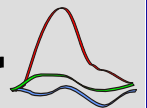




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

August 2010

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*' Thoughts are but  
dreams until their  
effects be tried '*

*( William Shakespeare  
1564-1616)*

## Special interest points:

- Learn about pneumatophores
- Spores found to be responsible for spread of fishbones!
- Rain-loving Mitchie students are great planters.
- Poet Shelley pondered the real sequence of the seasons

## Restoring Corridors 2 Weeds Workshop

As part of the Restoring Corridors 2 project, a workshop dealing with weeds, their identification and treatment methods was held on Sunday 11 July. Maggie Scattini, local ecological restoration expert, ran the workshop drawing on her years of field experience and as a teacher/trainer too.

Maggie had a refreshingly informal style, bringing hundreds of weed species for participants to look at, touch and smell! Since the range of experience amongst the participants varied, Maggie started at the beginning – teaching the group the difference between monocots and dicots, and what this means from a weed treatment point of view. Each

participant then attempted to identify various specimens into each type of flowering plant.

The morning was very informative, and also provided a great opportunity for participants to get to know fellow bush restorers.

Participants at the end of the morning were asked to write

down any extra things they would like to learn at the second workshop to be held either late this year or early next year. The resounding response was to cover how to manage the land after weeds have been dealt with to a certain level... what do we do next? That is, what should we plant and where?

Keep an eye out for details of the second workshop, as places will be limited!

(Anna Bourke)



**Maggie Scattini, leader, at the Weeds Workshop**



**Debbie Ledger studies the weed identification chart at the workshop**

## MangroveWatch at Nudgee Beach

MangroveWatch is a Wildlife Queensland project that aims to establish a community monitoring program which will help keep track of the health of mangroves in Moreton Bay.

Our survey in June was the usual 'pot luck' of who can be available at the right tide on the right day, between weather events! This year it turned out to be Ken Grey and I on a cool and damp day, which let up kindly for us to survey our three 50m lines.

A tape is stretched out on the correct bearing from three stakes in the mud and we then record, at every 5 m, crab holes,



**Early morning setting for Ken Grey surveying a mangrove area at Nudgee Beach (R S-W).**

live animals, number and height of mangrove pneumatophores (aerial roots), algae cover on them, and the type of substrate within a half meter square frame. Above us the density, height and health of cover is also noted. Each visit shows a few changes, with the welcome surprise on this one being the unprecedented (for us) numbers of baby whelks, crabs and slugs in evidence. Who would have thought, in the middle of winter?

With mangroves in many areas of Moreton Bay in trouble, it would seem that those in our catchment at Nudgee Beach are faring reasonably so far. When comparative results become available we'll let you know.

(Robert Standish-White)



I am winging off to foreign parts for a few weeks, and the admonitions in the literature and on websites about 'carbon miles' are a salutary reminder how privileged we are to be able to make such journeys. While we may grumble about airports and narrow seats, think even three generations back when long sea voyages were the only option. And what cost this mobility? We need to lobby in the imminent election for the mining and manufacturing and waste treatment that make such luxuries possible to be made ever more environmentally compatible. It should not be seen as an 'either/or' debate, that we can support a comfortable lifestyle only at the expense of the environment. Our species has more than enough ingenuity to find ways of living with the biosphere instead of consuming it, it is just a matter of political will, and a decent dose of ethics and humanity.

We have seen those other magnificent travellers, the migrant shorebirds, around the foot of the catchment, with science still at a bit of a loss as to how they store the energy and route map for their enormous journeys. What we can do is ensure they have somewhere to rest, feed and breed when they arrive, not another commercial enterprise that has 'improved' on the wetlands.

## Snippets

### Kalinga Park Group

The Kalinga Park Restoration project is drawing close to its end, in terms of funding for the project. However, KBCB is keen to see the efforts put into restoring this strip of native vegetation continue and will be pursuing opportunities to do so. Hopefully, the enthusiastic local residents who have contributed much of their time in planting and weeding the site, will be successful in their bid to become a Habitat Brisbane group!

(Anna Bourke)

### Bird Study walks

These continue to be enjoyable through the main patches of remnant forests along the Brook. Our 4 July walk through Kalinga Park, Keith Boden Wetland and Benelong Park was in pleasant winter sunshine. See the latest results in our news item, 'Birds Study 2010', on our web site. See you at our September walk!

(Charles Ivin)

### Catchment Bus Minitour

Coming up on 22 August, we have another of our enjoyable and interesting bus tours along Kedron Brook catchment.



**Sand crabs seen at Nudgee Beach during MangroveWatch activity in June (RS-W)**

We will be undertaking a minor trek of our own up the Catchment next month, to visit some of the sites where things have been happening, and catch up at the same time. While attempting not to plagiarise any of the slogans flying around in the election, we could see ourselves as on a journey, with the years dashing by like milestones (anyone remember them?), and what we achieve over those 'miles' being our reward along the way. So before the metaphor becomes too worn, I shall sign off and hope to see you all at our various pit stops this year!

Robert Standish-White  
President

Hello again.

Past the middle of the year now and the sun rises a bit earlier every day! Although we have 'enjoyed' a rather cold winter we've had superb morning sunshine and, given the recent mackerel sky cloud formations, some great sunrises and sunsets.

Our Creek Ranger Anna Bourke has been terribly busy and you'll note her name associated with numerous activities on the web site and articles in this Babbler.

After many months without, we are delighted to welcome our new Secretary, Leenert Verman, to our Committee. He has already been quite active over this year. On his speedy bike, he pops up along the Brook attending frog and bird sightings in what most would consider un-comfortable cold conditions unless you are mad... about the environment! You'll find Leenert very sociable and pleased to meet you all.

I am still pecking away at our web site with small changes. You can expect some more soon with a photo gallery page and improvements to some of the Bushcare Group section pages. (Bushcare leaders assistance is always greatly appreciated!)

Cheers!

Charles Ivin



**Pheasant Coucal scurrying away from Lantana at Benelong Park during Bird Study Walk In July**

This is an opportunity for catchment carers to catch up on our recent projects—some still in development and others at their successful conclusion.

We leave from Stafford Shopping Centre about 9 am for Upper Kedron where we learn about the trials and triumphs of our Restoring Corridors project participants.

Tuesday Tree Liberators then show us the magnificent progress they have achieved along the previously infested vine/lantana overgrowths of the Brook. We'll have smoko there with time to review the magnificent specimens of art sculpture and

mosaics along the adjacent Greenway.

At Kalinga Park we view the successful regeneration of steep, previously weed infested slopes on the northern side of the Brook. On the southern side, we can view the huge construction facilities built to house the emergence of the Airport Link tunnel. Massive construction has resulted in severe changes to Melrose Creek and the Brook at this point. We'll finish about 1 pm back at Stafford. Contact Philip Rowland on 3260 5779 or Creek Ranger Anna Bourke on 0439 788 459 to book a seat or get further details about our 'get-together and share experiences' tour.

(Philip Rowland)



**Melrose Creek modified at Kalinga Park (RS-W)**



## Footprints of Hope

Internationally, World Environment Day 2010 had the focus of “Many Species, One Planet, One Future”, clearly linking in with the International Year of Biodiversity. This further interlinked with the theme of “Reducing our carbon footprint” for the Natural Resources Awareness grants this year.

The “Footprints of Hope” project was designed specifically to align with the objectives of a grant made to KBCB in keeping with KBCB’s vision to link and extend existing actions and projects in the Kedron Brook catchment.

On Tuesday 18 May, community artist, Chrissy Foreman C, held an art workshop on carbon footprints with class 5/6K at Nundah State School. The students followed through exercises that explored the concept of carbon footprints at home and at school. Then they created carbon footprint art works from reused materials on leaf shaped pieces of cardboard.

A celebratory event was undertaken on World Environment Day, Saturday 5th June. This event consisted of a marquee set up in Kalinga Park with information provided about a range of environmental and natural resource related issues, including ways to reduce carbon footprints. The carbon footprint art installation was set up in trees around the marquee, providing park visitors with the opportunity to learn about carbon footprints from a students point of view, as well as providing space for people to add their own message to the art.

Consistent with the theme, a BBQ was run as part of the event showcasing locally



**Cr David McLachlan and Chrissy Foreman C at the Footprints of Hope event (R-S-W)**

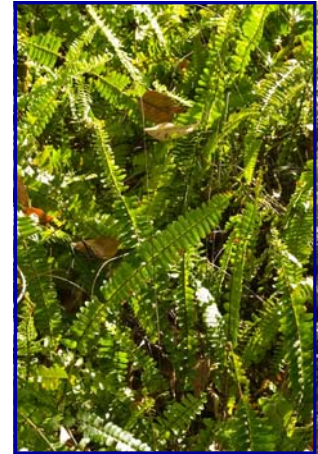
sourced food from Food Connect. The organic meat and a range of vegetarian options were provided to demonstrate alternatives to higher carbon intensive forms of BBQ foods.

The event culminated with a community planting of fifteen Crows Ash trees (*Flindersia australis*) in the park, mainly along the bike path. A symbolic planting, the trees represented yet another way people can reduce their carbon footprint through preserving and restoring native habitat. It also increased the biodiversity of Kalinga Park and much needed shade.

This celebration, 'Footprints of Hope', attracted a large number of local community members – some who attended to see their kids art works, others to plant a tree, and others again who were at the park and were attracted by the wonderful smells of a low carbon BBQ! Many people enjoyed planting the trees, the lovely leafy carbon footprint artworks, and trying the different low carbon BBQ options that KBCB provided.

(Anna Bourke)

## Learn that weed!



**Fishbone Fern  
(*Nephrolepis cordifolia*)**

*Nephrolepis cordifolia* is a plant that grows in many climates, but mainly enjoys subtropical and tropical regions.

A fish-bone type of fern, it forms dense clumps of erect fronds to 75 cm long. The fronds are compound, with numerous leaflets, longest near the middle of the frond and tapering in size at either end. The margins of each leaflet are finely toothed. The spores are carried in a row of dots halfway between the margins and the mid-vein on the underside of each leaflet.

It spreads very easily by wind blown spores, so control is somewhat difficult. This species is a BCC-declared Class R environmental weed of moderate threat and is well established, often unwelcome, across Brisbane.

(C D)

## Energex Junior Landcare Day with Tuesday Tree Liberators

On 23 June, the Grade 6 children from Mitchelton State School came to McConaghy Street in spite of the rain. Our Creek Ranger, Anna Bourke, had been to visit them at school earlier in the week and they were very excited about their day out in their catchment.

Justin Ward from Landcare had brought two marquees, one for the end of McConaghy Street and one for down under the bike bridge, where the Waterwatch activity was to take place. When it started to rain, he moved the marquee from the bridge up to the end of McConaghy Street, so there was plenty of room for morning tea, the kids, and all the presenters.

The children were given presentations on energy savings by Energex. When all the presentations were finished and everyone had feasted on the wonderful home cooking



**Grade 6 students from Mitchelton SS soldier on through the rain at the Energex planting at McConaghy St, Mitchelton.  
(Photo: Helen Moriarty)**

provided by the Tuesday Tree Liberators, it was still raining. So Justin had his next brilliant idea, to move one of the marquees onto the planting site. This was duly done and everyone moved down to

the planting area. But it fined up almost immediately and the planting was done in perfect planting weather by very willing and enthusiastic children.

Although it then stayed fine, the bus had been ordered for 12 md so thirty very satisfied children went back to school, but not before arrangements were made for them to come back for another Waterwatch activity next term.

(Helen Moriarty)



**Plots at Mitchelton**

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

PO Box 1385  
STAFFORD QLD 4053

Email: [enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au](mailto:enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au)  
ABN: 67 730 668 521

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

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***'If winter comes, can  
spring be far behind?'***

*(Percy Bysshe Shelley  
1972-1822)*

## Catchment Kids

Wednesday 16 June was a cool, overcast day but lovely, nonetheless, for taking class 5/6K of Nundah State School on a tour of our Kedron Brook catchment. This activity formed an integral part of the Catchment Kids program this year. It is one activity that is really important for providing the real-life experience of what and where our catchment is—connecting the theory from the classroom to the practice, out and about in the catchment environment.

Starting in the upper catchment, the students enjoyed morning tea at Ferny Grove Picnic Ground Park on Samford Road, followed by a macro-invertebrate sampling activity. The students had a really good go at picking water bugs out of their samples and identifying them, before they enthusiastically took to looking for their own water bug samples. Their teacher, accompanying parents and I were really delighted to see the students enjoying themselves exploring the creek environment with big nets in search of their small and elusive targets.

Leaving the upper catchment behind, we headed for Grinstead Park in the mid-catchment. Here the students admired the work of the Grinstead Park Bushcarers, and gained good insight into how some of our creeks really look like drains (Poor Sandy Creek!), and that they eventually flow into Kedron Brook.

Then, we entered the lower reaches of the catchment with a short stop at Albert Bishop Park. Here we all had a good look at the infrastructure alongside Kedron



**Flax Lily (*Dianella revoluta*) at Benelong Park (Photo: Denise Rivers)**

Brook, (renamed Schulz Canal at this point). We had a chat about the man-made changes to the waterway involved with the Airport Link construction.

Our last stop was at Nudgee Beach where the students watched as Kedron Brook (now called a Floodway!) flowed out to mingle with Moreton Bay. We talked about all the things we had seen, and the changes we had noticed from the top of the catchment to the bottom, before finishing up with lunch overlooking the Bay.

It was a fantastic day out, and the importance of the day was highlighted by the student's teacher, Donna Kleiss. She indicated that being part of Catchment Kids program was such a great opportunity as there are not enough occasions for the students to get out and learn in their environment, in a tactile, exploratory way.

(Anna Bourke)

### Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 4 August	<b>Northern Seminar Series</b> 4 August, Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Drink and finger food at 6.30 pm for presentation at 7.00 pm to 8 pm. Russel Denton presenter 'The spiders of Boondall Wetlands and Downfall Creek' A great photographic experience! RSVP or contact Anna Bourke on 3407 0925
Wednesday 18 August	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch General and Network Meeting</b> 18 August, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Dr. Sheldon Navie Centre for Biological Information Technology and School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences (UQ) will talk about new and emerging weeds. Join us at 7:00 pm for pre-meeting drinks, pizza and nibbles. Meeting runs 7:30 pm-9:30 pm. RSVP Robert on 3862 1186.
Sunday 22 August	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Tour</b> 22 August 8:45 am Meet at car park behind Stafford Central (UBD Map 139 ref M5) for bus departure at 9.00 am. See Restoring Corridors regeneration examples at Upper Kedron, weed removal at Pony Club Bend at Mitchelton and progress achieved at Kalinga Park Restoration project. As seats are limited and for catering, please contact Philip Rowland on 3260 5779 or Anna Bourke on 0439 788 459 if you are coming.
Sunday 5 September	<b>Bird Surveys - Cedar Creek</b> Sunday, 5 September 7.00 am Upper Kedron Rd., Meet just West of the road bridge before Hogarth Rd. near the bike path. (UBD Map 137 ref G5) Contact our Coordinator, Jenny Ivin, on 3851 0160 to register or to obtain more details. Check on our <a href="#">web site home page</a> to learn any changes.



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