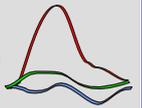


The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

February
2009

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**“Civilisation says,
‘Nature belongs to
man.’ The Indian
says, ‘No, man
belongs to nature.’ ”**
‘ Grey Owl, 1888-1938 ‘

Special interest points:

- *Save our Bushlands NOW!*
- *We need to change!*
- *Talk to your government representatives NOW...*
- *Bird surveys highlight importance of (guess what?) BUSHLAND HABITAT!*

Airport Link Changes to Kalinga Park



A large area of Kalinga Park being removed to provide room for the Airport-link tunnel portals joining Sandgate Rd and the East West Arterial roadway near Nundah Shopping Centre

The Airport Link surface connections at Nundah are being constructed. A substantial area of the eastern end of Kalinga Park and Ross Park has now been lost to the project.

All existing public pathways on the Southern side of the Brook from the footbridge near Toombul Terrace are being removed as an alternative Greenway is constructed along the Northern side of the Brook.

To keep up with the "big picture", it is important for any enquirer to be aware of the home page and structure of these individual websites so that they can get the

overall picture of what is going on and how each part interacts.

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New Greenway replacing the pathways being removed South of the Brook

Meet Emma Maltby, Catchment Coordinator

We are particularly pleased to announce the appointment by Brisbane City Council of our new Catchment Coordinator, Emma Maltby from February 9.

Emma gained her Bachelor of Environmental Science (Geographical Ecology) with First Class Honours at UNSW, Sydney, in 2003. She followed this up with a Graduate Certificate in Horticulture in 2005 at UM, Melbourne (Burley), and then polished off with a Graduate Diploma in Education (Geography and Science) at QUT, Brisbane, in 2007.

She is a most versatile person, with other certificates relating to outdoor activities, such as boating, swimming, 4WD driving and even permaculture design.

Amongst other things, she has wide experience in bushland restoration, field trip

flora identification, conservation management, and bushcare volunteer coordination.

More recently, Emma carried out pastoral care of Year 9 students at Methodist Ladies College (Melbourne) Marshmead Campus. This campus is located in the Croajingolong National Park, near Mallacoota, Victoria



Emma Maltby (bcc)

We know she will be of great assistance to our Branch and Network. We're sure our members will enjoy meeting her soon!

(CI)



State of the Brook

I was lucky enough to be invited to join a camping outing up near Kilkivan over the Australia Day weekend, and it served to reinforce an observation made late in 2008 regarding the ongoing degradation of biodiversity in our catchment. Over the 8 years I have been enjoying Kalinga Park one has seen the decline or disappearance of jewfish, eels, native fish, wading birds, even toughened urbanites like water dragons and ducks. By contrast, the gorgeous blanket of sound that envelops a country campsite at sunrise serves as a poignant reminder of what was and what can be.

Our media that so often seems to revel in gloom and doom is having a fine time of it to kick off the year, with dire reports on global warming and ongoing extinctions (see <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7851276.stm> as an example) garnishing the main course on the "economic crisis". There are at long last some connections being made between the two, though as yet a general reluctance remains to admit that a healthy economy relies at the end of the day on a healthy ecology. We remain in thrall to the promises of technology to save us from ourselves, whereas that is only a small part of the solution.

The answers are both simpler and more difficult – we need to change. We need to consume and breed less, to restore and care more. All such solutions are well within our capabilities, the question is whether they are within our imagination



Family bike riders on Greenway at Kalinga Park

and our will to survive as a civilization. Much hope is being pinned on Barack Obama, who has indeed made a good start, but we must all play our part, not wait for authority to push us mewling into compliance.

We have been successful in being allocated a grant for revegetation in Kalinga Park, and that will be a key activity during this year. We are planning others right now including the regulars like the fish snapshot, and would appreciate any suggestions. We are also delighted to have a new catchment coordinator to back us up; welcome Emma! So we would encourage you all to join us in playing our part to improve our tiny corner of the planet in 2009!

Robert Standish-White
President

Hullo again!

Kedron Brook Catchment Branch-WPSQ has serious concerns about the issue of mountain bike access to bushland areas. Despite a solid campaign by the "for" side of it, there has not been as many reasoned facts made available for the "against" side.

Wayne Cameron, from Save Our Bushlands (SOB), recently said in a circular letter dated 19 January 2009 to members, "The mountain biking lobby wants free entry to all nature reserves, and conservation areas are not exempt. They want Mt Gravatt Outlook for down hilling particularly. They will not stop and even now other recreation groups are following. Daisy Hill is under real threat from an approved Trail Bike proposal. The domino principle is prevailing, not the "Precautionary Principle."

An accompanying attachment to the above letter summarises statements from members of this environmentally concerned group. The attachment details known facts why a rush-in approach on this issue ignores serious concerns about the potential resultant damage to our natural environment and bushland scenic values.

Copies of these documents may be found linked from our website news item about this matter. Your considered support should be given directly to your government representatives to ensure we will still have bushland habitats to enjoy in the future.

Cheers!

Charles Ivin

Snippets

Creek Ranger Program 2009

A report for this program was distributed to Brisbane catchment organisations on 17 December but as yet has not yet hit the Brisbane City Council website for public access.

I hope to arrange access via a link from our website home page news section. No doubt the broad findings will get a mention at our meeting on the 17 February.

Despite the ghastly name for the program above, this continuing "catchment coordinator" program has been a vital support to catchment organisations and certainly to our own Branch and Network.

Habitat Brisbane, also provides sterling support and you can see their [Report on the BCC website](#).

(Charles Ivin)



Slashing lantana along the fenceline (LC)

Restoring Corridors Project Complete

SEQ Catchments contributed \$30,450 for the whole project period that covered the initial project launch, management of biodiversity significant land, including riparian fencing, riparian rehabilitation and restoration and management.

Twenty property owners received funding and another two landholders received

property inspections and information and a management plan developed for them.

A field trip was arranged for students to the upper catchment area through school engagement activities and a range of educational activities on the creek itself, especially looking at the impact of land management on water quality. This assisted the addressing of behavioural change and environmental education on school grounds within the target area.

Fire management was identified as an issue for many landholders. Therefore, a fire management workshop was held to educate property owners about how to effectively manage fire on their properties.

This highly successful project is now being reviewed for possible continuation should adequate funding be obtained. (KCB/BCC)

Zion Hill Bushcare Group

Seaward from Toombul, Shultz Canal, alias Kedron Brook, becomes tidal and the mangroves start. The bit of linear park between Toombul and Hedley Avenue with its new official name - Zion Hill Park - is part of the terrain under the eye of a re-vamped bushcare group.

It is easy to believe this was once an important trading and meeting place of the Undumbi, part of the Gubi Gubi nation and probably others as well because you can row a canoe (or motor a boat) up Shultz Canal at high tide.

The park surrounding the cemetery, part of the Albert Bishop Park, is called German Mission Park as this was also the site of the first free white settlement in Queensland - with the establishment of the German Mission for Indigenous peoples.

By the early 1990s, Kharyl Scott managed to orchestrate BCC and a large group of diverse people to come together for a big planting along the edge of the tributary and its waterholes.



Jean Weaver on a bird survey, 2008

A core group continued to weed and water, tending the trees. There were the usual trials and tribulations. After a lot of trees were ripped out by vandals, a second big planting involved the schools and, the Council having



Small but friendly groups of volunteers



Tommy Martin and bed of Lomandras

bought in a post-hole digger, saw over 350 trees planted.

When the initial enthusiasm of the Cemetery Bushland Group started to wane - Nundah had a large population of elderly people - Brisbane City Council took a more active role in organising plantings. In about 1996 at least thirty locals turned up to plant. Council contractors maintained the site and, after a second community planting about five years ago, also did some plantings.

And so the seeds of the current Zion Hill Bushcare Group were sown and,

(Continued on page 4)

Learn that Weed!



Balloon Cotton Bush
(*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*)

Small erect shrub with opposite leaves with blades narrow to narrowly elliptic. Leaves 3.5 to 12 cm long, 0.5 –1.5 cm wide, upper and lower surfaces with scattered hairs.

Stems densely covered with short weak soft hairs when young, becoming hairless with age. Poisonous milky sap but unpalatable to animals and, hopefully, children.

Clusters of white to cream flowers, with tubes about 1 cm long. The fruits are nearly spherical, about 5 to 7.5 cm long, covered with soft prickly-like outgrowths from the surface.

Sometimes confused with *G. fruticosus* that has a similar fruit but a tapering bulge in the otherwise roundish shape.

Although listed amongst the weeds in “Wild Plants of Greater Brisbane”, it is not listed in the BCC’s Weed ID website tool. But it is ranked 86th in the “Invasive Naturalised Plants in Southeast Queensland”, Queensland Herbarium, EPA. It ranks a “moderate” score of 3.7 out of a maximum of “5”.

(CI)

Birds Survey 2009

Our Bird Survey Project conducts a number of surveys along the brook at various times of the year to allow evaluation of the health and biodiversity of wildlife in our catchment.

Fifteen birding surveys were carried out along the brook last year. The full results of these 2008 surveys, available in the [News section](#) of our website, indicate that a moderate level of biodiversity of bird types occurs in the few remaining forest remnants along the Brook. Some of the more exciting discoveries during the year were the whip birds, strated pardalotes, a Black-shouldered Kite, Bell Miners and Dollar birds.

However, the major areas of urban parkland tended to be dominated by the

common Australian icons such as the Australian magpies, willy wagtails, rainbow lorikeets, kookaburras, Torresian Crows, Pied Currawongs, especially the noisy minors and unfortunately, our recent pests, Common Mynas.

Most of these surveys were led by Birds Queensland Life Member, Dawn Muir, and she will again take the main lead this year with ten surveys planned to date. It is extremely helpful to have such a knowledgeable person assisting us, and all participants from 2008 were rewarded by learning from her extensive experience. WPSQ-Brisbane Branch members, Leanne Bowden and Greg Miller, also have led surveys to determine the bird species still living along the Brook.



Mr and Mrs Fig-bird

Although small numbers are best for bird surveys, we’ve always been able to welcome anyone interested in birding or even learning about birding. Anyone interested in a particular section of the brook

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Brook!***

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

***"Man masters nature
not by force but by
understanding."***

(Robert Bridges, 1844-1930)

(Kalinga Park Changes - continued from page 1)

These organisations are responsible for dissemination of information and spend much time, money and resources to ensure this happens.

We continue to be represented by our Committee at the consultative meetings conducted by BrisConnections and the Leighton Abigroup Joint Venture involved with the Gateway Upgrade Project.

The news item, "Recent Infrastructure Changes", initially posted on 9 November 2008 on our website, is being kept up to date with major changes. This webpage contains information and links to the official websites communicating these activities.

(CI)

(Zion Hill Bushcare Group - continued from page 3)

through word of mouth, mostly with conversations in the park itself while out walking the dog, a smaller core of dedicated bushcare volunteers have formed a group and are planting and weeding.

Usually revegetation activities are held on the first Saturday of the month, 8:30 to 10:30 am, at German Station Park, Hedley Av., Nundah. Location at UBD Map 140 Ref. Q2 - R3.

For further information, contact Jean Weaver on (07) 3266 5294.

(D Jordan/J Weaver/CI)

OPPORTUNITY: Love people? So do we. Get into the thick of our sociable committee activities. Join our committee as Secretary. We'd enjoy your company and you ours! Contact Robert as above.



Zion Hill Park has many beaut garden beds

(Birds Surveys - continued from page 3)

should especially endeavour to attend when a survey is to be conducted as input from those who regularly patrol a particular section can often be invaluable.

Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and binoculars are needed, along with comfortable walking shoes. Most walks have been set for Sunday mornings, early in the hotter months to beat the heat and a bit later in winter when the sun is slow to rise.

Our first survey was held on 1 February at Wahminda Grove. See the "Diary" section on this page for details of the next survey at Cedar Creek on 15 March. The detailed program for 2009 is available from a [news link](#) on our website home page.

Some of the planned dates may need to be altered due to circumstances beyond our control, so we advise regular checking of the website to note any changes, or a phone call to confirm dates in the week beforehand. Contact Survey Coordinator, Jenny Ivin via birds@kedronbrook.org.au or call 3851 0160 with any queries or to register interest in a survey.

(Jenny Ivin)

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 17 February	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch Meeting Tuesday, 17 February , 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Presentations on Bird and Frog Surveys, Infrastructure, Learn about our new Catchment Coordinator, Emma Maltby, and Projects. Fish Snapshot this March! We'll need to discuss and plan the best way to run this important program this year. Catch up with a yarn with your colleagues at the social supper afterwards. Contact Robert for more details. Phone 3862 1186 (H)
March	Fish Snapshot. We anticipate at least five water surveys again this year and will plan actual dates and sites at our meeting on the 17 February. These yearly surveys help us check the pulse of the health and biodiversity of our Brook. There is opportunity for everyone to join in to learn some of the ways we achieve this. Watch website.
Sunday 15 March	Bird Survey at Cedar Creek , Upper Kedron, UBD Map 137 Ref G5. Meet in Upper Kedron Road, just West of the road bridge before Hogarth Road near the Bike Path. 6:30 am (Yes! To catch the birds at their best) Contact our Surveys Coordinator, Jenny Ivin, on 3851 0160 (H) to register or obtain more details. See website home page .
September 11 — 13	WPSQ Southern Branches Get Together . Bayside Branch has put up their hands as host so it will be held in Redland City Council area. Pencil in this weekend for a great time. We'll update details as we get closer



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