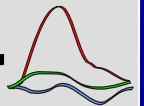




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

August 2006

## Inside This Issue:

Fishy Intruders at SandyCreek	1
State of the Brook	2
The Editors Bit	2
Snippets	2
Butterfly larvae at Grinstead	3
Name That Weed	3
Diary	4

**“Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome”**

(Dr. Samuel Johnson)

## Pollutants from Airport Link Project Studied

The Airport Link Development Consortium has been putting considerable effort into analysing the issues to do with air quality, particularly in view of the obvious public concern on this matter.

At a recent Community Liaison Group meeting the engineer appointed to study the issue, Dr Kerry Holmes, explained how the sampling and modelling are done to estimate the effect of the tunnels under different operating conditions.

At present, the outlets are assumed to be 30m high, one each at Bowen Hills and Toombul, and a larger one at Kedron (as both branches of the tunnel join here).

The fact that busy surface roads are the main source of pollutants means that, according to the modelling, the exhaust stacks have negligible impact on local communities. This is because the exhaust is pushed out at speed and height so is greatly dispersed by the time it falls back to the ground. Regionally there is little difference with or without the tunnels; pollution rises with the traffic.

Dr Tim O'Meara then explained how the health effects of the aerial effluent were being reviewed. Pollutants of concern



Group exploring forest remnant near planned Airport Link interchange at Toombul.

include particles of varying size, nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide and the range of toxins such as benzene, etc. emitted from vehicle exhaust.

The expected concentrations of these villains are compared to those known to cause health effects, with a goal set to keep below the threshold that begins to affect health. Time of exposure is also part of the picture.

Health impacts can be of the acute variety, appearing in minutes to days, and long term, manifesting in four to twenty years. Health surveys of various types are used to estimate a base expectancy for the study area, and then compared with what might

(Continued on page 4)

## Fishy Intruders in our Brook

Recently reported by Debbie Dolby, five Tilapia, probably Mozambique mouth-brooders (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) were seen in Sandy Creek, a tributary of Kedron Brook. (See photo by Debbie right)

Tilapia are a very successful warm water species and are used extensively in the aquaculture industry for human consumption. They are renowned for their ease of spawning, utilization of a wide range of food types, efficient use of food, rapid growth at warm temperatures and exhibit tolerance to poor water quality.

These characteristics are desirable in aquaculture, but have also produced a

formidable competitor for our native fish. Native fish may be intimidated by the size and aggressive behaviour, particularly during the breeding season of these fish.



Download a student resource from [http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/extra/aquaticinvaders/student\\_tilapia.html](http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/extra/aquaticinvaders/student_tilapia.html) for this priority species.

Winter is a good time to find them because they

(Continued on page 4)

# State of the Brook



## The Editor's Bit

Water, or rather, the lack of it, has been a major topic in the press of late. As I write this, the people of Toowoomba will be voting to determine the future source of their potable (drinkable) water supply. Regardless of the outcome, the challenge to meet the ever increasing demand for water in a climate that appears to be becoming increasingly variable will still be with us.

While there's not much interest in increasing the take of water from the Brook, the more rivers and streams we modify the more important the ones with some remaining quality habitat become. It's pretty clear we will need to be smarter in managing both supply and demand if we are to avoid either trying to take all the water from our rivers and creeks or running out of water – neither of which is acceptable.

The loser in any increase in taking water from our rivers and streams is the instream environment – either upstream of dams or weirs where flowing waters become lakes, or downstream where moderate and high level flows (these are major triggers of a number of ecological processes) decrease. Let's look after the remaining habitat in all our rivers and creeks.

The weed survey project continues to gain momentum. Thanks to the efforts of Nathan Kirby, our coordinator, five sites have been fully or partially mapped for key weed species. Nathan

**Nathan Kirby and Mike Wilson survey the remnant forest at Benelong Park**



will be presenting some of the results at our next meeting (hopefully with lights this time!). Check out the web site or the back page for details of future surveys.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 15 August at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre at 7:30pm on Rode Road. Lets hope we will be right with the power this time. Our AGM on 12 June coincided with a power outage in the area but thanks to a number of enterprising individuals we were able to hold the meeting and enjoy a wonderful candle light supper afterwards!

Anyway, at our meet on the 15 August we will be looking at the results of the weed survey plus a special event – the first Kedron Brook trivia quiz. Come along and show us what you know – or learn lots you didn't know about our Kedron Brook.

Hope to see you there.

Philip Rowland, President

Hullo again! Usually, I make this column a selfish opportunity to mag about what "I" want. And that's what I'm still going to do!

This time, however, I'm departing from my usual practice and including a pickie showing how we wound down after our Benelong Park Weed Project survey conducted Sunday June 18.



Not only did we have a most productive morning in our various groups of two, but we all came together at the end for a yarn over a cuppa (as our groups often do!).

In these enjoyable wind-down sessions, we are able to share viewpoints and experiences, consolidate friendships, plan future activities and assist new members that join us.

To safeguard our future environment, we need to pitch in and work hard together. But if we still don't end up with a personal sense of achievement and it is not fun, collectively, we have failed.

But I don't see too many gloomy faces in our catchment, do you? Cheers!

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

## Snippets

### It's a Girl!



The Kirby family is all smiles with the safe birth of Rheanna Kirby (NK)

Rheanna Maeve Kirby was born on July 20 to Nathan and Lauren Kirby. Weighing in at eight pounds, Rheanna

is a welcome baby sister to Isaac. Mum and bub are doing well and are now settling back at home. (NK)

### Debbie Dolby spills the beans

We have had the opportunity to see marvellous photos of nature taken by Debbie in the past. (See her article on page three about caterpillars.)

The other day I caught Debbie photographing a Wombat Berry plant (*Eustrephus latifolius*). As she said, if you are using a macro setting to photograph a flower or an insect, you have to get in really close to the action yourself!

We're looking forward to more in the future, Debbie!. (CI)



Debbie Dolby shows how she does it!

### WPSQ—Southern Branches Get-together 'Conservation in the Suburbs'

Great Program, Workshops, Dinner and Ecotours Register now and book in for the workshops. For program details or registration, contact Doreen or Ewa at the WPSQ office on 07 3221 0194 or email Doreen on Doreen@wildlife.org.au.

## Beatles and Ant Workshop

Another great workshop organised by Community Learning Initiatives Inc. Entitled "Beetles and Ants, the Success Stories of the Animal World", the workshop was held on Saturday 24 June at The Gap.

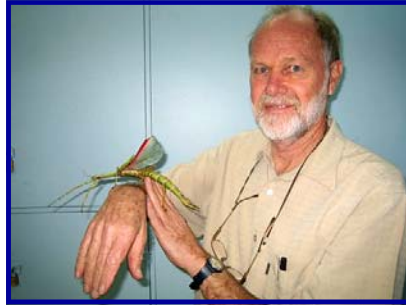
The two presenters were Dr. Chris Burwell and Dr Geoff Monteith, curators of the million strong collection of insects at the Queensland Museum. They related a recent insect survey undertaken in Brisbane and funded by BCC.

Geoff Monteith informed the attendees that there were about 1,000 species of winged beetles in Brisbane, coming in many weird and wonderful shapes, colours, and sizes.

For example, the *Scarabaeidae* (dung) beetles have the specialised feature of big antennae used to track the next adult meal or brood nest for their offspring. They're the ultimate recyclers! Sixty-three species were found in Brisbane, of which three had not been previously recorded before.

Geoff also brought along the huge *phasmatidae eurycnema* goliath stick insect, 200mm long (see photo above).

Chris Burwell spoke enthusiastically about ants and their types of habitats – from rainforests to open forest and mixed habitats. Some sites had 60 different types of ants present. They had



Dr. Geoff Monteith with stick insect

even unearthed a rare ant at one site.

Some plants enlist the help of ants to collect their seeds by modifying the seed to attach a sweet substance. This attracts the ants which then sow the seeds underground and, hey presto, Seed planted! NO hard digging to plant them!

There are more species of beetles on earth than of any other group of animals. However, ants tip the scales when it comes to biomass, and the weight of individual ants in any environment is usually greater than the weight of any other animal group present.

The full results of the survey will be available shortly.

Look out for further opportunities to attend these fascinating workshops. Contact Helen Schwencke on Ph 3844-8069 or email: cla@dovenetq.net.au.

(Copy and photograph by Moira Lowson)

## Name that Weed!



**Phaseus Bean** (*Macroptilium lathyroides*) Oh! Not the weed above, but I mean it's the name of last issue's weed.

This weed is common on shady roadsides, along fence lines and rubbish dumps, a real variety of locations.

A perennial, erect, succulent herb to 1 m tall; it handles very dry conditions, thank you very much, and makes the going tough for our natives.

Not shown in this photo, it has leaves, grey to speckled brown, fleshy, can be tubular, serrated boat or lance-shaped. The orange-red, bell-shaped flowers are quite interesting and no doubt why it was originally brought in as a garden plant. Pity they didn't keep it there.

(CI)

## Butterfly Larvae at Grinstead

These two butterfly larvae were found at the Grinstead Park. The native Lesser Wanderer (*Danaus chrysippus*), on the left, has three pairs of fleshy 'feelers' with red bases.

The one on the right is the larvae of the imported Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and it only has two pairs of black, fleshy 'feelers'.

After the introduction of its larval food plant Milkweed or Silkpod (*Asclepias curassavica*), Monarch butterflies successfully colonized Australia sometime around the 1870's. The caterpillar of the native butterfly adapted to utilizing this foreign resource so the caterpillars of both species can be found on this plant.

The Monarch caterpillar however has not



Lesser Wanderer Caterpillar

been able to adapt to eating any Australian native plants.

The milky sap of milkweeds contain toxins and can be irritating to the eyes and skin. As the caterpillars eat the leaves the toxins build up in their body making them toxic to most vertebrate



Monarch Caterpillar

predators (e.g. birds).

The toxins are then transferred to the butterflies of these caterpillars so they are also poisonous. However, the butterflies of caterpillars raised on non-toxic plants are themselves non-toxic. (Copy and photographs by Debbie Dolby)

**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: Phillip Rowland (07) 32605779  
Secretary: Leah Salo, Mobile 0413 446 665

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**[www.kedronbrook.org.au](http://www.kedronbrook.org.au)**

**“Birds sing  
after a storm;  
why shouldn't people  
feel as free to delight in  
whatever remains to  
them?”**

**(Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy)**

*(Airport Link Project continued from page 1)*

happen, given the alternative scenarios. This side of the study has only recently begun so there are no analyses to show yet, but in light of engineering study it seems there are likely to be few direct health effects from the tunnel.

Newsletters distributed locally have given the initial sites proposed for the chimneys, which vary from some distance from the portals, sometimes camouflaged in buildings, to rising right in the centre of the ramps.

The longer the duct to the chimney the more energy needed to pump the exhaust to it, a long term consideration. Various filtering systems are also being assessed, but we are told the most often touted electrostatic system would end up producing more greenhouse gas to run the filters than it would remove, so a best balance is being sought.

In addition to the air issue the team are studying the construction methodology, including the construction sites and routes for the spoil trucks (which could be up to 200 a day at peak boring times).

Where the spoil goes is another tough question. Keep your eyes open for the Environmental Impact Study soon.

Check out the Airport Link website on <http://www.brisbaneairportlink.com.au/home/default.asp?main=1&page=1> for further details and progress.

*(Robert Standish-White)*



**Rainbow Bee-eater at  
Grange Forest Park**  
*(Robert Standish-White)*

*(Fish Intruders continued from page 1)*

are seeking warmer water and are more visible summing themselves at the surface. Places like the deep pool at the end of Sandy Creek are ideal as a winter hang out because it has water flowing into it that has been warmed by 1 km of an un-shaded concrete channel.

Catchment groups involved in Fish Snapshots should keep in mind that a General Fisheries Permit, available from the DPI & Fisheries, is necessary before anyone can be in possession of a tilapia, dead or alive—hefty fines apply.

Sightings of tilapia in the Kedron Brook should be reported to the DPI & Fisheries or our Catchment Coordinator, Nathan Kirby on phone 3407 0836. as they have been declared noxious under the Fisheries Act. *(Debbie Dolby)*



**Riversymposium Time**

**Dates for your Diary:**

Tuesday August 15 (and October 17)	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch –WPSQ General and Network Meeting</b> Downfall Creek Bushcare Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall 7:30 - 9:30 pm Review of activities and other projects currently underway or planned. The first ever Kedron Brook trivia quiz! Join us for supper after the meeting.
August 21-24	Queensland Landcare Conference Ph: 3211 4413
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>
September 8—10	WPSQ Southern Branches Get-together 2006 See page 2 for further details

***Climate change  
is not a  
prediction, it's  
here now!***

**Kedron Brook Weed Mapping Surveys**  
Brook locations. Full training provided as you enjoy the bushland. Future surveys are planned for Brook Park Sat Sept 16, Arbor St. Park on Saturday Oct 14, and other areas being considered are Kiralee Court, Fairway Outlook, Dintera Ave, Ferny Hills, and the Melaleuca Reserve at Mitchelton. Phone Nathan on 34070836 or visit the website for details.



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

