



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

DECEMBER 2005

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***"First know your weed,
and then you can devise
an efficient method
to control it."***

*(Harry Kleinschmidt et al,
Suburban weeds, DPI,
Queensland 1996)*

Special interest points:

- *Weed Identification Proforma*
- *Lady Mayoress at our Expo!*
- *Kookaburra Icons Laugh.*
- *New Coordinator next year!*
- *Bookkeeper's opportunity to assist Brook Catchment!*



Lone walker exercises her dog in early morning, near Ross Park

Threatening Weeds Project for Kedron Brook

Ten keen members of the Catchment Network met at Kalinga Park, Nundah, to trial the weed survey proforma developed as part of the final stage of the Threatening Weeds Project. (And to celebrate the end of a great year!)

The early morning activity started with a brisk walk through the remnant forest on the northern side of the Brook to identify what weed species were present. From this list, five of the most invasive and threatening weed species were chosen. These included Madeira Vine, Cats Claw Creeper, Ochna, Purple Succulent and Chinese Elm.

Five groups of two were formed and each group mapped the extent of invasion of their

chosen species. They also recorded important information such as; the density and total area of infestation, whether there were seedlings, flowers or juveniles present, and if the infestations were being used as habitat by wildlife and the possible source of infestation.

These details will help us determine the best course of action in managing these species.

The next important part of the program for the morning was to investigate where the road tunnel may be entering Kalinga Park as part of the Transapex Project. (see details below)

The final part of the mornings events included a scrumptious morning tea kindly provided by our industrious leader, Phil Rowland.

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Status of Tunnel Link Planning

As part of the Mayor's "TransApex" initiative, Stage 2 is the "Airport Link", intended to connect from the north end of the North-South Bypass tunnel at Bowen Hills to both the East-West arterial at Toombul and the Gympie Road at Kedron. Both these junctions are likely to have a significant effect on Kedron Brook.

A vital part of the development process, the joint team steering the project has asked for public input and formed Community Liaison Groups to give further reaction as the proposals mature. Vice-President, Robert

Standish-White, represents our branch in one of these groups.

At the western connection at Kedron, there were two options; the "Central" option coming out through the Emergency Services complex across the Brook, and the "Western" option, adjacent the Lutwyche Road. The latter probably would have less effect on the Brook. Consultation undertaken in the initial stages may have had some influence on the

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State of the Brook



The Editor's Bit

Weeds, weeds, weeds!!! The rain has been very welcome, but our recent trial of the weed survey method we have been developing at Kalinga Park really brought home the weed problem in many of our patches of remnant vegetation in the Brook. (see the Balloon Vine to the right!)



Nine key areas of remnant (or native vegetation of habitat value) have been identified in the Brook and these areas have been described, mapped and the key weed species identified. The trial last Sunday was to check out the on-ground identification of the extent of the main weeds and to get that information onto useable maps.

Kylie has done a great job in putting the kit of materials together and the trial showed us some areas where the method could be improved. Plans are in hand to kick off the surveys next year for all nine areas of bushland.

Kylie has completed the mapping of all reported infestations of *Dyschoriste depressa* and a test program to control this weed is underway with Brisbane City Council. Results of the testing will be used to treat all the areas in the Brook (and elsewhere).

As many are aware, BCC is expanding its Catchment Coordinator Program on the north side of Brisbane. The down side of this is that we will be losing Kylie to be full time in Oxley Creek Catchment, but a 3 day per week position has been created for a new

coordinator for Kedron Brook.

Charles Ivin has been heavily involved in the selection process. It is understood that an appointment will be made by early January next year. Thanks for all you have done, Kylie, and enjoy the work with Oxley Creek Catchment Group.

Infrastructure development is putting pressure on some of our remaining open space and vegetation in the catchment. Proposed road tunnels (particularly where they come out and cross the Brook), expansion of the airport as well as other road works are chipping away at the areas we have left.

Robert Standish-White and Malcolm Wade have been active with submissions and letters concerning the proposed tunnels. We'll keep you up to date on what happens next as we move into the formal environmental impact side of the assessment.

Our next meeting will be on 21 February 2006. See you there.

Have a relaxing and peaceful Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Philip Rowland, President

As you stroll eastwards through Kalinga Park you eventually duck under the main northern railway line and enter the nice little Ross Park, with its well-established trees.

If you enter Ross Park by following the bike-way westwards from Toombul Shopping Centre's asphalt desert, the change is truly dramatic. Cool and shady, truly a green oasis for bikers and walkers; for people just needing to refresh their minds and bodies.

We wait with deep concern at the moment to learn whether this important part of the Brook is to be handled with adequate care should the Transapex road tunnel emerge into the middle of this splendid place.

We seem to be gradually losing all the true values of our environment as it gets gradually chipped away to nothing. What price progress for our future generations?

Another assault upon our senses can be seen in Kalinga Park where the remnant eucalypt forest on the northern side is being assailed by numerous weeds that climb, smother, and isolate our native plants.

It's great our current weed project is being given such strong support by Brisbane City Council. There'll be opportunities to share with other volunteers within our network practical and enjoyable activities to improve the quality of our catchment. 2006 should be a progressive year for Brook habitats!

Cheers

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

Snippets

Greening Gardening Expo

Grinstead Park hosted this community event on Sunday 13 November morn. From cycling to recycling it was all there



- The Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman and his wife, Lady Mayoress Lisa, (above) were there singing its praises.
- That wheelbarrow-pushing character from Northey Street Farm.

- Water tanks to shower roses... with water saving hints by the bucket load.
- Free iceblocks—yummy! just the thing on a hot day.
- A Jumping Castle and roving clowns to entertain
- Wildlife featured from feathered tawny frog-mouth to scaly lizards so motionless that you had to look twice to check they were real.
- Brisbane Frog Society and native stingless bees— what a treat!
- Habitat Brisbane display featured Kedron Brook Catchment with



Grinstead Park Bushcare Group—plenty of interest in our photos.

Great turnout and great day and for some lucky residents.... Huge gardening packs!

(Copy and photos by Moira Lowson)

Dyschoriste depressa project

Control of *Dyschoriste depressa* has begun in Tramway St Park-land at Ferny Grove along Cedar Creek, a tributary of the Brook in its upper catchment. Results to follow!

Check our website for details of this weed.

If you would like to report infestations please contact Kylie Withers on 3407 0836 or email: kylie.withers@brisbane.qld.gov.au.

Some Highlights from 2005



November Kalinga Park Weed Survey



Kylie Withers and Robert Standish-White detail location of TransApex tunnels on planning map at October Meeting



Rotary 100 years Tree Planting Celebration at Lutwyche—June



President Philip and Ray Loughrey at Wahminda Grove on Southern Branches Bus Tour, September



Moirra Lowson and Cr. Maureen Hayes with character clown at the Greening Gardens Expo at Grinstead Park — November
(M. Lowson)



Pacific Black Ducks
(Robert Standish-White)

Name that Weed!



Last issue's weed? Yes! The pretty purple flower belonged to the creeping lantana *Lantana montevidensis*.

This issue shows the above environmental weed, that quickly spreads by seed, usually in bird droppings.

It grows into an erect shrub of up to 1.5m height with bright yellow flowers. The fruit is set on a red receptacle surrounded by five red sepals. It changes from green to black when ripe.

This weed forms dense thickets that rapidly takeover native flora yet it supports native wildlife. Care is needed to provide alternative habitats by careful staged weeding and revegetation. (CI)



Lepidoptera Caterpillar
(Debbie Dolby)

Volunteer Wildlife Carers

Volunteer wildlife carers rescue, raise, rehabilitate and release orphaned and injured wildlife. They provide specific intervention when an individual animal is considered unable to survive in the wild without human help.

Young animals may come into care as a result of orphaning after the death of a parent, abandonment or human disturbance of a nest site. Older animals may suffer from an illness that is viral, bacterial, fungal or parasitic in nature.

They may suffer from an injury such as broken bones, head trauma, or entanglement in fishing line. The sole purpose of wildlife care is the release of a fit healthy animal.

Many of the species coming into care are common, and wildlife carers are

sometimes criticised for devoting so much time to species that are already common.

The terms common, endangered, and rare are part of a classification system that allows resource managers to allocate funds in critical areas; it does not refer to the worth of a species or individual animals.

The term 'common' in everyday use has implications of lesser value. This meaning does not transfer to wildlife.

There are indeed good reasons to value species because they are common. Some flock birds are best seen in large numbers, such as some of the parrot species. It is this flock behaviour that makes them so special.

Common animals such as kookaburras



Aussie icon

and kangaroos are icon species, made so because of their widespread visibility. These are the animals the average Australian comes to know well, and to care for. These are the animals that may just trigger a broader ethic of care for the environment and all the species that live in it.

If you would like more information on becoming a wildlife carer, contact Deb by email at d.turnbull@griffith.edu.au or on phone at 3266 1323. (Deb Turnbull)

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

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

**“The simple fact is that
life as we know it depends
completely on series of
interacting food-chains
which have at their
source some plant.”**

C. D. Bricknell, Royal Horticultural
Society Garden, Wisley, England, 1972

(TransApex continued from page 1)

decision by the State and City to settle on the western option.

This chosen route, running largely under Lutwyche Road, had been deemed the less desirable option in the pre-feasibility study due to its higher costs and slightly lower predicted use. Given this preferable outcome, the community should be encouraged to continue and increase their input to the development process.

There also appeared to be better opportunities for urban renewal than on the central route, which had a more exposed and cut-and-cover roadway.

Comments on the terms of reference for the Environmental Impact Study (EIS), the major assessment document for large projects, have to be received by the Coordinator General by 21/12/05.

The consultancy team aims to produce a more performance-based document rather than the regulatory approach applied to the North-South Bypass Tunnel.

Running in parallel and calling for comment concurrently will be the process for the Northern Bus-way section from the Royal Brisbane Hospital to Kedron, as the City tries to coordinate these initiatives.

Detailed consideration of the tunnel and portals will now be moving ahead following consultation with property owners, with a view to the EIS being submitted in August next year. (Robert Standish-White)



Cool Quality Time on Kedron Brook
(Robert Standish-White)

(Weeds Project continued from page 1)

While devouring this repast, we enjoyed discussing the findings from our morning walks and planned ways to improve the weed survey proforma for future surveys.

It is planned to hold weed surveys with Habitat Brisbane groups and the community at eight other sites in the catchment that have suitable “remnant” vegetation. These events will be planned and advertised on the website after the Christmas Break.

A later stage of the project will use all of this information to prioritise possible weed eradication targets together with suitable strategies and procedures for optimum outcomes.

For further information about the project or if you would like to become involved please contact Kylie Withers by e:mail on kylie.withers@brisbane.qld.gov.au or by telephone on 3407 0836. (Kylie Withers)

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday February 26 2006	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
2006	Many activities Weed ID and Control Revegetation Wildlife & Flora Appreciation Education & Consultative Processes Get-togethers Sharing Socials Forums

Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting
Tuesday February 26 at Downfall Ck Bushland Centre

Come and help plan our activities for the year. Find out about the highways, tunnels and other infrastructure developments in the catchment. Get involved in looking after our catchment, sharing your knowledge of weeds and revegetation, and what we can do about them. Light supper provided.

WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY: Person with book-keeping skills, modest spare time, friendly disposition, and a love of environmental habitats to join our Committee as Treasurer.

The Committee, Members and Friends of Kedron Brook Catchment Branch (WPSQ) wish you and yours the very best for this Christmas Season and a safe, healthy and fulfilling New Year.



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

