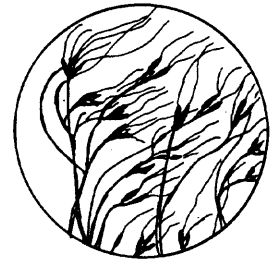


# BUSH NEWS

from the Natural Areas of Kedron Brook & Environs



No 23, Summer 1994/95

GreenBrook Association

## EDITORIAL

Nehemiah Bartley was a real estate developer in Brisbane in the mid 1800's. He published a book *Opals and Agates (Scenes under the Southern Cross and the Magelhans: being memories of 50 years of Australia and Polynesia)* in 1892, from which is drawn the following description of Kedron Brook.

I am indebted to David Teague for the reference.

Frank Box

## EARLY KEDRON BROOK

"Brisbane is, I think, the only metropolis in the world which combines a Highgate Hill with a Kedron Brook. The latter, a crystal-clear, mountain-born stream, flowing from west to east, on the north side of the city, losing itself, ultimately, in swamps, below where the German missionaries, of 1838, had their settlement, Niquet, Zillman, Rode, and the rest of them<sup>1</sup>. "

"The 'brook' was a fairy-like stream. Its banks lined with the narrow-leaf wattle, which blooms so beautifully, and loads the air with its 'nutty' gorse-like scent every August; its banks lined, also, with the narrow-leaf ti-tree, a *melaleuca neriifolia*<sup>2</sup>, which, in early November, breaks into bloom as gracefully as the wattle, with leaves which, when crushed, exhale the perfume of thyme; and flowers, with the exact odour of 'Grande Chartreau', and from which a rare *liqueur* could be prepared; and there is, also, the *Kennedy*, covering the ground with violet blossoms, as it creeps along the surface, in swathes of 20 feet in length, and the pretty little ground orchids, and so forth. There must have been fairies and kelpies there once, but slaughter-yards and fellmongers came along, and the fairies 'cleared', which was more than the water did."

"David Longland's big hill stood out high on the north side<sup>3</sup>, and Bartley's 'Eildon Hill' on the south of the brook, and Tom Hayes, and Tim Corbett, and old Mott, owned land on the upper part, and thereby hangeth a tale. One morning, in early 1859, I espied

Judge Lutwyche, spectacles on nose, Government map in hand, taking stock of some Crown allotments near the Green Hills<sup>4</sup>, and I thus addressed his Honour: 'You are looking at some lots, not very eligible, and which will not be sold for some time to come. There are some Crown ones, better than these, and which will be sold very shortly, and which I would recommend you to see first, and, if you like to come with me tomorrow, I will show them to you, as I mean to buy some myself.' He replied, 'I will come with you.'"



"We went, and Thorrold (I think) came with us. I showed them the nakedness of the land. I resolved on 'Eildon Hill', the judge, on what he called the pretty 'ha ha' lawns<sup>5</sup>, where 'Kedron Park' now is<sup>6</sup>; and Thorrold selected at the 'Thorroldtown' of modern days<sup>7</sup>. We camped, and lunched, by the brook, spent a delightful day, and the Judge particularly fancied some 'Presburger Zwieback' biscuits I had brought with me, and asked me for a tin-full of them, which I gave him."

## Explanatory Notes

- 1 Just east of Toombul Shoppingtown.
- 2 Probably *Melaleuca linariifolia*, which is now locally extinct (see Plant of the Month).
- 3 Sparkes Hill.
- 4 Does anyone know where this was?
- 5 The natural creek terraces leading down to Kedron Brook.
- 6 Nelson St, Kalinga.
- 7 Woolloowin.

## SLUGS - UGH!

After the recent showers you could come across our native slug *Triboniophorus*. Our first encounter was this year with a large individual who was happily munching the mossy lichen growing between the wet bricks on our front patio. He (pardon - it!!) was probably a mature adult measuring at least 15cm by 3½cm - grey in colour, with a narrow bright red fringe around the body, and a distinctive small red triangle near its head.

Our enquiries revealed that this was a reasonably common animal, though more likely to be seen at the lichen on our Grey Gum. It is apparently responsible for the dark lacy pattern often seen on the older bark.

Their habitat is restricted to the moist coastal areas from Cairns to Sydney. While our animals are mostly grey, those that live in rainforest can be bright orange or rosy red - a result of the different lichens that they eat.

Have no fear, these monsters are not interested in your veggie garden. Only the exotic species are the villains there.

Ruth Gall

## GRINSTEAD PARK

*This information comes from the Committee formed to advise Council on management of Sparkes Hill, Grinstead Park, Grange Forest Park and associated open spaces.*

Indications so far are that the two bushland parks are reasonably secure as open spaces. Not so, apparently, for Grinstead Park.

The Transport Dept has advised of a long-standing proposal for a road

through the western portion of the park (but there are no immediate plans for this to proceed).

Council has advised that there has been a submission to lease that portion of the park containing the Council depot, for a practice golf-driving range. This is being seriously considered by Council.



The Committee is firmly against both proposals, and is trying to stop them. However, it is a timely reminder that there is no absolute protection for anything. If we want our parks to remain as open spaces, then we will have to continually remind those in power that they belong to the people, and are not there to be given away.

Colleen Crosthwaite

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## HELP SAVE THE BUSH

Assistance is needed with the delivery of *Bush News*. Currently, this is done by the volunteers who also work in the park.

It only takes about 30 minutes to distribute *Bush News* in the streets close to you. This is an excellent way for people who have limited time, to make a contribution to keeping our area green. And think about the exercise you will get! Contact me for details.

To help with work in the bush, meet at the Blandford St entrance to Grange Forest Park, at 8.30 am, on -

5 Feb / 5 Mar / 9 Apr

Bob Devine (356 6577)

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

**Melaleuca linariifolia**  
"Snow in Summer"

This is a large shrub to 8m, with a beautiful, gnarled, paperbark trunk. The flowers are wispy white. It is hardy in cultivation.

While it is still common along watercourses throughout the Moreton region, it seems to have disappeared from Kedron Brook.

Available from  
**Perrotts Nursery,  
Elkhorn St, Enoggera**

