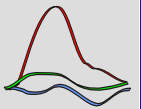




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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 Area, Brisbane, Australia

February 2008

Inside This Issue:

Mitchelton Greenway Develops	1
State of the Brook	2
Snippets	2
Reptile Web page	3
Bird Survey	3
Wildlife Conservation Partnerships	4
Diary	4

“Positive ecological contributions by weeds can be a source of conflict in conservation management.”

(CRC Weed Management Fact sheet Ref 63/2007/Is)

Special interest points:

- Catchment Coordinator Nathan Kirby away on six months secondment!
- Wildlife Conservation Partnerships Program
- Poisonous fungi flourishing
- Art & Sculpture Project

Restoring Corridors Progressing

Following the launch of the Restoring Corridors project in 2007, 29 applications for assistance have been received from private landholders (27) and community bushcare groups (2).

Applications have now been assessed and draft project agreements are currently being prepared for each individual project. These project agreements will detail the work to be undertaken as part of each project and the level of funding allocated to each.

Once project agreements are finalised, funding will then be forwarded to grant recipients allowing *on ground* work to commence.

As a whole, the *Restoring Corridors* project looks set to



Upper Kedron resident Lyn Farrell and Kedron Brook Catchment Coordinator, Nathan Kirby, inspect the remnants of a once grand old tree during a Restoring Corridors property (N Kirby)

make a significant contribution to protecting wildlife habitat and waterways in the catchment.

Current projects cover over 35 hectares of established vegetation, with many projects focussing on managing weed infestations in these areas. Supplementary revegetation of previously cleared areas will help re-establish another one hectare of habitat.

The presence of larger mammal species such as Koalas and Pretty-faced wallabies in these upper catchment areas helps to demonstrate the value of this vegetation as wildlife habitat and stresses the need to maintain linkages across the landscape with larger tracts of bush such as Brisbane Forest Park. (N Kirby)

Mitchelton Greenway Art and Sculpture Project

The Greenway pathways between Osborne Road through to Lansvale Street are now complete, though early birds attempting to jump the barricades will find that the bridge across the Brook is still missing. Very high levels of civil construction around Brisbane are causing a delay in the manufacture of the bridge sections. Completion of the bridge is expected well after April.



Laying the Pathway

The art and sculpture activities are on time. A planning meeting for those volunteering to work the sculptures will be coordinated by Artist Paul Stumkat on Friday 8 February.

On-site sandstone sculpture work will follow over the weekends of 9-10th and 16-17th.



BCC Project Manager Michael Marlow, Janet White (obscured) Cr Ann Bennison Helen Moriarty, Sculptor Paul Stumkat and Jenevieve Searle (BCC Greenways) inspecting the Greenway Construction

Anyone is welcome to watch the action on those days adjacent to the Pony Club grounds off McConaghy Street, Mitchelton. Volunteer sculptors are most welcome.

The ceramic tiles for the pathway have been bisque-fired and Joint-Coordinator, Janet White, is setting out the mosaic tiles for a custom-built artistic seat

(Continued on page 4)



Many of you will be aware that the legislation affecting Moreton Bay is currently under review. As a centre piece of our local region and a treasure trove of biodiversity, as well as being the destination of the Brook, we should all be taking an interest in the issues and the outcome of this exercise.

Government is having to balance commercial and recreational claims against calls for wider protection, and one can only hope a long term view is espoused. It would seem from experience historically and in other parts of the world, such as the Carribean, that "no go" zones actually improve the fishing.

At quite the other end of the Brook, it is exciting to report that our "Restoring Corridors" project moves ahead, with catchment landholders applications now assessed and initial disbursements due within weeks.

I have urged before (and will again!) that in terms of environmental action we "pick the low hanging fruit", in other words do what we can do.

So many issues seem just too big for individuals or small volunteer groups to take on, and I think that quite often authorities foster that attitude to limit "pestering busybodies" making their job more complicated. This "Restoring

Snippets

New Habitat Brisbane Officer

Laura Simmons has recently joined Brisbane City Council as one of the Habitat Brisbane Officers for the Northern district. Laura takes over from Fleur Sanderson who is away on 12 months maternity leave.

Laura has a wealth of knowledge in bushland restoration and working with volunteers. She works Mondays and Tuesdays and can be contacted on 3407 0818. Welcome, Laura!

(Nathan Kirby)

Ferny Grove Bushcare Group & Men of the Trees—Planting at Ferny Grove

Join Men of the Trees (MOTT) and the Ferny Grove Bushcare Group as they undertake a tree planting on Cedar Creek at Arbor St Park. Access is through the



Helen Moriarty "spruiking" our Arts and Sculpture Project at Mitchelton Fair

Corridors" project is the other side of the coin, where government has recognised the cost effectiveness of getting willing citizens to make funds work for them. If it works, bring it on!

It will be an increasing network of such individual efforts at weed clearance, habitat improvement and erosion control that add up to meaningful action. We need to work with any offers we can, particularly City Council initiatives, to make the "Mountains to Mangroves" notion a reality.

So as the recent rains have swollen the Brook, may New Year enthusiasm run through our veins and get us out there enjoying what we have and battling for improvement.

Robert Standish-White
President

park next to the police station on Tramway St, Ferny Grove. Phone Kerry 3289 9206 or Fran 3851 0858 for more info. Time: 9am to 12 noon. (Nathan Kirby)

Brisbane Catchment Network Tour

On January 18, Catchment Group representatives, assisted by officers from Bush Habitat and Water Resources, BCC, went on an afternoon bus tour of the Wakerley Bioretention Basin, Tiley Rd, Wakerley and the Bayside Bushland.

The basin is an area of land through which low quality storm-water can be distributed through specially prepared soil beds and natural vegetation in a manner that heavy metals, biodegradable matter and solids are removed through cost effective natural processes. Although based mainly upon Victorian applications, this basin is designed to

Stop press! As usual, there's lots of news and not enough space to fit it all in!!

Our energetic Catchment Coordinator, Nathan Kirby, has accepted a temporary transfer for six months to work with the Natural Environment and Sustainability Branch of Brisbane City Council piloting a new conservation partnerships program. (See page 4)

The program will be targeted at private landholders on residential blocks that fall within the Council's ecological corridors. It will provide a range of incentives for them to help improve wildlife habitat / corridors.

Nathan will start the new position in the 2nd or 3rd week of February. Hopefully, his short-term replacement shouldn't be a long drawn out process.

Nathan anticipates that all the inspections and final assessments of our Restoring Corridor applications will be carried out with Branch assistance by early February.

Congratulations, Nathan! We are sure this opportunity to expand your experience by assisting these landholders will be useful.

My wife, Jenny, and I will soon be away to Europe for a few months. You may still contact our branch about news and website communications by email on 'news@kedronbrook.org.au'.

Cheers!

Charles Ivin

allow the evaluation of the effectiveness of the types and sequence order of the semi-tropical grasses, shrubs and trees planted. The results of this research will assist in the design of future basins.

Bushcare Group leader, Ian Curtis detailed to the group the trials and successes his group had achieved at the very green and beautiful Bayside Bushland Park.

Dorean Erhart, BCC, discussed recent Weed control strategies during a most enjoyable afternoon tea.

(CI)

(Continued on page 4)



BCN Group at the Bayside Parkland

Reptile Website Page

The photograph on the right displays a typical scenario that illustrates how we often first meet a snake... in our garden.

This snake is also called a Green Tree Snake but, in fact, the "Colour is variable—back and sides olive, green, black or rarely, blue; diffuse to intense yellow often present on throat and belly; pale blue flecks often discernible between the scales."

My reference is the "Wildlife of Greater Brisbane" another great publication by the Queensland Museum (assisted by Natural Environment and Sustainability Branch of Brisbane City Council).

Snakes frighten yet fascinate, but almost always, they do no harm as long as you leave them alone. The crow, pictured left, wasn't quick enough. The Python added variety to its usual diet of mainly possums, rats, flying foxes and birds, domestic cats and small dogs.



Common Tree Snake (*Dendrelaphis punctulata*) (Jess Dolby)

Although both the Green Tree Snake and the Carpet Python are non-venomous, care should be taken. The Tree Snake emits a stinking secretion from its anal glands and the Python may cause skin lacerations leading to tetanus or other infections.

I hope you saw the marvellous banner photo, by Robert Standish-White, of the two mating Pythons on our website home page recently. It's there to herald our new reptiles page in the Kedron Brook Environment section.

Debbie Turnbull wrote the content and members of our network contributed the marvellous photos. Get there on the website at www.kedronbrook.org.au.

We hope to gradually add a few more web pages that describe typical species of frogs, invertebrates, and birds to be found along our Brook. Just watch out for progress on the home page of our website. (CI)



Carpet Python catching and eating a crow



Pink-tongued skink (R S-W)

Birds Survey

Two birding activities were carried out in January as part of a comprehensive series of surveys of birdlife to be conducted along the Brook this year. Such recorded surveys conducted over time allow evaluation of the health and biodiversity of wildlife throughout the catchment.

Dawn Muir, Birds Queensland, assisted a small group of keen birders on 13 January from Kalinga Park down the northern side of the Brook to wetlands about 1.5 Km east of the Motorway crossing.



Galah at Cedar Creek

Sixty species of birds were observed, similar to that observed by Greg Miller in November



Sandpiper in the wetlands East of Toombul

2006 over the same area.

The second survey on 20 January, along Cedar Creek, in Ferny Hills, recorded 41 species with the anticipated absence of salt- and fresh-water birds from the first survey. The tall trees and open Eucalypt forest atmosphere was most pleasing even at the early hour of 6:30 am!

Learn that Weed!



Small-leaved (or Chinese) Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)

Growing as a shrub or up to 4 m as a tree, this Privet is a serious environmental weed. Ranked 21st in the 200 Invasive Naturalised Plants in SE Qld (Queensland Herbarium, EPA).

Leaves are in opposite pairs on the stems and 2-5 cm long with young branches, inflorescences and leaves covered in fine hairs.



The small, scented white flowers (see right) form panicles of up to 10 cm long. Berries grow about 5 mm long, become bluish-black, and are readily dispersed by water or birds.

The Broad-leaved Privet (*lucidum*) has larger leaves (3-13 cm length), no hairs and grows to 10 m tall.

(CI)



Bird Survey Group observing birdlife near Toombul on January 13

These surveys need to be carried out in small groups to reduce disturbance of, often, quiet elusive birds. It takes members of reasonable experience to be able to observe and identify birds correctly. Factors such as weather and availability of leadership mean that the actual surveys are conducted at rather short notice.

However, there is opportunity for new keen birders to join and learn the ropes in our future surveys. Please contact Helen Moriarty on 3354 2396 for further information. (CI)

**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 : Leah Salo Mobile 0413 446 665

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

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

*" It is more important
that a proposition be
interesting than
that it be true"*

(A.N. Whitehead 1861-1947)

(Continued Snippets from page 2)

**Wildlife Conservation Partnerships
Program**

Brisbane has more species of plants, animals and insects than any other capital city in Australia. However, Brisbane has less than a third of its original wildlife habitat cover remaining. In recognition of the role that private landowners play in providing wildlife habitat and maintaining Brisbane's high biodiversity, Council has developed the Wildlife Conservation Partnerships Program

If you own acreage in Brisbane, you could be eligible to sign onto one of four types of agreements, each offering a different level of protection and assistance according to landowners needs. In return for your voluntary participation in any of these initiatives, Council will work with you to tailor your agreement to your needs and provide free expert guidance on how to improve and manage the habitat values of your property. Importantly, participation in the program will not affect your property rights.

If you, or someone you know, live on an adequate sized property which allows a minimum of 0.5 hectares of intact habitat to be protected or created, and you are interested in receiving assistance with protecting and enhancing the habitat values of your property, contact Council on 3403 6575. For further information visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/environment and select 'Environment programs' from the menu on the left, or e-mail wcpp@brisbane.qld.gov.au (NK)



**Green-spored parasol
(Chlorophyllum molybdites)**

Poisonous Fungi! Common in lawns and gardens during wet, warm periods, occurring in groups or fairy rings. Easily mistaken for edible mushrooms but extremely toxic, causes injury and, in some cases, death. (CI)

(Continued Greenway project from page 1)

to be located adjacent to the Osborne Road start of the Greenway section. The official unveiling of the sculptures will be carried out by Cr Ann Bennison on Sunday, March 2.

It is anticipated that an Official Opening of the Greenway may occur in April. This will involve Active Transport, bicycle riding organisations and the BCC. There will also be a presentation of the sculptures to the people of Brisbane.

Coordinator, Helen Moriarty, expressed Kedron Brook Catchment Branch's thanks to those who contributed so much to the project namely, Cr Ann Bennison and Brisbane City Council staff, Mitchelton Pony Club, other local groups and residents.

Helen can be contacted via email to hmhc@bigpond.net.au or phone on 3354 2346. (HM/CI)

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday February 19	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch & Network Planning Meeting Tuesday, February 19th, 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Schemes, plans, projects and surveys. Be part of the scene or find out! The usual friendly social supper to finish off. (Keep April 15 free for the following meeting)
February 9, 10, 16, 17 & March 2	Mitchelton Greenway Art & Sculpture Project. On-site sandstone sculpture work carried out over the weekends of 9-10th and 16-17th 9 am—5 pm. All welcome. Watch action adjacent to the Pony Club grounds off McConaghy Street, Mitchelton. Celebration activities and unveiling sculptures by Cr Ann Bennison 8.30 am—11 am March 2
Saturday April 12	THECA Forum—A Green future? Biodiversity under Climate Change. 12 April 2008, 8.30 am to 4.00 pm Queensland Centre for Advanced Technologies, Technology Court, Pullenvale 4069. Keynote speaker Roger Kitching (Griffith Univ.) and other authoritative presenters. Early-bird offers to certain groups. Contact The Hut Environmental & Community Association Inc. (THECA) on 3878 5088 or email_theca@hotmail.net.au
Sunday May 18	HABITAT BRISBANE 2008 GET INVOLVED 9 am—11 am Activities intended for all groups within Kedron Brook Catchment. Intention to attract at least two new volunteers to each group, and increase public awareness. Print, radio and television advertising, special activities funded, site activities combined with regular working bees. Contact Laura Simmons (Mon-Tues) 3407 0818 or Natalie Costanzo 0439 761 715 for planning details or help.



**The Kedron Brook Catchment Branch—WPSQ gratefully acknowledges
support by Brisbane City Council**

