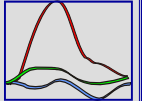




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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, Brisbane, Australia

April 2011

Inside This Issue:

Bunnings clean up	1
State of the Brook	2
Snippets	2
Brook Park bushcare Group	3
Restoring corridors 2 workshop	3
Learn that weed	3
Diary	4

'Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.'

(H.G.Wells 1866-1946)

Special interest points:

- 150 different bird species seen over three years of surveys
- KBCB-WPSQ nears Tenth Anniversary!
- Kahili ginger is not edible!
- Learn about Glossy Black Cockatoos at 195 Lochinvar Rd, Upper Kedron

Fish Snapshot on the go again

Now that revised procedures for conducting fish snapshots have been endorsed by Brisbane City Council, KBCB has conducted them at Arana Hills on 19 March, and Pony Club Bend on 26 March. Grinstead and Kalinga Park snapshots are expected to be completed by 9 April.

It takes a special mix of skill, tolerance and social togetherness to successfully carry out these truly scientific activities designed to



Suzanne Walsh and Robert Standish-White locating fish traps at Arana Hills

obtain a snapshot of the water quality of a water course. The following paragraphs detail our President's record of the Arana Hills survey.

'The forecast for our first fish snapshot in two years at Dawson Parade was dicey, so we took a small BCC shelter along, and



Fish sampling at Arana Hills Fish Snapshot (Photo: Anna Bourke)

lucky we did because almost as we arrived so did the rain.

Like much of the Brook the flood events have swept out any vestige of in-stream vegetation, but the water was clear enough... to start with. As we got the box traps in, the drain from the bottom of Patrick's Road began to spew, and thick it was! We quickly did the water testing, with Anna keeping the display end of the "Horiba" dry in a bucket, but by the time it came to dip netting things were pretty murky.

That and the rain might explain the big reduction in numbers, but we were pleased that

(Continued on page 4)

Bunnings and Everton Park SHS team up

During the week leading up to the 21st Clean Up Australia Day in 2011, Bunnings staff did their bit on the Business Clean Up Day (1 March). by gathering to clean up at Bunnings, Stafford. This kicked off a year long project to care for their section of the Kedron Brook catchment near the Mornington Street footbridge.

The Kedron Brook Catchment Branch will be partnering with and supporting Bunnings during this project, which is a year long commitment to reduce pollution in the catchment, learn about their local environment and support horticulture students from Everton Park State High School.

Part of the support Bunnings is providing is in the form of additional horticultural equipment that they have donated to Everton

Park State High School.

Additionally, the Everton Park State High School students are playing a key part in undertaking positive environmental actions, and learning about their catchment. The



Bunnings staff clean up (Photo: Anna Bourke)

experience is also providing them with skills and learning they can take with them when

(Continued on page 4)



The recent UN Report on Human Settlement makes clear that cities are probably the biggest element driving environmental degradation, and in a Faustian bargain are also most vulnerable to the consequences as many are coastal. From 2% of land area they produce 70% of harmful greenhouse gasses, and are set to grow hugely in the decades ahead. Data reveals that older cities tend to perform better for several reasons including dense living patterns, more reliance on public transport and buildings reliant on natural conditioning.

Another factor is green space, the many benefits of trees having been outlined in the previous issue. The report urges action at a local level, given the frequent paralysis of the political system to provide timely progress. Our network has been on the front line in this regard, with projects over the years to improve green spaces and our environment in general, so here we have vindication, if any were required, that such activities matter. We intend to celebrate our decennial shortly – look out for the notices.

Whilst our bloated emissions per capita are largely a result of coal fired electricity, 63% of Brazil's emissions



Gudgeon sampled at Arana Hills Fish Snapshot (Photo: Scott Bourke)

come from deforestation; the average food item in the US has travelled 2100 km; the list of extravagance goes on. As city dwellers we have both an opportunity and a duty to address these excesses at the core, encouraging better building design, transport and waste solutions along with direct action.

Part of such action is changing attitudes and we will be participating in the Wildlife Conservation Partnerships Program Information for Families in April and then the Hillbrook College Sustainability Day in early June.

Action needs to be based on data – the fish snapshots continue to provide a tiny but unique resource to that end, one of a

(Continued on page 4)

Hello again!

'Kedron Brookians' interested in past days may be interested in a booklet published by Enoggera & Districts Historical Society Inc. in 2004. It's called 'Between Kedron Brook and Taylor Range. -Historical Aspects of Seven Suburbs.'

As I was not familiar with the name, Taylor Range, I hastened to the UBD but couldn't find it there. The historical booklet describes it as 'a spur from the southern end of the D'Aguilliar range, splits off above the headwaters of Moggill and Gold Creeks, and has Mt Coot-tha and Constitution Hill at its end.'

Wikipedia added the useful info that it also includes Enoggera Hill, located above the Military Camp.

The booklet describes the families, the influence of Enoggera Military camp, institutions, primary and secondary industries, and recreation in the past of a significant part of our catchment.

The historical society is open 10 am to 2 pm, Thursdays at Enoggera Memorial Hall, Wardell and Trundle Streets, Enoggera.

Cheers !

Charles Ivin

Snippets

Glideways Project winds down

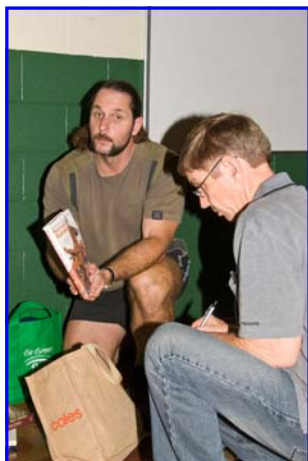
On Saturday 9 April, the final spotlighting event for the Glideways project in Ferny Grove will take place. With the days starting to shorten, the team will meet from 5 pm for a 5.30 pm start. Light refreshments will be served at the end at about 8 pm. If you have not previously been part of the spotlighting team but are interested, please contact Anna Bourke on 34070925.

Following the final spotlight, and because a Squirrel Glider has been spotted during this project, there will be special community planting day in late May. Keep an eye out on our web site for more details in the coming weeks!

(Anna Bourke)

KBCB-WPSQ Ten Year Anniversary

Our branch will have been in operation for ten years by August this year. Our committee would welcome suggestions



Ecologist Damian White with John Jordaen at the Glider workshop on 20 November 2010

from our members and KBC Network volunteers for a suitable celebration activity sometime in August or perhaps September.

This could be by way of a bushland visit to a Bushcare Group area for a tour, with displays, family activities and a barbie. It could be a relaxed dinner held at a bushland hall or even a sit-down meal say at the Walkabout function facility at Brisbane Forest Park, The Gap.

Please put on your thinking cap. What

would give our catchment volunteers an opportunity to get together on this happy occasion that provided a suitable bushland atmosphere with adequate facilities and location?

All suggestions to our committee would be most welcome!

(Charles Ivin)

Bird surveys continue in 2011

A summary of the results of three years of bird surveys are given in our News item, 'Bird observations 2010' on the web site.

Over the three years of bird studies, the number of bird species observed varied from only 11 up to 50 per outing depending upon the overall timing, month and variety of habitat at the location.

Overall, we observed 123, 90 and 107 different bird species respectively over the 2008, 2009 and 2010 walks conducted. Taken over the first two years, we actually observed 138 different species, a consequence of the fact that not all bird species were observed in both periods. Now, after three years of observations, we have observed a total of 150 different species at some time over the three years along the Brook.

We've now had our first three surveys this year with only 33 species seen in February, 42 in March, and 30 in April; mostly a consequence of the poor weather about the time and the effects of recent flooding.

We hope to see you at our coming surveys that are conducted at a leisurely pace so that you can also enjoy the scenery! (CI)

Brook Park Bushcare Group

This group works at Brook Park, Ferny Hills with entry via Kuringal Drive. A relatively small group of community volunteers, they have worked tirelessly to remove environmental weeds in Brook Park over the past six years.

Kedron Brook serves as the southern boundary of Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC) - Southern Region along this section. (Previously, this area was served by the now-defunct Pine Rivers Shire Council until 2008.) The group's current Bushcare Officer, Adam Christison, gives regular guidance and assistance.



Sonya distributes the shields for the trees

Sonya Schmidtchen is contracted by the MBRC to assist the group at monthly habitat management activities.

Brook Park is a vital link in the Mountains to Mangroves Corridor particularly because of the large forest remnant there. As such it provides both a significant pathway and habitat for a wide range of wildlife. This remnant is currently in good condition with a well established canopy of primarily native species.

However, Chinese elm, camphor laurel and other bird dispersed weed species such as Madiera vine have invaded the area. Bamboo also appeared some years ago and



Weeding and planting on 5 March

spread rampantly over a grassy embankment into the forest.

The bamboo infestation has been particularly difficult to remove. With council assistance, local volunteers have followed up at periodic intervals with chemical treatment. Sporadic suckering is occurring and treatment must continue for some time until they can finally claim to have beaten this weed.

This is a friendly group that is making a significant difference to their patch and are keen to share their enjoyment with others. Contact Adam on 07-3205 0555. (CI)



Time for a cuppa !

Learn that weed!



**Kahili Ginger
(*Hedychium gardnerianum*) (S. Navie)**

Biosecurity Qld has recently declared three ginger species; White, Yellow and [Kahili Ginger](#). This article will look at the latter plant which is listed on the Global Invasive Species Database and amongst the top 100 worst invasive alien species.

This herbaceous perennial plant grows to about 2 m high and features open spike-like inflorescences 15-45 cm long.

The flowers are pale yellow with red stamens extending a long way past the petals. The seeds become bright red. The bracts (shown with immature green fruit inset right) do not overlap. Flowering occurs mostly in summer and autumn.

The plant develops large rhizomes and is also spread by bird dispersal and movement of the seeds. Kahili forms pure stands and is regarded as a serious threat to sub-tropical and tropical rainforests.

This is a State Class 3 declared weed that may not be sold and landowners adjacent to environmentally significant areas must ensure adequate control. (CI)



Restoring Corridors 2 - Bush Regeneration 101

Once again Maggie Scattini shared her extensive years of experience with Restoring Corridors partners and other interest locals. After the wonderful weeds workshop in July 2010, participants had indicated they wanted to know more about what to do once the weeds are under control.

So with this in mind, the second workshop focussed more generally on the principals of bush regeneration and how to maximise ecological restoration on a site. The majority of the session took place inside looking at where to locate pertinent information, such as the Regional Ecosystem for a site, and topics such as succession (e.g. pioneer species to climax species). To finish, Maggie took the group outdoors to answer questions and look at



Group identify plant species

various aspects of bush regeneration, or ecological restoration, in the field.

All in all, the morning workshop was very well received by attendees, and judging from the level of attendance future workshops would be welcomed. KBCB is always keen to know what

the catchment community wants to know more about, so if you have a topic you would like covered at future workshops (funding dependent) or our regular general meetings please send us an email (see last page) with your ideas. (Anna Bourke)



Maggie Scattini and Mick Wilson discuss grass species at the workshop

**KEDRON BROOK CATCHMENT
BRANCH (INC.)**

PO Box 1385
STAFFORD QLD 4053

Email: enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au
ABN: 67 730 668 521

President : Robert Standish-White 3862 1186
Secretary : Lennert Veerman 0401 265 973

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



**Philip Rowland at the Pony
Club Bend Fish Snapshot**

(Fish Snapshots continued from page 1)

many of our small catch were gudgeon, along with a few shrimp. One eel was seen fleeing the scene. Bank vegetation was in fair condition, along with an unfortunate amount of litter. Probably not a great year to start our "official" photographic record. "

The Pony Club Bend snapshot was carried out a week later (see image above) and conditions were more pleasant with mild sunny weather.

A short summary of the results of all the 2011 snapshots will be reported at our next meeting on 19 April.

(WS-W/CI)

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

(Bunnings Team Up continued from page 1)

they enter the workplace.

Activities Organiser for Bunnings, Stafford, Jude Russell said 'It is important to Bunnings that staff can be active in their local community, look after the environment and give back in a variety of ways. This project achieves all these things.'

The Kedron Brook Catchment Branch encourages other businesses and community groups to get involved in regular catchment clean ups by registering with Clean Up Australia at <http://www.cleanup.org.au/au/>.

(Anna Bourke)

(State of the Brook continued from page 2)

range of eco-health indicators. It will need a wide range of changes to produce effects, so don't be lulled in to thinking roof insulation has nothing to do with frog habitat...

We have some good working relationships, with the BCC and with other like minded individuals, but if the climate science is right then we need to address environmental restoration with more urgency, and get out there and bring others into the action on whatever basis works. So don't hoard up all that fun, spread it around and let's get change happening!

Robert Standish-White
President



**Debbie Dolby and Anna Bourke
at Grinstead Park Fish
Snapshot on 2 April**

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 9 April	Fish Snapshots are back at Kalinga Park - 9 April, 8.30 am at Kalinga Park near Toombul Terrace footbridge. Determine the environmental health of Kedron Brook by evaluation of water quality, riparian habitat and observed wildlife under set methods and conditions. Contact our Kedron Brook Creek Ranger, Anna Bourke, on 3407 0925.
Saturday 16 April	Wildlife Conservation Partnerships Program—Information Fun Day Saturday 16 April 8.45 am for 9 am start to finish with sausage sizzle 11 am to 12 pm, at 195 Lochinvar Road, Upper Kedron. Learn the support your council can give you to manage your bushland. Glossy Black Cockatoos. Meet Land for Wildlife Neighbours and WCPP officers. No cost. It's free! RSVP Anna Bourke 07 3407 0925 or email to anna.bourke@brisbane.qld.gov.au
Tuesday 19 April	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch General and Network Meeting 19 April, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Join us at 7:00 pm for pre-meeting drinks and nibbles. Meeting runs 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm. The special presentation will cover the progress of the Brisbane City Council's Two Million Trees project. RSVP Robert Standish-White on 3862 1186.
Saturday 4 June	Hillbrook College Sustainability Day 10 am to 4 pm Community solutions to global problems. KBCB will be there. Join us. See our web site for details or contact our Secretary by email on enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au .



Proudly supported by



Dedicated to a better Brisbane