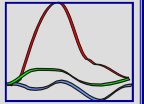




# The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

December 2012

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*'In spite of everything  
I still believe that people  
are good at heart.'*

*'The Diary of Anne Frank'  
(1947)*

## Special interest points:

- CRs become CCOs
- These nymphs don't dance with the shepherds
- Woolworths won't sell this water lettuce
- Who said there was a reduction of services?

## Community biodiversity strategy

Brisbane Catchments Network (BCN) has worked in association with SEQ Catchments to produce a Brisbane Community Biodiversity Strategy. This strategy is aimed at sub-catchment groups, friends of catchment groups and the wider community. In order to ensure that the strategy focused on issues most pertinent to the community, there was significant stakeholder input throughout the creation of this strategy.

BCN and SEQ Catchments organized and conducted a workshop on Saturday 1 September 2012. Around 40 stakeholders attended to workshop those issues they felt were most important to biodiversity conservation in Brisbane. With leadership from keynote speakers and experienced conservationists, groups of attendees discussed and recorded those aspects considered important to ensure our future biodiversity.

Results from the workshop show the community feels it important that activities are undertaken on



One of the four working groups at the Community Biodiversity Strategy Workshop on 1 September 2012

**'...become a cumulative part in returning our natural systems and areas to good health. Let us become a part of the solution.'**

(Wayne Cameron, President BCN)

ground at the local scale, fitting local areas into the 'big picture'. An emphasis should be placed on resourcing private landowners to protect biodiversity. If possible, actions should be taken that help developers meet environmental objectives.

A vital outcome of this project is the publication, 'Brisbane community biodiversity strategy - A strategy to engage the community in Brisbane's biodiversity', (Copyright by Brisbane Catchments Network and SEQ Catchments 2012). It is packed with information on how our community can strive to improve biodiversity conservation in the Brisbane region. In fact, it is a good general reference about the subject for all families, groups and organisations and even those bodies that 'represent the big picture'.

Amongst many other people, Ms Michelle Mills assisted this project, particularly with the workshop and preparation of this publication, as part of her assignment towards a degree in Bachelor of Science (Ecology and Conservation biology) at Griffith University.

For further information about this project and resultant publication, please contact BCN by email [Brisbanecatchments@gmail.com](mailto:Brisbanecatchments@gmail.com).

(C 1)



Ms Michelle Mills (UQ Student) and Mrs Jenny Hacker (Vice-President, Rural Environment Planning Association) at the Griffith University Industry Affiliates Program Project Expo, Thursday 8 November 2012.



*The shattered break in the trunk of a tree at Kalinga Park after the storm on Sunday 11 November (RS-W)*



*Turtles are thriving this year in the swimming hole at Walsh Park (RS-W)*



*Insect, possibly a Stink (or Shield) Bug (Family Pentatomidae)  
(Photo: Robert Standish-White)*

## State of the Brook

The great multiplication of natural activity as spring warms into summer, along with our own indulgence in the exuberance and travels of the Festive Season all serve to remind us that it is the great variety of life that makes it so wonderful, interesting and sustaining.

We need to treasure and defend this diversity, threatened as it is by strident demands for resources to satisfy, we are told, those often distant shareholders. Political correctness seems to stifle bold or original initiatives under the guise of "risk control", but until we realise that we are all part of the same great enterprise we support a lost cause by patching one leak while tearing great holes elsewhere.

The BCN Community Biodiversity Strategy headlined in this issue has been developed as a tool to help groups such as ours tackle these often fraught and thorny conflicts of interest. It will develop over time as experience moulds it to become a better tool, with evidence based solutions available to both explain principles and guide actions.

There is no doubt action is required. From the little skeins of garbage in our creeks to the great battles reignited on the rivers and reefs to our north, we must

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**'There is no doubt action is required...we must become active in the ranks of those who do give a damn for the environment'**

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become active in the ranks of those who do give a damn for the environment. In a similar range of action this could mean just encouraging your friends to reduce consumption to taking up the cudgels with corporations to change their practices. Be assured, individuals can make a difference, especially if they are strategic and determined. Look what one young carpenter born some 2000 years ago started!

Do enjoy this Christmas - smell that invigorating swirl ahead of the storm, revel in new growth and colour, smile as young appear unsteadily from their nests or run shrieking through the sprinkler, imagine the distant sources of the delicious meals you'll eat, and ponder on the wide and marvellous connections of existence.

Thank you for your support and participation this year. Come back refreshed and ready to join us in new and ongoing projects along the Catchment in 2013. Stay safe, reach out, be happy!

Robert Standish-White,  
President

## Stink bugs and shield bugs

The image (to the left) is of an insect bug, recently found climbing up a gum tree by the photographer, Robert Standish-White. A helpful lady from the Entomology section of the Queensland Museum said that this bug was a member of the family *Pentatomidae*, in its nymph form (and so is not fully developed). Therefore, its actual species can't be easily identified.

A **nymph** is the immature form of some invertebrates, particularly insects, which undergoes gradual

metamorphosis before reaching its adult stage (Wikipedia).

Look up the [web site](#) of our Queensland Museum and drill down through to the insect section. Unlike a typical larva, a nymph's overall form already resembles that of the adult. In addition, while a nymph moults it never enters a pupal stage. Instead, the final moult results in an adult insect.

(RS-W/CI)

## Bushcare along the catchment

Bob Robbie's Memorial Day! On Saturday the 17th of November we all had a lovely morning in celebration of all the years that Bob Robbie spent working as a Bushcare volunteer at Sparkes Hill Reserve. Bob's wife and two sons, and many friends and family members came along to enjoy a morning together to reflect on all of the wonderful work Bob did in Sparkes Hill and the surrounding area.

We were very sad when Bob past away last year and we wanted to do something to honour his work. A bench seat with a plaque was installed at the park at the end of Clover Street Enoggera and this is where we had the gathering on the 17th of November. Bob's wife Margaret and her two sons Greg and Brad planted a big *Ficus macrophylla* near the seat and then other family members and friends joined them to do a small planting around the fig.

The morning was a little bit more rushed than expected with a storm building from when we started at 10am. Just as the last plants were going in people had to start running to their cars as the rain poured down. On a positive note, the planting got a great start with a good drenching from the rain.

Thank you to everyone that came along to share this special day for Bob and for bringing such lovely plates of food for everyone. We are hoping people will drop by from time to time to watch Bob's tree grow and look over to Sparkes Hill and know that Bob's work has contributed enormously to the conservation of the reserve. Bob's delightful nature and amazing work will never be forgotten.

(Fluer Sandiford)

## Creek Rangers to Creek Catchment Officers

Things seem to have settled down after the recent changes made at state and local government level. The four pillar approach to expedite development has resulted in a looser interaction with management of the natural environment. Small organisations concerned with improvement of wildlife biodiversity are already suffering.

KBCB has had the opportunity of direct discussions with the BCC administration attempting to keep the systems going for bigger outcomes and lesser input (see page 6, top right). Estimation of the needs of community groups and how best to deliver the required areas of support are expected to be worked out before 2013.

New roles for the reduced number of Creek Catchment Officers (CCO) are being worked out. There are now only four CCOs for the entire catchment areas of Brisbane City. CCOs will focus on strategic planning of catchment works and include BCC priorities as well as community interests. CCOs will network with the community, access experts in BCC and other organisations, and assist with grants.

Community groups will provide in-kind contribution to projects. BCC has \$600 K for sponsored works and groups will need considerable skills in grant applications

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**'There are now only four CCOs for the entire catchment areas of Brisbane City.'**

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to obtain part of this funding for projects.

BCC will assist capacity building and skills development including training opportunities for community members. Initial interest by catchment members was high but access to this training has had to be limited to a small number of members within the catchment groups because of the relatively expensive training being arranged. Obviously, we'll need the best selections for this training.

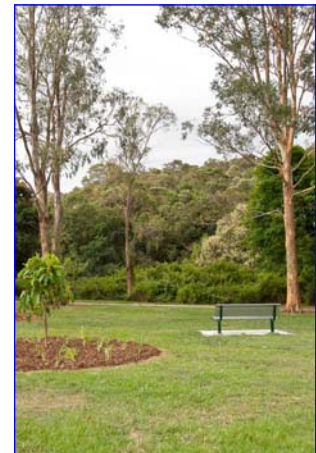
Activities that will be out of the scope of CCOs include administration (including grant writing), being the public contact and the face of community groups. There will be no ground work by CCOs (weekend plantings, etc.) They will not do event coordination, waterway monitoring, school activities, or activities to attract sponsorship. We understand the some written advice will be available by early next year. Large catchment groups should do well but the smaller groups with members mostly working a five day job will find it hard to keep up with the requirements.

We were delighted that, for the interim, our past Creek Ranger, Jacinta Hamilton, has been selected to look after the northern group of catchments that include Kedron Brook. She will be filling in for Anna Bourke until March next year when Anna returns from maternity leave. After that, anything goes!

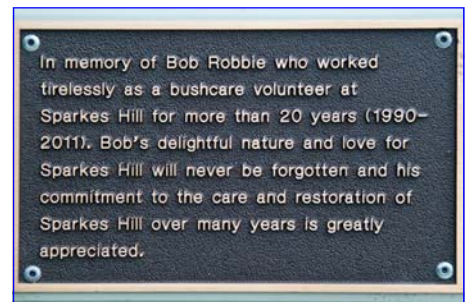
(CI)



*Planting the memorial garden at Clover St., Enoggera on 17 November. Margaret (Bob's wife) and Bob's two sons, Greg (left) and Brad (to the right)*



*Memorial garden and seat with one of Bob Robbie's favourite views towards Sparkes Hill and the flying fox colony camp*



*Inscription on plaque at Bob Robbie's seat near Clover St, Enoggera*

# Snippets

## November Storms

A series of storms hit Brisbane in early November after a rather dry period the previous month or so.

Although most welcome from the point of view of the much-needed rain, they brought along some unpleasant side effects. Lots of leaves and branches were removed in some areas down the Kedron Brook.

At Kalinga Park, at least two large trees were snapped off near the ground on Sunday 11 November. One tall Eucalypt blocked the bikeway near the Toombul Terrace footbridge. Another crashed over a walkway (see right).

(CI/RS-W)

## Healthy Waterways Report Card 2012

The Healthy Waterways report for the Lower Brisbane Catchment showed improved water quality due to increased nutrient cycling, aquatic macroinvertebrate and fish indicators



**Tree fall noted over a walkway after the storm at Kalinga Park on Sunday 11 November**

(Photo: Robert Standish-White)

but the physical chemical and ecosystem processes indicators declined slightly.

Whereas this region mostly received a score of F from 2004 to 2011, this year a score of D+ was attained.

Link to the Ecosystem Health [Monitoring Program web site](#) to see the bigger picture of how Moreton Bay seems to be coping with the onslaught.

(CI)

## Environmental grants

Most organisations involved with catchment management and rehabilitation are aware of the following but this is a reminder call for others.

The Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Program provides funding to groups and individuals across Brisbane to carry out projects that improve Brisbane's environment.

The bad news is that the most recent round closed for applications on Monday 26 November 2012.

Nevertheless, you should start looking at the requirements for this last round so that you can be better prepared for the next round whenever it eventuates.

Go to [Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Program 2013/2013-Environmental Grants](#). It will link to [online Environmental Grants 2012/2013 Guidelines](#).

You'll also find your nearest Creek Catchment Officer most helpful. (CI)

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## 'The Healthy Waterways report for the Lower Brisbane Catchment showed improved water quality...'

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## McGregor Way Parkland

Brisbane City Council helps to protect our waterways through various strategies, devices, research and control methods. Their water health programs are outlined on [their web site](#).

Stormwater quality improvement devices (SQIDs) include trash racks, gully pit baskets, gross pollutant traps and constructed wetlands.

At McGregor Way Parkland, the sediment basin and large existing pond is being enlarged into a beautiful wetland.

In 2011, BCC gained funding under Australian Government's Caring For Our Country Business Plan. This plan calls for extension of the existing sediment basin, planting areas of native plants and trees, and a viewing deck. The landscaping and planting around the

latter viewing deck is almost completed.

Debbie Taylor, Lecturer and Tutor in Ceramics and Indigenous Art, at Queensland College of Art, is currently finishing the placement of the beautiful coloured mosaic tiles on the top of the benches that are located at shady spots throughout the parkland.

Given suitable weather, it is planned to have the whole project ready early next year for a community event to celebrate such a beautiful parkland asset for people in a natural wildlife setting.

(CI)



**Debbie Taylor playing a creative form of jig saw while working out the layout for one of her marvellous benches**



**This shows one of the five benches that has had the top mosaic nearly completed.**

## Learn that weed

Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) is a free-floating stoloniferous aquatic plant that rapidly forms dense mats covering rivers, dams and irrigation canals. The following text is extracted from a [useful guide](#) from BCC about this weed, ranked in the top thirty worst weeds in Brisbane

Water lettuce resembles a small, open head of lettuce. This aquatic perennial is spongy and consists of a rosette of pale green, fan shaped leaves with six or more prominent veins, covered with hairs. These hairs trap air and give the plant its buoyancy. It has a tuft of unbranched, fibrous roots up to 80 centimetres long.

Flowering occurs through summer and autumn. Mature plants produce a large number of small, green, inconspicuous flowers in their centre. The fruit is a berry five to eight centimetres across, oblong in shape and tapered at each end containing seeds about two millimetres long. The plant reproduces by sexual means or vegetatively.

Water lettuce is declared a Class 2 plant under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002. Class 2 plants are weeds that have spread over substantial areas of Queensland and are causing serious environmental, social and economic impacts. Brisbane City Council may serve a notice on landholders requiring control of this species. It is illegal to grow, sell or knowingly allow this plant to spread. Penalties apply.

Removal by hand is practical for small areas or when plant numbers are low. While mechanical control is generally expensive it can be very effective. A weevil (*Neohydromonus affinis*) exerts some control over water lettuce infestations in some areas of Brisbane. This form of biological control is not recommended in isolation from the other methods.

Brisbane City Council has a successful biocontrol rearing program for treating water lettuce. Brisbane landholders can call Council on 07 3403 8888 and obtain weevils for assisting in the treatment of water lettuce weed species. For a copy of the fact sheet, [email your contact details](#).

(Charles Ivin)



*Water lettuce (Pistia stratiotes)*

## Brisbane North Branch Conference

Set in the beautiful surroundings of Walkabout Creek, The Gap, the one-day conference, 'Preserving wildlife: Yesterday, today and tomorrow' was presented by Brisbane North Branch, Wildlife Queensland, on Sunday 11 November, 2012.

There have been a number of similar events held for this celebration of fifty years for Wildlife Queensland. But it was a credit to the organisers, and especially the individual speakers, that each segment appeared to take a refreshing approach despite what may have been said in the previous months. The result was that the participants were dished up with an enthusiastic romp and run through the past years of blood, sweat and tears... and triumphs.

The speakers gave a polished performance commensurate with their years of experience in battling the ignorant, the developers, and more than a few politicians, over their combined years of preserving wildlife.

There were moments of deep concern about the 'yesterday and today' of how successful we were with 'preserving wildlife' but overall, the responses given by the speakers to our questions about the 'tomorrow' augers well. Inspirational leadership came from each person with their use of clear facts, the need for setting priorities in our targets, and accepting that resources needed to be managed carefully to earn the best outcomes. It was important that in the meetings ahead that we negotiate in a way that all parties actually listen to and understand each other's needs. This will enable us to get the best outcome commensurate with available resources and the vital requirements for our wildlife as well as our own future.

Early in the day, a new speaker was inserted into the official program, namely, Gemma Plesman, (Australian Youth Climate Coalition). She gave a bubbly but confident talk about how our youth views the whole picture of 'today and tomorrow'. No 'woe is us!' No 'Let someone else solve our problems, they made this world!' Have a look at [their web site](#) for a gleam of what is much more tangible than just... hope.

All and all, a very interesting day. Well done, Brisbane North!

(CI)



**Gemma Plesman (Australian Youth Climate Coalition) with Simon Baltais (President Wildlife Queensland) discuss some of the highlights of Gemma's previous presentation at the North Brisbane Branch One Day Conference at Walkabout Creek Conference Centre on 11 November 2012.**

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*President Robert Standish-White discussing the effect of the reduction of services from the Brisbane City Council Creek Ranger Program with Jenny Staples , Principal Program Coordinator, Community Partnerships, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability Branch, and David Fitzgibbon, Project Officer, Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Asset Services*



*Our committee wishes  
YOU and yours  
the very best for the  
coming festive season  
and a safe and healthy,  
Happy New Year!*

**Dates for your Diary:**

Saturday 19 January	<b>Men of the Trees Planting Activities for 2013</b> These activities usually start at 9 am and finish about 12.30 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cedar Creek, at Arbor Park, Ferny Grove, 19 January (Kerry 3289 9206)</li> <li>• Keperra Picnic Grounds, 2 February (Marion 3366 1448)</li> <li>• Cedar Creek, Arbor Park, Ferny Grove, 16 February (Kerry)</li> </ul>
Sunday 3 February	<b>Bird Observation Walk</b> Sunday 3 February 7:00 am Albert Bishop Park /Nundah Lake. Meet at Nudgee Cemetery Gate, Hedley Ave, Toombul . (UBD Map 140 Ref Q3) View Albert Bishop Park, and adjacent Schultz Canal. Then drive to Nundah Lake (Map UBD 121 ref D20) Check out our web site or contact Jenny Ivin on 3851 0160 for further details. Wear plenty of sun protection, cool clothing and carry water
Tuesday 19 February	<b>Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting</b> Tuesday 19 February, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Details of our speaker will be put on our web site soon. Join us at 7.00 pm for pre-meeting drinks and nibbles. Meeting runs 7.30 pm—9.30 pm. RSVP Robert Standish-White on 3862 1186. Watch our web site for the presentation details.

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