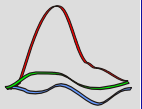




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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 2010

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'Early detection and eradication is the key to successful management of kudzu.'

BCC Weed Identification Tool, 2010

Special interest points:

- *Roots can comprise over 50% of Kudzu's biomass!*
- *A warm cup of tea sure beats mulching..*
- *Greenways reach Wocking St..*
- *Why is an Australasian Bittern rare in our region?*

Habitat Brisbane—20th Year of progress!

Habitat Brisbane has now clocked up 20 years of progress with the bushcare groups in the BCC area. A range of activities are being planned to appropriately recognise this significant milestone. Contact your local Habitat Brisbane officers for more information.



Renown for her artistic work, Grinstead Park Bushcare Group Leader Janet White swings a mean mattock on Earth Day 2009

In the spirit of this event, we've taken the opportunity to focus on some of the bushcare activities recorded along the Brook during our Branch's first 'nine' years.

No selection of memories could do proper justice to the many contributions made by bushcare group volunteers and their leaders but this is one attempt!

Fortunately, there are Celebration Days, Forums,

(Continued on page 3)



Ferny Grove SHS Bushcare Group leader Chris Milne with Habitat Brisbane Officer Keren Sweeney at a planting, Jan. '03



Ray and Di Loughrey and Heather finish off a Dawson Parade mulching, July '04

Kudzu, still a sleeping giant?

Back in October 2006, we first learnt about the finding of an invasive vine called Kudzu (*Pueraria Montana var. Lobata*) at Boundary Park, Mitchelton.

Kudzu is highly invasive, forming impenetrable mats and thickets that completely smother, kill and degrade other vegetation, breaking branches and uprooting entire trees by its weight.

This weed has been nominated as among the 'World's Worst' weed invaders by the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival



Kudzu, climbs up to 30 metres high, smothering trees and shrubs to quickly form dense infestations.

Commission.

I recently contacted Rod Wood (BCC) for news of any further outbreaks. He confirmed that the Boundary Park outbreak was thoroughly treated chemically by BCC staff and follow up inspections over the next few years looked OK with no emergences.

However, it was noted after the 2008-2009 storm flooding that severe creek bank erosion had exposed small residue tubers at that locality. Hence, the risk that some of these tubers had been swept downstream was significant. A few sightings had been noted on private property within Kedron

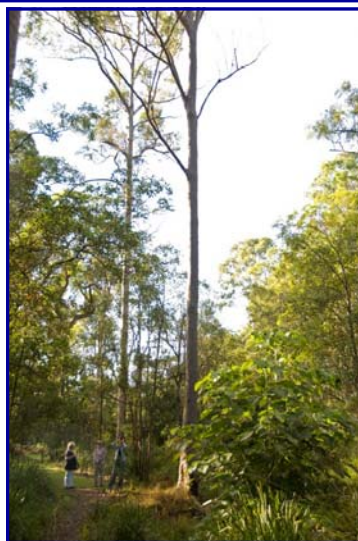
(Continued on page 4)



'World Environment Day', 'Year of Biodiversity'... we are being showered with words of encouragement to remember we are part of the ecology that sustains us. In fact we risk the words becoming all that happens, with celebrations and good intentions taking the place of real decisions and actions that cost more than newsprint. We must be grateful that 'eco consciousness' has risen become part of the mainstream (if you'll pardon all the buzz words), given that a decade or so ago it was still the realm of delusionists and rabble rousers. Long may that continue, until we begin to see some balance with financial and social priorities.

What we need to guard against is slipping into a comfortable euphoria that given the new hype, 'she'll be right, mate'. No, she won't, not without a huge amount more of all our efforts to bring our thinking and our lifestyles into a more equitable, sensible and dare I say enjoyable relationship with the natural world. Are our consciences really clear when one of our few remaining wetlands turns into yet another swanky housing estate? Have we considered the ramifications of losing vast acreages of rain forest for relatively inefficient production of biofuels? Do we care if our dazzlingly big new flat screen results in a few more hundred litres of toxic waste in some Asian waterway?

Many examples may seem to be too distant for us to have any effect upon them, but we are often reminded that we now live and shop in a global



Tall trees at Wahminda Grove dwarf a group of birders

community. With every purchase you make a difference, one way or another. And for all it's faults we are privileged to live in a democracy, where your vote is another choice that can nudge change. So you can see that whilst big changes may be needed, they are likely to be the result of a great aggregation of small efforts and decisions, ones we are all capable of making, indeed have to make every day. There may be some minor discomfort, worry, embarrassment, who knows? – change can be challenging, but the imperative remains, and the rewards will be a better place for us all.

Read those labels, shop local, use

(Continued on page 4)

Hello again.

The recent news about Habitat Brisbane achieving twenty years of successful catchment management within the BCC region sparked a question in my mind. How long is it since the Kedron Brook Catchment Network of bushcare groups and individual volunteers met together to plan and form our formal network organisation, the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch -WPSQ?

I turned on my computer and 'surf'ed through our web site, checked out the early newsletters and noted that, by the year 2000, the BCC's Habitat Program was encouraging and supporting 37 regeneration sites in our catchment. In 2001, a special project was funded by WPSQ, Coastcare and BCC to enable a bushcare coordination position to form a special network. Ms Tina McLaren filled this position and her successful coordination of interested parties led to the Inaugural Network Meeting in August 2001 and subsequent formation of this Branch on 30 April 2002. Read our "About Us" section on the web site to see how this developed.

Despite the continuing successful role of Habitat Brisbane within this catchment, the need for the 'Network' has not diminished. Our Branch, being incorporated, continues to enable grants to be administered for projects along the catchment, ably assisted by our Creek Ranger so that the 'big picture' requirements receive proper attention in full cooperation with Habitat Brisbane.

Network volunteers, please give your support at our Annual meeting on 15 June. Remember, it's YOUR catchment network! Cheers!

Charles Ivin

Snippets

Kalinga Park Update

The bi-monthly meet up, as agreed to in February, continued in May with a weeding working bee to take out any competition our newly planted natives might have. Several familiar and enthusiastic faces attended, which is a positive sign with the impending Habitat Brisbane applications.

The next working bee will on Saturday 10th July and will focus mainly on the group's application for inclusion in the Habitat Brisbane program, along with a bit of weed removal action as well.

(Anna Bourke)

Greenway extension planned

Brisbane City Councillor Andrew



Benelong Park Bushcare Group Leader Mick Wilson helps out with his family at a Kalinga Park planting, Nov. 09

Wines (Enoggera) recently advised that the Stage three of the Kedron Brook bikeway connecting from Teralba Park through to the existing bikepath in

Woking St. in Oxford Park, was to be completed by October. *(North West News)*



Stalwart Moira Lawson, (previously Grinstead), Nov. '03

Workshops and Green Days around to encourage people to meet and share their experiences on catchment management.

It's nice to look back and enjoy



Catchment Coordinator Hayley Cambourn conducts a Fish Snapshot at Teralba Park on Green Day, March '04



John and Carolyn Lister (Melrose Creek) at a BCC Weed Forum, March '06

memories of past glories. May our happy combination of bushcare groups, local government and community nurture Kedron Brook catchment in the future. (C1)



Harold Charles (Mitchelton), Donald Hopkins (Lutwyche) and Phillip Rowland (KBCB) at BBQ on Bus Tour, Nov. '03



HB Officer Fluer Sanderson, Rob Robble (Sparkes Hill) and Catchment Coordinator Nathan Kirby, May '06



One gent, Tommy Martin (BCC), Jean Weaver, and Olive Costelloe (Zion Hill), June '04

Learn that weed!



Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*)

Kudzu is an aggressive, climbing semi-woody perennial vine, with green and hairy bark. Leaves are alternate with three leaflets that are entire or lobed with hairy margins.

Large fleshy roots form with massive tap roots to 2 m long and 20 cm dia. Thirty or more stems may grow from one root crown.

Highly fragrant purple flowers (see inset) grow in late summer. They form in long panicles, to 25 cm long with up to 80 individual blooms at nodes on the stems.

Seedpods are brown, hairy and flat.

Kudzu is a Class 2 declared plant under Queensland legislation.

Both Queensland State Government and Brisbane City Council have good useful information in the Weeds sections of their web sites. (See Page 1) (C1)

GOA Billboard Competition

The GOA Billboard competition is an annual competition in which the Creek Catchment Rangers are privileged to assist students in expressing their ideas and creating inspiring artworks based around an environmental theme. These artworks are then judged and one artwork from each catchment is chosen to be made into a billboard that is showcased in the local area.

In September all the winning entries from each catchment are once again judged as part of the Brisbane Festival with the overall winning entrant's artwork going up in a prominent position in the CBD.

On Tuesday 18 May, I was fortunate enough to run a 'deep listening' activity for Ferny Grove State School's Year 5Y class. The activity was based around this year's theme of 'Space: Sensing, Sharing & Caring'. Its main goal was to assist students

to explore the elements of their surrounding space in a unique and engaging way, and to help them consider what is important about the spaces in which they are situated and interact with every day.

Questions such as, 'Who do you share your space with?', 'What does your favourite space consist of?' and 'How can you take care of your favourite space?' were asked in order to create an awareness of the way in which familiar spaces are used.

There were many great ideas shared, and I was very pleased to hear how the students want and endeavour to care for their local waterways and natural areas.

The student's artwork will be judged prior to a special assembly on Monday 21 June by GOA and Brisbane Festival

representatives, and the local Councillor.

I am very excited to see the artworks that the class has come up with, as well as the winner whose artwork will be showcased on a billboard at Ferny Grove Railway Station from 16 August to 12 September

Good luck to all!

Matthew Wardlaw
Acting Creek Ranger



Catchment Coordinator Kylie Withers planning activities with Dr. Seonaid Melville, Jan. 05

(State of the Brook—continued from page 2)

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**You'll get hooked with Kedron
Brook!**

transport and energy more effectively; it's not that hard and the benefits to our communities, and thence our environments and the wild things that still live in them, will become evident with time. With that in hand, come and enjoy our meetings and activities as we all try to reclaim our heritage and our future. Are you going to be making more 'soot' prints or, new green footprints?

Robert Standish-White
President



**A flash of red poses for a moment.
A Scarlet honeyeater! !**

(Kudzu—continued from page 1)

Brook Catchment and a watching brief was being kept on small treated infestations near Kedron and Toombul. It has not yet been established to any extent in the BCC area.

Unfortunately, so-called herbal properties of this plant have led to its deliberate planting as in infested parts of Northern NSW highlands and the Gold Coast hinterland.

We know that vines such as Madiera, Cats claw and Glycine are probably too wide spread to be completely eradicated. But this Kudzu is so damaging, we must be vigilant and ensure it doesn't even get a toehold!

A news item about kudzu can be found on the 'news-archived' page of our web site. This page links to the BCC Weed identification web page and other references about Kudzu briefly mentioned here.

It's easy to recognize (See page 3). Let your Creek Ranger or Habitat Brisbane leader know of any sightings as quickly as possible.

(CI)

(Snippets—continued from page 2)

Bird Observations 2010

Regular monthly sightings continue with Dawn Muir (Birds Qld.) as leader. In general, the numbers of bird species observed have been similar to last years though there was some variation noted in species observed.

The visit to Grinstead Park and Sparkes Hill Reserve was exciting with a total of 43 species found. We were rewarded with the rare finding (for our region) of an Australasian Bittern. The bird was dive-bombed by Noisy Miners supported by Magpie-Larks and a single Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo.

See our web site for future walks. (JD)

We're on the web!
www.kedronbrook.org.au

*' Environment is a big,
booming, buzzing
confusion.'*

(William James 1842-1910)

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 5 June	World Environment Day 'Footprints of Hope' Join us in celebrating this Saturday 5 June at Kalinga Park, Nundah 10 am to 12 noon . Activities include an art installation with Chrissy Foreman C with Nundah State School class 5/6K students; a symbolic tree planting; and a free low carbon BBQ. All Welcome!
Sunday 6 June	Bird Surveys - 7:30 am Grange Forest Park/Alderley Grove/Raymont Street, Map UBD 139 Ref H7, Meet in Mornington Street (just down from the intersection with Longsight St) Contact our Coordinator, Jenny Ivin, on 3851 0160 to register or to obtain more details. Check on our web site home page to learn any last minute changes.
Tuesday 15 June	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch AGM and Network Meeting Tuesday 15 June, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Join us at 7:00 pm for complementary pre-meeting drinks, pizza and nibbles. Meeting runs 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, Sarah Jones, Healthy Waterways, will detail the progress being made in the use of water-sensitive urban design to minimise stormwater runoff with subsequent improvements in adjacent waterways and parklands. The usual social hot drink available at the end. RSVP Robert on 3862 1186 .
Monday 21 June	Habitat Brisbane Citywide Meeting for bushcare/catchment or Environment Centre volunteers. Monday 21 June 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at Chermiside Bowls Club, 468 Rode Rd., Chermiside. Great program! Light supper provided so please RSVP to Karen Nuss on 34070830, or email: Karen.Nuss@brisbane.qld.gov.au



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