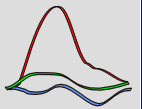




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

## Habitat Brisbane Day

June 2008

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**"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."**

(Pure Australian White Sugar. One serve wrapper!)

### Special interest points:

- Free registration at Learning from Success Forum
- Planting combined with butterfly walk presentation
- More bird surveys to continue
- Airport Biodiversity zone

Forty Habitat Brisbane bushcare groups recently held working bees and activities across the city as part of a highly publicised and coordinated project planned to attract new volunteers and to inform the community.

Conducted between 9 am and 11 am on Sunday, 18 May, there was a mix of revegetation tasks, displays, presentations concerning various types of local wildlife and the usual brews, biscuits and cake at the end.

Along Kedron Brook, the Zion Hill, Melrose Park, Benelong Park, Lutwyche Reach Revegetation Project, Grinstead Park and Ferny Grove bushcare groups participated.

Zion Hill group started with a Geckoes Wildlife Presentation wildlife display, and



Laura Simmonds examines one of Geckoes Wildlife Presentations' top performers at Zion Hill

continued with weed removal from established plantings. Consistent work over the years at this site has produced excellent results.

Melrose Creek Park Leader John Lister acknowledged the energetic efforts of 22 participants, including 14 people who had never been there before! Weeding and mulching was carried out along the Creek and a well-established plot nearer the bowling club. All enjoyed the final break at morning tea.

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## Infrastructure Projects

The Gateway Duplication project proceeds apace, with works soon to commence over Kedron Brook. State Government has agreed with the contractor that the two "future" lanes on this section be built with the initial works, so we will see six lanes not four over the waterway. The temporary barge bridge has already been moved in anticipation of the engineering work, and temporary "causeways" will be built out into the channel to assist construction. All of these works are to be made good on completion. As part of the conditions of their contract, the contractor will also be rehabilitating some 5 ha of the Minippi Wetlands, near their southern works.

The winning Airport Link and Northern Busway tender was recently approved, and you are all encouraged to have a look at some of the changes the successful consortium is proposing. There will be more use of the tunnel borers and some "burying" of the ventilation stations. However the construction yard at Toombul will have to be bigger to

launch the great borers.



Harry and his brother Warrick Crosthwaite spreading the mulch at Melrose Park on 18 June

Big changes are also proposed to deal with the chronic problems at the airport roundabout. All this promises to have large scale construction activity happening on the Brook for then next four years or so, so keeping any sort of corridor connectivity during that period promises to be a challenge, to say the least. Follow the links <http://www.gatewayupgradeproject.com.au/> and <http://www.airportlinkeis.com/>

A small article in recent Quest papers notes that the Brisbane Airport Corporation intends to reserve of 285 ha of airport land as a "biodiversity zone". We shall try and find out more, as it seems there will be public access to the proposed zone.

The Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation is now developing in more detail the possible options agreed with State Government.

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Interest rates and petrol prices going up... pain on the pocket but perhaps a tinge of silver lining for the environment? Some time soon we will all have to face up to the true cost of our lifestyles, and curb the consumption of natural capital that we have been deluded into believing is our "right" and all part of "progress".

It will take some stern political will to turn our habits to more sustainable ways, although we all know in our consciences that is the way we have to go. Do we *really* need that wider TV screen, or meat at every other meal?

We do need to prod and pinch our elected representatives to escape the thrall of permanent growth and provide us with quality rather than quantity (though in the case of environmental water flows in the MDB some quantity wouldn't go amiss!).

There are always other ways of achieving a desired result, and often lessons can be found in the natural world. Feedback is essential; the more removed decision-makers are from the results the worse they are likely to be.

So *tell* them what makes you happy or proud, desperate or disappointed about the state of your local environment. Also remind them we are all part of the same system; polluting or



**Morning sunshine melting away the shadows at Zion Hill site. Consistent work over the years produces nice returns.**

destroying the habitat of a crab or glider is not irrelevant - you are losing part of your own, your only, home.

No matter what the little "Phoenix" robot may dig up on Mars, we won't be emigrating any time soon, and restoring your own creek may be the best thing you can do for your community. Check out our website to get some ideas how!

We look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM and Network Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and at events in the year ahead.

Robert Standish-White  
President

## Snippets

### Planting at Arbor Street

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June we will be planting about 1000 plants at Arbor Street, Ferny Grove. This is the area that has recently been subject to wipe out weed funding by Brisbane City Council.

This will be a fun afternoon of restoring a small portion of our catchment and enjoying the company of others who are also passionate about the environment. Please come and join us from 1 pm.  
(Lesley Collins)

### Padua College Excursion

Year 11 students from Padua College have recently been out and about along the Brook on a school excursion, monitoring the impact different land uses are having on our catchment, and identifying weeds.

Catchment Coordinator, Lesley Collins, met with the class on Friday 30 May in the pouring rain at their semi-rural site in Upper Kedron, where they talked about weeds. The site contained a number of grasses including pigeon, para, signal and roves, with wide spreading lantana camara and clusters of Easter Cassia.

The students then proceeded to Grovely Sports grounds where they assessed the impacts of recreational uses. They then were off to the Grange to assess residential impacts on the environment.

We wish the students all the best with their assignments.  
(Lesley Collins)

### Tuesday Tree Liberators

A small but enthusiastic group called the "Tuesday Tree Liberators", has formed with the first aim to remove the vines

Back again after a wonderful two month long service leave to UK, Egypt, and France. In the past, I have been fortunate to have visited overseas countries on at least six occasions. But every time Jenny and I return, it's not TO the lucky country... it's ourselves that feel so lucky and with a warm feeling of relief that we have returned home.

We saw a wide range of world wonders, and of not-so-wonderful living conditions and wanton wasting of the natural environment. Robert has already related this latter concern to our local scene.

It was wonderful to see the splendid effort that Lesley Collins put into the April Babbler and Dixie Salo into the website to keep all up to date with the important news while I was away. Likewise, many of the projects have paid dividends and are prospering.

I was able to visit, or follow up, all the sites that participated in the Habitat Brisbane Day. The leader article about this day gives but a brief glimpse but should highlight that progress doesn't rely just upon numbers but intelligent preparation to ensure there is a pleasant working atmosphere that even our children can enjoy with us.

Possibly because of welcome rain earlier this year and, certainly, solid work by Habitat Brisbane and our Bushcare groups, many of our sites look the best they have for years.

Cheers and thanks!

Charles Ivin

smothering the trees along the new bikeway at Mitchelton. They hope to get as far as the new bikeway bridge before it opens (hopefully about the end of June).

They started with just two working from 7:30 to 10 am every Tuesday. Now they've increased to six, have a sociable morning tea at 9am and work on to 11am. Contact Helen Moriarty on 3354-2396 to learn more!  
(HM)

### goa Billboards

Grade 4 students of Patrick Road State School were eager to learn more about frogs when Lesley Collins and Luke Dielt (Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinator) came to give a presentation about our catchment frogs and also news about this year's goa Billboard Competition.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## More about Habitat Brisbane Day

Benelong Park concentrated upon activities in which the whole family could participate. Children were involved in all aspects of the revegetation area selected to strengthen the banks of a small watercourse. In between, parents assisted the children to complete their colouring-in entries for the competitions set up for all participating groups on this special day.

A number of Steve Parish's stunning publications on wildlife were used as prizes in two competitions, one for participants at each local event and the other for colouring-in pictures completed by children in advance (or on that day) on prepared forms.

At Lutwyche, the group was appreciative of the help from Conservation Volunteers Australia with the tree planting, mulching and watering of new plants on a rather steep bank. This completed the development of a long section of well established



**Colouring-in competition in between the planting at Benelong Park (Denise Rivers)**



**Don Hopkins (centre) with some of the group at the Lutwyche Revegetation Project activity.**

native plants.

Grinstead Park planted along their frog project creek (weeding for anyone who preferred to do so!), conducted a frog display and talked about the frogs found in the park. They conducted a butterfly walk, and gave away butterfly-host plants to participants. If that wasn't enough, people were spoiled with morning tea and home-baked cooking.

The group at Ferny Grove completed their revegetation of a garden plot adjoining the State High School grounds. Set under stately tall eucalypts, it looked a treat!

Habitat Brisbane Day was certainly successful in our catchment. Activities were planned in advance by our group leaders to consider the needs of volunteers and ensured that adequate success rewarded effort.

The smaller groups benefited greatly from the media promotion by BCC with the added interest generated by the competitions. The inclusion of appropriate activities attracted volunteers as well as young children and was vital to the overall success. (CI)



**Frank Jordan led the butterfly walk and showed suitable plants for butterflies at Grinstead Park**

## Birds Survey

So far this year, surveys of bird species have been carried out at Kalinga Park to Toombul, Cedar Creek in Upper Kedron, and along Lanita Street to the entrance to Maureen Lawrence Park from Ferny Grove.

A recent environmental walk led by Greg Miller on May 18, found 39 bird species together with a number of other environmental interests at Kalinga Park and Wavell Heights Cressey St Wetlands.

Now, a further series of surveys are being planned on the mornings of particular Sundays and Mondays through the next few months.



**Bird Survey Group observing birdlife in Kalinga Park, Jan. 2008**

We are very lucky to have the leadership and experience of Dawn Muir, Birds

## Learn that Weed!



**Stinking passion flower (Passiflora foetida)**

Another climber with stems up to 4 m long, with sparse to dense white to yellowish hairs, odd smell. Leaves often with 3-5 pointed lobes, 3-5 cm across.

Flowers are of typical passionfruit type, pinkish or whitish. Fruits are 1.5 -3 cm dia., surrounded by odd-looking spiky bracts (as per insert right).



Ranked number 70 in the Qld Herbarium *Invasive Naturalised Plants in South-east Qld. Ranked List* though not on BCC's list of environmental weeds. Corky passion vine (*Passiflora suberosa*), is number 37 in the ranked list, is on BCC's list of weeds, but has 3 pointed, ivy-like leaves and white corky-barked lower stems. (CI)



**Nicholas Murray, Volker Jahnke, John Jordaan and Frank Doherty finishing the garden plot next to Ferny Grove SHS**

Queensland. Details will be given on our website, [www.kedronbrook.org.au](http://www.kedronbrook.org.au), with activities planned as soon as 8 & 9 June but with others spaced out over the year.

Such recorded surveys conducted over time form an important contribution to the evaluation of the health and biodiversity of wildlife throughout the catchment

(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

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Brook!**

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**www.kedronbrook.org.au**

*" A river's only purpose is to  
grow stronger; to move the  
world, to snatch whatever it  
can and rush to the open arms  
of the sea."*

*(Karen Foxlee , 2006)*

(Continued - Snippets from page 2)

Over the previous weeks, the students had been taught by their teacher, Mr Scarfe, the life cycle of frogs and their contribution to our wildlife environment.

During the presentation, the students learnt the difference between native and exotic frog calls. They really enjoyed practicing each of the frog calls.

A week later, a qualified artist came to advise the students on how to design their individual billboard about frogs for the goa Billboard Competition .

The class's winner will be awarded at the school's assembly on Tuesday 24 June at 1:30 pm. This student will have their drawing displayed on a goa Billboard somewhere near their school.

Each of the catchments have a school participating. All the individual school winners will come together in City Hall and an overall winner will be awarded. The overall winner will have their drawing displayed on the billboard in Central Station during Riverfestival. (Lesley Collins)

Invitation to **Learning from Success Forum**. Saturday 14 June 9 am-4 pm

River Glen Conference Centre,  
70 Kate St, Indooroopilly.  
UBD ref. Map 178:F9

The forum will provide an informative and interactive environment for participants to learn innovative and diverse tools, projects and strategies to enhance the capacity of their own group. Register on 07 3403 8060



**Hanna Wilson fixing the plant locators  
in position at Benelong Park, 18 May  
(Denise Rivers)**

(Continued - Infrastructure from page 1)

You may have noticed press coverage on the Northern Link Tunnel (Kelvin Grove to Toowong), which is likely to form a key part of any such strategies.

The team tell us they are looking at an overall solution, to include all means of transport, interestingly relying upon rail (at this stage) as the key mass people mover. It seems a reorganisation of frequency can carry many more commuters on the same lines, before new ones need to be built. It is also likely that the Trouts Road corridor will be developed as one of the key links to the north. Have a look at the basic options on <http://www.wbtnei.net.au/>. (RS-W)

Love our Catchment? So do we. Help us keep our KBCB Catchment Branch and Network ticking along. Join our committee as Secretary... We'd enjoy your company.

**Dates for your Diary:**

Tuesday 17 June	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch AGM &amp; Network Planning Meeting</b> Tuesday, June 17, 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 19 Aug free for the following meeting)
Saturday 14 June	<b>Invitation to Learning from Success Forum</b> Sat 14th June. Successful strategies by successful landcare people. This forum is about learning innovative and diverse tools, projects and strategies to enhance the capacity of your group. See our KBCB website home page (above) for details or phone 07-3403 8060.
Sunday 15 June	<b>Citysmart Neighbourhood Fair</b> Sunday <b>15 June 2008</b> (Changed from 1st. due to weather) From 10 am -1 pm at Keong Park, Appleby Road, Stafford. KBCB Display, free trees, sausage sizzle and ices, wildlife show, jumping castle, and kid's activity marquee. Contact Lesley Collins on (07) 3407-0836
Sunday 29 June	<b>Arbor Street Community Planting</b> Sunday 29 June 2008 from 1 pm to 4 pm at Arbor Park, Ferny Grove. Hundreds of plants, so drop in and plant one or twenty, plenty for everyone. BCC Green It Up Program with displays, fact sheets and free afternoon tea. Contact Lesley Collins on (07) 3407-0836



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

