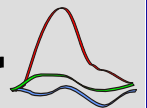




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



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 2010

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*" Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm "*

*"Ralph Waldo Emerson 1803-1882"*

## Special interest points:

- Juvenile Stony Creek frog hops on concrete path!
- Working bee needs suitable tea breaks!
- Anna Bourke joins our catchment
- Ludwigia is vigorously opportunistic and clogs waterways.

## Kalinga Park Project reaches new phase

Following the highly successful and enjoyable Working Bee held at the Kalinga Restoration site in October last year... the December Working Bee was even better! A group of 12 local residents were joined by KBCB Committee Members, our bush regenerator contractor (David Colbert), myself and the local fauna for a morning of planting, mulching, watering, and weeding. It was great to see familiar faces, but also some new ones.

Despite the warm weather and the steeper slope selected, together we happily planted over 300 locally native groundcovers and shrubs under the young canopy of eucalypts and brushboxes. But, as all bushcarers know, it's not all about planting, planting, planting!

During the Working Bee, we also tended to the plants from the October working bee, weeding around them, re-staking them, and giving them a big drink. Of course, at the end of the Working Bee, our thirst and hunger was satisfied with another "delicious" morning tea.

The warm weather and good rains over the Christmas period have seen some great growth at the project site...of both the natives and of course the weeds. In terms of the steep Carew St slope (where the chinese elms are), the plan is to slowly continue to poison the reshooting



**Some of the volunteers working on the steep slope near Carew St. Kalinga Park at the 6 December Working Bee .**

chinese elm stumps, and to maintain some of the fleshy weed growth for the purpose of slope stabilisation and to provide some shade for the planted natives. We are essentially aiming to use the weeds as our "allies", reaping the benefits of erosion control and microclimate protection that they can provide.

At the community planting areas downstream, a herbicide treatment will be conducted in late February, and follow up Working Bees will also address weed growth around the native plantings.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Introducing our Creek Ranger Anna Bourke

Hello, hello to all Kedron Brook Catchment Branch members and network volunteers.

As I write this, I've just accomplished my first week in the Creek Ranger role and I must say it has been an incredibly full but enjoyable week.

Emma is doing her utmost to make the transition into the role as pleasant and informative as possible, helping me orientate myself in the catchment and to visit various project sites and to meet various participants and contacts – if I haven't met you yet then I'm sure to over the next few



**President Robert Standish-White discusses KBCB's future program with Creek Ranger Anna Bourke**

months!

Having previously had some involvement in the *Down At Your Local Creek* education program, it is very exciting to learn more about all the wonderful projects and programs that are happening in the catchment. I can hardly wait to get in and "get my hands dirty".

In terms of my interests, the Creek Ranger role is a wonderful opportunity as I am passionate about sustainability, particularly the interaction between society and the environment.

*(Continued on page 4)*



“The United Nations proclaimed 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity, and people all over the world are working to safeguard this irreplaceable natural wealth and reduce biodiversity loss. This is vital for current and future human wellbeing. We need to do more. Now is the time to act.” (UNEP)

Another “year of” to note and forget? Not if we are serious about the environment and why else would we be with WPSQ? In some ways biodiversity could be viewed as the overarching concern that all others, even climate change, are subsidiary to. Because, as the UN blurb reminds us, this diversity provides “fuel, medicine and other essentials you simply cannot live without”. Possibly, include clean water and air for a start!

Perhaps a major challenge, as hinted at in last issue’s editorial, is to inform and convince our peers, particularly in urban settings, of the crucial need to maintain and nurture biodiversity. This is often not the case when viewed from a short term commercial perspective, as evidenced in large scale agriculture. In a strange anomaly, we are proud of our Australian cultural diversity while having perhaps the worlds highest rate of extinctions and highest carbon footprint per capita.



**Lone pelican wanders through Toombul “flood mitigation” area. (R S-W)**

In the face of such daunting statistics, what can we do to help? One of our major ongoing concerns as a wildlife group is with habitat; again obviously a subset of biodiversity, and one that we address from planning policies to muddy spades. Our schools education program encourages youngsters to connect with nature. Ongoing input to infrastructure projects results in some improvements in practice and results. We have managed to secure more funding for further improvements in upper catchment properties, so we are acting on the call of think global, act local.

We should not let the gravity of many of these issues disable us, sapping our will by their very pervasiveness. There is nothing wrong with having a little (or a lot!) of fun in tackling them, and nothing so rewarding as seeing good results mature over time. So let’s be some of the little drops that start the river flowing in the right direction, and help turn our catchment into part of a spreading network of healthy diversity that can sustain all species from 2010 into the future!

Happy New Year to all, and looking forward to seeing you out there soon.

Robert Standish-White  
President

Hello again.

Like most people, I also tried to shorten my “outstanding job” list this month and but now am getting ready with renewed vigour for catchment activities, meetings, and water quality, frog and bird surveys.

Have a look at the [news item](#), ‘Bird surveys 2010’ on our web site in the News and Events section. It links to tables that show the dates and locations down the Brook where a given bird species was observed, together with overall totals for each year and individual survey.

Over the two years of bird surveys, the number of bird species observed varied from 11 up to 53 depending upon the overall timing, month and habitat at the location. Overall, we observed 123 and 90 different bird species respectively over the 2008 and 2009 surveys conducted.

Taken over the two years, we actually observed 138 different species; a consequence of the fact that not all bird species were observed in both periods. But we’ll need many more years of survey records before we can confidently determine any significant trends from our data. See our next survey details in Diary.

Likewise, check for details of our next frog survey on the 19 February evening.

Welcome to Anna Bourke, our new Creek Ranger. It was great that Emma was able to properly show her the ropes before leaving for her next life adventure!

Many hands make light work! Remember that there are many opportunities to lend a hand in bushcare groups, meetings, activities and branch administration.

Cheers! From Charles Ivin

## Snippets

### Nundah State School to participate in Catchment Kids Project

The Catchment Kids Environmental Education program is an annual project run by the BCC Creek Rangers and Brisbane Catchment’s Network. Every year, each Creek Ranger takes a different class from their catchment on a journey of catchment learning, discovery and conservation.

A key aim of the program is to empower students with the knowledge and skills to become more environmentally aware and conscious citizens, and of course to have fun too.

In 2009, I had the pleasure of working with class 6A from Mitchelton State



**Debbie Dolby showing water turbidity measurements to Stafford SS students (Emma Maltby)**

School and their teacher Sandy Reid. In 2010, Anna Bourke will work with the students of year 5/6 students from Nundah State School and their teacher Donna Kleiss.

Throughout the year, Anna and the students will journey through a series of lessons and actions centred on catchment care and conservation, kicking off with a Clean Up Australia activity in early March.

(Emma Maltby)

### Bird Surveys Program now out!

The latest program for this years bird surveys is available in the corresponding news item on our web site. Also see Diary.

Data from the previous two years may also be referenced from the ‘introduction’ to that news item of the 2010 survey.

Network members are encouraged to join in on these surveys to learn not only about the identification of birds but also to see some of the best sites along the Brook under pleasant morning conditions. (C)

## Infrastructures impact on catchment

## Learn that weed!

The Airport Link tunnel is now in high gear as they prepare to assemble the huge boring machines (TBMs) in Kalinga Park and commence tunneling from Toombul within months.

Work is in hand to erect the spoil conveyor adjacent the airport rail link to the collection depot on Nudgee Road. As part of this exercise and as "flood mitigation", all the vegetation on the south side of the Toombul reach has been removed.

Widening of Sandgate Road and changes to the East-West Arterial continue. Framing for the tunnel servicing shed now towers over the suburb, but this is not the future vent stack as assumed by some! The Toombul site runs 24 hours a day, and may be set to expand its operations.

Work has commenced at the controversial Rose Street site in Woolloowin, from whence extra tunneling will take place to get the large chambers required for the



**The Kedron Hotel (top right) is dwarfed by the huge excavations required for these Airport Link Tunnel connections (R S-W)**



**Willow Primrose (Native!)  
(*Ludwigia octovalvis*)**

**L**udwigia species generally are large erect shrubs or slender herbs. Local species are usually characterised by a solitary bright yellow flower in leaf axils at the ends of stems; mainly four petals but also five. The local native species is a robust well-branched herb (to 4 m high) called Willow Primrose (*L. octovalvis*).

The main weed threats are from imports of Ludwigia species; especially Longleaf Ludwigia (*L. longifolia*) and Peruvian Willow (*L. peruviana*) (both to 3 m high) These are vigorously opportunistic, clogging waterways and dominating other water and creek bank vegetation.

Whereas the lower surface of the leaves and stems of *L. longifolia* are hairless, those of *L. peruviana* and *octovalvis* are hairy or moderately so. The fruits of the later species differ in that *L. peruviana* has egg-shaped fruit, 4-angled, 10-20 mm long, and *L. octovalvis* has a longer cylindrical fruit, 20-45 mm long. Thousands of seeds are mostly spread by birds.

*L. peruviana* is a Declared State wide Class 1 Pest with potential to become a very serious pest in the future.

*L. Longifolia* is on the BCC special weed investigation list. (C1)

along Lutwyche Road.

There have been some concerns about the necessary removal of a magnificent Crows Ash tree (*Flindersia australis*) as a victim of the Airport Link road works construction. It is located between the Kedron Park Hotel and St Andrew's Anglican Church on Lutwyche Rd, Kedron.

More than 500 seedlings from the tree will be handed over to Brisbane City Council to replant across Brisbane. The viable timber of the Crows Ash will be milled and dried for its owner. The tree's forks, with highly disturbed grain, is to be provided to a designated wood turning group because of its high craft value. Any residue will be mulched and utilised for revegetation by the project.

One of the twin tunnels from Bowen Hills is well in hand, a consequence of the use of explosives and road headers to trim rock, but may in fact slow down, having now reached softer rock not suited to blasting. Progress on the other tunnel has been slower.

One can see a good deal of incoming water in this excavation, adding to the challenges of differing soil formations. Some work has commenced on the connections that will be required into the big Enoggera intersection.

A related concern has been expressed about the effect of tunneling on waterways. The airport link tunnel is going underneath Melrose Park. Bushcare leader, John Lister, is concerned that the tunneling may impact on the water flow in the creek, thereby adversely affecting the bushland there.

The project engineer said that it is common that they encounter aquifers when tunneling. John fears that the creek through Melrose Park may be fed

by a spring and his concern is it may be adversely impacted by the tunnel. (R S-W/EM)



**Massive formworks being prepared for the Gympie Road and connecting laneways to cross the Brook at Kedron (R S-W)**

Kedron interchange excavated in time to receive the TBMs.

The enormous excavations and in-stream works continue at Kedron, together with the start of the connections to Stafford and Gympie Roads, and future northern busway elements. These then run in parallel towards the city with other work in hand



**Historic crows ash tree beside Kedron Church cannot be saved ( Ian Ferrier)**



**Cranes work to complete the huge Gympie road and connecting bridge works over the Brook at Kedron**

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*" God Almighty first planted a  
garden; and, indeed, it is the  
purest of human pleasures. "*

*( Francis Bacon 1561-1626 )*

*(Kalinga Park restoration —continued from page 1)*

For me, this project has been a very exciting and educational process, especially to experience the enthusiasm and interest from local residents to maintain an on-going presence at the site. (that is, beyond the life of the Grant which has funded the project and is due for acquittal in August). The Committee, the local Habitat Brisbane Officer, Anna Greig, and myself have arranged for the "informal" group of Kalinga Bush-carers to be supported by the BCC Habitat Brisbane program for two or three working bees over the next six months.

In July, Anna Grieg will assist the group with their application to Council to become an official Habitat Brisbane group – which would be a fabulous evolution of the project. Of course, KBCB will maintain a large involvement and interest in the site, the project and the community for the remainder of the project timeframe and beyond.

For more information on the project, or to become involved, please check out the special website [project page](#) (or contact our new Kedron Brook Creek Ranger, Anna Bourke).

(Emma Maltby)



**Juvenile stony creek frog (*Litoria wilcoxii*)  
(Debbie Dolby)**

*(Creek Ranger Anna—continued from page 1)*

And what better place to work from than that at the catchment level! So in saying that, I look forward to working with you all toward a healthy and sustainable catchment.

See you soon!

Anna

(Contact by phone 3407 0836 or email to [anna.bourke@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:anna.bourke@brisbane.qld.gov.au) )



**Wahminda Park Waterhole (John Tenneck)**

**Dates for your Diary:**

Wednesday 3 February	<b>Northern Seminar Series</b> 'Lessons from bandicoots in the "burbs" ', Presenter Dr Sean FitzGibbon (UQ) Wednesday 3 February, Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Finger food from 6:30 pm and Presentation from 7 pm till 8 pm. RSVP Contact Emma Maltby on 3407 0836
Sunday 7 February	<b>Bird Surveys</b> - 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 <a href="#">website home page</a> to link to the overall program or to learn any last minute changes.
Tuesday 16 February	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and General Meeting</b> Tuesday, 16 February , 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. After general discussion with members at our last meeting, our branch executive is developing our program of activities and projects for 2010. The usual social hot drink and cake at the end. RSVP Contact Robert on 3862 1186
Friday 19 February	<b>Frog Survey</b> Meet Friday 19 February at 6:30 pm at Grinstead Park with Ferny Grove area later by car. Meet Adrian Caneris, (Managing Director Biodiversity Assessment and Management Pty Ltd). Contact Debbie Dolby on 3355 4134 before then about any local frog activity so final arrangements can be made at our 16 February Meeting.



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