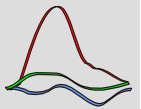




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

## Weed Workshop at Wahminda Grove

December 2006

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**“Habitat destruction and fragmentation is the greatest threat facing native wildlife”**

(Larissa Waters, THECA Forum, Ensuring the Future, 4 Nov 2006)

### Special interest points:

- Urgent need to make submissions about the Airport Link
- Not just a walk but an inspiration!
- THECA does it again
- Schools Program gets the nod and on the way

The workshop, Planning Your Patch—A Guide to Mapping and Prioritising Weeds for Control, was held at Wahminda Park under pleasant sunny conditions on Sunday morning, 19 November.

Our Coordinator, Nathan Kirby, was assisted by Ray and Di Loughrey, from the Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group. The attendees were representative of bushcare groups and from staff of both Pine Rivers Shire and Brisbane City Council.

A detailed presentation and discussions led by Nathan covered the evaluation, management, and reporting of the survey results to catchment, groups, and the relevant



**Nathan Kirby outlines the ground work required to the Weed Mapping Groups**



**Ray and Di Loughrey explain the work sheets to a group at the Workshop.**

local government authorities.

After the gastronomically delightful morning break, four groups were led by experienced leaders around the local bushcare area. The tasks carried out by the people present gave them a realistic example of the procedures used to identify and record priority weeds within selected areas.

The technical aspects connected with fixing weed locations by satellite telemetry and the following computerised mapping procedures received rapt attention.

The resultant data from all these techniques can be used to assist local groups and authorities to budget for human and financial resources necessary for weed control on a priority basis. (C)

## Brisbane Infrastructure Upgrade

Of the various projects due to affect the Kedron Brook, the Airport Link is currently the one requiring the most urgent response. Readers will be aware by now of the portals proposed at Kedron and Toombul that will interact with the Brook.

What is crucial at the moment is for anyone with concerns about the Brook, or indeed any aspect of this enormous piece of infrastructure, to submit their comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

For more information, go to <http://www.airportlinkeis.com/>. An expanded version of this whole article can be seen at

our website link, [http://www.kedronbrook.org.au/News\\_Store/261106A/261106A.html](http://www.kedronbrook.org.au/News_Store/261106A/261106A.html)

The EIS has:

- investigated and assessed potential environmental, social and economic benefits and impacts of Airport Link's construction and operation;
- assisted in the development of the project design, including connections to surface roads and the form and location of ventilation outlets;
- recommended strategies to maximise the benefits and minimise the impacts of Airport Link;

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# State of the Brook

Where did the year go? They say that you have a better holiday if you are really busy as the time gets filled up and you can only remember what you were doing yesterday or the day before, because they are all different. Looks like that's what has happened to 2006!

Thanks to our Kedron Brook Catchment coordinator Nathan's perseverance, we have finished the weed mapping and prioritization project we started last year. It's been quite a job.

The feedback we got from a number of catchment groups across Brisbane who attended our workshop on the 19 November at Ferny Grove indicates it has been very worthwhile. But that's also due to the support we have had from members and bushcare groups within Kedron Brook.

Some of the main outcomes from the project to date are:

- Weed maps for each of the 10 areas of remnant vegetation surveyed,
- Priorities for action for weed control on a catchment basis, and
- A robust method for mapping weeds community involvement.

The next step is preparing some action plans and getting the resources (funds and people) to do the weed control and follow up work required. That will be one of the priorities for next year.



**Chef Robert Standish-White at the Weeds Mapping Workshop**

With the planned infrastructure projects – busways and tunnels – the Branch has been keeping an active watching brief on progress. Robert Standish-White (the Branch Vice-President) has attended a number of meetings and responded to requests for information. We'll be putting in a submission on the environmental impact statement for the tunnels as they will directly impact on the Brook at Kedron and Kalinga.

Our Schools Program is getting underway next year with Anne Ellis and Debbie Dolby working as a team with upper primary classes delivering hands-on education about various aspects of the Brook and its catchment.

We're also progressing with an application to SEQ Catchments for a substantial grant to run a series of projects with landholders, mainly in the upper catchment, to improve vegetation management in priority areas.

*(Continued on page 4)*



# The Editor's Bit

**Hullo again!**

First, an apology to Debbie Dolby in that I wrongly attributed Robert Standish-White as the photographer of her "Native smelts" in the last issue. I'm sure we're all looking forward to more of her creative records soon.

We have now changed our website from OurBrisbane to a new server. We are most grateful for the support given by OurBrisbane staff over the first few years of operation of our website. We understand that it is now time to take over more responsibility for the organisational management necessary to continue to provide this type of service to our members and volunteers.

The ongoing assistance from the management and staff of Brisbane City Council in this regard is most appreciated.

This change provides us with more artistic control of how our site will look on your browsers. But, management of web content may be somewhat less convenient and harder for the lay person to interface with than that of our past system.

I'll indicate, at our next February meeting, measures taken to upgrade our website and how people can contribute. Please make comments, recommendations or if you want to get personally involved. This could include the development of textual and graphic content together with its conversion into the code and magic of what we and the world see on our browsers.

Cheers!

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

## Snippets

### Mulch Success at Benelong

Benelong Park Reserve Bush Care Group have consolidated their patch through strategic spreading of mulch to reduce the rate of weed growth.



**Mick Wilson loads the mulch**

Mick, Denise, and Marilyn, noting the huge pile to be spread, put up a notice for helpers from all the walkers going past. Alas, it was all left to our valiant trio.

Note the close attention to the health and safety of the group, as represented by Coordinator Mick with mask, gloves and hat!

A number of local parents have said they are more comfortable with children using the paths since these bush-land improvements have been made. (Photos and copy by Denise Rivers)



**Welcoming pathway**

### Just a Walk

I recently acquired a new neighbour and, early on, I noticed she often walked along

Kedron Brook. She had a dog so I never thought much about these walks.

She was always friendly and, one day, offered to start taking my border collie along with her. As she would return my dog each day, we would chat and notice her collection of treasures---a bag of rubbish, an old Jim Beam can or some dead cane toads---she was always out working to improve our neighbourhood.

I guess we get used to the habits of those around us; so I wasn't surprised last week when I saw her walking up our street from the brook with a petrol-powered whipper snipper.

She had been clearing the old grass along the fence that borders the access to Kedron

*(Continued on page 4)*

During the Weed Mapping Workshop detailed on page one, opportunity was taken to record the progress obtained by the hard working bushcare group at this location.



In the original developed area behind the local Scout Den, grassy areas merge with well developed eucalypts. Clear pathways link through to Lantina Road (once the path of the old railway that used to link with Dayboro), and also westward to the adjacent Maureen Lawrence Park.



This photograph was taken towards the western end of the bushcare area. It shows the strategic use of *Lomandra* and other native plants close to the Brook.

Lantana and other weeds have been rolled up for removal. Elsewhere, mulching has been used to minimise weed return and conserve soil moisture.



*Waterhousia* blossoms thrive to attract birdlife.

Despite a relatively dry Brook, there were still a number of beautiful pools to enjoy.

Although the Brook is being looked after very well by the local Group, it was sad to see Mother of Millions, Asparagus vine, Ochna, and various other garden misfits adjacent to the access roadway. The sins of the past still haunt us! (CI)



The Umbrella Sedge, *Cyperus involucratus*, was the weed shown in our last issue.

This issue may not contain a top priority weed but it is grown all over Brisbane parks and gardens. It's also in the DPI "Suburban Weeds" list of "Additional weeds of suburban bushland, parks and beaches".

Quite a lovely tree in the spring, with beautiful yellow flowers that are often mistaken as being those from a more common genus in our SE Queensland area. The seeds are very characteristic and, together with the obvious leaf structure, shouldn't give you too much of a headache to determine its I.D. (CI)

(Brisbane Ultrastructure continued from page 1)

- included consultation with key stakeholders, including residents, businesses, community members & property owners.

The EIS is now available for public review and written submissions are invited until close of business on **Friday 8 December 2006** and should be addressed to:  
The Coordinator-General  
Attn.: Airport Link EIS Project Manager  
PO Box 15009  
CITY EAST BRISBANE QLD 4002

There has been a range of public meetings, protests and pamphlets circulated in reaction to the proposed new tunnel, with residents to be most affected near the portals particularly concerned. Resumptions and the siting of the huge vents have raised special ire.

The "sister" project to the Airport Link, the

Northern Busway between Royal Children's Hospital (Herston) and Kedron is a little further along the formal process; submissions on the draft Concept Design and Impact Management Plan (CDIMP) having now closed.

TransLink is now reviewing submissions and will submit the final CDIMP to the Queensland Government for approval in early 2007. For further information go to <http://www.translink.com.au/northernbusway>.

The next project that should be examined and commented on is the New Parallel Runway project adjacent to the lower reaches of the Brook. Before the project can proceed, BAC must first prepare and submit to the community for comment, and then submit to the Australian Government, an assessment of the expected economic, social and environmental impacts of the project.

The New Parallel Run project activates two major pieces of Commonwealth legislation – the *Airports Act 1996* (Airports Act) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). BAC must develop a Major Development Plan (MDP) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for presentation to the public. The approved project proposal has been put forward as a combined Draft EIS/MDP.

This Draft EIS/MDP will be on public display up till Tuesday 6 February 2007, during which time BAC invites written comment on the document and the project from any interested person or party. For more information and formatting of submissions see <http://www.newparallelrunway.com.au>.

(Robert Standish-White)

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

**We're on the web!**

**www.kedronbrook.org.au**

**"In science, the credit  
goes to the man who  
convinces the world,  
not to the man to who  
the idea first occurs."**

(Francis Darwin, 1914)

**Dates for your Diary:**

Wednesday December 6	WPSQ Head Office Crew C'Mas Party Branch Members. Join the fun! At 5 pm. Level 1, William St Brisbane City. RSVP Doreen Payne 3221 0194 by Fri 1st.
Sunday December 10	Get Wild! Family Environment Day. 10 am -2 pm Seventh Brigade Park, Cherside Cnr Newman Rd & Delaware St. Contact Anna Grieg 3407 0836 for further details.
Tuesday February 20	<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. Join us for supper after the meeting.



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



*(Snippets continued from page 2)*

Brook from our street to make it safe and more pleasant for those using the path.

It was then that I realised she never just took a walk. Everyday she ventured out, she did something for her neighbour, her community and the Brook. She has an infectious enthusiasm which is spreading- we can certainly see it here on my street.  
(Leah Salo)

**The Start of our New Tunnel??**

It could be seen downstream from where a tunnel is to be expected, this monster (up right) was just waiting for the right mechanic to get it going again... then, it'll be used to carry out routine weed dredging along Lutwyche Reach. (Leah Salo)

*(State of the Brook continued from page 2)*

A big thanks to all who have been involved with the Branch this year. We've fortunate to have such skilled and dedicated people working for the catchment.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 20 February 2007 at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre. Look out for the first Babbler in 2007, it will tell you all about it. A number of activities will be happening between now and then, so if you have any issues you would like to raise, or find out more about what is going on, please get in touch.

Have a great Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. See you in 2007.

Philip Rowland



**Lutwyche Weed Dredger** (Leah Salo)

**THECA Ensuring the Future Forum**

This consisted, as expected of THECA, of well-selected people from the various government authorities, environmental organisations, and related groups. Outlining, detailing, discussing, arguing and summarising the difficult subject of biodiversity protection and sustainability.

How do we find a satisfactory compromise that doesn't jeopardise our wildlife habitat and yet meet the needs for human habitat?



**Bryan and Jenny Hacker serve Annette Hill at the THECA Forum Native Plant sale.**

Dawn Muir and her team enthusiastically provided the creature comforts, fine food, great displays, and interesting book sales. Even then, I had time to purchase some bargain quality native plants as shown above. (CI)



**We wish you and yours  
a safe and merry  
Festive Season  
and a  
Happy New Year**

**WANTED: Person with book-keeping skills, friendly disposition, modest spare time, and a love of environment, to join our committee as Treasurer. Contact as above.**