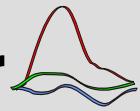


The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

Grange Forest Park Profile

February 2007

Inside This Issue:

Grange Forest Park Profile	1
State of the Brook	2
The Editors Bit	2
Snippets	2
Final Weed Report Available	3
Know That Weed	3
Diary	4

"All progress is based upon a universal innate desire on the part of every organism to live beyond its income"

(Samuel Butler 1835-1902)

In the middle reaches of the Kedron Brook catchment, in the suburb of the Grange, lie two parks which are definitely worth a visit for those wanting to get a taste of some of Brisbane's urban bushland and associated biodiversity.

Grange Forest Park and the smaller Alderley Grove Park are approximately 20 ha in size. They can be accessed via Mornington or Blandford St, or from Raymont Road.

The parks contain a mix of bushland and open space areas, and have facilities such as barbeques, a children's play area and an extensive network of walkways.

The Kedron Brook cycle and walkway connects Grange Forest Parks with other areas along the Brook such as Grinstead Park to the west and the Kedron Brook floodway areas to the east.

Soils within the park are predominantly shallow, gravelly and of low fertility.

The major forest type in the parks is open Eucalypt forest, dominated by Spotted Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), Grey Ironbark (*Eucalyptus siderophloia*) and Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*).

Grange Forest Park is dissected by several



Superb forest environment at Grange

steep gullies that carry stormwater from the surrounding urban developments. In these gullies the soil is deeper and more fertile and moisture levels higher, allowing rainforest species to establish in these areas.

As with most urban bushland areas, Grange Forest Park and Alderley Grove are subject to invasion by weeds and have suffered disturbance and clearing as the result of past land uses.

However, the park is in remarkably good condition, largely as the result of sustained management by local community groups since as early as 1983.

The Greenbrook Association has worked since this

(Continued on page 4)

Progress with City Infrastructure Upgrade

Special interest points:

- *Twitchers' Corner*
- *Priority Weed Risk Report*
- *Kudzu (Yes another weed!)*
- *Recycled water to come?*
- *Still a chance to join a WildWatch training session*

The bulldozers are waiting in the wings of a number of Brook construction projects...

The runway duplication project EIS is out for public comment. **Note that** the public comment period for the Draft EIS/MDP closes Tuesday 6 February 2007.

The Gateway Duplication tender has been awarded and work has started on the south of the Brisbane River. So too has work on the North South Bypass Tunnel - the large preparatory clearing and digging happening in South Brisbane and



Gateway Pied Cormorant
(Robert Standish-White)

Bowen Hills might give us some idea of what is in store should the Airport Link (AL) go ahead. (Construction Joint Venture partners are Baulderstone Hornibrook, Bilfinger Berger Civil, and Leighton Contractors.)

Public comments on the AL and Northern Busway EIS are under review, and reports from the Coordinator General are due "early in the New Year".

Do let us know if you spot or hear of other infrastructure works anywhere along the Brook!

(Robert Standish-White)

State of the Brook

So much for the ‘wet’ season. A disappointing start to the year rain wise. Hopefully it will not remain this way for too much longer.

On that depressing note, welcome to 2007 and another year in the Brook! Our first meeting is on 20 February at the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre at McDowall. It promises to be an interesting evening with Greg Miller, long term resident of the area and keen birdwatcher, coming along to share with us on ‘Birds of Brook’.

As Greg has had an interest in the Brook and its bird life all his life, he’ll be able to tell us what birds used to be around compared to what we see now. Also, come with questions on bird identification – you’ll have to make the calls yourself – and I’m sure Greg will be able to have a go at identifying them.

Amongst several other activities we are already into is the finalisation of a report on the weed survey that was completed last year. A draft is already out. The next step is preparing some action plans and getting the resources (funds and people) to do the weed control and follow up work required.

Since our last meeting, we have made submissions on the environmental impact statement for the airport link project. A particular concern is that the project will result in the loss of more open space and have major impact on the Brook at the tunnel openings at



Possum visits local potting shed

Kedron and Kalinga. A number of members also made their own submissions.

Our Schools Program is underway with Anne Ellis and Debbie Dolby working as a team with upper primary classes. They’ll be delivering hands-on education about various aspects of the Brook and its catchment. All the schools in the catchment (and a bit beyond) have been invited to be involved.

One of the other projects we will be progressing with this year is an application to SEQ Catchments for a substantial grant to run a series of projects with landholders, mainly in the upper catchment, to improve vegetation management in priority areas. We’ll let you know how this goes and if you would like to get involved, let us know.

Unfortunately, we’re still without a Treasurer. While a key job which Robert Standish-White is kindly looking after as an interim arrangement, it is not overly

(Continued on page 4)



The Editor's Bit

Hello again!

We all share a concern about the quality and longevity of our urban and parkland environments... but there are still many good things happening along the Brook.

The Twitcher’s Corner snippet below expresses the joy of rediscovery of wildlife along the Brook. No doubt, Greg Miller will have similar experiences to share at our next meeting on the 20th Feb about birdlife.

I joined a neighbourhood get-together recently and much of the conversation included various snippets about our local bushland parks and wildlife... the bush turkeys’ morning behaviours, the possum that travels around our potting sheds, etc.

As an organisation, our Branch will be sharing our joy (amongst the facts and figures) with the upper primary class students of some of our catchment schools. The special program “Down at your Local Creek—2007” is detailed on our website, if you want to know more.

We will soon be setting up a comprehensive section on our website that will give details of the results of our 2006 weed surveys. It will include suitable methods that interested parties can follow to characterise those smaller areas that have not yet been surveyed.

You must first define a problem before you can ask someone to help solve it!

Cheers!

Charles Ivin, ‘news@kedronbrook.org.au’

Snippets

Wildwatch Brisbane

This is a new Brisbane City Council initiative. It has been developed to provide training to Habitat Brisbane and Catchment Groups in the conduct of wildlife surveys.

Places are limited so please contact the Council Call Centre on 3403 8463 to RSVP for any or all of the workshops. If attending the workshops, please wear appropriate footwear and clothing.

The following training sessions are planned for Brisbane's Northside:

Foraging for Frogs - 10 March 2007 5.00pm - 8.30pm, 7th Brigade Park, end of Playfield Street, Chermside UBD 120 B12

Birdwatching for Budding Birdos, 17 March 2007, 6.30am - 10.00am, Boondall Wetlands Reserve, Environmental Education Centre UBD 111 C14

Hunting for Herp: Reptile search, 17 March 2007, 9am - 12.30pm, Boondall Wetlands Reserve, Environmental Education Centre UBD 111 C14 (N Kirby)

Twitcher's Corner

I am often delighted by the variety of birdlife seen on the Brook, in the midst of urban sprawl. Take for example a recent stroll down the reach from Toombul Shopping Centre down to the cycle track near the Nudgee Road. Low tide is the best time as many waders come in to work the exposed flats.

Apart from the common residents like the mynahs, magpie larks, torresian crows and willie wagtail, this pleasant Sunday afternoon also revealed a sulphur-crested cockatoo on the cable overhead, masked lapwing and black-fronted dotterel in the river bed, little black cormorant and chestnut teal cruising the narrowed waters.



Superb Wrens
(Robert Standish-White)

Final Weed Report Now Available

The culmination of the last years major weed mapping and remnant vegetation assessment project will soon be available for download via the Kedron Brook website.



**Nathan Kirby
considers a question
at recent workshop**

This report presents the methodology used to prioritise areas of remnant vegetation within the catchment for investment in on-ground management. It also presents detailed maps of each site surveyed and accompanying tables of weeds found for each site.

The results detail in a quantitative manner the priority to reduce weed species within particular management units of the sites surveyed. High priority scores were indicated at all, or more than one management unit at Arbor St. Parkland, Mercer (Benelong) Park, Melaleuca Reserve, and Wahminda Grove. Grange and Brook Parks each had one management unit with a high priority score.

These results will assist BCC, Pine Rivers Shire Council and bushcare



Fleur Sanderson and her group at the Weed Mapping Workshop

groups to plan their weed control programs within budget constraints to obtain the greatest benefits for our environment.

Many thanks to all those that participated in the project via the weekend surveys or ongoing project management.

If you would prefer a copy on CD or hard copy please contact and request this by contacting Nathan Kirby by phone on 3407-0836 or by email to nathan.kirby@brisbane.qld.gov.au (NK)



Weed survey groups at Wahminda Grove Weed Workshop 2006

Learn that Weed!



Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*)

The Tipu Tree (*Tipuana Tipu*) or Pride of Bolivia was last issue's weed; a common tree in Brisbane with yellow flowers.

This issue presents what has been nominated as a Noxious W2 weed. It is only about a year or so since it was first noticed at Mitchelton.

This is Kudzu Vine (*Pueraria lobata*). Go to the helpful NSW Bushland Friendly Nursery Scheme website at <http://www.bfns.org.au/index.php?c=2&w=68> I've used their description—

One vine may cover a vast area. Stems hairy, up to 3m long. Leaves divided into 3 leaflets, leaflets often lobed, upper surface green, greyish under. Flowers are purple, blue or pink, with up to 90 per stem in summer. Fruit is a hairy pod to 9cm long. Mostly spread by humans. (CI)

Purified Recycled Water Plebiscite

In November 2006, the Queensland Premier, Peter Beattie, announced that a plebiscite would be held in South East Queensland on March 17, 2007, to vote on the addition of recycled water to our water supplies on an ongoing basis.

The Queensland Water Commission is an independent, statutory authority responsible for achieving safe, secure and sustainable water supplies in South East Queensland and other designated areas.

As such, the authority is responsible for providing information on recycled water and its use in the lead up to the plebiscite.

The proposed process involves several stages. In addition to the current wastewater treatment standard, the water is subject to micro-filtration, reverse osmosis and advanced oxidation.

This water is then released into another water supply, in this case Wivenhoe Dam and the Brisbane River, where it is subject to natural processes that help in the treatment process.

Following this, the blended water is treated to the normal quality standard before it is distributed through the usual pumping systems.

The Water Commission's website, <http://www.qwc.qld.gov.au>, contains information, resources and case studies that people may find of interest.



Brook misses Summer Rains

(Nathan Kirby)

In the stream-bank foliage dart a family of superb fairy wrens and, wary under the mangroves, a pair of forest kingfishers.

Still in the mangroves are the honeyeaters, and further in, a rock pigeon inspecting the sleepy horses.

Why not send us a list of what you have managed to spot in a walk somewhere along the Brook or catchment?

(Robert Standish-White)

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Brook!**

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

**"The universe is not
hostile. Nor yet is it
friendly. It is simply
indifferent."**

(Rev. J. H. Holmes, 1879-1964)

(Grange Forest Park continued from page 1)

time to restore areas of bushland, build walking tracks, control weeds and improve the habitat values of the area.

In the Mornington St end of the park, the Grange / Alderley Bushies Habitat Group have also made a significant contribution undertaking revegetation and weed control over an extensive area.

Both groups hold regular working bees within the park; on the 1st Saturday of the month 8.30 – 10.30am (Grange / Alderley Bushies, Mornington St) or the 3rd Sunday 8.30 – 11.30am (Greenbrook Association)

The Kedron Brook Catchment Network website contains photographs of the area depicting the changes in land use that have occurred since 1946 and the impacts of the works undertaken by community groups on the site. Check them out at http://www.kedronbrook.org.au/bushcare_groups/greenbrook_association/grange_forest_park.html or visit the parks to enjoy their atmosphere first hand.

(Nathan Kirby)

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



Walkers stroll through Kalinga Park

(State of the Brook continued from page 2)

onerous. If you would like to help out, and in doing so contribute to the work of the Branch in Kedron Brook, please get in touch.

Fish Snap Shot will be undertaken again this year. Quite a bit of information has been collected over the five years we've been doing it. It's important that we continue to get out there and see what is really happening in the Brook. It will be held on the last three weekends in April.

Watch the web site for details.

See you on the 20th.

Philip Rowland
President

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday February 20	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch –WPSQ General and Network - FEBRUARY MEETING <i>Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall 7:30pm to 9:30pm</i> Greg Miller, long term resident and keen bird watcher, will provide an informative illustrated talk on "Birds of the Brook". Greg will be sharing with us the changes he has observed in bird life in the area since the 1960s. We'll also be providing an update on other Branch activities as well as planning for our Fish Snap Shot program for April. Join us for supper after the meeting.
April	Fish Snapshot Program - Coordinators! Keep half a day in second half of April open to continue this important on-going survey of the health of Kedron Brook.
February to April	Wild Suburbia : Living with Wildlife - City Hall Museum of Brisbane. Explore this special display to see how Brisbane residents live with wildlife within the urban forest.
Tuesday April 17	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch –WPSQ General and Network Meeting <i>Downfall Creek Bushcare Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall 7:30 - 9:30 pm</i> Mark down also on your calendar— June 19, August 21 and October 16



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

