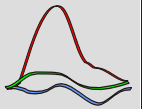




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

Down At Your Local Creek Education Program

December 2009

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"Enjoy present pleasures in such a way as not to injure future ones"

"Seneca"

Special interest points:

- Frogs are most welcome to a survey night in February.
- Emma leaves us to sail the Spanish Main!
- The Heartseed vine is not the same as the Balloon vine.
- Students love DAYLC .

In July, the Branch relaunched its own environmental education program - "Down At Your Local Creek". Since then, the education team (Debbie Dolby, Anna Clarke and myself) have worked with Stafford State School, Grovely State School and Ferny Grove State School – over 160 students all together!

Stafford SS & Grovely SS students participated in the DAYLC education program, learning about catchments and how we influence them, and completing some waterway health checks at their local creeks.

For many students, the DAYLC program is the first time they have looked for waterbugs, stopped to observe the Brook and its banks from a scientific perspective and explored their local waterway. We thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to take the students 'down to their local creek' and to show them how we can look at it with an eye for catchment and waterway health.

Meanwhile, Yr 5 students from Ferny Grove State School collaborated with us to develop some improved and more interactive teaching resources to use in DAYLC. Together, we designed a 'map' of Kedron Brook catchment, and then painted it onto a large silver tarpaulin. This is a key resource in the *Story of*



Emma Maltby with Teacher Ulana Edds and Debbie Dolby at Ferny Grove State School with students planning the new DAYLC catchment map

Kedron Brook interactive story telling activity. The participating Yr 5 students were excellent to work with – demonstrating team work, fairness, artistic flair and a sense of fun. On Monday 23 November the Branch presented the 15 tarp painters with certificates of appreciation and the "tarp map" to the school.

If you are a teacher (or know of a teacher) who would like to participate in the DAYLC program, please contact our Kedron Brook Creek Ranger on 3407 0836.

(Emma Maltby)

Kalinga Park Restoration Project

Our first community working bee at the site was held on 17 October. This was held at a flatter section of the site, downstream from the steep sloped area. It was a very successful morning, with many local residents coming along to help plant over 150 native ground covers and mid-storey trees. Other activities undertaken were watering, staking and mulching of the new plants.

We were visited by our most supportive local Councillor, Kim Flessler, who dropped in to say hello, meet the volunteers, and to see



Volunteers at the Kalinga Park Restoration activity on Saturday morning, 17 October at Kalinga Park. (Photo: Cr. Kim Flessler)

what the local community is doing in the area. After the morning's efforts, we all enjoyed a delicious morning tea provided by a fabulous local caterer, Jerry at FoodFX.

Over morning tea, there was much talk and interest in the possibility of a bushcare group beginning at the site. The Kedron Brook Catchment Branch is currently seeking out

possible options.

Following this planting morning, we have experienced some good rainy periods, that have

(Continued on page 4)



Another year gallops messily to the line, and amidst the burgeoning infrastructure and carbon squabbles we are told the quality of our waterways is poor.

It seems a sad state of affairs when the Maroochy River is in a pristine state only because there have not been inflows of late; no overload human detritus to disrupt nature's cleansing ways.

It would be easy to become cynical and discouraged in the face of most of what passes for "news", but in this issue we have a potent antidote - the wellspring of youth!

Thanks largely to our dauntless and energetic "Down at your Local Creek" team we have been privileged to interact with a wide array of youngsters, who almost without fail delight us with their optimism and enthusiasm. Herein lies our hope for the future, a reminder if any were needed as to why we do what we do as environmental volunteers. The year may have worn us down a tad, but the smile on the face of a child catching their very first water bug is worth a dozen jaded bureaucratic put downs. Nurturing that fading connection between urbanites and the natural world must be one of the best things we can do.

So as the season of the Christ child rolls in, lets us celebrate it not for it's material indulgence (jolly as that can be once in a while!) but for it's promise of



Grovelly State School students learn about catchment biodiversity at their brook on 10 November (Emma Maltby)

new beginnings, of hope and possibility. We can learn so much from children; we should listen to and enjoy them, rather than either coddle or boss them.

Sadly the new year will see our creek ranger Emma set off on adventures of her own. We have really appreciated her willingness to pitch in and her great interpersonal skills with all age groups, along with a useful quotient of knowledge! We wish her all the best in Europe and beyond, and are grateful to Brisbane City Council for the efforts they have gone to in providing our fine sequence of coordinators.

On behalf of the committee I wish you all a Merry Festive Season, and look forward to new challenges in 2010.

Robert Standish-White
President

Hello again.

This newsletter communicates the very satisfying momentum we're now achieving with educational activities such as our Down At Your Local Creek project and Catchment Kids. The students from Ferny Grove State School were very enthusiastic in their manufacture of visual guides showing the significant characteristics of our Catchment. A most rewarding educational mix of nature and art.

The official addition of the Tuesday Tree Liberators to the Habitat Brisbane catchment groups is a welcome acknowledgement of the great effort of local volunteers around Mitchelton.

Our Network web site requires some improvements in the Bushcare and Education sections. Some bushcare groups are now non-existent (e.g. Glen Retreat and Dawson Parade) and others, though working well, need the information about their history and projects brought up to date.

I hope to be working on this over the next six months but would obviously prefer to use what our bushcare groups want themselves. Please send me your contributions, images and requirements so your bushcare group can be properly represented.

Many thanks to those contributors who have supported our Newsletter and web site since April 2002. Oh! Have a safe and happy festive season and come back invigorated for next years projects along our catchment.

Cheers!

Charles Ivin

Snippets

Farewell letter from Emma

Dear Babbler readers,

At the end of January next year, I will be hanging up my Creek Ranger hat on a tall stag by the Brook. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as the Kedron Brook Creek Ranger and have always felt welcomed into your community.

My replacement has not been confirmed yet, but I am sure you will all welcome the new Creek Ranger as warmly as you did me.

I farewell Kedron Brook catchment and the Branch with fond memories and with exciting plans of travel and adventures - which includes sailing and Spain.

Thank you,

Emma.

[Thank You, Emma. Happy sailing! (c)]



Pacific Black Duck at Nudgee Waterhole

Bird Surveys to continue in 2010

Following successful bird surveys over the past two years, another program of surveys has been planned for 2010. Details are available from the special [news item](#), "Bird surveys 2010" to be seen in the News section of our web site.

The results of past years are available in the "News-Achived" section. Considerable energy has been expended in an effort to allow a statistical comparison of birds found along the Brook over the past two years. This should be available soon.

(Emma Maltby/CI)

Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program

This program is managed by the South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership on behalf of its various partners and is implemented by a large team of experts from the Queensland Government, universities and CSIRO.

The October 2009 Report has recently become available on the SEQ Healthy Waterways Partnership [web site](#).

Urbanised streams in the Lower Brisbane Catchment and Estuary area, that includes

(Continued on page 4)

Mitchelton State School 'catches' our notice

Learn that weed!



Students of Mitchelton State School at City Hall in the Catchment Kids Celebration Day.

Throughout 2009, the students from Class 6A and their teacher Sandy Reid have been the Kedron Brook Catchment "Catchment Kids" class. As a Catchment Kids class, they participated in the city-wide BCC Creek Ranger environmental education program.

This saw them launched upon a journey of catchment discovery; learning about the positive and negative impacts of our daily actions on the health of our catchment and the Brook, undertaking water quality testing and waterbug sampling, planting trees as part of National Tree Day and performing at City Hall in the Catchment Kids Celebration Day.



Mitchie students planting on 30 July

At the City Hall celebration on 21 October, the Mitchelton students went head to head with other Catchment Kids from around Brisbane in a friendly competition of creativity, music, dancing, singing and of course environmental messages.

All nine performances were impressive, yet my favourite was Mitchie's superb rendition of Ben Lee's song: "Catch My Disease", cleverly renamed and rewritten to incorporate some great lessons about catchment care. The students can all be very proud of their performance.

Congratulations to Mansfield State School (Bulimba Creek Catchment) for their success on the day – as the overall winners, they took \$1500 of prize money back to their school to invest in an environmental project at Mansfield State School.

We thank the students of 6A Mitchie, and their fabulous teacher Sandy Reid for a fun, rewarding and successful Catchment Kids journey with the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch, BCC, and I.

The Branch is looking forward to working with Nundah State School in the 2010 Catchment Kids journey.

(Top photo & copy - Emma Maltby)



Heartseed vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*)

Heartseed vine and Balloon vine (*C. halicacabum*) are closely similar rampant vines, densely growing, smothering other plants up to 8 m high in the canopy. Commonly found along waterways, roadsides, disturbed sites, and at forest edges.

In the case of the Heartseed vine, the leaves are made up of nine leaflets 2.5–8 cm long, which have toothed margins and are dark green. The flowers are white, 8–10 mm long and grouped together at the end of a long stalk in the leaf axils, with two curled tendrils just below the flowers. Fruits are distinctly balloon-like, membranous, inflated and veined, and are more than 5 cm long.

The Balloon vine species has leaflets less than 4 cm long, the flowers about 4 mm long and smaller fruits and seeds. There are two varieties of *C. halicacabum* and the studious may research this further.

C. grandiflorum has a high 4.4 invasive score as an environmental weed. (CI)

Tuesday Tree Liberators Group are the quiet achievers!

It was about two years ago when the Mitchelton Greenway Art and Sculpture Project was first gathering pace. The Kedron Brook Greenway construction had reached Lansvale Street (though the bridge across the brook from Teralba Park took some months longer). By March 2008, the superb sculptures were in place and finishing touches followed on the mosaic creations in the pathway and an artistic bench located at the entrance to the bridge.

Local volunteers, led by Helen Moriarty, had been looking at the surrounding forest remnants along the brook. Glycine and Madiera vines were climbing into the tree canopies and, with Lantana, were rampant over any smaller plants.

With excellent assistance from



Leader Helen Moriarty with volunteers from Volunteering Australia at Pony Club Bend, Mitchelton.

neighbouring Bushcare Group members and Brisbane City Council staff, a concerted effort was made to methodically remove the huge mass of weeds in

time for the unveiling of the art pieces and Greenway in June 2008.

But now, that good work is being followed by extension of weed removal and regeneration of the native plants along the banks as well as down towards the waterline of the brook.

Recently, the group became part of the Habitat Brisbane organisation. Working bees are now regularly conducted along the Southern bank of the brook every Tuesday, just upstream of the Osborne Bushcare site. It's a small effective, very sociable group. The sharing of activities with nearby bushcare groups plays an important factor leading to their overall success.

For more information contact Helen Moriarty by [email](mailto:) or phone 3354 2396

(CI)

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

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President : Robert Standish-White 3862 1186
Secretary : Position vacant

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

(Ecosystem Health Monitoring—continued from page 2)

Kedron Brook Catchment, have maintained an F rating (lowest score) with slight improvements in some indicators (e.g. physical-chemical) offset by declines in biological (fish and invertebrates) indicators.

These freshwater results indicate that streams are in poor condition, there are declines in the nutrient recycling, aquatic macroinvertebrates, and physical/chemical indicators.

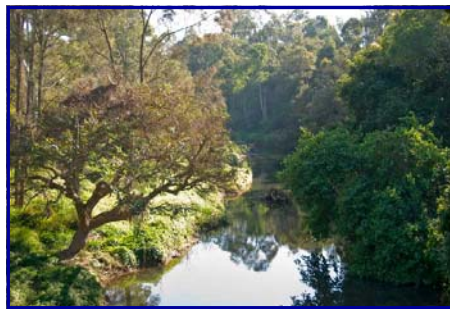
The higher water flowrates, caused by a number of severe storms, produced higher water levels but would also have also carried higher sediments and nutrients from urban sources.



Kookaburra watches his patch

(Kalinga Park Restoration—continued from page 1)

(CI)



Brook near Pony Club Bend, Mitchelton

helped the plants get off to a good start.

Since the removal of the chinese elms on the Carew St slope, the need for further removal of weed trees is minimal. Special care of planted areas will continue at the site until August 2010 to ensure proper establishment of the new native plants.

A follow up community planting working bee is planned for Sunday, 6 December, 7:30 am. Our Creek Ranger, Emma Maltby is coordinating this project. Contact is by phone 3407 0836, or [by email](mailto:emma.maltby@brisbane.qld.gov.au).

(Emma Maltby)

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

*" When the oak is felled the
whole forest echoes with its
fall, but a hundred acorns are
sown in silence by an
unnoticed breeze."*

(Thomas Carlyle 1795-1881)

**Our committee wishes
YOU and yours the very
best for the coming
Festive Season and a
happy, safe and
healthy New Year.**



Dates for your Diary:

Sunday 6 December	Kalinga Community Planting Morning Sunday, 6 December, 7:30 am—10:30 am, Meet at Hamson Tce, Nundah The morning will include a delicious morning tea and all required tools will be provided. This planting morning is an integral part of the on-going Kalinga Restoration Project funded by a federal Caring For Our Country grant. To RSVP or for more information, contact Emma Maltby on emma.maltby@brisbane.qld.gov.au or by phone on 3407 0836.
Sunday 7 February	Bird Surveys - 7 February at 6:30 am at Grinstead Park and Sparkes Hill Reserve. Contact our Surveys Coordinator, Jenny Ivin, on 3851 0160 (H) to register or to obtain more details. Check on our website home page to link to the overall program or to learn any last minute changes.
Tuesday 16 February	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and General Meeting Tuesday, 16 February , 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. The usual social hot drink and cake at the end.
Friday 19 February	Frog Survey Despite water from a few occasional storms, planned activities in the second half of 2009 have not worked so well. To give the rain gods plenty of notice, this night has been booked close after our next general meeting. Contact Debbie on 3355 4134 before then about any local frog activity so final arrangements are made at our February Meeting.



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