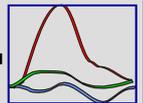




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

December 2011

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'The grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.'

(Joseph Addison, 1672-1719)

Special interest points:

- Sizzle with us on 10 December
- Welcome back to the pack in January, Fleur Sanderson !!
- Moreton Bay Region Bushcare Celebration's a great success!
- LaNina IS the name of Writer/Artist/Performer in Florida

Queensland Rail – Bob Cassimaty Picnic Ground

On 15 October 2011, we saw the launch and first planting at Bob Cassimaty Picnic Ground, Ferny Grove. At 4 am that morning I woke to the sound of thunder and pouring rain and the feeling that for some reason this planting was not going to take place. I had to race out in the rain to get my phone out of the car and waited for 6 am to arrive for phone calls to start coming through; 'Do you think we should still go ahead'? However, luckily by 7.30 am I was on the road to Ferny Grove and the rain was starting to clear.

Despite the weather, we had 35 people assist on the day including members of Kedron Brook Catchment Network, Men of the Trees (MOTT), Transition The Grove, Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group, employees from Queensland Rail, and a few more community volunteers.

Hon Geoff Wilson MP, State Member for Ferny Grove, and Cr. Andrew Wines (Enoggera Ward, (BCC) also made an appearance and enjoyed a morning tea with us. Luckily the rain held off for us over the morning and by 11.30 am we had 500 trees and plants in the ground.

Although it was quite a humid morning, everyone did their fair share and eventually,



Fran Gilje (MOTT) and Robert Standish-White with State Member for Ferny Grove and Minister for Health, Geoff Wilson

sweaty and tired, they walked away with a successful smile on their faces.

Thank you to everyone who helped on the day and we hope to see a lot of you at the next planting which will begin at 8 am on Saturday 10 December 2011.

For information regarding the upcoming plantings and the Queensland Rail - Bob Cassimaty Picnic Ground project please refer to the projects section of Kedron Brook Catchment Network's web site at

www.kedronbrook.org.au/ or on www.menofthetrees.org.au/docs/index.htm at MOTT's web site. (Jacinta Hamilton)

MangroveWatch at Nudgee Beach

A fine warm November morning saw us take up the mangrove watch again at Nudgee Beach after a break of some time due to floods, staff movement and general business. We were lucky to have our new coordinator, Alix Baltais, bring the kit up and join us for the morning, gently reminding us of some of the finer points of recording. Our first unfortunate surprise was the loss of two of our three set out pegs, perhaps taken out with the flood debris? However tape and compass saved the day and we were soon squatting around the square frame straining our eyes for detail.

In each 50 m transect there is quite a variation when viewed close up, some squares almost barren, others teeming. An interesting observation was that many of the little molluscs sheltered under fallen leaves – I suppose this would keep them cooler, damper, and hidden. Most patches still contain a healthy number of holes indicating a lively

sub-sand community, protected by the structure, cover and gentle top-of-the-tide aspect of the mangroves. Despite our group being largely beginners, a fun morning was had by all, a light breeze keeping the mosquitoes at bay, and very welcome ice cream from Pam's Café to finish off. (Robert Standish -White)



Heads down counting life-forms within the survey frame at Nudgee Beach

State of the Brook

Having had a November hot and dry enough to start pushing records, a brief night's rain was enough to swill a thick black tide into the Brook, with ducks and dragons disconsolately trying to avoid the noxious effluvium. Such a sight should help convince us that pollution, and especially carbon, does need to be constrained. We whinge at a bit of dust in the air but seem hardly phased by our extreme dumping in the habitat of those unable to voice complaint. I think we should be proud that Australia has (finally) taken a step towards a more measured use of resources by penalising the profligate pumping of carbon into our environment.

Whether the same can be said of coal seam gas is another story, with politicians finding the lure of huge imminent tax revenues outweighing long term health of our countryside. Extraction of resources has and will continue to be necessary, but heavens above let's try and get the facts right before we smash in our essential aquifers and start piling up huge stores of salt so far from the sea. Information



A crustacean scurries for cover near MangroveWatch survey location at Nudgee Beach
Photo: Robert Standish-White

rather than inflammation is what we need to move ahead.

Some big tides up the Brook have reminded us the lower reaches are certainly linked to the sea, with a mangroves survey confirming their ongoing importance to cycles of life. BCC is currently trying to formulate a new mangroves policy under increasing



Downstream from Kalinga Park footbridge

pressure from developers, weekend water seekers and those twitchy about possible flooding. As we heard at Bayside Branch's 25th celebrations, the battle goes on!

We are however winning on some fronts, with the Cassimaty Park planting program moving ahead in Ferny Grove. We, like that project, will be taking a break over the hot and wet season, kicking off again in February. So from all the committee, have a safe and happy festive season, and do keep in touch with the Brook and the Branch by getting family and friends out there, and letting us know what you see and think.

Robert Standish-White,
President

Snippets

Bird Observations 2011

There have now been four years of bird observations carried out at representative locations along Kedron Brook Catchment. Such recorded observations conducted over time allow evaluation of the health and biodiversity of wildlife throughout the catchment.

This year, ten locations were checked together with a second follow-up walk conducted at the Cedar Creek location off Upper Kedron Rd, Upper Kedron by members of Birds Queensland.

Over the four years of bird studies, the number of bird species observed varied from only 11 up to 58 per outing depending upon the overall timing, month and variety of habitat at the location.

Overall, we observed 123, 90, 107 and 109 different bird species respectively over the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 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 four



Shining Bronze-cuckoo observed at Bellbird Grove on 7 August 2011

years of observations, we have observed a total of 153 different species at some time over the four years along the Brook.

The full results are given in the 'News-item—Bird observations 2011' web page in the 'News and events' section of our web site. Tables showing comparative results of different species for the eleven walks have been prepared and will allow people to see where particular bird species have been found

and at which locations.

Bird walks will be continued next year at the ten locations previously visited. Details are given in the program now available on our web site home page in the 'projects' section.

Moreton Bay Region Bushcare Celebration

There was a good attendance of volunteers from bushcare groups within the MBRC area at the 'Barn', Kumbartcho



Young lad meets a Frilled-neck Lizard during the Geckoes Wildlife Presentation at the Moreton Bay Region Celebration on Saturday 3 December

Community Nursery, Eatons Hill, on Saturday morning 3 December.

Bushcare Officers Wendy Health and Owen Mills were well supported by local councillors and supporters. Top quality grub, coffee and cool drink was provided during the first hour of relaxed discussions between officers, volunteers and friends of the bushcare groups.

Martin, co-owner of the Geckoes Wildlife Presentations, then showed an amazing variety of wildlife in the following hour or so. His obvious love and respect for each of the animals was a great example to the younger members of the gathering.

(Continued on page 4)

Bushcare along the catchment

A big hello from Habitat Brisbane.

This month I'll be featuring the Benelong Group. Since 2005 the group have been working in a bushland patch off Benelong St, Kedron. Mick Wilson and Denise Rivers took on the site and have enjoyed the challenges of bush regeneration ever since!

When asked of the group's best achievement Mick stated it was the stabilisation of the bushland area – the encouragement of natural regrowth and the reigning in of the weeds. Not surprisingly, Mick feels the biggest challenge at his site is the weeds – something I'm sure all us relate to! Not only weeds, but also education – raising the local community awareness and appreciation of their local bushland area.

The group have been steadily working in areas of the site, planting and weeding where necessary. Denise is a dab hand at propagating and has been able to ensure the local providence of some plants by



Allison, Denise, Pat and Mick show off their hats at Benelong Park



A thoughtful looking Grey Butcherbird at Benelong Park

seed collection within site.

The group meet monthly and whenever anyone has some spare time and are fortunate enough to have five or six regular hardworking volunteers. Mick believes persistence is the key and attributes some of the group's success to the fact that even on the toughest of bushcare days there is always something the group can find to appreciate and find joy in.

A big thank you to all the Benelong volunteers.

A huge welcome back to Fleur!

Fleur Sanderson's maternity leave is coming to an end and she will be returning to work mid January 2012.

I hope to be filling in for Mel Mclean at HB West for her maternity leave! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Habitat Officer. I would like to thank all of the Kedron Brook HB groups for making my job such a pleasure. I wish you all the very best for the new year and I look

(Continued on page 4)

Learn that weed!



**Giant Devil's Fig
(*Solanum hispidum*)**

Giant Devil's Fig is a large shrub up to 4 m tall. It grows rather like the closely related Tobacco Weed, but with larger lobed leaves and nasty-looking thorns on its stems, petioles and leaves.

The flowers and fruit are also similar to Tobacco Weed, though the petals are white compared with the lavender petals of the Tobacco Weed.

The globular fruits are yellow to yellowish-orange when mature and are not very fleshy. Birds and bats spread the seeds from the fruit assisting the plant to naturalise in disturbed habitats, creek banks, forests and riparian areas.

It is ranked 135th out of the 200 species listed in the Qld Herbarium's 'Invasive Naturalised Plants in SE Queensland', and has an invasive score of 3.6 out of 5. It is declared noxious in South-East Queensland and BCC lists it as a Class R environmental weed. (CI)

Catchment Kids

Catchment Kids Finale

On Thursday 20 October the finale event for the 2011 Catchment Kids program was run by Brisbane City Council's Creek Rangers.

It was held at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music Auditorium and celebrates the end to a year of education activities with schools from Brisbane's Catchments.

Unfortunately, Year 5 from Nundah State School could not attend the finale event due to school camp. However, they did make a video of their performance, which was shown on the day.

Upper Brookfield State School from Moggill Catchment took first prize on the day with Bulimba Catchment's school



Catchment Kids from Nudgee State School learn the aboriginal method of making fire from Rick Roser (Aboriginal Events Management) at Bowman Park, Bardon on 8 September

very closely in second place.

Overall it was a successful fun day and year for everyone involved.

Annabelle Deering from Nundah State School concludes on the year by saying: 'What a fabulous experience! I have totally enjoyed learning about the Catchment and how to care for it. It was really interesting testing the water quality and searching for water bugs. This will make me think twice about what I throw out into my local Catchment.'

However, what I enjoyed most was the day trip to Bowman Park. We planted trees, created a story, interacted with animals and learnt about Aboriginal culture. If we all do a little bit in caring for our local Catchment, we can keep it clean and healthy.'

(Jacinta Hamilton)

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Brook!**

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www.kedronbrook.org.au



**Volunteers at the Bob Cassimaty Park
revegetation activity, 15 October**



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

(Bushcare along catchment continued from page 3)

forward to seeing you all around the traps.

Your LaNina summer – What to expect?

Summer has arrived! – officially, and I'm sure we've all noticed the rising temperatures and increased humidity. The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) maintains that all we are still looking at LaNina weather conditions this summer.

Weather conditions of a LaNina event include:

- Above average rainfall. BOM predicts there is a 75-80% chance of receiving higher than average rainfall over the next few months.
- Cooler oceanic temperatures.
- Cooler than average night time temperatures.
- Increased tropical cyclone risk for northern Australia.

Hopefully this rain is good news for all of the Habitat Brisbane sites – as we come out of one of the driest Novembers since the early 1900's! But please keep in mind that we might be dealing with another very wet summer. Being flood and storm prepared is the key – both at home and at your bushcare sites.

Catherine Cleary

**Kerry
Walker at
the MOTT
activity on
3 December**



(Snippets- continued from page 2)

Interesting and informative, he used his wide knowledge of, and experiences with, both local and Australian wildlife to enlighten the young and old alike. (CI)

Men of the Trees (MOTT) at Ferny Hills

A well organised and friendly group of volunteers met at Thomsett Park, Olakuna Crescent, Ferny Hills, on Saturday morning 3 December. The recent stormy weather had gone and temperatures were almost pleasant for this time of the year.

MOTT had noted that small areas of this lovely park had become overgrown with weed or needed some understory maintenance.

It was good to see a wide range in the age and experience of the volunteers attending. Scouts from Wahminda Scout Group also participated in the planting. (CI)

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 10 December	Queensland Rail Community Tree Planting Day Stage 1-Section 2 Saturday 10 December 2011, 8 am to 11.30 pm at Bob Cassimaty Park, Ferny Grove (opposite BP service Station on Samford Road) (UBD Map 137 ref LI). This is part of a joint project involving Queensland Rail, Men of the Trees (MOTT), and KBCB. Morning tea and sausage sizzle will be available. A real family affair! Please contact Acting Creek Ranger, Jacinta Hamilton, on 3407 0925 for more details.
Sunday 5 February	Bird Survey Sunday 5 February 7:00 am Kalinga Park to Cressey St Wetlands/Benelong Park. Meet in car park at entrance to Kalinga Park, off Park Ave. (UBD Map 140 Ref J3) Check out our web site or contact Jenny Ivin on 3851 0160 for further details.
Tuesday 21 February	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting Tuesday 21 February, 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. RSVP Robert Standish-White on 3862 1186. Watch our web site for the presentation details.
Saturday 3 March	Queensland Rail Community Tree Planting Day Stage 2 Similar details as above for Stage 1 at Bob Cassimaty Park. Please watch our web site for details.



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