.

The most common gecko in Kedron Brook Catchment is not a native. It is the introduced Asian House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*), the only non-native gecko in

(Continued on page 3)



## Kedron Brook Catchment Weed Project

**K**edron Brook is a significant ecological corridor and sub-areas are classified as being of State Significance in Brisbane City Council's Ecological Corridor Mapping. Management of remnant vegetation in the catchment is fundamental to the maintenance of this corridor and associated ecological values.

Remnant vegetation, particularly riparian vegetation, also plays an unquestionable role in the protection of water quality values and associated aquatic habitat. Weeds species are a major, if not the primary, threatening process impacting on these areas.

There are over 400 weed species present in Brisbane that are recorded as having an impact on the City's bushland, parks and waterways. Their ongoing control, often with limited resources, is a



**Wild Tobacco flower at Ferny Grove**

challenge that all involved with the management of these areas face.

Recent weed survey mapping within the catchment has prioritised areas of remnant vegetation in order to assist with the direction of these limited resources for weed control.

Ten site management areas, out of a total of 34, were listed as high priority for future investment of resources. These were situated in Arbor St Parkland, Mercer Park, Redgum Place Park (Melaleuca Reserve), Wahminda Grove, Grange Forest Park and Brook Park.

Sparkes Hill Reserve, though specifically a water reserve, was also to be reviewed to ensure effective management of the biodiversity values associated with its remnant vegetation.

These particular areas gained high priority scores due to the presence of isolated small infestations of highly invasive weed species. These species included Madeira Vine, Dutchmans Pipe, Cats Claw Creeper, Balloon Vine, Broad Leaved Pepper, Camphor Laurel and Groundsel.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Learn that Weed!



**Khaki weed (*Alternanthera pungens*)**

**T**his prostrate perennial is not on the Declared Weed Species Lists but, nevertheless, is a noxious weed as declared by the BCC and other local authorities. Well established across Brisbane, it is a moderate threat and eradication is not a viable option. The general aim is to locate infestations and plan for removal during routine maintenance.

The cream-coloured chaffy flower parts at the nodes end in fine sharp points. (see right)



Prickly burrs develop that may pierce the skin or fix to the bottom of footwear or tyres. Thus they get easily transported elsewhere.

They propagate by seed, with roots and stems taking root at the nodes. It forms a taproot and opposite leaves. As for all milkweeds, its sap is acrid and a poison. (CI)

*(Geckos continued from page 2)*



**Nathan Kirby, Phillip Rowland with Fleur Sanderson and other BCC staff discuss weed control at Arbor St Park**

## Gateway & Northern Busway Projects

**O**n the 9th March, Premier Peter Beattie flicked a switch to officially start work on Queensland's largest ever road and bridge construction project, the \$1.88 billion Gateway Upgrade. In a variation on the traditional sod-turning ceremony, Mr Beattie remotely started a massive pile-driving machine to begin excavating the first of a series of test holes being driven into the riverbank at the site of the second Gateway Bridge.

The project is set to see 20 kilometres of the Gateway Motorway from Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road to Nudgee Road upgraded, including a new deviation through the old and new airport sites, providing a second access to the Brisbane Airport.

This will mean a whole new crossing over the Brook/Schulz Canal about a kilometre

east of the current bridge.

The contractor, Leighton Abigroup Joint Venture, is inviting participation in meetings that address environmental impacts of the project, but as these are in working hours this may be difficult for members.

Queensland Transport's TransLink project team is also undertaking feasibility studies for the Northern Busway Project, including a voluntary environmental impact assessment process. The EIS processes of the Airport Link Northern Busway Projects are being coordinated, where relevant, and opportunities to assess and implement integration measures are being explored.

Check our website for extra news!

Australia. The Asian House Gecko is about 9 cm long, and pale grey to fawn in colour with darker mottling. There is a row of small spines along the edges of its tail.

The Asian House Gecko is common inside houses and most easily identified by its distinctive "chuck-chuck-chuck" call.

Another gecko that may be seen in the Kedron Brook Catchment is the Robust Velvet Gecko (*Oedura robusta*). It grows to about 15 cm, and is grey in colour with large pale, dark-edged blotches along the entire length of its body and tail. Very small, regularly shaped scales give a velvety appearance.

The Robust Velvet Gecko is strictly arboreal, sheltering in tree hollows and under loose bark by day, and foraging on the trunks and lower limbs of trees at night.

*(Debbie Turnbull)*

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

**We're on the web!**

**www.kedronbrook.org.au**

**“Anatidaephobia— the  
fear that somewhere,  
somehow, a duck is  
watching you“**

(Guy Noble (ABC) 2001)

(Avoid near Lutwyche Reach!)



**Bush  
Stone-  
Curlew at  
Ferny  
Grove  
Station  
Car Park  
(Molra  
Lowson)**

(Fish Snapshot continued from page 1)

To date the results have shown that the maintenance and revegetation of stream-bank vegetation allows native fish species to compete more effectively with their introduced counterparts.

Most of the introduced species such as Mosquito fish, *Gambusia holbrooki* and Swordtails, *Xiphophorus helleri*, are able to tolerate a wider range of environmental extremes, such as lower dissolved oxygen and higher water temperatures that are more commonly found in degraded stream and pool areas.

(Nathan Kirby)

(Weed project continued from page 3)

In these locations, the individual weed species listed is not well established and is often represented by only a few individual plants that can currently be controlled with minimal effort and expenditure.

The results of this project are already benefiting the catchment, and the procedures and techniques are available for other catchments for use within the SE Region. The BCN-Cats Claw Creeper Sub-Committee have adopted these techniques for wider use throughout the BBC area.

At a site level, the report will assist those involved in managing remnant vegetation by documenting those weeds present and listing their priorities in relation to the respective local government pest management plan.

Detailed management actions have been recommended for all those areas of vegetation that were considered high priority.

A detailed report can be accessed from our website in the section, “Articles and Reports”

(Nathan Kirby)

**OPPORTUNITY:** Person with book-keeping skills, friendly disposition, modest spare time, and a love of environment, to join our committee as Treasurer. Contact as above.

**Gateway Upgrade Project Update**

Leighton Abigroup Joint Venture staff are communicating closely with our Branch regarding necessary works about the Brook. To give maximum protection, particularly to aquatic life, a special barge crossing will

be used soon for the next two years to provide access for construction vehicles. This will limit public access up the Brook yet allow normal aquatic life travel along with natural stream flow movements. Learn more at our next meeting and on our website. (PR)

**Dates for your Diary:**

Tuesday 17 April	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch –WPSQ General and Network - APRIL MEETING</b> <i>Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm</i> Our main speaker from BCC will cover Water Sensitive Urban Design – How to plan and manage stormwater quality and quantity in urban environments. We’ll also be providing an update on Branch activities as well as developments in civil construction affecting the Brook. Join us for supper after the meeting.
Sunday April 22	Platypus Festival at Brookfield Showgrounds. Contact Greg 0408 774 631
Sunday 13 May am	<b>Weeds on Wheels</b> - Join us for a breakfast start at a Mitchelton cafe. Then, we’ll bike or stroll along the Brook pathways down to our end at Grinstead Park. In between, we’ll photograph and survey the types and locations of weed infestations as part of our Weed Survey Project. Watch our website for further details soon.
Tuesday June 19	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch –WPSQ AGM, General, and Network Meeting</b> Please mark down also on your calendar— August 21 and October 16



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

