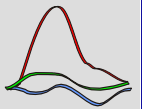




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

Projects Forum for Community Liaison Groups

August 2008

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"It's not what you've got, it's just how you use it!"

(Anon, old saying)

Special interest points:

- Opportunity to become our Branch Secretary.
- Weeds are like palaces for little birds
- No champagne spilt at artistic Mitchelton Greenway gathering.
- Committee welcomes YOUR view

Construction will soon commence on the Airport Link, Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and Airport Roundabout Upgrade Projects.

Airport Link is a 6.7 km toll road, mainly underground, providing a link between Brisbane's northern suburbs and two of South-East Queensland's important economic centres - the airport and the city.

The Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) will improve public transport for growing north-side communities. Together with the Airport Roundabout Upgrade these projects aim to enhance connectivity, ease congestion and offer faster and easier ways to travel.

BrisConnections has contracted Thiess John Holland to design and construct this combined roads and busway solution, to be completed in 2012.



KBCB President Robert Standish-White is briefed at the BrisConnections Information Centre, 109 Gympie Rd, Kedron

As part of their commitment to working with the community, they are forming four Community Liaison Groups for each project precinct, namely Bowen Hills, Lutwyche and Windsor, Kedron, and Toombul and Clayfield.

The timelines for formation of these groups appear to be rather rushed, considering the deadline for registrations of interest was August 1 with the posted

invitation to our Branch dated 28th July!

Kedron Brook would appear to be best represented by the Kedron and Toombul liaison groups but our Branch is restricted to attendance to only one group. Unfortunately, the terms of reference suggest the forum will only provide "information gathering and sharing with the community as we (BrisConnections) build these essential projects".

More info on www.brisconnections.com.au. The Community hotline is 1800 721 783. (C. Ivin)

Restoring Corridors Project

A Managing Fire and Native Vegetation on your Property workshop was held on Saturday 28th June for recipients of the Restoring Corridors Grant. There were about 15 land holders attending this workshop who found it extremely worthwhile.

Cuong Tran from the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium ran the workshop. He presented a range of facts and ideas about how to manage your property. In the afternoon session we walked around the property applying the information we



Managing Fire and Native Vegetation Workshop presented excellent information to attendees
(Lesley Collins)

had learnt before preparing fire management plans for each individual's property.

The Samford Rural Fire Brigade also attended the day with a model showing how topography and caring for your property can reduce or increase your risk to fire. There was a fantastic display illustrating many of the points Cuong had talked about in the earlier sessions.

A special thanks to our host, Helen, for allowing us to have the workshop on her property and for the wonderful catering provided by Cottage Garden Café.

(Lesley Collins)



The talking and planning are over – the Airport Link is soon to start. After many years of alternatives and controversy a new traffic connection via our suburbs has the go ahead, so for some years we will have to deal with significant action on the Brook at Kedron and Toombul. Our branch has participated in the consultation process, and hopes some of our input has resulted in improvements. The costs of remediation where the Brook is affected are certainly insignificant as part of the overall budget. We will continue to represent ecological interests with the winning contractor.

Our next branch meeting will include an update from the other major work in progress, the Gateway Duplication. It won't be long before a six-lane highway flies over the water in the wetlands, and we shall hear what strategies are being used to ameliorate environmental impacts of such a huge intrusion. It may strike some of us as ironic that just as we notice climate change begin to affect us with shifting weather patterns we are spending hugely on infrastructure to support one of the major culprits in greenhouse gas



Magnificent Grange Forest Park

production, the private motor vehicle. We cannot deny change and progress - it is an essential part of life - but we need to be prepared to challenge its means and manifestations.

A surprise winter rain system sent a brief flush of rather dirty water down the Brook recently, but at this stage any water is welcome! In the coming months we will be looking at perhaps flushing out old habits and proposing new ways of invigorating our branch and encouraging more member and visitor participation in our activities. If any of you have any suggestions, grumbles or queries please send them in and we'll take them on board. Until next time, keep warm, and see you out there!

Robert Standish-White
President

Hullo again!

There are lots of events occurring to activate our minds and senses. Just over the next two months, we have the Habitat Restoration Celebration, National Weedbusters Week, Threatened Species Day Forum and Family Fair, RiverSymposium, the Qld Landcare Conference at Monto, our WPSQ- Southern Branches Get-together at Caboolture, Arbor Day, and in between, we try to keep up with our local group areas and meetings.

Our branch is currently reviewing how it operates and whether there are ways in which it can more effectively meet the needs of its members and volunteers of our network of environmental groups. Over the next few months, the committee plans to conduct a systematic survey to hear at a personal level from you about how you are going, and how we can better meet your needs.

In that spirit, I would also certainly appreciate learning how you feel about our newsletter and the website. While there have been some good comments said about both of these communications, what could make them better and more useful to you?

Recent structural changes to the website help it to relate better to our current needs. But it is in the content where we can do better. We need to know what your needs are... and even if some of you can become involved too. You never know, it might be fun!

Cheers!

Charles Ivin

Snippets

GOA Billboard Competition

Congratulations Jasmine! Jasmine was the winner of the GOA Billboard Competition for Patrick's Road State School. Her winning billboard can be seen at Ferny Grove Railway Station. Jasmine had an excellent picture with a great message "Save the frogs, don't cut the logs!"

Jasmine and her picture will now go into the draw with the winners from the 11 other schools that participated. One of the winners from the individual schools that participated will be chosen as the overall winner and their picture will be put on the billboard inside Central Station during Riverfestival. We wish Jasmine all the best for the next round of the competition.



Jasmine with her billboard
(Lesley Collins)

Thank you for helping us spread the message of saving our environment.
(Lesley Collins)

Patrick's Road – Down At Your Local Creek

On Wednesday 11 June Mr Scarffe's Grade 4 class from Patrick's Road State School joined Debbie Dolby and Lesley Down At Their Local Creek (Kedron Brook) to learn about the catchment.

The children were enraptured by the tale of Kedron Brook and the potential impacts the surrounding uses have on the catchment. During the story each child had a turn to add some 'pollution' to the catchment model and at the end when it 'rained' over the model, saw what impact the combined pollution had on the catchment and what was potentially being washed into Moreton Bay.

After the tale, they tested the water and

(Continued on page 4)

Birds Surveys along Kedron Brook

Bird surveys have been conducted this year at selected areas along the Brook so that the range of habitats visited properly represent the catchment and the birdlife attracted.

By the end of October, we shall have visited the upper catchments in

Brisbane Forest Park, the open parks in urban situations, the weed infested sections of the brook adjoining the Industrial and commercial areas, and the forest remnants such as Sparkes Hill Reserve, the melaleucas around the Zion Hill Cemetery and the saltwater sections near the outfall into Moreton Bay near Nudgee.

Along the way you get to see other environmental influences as well. Would you believe it that the Zion Hill Cemetery is a



Counting the water ducks at Nudgee waterhole



Rainbow lorikeet watches from nest



Colourful, elusive striped pardalote

great place to see pardalotes?

Or that Pacific Bazas are best found by the huge numbers of noisy miners, crows

and magpies all squarking around tall eucalypts?

It's also a great way of catching up with the variety and the distribution of weeds along the way. The glycine near Osborne Road Greenway is amongst the most luxuriant I've ever seen.

It's been great to have Leanne Bowden & Greg Miller, and particularly, Dawn Muir, of Birds Queensland, giving us their experience and their bird surveying skills. Never a dull moment... unless the sun rises so high that the heat of the day makes most of our birdlife hide and wait for the day to wane. That's why we start so close to dawn when the air is full of marvelous songs arising from the grasses, trees, and even the weeds are like palaces for the wee birds.

The results of all these surveys and full contact details are given on [our website](#) in the news item "Bird Surveys 2008".

It's a lovely way to see the Brook. (C1)



Pied Cormorants looking for dinner



Currawong spying

Learn that Weed!



Para Grass (Urochloa mutica)

Also named as *brachiaria mutica*, para grass though a pasture grass is a serious weed in native wetlands. It destroys waterbird breeding habitats and replaces native vegetation in tropical and sub-tropical streams.

Distinguished by a spreading habit with stems up to 4 m long, thickened areas on stems (nodes) densely hairy (as per insert right).



Seedheads with 5-20 branches, each 2-8 cm long at, or near, right angles to the stem. A creeping stem may bear a new plant at its tip.

Ranked number 42 in the Qld Herbarium *Invasive Naturalised Plants in South-east Qld. Ranked List* and listed in BCC's list of environmental weeds with handling specified as containment of infestation, prevention of further spread together with reduction of the overall size of the infestation. (CI)

Mitchelton Neighbourhood Plan

Mitchelton Centre is one of three new Neighbourhood Plans to launch this financial year. The Neighbourhood Plan will commence in September 2008 and everyone in the community will be invited to get involved and have a say.

Mitchelton Centre was identified as part of the CityShape 2026 process when 60,000 Brisbane residents had a say in where growth should be accommodated across the city. The area was seen as appropriate for increased residential density living as it has a busy shopping precinct, Brookside Shopping Centre, is situated along a key transport corridor, and is expected to be a high employment growth area.



Morning stroll on Mitchelton Greenway

The Neighbourhood Plan is likely to focus on how new development in and around Mitchelton Centre might look, feel and function. Further issues to

address will be identified after initial consultation with the community. A Neighbourhood Plan takes over two years to prepare.

Visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/neighbourhoodplanning for more information on Neighbourhood Planning. Look out for more information on the Mitchelton Centre Neighbourhood Plan which will be promoted throughout the area when it launches in September.

If you would like to join as part of Kedron Brook Catchment Branch on the Mitchelton Community Planning Team please speak to Robert or Lesley.

(Lesley Collins)

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

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

*" The bird stops calling as
soon as you try to draw
another observer's
attention to it"*

*(Ken Wilson & Zoe Wilson, Birdwatching
in Australia and New Zealand, 1998)*

(Continued - Snippets from page 2)

recorded the results. After the testing they thought the water they were looking at was pretty good. With a short break for morning tea, the kids were back to work looking at macro invertebrates, in which a range of little critters were found. As we packed up a stripped marsh frog was spotted on the creek bank. The class was able to relate back to their class work on frogs and the GOA Billboard presentation in late May.

If you are a parent or know of a teacher who would be interested in this program, please let the teacher know and either direct them to Lesley Collins, the Catchment Coordinator, or to the Kedron Brook Website for further information.
(Lesley Collins)

BeGreen Day

Qantas celebrated World Environment Day on Thursday 5th June 2008 with their own BeGreen Day. With five Environmental and Community Group Displays, the Qantas staff came to learn about caring for their environment in one of the hanger buildings. With over 100 staff visiting the stalls during their lunch break, the employees were keen to learn about Kedron Brook Catchment and find out which catchment they lived in, as well as the looking at the other displays.

Love our catchment? So do we. Help us keep our KBCB Catchment Branch and Network ticking along. Join our committee as Secretary... We'd enjoy your company. Contact our President (as above) for details



**Celebrants at unofficial opening of
Osborne Road Greenway Bridge,
Sculptures and Artworks (Helen Moriarty)**

A number of staff thought it would be great to be involved in catchment work, local to their place of work, and suggested a number of sites where corporate weeding and planting could take place. A sausage sizzle was available on the day and Qantas kindly donated the proceeds for Kedron Brook. Thank you!

We are looking forward to working with Qantas in the future. A big thank you to Sandy from Qantas who organised the day.

(Lesley Collins)



Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 19 August	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch & Special Meeting Tuesday, 19 August, 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Presentation—latest on Gateway Duplication, Airport Link, Busways and new Airport runway . Social supper afterwards. Next meeting on 21 October
Saturday 17 August	Habitat Restoration Celebration , Picnic St Park, Cnr. Clover and Picnic Sts., Enoggera. Sunday 17 August, 7:45 am registration for 8:00 am to 11:30 am. Buffet breakfast, guided tours of local bushcare areas, local examples of conservation experiences. <u>RSVP by 17 August</u> to BCC Call Centre 3403 8060.
Friday-Sunday September 19-21	Wildlife Queensland's Southern Branches Get-together and Society AGM , Camp Warrawee, North Pine Dam. Contact Wildlife Preservation Society of Caboolture Shire, PO Box 1415, Caboolture 4510, Secretary Dianne Hytten Ph 54985102, President Helen Thomas Ph 38866132
September 21-24	To Infinity... and Beyond: 2008 Queensland Landcare Conference , Monto, 21-24 September. With five key-note speakers, 20 concurrent workshop sessions and some 40 speakers, the conference covers topics including low carbon living; climate adaptation; river health; soil carbon . Contact: http://www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm



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