



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

June 2006

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“Loss of native vegetation means the loss of habitat for our wildlife”

(WPSQ Report A Case for Protecting our Bushland, Malcolm Wade, 2006)

Special interest points:

- Ferny Grove catches up on butterflies
- Education Employment Opportunity
- 2006 Annual General Meeting of KBCB
- Native fish love Kalinga Park

Civil Construction Issues Confront the Brook!

Official news on the Airport Link has been thin in the last month. Council has been publicising the proposed busways instead.

We know the Environmental Impact Study is under way, but have otherwise had to rely on previously issued timetables of intent. We hope to soon have some indication of the proposed location and stature of the ventilation stacks from the tunnel.

While all may have been quiet on the proponents' front various opponents have been mustering their forces. Tristan Peach and Communities against the Tunnels (CATT) have held public protests.

The Kalinga Community Group has been formed to raise concern about the effects of the proposed portal at Toombul. They have conducted a postal survey and will have held a public meeting on Sunday 4th June by the time this issue goes out.

While most citizens agree that the transport scenario needs improving, many are not convinced that the tunnels are the solution. The major disruption at the portals and the long term effects of the unfiltered exhaust from the stacks seem to be major issues, along with the likely depreciation in property values.

Weed Mapping Project

The Kedron Brook Weed Mapping and Remnant Vegetation Assessment project is now well and truly underway with four surveys now complete and another three scheduled for June and July.

At each survey day volunteers have collected information on the distribution and density of individual weed species and assessed the health of the remnant vegetation at the site.

Volunteers have tested their skills in a variety of areas such as map reading, weed identification and the use of Global Position Systems (GPS). This information will provide valuable information for managing these areas in the coming years.



Urban Forest helps to maintain biodiversity.
(C Ivin)

The tenders for the Gateway Duplication project have been submitted and the successful tenderer will be announced in September 2006.

It will be interesting to see what measures the successful tenderer comes up with for impacts on Kedron Brook and the wetlands adjoining it both during construction and when the roadway is operational.

(Robert Standish-White)

Review of the Integrated Planning Act 1997

To find how and why you should support changes to this legislation to help preserve our environment, use link www.wildlife.org.au/issues.html, or ring (07) 3221 0194.

The dates for the coming surveys are

- Sun June 18, Mercer Park, Benelong St, Kedron at 7:30am
- Sun July 2, Sparkes Hill Reserve, Longland St, Stafford at 8:30am
- Sun July 16, Grange Forest Park, Blandford St, Alderley, at 8:30am



Sparkes Hill Group

(Continued on page 4)



I would have thought that the Kedron Brook catchment had sustained all the development it could. But the number of new infrastructure projects that impact on the Brook continues to grow.

The one change has been that several of the proponents of these projects and their consultants have actively sought our involvement in the planning of these projects. This is the area where we probably have the biggest impact.

Robert Standish-White and Malcolm Wade have been active in working on the Gateway Upgrade Project that will see another major roadway across the lower part of the Brook. Robert has also been active on the consultative committee for the proposed northern tunnels and busway. Consultants from this project met with us before our last Branch meeting in April.

While we're not about opposing these projects outright, what I'm hoping we can achieve is a project that is more sensitive to the open space, flora and fauna of the catchment, and that will provide some benefits to the Brook in other ways. I know that other Branch members have also been lobbying behind the scenes on other issues, including the now-abandoned proposal for a car park at Shaw Road Sports.

The weed survey project continues and is gaining momentum. I've only participated in a couple of surveys, but I have found them very helpful in learning about weeds and in



Nathan Kirby checks out survey procedures with Fleur Sanderson and Rob Robbie at Sparkes Hill

discovering new areas of Brook. I would encourage anyone to get involved – you don't have to be a botanist!

Nathan Kirby, our catchment coordinator, has been doing a great job with this project and has even got some publicity about the project in the local newspaper a couple of times. Check out the web site or the back page for details of coming survey days.

Our next meeting on the 20 June at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre at 7:30pm on Rode Road is also our Annual General Meeting. At the meeting you'll find out about the variety of activities we are involved in, as well as having the opportunity to have your say on what's important to you in the Brook.

You won't end up with a job (unless you put your hand up). I'm sure you will find it an interesting time and don't forget to join us for supper. All are welcome.

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Hullo again

Wow! Hasn't this half year gone fast... or is that just a senior citizen wondering? (Our seven year old grand-daughter seems to think a day is almost a year, especially if her Birthday is 24 hours away!). Anyhow, lots of activity in our KBC Branch and Network. makes the pace a little fast and furious.

My wife, Jenny, and I shared a nice, fine but crisp, morning with our catchment coordinator, Nathan, and host Rob Robbie, on the "steppes" of Sparkes Hill in the middle of May. We became part of a nice friendly group of people, all rearing to go in our Weed Mapping activity.

None of us were dodos, but at the end, we all agreed we had learnt more about the weeds menacing our forest remnants from each other, but particularly through Nathan's personal guidance and system of recording.

I'm looking forward to catching up with old and new friends at our meeting on the 20 June. I'd like to discuss with Group leaders and members what updates and improvements I can help them to make on their group section pages of our website.

Many people look at our website and it's important that we keep it in tune with what network people want it to be. As important, we'd like it to be what our visitors and potential volunteers would like it to be.

Off the soapbox till next issue!

Cheers

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

Snippets

Planning for the future of the catchment.

At the last KBCN meeting, group members put on their thinking caps to brainstorm the threats to the health of the natural assets of the Kedron Brook catchment. The key assets examined were biodiversity; water, waterways and wetlands, and social capital.

Biodiversity refers to ecosystems and species, the water theme to all things aquatic, the social capital theme recognises that humans, while being the cause of most of the issues, are also essential in solving the problems we have caused!

We worked in small groups to list the key threats and to identify the actions



View west of Toombul Terrace Bridge on the Brook (no string-rays this day) (C1)

required to address these threats.

A future meeting will be planned to take the results of this initial session, develop the outcomes and prioritise necessary key actions to meet each locations' requirements. (NK)

Too late for our Fish Snapshot!

A bunch of us were on a walk in Kalinga Park on the last weekend in May. To our surprised delight, we watched a medium sized sting-ray cruising under the Toombul Terrace footbridge.

Just a bit late to include in the results for our Fish Snapshot survey near this point and much larger than the eels we often survey along the Brook. (Robert Standish-White)

Ferny Grove SHS Group Goes "Butterflies" Name that Weed!

On Saturday, 20th May, Ferny Grove Bushcare Group held a "start in the school yard" morning that involved a lot of pruning and removal of "undesirables" in the grounds. Mock oranges and bauhinias were pruned back to reasonable levels to prevent seeding and a lot of asparagus vine and chinese elm were removed.



Blue tiger

This was followed by a fascinating slide show on invertebrates by Helen Schwencke and Frank Jordan. The group then studied caterpillars and butterflies in the school grounds. Butterflies could still be seen laying eggs on the plumbago and tulip-wood trees.

We also explored our local Bushcare site and found many eggs on the native mulberry bushes. It seems most of the caterpillars that hatch become food for birds and other insects such as the preying mantis.

Helen and Frank were delighted to find some leafhoppers on a black wattle, surrounded by a group of tiny black ants. These ants also care for the caterpillars of the Imperial Hairstreak butterfly, and the leafhoppers mean that there will be ants if the butterflies lay on the tree.

There were also ants surrounding old empty chrysalises of the butterfly; good evidence that the butterflies are hatching on the site.

We found an old log nearby with a nest typical of the helpful ants - another good reason for leaving logs in place in a revegetation area. Our group was particularly pleased as the black wattles had been grown from local seed and raised in our school horticulture compound.

If you get a chance, sign on for the workshops being run on butterflies and invertebrates



Black crow

(Photographs of butterflies by Robert Standish-White)



You picked it! Indeed, last issue's weed was the climbing asparagus fern, *Protasparagus africanus*.

This issue's weed was submitted by Robert Standish-White. It is an erect tough-stemmed herb that grows up to 1 m tall. Not clearly shown above, the leaflet blades are narrowly elliptic to narrowly ovate, about 3 - 7 cm by 1 - 2.5 cm, sparsely hairy beneath.

The inflorescences are up to 40 cm long, few-flowered, with flowers often paired. It flowers most of the year. Pods are 8 - 10 cm by 0.3 - 0.4 cm.

Introduced from Central America as a potential pasture plant, it is commonly found in SE Queensland; a weed of disturbed ground.

(CI)

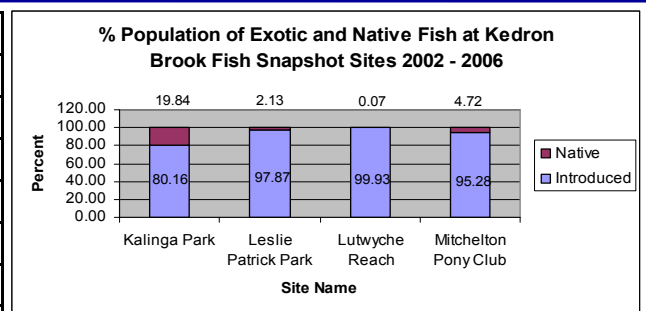
Fish Snapshot Results 2006

The results for most of the sites surveyed in the March round of the Kedron Brook Fish Snapshot have now been collated for most sites.

The table (right) provides a summary of the survey results. Overall the general trend was an increase in the populations of exotic species compared to previous years. Heavy rain preceded most of the surveys and this may have influenced the individual species that were captured at each site.

The figure (far right) provides a summary of the percentage of native and exotic species for four of the five sites surveyed over the period 2002 - 2006.

Site Name	Common Name	No.
Ferny Grove State High	Mosquitofish*	205
	Swordtail*	4
Kalinga Park	Estuary Perchlet	2
	Gudgeon sp 1	1
	Gudgeon sp 2	1
	Gudgeon sp 3	1
	Mosquito fish*	41
	Bullrout	1
Leslie Patrick Park	Eel-tailed catfish	1
	Swordtail*	131
	Mosquitofish*	32
Lutwyche Reach	Platy*	42
	Mosquitofish*	882
	Platy*	7



Stream	Habitat Score
Kalinga Park	18
Leslie Patrick Park	24
Lutwyche Reach	15
Mitchelton Pony Club	20

There is a general association between a higher stream habitat score and a higher percentage population of native individuals, although the Kalinga Park site does not conform to this trend. This site scored the second lowest habitat rating (18) yet had the highest percentage population of native fish recorded.

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Brook!**

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

**"Protecting and
managing the natural
environment is
fundamental to
achieving a sustainable
future for the region"**

(SE Qld Regional Plan 2005-6, Office
of Urban Management, Queensland
Government, June 2005, p 26)

Weed Mapping Project continued from page 1)

Other volunteer opportunities associated with this project include data entry of the information collected in the field into the project database. This work can be done at home on a computer with Microsoft Access and is a great way to learn more about using databases!

For more information contact Kedron Brook Catchment Coordinator Nathan Kirby on 3407 0836 or email nathan.kirby@brisbane.qld.gov.au. (NK)

(Fish Snapshot continued from page 3)

This may be possibly due to the smaller number of samples at this site (only two surveys to date) or due to the subjective nature of the stream habitat scoring system.

How could the information be used in the future?

By expanding the locations of fish snapshot sample sites, it would be possible to identify *hotspots* within the catchment that have a higher population of native fish species and a higher diversity of native species.

This information would help those involved in managing Kedron Brook to ensure that those hotspots areas are managed in a way that ensures these populations remain healthy.

(Nathan Kirby)



Quiet shady spot near Grinstead Park

(State of the Brook continued from page 2)

We have a great management committee at present, with a mix of people from all sorts of backgrounds – American, Irish, African and Mexican (well, Sydney). Just goes to show you don't need to be a 20 year local to care for Kedron Brook and make a difference! Come along to our next meeting to help our Branch.

Hope to see you there!

Philip Rowland, President

Education Employment Opportunity

A casual employment opportunity exists with the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch for a person with good communication skills and an understanding of water quality and catchments to develop and deliver talks and other educational activities to school groups.

The successful person(s) would be required to obtain or hold a Blue Card.

For more information, contact President Phil Rowland, or Kedron Brook Catchment Coordinator Nathan Kirby on 3407 0836.

Butterflies & Other Bugs in Brisbane

A Community Education Program, supported by a BCC Community Grant, designed to produce a series of workshops and field trips in Brisbane. Aimed at involving interested members of the Brisbane community with enhancing local habitats, parks and gardens to promote biodiversity. Contact Helen Schwencke on 3844 8069



Kedron Brook Weed Mapping Surveys

Brook locations. Full training provided as you enjoy the bushland.
Sun June 18, Mercer Park, Benelong St, Kedron at 7:30am
Sun July 2, Sparkes Hill Res., Longland St, Stafford at 8:30am
Sun July 16, Grange Forest Prk, Blandford St, Alderley at 8:30am
Phone 34070836 or visit the website for details.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday June 20	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch –WPSQ AGM and Network Meeting Downfall Creek Bushcare Centre 7:30 - 9:30 pm Review of activities and planning details of the weed mapping project, catchment strategies, and other projects currently underway or planned. Join us for supper after the meeting.
Thursday August 3	Mountains to Mangroves Dinner Kedron-Wavell Services Club, Chermiside Environmentalist John Sinclair Speaker, Contact Terry Hampson 3261 1601 or Cr Faith Hopkins on 3407 0707 for further details.
September 4–7	9th International Riversymposium Contact Emily Smigrod Ph: 07- 3034 8230 email: emily@riverfestival.com.au



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support by Brisbane City Council**

