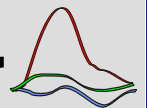




The Kedron Brook Babbler



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

October 2009

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"We need only meet the challenges of the future with creativity and strength to make a real positive difference for our wildlife"

"Simon Baltais, WPSQ AGM"

Special interest points:

- Education thrives in the open!
- Parkland surveys are not representative if relevant people don't participate.
- Coconuts hold back erosion.
- Native climber attacks Scribbly gum. See scratches!

Wildlife Qld. in your community and AGM

Over the weekend of 11 to 13 September, our Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland conducted a program of presentations and events in conjunction with the 2009 Annual Meeting.

The presentations, workshops, and the Annual Dinner and Awards were held at the Redlands IndigiScapes Centre at Capalaba. Nineteen branches were represented at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday.

President Simon Baltais reported great progress over the past twelve months, particularly with the campaigns including conservation of biodiversity, vegetation management re-growth, growth of the protected area estate and enhanced management and protection of the Stock Routes network.

Simon added that major concerns still remain about the Traveston Crossing and Nathan Dams, and with coal seam gas-associated waters.

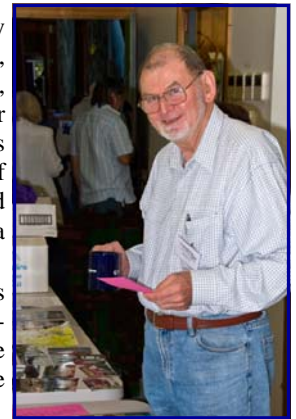
Robert Standish-White, presented the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch report, reflecting welcome progress with our projects at both local levels and in general. He stressed the vital support given by both Brisbane City

and Moreton Bay Regional councils, and in particular, the quality of our BCC coordinators (Creek Rangers), of which talented and energetic Emma Maltby is our latest.

Simon Baltais reminded the members that Wildlife Australia Magazine was in its 46th year of continuous publication - a worthy tribute to the vision of Wildlife Queensland's founding members.

Future plans by the management team include protecting Queensland's biodiversity, engaging the community, the continuation of support to branches and members, securing long-term funding and to investigate further opportunities to draw in more members and supporters.

(CI)



Charles Ivin perusing handouts before the Wildlife Queensland AGM
(Photo: Robert Standish-White)

Our "Down at your local creek" project

Our environmental education program, *Down At Your Local Creek*, has begun again and we enjoyed a program with Stafford State School Year 2/3/4B students in early September.

They thoroughly enjoyed the interactive *Story of Kedron Brook* game which developed their background knowledge and understandings of "cause and effect" of catchment pollution and care.

The following week, the students joined us "down at their local creek" (Kedron Brook!) to learn more about the health of our water-



Debbie Dolby with students of Stafford State School down at their local Kedron Brook. (Photo: Emma Maltby)

ways. Led by Debbie Dolby (our resident frog and water quality expert) and Anna Bourke (an environmental educator with expertise in macroinvertebrates). The students completed the Kedron Brook Waterway Health Check.

This entailed a series of ecological, physical and chemical tests to rate the health of Kedron Brook, including sampling

macroinvertebrates, measuring the pH and turbidity, and recording the animals they observed.

(Continued on page 4)



I sit writing this in the second wave of dust to blitz Brisbane, the bitterness of a thousand farmers lost topsoil stinging my eyes and lungs. If any of us needed reminding that we must all make meaningful changes in how we deal with our land, this was one that could hardly be ignored. Overseas commentators are using Australia as the example of "what is to come", while we ourselves dither and disagree on what should be done or even if anything needs to be done!

In a presentation about our branch prepared for the Hillbrook Anglican School Sustainability Day recently, I touched on the concept of "Green or Greed" in discussing how our society might move forward; if we remain prisoners of a rapacious economic system we will be blown out to sea as surely as those tons of dust...

There was hope however at the WPSQ AGM, reported on our front page. As government realises that people are becoming concerned about their environment, they seek input from environmental groups, and we are strategically positioned in that respect. Even councils that have been bastions of developers' interests are taking note of changing attitudes and taking both advice and action. What we have to do is encourage and increase this momentum, because the gritty air around us reminds us time is short. Unfortunately, funding cannot cover all bases, and we heard also of endangered wildlife programs being



WPSQ President Simon Baltais at the WPSQ AGM, presents our KBCB President, Robert Standish-White, with the 2009 Award for the branch with highest proportion of new members

abandoned mid-stream in light of policy changes to support ecosystems rather than individual species. A long term view needs to be taken on both counts - what is started must be followed through or much of the investment is squandered.

The community planting day at Kalinga Park comes up soon, another small step in reversing decades of degradation in our catchment. From little things big things grow, and we will be looking over the coming months to instigate and support other such projects that provide both enjoyment and improvement. See you there!

Robert Standish-White
President

Hello again.

Our front page item reports the great progress being made by Wildlife Queensland through well-planned environmental campaigns directed to our state and local governments. We must also have done well in communication of our own local branch activities. Hence the award presented by Simon Baltais (left) reported in Robert's State of the Brook. Never the less, our position of Secretary is still vacant after many months. All applicants welcome!

"You win a few and you loose a few." The main thing is to keep the overall balance on the positive side. Over the long haul, we are eventually achieving tangible progress that makes it all worthwhile.

We continue our successful educational role through the presentations of our "Down at Your Local Creek" project at a number of our catchment schools and colleges. Not detailed in this Babblers, our Branch has also been assisting Ferny Grove, Mitchelton and Grovelly state school students in the BCC's "Catchment Kids" environment educational project .

We continue to measure markers of catchment environmental health through the Fish Snapshots, and frog and bird surveys. Details of Debbie Dolby's Frog survey report can be seen in Snippets. A full report on the bird surveys over 2008 and 2009 is expected early next year.

It's getting closer to "New Years Resolution Time." Hope you can make a few too! Cheers!

Charles Ivin

Snippets

Mountain bike surveys

From 6 February to 24 April 2009, Brisbane City Council sought feedback from the community in an online survey about outdoor recreation, in particular, mountain bike riding. The results from two related surveys on this subject can be viewed on the BBC site http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE:648697012:pc=PC_5488

The comparison of the results of these two surveys illustrates how their outcomes depended heavily on their original terms of reference and the characteristics of the participants.

One key finding, amongst others, was that, "Generally, there is little opposition from the general community to mountain bike riding in Council bushland areas. This suggests any program to encourage



BCC recently removed weeds from large areas of Arbor Park. It looks bare compared with the planted plot behind.

this activity in Council bushland areas would not receive resistance providing the appropriate measures are put in place to protect the bushland and ensure the safety of the general community."

As a consequence of the overall

findings, "Council is currently undertaking independent environmental assessments of a number of bushland areas to determine their suitability to sustain outdoor recreation. "

Hopefully, they will also assess the various types of outdoor recreation to determine their suitability to sustain the few fragile remnants of bushland still existent.

(CI)

New WPSQ web site looks great

It was with sheer delight that I discovered that our Wildlife Queensland web site has had, not just a facelift, but the full works! It communicates in a vital, inspirational way how we can preserve the future of our wildlife, their habitats and natural environment.

Take a peep at the web site at <http://www.wildlifequeensland.org.au> ! (CI)

(Continued on page 4)

Grinstead Park Bushcare Group

Grinstead Park is situated at Shand St., Alderley. (UBD Ref. Map 139 D8). Although most of the recreational facilities are on the eastern side, the western portion also boasts tall eucalypts, and revegetated and grassy areas.

There is a path following downstream parallel to the Brook from Corbett Steet that passes under the road bridge and through to Royal Parade on the eastern side of the Park.

Grinstead Park Bushcare Group was formed in 1996 to protect a native frog-breeding site near a stand of mature eucalypts. The initial focus was on providing cover for frogs by fencing off the area to exclude mowers and allowing natural regeneration of vegetation.

At first, native grasses and eucalypt seedlings emerged in dry conditions; the regeneration area was then extended.



Corporate support supplements regular group activities

Exotic grasses became dominant following good seasonal conditions.

Since 2000, regular planting days have resulted in a great wildlife habitat. Sightings of native wildlife have increased.

There is habitat for small birds and butterflies to



Grinstead Park has a well-established remnant forest area



One strong feature for this eager child is the great children's playground

complement the two frog-breeding sites.

This years planting activity is being focused on three important 'habitat' trees. Mulching and planting protects the trees from mower damage to the trunks and soil compaction around roots. The trees contain numerous hollows used for nesting and shelter by birds, possums and frogs.

Working bees are regularly conducted on the first Sunday of every other month - Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct & Dec, 9am to 11.30am. A small group meets some Friday mornings.

For more information contact Janet White by emailing janwhite@bigpond.net.au or phone 3355 1884. (JW/CI)

Learn that weed!



Wild tobacco (*Solanum mauritianum*)

Beloved by flying foxes and native birds that spread the seeds, this plant propagates easily and out-competes natural vegetation in disturbed areas.

A large shrub or small tree to 4 m high. The leaves are felt-covered, up to 30 cm long and 15 cm wide and emit a strong smell when crushed. Possibly toxic if sufficient quantity eaten by livestock.

Flowers (see image on right) are purple-blue in flat-topped bunches. Berries are small, round and turn from green to yellow as they ripen.

Not a declared plant under state or local government legislation (Yet it is a weed in "Wild Plants of Greater Brisbane"!) but gained a medium score of 4.0 and was ranked 61st (out of 200) in the "Invasive Naturalised Plants in South-East Queensland", Queensland Herbarium. (CI)



Kalinga Restoration Project

For those of you who frequent Kalinga Park, you will notice that works are continuing at the Kalinga Restoration Project site. In early September, several coir logs (coconut husk logs) were installed on the steep embankment adjacent to Carew St. These logs are often used in slope stabilisation works, and in this instance we have used them to stabilise and terrace the slope and to create an improved planting medium.

So far, David Colbert has planted several local wattles (*Acacia spp*) and figs (*Ficus spp*) on the slope. The planting density will be increased later in the year once the promise of rain is more likely.

Extending downstream from this area, weed control has extended to the



Coir logs stabilize the slopes in Kalinga Park, adjacent to Carew Street. (EM)

community planting site (October 17th) and slope along-side the escarpment.

We have acquired some supplementary funding from Brisbane City Council to

remove two large chinese elm trees that are growing next to native weeping lillypillis by the Brook's edge, and several smaller elms and camphor laurels adjacent to the community planting site. These trees will be removed in October. Thanks to BCC for their assistance with our bushland restoration efforts.

I have received several emails and phone calls from local residents offering further input and interest into this restoration project. Many thanks for your input, ideas and interest. It is important to Kedron Brook Catchment Branch to be working alongside the people who live in and use the area.

I look forward to see all who join us at the community planting morning on October 17th. (E.Maltby.)

**KEDRON BROOK CATCHMENT
BRANCH (INC.)**

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STAFFORD QLD 4053

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

President : Robert Standish-White 3862 1186
Secretary : Position vacant

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

(DTYLCreek - continued from page 1)

A highlight was spotting the doughnut-shaped eel-tailed catfish nests and the variety of macroinvertebrates that the students sampled and identified.

After the holidays, the students will implement their learning about catchment care and complete their brochures outlining simple yet effective things that we can all do in our daily life to improve the health of Kedron Brook and other waterways.

Many thanks to Caroline Gamin from Stafford State School for organising the excursion, and to the teachers and parents who also attended, and of course, to the delightful Year 2/3/4B students.

(Emma Maltby)



Native climber over Scribbly Gum trunk
(Photo: Robert Standish-White)

(Snippets Continued from page 2)

Frog surveys

Our Frog Survey Coordinator, Debbie Dolby, has now finalised her report on the surveys conducted during 2007 and 2008. It details the methods used to identify the species of frogs found during these surveys and the species found at 15 locations along Kedron Brook. These results were then related to those reported by Dr Seonaid Melville in 2001, and those observed by members of The Queensland Frog Society during the Summer of 1998.

The report, "Kedron Brook Frog Census 2007 & 2008" is available for download as a 220 KB pdf file from [our website](#).

(Debbie Dolby)



Striped Marshfrog (Photo: Debbie Dolby)

DO YOU WANT MORE OUT OF LIFE?
Why not give more of yourself to help us save our environment together? Many hands make light work and your assistance with planning, secretarial, or implementation activities would greatly assist our valiant few. Act now... or it could all stop.

We're on the web!

www.kedronbrook.org.au

***" Procrastination is the
thief of time . "***

(Edward Young, 1683-1765)

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 17th October	Kalinga Community Planting Morning Saturday, 17th October, 8am—10:30am, Meet at Hamson Tce, Nundah The morning will include a delicious morning tea and all required tools will be provided. This planting morning is an integral part of the on-going Kalinga Restoration Project funded by a federal Caring For Our Country grant. It also marks the beginning of National Water Week, with a series of environmental programs and events. To RSVP or for more information, contact Emma Maltby on emma.maltby@brisbane.qld.gov.au or by phone on 3407 0836.
Sunday 18th October	Bird Surveys - 18th October at 6:30am at Wahminda Park. Contact our Surveys Coordinator, Jenny Ivin, on 3851 0160 (H) to register or to obtain more details. Check on our website home page to link to the overall program. or to check any last minute changes.
Tuesday 20th October	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and General Meeting Tuesday, 20th October, 7:30pm—9:30pm, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. The usual social hot drink and cake at the end.
Saturday 31st October & Friday 27th November	Batwatch Activities Hosted by BCC Conservation Rangers Craig and Melissa and resident flying foxes. Saturday 31st October Sparks Hill Batwatch and Batman Movie (open to general public) . Friday 27th November Batwatch for Community Groups Both activities held at Clover St. Park, Enoggera at 6.15pm. For further information or to RSVP, contact Craig Hardie by email craig.hardie@brisbane.qld.gov.au or phone 3407 1477



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