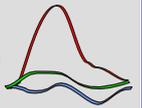


The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

June
2009

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*"Oh for a seat in some poetic nook,
Just hid with trees, and sparkling with a brook."
"Leigh Hunt"*

Special interest points:

- Find the difference between *L. camara* and *L. montevidensis*,
- How to revegetate a dam!
- Buffering trees from human traffic
- *Lomandra cops* a hiding at Osborne Road site

Reflecting on Restoring

Early on Saturday 30th May, an enthusiastic group of Restoring Corridors (RC) partners, local residents, a number of KBCB's regulars and visitors from other catchment groups met at Cedar Creek Community Hall for a field day to visit four property owners who participated in last year's RC project.

We began our morning by admiring calls of the whip birds at Lyn Farrel's place, where she has been restoring the riparian rainforest on the stretch of Cedar Creek that passes through her property. Lyn has been restoring the biodiversity and habitat values of Cedar Creek by implementing some clever rainforest restoration principles, including the use of the existing weeds for shade and mulch. This allows pioneer species to regenerate naturally. She employs a staged approach to weed removal. In the ephemeral creek bed, we discussed possible responses to the severe creek bank erosion after series of flooding.

We continued onto Helen Higgins' property where the northern aspect gave way to an open forest type, and different suite of bird calls. Helen shared her experiences in revegetating the edges of the small dam, once smothered in cobbles pegs and mist flower. Helen has involved students from Hillbrook Anglican

School in the restoration works on her property – not only did this share the workload around, but such experience in the headwaters of Kedron Brook catchment also complimented the students classroom learning catchment studies.

A scrumptious morning tea was waiting for us when we dropped back into Cedar Creek catchment to Ken Cunz's property. Ken explained how he used the RC grant to fence cattle out of the creek bank, install some erosion control devices, and revegetate some areas of creek bank. His control devices were put to the test in the recent heavy rain events, and Ken's keen observation of what worked and didn't work are allowing him to fine tune the design of his

(Continued on page 4)



Helen Higgins describes her revegetation success.

Clayfield College Field Trip to Kalinga Park

In early May, before the rains came, 20 students from Clayfield College piled into a minibus with two teachers, Debbie Dolby and myself.

The Catchment Tour field trip formed part of their Catchment Studies unit. As we travelled from 'mountains' at Iron Bark Gully to the mangroves at Nudgee Beach, we visited a number of sites that aided in the exploration of the themes of water quality; community participation and action; Council's management issues and solutions; habitat restoration; and Kedron Brook Catchment Branch projects and on-the-ground activities.



Students from Clayfield College take note at Kalinga Park (Photo: E Maltby)

We took in the Wahminda Grove Bushcare site; the Samford Road SQUID, met some volunteers from the Tuesday Tree Liberators at Pony Club Bend, the Sparkes Hill Bat Colony, Grinstead Park frog habitat rehabilitation and the Kalinga Park Escarpment project site.

At Kalinga Park, the students were given a brief on the proposed escarpment restoration works on the northern side of the Brook.

As part of their Field Trip Report, they were required to provide a series of possible management options for this project, against social, environmental and economic criteria. Many thanks to the students for some of their



Once again the abrupt forces of Nature firmly reminded us last month that we are, at the end of the day, a mere part of the environment, not the infallible lords of all we survey! In some 24 hours of rain wider Brisbane submerged to a crawl, more unfortunate householders suffered loss and damage, and the Brook was substantially remodelled.

Change is often traumatic, but it is an inescapable feature of our planet, and a key driver of renewal. As such we need to see the positives in what at first may appear random violence - cleared stagnation, new niches and habitats, recycled nutrients, chances for new growth. The difference between natural and man-made change can often be between the cyclical and the short-term.

If we were to anthropomorphise nature we could imagine her caring about generations hence; humanity often seems incapable of acting past the next election. While the SEQ Regional Plan talks of strategies some twenty years ahead, actions on the ground more often relate to political or economic expediency. Change on that basis seem guaranteed to produce a wobbly future.

There is great hope to be garnered in the groundswell of ordinary people who do care what happens to their environment, the stresses it faces and what we can do about that. We report on school groups in our catchment actively teaching sustainability.



Restoring Corridors participant Lyn Farrel tells tour group her approach to weed reduction at her Cedar Creek property.

Bushcare groups and landholders improving their degraded habitats offer extended evidence that profit and speed are not our prime motivators (powerful perhaps, but misguided).

Farmers inland are finding organic methods rewarding financially and morally. I certainly hope that these strengths are the ones to carry us forward in our changing world, seeing opportunity in nature's tantrums, not just extensive insurance claims and gloomy headlines!

Robert Standish-White
President

Hullo again!

The memories of the May floods hang on with continuing, though lighter, drizzle periods. Up in the steeper sections of Cedar Creek, serious erosion of creek banks and rural properties was particularly evident to participants during the Mini-tour studying the Restoring Corridors Project successes.

Members have reported how previously placid pools and sandy stretches along the length of the Brook changed dramatically after the onslaught. Shifting sandbars have caused surprising changes in ponding and water channels.

Imagine the violent conditions being experienced by the wildlife along our catchment. See our article on page 3 to see the effect on the natural environment, particularly in the riparian zone.

The rushing waters were particularly brown and no doubt the rock particles, soil and plant debris are still settling out all the way to Moreton Bay.

Our local councils continue to explore ways to diminish this type of damage. Distribution and improvement of storm-water quality improvement devices and "wetland settling areas" is currently being examined for further ongoing development, especially in the upper steeper sections.

These devices are not always the most beautiful sight but are vital for the environmental health of our Brook and Moreton Bay.

Cheers!

Charles Ivin

Snippets

Earth Day Event

Over 40 volunteers from Bechtel Engineering Construction (BEC) celebrated Earth Day on Saturday 18 April at Grinstead Park.

This was part of a world-wide commitment by BEC to reduce the carbon levels of their operations and assist communities to improve local environmental values.

The activity was coordinated by Habitat Brisbane, Grinstead Park Bushcare Group and KBCB. In addition to new revegetation areas, over 500 trees were planted and the local frog habitat area was improved.

The environment of some of the significant "grand-daddy" eucalypts in the park was enhanced by using the



Melissa Sekava and son Jack get their bucket filled by Les Elrick (BCC) at the Earth Day activity

new garden beds to buffer these trees from human traffic in the vicinity, thereby avoiding root damage.

BEC Representative, Adam Eyles, said their staff enjoyed the opportunity to carry out this type of activity and were proud of

the family involvement that resulted.

(Charles Ivin)

Two Million Trees Project

Brisbane City Council is committed to planting 2 million trees across the city by 2012. That's two million trees in four years.

This ambitious target counts every tree Council will plant, ranging from large scale bushland restoration to revegetating landfill sites, street tree plantings, and greening infrastructure sites.

Residents can contribute to important bushland restoration works by joining the Council's Habitat Brisbane program. Community street tree planting days are being held on selected weekend mornings around Brisbane.

Connect to their web site through

http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:CITY_SMART:1525857734:pc=PC_2796

May Floods Cause Havoc along the Brook

Learn that Weed!



Severe bank damage at Lyn Farrel's place on Cedar Creek



Heavy erosion of rock walls and pastures at Ken Cunz's property.



Creeping Lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*)



Heavy soil load in flood water at Pony Club Bend, Mitchelton. (E Maltby)



Damage resulting from dam effect of fences at Kalinga Park. (R S-W)



Severe bank damage counter-balanced by gravel deposits. (R S-W)



Soil from Lomandra root systems heavily scoured at Osborne Creek

Prostrate or decumbent shrub, often forming dense mats of ground cover (rather than the thicket structure of the common lantana, *lantana camara*). Branches root at the nodes.

Leaves on stalks 2-4 mm long, are opposite, ovate, 1-2 cm long, hairy, with a toothed margin.

Flowers are purplish, around 8-12 mm across. (Flowers of common lantana may be pink but not purple) Flowers most of the year.

Fruits do not open at maturity, are 6-8 mm long and are purplish black. Fruit-eating birds generously help to spread it as well as flower colour-loving humans.

Listed as an environmental weed on the BCC's Weed ID website tool, it is ranked with the high score of 4.8 and is ranked 18th in the "Invasive Naturalised Plants in South-East Queensland", Queensland Herbarium. (150 selected in this list)

Lantana camara has the highest score of 5.0 and ranks number one on this list!

(CI)

Kalinga Park Bushland Restoration Project

Kedron Brook Catchment Branch has received a grant to restore the bushland and enhance the value to the community of the Kalinga Park escarpment on the northern side of Kedron Brook.

The project can incorporate: weed removal; revegetation of locally native species; educational activities; restoration of the historic pathway leading to the old coal mine entrance and associated interpretive signage; and possibly artwork and sculptures.

We would like your ideas on the area and your thoughts on what can be done!

You are invited to attend a project "brainstorming" session which will be held in Clayfield in mid-late July.



Weedy growth in Kalinga Park

All interested community members are invited to attend to contribute ideas and suggestions for how the project is best carried out.

This "brainstorming" session will be a one-off event. However, those who would like to take a more involved and active role, are invited to become part of the project "working group".

If you are interested or would like more details, please contact Emma Maltby, Kedron Brook Creek Ranger, Brisbane City Council (Phone 3407 0836 or email emma.maltby@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

More details of time and location to be advised. Watch our website!

(E M)

**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 :

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*" The greatest achievement of
the human spirit is to live up to
one's opportunities and make
the most of one's resources."*

(Marquis de Vauvenargues)

(Restoring Corridors - continued from page 1)

controls.

Finally, we crossed Lochinvar Road once again to Debbie Ledger's place who moved to the area 22 years ago. With funds from her RC grant, Debbie enlisted the support of a local bush regeneration contractor to successfully address several weeds on the property, primarily fishbone fern, ochna and molasses grass.

Debbie thoroughly enjoyed working alongside a professional (matching her hours of course!) and she is looking forward to addressing other weedy areas on their ten acre property, which includes a regionally significant waterway corridor.

For the residents of Lochinvar Road who attended, the morning was a great opportunity to meet and visit their neighbour's properties, to experience the different ecosystems in the local area. For other participants, the morning offered a great opportunity to learn from the experiences of others, to offer ideas and suggestions, and to get inspired about restoration in their "own backyard".

While there are many more steps before achieving a weed free upper catchment, the emerging groundswell to restore waterway habitats is full of enthusiasm, potential and possibility. There was talk of roving "working bees" on different properties to provide more hands on the ground, helping to get the job started, maintain momentum, motivation and a sense of progress.

So, the next step from here is to secure Round 2 project funding.... Stay tuned. For more information or involvement in a second round of Restoring Corridors, please contact me.

Emma Maltby (3407 0836)

(Emma Maltby)



**Bechtel Engineering Construction support
Grinstead Park Bushcare Group, 18 April**

(Clayfield College - continued from page 1)

excellent and creative ideas, including the construction of a community hut to be used for environmental education, a mini-museum documenting the natural and human history of the area, developing a community garden, concrete pathway hand imprinting, improved access and pathways at the escarpment and revegetating the area with locally native species.

Many thanks to Clayfield College teachers (and local residents) Judy Ferrier and Kim Eagle for making the day possible. It was a well planned field trip that had a strong focus on connecting with the local community. From the student's reports, it is evident that they developed an awareness of the importance of community ownership and involvement in managing our local waterways. Thanks also to the Tuesday Tree Liberators, Ian and Barbara, who met us along the way.

And of course, thanks to the students – watch out...we'll be chasing you up to come and take part in the Kalinga Project now!

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 16 June	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch Annual and General Meeting Tuesday, 16 June , 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Hear about the Priority Project Sites, a BCC activity identifying key waterway health enhancement sites and potential pollutant load reduction sites along our catchment. Catch up with a yarn with your colleagues at the social supper afterwards. Contact Robert for more details. Phone 3862 1186 (H) Pencil in 18 August for our next General Meeting
Wednesday 1 July	Northern Seminar Series Presentations (Joint Northern Catchments Network and KBCB initiative) Regular first Wed. of month , Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 6:30 pm Finger food, prior to 7:00-9:00 pm session. See website or contact Emma on 3407 0836 for details.
Sunday 5 July	Bird Survey - 7:30 am Grinstead Park and Sparkes Hill Reserve. Following survey on August 2 at 7:00 am at Pony Club Bend/Teralba Park . Contact our Surveys Coordinator, Jenny Ivin, on 3851 0160 (H) to register or obtain more details. Check on our website home page for more details or any changes.
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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