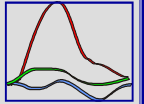




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



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 2012

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*'He knows nothing:  
and he thinks  
he knows everything.  
That points clearly to a  
political career.'*  
(G. Bernard Shaw 1856-1950)

## Special interest points:

- Jackson Creek Canoeists
- Feathery pair caught up a pine tree
- Rainfall improves water quality
- Tuesday Tree Liberators to checkout long-stem planting
- A Bullrout is painful eating!

## Fish Snapshot season is here again

The Fish Snap Shot program was well established for this year with the first location being Pony Club Bend, Mitchelton. Considering the recent dreary wet weather, the morning was perfect with the sun shining and the water temperature quite warm.

A variety of fish were caught including native species, Purple Spotted Gudgeon (*Morgurnda adspersa*) and Australian Smelt (*Retropinna semoni*). Exotic species included the Eastern Gambusia (*Gambusia holbrooki*).

The survey at Kalinga Park was also completed with a great find among the bank's shrubbery (see below) of the freshwater stone-



Jacinta Hamilton, Debbie Dolby and Helen Moriarty examine fish life caught at Pony Club Bend



Bullrout (*Notesthes robusta*) observed at the Kalinga Park Fish Snapshot, 12 March  
(Photo: Robert Standish-White)

fish, Bullrout (*Notesthes robusta*).

Debbie Dolby and I also visited the Year 9 Science class from Ferny Grove State High School and did some water quality testing with the students using the Horiba equipment. We will be returning to visit them later in the month to trap some fish and macro-invertebrates.

So far the water quality in all of the areas has been found to be quite good. Once the remaining creek locations at Grinstead Park, Alderley, Lutwyche Reach and Keperra Golf Club have been tested, a final report on the results will be compiled.  
(Jacinta Hamilton)

## Queensland Rail Project– Bob Cassimaty Park

On Saturday, 3rd March, another successful planting day was completed at Bob Cassimaty Park, Ferny Grove. Stage 2 of the project was completed, once again, with the welcome assistance of Men of the Trees, Kedron Brook Catchment Network members, Queensland Rail staff and the general community.

We were also lucky to have the presence of Anne-Marie Barnes, who is the granddaughter of Richard St Barbe Baker who was a founder of Men of the Trees society in Kenya in 1922. Anne-Marie is filming a documentary about the MOTT groups around Australia and the work that they do pursuing the inspiration of her grandfather.

The planting included 12 x 200 mm potted trees as well as just over 300 plants of a variety of native trees, shrubs and ground cover. This work was accomplished just in time with the last bit of equipment being packed away as the rain began to fall, thereby

assisting with the watering of the plants.

We have now hit the halfway mark with this project so there's not much further to go. Next, Stage 3 planting will be taking place at 8.30 am on Saturday, 28 April.

Stage 4 (largest of the plantings) will begin on the next Saturday, 5th May at 8.30 am.



Annie Morris planting at Bob Cassimaty Park

We look forward to seeing you there.

(Jacinta Hamilton)

# State of the Brook

The weather this season is perhaps one harbinger of turbulent times, with the Meteorological Bureau apparently struggling to keep up with the current vicissitudes visited upon us. In political, social and economic realms there also appear to be upheavals in process or possible, and all the above impact on the environment, which at the end of the day supports the entire human enterprise.

I shall be visiting Africa where the pressures of population and turmoil are far sharper than here in Australia, and perhaps can bring you back some comparisons that will provide us with lessons and challenges for action in our



**Stage 2 area planting at Bob Cassimaty Park**

## Snippets

### Wahminda Grove - Powerlink

The Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group is ahead of schedule for their three year project with support from Powerlink. (See the before and after photos to the right.)

A contractor was hired to remove all the weeds, including very widespread *Glycine Neonotonia wightii*, along the bank which was then replaced with mulch ready for a mass planting of native species over the next 6 months.

Aside from their regular bushcare work, the group have been busy organising the contractor and all the materials needed plus propagating most of their own tubestock to plant on the site. Already they have completed two of the four stages of the project.

The site is looking absolutely amazing so we are looking forward to the completion of the project to see the final results.  
(Jacinta Hamilton)

### A rest from the web site

Our webmaster will be away for six weeks from 31 March. Given there are no suitable offers to take over this technical role, the web site cannot be changed over this period.

So, it is vital that details of any important events to occur during this

"own" small catchment. Finding a balance is the most important thing in my view, with the equity of the future given a much more substantial weighting in the equation.

We shall all need to learn to deal with changes, either in the weather or social systems, financial arrangements or environmental priorities. This can seem daunting, even frightening, but we must grasp it as a challenge and opportunity or be bowled over by it. The world has always been a place of change; perhaps this is now just happening at an accelerated pace and we need to gear up to deal with that. As urban pressures eat up more and more of our green space the chances for meaningful environmental action shrink, so we must leap on those we are offered and make the most of them.

Improving "green corridors" is one such opportunity we have in our setting, and we hope to be embarking on some new ventures in this regard, such as at Camoola Street, Keperra, and with the Brook along Keperra Golf Club.

Another area I am keen to enhance is our connection with the young, who often show more passion for the environment



**Preston Hall learning the ropes at Pony Club Bend Fish Snapshot on 10 March**

than their elders. Starting our Facebook page is one action towards this end, and we are reviewing how we could resuscitate our "Down at your local Creek" program into schools within the catchment (or beyond, if it works). New ways of dealing with and connecting to volunteers are being looked at, and your committee would welcome any suggestions for action or policy.

Our branch and network continue to be active and it would be great to see more people get involved, either on site, online or occasionally as they see fit. Though "wildlife" may seem an anomaly in the city our actions to preserve them result in benefits for all, providing pleasure,

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Wahminda Grove-Powerlink Project area before clearing** (Photo: Lyn Ellerman)



**Wahminda Grove-Powerlink Project area after clearing** (Photo: Lyn Ellerman)

period should have advance information prepared so that at least the home page will continue to flag these activities well.

Deadline for this information to be processed is Thursday 28 March 5 pm. Electronic copy should be sent to news@kedronbrook.org.au (text, Word or pdf format).

Network members interested in being involved with the production of our newsletters, web site and other graphic form of communication should contact our committee. You'll be most welcome!

(Charles Ivin)

### KBCB 10th Anniversary

Now that we've earned our way enjoying our branch and network activities for over ten years, it's time we had a celebration!

Accordingly, our branch committee is currently planning towards a suitable occasion, possibly in late May. The celebration will most likely be held on Saturday, 19 May 2012. However, if time gets away on us we are looking at a date around late June / early July.

The night will include a sit down dinner, a couple of guest speakers as well as plenty of space to put your dancing shoes on and enjoy the night.

Keep in contact with Jacinta or members of our executive since confirmation may not hit our web site until about 14 May. In the meantime, please make a note in your diary for the tentative date above.

(Jacinta Hamilton)

*(Snippets continued on page 4)*

## Bushcare along the catchment

### A big Hello from Fleur!

As you probably all know, I am back from maternity leave and back in the role of Habitat Brisbane Officer for the North Region (job sharing with Jenny Leask). It is great to be back and I am really enjoying working with all of the Bushcare Groups along the Kedron Brook Catchment area again.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Cath Cleary for doing such a great job while I was away. I am happy to say Cath is still with Habitat Brisbane but now over in the Western Region.

As I make my way around to all of the bushcare sites it is fantastic to see the progress that has been made in the time I



**Rita Collins (Osborne Road Bushcare) smiles as she makes this pile of weeds disappear**



**Melrose Creek Bushcare Group planting on 17 October 2010**

have been away. The sites are powering on with all of the rain we have had which is a dramatic change from when I went on leave and we were experiencing drought. But the wet weather also brings a few challenges and keeping up with the rapid growth of weeds in the wet season is a huge challenge for many of the bushcare groups.

If you have any time spare and feel like having an enjoyable morning or afternoon out doors with a bushcare group please see details below for the monthly working bee dates and times:

Benelong Park Bushcare Group (Mick Wilson – 3256 6358) - 3rd Sunday of the month 8.30-10.30 am

Greenbrook Association (Greg Smith – 3356 7375) - 3rd Sunday of the Month 8.30-10.30 am

Grinstead Park Bushcare Group (Debbie Dolby - 33554134) – Contact Debbie for working bee dates

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Learn that weed!



**Coralberry (*Rivinia humilis*)**

Also called Baby Pepper, Coralberry is not a declared plant under Queensland or BCC legislation, but is often found in coastal districts in damp shady areas, native rainforest margins or waste spaces. It interferes with the re-establishment of native plants after the habitat is disturbed.

Coralberry is an erect, short-lived herb growing to about 1 m tall. The leaves grow in alternate formation along the stem, are up to 10 cm long, and are lance-shaped and bright green.

The flowers occur in upper leaf stalks of mature plants, vary in colour from white to pink with a greenish tinge, and grouped in narrow spike-like formations.

The fruits contain a single seed and may occur at any time of the year. They are shining red, smooth and about 3 mm diameter. Birds disperse the seed effectively.

Coralberry has an invasive score of 4.3 out of 5 and is ranked 61st out of the 200 species listed in the Qld Herbarium's 'Invasive Naturalised Plants in SE Queensland'. (CI)

## Long Stem Planting – Osborne Road, Mitchelton

### Long Stem Planting – Osborne Road, Mitchelton

Robert, Keren Sweeney & I recently had a follow up meeting for the Long Stem planting which took place late 2011 at Osborne Road, Mitchelton. There appeared to be at the least a 70 per cent success rate with most species doing well. The *Eucalyptus* species were definitely more flourishing whereas the *Casuarina Glauca* had a few successes but not as great as some of the other trees.

Ongoing maintenance is still required but overall it appears that the long stem planting is a positive method along creek lines. The Tuesday Tree Liberators Bushcare Group at Pony Club Bend Mitchelton are excited that they can trial this method along Kedron Brook. We wish them the same success rate as the Osborne Road planting.

For more information about the



**Undercutting of roots by flooding with tree planted close to drop in bank (RS-W)**

procedures for Long Stem planting visit: <http://www.australianplants.org/Long%20Stem%20Guide/LStem%20Planting%20Guide.htm>

*(Jacinta Hamilton)*



**A flood, two months after the planting of this long-stem plant, did not rip out this plant as would be expected with the traditional shorter stemmed plant. Although this plant still needs re-topping up of top soil, it is still growing and healthy.**

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**Two Tawny Frogmouths at Grange Forest  
Park (4 March 2012)**

*(State of the Brook continued from page 2)*

knowledge and health for us all.  
I trust everyone attending the fish  
snapshots learnt a bit more about the state  
of our Brook and enjoyed the experience.

I hope to see you all in some weeks  
time.

Robert Standish-White,  
President

*(Bushcare along Catchment continued from page 3)*

Kalinga Park Bushcare Group  
(Bernadette Crooke - 32666394) - 3rd  
Saturday of the month 7-9 am

Lutwyche Reach Bushcare Group  
(Donald Hopkins - 3857 7757) - 3rd  
Saturday of the month 8-10 am

Melrose Park Bushcare Group (John  
Lister - 3357 2093) - Contact group  
leaders John and Carolyn Lister for  
working bee dates

Osborne Road Bushcare Group (Keren  
Sweeney - 3407 0033) 1st Saturday of the  
month 9-11 am

Tuesday Tree Liberators (Helen  
Moriarty - 3354 2396) Every Tuesday 8-  
12 pm.

Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group (Lyn  
and Ann Ellerman - 3351 1805) - last  
Sunday of the Month and 1st and 3rd  
Thursday of the month

Zion Hill Bushcare Group (Jean Weaver  
- 32665294) 1st Saturday of the month  
7-9 am

(Fluer Sanderson)



**Sunny morning near Keith Boden  
Wetlands, Cressey St., Nundah**

*(Snippets continued from page 2)*

**Exploring Jackson Creek by canoe**

On 5 February, 2012, a canoe trip was  
carried out along Jackson Creek; soon to  
be drastically affected by the construction  
of the proposed western parallel runway at  
Brisbane Airport.

Local Conservation Ranger, Mel  
Cooper, was leader of this 'expedition',  
ably assisted by Jade Hollands (BCC -  
Environment centres).

Robert Standish-White took a series of  
photographs that are featured on our Photo  
Gallery—Jackson Creek web site page.  
Take a look. Gain a closer insight about a  
relatively isolated part of Kedron Brook.

(CI)



**Canoeists exploring Jackson Creek  
(Photo: Robert Standish-White)**

**Dates for your Diary:**

Sunday 1 April	<b>Bird Observation Walks</b> Sunday 1 April 7:00 am Bellbird Grove/Brisbane Forest Park. Meet in car park at Bellbird Grove Picnic Grounds. (UBD Map 140 Ref J3) Check out our web site or contact Dawn Muir on 3870 8076 for further details. Due to interactions with public holidays, the next walk will not be on the first Sunday but on 20 May.
Tuesday 17 April	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting</b> at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. 17 April We are having a detailed session about measurement of water quality in our streams with some practical assistance on the use of the Horiba electronic instrument. Join us at 7.00 pm for pre-meeting drinks and nibbles. Meeting is 7.30 pm-9.30 pm. RSVP Secretary Lennert Veermat on 0401 265 973.
Saturday 28 April	<b>Queensland Rail Community Tree Planting Day Stage 3</b> on 28 April 2012, 8.30 am to 12 md at Bob Cassimaty Park, Ferny Grove (opposite BP service Station on Samford Road) (UBD Map 137 ref LI). This project involves Queensland Rail, Men of the Trees (MOTT), and KBCB. Morning tea will be available. A real family affair! Please contact Acting Creek Ranger, Jacinta Hamilton, on 3407 0925 for more details or view home page of our web site.



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