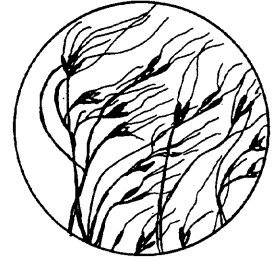




# BUSH NEWS

from the Natural Areas of Kedron Brook & Environs



No 17, Winter 1993

GreenBrook Association

## EDITORIAL

Old photos of Brisbane taken several generations ago typically show, alongside the outhouse, fruit trees, chooks and a vegetable garden: all things that are not common these days.

There are numerous reasons why this could be so. Perhaps lack of time is the cause - certainly life is more hectic now.

Or is it that the bugs have beaten us? Many gardeners seem to have given up because of the low success rate due to pests and predators. There is also a reluctance to use pesticides these days.

Perhaps the easiest things to grow are fruit trees - citrus, persimmons, mangos, tropical peaches and nectarines, etc. Brisbane has a superb climate for these, but we also have fruit flies, and fruit flies are a real curse.

So let me tell you about an environmentally friendly product that I came across recently. It is a small wick, very cheap, that can be easily fitted into an old bottle.

Over a 3 month period, using an embedded hormone, it attracts male fruit flies, and then kills them with an embedded insecticide.

My parents at Cleveland produced a bumper crop of peaches and nectarines the first season that

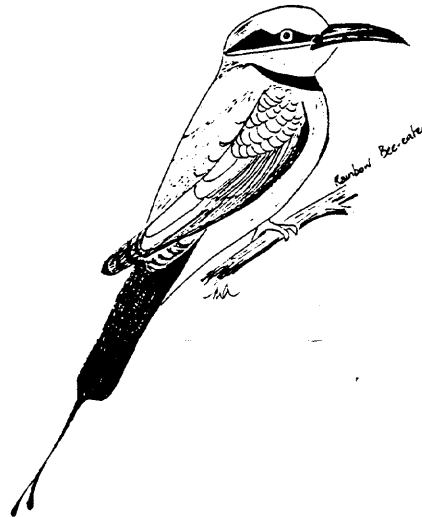
these traps were used. A friend at Ferny Hills, with just one trap, reported almost no stings on his persimmons, where usually he loses everything.

I commend this product as a way of helping us to return to a more natural way of living. See Plant of the Month for details.

Frank Box

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

A reader of Bush News recently told me about a flock of **Rainbow Bee-eaters** that he has watched, for some time, along Kedron Brook.



A plumage of blue, green and orange makes the Rainbow Bee-eater a colourful bird. The flocks are usually conspicuous, for the birds often sit on fences and telegraph wires in noisy groups waiting to swoop on insects. Sometimes they will roost in hundreds in a small leafy tree.

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Bees, wasps and hornets make up about 80 per cent of their diet - they are immune to bee stings.

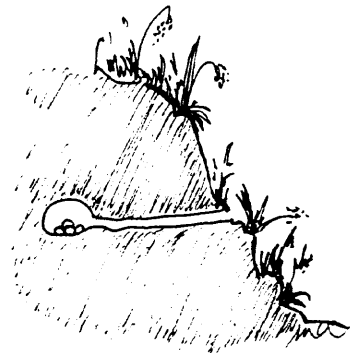
Because they are so active they must eat a great deal and a single bird can consume up to one hundred bees each day.

Breeding season is from September to April. Their nest is a tunnel that is over a metre long with a circumference just large enough for the birds body. It is dug into a bank or bare ground along creek banks.

They are vulnerable to disturbances to creek banks during their nesting season.

For the winter they migrate to the far north or even further to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Colleen Crosthwaite



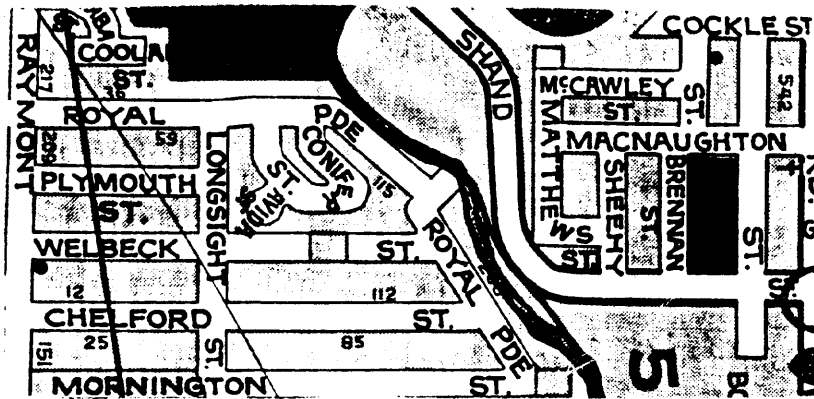
## SIMPSON'S PADDOCK

Last issue's request for local information drew a very good response. This is an article submitted by Conifer Street resident Greg Early.

In 1965, what was called Simpson's Paddock was subdivided into residential allotments and sold as Alderley Gardens Estate. This paddock, which bounded Kedron Brook, now comprises part of Royal Parade, Conifer Street and Avida Street Alderley. There were 77 new houses on the estate. In among these houses is an old fibro house which was already there when the estate was sold.

Another point that Alex mentioned to me was that "Cardie", a Wirth's Circus elephant who had killed either its trainer or another person, was tied to a large fig tree in Simpson's Paddock and shot. This possibly took place near where I live in Conifer Street because on an allotment near mine remained a large tree trunk which looked like it had been a fig tree.

Greg Early



An old timer, Alex Martin, who then lived in the old part of Royal Parade, told me that there was a wire gate into the paddock near the intersection of Royal Parade and Longsight Street.

Alex also told me that Simpson used the paddock to keep stock and probably pigs. I mention pigs because Simpson removed dead and injured animals from the roads for the Council. In those days farmers often used dead animals to feed their pigs.

At a later stage, the area was used as a market garden, either by Simpson or another person. I believe that, at least, the portion near Royal Parade, and the old house, was used for this purpose.

## CAN YOU HELP US?

Brisbane City Council has carried out major earthworks in the gully that backs onto Alcestor Street.

This gully has been one of our major headaches over the years, with weed infestation, masses of rubbish and ongoing erosion.

Many tonnes of fill have now been placed at the head of the gully to reduce the steepness of the slope, and bury many of the problems.

We intend to plant the slope with about 1 000 rainforest species over the next 12 months.

The next working bees will be held on -

11 July  
8 August  
12 September

Meet at 8.30 am at the Blandford St entrance to Grange Forest Park.

Bob Devine

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

Not a plant, but something to help you to control fruit flies.

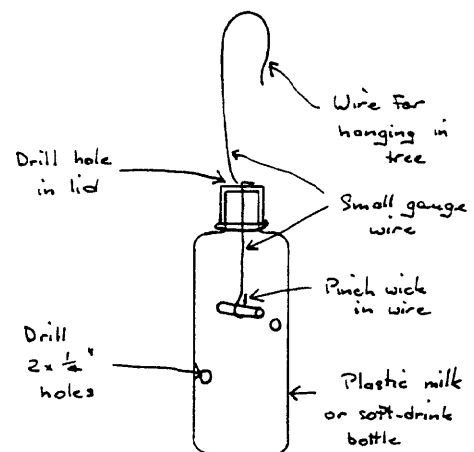
**Name:** Q Fly Wick

**Maker:** Integrated Pest Management P/L, Mundubbera

**Use:** Cut into 3 parts, and insert 1 part into a bottle as shown.

**Price:** About \$4

**From:** Perrotts Nursery  
Elkhorn St,  
Enoggera.



Homemade Trap using Q Fly Wick

(Mundubbera lies at the centre of Queensland's citrus growing region, and this wick has been a major part of that industry's pest control program for over 5 years)