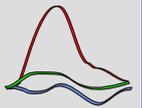


The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

October 2007

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“... like most neighbours, flying-foxes, the biggest of the bats, are really not so bad when you get to know them.”

(Information Sheet “Living with Flying-Foxes”, Qld Health, 2007)

Special interest points:

- Restoring Corridors works!
- Why male frogs turn into female frogs.
- Northern Pobblebongs found in Kedron Brook!
- Art sculpture based upon industrial relics.

Kedron Brook Art & Sculpture Project

Kedron Brook Catchment Branch are planning an Art and Sculpture Project along the Brook at Mitchelton, in conjunction with the new Greenway which is being constructed by Brisbane City Council from Osborne Rd though to Lansvale St.

Funding for the project has been provided by Cr Ann Bennison, from the Enoggera Ward Development Fund.

Helen Moriarty and Janet White of the Osborne Rd Habitat Brisbane Group, are co-ordinating the project for KBCB, and will be working closely with Brisbane City Council Officers, Mitchelton Pony Club, other local groups, and residents.

The project has three components. Firstly, a Sandstone Sculpture Project. Works will be designed with a Brook stories theme, and created on-site over two weekends by Sculptor Paul Stumkat and a volunteer team.

All the activity will be in the parkland adjoining the brook and members of the public will be invited to “a come along and



Paul Stumkat working on a frog sculpture in the cool (P Stumkat)

watch” the sculptors at work carving from blocks of Helidon sandstone.

The completion of these sculptures is planned to coincide with the opening of the bikeway.

The second component consists of mosaic and ceramic tile art projects. These will be installed in the bike-path, and the nearby parkland during the construction phase of the Greenway, by local artist Janet White.

The final component will be an event marking the opening of the bikeway, and the presentation of the sculptures to the people of Brisbane.

As the timing of the events are dependent on the construction phases of the bikeway, stay tuned for more information about the dates.



Existing ceramic in pathway near Everton Park SHS

If you would like to be one of the volunteer sculptors for the project, please register your interest with Helen via email hmhc@bigpond.net.au or by phone 33542346

(Helen Moriarty)

Connect the Corridor Community Day

A Connect the Corridor Community Day will be held at Arbor St Park, off Tramway St. Ferny Grove, next to the Police Station on Sunday October 14, from 10am to 1pm.

The day is a joint venture between the Ferny Grove Bushcare Group, Habitat Brisbane and the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch.

The day will be used to showcase the Ferny Grove Bushcare Group’s creek restoration work and launch the Restoring Corridors in the Kedron Brook Catchment project.

Restoring Corridors is a project that aims to form partnerships with private landholders and community groups to improve wildlife and waterway corridors in the upper catchment areas of Kedron Brook and Cedar Creek.

Activities on the day include a tree-planting along Cedar Creek, free kids craft activities, a Geckoes Wildlife presentation at 10am, plus a free sausage sizzle.

Volunteers are also needed on the day to help set up / pack up, man displays and help with craft activities.

If you are available, please let Nathan know on 3407 0836. If not, just come along and enjoy the day.

(Nathan Kirby)



Lauren Appleby paints Georgia Hopper at the Family Day, Sept 9

State of the Brook



The Editor's Bit

Over the weekend of 14th to 16th September the WPSQ Southern Branches gathered out west at Taroom, under the able care of the Upper Dawson Branch. Events comprised a welcome Barbie on Friday evening, a field trip and dinner on Saturday, and the reports and AGM on Sunday.

Taroom is an historic little town, settled soon after Leichhardt went through in 1845, with historic crossings over the Dawson River. The latter generally has some flow thanks to upstream springs, and can flood with huge ferocity.

We were treated to both local history and hospitality, learning also of local environmental and political struggles, and visiting the unique and fascinating boggomosses.

One might expect annual reports to be dry (certainly this year!) but I always find them to be both humbling and inspiring. So many good people battling for our fauna and flora with so little for so long.

There are widespread worries about membership, and the usual resigned losses to 'development'. There are also wins, and our ongoing efforts are quite likely to be a small part of the attitudinal change in society towards matters environmental.

It was an enjoyable and invigorating



Members of the WPSQ Southern Branches Get-Together visit Isla Gorge
(Robert Standish-White)

weekend, and reminded me just how much we owe to our rural colleagues. I wonder if there are not ways we could benefit from closer liaison with them through the year?

Closer to home our catchment continues to suffer or be blessed with, depending on your point of view, large new infra-structure projects.

The second runway at Brisbane Airport was recently approved, and we will be part of the liaison group for the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation, looking at a large area from the city to Ipswich and Caboolture.

We are in for close on a decade of major works ahead - that should give us all something to keep our teeth into!

Robert Standish-White, President

Hello again!

Frogs seem to get more attention than weeds lately. That great run of rainfall a month or so ago has brought out a real chorus at nightfall. Since they are an important indicator of the water quality in our catchment, it's good to hear them call.

It's not going all their way in some parts due to the presence of human and industrial pollutants. As an example on page four, I've put some very brief details of serious concerns arising from the effects of minute concentrations of oestrogens in water on the well-being of frog populations.

Robert Standish-White had a great trip to the WPSQ Southern Branches Get-Together at Taroom. There'll be more to see on our website news section about his trip.

On that matter, expect some obvious changes to the "look" of our website soon. The navigation bars will change and you might take a little while to get used to some relocations of the pages. When in doubt read the labels and the text messages you get when you hover the mouse over the links.

Jenny and I were strolling past Everton Park SHS on the bikeway the other day when I recognised an area someone had photographed for the website. "Janet White walks around here", I said. And just then, at that second, Neil and Janet appeared before our eyes (See page three plus that sunset) You never know what's next along the Brook!

Cheers!

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

Snippets

Frog Workshop and Survey

Due to the recent rain, hopefully we are off to a good start for the spring and summer breeding period for the frogs.

We have added a new species to the Brook's fauna database – the Northern Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes terraereginae*). A population of the Eastern Sedge Frog (*Litoria fallax*) has also been found in the Cedar Creek catchment. Rainy nights are of course the best time to locate frog populations. Depending on which species is calling their choruses can be heard from quite some distance away. Others like the Tusked Frog (*Adelotus brevis*) and the Stony Creek Frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*) have softer calls and you have to be quite close to hear them.

A training evening will be held at the

Scouts Hut next to Grinstead Park on Wednesday October 24 for volunteers interested in undertaking surveys as part of the Kedron Brook frog census.

Adrian Caneris, Principal Wildlife Expert and Director of Biodiversity Assessment and Management Pty Ltd, will guide volunteers through the key frog species likely to be encountered within the catchment with tips on identifying these species.

Debbie Dolby, Frog Census Coordinator, will familiarise volunteers with the survey techniques, recording forms and equipment.

Following this we will put our newly learned skills to the test with a frog survey through Grinstead Park.

If you would like to participate in the

frog workshop or survey contact Debbie Dolby on 33554134 or fill in the registration form on the Kedron Brook website. Link from the home page.

(Debbie /Nathan)

(Continued on page 4)



Frog spawn at Grinstead Park
(Debbie Dolby)

Ferny Grove Catchment Kids

Over one hundred Year 5 students from Ferny Grove Primary School recently spent a day investigating the Cedar Creek sub-catchment.

The activity was part of the city-wide Catchment Kids program, which will see ten schools across the city present information at City Hall on a local environmental issue or initiative.

The Ferny Grove students investigated four issues in the catchment.

Class 5JO visited a wetland area to undertake a waterway health check. This involved testing water quality, identifying water bugs and assessing the surrounding environment.

Class 5E students mapped the different land uses in the catchment and participated in the Catchment Story activity, demonstrating the influence of different land use activities on catchment health.

Class 5JB investigated the crimes that environmental weeds have committed in



Special theme poster for this year (BCC)

the local bushland and constructed a wanted poster on some of the local weeds.

Class 5B got up close and personal with some local wildlife and their habitat trees, at the Arbor Street Park.

The class will now work together to prepare a presentation for the Catchment Kids day in November at City Hall.



Ann Ells and Debbie Dolby at Cedar Creek (Nathan Kirby)



Debbie Dolby prepares a group of Ferny Grove Primary School students on how to measure water turbidity (Nathan Kirby)

Well done Ferny Grove. A big thank you to Debbie Dolby and Ann Ellis for their help on the day! (Nathan Kirby)

Down at Your Local Creek School Program

It was a fine day when we finally met our group of year 6/7 students from Stafford Heights State School. Rain, though urgently needed, had postponed the first excursion to Kedron Brook two weeks ago.

They were a terrific bunch of kids. They showed immense interest in what factors threatened our waterways and in our Kedron Brook Waterways Health Checklist that recorded the nine major environmental categories.

We had some budding young scientists who really enjoyed using the water monitoring equipment. Other budding



Group of Stafford State School students investigate the Brook (NK)

naturalists with keen eyes spotted our big, beautiful eel that cruised past just at the right time for the students to get a really good sighting.

The group of students took away a greater awareness of how what happens in our catchment can negatively impact on our local waterway and Moreton Bay.

After collecting and evaluating environmental data, they now understood and could relate how water quality measurements indicated factors impacting upon the Brook's health and dependant wildlife.

(Nathan, Ann and Debbie)

Learn that Weed!



Black-eyed Susan (Thunbergia alata)

Another vigorous herbaceous perennial twiner. Native to tropical Africa, it grows quickly to 3 metres high up any nearby tree or bush.

The leaves are deep-green, 3-pointed, triangular or shaped like an arrow head to 7 cm long, with leaf stalks to 4 cm.



The 5 cm wide orange flowers (two overlapping shown left) with black throats are borne on stalks to 6 cm long.

Fruit is a hairy capsule with few small seeds.

Ranked 50th in the *Invasive Naturalised plants in SE Qld*, Qld Herbarium.

Recorded as having some medicinal or culinary uses in its native land, it is mainly spread by humans through garden waste dumping. (CI)



Neil and Janet White on a late afternoon stroll along the Brook pathway



The end to a wonderful stroll along the Brook

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Brook!***

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

*" Nature is a good economist,
note the blades of grass which
make use of the cracks in your
concrete path"*

(P.K. Shaw)

(Continued from page 2)

How males become females

Scientists at Uppsala University, Sweden, have been investigating why frogs that started life as male tadpoles were changed into females by oestrogen-like pollutants at levels similar to those detected in natural bodies of water in Europe, the United States and Canada.

In experiments, scientists found that male tadpoles exposed to the weakest concentrations of the hormone were twice as likely to change to females. The population of the two groups receiving the heaviest dose of oestrogen became 95 percent female in one case, and 100 percent in the other.

Co-author of the study, Cecilia Berg said, "The results are quite alarming. Obviously, if all the frogs become female, it could have a detrimental effect on the population," she said.

Studies previously conducted in the United States linked a similar sex-reversal of *Rana pipiens* male frogs—one of the two species used in the Swedish experiment. The other species examined was the European common frog, *Rana temporaria*.

The researcher said that the only quick fix available would be to improve sewage treatment in areas where frogs and other amphibians might be affected to filter out oestrogen concentrations coming from contraceptive pills and from industrial pollutants.

Pesticides and other industrial chemicals have the ability to act like oestrogen in the body and may also put our frog populations under threat.

[This information was obtained through reference to the Independent Online News, 27 February 2007, via <http://www.iol.co.za> (Charles Ivin)]



President Robert applying a paint job with Tom Hopper bravely holding on at the Threatened Species Family Day, Downfall Creek Bushcare Centre, Sept 9

Another type of art form noticed on a stroll along the bikeway near Everton Park State High



Dates for your Diary:

Sunday October 14	Connect the Corridor Community Day at Arbor Street Park, off Tramway St., Ferny Grove, next to the Police Station, 10 am to 1 pm . Showcase Ferny Grove Bushcare Group's Cedar Creek restoration. Tree-planting, displays, free kids craft activities, Geckoes Wildlife Presentations at 10 am. Free sausage sizzle. Please let Nathan know on 3407 0836 if you are able to help set/up, man displays and help with craft activities. Come anyway!
Tuesday October 16	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch & Network Planning Meeting Tuesday, October 16th, 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. We'll discuss Kedron Brook Art and Sculpture Project, Frog Identification and Survey, changes to KBC Network Website, update on the Civil Construction Projects, the Catchment Kids and our Schools Education projects. The usual friendly social supper to finish off.
Wednesday October 24	Frog Identification and Survey Workshop , Wednesday October 24 , Scouts Hut next to Grinstead Park, Shand St, Enoggera. For volunteers interested in undertaking surveys. Catchment members also welcome. Adrian Caneris, Principal Wildlife Expert and Director of Biodiversity Assessment And Management Pty Ltd, will detail key frog species with tips on how to identify these species. Contact Debbie Dolby 33554134 or Nathan 34070836 for RSVP
October — November	Butterflies, Ants, Dragonflies, Cicadas, Crickets and other Critters. Comprehensive education program by Community Learning Initiatives Inc. See our home page (above) or email cla@dovenetq.net.au or phone 38448069



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

