



# 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)