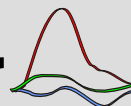




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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 2007

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"The dwindling band of ancient trees still living in the sight of our major cities is emblematic of our near-total destruction of the natural landscape"

(Bob Beale, Bulletin Dec. 7, 2007, pp. 44-47)

Special interest points:

- *Restoring Corridors works!*
- *Pine Rivers Bushcare Groups meet at Wahminda*
- *Invasion by bird-dispersed weeds should be controlled*
- *Bird surveys possible in January 2008*

The *Restoring Corridors in Kedron Brook* project was officially launched at Arbor St Park on October 14. The day was a huge success with around 70 people attending.

In addition to the launch, members of Men of Trees and other bushcare volunteers completed the revegetation of the parkland. Art craft activities and a session from Geckoes Wildlife Presentations were appreciated.

The *Restoring Corridors* project provides assistance to landholders and community groups wishing to undertake projects that protect and restore biodiversity in the Kedron Brook catchment.

To be eligible for assistance the property of the proposed works needs to contain either significant native vegetation, be adjacent to a waterway or be part of an ecological wildlife corridor.

Over 30 expressions of interest have been received from landholders and community groups, mainly focussed in the upper catchment areas of Cedar Creek and



Robert Standish-White, John Jordaan (Ferny Grove) and Tony McKew (SEQ Catchments) at Arbor St Park (N Kirby)

meeting planned for late January to determine suitable projects and levels of funding.

Restoring Corridors is a project of the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch with funding from SEQ Catchments, the regional natural resource management body for South East Queensland.



Seeanna Leslie and Zoe Hayes painting at Arbor St.

(NKirby)

Frog Workshop Prompts Further Surveys

We had a good gathering at the Frog Workshop on Wednesday evening with about 17 participants attending. Adrian Caneris delivered an interesting and informative session on the species known to frequent Kedron Brook.

Survey protocols, suitable equipment and safety issues were also discussed. The highlight of the night though, we thought, was the practical field component.

Even though Frog Gully at Grinstead Park was dry and there had been no rain for a couple of weeks, the Common Green Treefrog



Debbie Dolby assists Adrian Caneris at the Frog Workshop

(*Litoria caerulea*) was spotted at the entrance of a hole in a large gum tree.. Three Tusked Frogs (*Adelotus brevis*) were heard calling from Kedron Brook. Tusked frogs are listed as vulnerable and are known to be in decline having disappeared from many former habitats.

Two Long-finned Eels (*Anguilla reinhardtii*) and an Eel Tailed Catfish (*Tandanus tandanus*) were also seen at the Sandy Creek junction with Kedron Brook.

Over December and into the New Year, we will be organizing surveys targeting specific habitats along Kedron Brook. If anyone would like to attend one of these surveys please

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It seems to me that September or October is really New Year in this part of the world - all those buds and blossoms that transform our woodlands and parks after the dry reaches of winter have passed.



Mangroves flowering near Toombul Shopping Centre
(Robert Standish-White)

So when Christmas comes, with its promise of rain, seeds are awaiting and the promise of new life is made real. I certainly

look forward to such regeneration with considerably more enthusiasm than joining in the annual orgy of over-consumption that retail outlets encourage us to indulge in.

Talking of things new, we now have a change in federal government, with several locals at the helm. We wish them every success and look forward to seeing some really meaningful moves made towards sustainability.

I think the size of the swing should indicate that while people obviously would like to retain economic prosperity, there is deep concern about the other two bottom lines. We cannot wait for the promise of possible new technologies and for others to do what

we should have done long ago - Australia should be using its wealth and privilege to forge a new path.

We should foster and export ideas and skills, not rely just on iron ore. Sustainability can only take root alongside social equity, otherwise nature will continue to be abused in the jostling.

Off the soapbox, and into the creek! Even the few showers we have had resulted a modicum of flow that cleared some of the winter smells and sediments in the Brook. Warmer weather has seen a great increase in insect activity, both welcome ones like the butterflies and less so with the mosquitoes.

While this has been good news for the swallows, wrens and willie wagtails, there has not yet been a significant chorus line of frogs lining up to be recorded on our new survey project. We now have new frog-call monitoring equipment and, given the opportunity, Debbie Dolby and any keen volunteers will be out there collecting more valuable data.

That continues to be a vital exercise in our support of fauna in the catchment - information is almost the only way

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No rest for the wicked as we rush pell-mell into the festive season. But plenty of fun, enjoyment, and achievement amongst it all.

In our Snippets section, the Year Fives of Ferny Grove State School put on a good show but were beaten by a great effort from Holland Park. It was most thoughtful that the prize actually led to that winning group becoming the donor of a freshwater supply to a needy community in Madagascar.

The Pine Rivers Bushcare BBQ Breakfast was another friendly caring function but this time with the councillors thanking the volunteers for the tremendous effort they had put into their Group's activities. Our two most western bushcare groups, Brook Park and Wahminda Grove certainly achieved heaps this year with their weeding and revegetation.

It's also timely for me to personally thank those contributors who, over this year, assisted with copy and marvellous graphics for our Newsletters and our website.

The latter has finally been converted from its original structure to a more easily maintained and flexible format. You'll note the changes in the main left-hand navigation bar that more aptly reflect our new projects and interests. It's not all complete but... Groups should check their individual section page (s) to ensure they're up to date. I'm certainly keen to work with them to make their pages bright and informative about their patch!

Cheers and a safe, healthy, happy 2008!
Charles Ivin, 'news@kedronbrook.org.au'

Snippets

Ferny Grove Catchment Kids

Friday 30th November saw the inaugural Catchment Kids event at City Hall. The event was the culmination of six months preparation between nine schools across the city, Brisbane City Council Catchment Coordinators and the Brisbane Catchment Network.



Grove Primary Performs Well

Each school presented a range of performances on waterways and ways of looking after our environment. The Kedron Brook Catchment was represented by the Year Five's

from Ferny Grove Primary School. The students presented a video diary of the Cedar Creek catchment and the issues influencing it.

Holland Park State School were winners of the Lord Mayors Cup and took out the major prize, which was the donation of a freshwater supply to a village in Madagascar. Well done to all involved!

(Nathan Kirby)

Pine Rivers Bushcare Christmas Get-together

Pine Rivers Shire Deputy Mayor Cr Brian Battersby and Cr Chris Monsour welcomed a representative group of Bushcare Volunteers at the Celebration BBQ Breakfast held at Wahminda Park, Ferny Hills on Saturday 1 December.

After a typical Oz Breakie served by



Cr Chris Monsour and helper, Bushcare Officer Adam Christison and Cr Brian Battersby award prizes at the BBQ Breakfast, Wahminda Park

Keperra (Golden Valley) Lions Club, Group leader Ray Loughrey and wife Di led keen volunteers to see the excellent progress with revegetation being obtained by the Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group.

(Continued on page 4)

Progress with Urban Infrastructure

Not many of us will have been amongst the favoured 4000 invited to view the monster in it's den, otherwise known as the tunnel boring machine with its 12 m diameter head that will be gnashing its way under the Brisbane River. The infrastructure required to deal with the machine, the spoil, and the staff looks like a whole town centre in itself.

For some this is exciting, the bold energies of progress; for others there are a myriad of concerns as to where we are going. Similar situations are in store with the Airport Link.

We attended the next Gateway Duplication meeting for environmental groups, and were impressed by both the rate of construction and the efforts being made to keep within the environmental guidelines imposed. In one instance the crews got to employ their spill containment kits in an unrelated accident south of the river.

The northern busway is also pushing ahead, with a consortium to undertake it agreed.

We also attended the West Brisbane Transport Network Investigation (WBTNI) meeting, still in it's early days as the parameters and methods for this wide-ranging study are established.

We note in our next door catchment that the Hamilton Road link proceeds apace, with the fauna bridge well in hand. Hopefully, the adjacent bushland will recover quickly from the massive scaring



Hamilton Road link across Raven Street Reserve

(Robert Standish-White)

caused by the road-works expansion.

For links to update on our various catchment projects, try:

Brisbane Airport New Parallel Runway - <http://www.newparallelrunway.com.au>

Gateway Upgrade - <http://www.gatewayupgradeproject.com.au/>

Airport Link - <http://www.airportlinkeis.com/>

Northern Busway - <http://www.translink.com.au/northernbusway#new>

WBTNI - <http://www.wbtни.net.au/>

(R Standish-White)

Learn that Weed!



Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)

This well known weed is a biennial plant, and grows to 1.5 m with spiny green leaves that are white-furry on the underside. The flower heads are also spiny, with a tuft of purple florets.

When mature, the mass of flower seeds swell, each connected to tiny white feathery bristles. The seeds then may be carried away in the wind as if on tiny parachutes consequentially reaching some nice fertile spot to allow the further spread of the weed.

Though not on our Qld Herbarium Invasive Naturalised List of Weeds, it poses a pastoral problem and spreads easily.

It is often incorrectly called the Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), that is not normally seen in Queensland. (CI)

Birds and Weeds

Birds have been spicing up our weeding activities around Grinstead Park lately.

While the Grinstead Park Bushcare Group were removing Maderia Vine in Frog Gully in anticipation for frog breeding season, a juvenile boobook owl was seen sitting in the tree near where we working.

Mother Boobook (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) was found to be sitting a little higher and keeping a close eye on us. A little later, after a quick couple of photos and removal of some more Maderia Vine, another juvenile was seen sitting on a branch lower than its sibling.

During the night these owls are responsible for the familiar call "more-pork" hence their other common name Mopoke.

A couple of Channel-billed Cuckoos

(*Scythrops novaehollandiae*) were quite raucous from high in a gum tree bordering Grinstead Park. These large predominantly grey birds have arrived recently from the north.

While they are here the females will lay their eggs usually in currawong and crow nests, allowing the nest owner to incubate the eggs and raise the Channel-bill cuckoo offspring. They will then depart in March returning north.

Unlike other cuckoos, the Channel-bill female will lay more than one egg in the same nest. The chicks therefore don't have the instincts to empty the host nest of other eggs and hatchlings as do other cuckoo chicks.

Our Branch has been exploring the



Mother boobook owl guards her offspring at Grinstead Park (Neil White)

possibility of conducting some surveys of bird life along the Brook, spaced over next year so that the effects of season and migration habits can be accommodated. Survey techniques would be based upon those of Birds Queensland and their qualified support would assist our own volunteers. (DD)

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www.kedronbrook.org.au

*" The discovery of the Wollemi
Pine was the botanical
equivalent of finding
a living dinosaur"*

*(Bob Beale, Bulletin, Dec. 4, 2007,
pp44-47)*



**Ray and
Di
Loughrey
at the
Pine
Rivers
BBQ**



**Robert Taylor, Anna Grieg and
Phillip Rowland enjoy the wine
and nibbles before the talk by
Dr Vivian-Smith on Nov. 20**

(Continued Snippets from page 2)

Invasion by bird-dispersed weeds

Dr Gabrielle Vivian-Smith presented her talk about the research project on 'Ecological management and restoration following invasion by bird-dispersed weeds' at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre on November 20.

She highlighted the importance of selection of replacement plants most likely to provide the support to resident fruit-eating birds. Incremental weed removal needed to be staged to ensure there was time for the new plants to mature and produce fruit. Birds are very adept at dispersing seeds of favoured native food plants to weedy sites.

This was a highly successful combined meeting between the Northern Catchments Network (BCC) and Kedron Brook Catchment Network. (CI)



**Lone walker
looks vainly
for water in
the Brook
near
extensive
revegetation
plots tended
by the
Wahminda
Grove Bush-
care Group**



(Continued State of the Brook from page 2)

species can begin to receive any recognition let alone protection. Otherwise they virtually do not exist, and development does not need to take any heed of them.

So join us in the New Year in getting to know our catchment better, and in the meanwhile have a safe and merry festive season!

Robert Standish-White
President

(Continued Frog Workshop from page 1)

register your interest either on the Kedron Brook website or by phoning me on 3355 4134. As you can appreciate the surveys will be of an opportunistic nature and therefore often only short notice can be given.

Looking forward to a prosperous frogging season,

Debbie Dolby.



**Meadow Argus
butterfly
(Junonia villida)
rests on the
grass
(Debbie Dolby)**

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday February 19	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch & Network Planning Meeting Tuesday, February 19th, 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Watch our website home page for further details in the New Year. The usual friendly social supper to finish off.
In 2008 anticipate...	A Birding Survey with Birds Queensland late January with a few more through the year. Frog surveys once the rains (?) return. Consolidation of Restoring Corridors Project. Down at Your Creek Education project follow-up. Mitchelton Art and Sculpture Project early in 2008. Bus Tour in May. Sociable, inclusive, interesting meetings.



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

