



# 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

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**"Groups need to see their relationships with volunteers as reciprocal, and consider the needs of volunteers as well as the needs of the group."**  
 (Mark Creyton 30/7/05)

## Special interest points:

- BCC Forum "Weeds - latest updates" informs the throng
- Wet pants at Lutwyche!
- Report infestations of *Dyschoriste depressa*
- Major Civil Projects to affect Brook Catchment

## Infrastructure impacts along the Brook!

The Brook is due to feel the impact of several infrastructure projects in the near and medium term. The most imminent of these is the Gateway Duplication for which tenders are shortly to be submitted, followed by an intense construction program. The designated route crosses diagonally over the Brook in its sadly canalised format adjacent to our Airport.



Part of the existing magnificent Mountains to Mangroves Corridor. More to come? (R.S-W)

The geology of acid sulphate soils offers a significant engineering challenge while passing through a patchwork of small habitats, struggling to hang on in the face of urban and commercial forces. One of the tenderers has consulted WPSQ members on possible mitigation measures, and we hope this may be of benefit.

obviously, a major engineering project is going to significantly affect this subtle semi-coastal reserve during construction and in operation.

Fairly comprehensive conditions have been imposed during the approvals process but,

The Airport Link has now reached preliminary detail design stages, early in the Environmental Assessment process. The longest stretch of tunnel will be from the northern end of the North-South Bypass tunnel at Bowen Hills, over the Enoggera and on north-wards under the Lutwyche Road to reappear by the Kedron Park Hotel. Apart from the understandably emotional response to proposed resumptions, we should be aware of the now more detailed proposals for the routes over and adjacent to the Brook. The challenge for the roadway designers at these junctions is to get traffic both into and out of the new tunnels at the same time as



What will we lose? (R Standish-White)

(Continued on page 4)

## March Fish Snapshot Wet but Wonderful

After a couple of drier years, the 2006 Fish Snapshot chanced upon of our increasingly rare wet spells and as a result, catching was done in swifter and deeper waters.

On Saturday March 4, this year kicked off upstream at the Mitchelton Pony Club site. There was a good turnout of the veterans, with Helen and Harold, Charles, Philip and Nathan as the new lynchpin of operations. The fish catch was a bit disappointing. Thanks to a couple of inches of rain in the days preceding the Fishwatch, there was a lot of water in the Brook.

The water clarity was good, but numbers were low, both for species diversity and for the number of fish. We only caught 23 gambusia, and one platy - no native fish at all! Quite likely they were all hiding in the flooded vegetation on the verge of the stream. We had similar results in Sept 2004, when the creek was up



Mitchelton Leach

(Continued on page 3)

# State of the Brook



## The Editor's Bit

Well, Fish Snap Shot has been a challenge this year, particularly on the big first day of activities; 4 March.

We'd had a bit of rain on the prior Thursday and Friday and creek levels were high. Up at the Mitchelton site (at the Pony Club grounds), instead of a small flow of water about 60cm deep, we had quite a flow and water depths were twice what they are normally at this time of the year.

Needless to say we didn't catch many fish in the fast flows but they were still there in the flooded vegetation where there was more cover and the water wasn't flowing as fast. Mainly exotics were found, as usual.

By all reports, the Fish Snapshot activities at the five sites attracted probably the best participation ever. Thanks must go to Nathan Kirby, our catchment coordinator, who got all the gear organized and attended all of the events. A great job much appreciated!

A new member of the Branch, Sheila O'Boyle, has taken on the job of Branch Treasurer. This was very welcome since our previous treasurer had left us last year due a shift to Townsville. (Fortunately, Robert Standish-White helped out in the short-term). Sheila comes to us with extensive experience in the financial field and a keen interest in the environment. Welcome, Sheila.

Keep a lookout for invites to our weed



**Donald Hopkins (Leader) and Fleur Dingle (Habitat Brisbane Officer) at Lutwyche Fish Snapshot activity**

management days which are coming up in April and May. Nathan is working up a program of on-site workshops designed to gather information about the key weeds in ten of our significant remnant areas of vegetation along the Brook.

News from Robert Standish-White, from page one, details some of the outcomes from consultative meetings for major civil projects affecting our catchment.

Our next meeting is at 7:30 pm on the 11 April at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, Rode Rd, McDowall.

We'll report highlights of our Fish Snapshot activities. There'll also be plenty of opportunity to discuss the weed control project and related workshops. You may also care to have your say on the plans and progress with the huge civil projects now affecting our Brook.

Hope to see you there

Philip Rowland, President

This is always a busy time of the year. No time for resolutions, anymore. They've all been made. Now, all our plans are being .... implemented. Join the throng of achievers!

Fish Snapshot is now successfully completed for March. But remember to keep some time to complete the second round later this year.

Our weed control project has a 'Catchment' focus but will only be achievable through Bushcare Group and individual level support. As a minimum, the aim is to ensure the integrity of our tenuous "Mountains to Mangroves Corridor" and is specifically directed at our remaining forest remnants.

Those of you who get involved in the initial stage of this project will refresh your plant recognition skills. You'll use practical ways to record your observations in a scientific manner accepted by authorities. You'll help define in detail the main weed threats to the longevity of these remnants. (Enjoy our Brook environment in-between!)

You'll provide data that will present proof of the scale of the threat. This evidence will support those sections within relevant government bodies that determine suitable strategies and obtain necessary funds and resources for our joint environmental target.

Our lead story records activities our committee is doing to obtain the best outcomes for our Brook from the construction of major civil projects. Have YOUR say at our March 11 meeting.

Cheers

Charles Ivin, 'news@kedronbrook.org.au'

## Snippets

### Our new Treasurer Sheila O'Boyle

Born in Ireland, Sheila lived there until four years ago, quietly bringing up her two children (now grown up men!) Then she embarked on a real adventure - she went to East Timor for a year as a volunteer with the Irish AID agency - GOAL.

Her greatest achievement there was to build an orphanage for eighty children. (Not bad for a Chartered Accountant to oversee building work, but the Engineer had left them in the lurch, and luckily, she was able to fill in some of the gaps... but that is another story!)

Now, Sheila lives in Sunny Brisbane. Though not directly experienced with environmental activities, she loves going



**Treasurer Sheila O'Boyle**

bushwalking and is very interested in all the wildlife and nature around her.

Her husband and his best friend have educated her a lot about outdoor life here in Oz and how to be on the look out for all sorts of interesting things.

Welcome, Sheila! With your get-up-and-go, we're sure you'll make many friends along the Brook! (S O'B/CI)

### Dyschoriste depressa control begins

Brisbane City Council has dedicated resources under the Wipe Out Weeds program to halt spread and eradicate *Dyschoriste* in the Kedron Brook Catchment.

Treatment has recently commenced on known infestations in the upper reaches of Cedar Creek and Kedron Brook at Ferny Grove, Arana Hills and Mitchelton. Now, more than ever, is the time for everyone to report suspected infestations of this threatening weed to ensure they can be eradicated.

Check out identification on the website and report details to Nathan Kirby on 3407 0836.

## Wet March Fish Snapshot (Cont.)

after a rain event. Our best results ever were 6 species, 3 of these native, and 200 individual fish.

Ferny Grove State High School Bushcare Group were at it the same time in Cedar Creek. (See James Milne on the last page!) Found lots of imported fish but further details to be reported later.

About 10 am, Nathan carted the kit down to a new site for the Branch at Kalinga Park; being the same spot surveyed by Kev Warburton in the inaugural 2002 exercise. Here, we had a less experienced though enthusiastic team surveying a very pleasant reach of the Brook. It was about 300 mm deeper than usual.



Hunters bring back the fish at Kalinga

Deb stalked camera shy eel under the bank and Leah was an initially bemused chief scribe. Small mackerel dashed enticingly across the open water but the traps came up with the usual batch of little species. Mosquito fish dominated but there were a few gudgeon, two estuary perchlet, and most interesting, a stern and spiky little bullrout.

President Philip dropped by and had to haul out all his diplomatic skills to calm down a passionate local who loudly accused us of various grave misdemeanours. A strong wind pushed cloud overhead as the team rounded off a successful morning on tea and cake.

A week later, there were still obvious signs of flooding at the Dawson Parade site. An Azure kingfisher slipped away as the crowds gathered – and crowds there were as the Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group and WPSQ President Alan Barton joined us in the survey. What a pleasure to have knowledgeable plant types improving the record!

The traps caught relatively few, but the scoop nets did well – a preponderance of swordtails at this site, with natives putting in a showing via an eel tailed catfish and a very small turtle!



WPSQ President Alan Barton lends a hand at Dawson Parade

We also got a small eel from just outside the catch zone, and noted again the most odiferous black leaf sludge on the upper, deeper side of the top pool.

There was some discussion over refreshments as to the practicalities of reintroducing native species, and what might need to be done in terms of education, habitat and reduction of exotics.



Nathan gets 'wet feet' at Lutwyche

Lutwyche Reach was surveyed too late to make it to press, but an enjoyable time was had by all in collecting what we feel will become useful data in the

## Name that Weed!



*Leucaena* (*Leucaena leucocephala*) was our last issue's weed. It's also called Coffee Bush. I hope you recognised it!

The vine shown above is a climber with prickly stems and narrow leaves. The flowers are small and white and are formed on stalks up to 10 cm long growing at the nodes. The bright orange berries, 5–6 mm dia., look quite pretty and birdlife assists seed propagation.

It's amongst the first twenty of the "Invasive Naturalised Plants in SE Queensland, Ranked List", put out by the Queensland Herbarium. My NRM&W Weed Pocket Guide shows a huge eucalypt being suffocated by the menacing green cloak of this lovely but nasty weed. (CI)

campaign to improve our environment and particularly, the green corridors. (Robert Standish-White)

## Community Weed Forum

Brisbane City Council came up with the goods again with their forum, entitled "Weeds– latest updates". It was held at the Griffith Uni Ecocentre on Sunday March 5.

Space doesn't allow inclusion of suitable details about the well-chosen speakers or program. Suffice to say, the forum covered everything from failed legislation, lack of proper diligence to protect our continent, systems of weed classification, biological and pesticide controls, new and emerging weeds and raising funds for our control projects. The program allowed ample



Ray and Di Loughrey check their handouts



John and Carolyn Lister stop for a bite

networking opportunities with fine food and good company in the atmospheric Griffith University Ecocentre. (CI)

**KEDRON BROOK CATCHMENT  
BRANCH (INC.)**

PO Box 1385  
STAFFORD QLD 4053

Email: [enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au](mailto:enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au)  
ABN: 67 730 688 521

President : Philip Rowland (07) 32605779  
Secretary : Leah Salo, Mobile 0413 446 665

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**“Weeds... are like an  
uninvited relative who’s  
come to stay...  
indefinitely.  
They impact on your  
life, your health and  
your wallet!”**

(Doreen Hull,  
Community Weeds Forum 5/3/2006)

*Infrastructure Changes continued from page 1)*

preserving surface options.

Thus, we see the introduction of what are mysteriously named "transition structures", in fact, just the open ramps from surface to tunnel level. These generally appear each side of the central route which carries on below so the through traffic is not affected. These will occur at the Kedron junction both adjacent the Lutwyche Road and between the High School and the Brook, feeding into a complex arrangement that involves a multi-level crossing over the water.

At the Toombul junction, the ramps appear east of the railway and climb to Sandgate Road, and similarly east of junction to the East-West Arterial where space has been taken from the riverside parking area to effect the transition. A large multi-laned traffic light controlled intersection will sit over the top of all this, at Sandgate Road level. Possible positions for the ventilation chimneys will be next on the agenda.

The proposed route of the tunnel has moved to the north of the "study corridor" in the Wooloowin stretch for both surface property and geological reasons. Calls from some of those opposing the tunnel to "move it just a little further to vacant parkland adjacent to Kedron Brook" have a populist tone though based on valid concerns for effects on property values. Public consultation continues via regular Liaison Group meetings and open presentations.

We should all take an interest from the environmental, social and financial standpoints. Should they go ahead, these routes will be with us for a very long time. In tandem with the private transport-oriented Airport Link is the extension of the



James Milne at the Kedron Brook SHS Bushcare Group Snapshot, Cedar Creek

Northern Busway from a proposed new station by the Royal Brisbane Hospital to one just south of Kedron Brook, further increasing the infrastructure at this point.

The intention is to eventually take the busway on to Chermside, and much of it might also end up in a Lutwyche/Gympie Road aligned tunnel, but for some time it will take some of the road space hoped to be freed up by the new link tunnel.

The BCC is keen for easy bicycle and pedestrian access to public transport so this will also become a feature to the great crossings of the Brook. Public consultation is also in hand for this initiative.

The final piece of engineering we should be aware of is the new runway planned close to the mouth of the Brook and on the margin of Moreton Bay. The BAC publicity machine is full flight persuading us all of the absolute necessity of this project, but we have yet to see much meaningful concern paid to the environs or local human and animal inhabitants.

The mantle of federal patronage appears to be used to push forward development as a state or national priority, but it is in our city and on one of the rare streams draining the inner northern suburbs and actually linking the mountains to the mangroves. Local councillors are active in this debate and looking for views from the public.

The State has mapped the way ahead with the Regional Plan and we should all make the effort, however small or occasional, to have a say in our future. Our waterways and fauna cannot speak or vote yet we rely on them for our long-term survival, so if we want to hand on a sustainable city, stand up and call for some balance!  
(Robert Standish-White)



**Dates for your Diary:**

Tuesday April 11	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
Tuesday June 20	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch Annual General Meeting (location as above)
April to June	Kedron Brook Weed Surveys Brook locations. Full training provided. Phone 34070836 or visit the website for details
September 4—7	9th International Riversymposium Contact Emily Smigrod Ph: 07- 3034 8230 email: <a href="mailto:emily@riverfestival.com.au">emily@riverfestival.com.au</a>



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