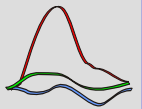




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

**Fifth Anniversary Issue  
June 2007**

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**“Volunteering through Queensland organisations in 1995 was worth \$ 1.7 billion”**

(Report “The economic value of volunteering in Queensland”, Dr Duncan Ironmonger, Dept of Communities 2006)

## Special interest points:

- Know your echidna
- New displays and activities at the M2M on June 17
- SQID sighted at Ferny Grove
- Watch out for water lettuce and salvinia in your Brook

## Looking at the Future

Over our first five years of existence as Kedron Brook Catchment Branch, we have consistently planned our activities and projects to ensure that we meet the needs of our catchment and our members.

As part of the group’s past three-year priority plan, members of the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch identified the following key project areas; Habitat improvement, Education and Awareness, Weeds, Fish surveys and the establishment of communication links with private and corporate landholders in the catchment.

Since this plan was developed, three years of water have passed under the bridge, so now it is time to refresh the vision and develop a blueprint for the next three years.

Over the last year, we spent time at meetings looking at some of the issues and pressures impacting on the catchment and shared project ideas and solutions to address these.

To bring all these ideas and projects together, a special half-day planning session is being held on August the 18th at the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre.

All members of the Kedron Brook Catchment Network are invited to attend, to share your ideas on issues, projects and



**Seonaid Melville, Hayley Cambourn, WPSQ President Alan Barton, and Phillip Rowland at a rather relaxed Planning Session in 2004**

methods for achieving these on a priority basis.

We are particularly fortunate that Mark Creyton from Volunteering Queensland has found time to facilitate our planning sessions .

Essential details for this meeting are: Saturday, August 18th, 11am to 3 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

If you plan to attend, please let Nathan know by telephone on 3407-0836 or email to nathan.kirby@brisbane.qld.gov.au.

(Nathan Kirby)

## Gateway Upgrade and Airport Link Projects

Construction of the Gateway upgrade project is in full swing. Access to construction areas north of the airport has been established via a floating bridge across Kedron Brook off the Gateway arterial near Nudgee Road.

Leighton Abigroup Joint Venture, the construction company, has organised a site inspection of the works in the Brook and its environs for later in June.

While the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Airport Link Project dealt with a



**What effect will all these changes have on Kedron Brook?**

number of our concerns with this project and its impact on the Brook, we also provided comments on the EIS.

Recently the Coordinator-General (Queensland Government) announced that the EIS had been completed and that the project could go ahead subject to a number of conditions.

These conditions focus the key issues of air quality and noise, but also refer to the recommendations in the EIS concerning the Brook. We may be involved in further consultation once the construction company has been identified. (PR)

# State of the Brook

Welcome to our special six page issue of the Babbler! Charles Ivin has gone all out to make this a great edition.

As it's officially our Fifth Anniversary, we also thought it would be good to have a look back at those who have been involved and what we have done. We've taken another two pages to do it. Enjoy!

It's been another couple of months since our last Babbler, and still very little rain. It certainly made doing the Fish Snap Shot this year very different from last year!

The low flows meant some pretty poor water quality in some reaches, so poor in some areas that the usual trolling for fish and other activities in the water were abandoned. Even so, five sites were sampled and some useful data collected.

With Nathan's leading, we have also helped finish off our part of a Brisbane wide survey into cat's claw creeper.

This weed is pretty well established in some areas of the catchment. It can be seen growing up some larger trees in various parts of the Brook.

Control is time consuming, but small infestations can be eradicated if caught in sufficient time.

There is a lot coming up in June and July with Mountains to Mangroves

## Snippets

### Frog Survey

Thank you to those people who have registered their interest in our Frog Survey, with some surveys having been already undertaken.

Whilst the dry weather and the onset of winter may have dampened the enthusiasm of many frog species (and frog spotters), now is a great time to familiarise yourself with the survey techniques and frog species.

A training workshop will be held in September, hopefully in preparation for a summer full of rain and frog calls! To register your interest in the program contact Debbie Dolby on 3355 4134.

(Debbie Dolby)



**Phillip Rowland, Leah Salo and Nathan Kirby get ready to sail forth into Cat's claw creeper country**

(Robert Standish-White)

Festival, we're doing some planning workshops, the landholder project in the upper catchment will be getting underway and a number of other activities.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 19 June at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre is also something special.

We'll have Martin or Fiona along from Geckoes Wildlife with a number of species of live wildlife. Animals that are currently found in the Brook as well as few that used to be around before we turned up will be featured.

A great supper is also planned.

See you on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Phil Rowland  
President

### Mountains to Mangroves Festival

This lively festival will run from Saturday June 16 to Sunday July 1. A range of events from 'Opera in the Bush' to tree plantings and sustainability forums are planned for the two week festival.

The festival launch and family fun day will be held on Sunday June 17 at 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade Park (near Kidspace) Cnr Gympie Rd and Murphy Rd, Cherside from 10 am to 3 pm.

This promises to be a fun-filled day of kids' activities, entertainment, great food, displays, environmental speakers, roving performers and much, much more. Kedron Brook Catchment Branch will be there with a display on our activities and to raise general awareness about the issues impacting on the catchment.



## The Editor's Bit

Hello again!

A little bit of indulgence in this issue with two extra pages to give thanks to our leaders, members and supporters.

We do try hard but don't always achieve this as well as we want. My personal thanks to those who have contributed and continue to contribute with their news, articles and snippets for the Babbler and website!

Nathan is currently preparing some beautiful graphics to be incorporated into new display productions for use at the M2M Family Day on June 17. These include photographs contributed by some of our network volunteers over the last five years. Keep some time on that day to join the fun.

I recently represented our Branch at an information session and "Thank You" breakfast coordinated by Volunteering Queensland, supported by Dept Community Services. It appears that volunteers still want to join in but can spare less time. They often change their interests but, with sympathetic help through coaching, will work with us.

It will mean that we must better define the nature and way in which we carry out our projects... in smaller bits and with more support so people can nip in, work, and then away, hopefully to return later if they find us interesting and fun.

Both the volunteer and the organisation will benefit in the longer term but it'll take some planning and changes in general approach.

Cheers!

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

On Saturday June 16, the Brook Park Bushcare group, as part of the festival, will hold a tree planting and bushcare working bee on the banks of Kedron Brook at Kurringal Drive, Ferny Hills.



Pacific Baza at Kalinga Park

If you haven't been to the festival in previous years, or especially to Brook Park, this is a great opportunity to see this beautiful forest remnant.

Check out the full details at <http://www.mountaintomangroves.org/>

(NK)

## The War on Weeds Continues

Following completion of the Kedron Brook Catchment Weed Mapping Project, follow-up activities are now in progress to address its recommendations in relation to local authority and state government priorities.

In particular, readers are asked to keep an eye out for the following invasive species and report any suspected or known locations. The information collected will be used to help develop control management strategies for these species within the catchment.

### Water Lettuce, *Pistia stratiotes*, and *Salvinia*, *Salvinia molesta*

Water lettuce and *Salvinia* are both free-floating aquatic weeds that rapidly expand to cover dams, lakes, wetlands and rivers. In these areas they reduce water quality by depleting oxygen levels, reduce water flow, damage infrastructure during floods and can provide breeding habitat for mosquitoes.

Infestations of Water Lettuce (shown right) have been recorded in the upper cedar creek catchment at Upper Kedron, although specific information on its source is still not known.



Infestations of *Salvinia* (shown right) are known to occur around the Keperra Golf Course section of the catchment.



Control of these aquatic weeds in the upper catchment is essential to prevent their further spread.

### Cat's Claw Creeper, *Macfadyena unguis-cati*

During May, members of KBC Network surveyed the infestations of Cat's Claw Creeper (shown right) along Kedron Brook, downstream of Brookside shopping centre at Mitchelton. Other infestations have also been reported at Maureen Lawrence Park, the Keperra Picnic Grounds at Tramway Street, Sparkes Hill, Grange Forest Park, Benelong Park and Kalinga Park.

If you are aware of other infestations of these species, particularly along waterways or in bushland areas along the catchment please contact Nathan on 3407-0836 or by email to [nathan.kirby@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:nathan.kirby@brisbane.qld.gov.au).

(Nathan Kirby)

## Learn that Weed!



**Cats-claw creeper  
(*Macfadyena unguis-cati*)**

Perennial, woody vine. Highly invasive creeper with opposite leaves, dark-green as two tapering oblong leaflets each and a three-clawed tendril arising between the overall final leaf form.

Flowers are bright yellow, about 8 cm diameter. Flat seed pods form, about 1 cm wide and up to 30 cm long.



Although not declared as noxious, the vine is ranked fourth in the 200 'Invasive Naturalised Plants in S E Queensland' due to the damage it causes to native habitats. Difficult to control because of its extensive, thick roots and it spreads easily along creek systems.

**A naked claw on  
main woody stem**

(CI)

## Facts on Echidnas

An echidna (*trichosurus vulpecular*) is a monotreme – an egg-laying mammal and is often found in the remnant areas of bushland particularly in the upper catchment of Kedron Brook. Echidnas have huge home ranges—up to 70 hectares.

The only other monotreme is the platypus. Echidnas and platypus have very similar skeletons. Echidnas have a lower body temperature than most other mammals. They are good climbers and good swimmers. Pound for pound, echidnas are stronger than wombats.

The staple food of echidnas is ants – preferably white ants. Echidnas cannot breathe through their mouth so it is important that they are able to breathe correctly through their snout. Male echidnas have a spur on their back ankle

but there is no venom gland as has the platypus. Female echidnas do not have teats; milk is exuded through pores in the skin.

If you find an injured or sick echidna wandering down a suburban street (it happens!) or elsewhere, you can call the EPA emergency hotline on 1300 130 372, 24 hours a day for advice or you can retrieve it and take it to a vet or wildlife carer, but only a specialist echidna rehabilitator can properly care for the animal. Call Australian Wildlife Hospital on (07) 5436 2097.

Wildlife carers find most damage with injured echidnas is to the snout. Why are broken snouts such a problem? An echidna snout is divided into two sections: the top half is for breathing, the bottom half is for eating. Bone divides



**Not what the butler saw! But often all  
you'll see of an echidna burrowing**

the two sections.

If this bone in the middle is broken, food can then enter the breathing part of the snout – a lung full of ants is not a good thing. Because of the overall snout structure, it is not possible to mend these breaks surgically.

A unique and interesting animal!

(D. Turnbull)

# Volunteering

## KEDRON BROOK CATCHMENT BRANCH (INC.)

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ABN: 67 730 668 521

President: Philip Rowland (07) 32605779  
Secretary: Leah Salo, Mobile 0413 446 665

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

**We're on the web!**

**www.kedronbrook.org.au**

*"With your help, we'll be around for at least the next fifty years!"*  
*(Philip Rowland, President)*

At some recent planning meetings, interesting views were discussed about the successive influences experienced by each generation of people as a result of their life environment, in relation to the way in which their own parents brought them up under other standards, working conditions and lifestyle.

It was noted that the most recent so-called "y generation" has a much more flexible approach to life and this is not often understood by their predecessors.

This is a time when group organizers have noted a fall-off in the ease of attracting newcomers, and group numbers fall. This brings greater pressure upon the remaining group from overload.

It has been noted that the nature and expectations of volunteers are now different. To obtain a suitable wage, people often depend upon short-term work at a variety of workplaces, they have changes in expectations from those of

their previous generation, and both partners usually need to work for a fit lifestyle.

Thus, younger and middle-aged volunteers are less available and they tend to look for activities involving shorter time-frames.

They require closer, more friendly supervision or coaching (since they want to get into the action NOW!).

All of this also means that spare time for volunteering is being pushed more and more onto older people.

We'll need to be much better coordinated and creative in our planning to attract the changing nature and personal needs of our volunteers in the future. (CI)



**Volunteers Tom and David at Lutwyche**



Wooloowin State High Student Jennifer Galang, Year 5, is section winner. Her artwork will go onto the billboard at Bonney Ave, Clayfield. We've got our fingers crossed for Jenifer at the Finals to be held at the Riverfestival later this year. (NK)

## Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday June 19	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch –WPSQ AGM, General, and Network Meeting– JUNE MEETING</b> <i>Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm</i> After our usual short meeting, Martin or Fiona will be along from Geckoes Wildlife with a number of species of live wildlife. Join us for a convivial supper after the meeting.
Saturday August 18	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch &amp; Network Planning Meeting</b> Saturday, August 18th, 11am to 3 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Mark Creyton, Volunteering Queensland, will act as facilitator to keep the ideas and conclusions following. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.
September 14 -16	The <b>Southern Branches Get Together and WPSQ AGM</b> hosted by Upper Dawson Branch in Taroom. Contact Adam Clark 4628 6140 Includes all day bus trip on Saturday 15th to boggomosses and other scenic and interesting spots at Murphy's Lake, Glebe Weir and Isla Gorge. Costs and final program being arranged soon.
Tuesday August 21	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch –WPSQ General and Network Meetings</b> Please mark down also on your calendar— October 16



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





# Fifth Anniversary of Kedron Brook Catchment Branch

## Setting the Scene

At a well attended public meeting on 30 April 2002, it was decided that a Kedron Brook Catchment Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland be formed. People at the meeting were from Bushcare Groups, relevant staff from Brisbane City Council and Pine Rivers Shire Council, existing members of the WPSQ and interested individuals.

The interim committee of the informal steering group consisted of Philip Rowland as President, Helen Moriarty as Secretary and Donald Hopkins as Treasurer.

At the first AGM on August 27, the WPSQ Director, Jan Oliver, acted as

chair while the above committee was voted in with Seonaid Melville elected as Vice-President. Philip Rowland has remained President. Malcolm Wade and now, Leah Salo, replaced Helen as Secretary. Robert Standish-White took over the Vice-President position when Seonaid left.

The Branch took on a broad charter but its prime focus has always been to assist and promote the Kedron Brook Catchment Network.

It works through the existing bushcare groups and individuals to enhance the environmental values, biodiversity and natural health of Kedron Brook catchment. In doing so, it attempts to maintain an optimum balance between our community and environmental needs for the future.

The idea of having our own website arose in 2001 in the Grinstead Park Bushcare Group with the project conceptualised by Moira Lawson.

BCC provided the support, construction of the web including detailed web design, and group development planning all was undertaken by volunteers from the KBC Network.



**Attentive gathering at the August Meeting**

Lesley Pantlin, our first Catchment Coordinator, led the Web team, Helen Moriarty, Charles Ivin, Moira Lawson, Seonaid Melville, Harrie Neilson, Mary Rowland and others, to put the site together.

It now serves as a communication aid both within the KBC Network and outwards to community and "The World Wide Web"!



**Lesley Pantlin, Cr David Hinchcliffe, Charles Ivin and Helen Moriarty at the ourBrisbane website presentation (BCC)**



**Cr Maureen Hayes pitches in with Moira Lawson at a River-Clean activity at Grinstead Park (A. Magnee)**

## Leadership and support

Initially, improvement of environmental values of the Brook arose from the individual efforts of single families and small neighbourhood groups along the Brook.

Real signs of an organised Kedron Brook Catchment Network of bushcare groups grew gradually from the early 1980s but became well established by the late 1990s with strong support from the local authorities and the community.

Leadership among these groups was



**Alf Harvey at a Habitat Brisbane Get-together**

provided by Kharyl Scott, David O'Gorman, Chris Milne, Alf Harvey, Gary Sands, Ray & Di Loughrey, Frank Box, Moira Lawson, Brian Dale, Mark Lacey, Donald Hopkins, John & Carolyn Lister, Keren Sweeney, Lynn & Gary Lutz, Rob Robbie, and Dr Barbara Odgers.

Obviously, many hard working people have not been included here but their efforts over the years are clear to see along the Brook.

The councillors, management and staff of

the Brisbane City Council and Pine Rivers Shire Council were a vital ingredient in the success of revegetation activities through their personal and material support.



**Chrls Milne and Keren Sweeney**

## Fish Snapshot, Weeds and Education

The Branch has been able to support a Catchment Coordinator through project funding and, more recently, by direct support from Brisbane City Council.

This Coordinator works directly with the Branch Committee and helps plan, develop and carry out projects together with groups and individuals within the Catchment. Over the past five years, we have been fortunate in obtaining the service, in turn, of Lesley Pantlin, Hayley Cambourn,



**Hayley Cambourn shows turbidity measurements of creek water to students of Ferny Grove State High School**

Kylie Withers, and now Nathan Kirby.

After establishment of the website, our projects have been involved with Waterwatch through bi-yearly Fish Snapshot surveys, and catchment bus tours, education through workshops and school visits, and displays at community functions.

There has been an emphasis on the identification, survey and removal of weeds in our recent project work through proper planning, and practical activities. (CN)



**Di and Ray Loughrey with Helen Moriarty identifying types of weeds at a general meeting.**



**Nathan Kirby checks out weed survey procedures with Fleur Sanderson and Rob Robbie at Sparkes Hill**



**Kylie Withers and Robert Standish-White detail location of TransApex tunnels on a map at meeting**



**Jenny Leask and John Jordaan lead the group at a Weed Field Day**



**Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices at Ferny Grove**



**Revegetation of this Lutwyche creek bank was finished in quick time by a record turnout of volunteers (N. Sanderson)**



**Philip Rowland and Donald Hopkins, checking Harold Charles' fine cooking.**

## Environment and the Community

Kedron Brook Catchment Branch, as part of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ) is a member of a State wide organisation dedicated to looking after Queensland's wildlife, its habitat and the environment. We are also part of Brisbane Catchments Network.



**Debbie Turnbull feeding a lonely baby possum**

Through these links we can keep abreast of issues affecting other areas of the State and learn about ways community groups have tackled similar issues to what we face in Kedron Brook.

Members of KBCB share goals of WPSQ and work towards them by (1) being active in Bushcare groups and spend time replanting, controlling weeds and looking after bushland; (2) taking on the challenge of being wildlife carers and take in injured or

orphaned wildlife and nurse them back to health; (3) getting involved in working out better ways to understand and manage our catchment through surveys, like Fish Snap Shot and the Weed Survey Project, or by being involved in consultative groups on major developments and planning documents affecting the Brook, including roads, tunnels and local area plans; (4) getting the word out through education and communication by the internet, newsletters, displays and schools.

We hope you can continue to work with us, or if not a member, join us to share in the future of our area.

With your help, we'll be around for at least the next **fifty** years! (PR)