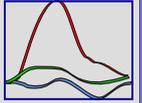




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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 2011

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'How strange that nature does not knock, and yet does not intrude.'
(Emily Dickinson 1830-1886)

Special interest points:

- Ring-tails up a tree
- Pipe smoking is poisonous
- Dragon found shopping!
- What bushcare group changed its name?
- Save our planet by starting with our own catchment.

Fish Snapshot wrapped up for 2011

In 2011, the huge wet season that Brisbane and, indeed, all of Queensland had been experiencing impacted on the fish snapshot program. Mid-March saw the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch's Fish Snapshot re-ignited at Oxford Grove Park, Arana Hills, but with a particularly heavy down pour. Indeed, rain hampered the overall program, stringing it out to the end of April in Kalinga Park.

This year's results showed an interesting mix with some sites suggesting more favourable conditions for native species, and other sites not particularly favouring native or even exotic species. For example, Firetail gudgeon were more dominant at Oxford Grove Park, although the presence of fish at the site was limited possibly due to the weather conditions.



Setting up at Grinstead Park Fish Snapshot



Trawling at Kalinga Park Fish Snapshot

On the other hand, at Pony Club Bend, Mitchelton and Grinstead Park, Alderley, the Mosquito fish continued the trend of years past by being more dominant but at significantly lower numbers.

The Kalinga Park site, with its tidal influences, demonstrated the greatest diversity with seven different species caught. Most positively, only one of the species caught was exotic, suggesting a dominant native population. In particular, Firetail gudgeons were found in large numbers, with ninety-two individuals captured – a number usually reserved for our unwanted exotics such as Mosquito fish and swordtails.

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Creek Ranger Forum

On a bright Sunday in May around eighty people gathered to be further 'Connected to forests' at the Walkabout Creek Conference Centre, The Gap. Councillor Peter Matic opened the Forum by thanking all those present for their contributions to the natural environment. He stressed the importance of the Two Million Trees programme and the recent agreement on a \$10 million, 15-year plan to return Norman Creek, now partly encased in concrete, to a more natural state.

Simon Warner, CEO of [SEQ Catchments Ltd](#), explained how the [South-East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan 2009-2031](#) and the [Strategic Investment Plan](#) promote wise use of our natural resources. Although both plans have bipartisan support, continual campaigning of bureaucrats is

needed to ensure they have an effect on the ground. An economist, he argued that we must take the capacity of our natural resources into account in all our planning because if the earth can't carry us, we suffer.

Maggie Scattini of Bushcare Pty Ltd talked about 'Flora, Fauna, Fungi: First steps in restoring the riparian ecosystem.'



Cr. Peter Matic (BCC) at Creek Rangers Forum

(Continued on page 4)



Where is this year disappearing to? Seems we've just hoisted ourselves out of Christmas and we're already into wild winter winds. The weather seems to be rather angry in many areas around the world, and the argument also rages as to if it's just because the media tells us more about it, or is it really changing?

It would seem that the basic meteorological data does indicate some fairly solid trends towards warming, drying and extremes. We need to work now on making our catchment as resilient as possible to these looming conditions; I would suggest that in making such efforts we will be doing ourselves a favour in many other aspects of our lives.

The cynics would have us believe that biodiversity is a fancy beloved of radical greenies, whereas in the 'real' world we get on with digging, banking, and technical prowess that will power us invincibly into the future. What we have lost sight of in our rapidly urbanising society is that we rely upon nature and her infinite complexity for the basic necessities of life.

Plants are the major agent in capturing the energy that the sun lavishes upon us, and allow it to be transformed and stored for our use. They also photo-synthesise the oxygen we rely on, a bargain forged in the early mists of earth history. In addition, they cleanse most of our water



Eastern Water Dragon finds use for shopping trolley

on it's way to the sea, and probably have some interaction with the clouds to bring rain.

Animals have diversified to occupy every niche available, thus making optimum use of available resources, from the infinite complexity in the soil beneath our feet to the vast mammal that is the blue whale.

What makes sense of this mighty cast is the intense and complex interaction of all its parts. Research that has been done (far too little, I reckon) often reveals how little we really know of all these connections,

(Continued on page 4)

Hello again!

It's been said, 'Old soldiers never die, they simply fade away.' I certainly hope our valiant bushcare volunteers don't simply fade away without due recognition.

If you consider the numbers of volunteers involved with bushcare along our Brook, there could be quite a few who work unheralded or unrecognised in any public manner. I'm sure each Bushcare group or organisation in our network wants to pay public, as well as personal, recognition to their volunteers. However, we often seem that busy we don't take time to do so.

If you know of someone who has contributed greatly to your site, especially over time, why not send us a note so we can acknowledge together those people who have contributed so much to our bushcare maintenance and development.

After nineteen years of habitat bushcare at Sparkes Hill Reserve, Bob Robbie has finally decided it is time to rest so he can enjoy the pleasures of life, after Sparkes Hill. Well done, Bob... Enjoy!

The world would soon be at a stand-still, if it weren't for volunteers!

Cheers !

Charles Ivin

Snippets

Catchment Kids

On 23 June the Catchment Kids from Nundah State School's 5K class will be exploring our Kedron Brook catchment from top to bottom. This will help them gain greater understanding of what a catchment is and the impacts our everyday actions can have on our waterways - good and bad!

(Anna Bourke)

Web site update

Since the changeover of the web site layout last year, we've upgraded the 'Bushcare Group' section. Recently updated bushcare group pages are Benelong Park, Brook Park, Greenbrook Association, Grinstead Park, Kalinga Park (new group), Melrose Park, and the Men of the Trees.



Yellow Buttons
(Chrysocephalum apiculatum)
Photo: Denise Rivers

The Osborne Road site page is in preparation and pages for Sparkes Hill, Zion Hill, Wahminda Grove and 'Other groups' are due next.

Another recent addition to the web site is the Photo Gallery in which individual contributions are made by network members or are selected from past news items on the home web page.

Hot off the press is the 'Photo Gallery - Special feature' page. A network volunteer or a group with some photographic talent have a single page for a month or so based upon one

subject, or theme, relating to Kedron Brook.

An excellent start for this page was made with the theme, 'Plants with yellow

flowers'. These include beautiful photographs, taken by Denise Rivers, around Benelong Park. These images also serve as a reminder to us of the variety of native plants that can be found in a relatively small area along our Brook.

The first public release of the KBCN web site was in July 2002. Your interaction through submissions, queries and comments will help us serve our network. (CI)



Adrian Canaris leads a group at the Creek Ranger Forum around a bush track at the Walkabout Creek Centre, on 22 May

Lutwyche Reach Bushcare Group

The current Lutwyche Reach Bushcare Group was formed in 2001 through the amalgamation of several small groups that had been working in this section of Kedron Brook. It was called Lutwyche Reach Revegetation Project at that time.

The Lutwyche Reach Bushcare Group has a number of sites at which activities are taking place. Many of the sites established by previous bushcare activities need regular weed control and maintenance. This usually involves supplementary planting with understorey or shrubs to fill gaps, and re-mulching of the planting site to control weeds.

Some of the previous plantings are now mature trees with a canopy over 5m tall. They shade the ground sufficiently that weeds do not thrive in this environment.

Other than Damon Road, most of our work in the last few years has been maintenance, in the main, caused by the extended dry period. Now that we have some soil moisture at last we'll have to start developing future sites in consultation with Habitat Brisbane. We are restricted from planting much down on the flat by flood mitigation. Quite a bit of what has been planted along the waterway banks,



Planting near Melrose Rd Bridge, 2003



Upstream from Montrose Road bridge, showing duck pond and bikeway, 2010



Leaders Donald Hopkins and Mark Lacy take a welcome break

particularly trees, has been ripped out by the force of the water from recent floods.

Recent planting has included an extension of the Damon Road site eastwards to rehabilitate a steep bank that was covered with introduced dense grasses and shrubs such as Japanese Sunflower.

The group meets on the third Sunday of each month, usually from 8 am to 10 am. Contact Mark Lacey on 0418 616 824 or see local signs along the brook for the actual time and location of future planting.

(Donald Hopkins/CI)

Learn that weed!



Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia elegans*)

A fast-growing perennial woody vine up to 3 m high, Dutchman's Pipe is declared in Queensland as a Class 3 environmental weed. Its leaves are poisonous to livestock and particularly fatal for Richmond birdwing butterflies that confuse it with their traditional food species. The butterflies' larvae die soon after eating the leaves.

Leaves are grey-green, soft and heart-shaped, up to 12 cm long, waxy under surface, spaced alternately along the stem.

In summer, maroon coloured flowers, grow in an unusual pipe-shaped form, marked with white, yellow, and brownish blotches, up to 7.5 cm long.

Fruits are a segmented papery capsule, to 6 cm long, with short extension at the apex. They open like an upside-down parachute containing about 350 papery tear-shaped seeds. These are dispersed by wind and water and especially threaten dense forests where the vines smother native vegetation and form impenetrable thickets.

(CI)

Celebrate Glideways in Ferny Grove at Community Planting Day

On the evening of 9 April, the 'Glideways' community survey team met at the bush reserve adjacent to Ferny Grove State High School to complete the final survey of this project. Battling the recently overgrown site, the volunteers investigated the higher reaches of the site with much enthusiasm, in hopes of spotting our target, the cute, but elusive Squirrel Glider.

It was a slow start with a brushtail and a couple of ringtail possums spotted just as the last of the daylight slipped behind the D'Aguilar Range. However, the group's efforts were then rewarded with at least one or perhaps two Squirrel Gliders sighted. The group was lucky to witness one glide between the trees before it disappeared into the night.

Overall, these surveys have been

invaluable in highlighting the importance of bushland remnants in our suburbs. Not only was the target species of Squirrel Glider identified, but also many other mammal species and frog, bird and insect species. A more thorough investigation would undoubtedly uncover many more.

We plan to help enhance the bushland remnant at this site for gliders and many other species, as well as to



Ring-tailed possum seen at the survey last November

celebrate urban wildlife and the end of the successful Glideways project.

To achieve this, a community planting event is planned for Saturday 9 July from 10 am to 1 pm in the bushland on Tramway Street, Ferny Grove next to the Ferny Grove State High School.

Please come along and help us put some natives in the ground on the day!

(Anna Bourke)

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**Pathway from Uxbridge Street to Brook
in Lutwyche Reach Bushcare
Group's revegetation area**

(Creek Rangers Forum continued from page 1)

Her main message was: Whatever you do, protect the soil! The soil is just the top few centimetres, consists of bacteria, fungi, organic matter, minerals and water. It takes a century to build a millimetre of it and once it washes away, it is gone from your site. She explained the way fungi exchange resources with trees to the benefit of both, break down cellulose and form an important food source for snails, pademelons (which eat truffle-like fungi) and other animals.

[Adrian Caneris](#) explained that to find fauna it isn't always necessary to get your hands on the animals. Scats, scratches, feathers, footprints and food leftovers can betray the presence of animals. Anabat detectors can be used to detect and determine bats and security cameras can picture night creatures (though if using bait, a permit is required). Security cameras are also useful to catch your neighbour dumping rubbish or the thief of your other recording equipment.

After a walk in the surrounding National Park and lunch, [Professor Carla Catterall](#) from Griffith University was the last to speak. She presented research that showed that small patches of remnant rainforest don't suffer more cyclone damage than do large forests, but recovery is frequently hindered by weeds (notably vines). Many replanting projects of rainforest in the topics failed due to inadequate monitoring in the first few years. Never just plant and trust she'll be fine!

(Lennert Veerman)



**Australian Wood Duck pair seen on
Wahminda Grove Bird Survey**

(Fish Snapshots continued from page 1)

Further results and learnings will be shared at the June annual general meeting Tuesday 21 June 2011.

(Anna Bourke)

(State of the Brook continued from page 2)

but nevertheless how reliant each is upon the next. We need to learn from this web of life and begin to work within it rather than trying to conquer it - that will prove a futile exercise as many vanished civilizations can attest. In seeking for knowledge and applying ourselves to remedial measures, our group is making efforts in the right direction. We have quite a bit of fun doing it, so join us in saving the planet, starting with our own catchment!

Robert Standish-White
President

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 21 June	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch AGM and Network Meeting 21 June, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Join us at 7.00 pm for pre-meeting drinks and nibbles. Meeting runs 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm. Greg Czechura (Queensland Museum) is our guest speaker to present 'Raptors and Wetlands'. RSVP Robert Standish-White on 3862 1186.
Sunday 3 July	Bird Survey at Grange Forest Park. 7.30 am Sunday 3 July. Meet in Mornington Street (just down from the intersection with Longsight St, Alderley. (UBD Map 139 Ref G8) Contact Jenny Ivin on 3851 0160 for further details
Wednesday 6 July	Northern Seminar Series , Wednesday 6 July. Watch our web site for details of the presentation. Drink and finger food at 6.30 pm for start at 7.00 pm to 8 pm. Places limited so RSVP to Northern Catchments Creek Ranger Donna Edwards by phone 3407 0895.
Saturday 9 July	A Community Planting Event is planned for Saturday 9 July from 10 am to 1 pm in the bushland on Tramway Street, Ferny Grove, next to the Ferny Grove State High School. Please come along and help us put some natives in the ground on the day! Contact our Creek Ranger, Anna Bourke, on 3407 0925 for details. (See also page 3)



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