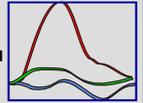




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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 2012

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*'Just about any dream
grows stronger
if you hold on
a little longer.'*

*(Margo Gina Hart,
Author)*

Special interest points:

- Moon flower is a weed
- More dog attacks a concern
- Contact your local candidates now!
- Denise Rivers praised for skilled helpful service
- Every little bit helps

Queensland Rail Project– Bob Cassimaty Park

The second part of the large Stage 1 of planting at Bob Cassimaty Picnic Ground was meant to take place on Saturday 10 December 2011. Unfortunately, the weather did not allow this to happen and we had to postpone the day. Surprisingly, thirty minutes after we decided to postpone the event, the skies cleared!

The new date for the planting took place on Saturday 21st January 2012. We woke up to a perfect day with great weather - not too hot with a nice breeze, especially in the shade.

Everyone met on site nice and early to beat the midday sun. There was an amazing turnout of forty-five people in total and every single person keen to get down and dirty to plant a plant.

By 9.45 am, all 500 plants were in the ground with all watering, etc. being completed no later than 10.15 am.

Everyone then enjoyed a nice relaxing BBQ brunch before dispersing no later than 11 am.

What a very successful morning with Brisbane City Council, Queensland Rail, Men of the Trees, Kedron Brook Catchment Network & Branch, local Bushcare groups and the general public all working well together to make these plantings a success.

The next planting for this project is not as



Libby Zeller and Simone Elias gave a team effort planting at the Bob Cassimaty Picnic Ground on 21 January

big with no more than 450 plants to go in the ground and this will take place on Saturday 3 March. Please see KBCB's or MOTT's web site for further information including future dates in the year.

Thanks again to all of those who turned up on the 21st and we look forward to seeing you again on 3 March.

Also, please keep an eye on the web sites for information on accessing the park in March as Queensland Rail are closing some of the road off for track maintenance but are letting us through to do the planting. (Jacinta Hamilton)

Protecting tree hollows

At Grange Forest Park one of the trees with a hollow box has a guard just underneath, seen in the photo (seen right).

Not a hundred per cent certain what it is for but a wild guess would suggest it is to prevent predators from getting to the nest box such as goannas, feral cats, etc. If it was a bit tighter around the tree it would also prevent snakes from getting up there as well.

This is a great way to keep predators away from getting to nest boxes where you tend to find such things as gliders, possums, kingfishers or lorikeets nesting (though sometimes unfortunately bees as well).

This is the first time I have seen a guard under a nest box in a natural area. If you are interested in getting a nest box for your backyard which will also get monitored for you contact Hollow Log Homes at web address: <http://www.hollowloghomes.com>.

See also Land for Wildlife references, Note

19, April 2003 'Nest boxes for wildlife' and the current Note A2 'Nest boxes'. Find it on internet using 'Land for wildlife notes habitat trees' in the Google search field. (Jacinta Hamilton)



Nest box at Grange forest Park (JH)

State of the Brook



Photo: Robert Standish-White

Welcome to 2012 which promises to be a year of some challenge. See image above of severe flooding on 25 January downstream of Sandgate Rd, Toombul.

We have just been informed the state election is due on 24 March and most punters appear to think the Coalition will win. If their attitude to date is anything to go by this is bad news indeed for the environment. I am canvassing for the environment rather than any particular party; spot the politician who is standing for the common good rather than party or personal advancement...excuse my cynicism!

Labor may appear to have rather run

out of steam but have at least achieved a fair amount for the environment, whereas the 'Can-do' team propose to open up the Wild Rivers, Stradbroke Island and the reserved fishing zones to commercial exploitation as well as winding back various other positive initiatives.

Their 'four pillar' stand does not include the environment, as if business activity can solve all our problems – look how well that's worked out globally of late. Their leader refuses to even speak to our head office, on the 'why bother' basis perhaps. So we may be facing an uphill battle in the years ahead, but please do contact your local candidates now and

pressure them to respond on issues of local and state concern. We may not have deep pockets but we can at least raise our voices and push the democratic process for all those areas and species that cannot.

Most of us will be wondering what the weather has been up to this season, with strings of sudden changes and unseasonal events. This may only be an anomalous year but one has the feeling it may point to other changes ahead, and we need to be planning for adaptation. One key aspect of that strategy is improving connectivity, and various of our actions along the Brook seek to do just that both from 'mountains to

(Continued on page 4)

Snippets

Floods

We were certainly lucky to have such a sunny day at our planting on 21 February. Since then, we've gone back to rain-coats and floods.

It was also fortunate we left the Stage 2 planting at Bob Cassimaty Park until March because plants in that area would have been washed out by the

strength of the flowing water. Hopefully, the lack of strong winds during all this rain has meant that our recent planting has been left in good condition.

The accompanying photo shows Cedar Creek in moderate flood on 25 January am, but you would expect there would have been higher levels during the heavy rain a day or so earlier.

Photos on the Courier Mail web site showed the usual high water levels in Kedron Brook at Lutwyche and amongst the Airway Link construction equipment at Toombul. One photo by Josh Woning indicated the walkway over the Brook from Leslie Patrick Park at Arana Hills would have suffered the usual physical erosion and damage.

(CI)



Cedar Creek in flood under Samford Road, Ferny Grove, 25 January

Creek Rangers and Babes

Some of our volunteers have been concerned about the aging of the leaders and stalwarts in our bushcare groups and organisations.

What shall we do when it comes time for them to lay down those diggers and water hoses and enjoy a well deserved rest alongside the plantings?

At least two of our previous Creek Rangers have found a practical solution. To have a break, to clear the cobwebs and refresh the mind. And in the meantime, to have their own children and train them to take the reins for our environmental future.

Our recent ranger, Anna Bourke, and husband Scott are starting out fine with chubby son, Ethan. Another previous ranger, Hayley Swartz (nee Cambourn) and husband Garth have a bonnie daughter, Matilda. We wish both families the very best for their future.

It's a pleasure to observe the number of families with children at our plantings are on the increase.

(CI)



Early morning planting in habitat enhancement project at Bob Cassimaty Picnic Ground on 21 January

Information on Weeds

Brisbane City Council appears to have dropped the useful weed advice forum off their web, together with their handy weed identification tool. They do at least provide a link to the informative web page '[Primary industries and fisheries A-Z listing of weeds](#)'.

Csurches and Edwards, authored an interesting reference, '[Potential environmental weeds in Australia](#)', Queensland Department of Natural Resources, January 1998. It was aimed at getting relevant agencies to consider eradication, or at least containment, of potentially invasive plant species. Hopefully, it will help councils to stop new weed invasions better.

(CI)

Bushcare along the catchment

Denise Rivers – Bushcare Volunteer

I would like to make note of a vital volunteer for Brisbane's natural areas: Denise Rivers.

Denise has volunteered in our natural areas for a number of years at Downfall Creek as a Bushcare Volunteer since early 2005, as well as at Benelong Park as a Bushcare Volunteer since October 2005. Denise is always a pleasure to work with and leads others by example.

As much as she denies it, she is an expert seed propagator and has carried out great work with raising seedlings since 2007 at the Downfall Creek Nursery. She also regularly volunteers for projects conducted by Greening Australia.

If you could find any further spare time for her she is attending workshops to further her skills or finding other random environment sites around the North of Brisbane that she can assist. For example, she has a current ongoing project at Moreton Island.

The Kedron Brook team would particularly like to thank her as she recently donated some seedlings for our plantings at Cassimaty Picnic Ground. Again, she readily agreed to meet up with a teacher from Ferny Grove State High School on our behalf to give him assistance on native seed propagation. He will be introducing these techniques and skills into his horticulture education course.

Jacinta Hamilton

Tuesday Tree Liberators

There are two areas of habitat management along Kedron Brook at Pony Club Bend, Mitchelton. Up on the top level,



Denise Rivers tackles any task that enhances wildlife habitat

just about any weed that appears is whisked away and all trees smile and are free due to great work by this group.

But over a steep drop of three metres or so down into the riparian zone close to the creek, the weeds have been dominant for years. A narrow path allows uneasy access along the creek varying with the season and the energy of the bushcare group.

(Continued on page 4)



Walls of weeds menace the Tuesday Tree Liberators at Pony Club Bend

Learn that weed!



Moon flower (Ipomoea alba)

Moon Flower completely dominates all vegetation along the immediate banks of the brook, for at least 500 m or so, north of Mercer Park, Kedron, near Keith Boden Constructed Wetlands.

Moon Flower is a glabrous annual or perennial twiner with prickly stems up to 5 m long. The bright green leaves are entire or three-lobed, 5-15 cm long with 5-20 cm long stems. The flowers are large, trumpet-shaped white, blooming only at night, withering in the dawn or early morning. Stamens and style project out from the tube of the corolla.

From the same genus, both species, Mile a Minute (*I. cairica*) and Morning Glory (*I. purpurea*) are declared National and State environmental weeds and are clearly shown as such in weed identification systems.

However, Moon Flower is not ranked amongst the 200 species listed in the Qld Herbarium's 'Invasive Naturalised Plants in SE Queensland'. Nor is it listed in the Queensland State and BCC lists as a Class R environmental weed.

Some say a weed is a plant that is not wanted in that spot.... (CI)

Sharing the Shorelines of Moreton Bay

Brisbane City Council's Natural Areas team have been educating the local community of Moreton Bay about 'Sharing the shoreline'.

Sharing the shoreline involves sharing beaches along Moreton Bay including among the bike riders, people walking, canoeists, kite surfers, horses, dogs and wildlife (especially the Migratory Wader Birds - for more information visit the QLD Wader Study Groups website: <http://www.waders.org.au/>).

Also, a major issue that is being faced is dogs not being on leashes in areas where they are required to keep them on a lead, including along the mudflats. This causes issues to not just the wildlife that is being disturbed, but also dog attacks on other dogs as well as small children which is



Melissa Cooper (Conservation Ranger, DERM) advises and enforces fishing legislation around Moreton Bay. (JH)

becoming a growing concern.

Rules are enforced in these areas to try to prevent too much disturbance. QLD Government Marine Rangers (Dept. Envi-

ronment & Resource Management) issue fines for breaching such things as fishing in the green zone of Moreton Bay (see <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/register/p02878aa.pdf> for further information on Moreton Bay's green zones).

Brisbane City Council also has laws in place including on-the-spot fines for dogs off leash, and for not cleaning up after your dog toilets as well as for the disturbance of shorebirds or their habitats.

To assist in the sharing of the shorelines, people need to remember to keep their dogs on a lead unless in a designated off leash area, pick up after their dog and dispose of the waste appropriately, keep the natural areas and waterways clear of litter, fish in designated areas and go for a canoe or kayak, rather than using jet skis or motor boats.

(Jacinta Hamilton)

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**Two juvenile Pale-faced Herons at
Grinstead Park**

(Bushcare along catchment continued from page 3)

Lantana, Japanese Sunflower, and Glycine grudgingly allow each other large patches along the bank with occasional miscreant weeds peeping out when allowed.

A slow but potentially long term successful strategy is being used by the group under the leadership of Helen Moriarty. Instead of an exhausting physical onslaught to attempt to remove whole banks of weeds that keep coming back to flourish, the strategy is to put in trees, shrubs and grasses at cleared intervals along the whole bank. This may be a longer process but it is a more feasible approach; especially for such a small group.

This means that suitable environments are established that can compete and cope with adjacent weeds and that can be gradually expanded as with any mosaic attack on a weedy area.

Good luck, Tuesday Tree Liberators!
(CI)

(State of the Brook continued from page 2)

mangroves' and between catchments or habitat areas. Revegetation and improvement can be hard work but is a fine way to meet people, exercise and achieve a sense of purpose. Unlike politics we have to think long term and every little bit helps.

The Airport Link project that has affected the Brook so drastically over the last couple of years is going into finishing off mode with major above ground construction infrastructure giving way to landscaping and signage. We have yet to



**Members of Tuesday Tree Liberators
insert trees, shrubs and grasses at
intervals along the banks of Japanese
Sunflowers and various twiners**

see just what the final results will be, with various of our expressed concerns receiving rather short shrift.

It would be a shame if this ambitious piece of engineering could not also contribute positively where it impacts on surface environments. Another spate of flooding reminds us that this phenomenon is one that needs to be addressed, hopefully with a holistic catchment-wide attitude not just more turning of a natural watercourse into an armoured drain.

So brace yourselves good people, you are needed now more than ever to stand up for the ecology and biodiversity that is our real future!

Robert Standish-White,
President

Dates for your Diary:

Sunday 5 February	Bird Observation Walk 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. Steve Baines (President ANG Fishes Assoc.) will talk about the care and conservation of freshwater fish. Join us at 7.00 pm for pre-meeting drinks and nibbles. Meeting is 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 Saturday 3 March 2012, 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.



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