



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

FEBRUARY 2006

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"The miracle is not to fly in the air, or walk on the water, but to walk on the earth"
(Chinese proverb)

Special interest points:

- Our new Secretary!
- Our new Catchment Coordinator!
- Moreton Bay under threat.
- Native fish species defined
- Details of special Weed and Wildlife Workshops

Fish Snapshot March 2006 Program

The Kedron Brook Catchment Network will team up with local Habitat Brisbane groups during March to undertake the annual survey of fish species on Kedron Brook for the fourth consecutive year. This fish snapshot provides information on the species of fish (and other species) present in the Brook and their abundance.

A standardised procedure developed by the University of Queensland will be used at the survey sites, allowing the information collected to be interpreted so as to give an indication of how healthy the stream is in each particular location.

To introduce our native fish, we have Adrian Dawson, President of the Australian and New Guinea Fishes Association coming to our next meeting on Tuesday 21 February, at the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, Rode Road, McDowall.

Adrian has a keen interest in things aquatic and considerable knowledge of fresh water fish in northern Australia. Adrian will introduce us, with over one hundred pictures, to the diversity of freshwater fish and their habitats in Northern Australia.

It will be a great opportunity to see and learn about the wonderful array of freshwater fish we still have in some of our streams and rivers.



Afternoon shadows at Kalinga Park

Anyone interested in participating in our Fish Snapshot activities would find it very worthwhile attending. If you would like to assist with undertaking this year's survey, the dates for the upcoming activities are in March as follows:

Sat 11 Dawson Parade, Arana Hills (Arana Hills Football Club) 10:30 am

Sat 18 Lutwyche Reach, Cnr Swinburne and Brook St, Lutwyche 10 am

Details for Mitchelton, at the Pony Club, McConaghy St, Mitchelton, and at Kalinga

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New Catchment Coordinator, Nathan Kirby

A combined Catchment Group - Brisbane City Council Committee selected Nathan Kirby to join the BCC team of catchment coordinators in December, specifically to work with Kedron Brook Catchment groups.

Nathan (photo right) brings about 10 years experience in the Natural Resource Management. He originally worked with catchment group, SOWN, then progressed to work with the Pine Rivers Catchment Association, initially as a River Rehabilitation Officer and later as the Catchment Coordinator. He spent 3 years with Pine Rivers. He then moved to

the Caloundra City Council as the Conservation Areas Team Leader, Community Group Support, in January, 2004, primarily responsible for the support of twenty community and catchment groups.



He will be well versed in working in and with the vibrant catchment of Kedron Brook.
(Pat Bourke)

State of the Brook



The Editor's Bit

The way things are shaping up; we're in for a great year in the Brook. But first, a few changes.

Kylie Withers, our Catchment Coordinator for the past year, has consolidated her work load and now works full time in the Oxley Creek Catchment. Kylie did a great job while with us. Many of the projects she did covered a lot of the ground work for the program we have organized for this year. Thanks, Kylie and all the best in Oxley.

Brisbane City Council is looking after us though and has provided a position for a part time catchment coordinator (3 days per week) for Kedron Brook. Charles Ivin put in a lot of time on the selection panel that chose Nathan Kirby for the position.

Nathan comes to us with a lot of experience (see page 1 for details) and has already got his teeth into our catchment projects (so to speak). We're looking forward to working with Nathan who will be based at the BCC administration centre at Chermiside.

Our super-organised and efficient secretary, Malcolm Wade, has decided to commit more of his time to his role as Vice President (Policy and Campaigns) with WPSQ and consequently has resigned.

Fortunately, Leah Salo, who lived in the catchment several years ago, has returned from working interstate and



Nathan Kirby, Philip Rowland, and Leah Salo, on a recent tour of the Brook Catchment at Kalinga Park

has enthusiastically stepped into this role. Leah brings considerable administrative skills which she will need to keep the organisation operational, particularly while I'm President.

Anyway, the key projects we're getting underway are the Fish Snapshot surveys in March and the weed survey project which Nathan will be leading.

We are privileged to have Adrian Dawson, President of the Australian and New Guinea Fishes Association, coming to our next meeting on TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre at 7:30 pm.

Adrian has a keen interest and considerable knowledge of freshwater fish in northern Australia. He'll be introducing us, through a special visual

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In January, I had an opportunity to undergo a morning tour up the Brook with President Philip, new Branch Secretary Leah, and Coordinator Nathan. Despite our water supply dams being low, we've had plenty of local rainfall and the Brook looked green and pretty with good water flow.

Unfortunately, the weeds also benefit under these conditions. Not so nice to see walls of grasses and weed flourishing, particularly where it is harder to access and maintain reasonable overall control of vegetation.

Both Nathan and Leah are very experienced within their positions and we found both to be friendly and approachable as well as worldly wise. They are both looking forward to meeting as many of our group members and volunteers as possible so they can better meet the needs of our Catchment.

I'm also looking forward to meeting lots of people at the Fish Snapshot surveys and the Weed Project surveys. These two activities will provide real outcomes that help meet the needs of environmental researchers, natural resource managers and local authorities.

They also provide opportunities to attract new people who want to do something to ensure proper attention is given to our local environment in the Brook Catchment.

Oh! Any updates required on bushcare group website pages? Please advise if necessary.

Cheers

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

Snippets

When will THEY learn?

Moreton Bay Marine Park is a rich tapestry of islands, beaches, reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds. The Bay's internationally significant wetlands and other habitats provide homes for a myriad of animals and plants including whales, dolphins, dugongs, sea birds, sharks, rays, crabs and fish.

Sadly, Moreton Bay is under threat. Too much fishing, pollution and habitat loss is robbing the Bay of its wildlife and threatening its health and future.

It is shameful that less than 1% of our world-class Moreton Bay Marine Park is protected from fishing and other extractive uses. Marine scientists recommend that we fully protect 20-50% of all

marine habitats in 'green zones' if we are to guarantee the health of our precious oceans.

Australian Marine Conservation Society can be contacted through the link: <http://www.amcs.org.au/>

New Secretary Leah Salo

Leah Salo has been interested in Kedron Brook since she first arrived in Brisbane six years ago. Leah has been a regular reader of the Babbler for some time and when a new position on the Branch Executive came up she was keen to volunteer.

Leah is new to environmental work but is enthusiastic and eager to learn. Leah will bring a number of administrative and organisational skills and a long

history of work with a diverse range of volunteer organisations, from providing advice to newly diagnosed cancer patients to organising motor-sport activities.

Originally from Southern California Leah moved to Australia over ten years ago, finally settling in Brisbane. She recently moved back to Brisbane after several years working for the Commonwealth in Canberra and joins our Branch as its Secretary.

Welcome, Leah!

(LS/CI)



Secretary Leah Salo

Pest Management Plans and Weeds

Pests, plants and animals cost Queenslanders more than \$600 million each year in losses to agricultural production alone. In Brisbane, pests are the number one threat to our biodiversity after land clearing. They also affect our nature-based recreation, the tourist industry, and can cause respiratory and skin irritations.

Under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002, local governments must prepare a Pest Management Plan that is approved by the state government and complies with the Act.

The Brisbane Local Government Area Pest Management Plan 2005-2009 was prepared in 2005, the draft plan viewed by the public, submissions made to improve it, and it was submitted for state governments approval in June 2005. The Plan is a living document as it must be reviewed every year.

A draft of this plan is viewable on the BCC website with other useful data at http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:S TANDARD:595595224:pc=PC_696

Amongst other things, this plan details the strategies and procedures in relation to the control of weeds in the Brisbane area.

The Brisbane City Council spends more than \$2.2 million each year on weed management in our natural areas,

parks, waterways and reserves.

The Council manages and controls the introduction and spread of weeds by:

- conducting surveys throughout Brisbane to identify and locate weed infestations
- advising land-holders on eradication methods
- instructing land-owners to eradicate weeds as part of the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002
- clearing and managing the spread of declared, noxious and environmental weeds on Council managed lands.

Grants, budgets and projects all require specific details on costs, required resources and expected outcomes before they can be approved.

It is within the above context, that our Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network will be working with Nathan Kirby, our Coordinator, to obtain specific information on significant weed distributions along the Brook. The data will then be used to prioritise the various actions necessary to obtain the greatest good from the funds available.

Our next meeting on February 21 will be our opportunity to influence just how we carry out this project. Most of the

Name that Weed!



Ochna (*ochna serrulate*) was our last issue's weed. It's sometimes called the Mickey Mouse Plant because of the shape and colouring of its fruit. A serious environmental weed.

The photo above of a typical small tree shows another weed with characteristic brown pods, oblong, flat, up to 18 cm long and 2 cm wide. The flowers are yellow or pale green, in dense, wattle-like heads about 1 cm across.

The leaves are finely divided, feather-like, dark green, with many pairs of oblong leaflets.

They are too common along the banks of the Brook . (CI)

survey procedures will need to be based on BCC methodology to ensure consistency of approach. Existing survey tools will be reviewed at this meeting.

(CI)

Fire Ant Control depends upon Community Vigilance

Australia is wining the war against red imported fire ants *but the campaign is far from over* in the remaining areas around Brisbane.

Wide-scale treatments have decreased the total area down to about five per cent of the initial restricted area of 49 000 hectares. Now, we are down to finding every last, isolated fire ant nest—wherever it may be hiding—and killing the queen.

About 56 colonies remained in that 1,000 hectare remnant infested area. All of the colonies outside this area have been destroyed, and one extra season of bait treatment in 2005/6 on all properties within the remaining infested area will kill the residual infestations.

The strategy is to throw a big enough

cordon around the last few nests to ensure they are baited and to kill any discovered recent natural spread events as soon as possible.



A 5 mm fire ant (DPI)

Now the challenge for the Program and South East Queenslanders is to work together to locate every remaining infestation.

To achieve eradication we are more and more reliant on the general public's sustained vigilance. One missed viable nest carries within it the potential to undo all the work of the Program to date.

Last year, three Fire Ant Control Centre scientific staff flew to recently-infested Taiwan to conduct key research into control measures against active fire ants. (This can no longer be done at Brisbane due to the few nests remaining there.)

They examined the use and design of in-ground traps and above ground lures to locate fire ants, the validation of current surveillance methods, as well as the research of the speed with which fire ant bait affects the egg-laying capacity of queen fire ants.



Fire ants strike! (DPI)

Check out the DPIF website at <http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/fireants/> (DPI)

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

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

**“Anything that
contradicts experience
or logic should be
abandoned.”**

(The Little Book of Buddhism, His
Holiness the Dalai Lama)

Fish Snapshot continued from page 1)

Park, Toombul Terrace Footbridge, will be given on our website once finalised.

Teachers and Students of Ferny Grove State High School will also be doing their usual survey during March.

For more information contact Nathan Kirby on 3407 0836 or by email at Nathan.Kirby@brisbane.qld.gov.au.

From the four years of surveys in the Kedron Brook, the major findings show the positive relationship between native stream-bank vegetation and the presence of native fish.

Introduced fish species such as Mosquito fish, *Gambusia*, and Swordtails, tend to dominate in more disturbed areas with less native vegetation.

Flow rate and stream depths have also been determined to be critical factors influencing the distribution of individual species.

Introduced species are more tolerant of conditions such as stagnant, shallow pools. Native species, on the other hand, require flowing water, clear of sediment, with relatively high levels of dissolved oxygen.

These findings reinforce the value of the revegetation and weed control work being undertaken by many groups both along Kedron Brook and across the city. In time, this re-established native vegetation will assist to tip the balance back towards our native fish species.

(Nathan Kirby)



Wave patterns over sand, Nudgee

(Robert Standish-White)

(State of the Brook continued from page 2)

display of freshwater fish, to typical species and their habitat from Kedron Brook Catchment to the Kimberleys.

It will be a great opportunity to see and learn about the wonderful array of freshwater fish in the streams and rivers of Northern Australia. Anyone interested in participating in our Fish Snapshot activities would find it very worthwhile attending.

Development activities, both large (airport, road tunnels) and small (housing developments, road widening) are major threats to some areas of habitat in our catchment and are of particular interest to our members. We started work on a number of key issues last year and we will continue our involvement. Please let me know if you want to be involved.

Hope to see you on 21 February.

Philip Rowland, President

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday February 21 & April 18	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting Tuesday Feb. 21, Downfall Ck Bushland Centre, 7:30 pm
Sunday March 5	Weed Forum. Griffith University EcoCentre Ring (07) 3403 8888 or check our website.	Meet our new Catchment Coordinator, Nathan Kirby, and new Secretary, Leah Salo. Catch up on the latest activities. Guest Speaker Adrian Dawson, President of the Australian and New Guinea Fishes Association, presents visual display on freshwater fish from Kedron Brook to the North! Light supper provided.
February — May	BCC Wildwatch Workshops - Community Wildlife Survey Program to cover marsupials, frogs, reptiles, birds, freshwater fish	Brisbane City Council Wildwatch Workshops —This invitation is extended to all Habitat Brisbane members. Catchment groups may also participate in the fish surveys.
August 21-24	2006 Landcare Conference <i>Bridging the urban rural divide</i> . Contact Samantha Morris on 07 3211 4413 or email sam@landcare.com.au	For an electronic copy of the calendar and invitation, please contact Kristy Buchanan on 3403 6075 or by email to kristy.buchanan@brisbane.qld.gov.au



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support by Brisbane City Council**

