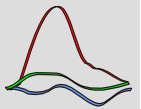




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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 Survey & Remnant Bushland Assessment

October 2006

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“Men have an extraordinarily erroneous opinion of their position in nature; and the error is ineradicable”

(W. Somerset Maugham)

Special interest points:

- Website to shift home but not name to another server
- Monkey Vine found at Mitchelton!
- Python mating beats TV
- Fish Snapshot October 28, Kalinga Park 9 am—11 am

Field surveys have continued during the last few months as part of the Kedron Brook Weed Survey and Remnant Vegetation Assessment Project.

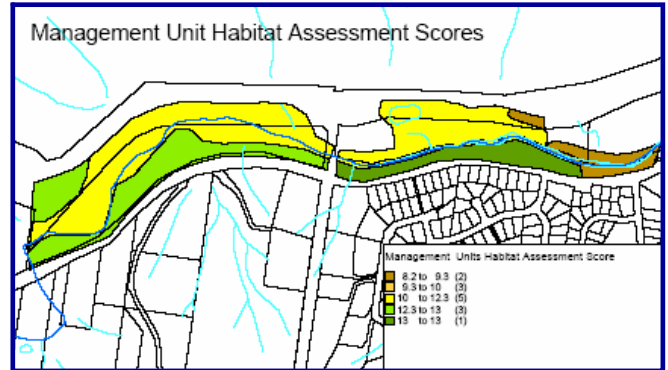
These activities have been undertaken at Grange Forest Park, Brook Park at Ferny Hills and Kirallee St at Upper Kedron. (See last page for other details.)

These field surveys collect data on the distribution and density of priority weeds at each site and assess the ecological condition of the existing remnant bushland.

Each site is subdivided into smaller *management units* that are similar in vegetation type and condition. These management units form the basis of the assessment.

The information is being collated into a database and associated Geographic Information System (GIS). This will allow maps and reports of the weeds that occur at each site to be produced, providing valuable information to those involved in looking after these areas.

The example shown in the graphic above



An example of a Habitat Assessment Graphic derived from the Weed Survey and Bushland Assessment Project.

indicates areas of high quality (high number scores indicated by shades of green) and those areas (with low habitat assessment scores) subjected to negative attributes such as invasive weeds.

It is envisaged that this information will be made readily available via the Kedron Brook website.

Further analysis of the data will also be undertaken to develop a ranked list of priority areas for control in the catchment.

How are such priorities determined I hear you ask? Why should one patch be targeted over another?

(Continued on page 4)

An Adventure to the Aquatic Underworld

The Kedron Brook Catchment Network's focus will return to the aquatic underworld of the Brook on the last Saturday in October, when members undertake a *Fish Snapshot* at Kalinga Park.

Fish Snapshot activities have been held throughout the catchment at 6 monthly to 12 monthly intervals since 2002.

They aim to build up a picture of the fish populations in the catchment. Both the number of individuals and the variety of species are recorded for both native and introduced species.

Not only does this provide us with valuable information about the fish populations and

how these may change over time, it provides us with an indication of the health of the stream at the location.

Introduced fish species tend to be able to tolerate a wider range of environmental conditions, such as high water temperatures and low oxygen levels. Therefore, in

locations where stream health has been degraded,



Native smelts
(Robert Standish-White)

(Continued on page 4)

State of the Brook

Greetings. As usual, there has been plenty going on, so please read on.

Thanks to support from BCC, I was able to attend the 9th Riversymposium 'Managing Rivers with Climate Change and Expanding Populations', held at the Convention Centre in early September.

For me, it was great to see the way that catchment management has progressed from the early 1990s when it was an idea which sounded good, but no one knew how to do it, to being the way of managing our land and water resources.

Many examples of innovative work being done around the world were presented. From London, where wetlands are being re-established in urban streams, to New Jersey where a fellow is collecting garbage and compressing it into blocks of art to the Niger River where 100 million people live and depend on the catchment with so few resources, desertification, poverty and civil strife.

Details of the program are on their web site www.riversymposium.com. If you want any articles, please let me know.

Thanks to the efforts of Nathan Kirby, our coordinator, six sites have been fully or partially mapped for key weed species. Check out the web site or the back page for details of coming survey days. There's also a major workshop (with BBQ) planned for 19 November.

We're also progressing with an application to SEQ Catchments for a substantial grant to run a series of



Great Egret upstream from Hickey Park
(Robert Standish-White)

projects with landholders, mainly in the upper catchment, to improve vegetation management in priority areas.

Nathan and I will have some details ready for our next meeting. The program looks great and I am sure it will make quite a difference to the quality of some of our remnant vegetation on private as well as public land.

The Schools Program is progressing and we plan to launch it later in the year ready for the 2007 school year.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 17 October at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre at 7:30pm on Rode Road.

This meeting is a special event – the first Kedron Brook Trivia Quiz. Come along and show us what you know – or learn lots you didn't know about the Brook. Information on major projects, involvement with development projects, the catchment strategy and other items will also be covered.

Hope to see you there.

Philip Rowland



The Editor's Bit

Hullo again!

This has been a frantic year of activity, involving our usual Fish Snapshots but also much time and energy on our Weed Project. Which all means extra time spent out in the field interacting with our Brook environment with our members and friends in the surveys.

Not so much in this issue about the really big picture items such as the effects of huge civil construction works, or about our individual bushcare groups. I've taken advantage of this absence to expand the big page spread about the Melaleuca Reserve at Mitchelton.

Most of us prefer to get out and DO things rather than write about ourselves. Yet without the words, we may be losing out on the communication to new people, the telling of the what, why and how we need to keep up our catchment work.

It won't necessarily be obvious to users at first, but our website will soon be changing its "home" (not the URL name) from the OurBrisbane site to another commercial site. This is the necessary outcome of certain re-organisational strategies within the Brisbane City Council. However, there is no suggestion that the excellent assistance, both technical and personal, that we receive from BCC will diminish.

This shift presents us with an opportunity to reconsider just what we now want in our website so it can be taken into account. Have your say! Help me make our site even better.

Cheers!

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

Snippets

Pythons go dancing together

We thought you might like to see the fecundity of our Brook. This pair of pythons were entwined at the Toombul Terrace footbridge one afternoon in



Mating pythons go through their dance routine at Toombul
(Robert Standish-White)

early September!

Robert Standish-White took the time to catch a sequence of photographs throughout the whole ceremony and even a snatch on video too.

Note the intertwining of bodies and head to head parleying that takes place in a fascinating interplay that leaves the staid dance sequences of "Dancing with the Stars" for dead. (ci)

Southern Branches Get-Together

This event typified the strong consultative approach by our organisation. WPSQ is giving greater emphasis on policies, plans and strategies aimed to fire up our polities and power brokers to proper action. This more structured approach

was applauded by members at the AGM. It was a well organised weekend with ample time to network and meet up with old friends.

It was also nice to catch up with one of our past coordinators, Hayley Cambourn, before she left BCC to return to her home town in NSW.

She is now Wyong Council's Communication Officer - Water. Cheers, Hayley! (ci)



Hayley Cambourn with WPSQ President Alan Barton at the Get-Together

Melaleuca Forest Remnant at Mitchelton

A small but highly significant bushland reserve is preserved at Mitchelton. This is the Melaleuca Reserve, originally part of the past McAuley Campus grounds of the Australian Catholic University.

To find the reserve, go to the end of Prospect Road, Mitchelton, where you enter Redgum Place. You'll see a view somewhat like that on the right (UBD Map 138 Ref N6).

Following the relocation of the university to Nudgee, the immediate area around it has been transformed into a blend of revegetated parkland, and the WATPAC-Ariadne Property Development called "Botanic".



Reserve entrance at Redgum Place

Fifty per cent of the area is classified as being "of concern ecosystem, regionally significant biodiversity values". The remainder consists of city wide significant biodiversity values.

The site was used to teach pre-service teachers the principles of bush regeneration so they could incorporate this knowledge into the school curriculum.

In 1997, Camphor laurels were the main weed species in the Reserve. A good percentage of them were removed from this time up until 2001.



Monkey Vine climbs Paperbark

The reserve itself consists of a large stand of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (paper-barked tea trees) which are very old and possibly dates back before European settlement.

The Melaleuca stand is classified as a dry Melaleuca Woodland, consisting of a *Melaleuca quinquenervia* mixed with forest red gums (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) and swamp mahogany (*Lophostemon sauveolens*).



'Mile-a-minute' climbs the bark

Part of the pre-service teachers program was to collect Melaleuca seeds from the site, germinate them and plant the seedlings back in the Reserve. In 2001, after most of the Camphor laurels had been removed, naturally occurring Melaleuca seedlings were sighted there.

Since the University shifted, the reserve appears to have been blighted by poor maintenance. However, recently installed revegetation plots around the edges still look good.

The effects of seed droppings throughout the forest have produced a resurgence of weed attack within the reserve, e.g.

Name that Weed!



Last issue showed a beautiful photo by Robert Standish-White of a sweet looking weed called Mother of Millions, *Bryophyllum delagoense*. [I have to show a few easy ones occasionally.]

And so is this one in Benelong Park (off Mercer Park)... often found along the banks and small tributaries of our Brook. It belongs to a family of over 600 species of sedges, found mainly in wet habitats. This genus includes some of the world's most troublesome weeds, including our common nutgrass.

A perennial with short rhizome, it grows about 1 metre high and sends up 3-cornered, hollow stalks crowned by a whorl of leaf-like bracts. The display of green flower spikes is highly characteristic of this species. (CI)

Camphor Laurel, Umbrella Tree, Giant devil's fig, various Palms and a variety of vines such as Mile a Minute and Asparagus Vine. Morning Glory is well entrenched along a northern border.

We'll know more about the weed burden after our mid-week survey on Tuesday October 10. (See page 4 for details.) (CI)



Giant Devil's Fig



Within the forest, you don't quite escape from the urban scene

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Brook!**

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

**"Nature never did
betray,
the heart that loved
her."**

(William Wordsworth)

(Weed Survey continued from page 1)

These questions will be the focus of some discussion at the upcoming meeting of the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch on October 17. The aim of the discussion will be to develop a set of objective, measurable criteria to score and rank each management unit.

There is one remaining weekend survey planned, as detailed below in the Diary. If you are interested in assisting, or even merely learning more about weeds, just come along.

There are several smaller mid week surveys being planned. The Melaleuca Reserve at Mitchelton is now set for October 10th.

Timing for the Outlook Vegetation Reserve at Ferny Hills is still being considered. There is also some follow-up necessary to complete our survey areas at Grange Forest Park and Kalinga Park.

If you are interested in assisting with a mid week survey or our last weekend survey at Ferny Grove on October 14, register your interest with me by e-mail nathan.kirby@brisbane.qld.gov.au or phone 3407 0836. (Nathan Kirby)

**Climate
change is not
a prediction,
it's here now!**



**White-breasted woodswallows in
the Gateway wetlands**

(Robert Standish-White)

(Aquatic Underworld continued from page 1)

for example, the natural vegetation has been removed, exotic species are generally more abundant than the natives.

The last survey at Kalinga Park in March this year, turned up a variety of native species and one introduced species, Mosquito fish, in higher numbers, as shown in Table 1, below.

The details for this next survey are:

Date: Saturday 28th October, Kalinga Park,
9am – 11am

Location: Kalinga Park, Park Avenue/ Diggers Drive, Kalinga. Meet at the Toombul Terrace Footbridge. See you there! (Nathan Kirby)

Table 1. Survey results Kalinga Park, March 2006

Common Name	Latin Name	Group	Origin	Number
Bullrout	<i>Notesthes robusta</i>	Scorpion fish	Native	1
				2
Estuary Perchlet	<i>Ambassis marianus</i>	Perchlets	Native	1
Gudgeon sp1		Gudgeon	Native	1
Gudgeon sp2		Gudgeon	Native	1
Gudgeon sp3		Gudgeon	Native	1
Mosquitofish	<i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>	Livebearers	Introduced	41

**Workshop: Mapping and Prioritising Weeds for Control
Sunday November 19, 8:45 am to 12:30 pm.**

Practical and theory. Morning tea and BBQ lunch provided.

Meet at Wahminda Scout Hut, Samford Road, Ferny Grove 4055
UBD Map 117 Ref F17. Cost is free but limited places available.
RSVP by Fri Nov 10 to Karen Nuss 3407 0830 or email:
karen.nuss@brisbane.qld.gov.au Contact Nathan Kirby for info.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday October 10	Midweek Weed ID survey at the Melaleuca Reserve, Mitchelton . Phone Nathan Kirby on 34070836 or visit our website for details.
Saturday October 14	Final Weekend Weed Survey! 9am – 12 md , Cnr Arbor and Tramway St, Ferny Grove in conjunction with Ferny Grove Bushcare Group. Contact Nathan.
Tuesday October 17	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch –WPSQ General and Network Meeting Downfall Creek Bushcare Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall 7:30 - 9:30 pm Review of activities and other projects currently underway or planned. The first ever Kedron Brook Trivia Quiz! Join us for supper after the meeting.



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

