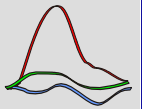




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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, Brisbane, Australia

August 2009

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"The more people we can get involved the better chance we will make a real difference on weeds"

"Habitat Brisbane and Creek Ranger Program Review, SKM, 2008"

Special interest points:

- The tree is the real thing!
- Fish love baffling by fishway.
- Realistic wildlife corridors are our best strategy.
- Tilapia is considered to be one of the world's worst 100 pests

Kalinga Restoration Project

As mentioned in the previous Babbler, the Branch received a Federal Government "Caring for Our Country" grant to undertake a restoration project at the Kalinga Park escarpment on the northern side of Kedron Brook (in Nundah). This project is now well and truly underway, and if you have visited the area around the Carew St. staircase you will have noticed a dramatic change in the landscape.

But, taking a few steps back... In late June, the Branch held a site visit and consultation workshop, called the Kalinga Consultation. The purpose of the workshop was to inform local residents of the project and its aims, to gather local knowledge of the area, and to invite interested people to inform the planning process. We spent the drizzly morning walking the extent of the site and discussing the project options.

Following the consultation, the Bushland Restoration Plan has been finalised. The Branch is investigating the options of restoring the track which leads up to the entrance of the old coal mine. At the consultation, the development of a new bushcare group at the site was also suggested.

Works conducted so far at the Brook have been carried out by bush regeneration

contractor Maggi Scatini and her crew of skilled and experienced staff. They have begun weed control on the steep bank adjacent to the Carew St staircase.

This slope has presented considerable challenges due to its gradient and also the large amount of solid fill underneath the surface soil (fridges, generators, concrete slabs...a legacy of our dumping past!). Nearly all the Chinese elms have been lopped (however not poisoned yet, so that the roots remain intact for slope stability) Treatment of the madeira vine, cats claw and ochra has begun.

Next on the cards is the development of some terracing of this slope to minimise erosion potential and to provide a healthier substrate

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"Walking the track" at Kalinga Park (E Maltby)

Catchment Kids learn it's easy to be green

Catchment Kids is a year long environmental education program that engages with up to 400 primary school students across Brisbane. It is a Brisbane City Council sponsored program managed by the Creek Rangers. The program provides students with skills, knowledge and experience to become more active and conscious environmental citizens.

Throughout the year, students from Class 6A of Mitchelton State School are participating in this program which involves in-class lessons, outdoor hands-on activities and regular Creek



Catchment Kids quickly learnt the best ways to plant trees with help from Creek Rangers

Ranger visits.

On Thursday, 30 July, 2009, National Tree Day was celebrated at 7th Brigade Park, Chermside, by "Catchment Kids", students of the Peters Chanel Catholic School (The Gap), and of Mitchelton State School. Tree planting, a "catchment future" art and craft activity (facilitated by Contact

Inc.), a native animal demonstration (by Geckoes Wildlife Presentations), and a "Happnin Habitats" game were mixed with a welcome sausage sizzle, fruit and wholesome

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Thanks to all those who attended our AGM in June, where we had an interesting update on BCC planning for improvement works in the catchment from Paul McAntee. We also had a presentation on the May floods and a review of the year's activities. Which, it turned out, had been quite extensive, in a quietly accumulative way.

While I often compare our efforts in improving the environment for wildlife to attacking an elephant with a pin, it seems that occasionally the elephant is actually bothered enough to change direction! And, quite often, he actually wants to but is persuaded by the loudness of the status quo not to listen.

Well, from obscure metaphors to simple action – the Kalinga Park Revegetation Restoration project is now in hand, with Chinese elms falling before our eyes. Watch this space over the next few years as native species claim their heritage back! Work to date has been by contractors given the difficulty of the site, but they will also be putting in the preparation work for the community day in a month or two. Encouraging local participation is a key component of the project.

Meanwhile further afield arcane negotiations proceed that will have major effects for all of us, environmentally concerned or otherwise, as the “G8” ponder economic matters and the Copenhagen conference on climate change approaches with little sign of



Golden Orb spider in the mangroves near Kalinga Park (Photo: R S-W)

meaningful progress on the table.

The majority of informed commentators, from Stern to the IPCC to Garnaut, urge us to act now in order to avoid increasingly likely uncomfortable to downright catastrophic consequences in the future.

While we hope that we do not have to suffer the beginnings of these crises to initiate change, human nature is biblically stubborn, so we should be planning for resilience in all our systems, both technical and natural. One part of that strategy is realistic corridors for wildlife, and that we can effect in our catchment, so up and at it people!

Robert Standish-White
President

Hullo again. Lots of activities keeping us on our toes!

Our first Restoring Corridors project has now been completed though it is hoped funding can be found for a second stage. The Kalinga Restoration Project is bounding along. Bushcare group area regeneration and tree planting is the mainstream order of the day, strongly supported by the Brisbane City and Moreton Bay Regional Councils.

There's still time to enjoy nature with our surveys on bird life and frogs. These surveys, together with our Fish Snapshots, continue to provide evidence about the state of the our brook and need to improve.

Our executive recently approved the purchase of two logging submersible temperature probes and a thermo-anemometer to improve our measurement of frog habitat conditions. Watch for Frog activities sometime in September-October when our frogs start to croak again!

Education and personal involvement with schools has been a main plank of our agenda. The “Down to your local creek” project, Catchment Kids, Hillbrook College Sustainability Environmental Expo, and various personal interactions with other schools are outcomes of this target.

Your personal support and input into any of our activities would be warmly appreciated. Come along to our next meeting on 18 August and share your thoughts and needs so our Branch can support **you** more effectively. Cheers!

Charles Ivin

Snippets

Creek Ranger Program Review

Joint reviews were carried out last year on the Habitat Brisbane and Creek Ranger Programs by Sinclair Knight Merz for the Brisbane City Council. Their Volunteer and Participant Report makes interesting reading with important outcomes. Link to the Programs review on the internet via http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE:235436811:pc=PC_3159.

The resultant Joint Strategic Plan for the two vital programs is also accessible from the same web page.

The BCC website has had a facelift over the past few months and is a bit confusing at first... but have a prowl and you'll find all sorts of useful stuff in the “[Environment and waste](#)” section, with a beaut set of weed info links. (CI)



Creek Ranger Emma Maltby demonstrates tree planting to two Catchment Kids from Mitchelton State School

Proposed Airport Link change

BrisConnections and Thiess John Holland are making a Request for Project Change to permit the establishment of a temporary, additional roadheader launch and operation site. This would be on a vacant parcel of

land located between Park Road, Rose Street and Kent Road in Woolloowin.

Analysis indicates that tunnelling for the Kedron on and off ramps require more extensive construction activities than originally planned. The addition of the Woolloowin Worksite would;

- allow roadheaders to excavate the ramp caverns in preparation for arrival of the Tunnel Boring Machines;
- streamline the tunnels' civil, mechanical and electrical fit-outs;
- and ensure the project's efficient delivery by mid 2012.

Selection of this location was based upon proximity to the Airport Link's mainline tunnels, favourable ground conditions, vacant land was owned by DTMR, and there was minimal disruption expected to community facilities. (R S-W/CI)

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Cool pools and baffle fishways

Representatives of the Brisbane Catchment Network (BCN) were guests of the Cubberla Creek Catchment Group on a tour of the Moggill Road Culvert fishway and habitat pools on 31 July.

Dr. Alan Webb, Wetlands and fish ecologist, (Aqualogia) gave a presentation on a species of exotic fish (*Tilapia*) mainly from Mozambique, that is having a significant negative effect upon native species in Brisbane catchments, including Cubberla Creek and Kedron Brook.

Tilapia more aggressively compete for space and food resources than our natives, are predators and degrade habitat water quality. They are considered to be one of the world's worst 100 pests.

They were originally brought in as a tropical aquarium fish, but have now invaded river and dam systems in Queensland and Western Australia. As they spread westwards and southwards they are expected to take a heavy toll on our native wildlife by eating the eggs and young of prawns, barramundi and several threatened species. (See [Invasive Animals CRC](#))



Dr. Alan Webb and Mr. Ross Kapitzke explain how the baffle fishway works through the culvert system in Cubberla Creek

Mr. Ross Kapitzke, Environmental Engineer (James Cook Univ.), consultant for BCC, presented a progress report about the construction of the Moggill Road culvert fishway and habitat pools.

Urban waterway structures cause severe constraints on the ability of fishlife to migrate up the waterway from the sea. Construction of the Moggill Road crossing over Cubberla Creek was designed to overcome these constraints. A series of water holding pools were also constructed downstream of the road structure based upon a Cool Pools approach. These provide fishlife with sufficient depth to maintain a favourable habitat environment even during periods of minimal flow.

Recent design studies by Mr. Kapitzke have been used to obtain a special fishway structure to allow the fish to make their way up through the hostile environment caused by the concrete waterway about that location. The baffles are designed to provide eddies, resting points and lower resultant flow velocities for the small fish to gain their way up past the concrete waterways to reach the upper sections of the creek.

The BCN members were most interested to see the progress being made during a special site tour with the two presenters.



Attendees examine a "cool pool" construction at Cubberla Creek

Learn that weed!



Cocksbur coral tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*)

Deciduous, perennial, thorny tree to 8 metres high, with woody trunk, furrowed corky bark and a crown of short, deciduous, spiny branches.

Forms compound foliage with trifoliate leaves, mid-green, pinnate, about 10 cm. long, tending glossy, and veined.

Flowers (see inset right) are large, red, pea-type in spectacular dense, long angled or pendant clusters.

Seeds are chestnut brown with speckling, cylindrical and distributed sparsely throughout the long seedpod.

The buoyant pods are carried by floodwaters and dispersed along the creek banks and into wetlands.

The weed is listed as an environmental weed on the [BCC's Weed ID website tool](#), and it gained a medium score of 3.5 and was ranked 169th (out of 200) in the "Invasive Naturalised Plants in South-East Queensland", Queensland Herbarium. (CI)



Men of the Trees at Keperra Picnic Park

Men of the Trees (MOTT) have celebrated National Tree Day by carrying out a large scale tree planting on 1 August at Keperra Picnic Grounds at Ferny Grove.

This site was devastated in the massive November 2008 storm that caused much damage on its path from The Gap through Keperra to Ferny Grove. Many numbers of mature and pioneer trees were felled to the ground and the remaining trees lost most of their branches and leaves. The unusual shape and look of the foliage on existing trees attest to the trauma suffered by these trees (Note trees in photo right).

Over 80 volunteers assisted with the planting and members of Enoggera Lions Club gave support with the traditional aussie sausage sizzle and drinks.



MOTT volunteers at Keperra Picnic Park

Spokesperson Fran Gilge said, "With this activity, we aim to replace many of the shade trees lost so planters and other visitors to the park may once again enjoy the shade and the growth of habitat for many birds and other small animals that



Storm-damaged trees in background attest to the need for new plantings

frequent this park."

The Project was carried out in partnership with Brisbane City Council who prepared the site, provided water and half of the plants.

(CI)

KEDRON BROOK CATCHMENT BRANCH (INC.)

PO Box 1385
STAFFORD QLD 4053

Email: enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au
ABN: 67 730 668 521

President : Robert Standish-White 3862 1186
Secretary :

You'll get hooked with Kedron Brook!

(Kalinga Restoration Project - continued from page 1)

for new plantings.

As part of the project, we will also be holding a community planting day on Saturday, 17 October. This will mark the beginning of National Water Week (18 -24 Oct) - a fitting way to celebrate the Brook and to restore it's health.

Later in the year, we will also be working with two local schools in the area on revegetation activities. The Kalinga Restoration Project will be an ongoing project for the next year.

For more on the project, please email to emma.maltby@brisbane.qld.gov.au or phone 3407 0836. (Emma Maltby)

(Catchment Kids - continued from page 1)

snacks for lunch.

The year's lessons and activities culminate in a Celebration at City Hall (21 October). All participating schools come together and share their major learnings in the form of a creative performance, whether it be through song, dance, poetry, or drama.

(Emma Maltby)

Gena from Geckoes Wildlife Presentations introduces a Barn Owl to our Catchment Kids at the 30 July Event



Bush regeneration contractor (David Colbert) clearing the Chinese elms from the steep slope near the Carew Street stairs.

Photo: Emma Maltby

(Snippets Continued from page 2)

Hillbrook Sustainability Day

We'll be there with a display at this vital Environmental Expo at Hillbrook Anglican School, 45 Hurdcotte Street, Enoggera, on Saturday, 22 August, from 10am to 4pm.

Join us and change your carbon footprint in one day! Discover transport alternatives, water and energy saving ideas, get great local food and produce, get involved with the stalls, workshops, forums and entertainment, recycling initiatives and sustainable waste options.

Branch President Robert will talk about sustainability in his presentation "Green or Greed" at the afternoon workshop session.

See you there!

(C / E M)

" Character is like a tree and reputation is like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."

(Abraham Lincoln)

Dates for your Diary:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 18 August | Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and General Meeting Tuesday, 18 August , 7:30 pm—9:30 pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Dr Bryan Hacker, renowned CSIRO grasses expert will be coming along to introduce us to our native grasslands and grass species in the Brisbane area. Dr Hacker will explain the important ecological role of grasses as habitat and a supply of carbon as well as touching on the role of native grasses in rehabilitation including suitable planting species. The usual social hot drink and cake at the end. |
| Wednesday 2 September | Northern Seminar Series Presentations (Joint Northern Catchments Network and KBCB initiative) Regular first Wednesday of month , Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 6:30 pm Finger food, prior to 7:00-9:00 pm session. See website or contact Emma on 3407 0836 for details. |
| Sunday 9 August & 6 September | Bird Surveys - 9 August at 7:00 am at Pony Club Bend/Teralba Park and on 6 September at 6:30 am Zion Hill/ Albert Bishop Park/Nundah Lake. Contact our Surveys Coordinator, Jenny Ivin, on 3851 0160 (H) to register or to obtain more details. Check on our website home page for the overall program or any last minute changes. |
| 11 - 13 September | Wildlife Queensland in your Community (Expansion of our Annual WPSQ Southern Branches Get Together to include our community). Bayside Branch has put up their hands as host so it will be held in Redland City Council area. Pencil in this weekend for a great time. We'll update details as we get closer. |



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