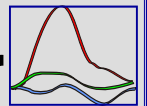




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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 2011

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*'The surest way not to fail
is to determine
to succeed.'*
(Richard Brinsley Sheridan)

Special interest points:

- Pasture grass is GREAT!
(in it's proper place.)
- *Dychoriste depressa* is spreading vigorously along Brook
- Powerlink supports Wahminda Grove and our environment.
- Bus trip to Lochivar's a treat!

Glideways Project Celebration Planting Day

A crisp, but sunny morning heralded the close of the Glideways Project in Ferny Grove on Saturday 9 July. Since November 2010 three wildlife surveys have been conducted in the area to determine whether any gliders are calling the suburb of Ferny Grove home.

Fortunately for the community survey team and local residents, Squirrel Gliders were spotted on the first and third evening, along with a couple of other more common mammals and many other frog, bird and insect species. These discoveries confirm and highlight just how important and special bushland remnants and habitat corridors are.

To wrap this project up members of the local

Habitat Brisbane group, the community survey team and many other local residents gathered to take action to protect and consolidate the habitat where these native animals were found. This consisted of planting over



Lots of young planters helped

200 native plant species to help shade and out-compete the burgeoning weed population in the area.

With the project such a wonderful success, KBCB is looking to partner with other Habitat Brisbane and similar environment groups interested in finding out more about what native wildlife gems use their sites. Please contact our Secretary, Lennert Veerman, on mobile 0401 265 973 or email enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au to express your interest in participating in potential future projects. (Anna Bourke)



Volunteers receive their planting instructions at the Ferny Grove planting

Long-stem planting trials at Osborne Road.

A trial of native long-stem planting has begun at the Osborne Road Bushcare site at Everton Park (see article in [Kedron Brook Babbler, page 3, Feb. 2011](#)).

After KBCB had a couple of unsuccessful attempts to secure funding for the project, Brisbane City Council's Habitat Team in collaboration with Habitat Brisbane, came to the rescue and provided the labour and materials to start the trial of native long-stem planting – a first as far as we know for South East Queensland.

The Habitat Team, along with seven trainees called the Green Troops, spent a few big days preparing the site and planting twelve of each (120 trees) from



Creek Ranger Anna Bourke shows a long-stem seedling ready for planting at the Osborne Road site

the mix of ten specially raised tree species. This work is helping to re-establish vital native cover for this section of the Brook consequent to the large scale engineering works undertaken to halt erosion of the housing properties opposite.

Furthermore, if it is demonstrated to be successful, the native long-stem planting technique could herald a new era in planting in dynamic riparian areas and dealing with erosion issues.

KBCB will continue to provide updates in terms of species successes and failures as the project progresses.

(Anna Bourke)

State of the Brook

“Blast the bats!” we hear the cry! Whilst understanding the public’s anxiety regarding Hendra virus, it is unfortunate that politicians weigh into the issue with reactions based on emotion and an eye to the sensational, rather than a more sensible basis of fact.

It is even more regrettable that in this instance the facts are so few, but those we do have point firmly away from a harsh and dispersive solution. A dog has been infected for the first time, but there is still huge uncertainty about the actual path of infection, with some research indicating cats might also be involved.

Few people realise the vital role bats play in our ecosystem, falling back instead on age old prejudices against night creatures, things that are “smelly and noisy”, along with slimies, spikies, slitheries, beady eyes, “bugs”... carry on the list for yourself.

I have consistently called for increased research into environmental issues. Armed with better knowledge we can not only enjoy what we observe much more (think of watching a game on tele without knowing the rules) but more importantly can make and call for better



‘As native mammals, and pollinators and seed dispersers, flying-foxes are important too and should be conserved’

(Des Boyland (WPSQ)).

evidence-based decisions. We live in a time when some big decisions have to be made, including the carbon tax scenario, and without a clear basis to work from the outcomes are likely to be less than satisfactory.

I am glad to say we are doing our bit in this regard, starting with the annual fish snapshot and our regular bird surveys. We have some grants and applications in hand that may well allow more research along the Brook, and have just seen the draft of our “Tree Hollows” survey which will give various of the catchment groups of

our network more to work with for habitat retention and improvement.

If we can work with other groups such as “Birds in Backyards” and “Faunawatch” to cross reference knowledge we shall have a better chance of supporting a case for our biodiversity, and handing down something worthwhile rather than a mere shadow of what it once was.

We need to get our fellow urbanites to buy in to the fact that nature is the ultimate basis of a good life, not the stock market!

Robert Standish-White
President



This reserve won’t raise a fortune and that’s because it’s free but even this is dependant upon continued support from our community and governments

Snippets

Moreton Bay Rovers visit Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group

Wahminda Grove hosted the Moreton Bay Council Rovers in their work program for June. This is a group of bushcare volunteers from various bushcare groups who, on the first Tuesday of each month, visit a selected site throughout the Moreton Bay Council area. During these visits, the Rovers spend about two hours working on a bushcare project on the site, and then spend another hour touring the site (and having morning tea).

During their visit to Wahminda Grove on 7 June, we had a planting of about 160 tubestock plants into two areas of our bushcare site. (Lyn Ellerman)

Bushcare Groups News Feature

Hello everyone.

On page 3, you’ll note there is a new regular feature section, ‘Bushcare along the catchment’, with emphasis on groups.

This section will keep you in touch with the going-ons of the Kedron Brook Habitat Brisbane groups and other groups, any relevant new bushcare information and other exciting stuff!

For those of you who have not met me – I am Catherine Cleary. Currently, I am filling the position for Fleur Sanderson



Moreton Bay Rovers assist Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group on 7 June

Photo: Lynn Ellerman

while she is on maternity leave with her youngest. I’ve been in the position for over a year now and have thoroughly enjoyed every moment. It is a pleasure to work alongside all of the dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who contribute so much of their time to making Brisbane a better place to live – whether you are a mammal, bird, reptile, fish or invertebrate!

There are twelve Habitat Brisbane Groups working within the Kedron Brook Catchment. Two other groups are supported by Moreton Bay Regional Council and Men of the Trees are also active. They all work in a range of sites across the catchment and are tireless in their campaign of weeding, regenerating and improving the biodiversity and general



Catherine Cleary demonstrating the correct way to plant small seedlings at the Ferny Grove Glideways Project Celebration Planting Day on 9 July

health of the catchment.

Now turn the page to learn more about some of these wonderful groups and the work they do!

(Catherine Cleary)

Hillbrook Sustainability Day

On 4 June, Hillbrook Anglican College celebrated World Environment Day (5 June) with a Sustainability Day at the school. The theme for the event was Community Solutions to Global Problems

(Continued on page 4)

Bushcare along the catchment

Grange Forest Park

Two Habitat Brisbane bushcare groups help maintain Grange Forest Park; another vital open eucalypt forest remnant. It is located south-west of the Brook where it winds behind the Stafford City Shopping Centre.

Alderley/Grange Bushies and Friends

This is now a small bushcare group that has conducted stirring catchment management work in Grange Forest Park for many years under the leadership of Alf Harvey. Their work area is mainly in the western section of the forest along Mornington St, Grange up towards the Brook.

Greenbrook Association

This adjacent work group tends to work more along the eastern section of the Grange Forest Park, mostly north of



Greenbrook Association weeding over recently revegetated areas, June 2011

Blandford St up to the Brook. Frank Box, an energetic leader of the Association for many years, retired as Bushcare Leader in 2010 and Greg Smith has taken over this position.

The Association formed as a Bushcare group in 1983. It operated initially in Hickey Park, Stafford. The group moved upstream to a large area of derelict land opposite the Stafford Tannery site in 1983, between Mornington St. and Blandford St., Grange.

This group works (generally) every 3rd Sunday morning between 8.30 am and 11.30 am, meeting at the Blandford St. entrance to Grange Forest Park. The billy is boiled at 10 am!

For more information, contact Group Leader: Greg Smith 3356 7375 (H)

(Catherine Cleary / C Ivin)

Learn that weed!



Pigeon Grass (*Setaria sphacelata*)

An imported pasture grass, naturalised in Moreton Bay region, a significant weed in wetland and moist areas.

Perennial tussock to about 3 m or so high with short rhizomes. Inflorescence is a narrow cylindrical, spike-like panicle up to 30 cm or more long and 10 mm wide. Short gold-yellow bristles extend up to 6 mm long from the panicle spikelets (stalk-less flowers) 1.5–3 mm long, with 2 florets, stigmata purple or white.

Leaves are grey-green, soft, mostly smooth without hairs, though sometimes with dense hairs on the sheath.

Ranked 85th out of the 200 species listed in the Qld Herbarium's 'Invasive Naturalised Plants in SE Queensland', the weed has an invasive score of 3.8 out of 5. A pasture grass, Pigeon Grass doesn't make the State Weed list. It misses the BCC's environmental weed class listing; though Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) does make it, with a lower invasive score of 3.3. (CI)



Group leader, Greg Smith, is grubbing out on the gully slopes with a mattock



Dychoriste depressa is spreading vigorously from adjacent contract-mowed lawns, contaminated from other parkland cuttings

Community planting day targets waterway health in Ferny Grove

With the help of funding from the Federal Government Caring for Our Country initiative, Council is upgrading two parks to improve waterway health in Ferny Grove.

Taking place over the next three financial years, Council will be working with local community groups and volunteers to improve the local ecology of the waterways by improving wetlands and rehabilitating bushland. Works are planned to begin in the coming months on one of the sites located on Selkirk Crescent where Council will be hosting a community planting day on Sunday 14 August to rehabilitate bushland, reduce sediment runoff and improve the stability of the creek banks.

Construction is planned to begin mid

2012 at the second site located at a park on McGregor Way. By planting native vegetation and building wetlands on McGregor Way, Council aims to improve community use of the parkland, help control weeds and reduce the nutrients and sediment entering the waterway and Moreton Bay.

The waterway health improvement works at Selkirk Crescent and McGregor Way are part of Council's waterway health improvement program which will invest over \$7 million this financial year towards achieving our vision of a healthier river and bay.

Council would like to invite you to participate in the upcoming community planting day at Selkirk Crescent, Ferny Grove on the Sunday 14 August. Register

your or your group's interest in attending with local Creek Catchment Ranger, Anna Bourke, by calling (07) 3403 8888.

(Matthew Cage)



Kedron Brook birders looking at Double-barred Finches on the July bird survey at Grange Forest Park, Sunday 3 July

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Brook!**

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www.kedronbrook.org.au



**Volunteer Neil at
the Benelong
Park Bushcare
Group working
bee on Sunday
19 June**

(Snippets-Hillbrook College continued from page 2)

and whole suite of local environment groups were present on the day to illustrate the theme.

Kedron Brook Catchment Branch shared a small stall with Save Our Waterways Now (SOWN) from the Enoggera catchment, with volunteers from both groups happily talking to passers-by about their projects and how to get involved in natural resource management at home or in their local communities.

(Anna Bourke)

Powerlink Boosts Bushcare at Wahminda Grove

Wahminda Grove Bushcare Group has found itself in a unique position with their site adjoining Powerlink's Ferny Hills substation site. Previously Powerlink has supported the group's efforts by supplying plants but over the last twelve months this support has been built on with a formal partnership between Powerlink, the Wahminda Grove Bushies and the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch.

The basis of this partnership is \$20,000 in monetary support for work at the site over the next three years. This will help the group tackle high priority weed problems with the assistance of an ecological restoration contractor.

(Anna Bourke)

Restoring Corridors 2 - Time to Reflect

The second round of the Restoring Corridors project, made possible through the Federal Governments Caring for our Country Community Action Grants, is



Anne Jones (SOWN) with interested public at our joint display on the Hillbrook Sustainability Day, 4 June

winding down. Our participants have once again made ground on a variety of natural resource management issues, tackling weeds and erosion, and re-establishing native habitat on their properties.

It is therefore timely for the participants to reflect on the work they've undertaken, share successes and failures, and look to future work. This process will be helped along with a bus trip to three of the ten participating properties on Saturday 20 August from 9 am to 1 pm.

A mini working bee will be held at property number 3 (The Ledgers, 63 Lochinvar Rd) followed by lunch time refreshments. Contact Anna Bourke by email, anna.bourke@brisbane.qld.gov.au, or phone 3407 0925 for more information and to register your interest in attending.

(Anna Bourke)

Dates for your Diary:

Sunday 14 August	Community Tree Planting Day Selkirk Crescent Park, Selkirk Crescent, Ferny Grove from 9 am to 1 pm. All community volunteers are invited to participate. Free BBQ lunch, wildlife show, weeds information stand and plant give-away. A real family affair! Contact Anna Bourke on 3407 0925 for more details.
Tuesday 16 August	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting Tuesday 16 August, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Join us at 7.00 pm for pre-meeting drinks and nibbles. Meeting runs 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm. Louise Orr from SEQ Catchments will be informing us about the organisation and her role. RSVP Robert Standish-White on 3862 1186.
Saturday 20 August	Restoring Corridors - 'Time to reflect' - Bus Tour , Saturday 20 August, 9 am - 1 pm Pickup from Cedar Creek Hall, 78 Cedar Creek Road, Upper Kedron 4055 (UBD Map 137 D7) Short tour of three participating properties (followed by optional mini working bee) All materials provided including a lovely light lunch. Enclosed shoes and the usual personal protection. RSVP to Creek Ranger, Anna Bourke , or ring 3407 0925.
Sunday 4 September	Bird Survey Sunday 4 September, 7.30 am. Nudgee Waterhole Reserve/Kedron Brook Floodway/Nudgee Beach Meet in car park at entrance to the Reserve on Nudgee Road. Contact Jenny Ivin on 3851 0160 for further details.



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