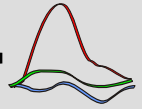




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

April 2008

Inside This Issue:

Mitchelton Greenway Art Sculpture	1
State of the Brook	2
Snippets	2
Tilapia Tales	3
Learn that Weed	3
Presentation Series	3
Bird Walk	4

"Green fingers are the extension of a verdant heart"

(Russell Page)

Special interest points:

- *Catchment Coordinator Nathan Kirby away on six months secondment. Lesley Collins is filling in for Nathan and is now on board*
- *Presentation Series*
- *Environmental Walk*

On Sunday 2nd March, the Mitchelton Art Sculptures were unveiled. This event was a wonderful success with more than 60 people attending. The morning started at 8am with tree planting on Osborne Road in which 200 plants were planted by the 17 volunteers.



At the Mitchelton Pony Club entertainment kicked off at 9am including Geckoes Wildlife, a tree sprite, and a free sausage sizzle, followed by a walk along the bikeway and the unveiling of the new art sculptures. A big thank you to all



those involved and making this event what it was. Special thanks to Helen Moriarty for organising the event and Janet White for the time spent on the art work. *(L Collins)*



Photos by Janet White

Fish Snapshots in the Brook

For the sixth year running, Kedron Brook Catchment Network has held its annual *Fish Snapshot* program. The program collects data on the abundance of native and exotic fish species within the Kedron Brook Catchment.

Participants got an opportunity to learn about native and exotic fish, water quality and vegetation in the Brook.

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.

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 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 areas.

Fish snapshot activities are conducted by a number of catchment groups across Brisbane. *(L Collins)*



State of the Brook

The recent OECD Report on Australia's environmental performance over the last 10 years has some plaudits, but a good many more cautions and criticisms. Downward trends still dominate in species conservation and pressures on biodiversity remain critical. Investment in conservation has by no means kept pace with economic prosperity, and coordination of the many "green" initiatives appearing is needed.

In the face of this damning review however, we can take heart from the resilience that nature continues to surprise us with. We may not see many dewfish any longer up the Brook, but one can still see healthy schools of mackerel in Kalinga Park, and our recent birding walks record many dozens of species in evidence.

This is not to say we can relax in the belief that "she'll be right," but to offer encouragement that there is still a great deal worth working and fighting for. Canadians were amazed how quickly

Prince William Sound began to recover after the Exxon Valdez disaster. Australian catchments may not have the surging vitality of a tidal zone, but they can recover from the damage we have been doing them – we just need to start to reverse that decline.

Every small action helps; in fact, most actions in nature are pretty small - it's their accumulation that cuts out canyons and lays down great geological strata. So take heart, do something, anything, and you'll be making a difference towards a sustainable and liveable future! (*R Standish-White*)



Snippets

New Catchment Coordinator

Lesley Collins the new Catchment Coordinator for Kedron Brook started on 10th March. Lesley has taken over from Nathan who is working for 6 months in Council's Natural Environment & Sustainability Branch.

Lesley has a Bachelor of Environmental Planning from Griffith University and has worked for Council for 3 years in a number of different departments. Lesley has a strong background in project management. She will be working full time and is keen to take on the challenges of this role.

The Editors Bit

Charles is on a well deserved holiday. He is enjoying his trip and we look forward to his return in April.

Water Watch

Debbie Dolby has recently completed a certificate in the use of the Horiba water monitoring equipment and has been using it to test the water quality at the Fish Snapshot sites. The Horiba measures temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, salinity and conductivity. Please let Lesley know if you are interested in seeing this piece of equipment in action, so she can let

Kedron Brook Frog Survey

It's been fairly quiet around the catchment with regards to the frogs. Even the Cane Toads aren't calling much, although a population of Eastern Sedge frogs were heard calling from near Waminda Park and Cressey Street Wetlands. The vulnerable Tusked Frogs have been calling from numerous places including Grinstead Park, Brook Park and Cressey Street Wetlands.

Being quiet here, I went to Mt Barney to search for frogs. It too, was very quiet, none were calling but thanks to our experienced froggers from the Queensland Frog Society I was pleasantly surprised finding many of the frogs that we have not seen recently in our catchment eg the Green Striped Frog (*Cyclorana alboguttata*), Stoney Creek Frog (*Litoria willcoxi*), Broad-palmed Rocket Frog (*Litoria latopal-mata*), Bleating Treefrog (*Litoria den-tata*) and the Northern/Scarlet-sided Pobblebonk (*Limnodynastes terrae-reginae*).

(*D Dolby*)

Cane Toad *Bufo marinus* & possibly Naked tree

Photo by Debbie Dolby



you know when and where the catchment group will be using it.



Photo by Janet White

Presentation Series

A monthly presentation series is currently being held jointly by Kedron Brook, the Northern Catchment Network, Habitat Brisbane North and Brisbane City Council's Environment Centres (Boondall and Downfall Creek). The presentation series is open to the public and covers a range of topics that include weeds posing as natives, wildlife response to fauna-friendly infrastructure and the biocontrol of weeds.

The presentations are held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre.

On 7th May the presentation will be by Nathan Kirby, the previous Kedron Brook Catchment Coordinator and Tina Manners from Natural Environment and Sustainability Branch of Brisbane City Council. Nathan will talk about his new role with Brisbane City Council's pilot 'Corridor Carers' program. The program was inspired by programs such as Redland Shire Council's 'Your Backyard Garden Program'. Redland's program aims to provide free assistance and site inspections to small-lot housing owners in sensitive areas such as those surround-

ing natural areas and in identified ecological corridors. He will also talk about some of the measures that people can employ to provide habitat for wildlife and being more ecologically sustainable when living in these environments.

Tina will be talking about Brisbane City Council's Conservation Partnership Program. These partnerships are voluntary and focus on fostering a positive association with biodiversity protection on the landholder's property. Partners can sign one of three agreements, ranging from non-legally binding agreements through to legally binding agreements. In exchange for conducting a range of weed control and revegetation activities, partners receive assistance, such as free plants, technical advice and a cash payment.

The evening starts at 6:30pm with a light supper and some drinks, providing you the opportunity to meet some like minded people who have an interest in the environment. The presentation begins at 7pm and concludes by 8:30pm.

If you are interested in attending please RSVP to anna.greig@brisbane.qld.gov.au or on 0419 175 446.

Tilapia Tales

Tilapia have been spotted again in our catchment, this time at Kalinga Park. Unfortunately it looks to be a very successful population, well conditioned (if not fat) with all age/sizes present.

The Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) is a native Africa Cichlid. They are a little unusual in that the male broods the eggs and fry in his mouth instead of the female as in most other cichlid species. They are a fish from the aquaculture industry with rapid growth in warm water, tolerant of poor water conditions, capable of utilizing a wide range of food items and are salt tolerant.

Tilapia were first reported in 1978 from Lake Kurwongbah, then in 1979 they were reported in the Leslie Harrison Dam, from there they were reported in 1999 in the Upper Brisbane River, in 2000 in Boondoomba Dam, in 2001 the Caboolture Weir, Bulimba Creek in 2003 ect.

Tilapia were first reported in our catchment in 2004 and I reported them in 2006 at the junction of Kedron Brook and Sandy Creek. They were there for approximately 4 months, then disappeared. Look out for these largish fish and they should be reported to Kedron

Learn that Weed!

Pithecoctenium Cynanchoides DC



Common Name: White Trumpet Vine, Monkey's Comb

Pithecoctenium Cynanchoides DC, or more commonly called White Trumpet Vine or Monkey Comb is a woody climber with hexagonal ribbed branchlets, and many-branched twinning tendrils.

Its leaves are heart shaped and between 2.5-8cm long and 2-5cm wide.

New South Wales Flora Online states that it is a native of South America and flowers from November through to February.

This species has shown up on some properties within the catchment.

Brook who will identify them and report them to the DPI. (*D Dolby*)



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Brook!***

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

*"The philosopher who
said that work well done
never needs doing over
never weeded a garden"*
(Ray D. Everson)

Environmental Walk

Join us on Sunday 18 May for an Environmental walk to increase our knowledge of wildlife habitat along the Brook. Meet at Kalinga Park 7.30am at the car park at the end of Park Ave, Kalinga Park (UBD Map 140 J3). Led by Greg Miller and Leanne Bowden, we'll visit Kalinga Park and the Wavell Heights Cressey Street wetlands along the way (see information at

http://www.healthywaterways.org/seq_wsud_site_register.html)

This wetland is one of the Brisbane City Council's "Water Sensitive Urban Designs", and is intended to improve the quality of urban runoff water before it reaches Kedron Brook.

Wear a hat, comfortable walking shoes and sunscreen. Bring water to drink, in-

sect repellent (just in case), binoculars and bird field guide (if you have them) and something to snack on while we're out observing the wildlife. BYO picnic and drink and we'll picnic after the walk to discuss what we have seen.



This is a joint activity with Brisbane Branch of WPSQ. Contact Greg or Leanne on 3357 9009.

Photos by Robert Standish-

Dates for your Diary:

15 April 7:30pm	KBCB Meeting; with Dr. Kevin Warburton on fish and creek habitats Downfall Creek Environmental Centre, Rode Road Light supper provided
7 May 6:30pm	Presentation Series; Corridor Carers/Wildlife Friendly Gardens Downfall Creek Environmental Centre, Rode Road
18th May 7:30am	Environmental Walk Kalinga Park; Meet at the Park Avenue car park
15th June 7:30am	Tinchi Tamba Walk Meet at Deep Water Bend



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

