

BUSH NEWS

from the Natural Areas of Kedron Brook & Environs

No 7, Summer 1990/91

GreenBrook Association

EDITORIAL

I heard a story some years back about a new town that was built in Scotland. The city centre was positioned along the crest of a broad ridge. The upper slopes of the ridge were the residential areas, and the lower slopes reserved for forestry. The valley floors contained farms.

The town was enormously successful. Everyone had a rural vista, and local produce was fresh and affordable.

Ultimately, of course, it became too successful. People flooded in; the forests and farms were subdivided to house them, and now it looks like any other town.

The same, apparently, is about to happen to S.E.Qld. Government forecasts predict a 26% population increase over the next 10 years.

This will bring enormous pressures. There is already controversy over dam sites. Petroleum hydrocarbons, those inevitable byproducts of traffic and industry, are already widespread in the Brisbane River, and exist in high concentrations in our fish and birds.

More people will bring the need for more power lines, and exacerbate problems caused by sewerage which is never fully treated.

If we want to preserve the quality of life that we have now, we must limit the population of S.E.Qld.

In these circumstances, the last thing we need is a development-oriented government.

Frank Box

FROGS

The first of a 3 part series. This issue concerns the current distribution of frogs along Kedron Brook.

Recently, and quite by accident, I came across a colony of Green Tree Frogs. Although I could not see them, the noise, after a storm, was considerable. That they lived so close to home was a complete surprise, but more so was the fact that my 9 year-old son had never heard a frog before. Doubtless there are many like him.

The map below shows locations from which frogs have been reported during the past 12

months. This follows a call for information published in the Winter Bush News.

Several people reported that frogs had reappeared recently after an absence of 10 years or more.

The most common frog reported was the Green Tree Frog (the only local "croaking" frog), with Striped Marsh Frogs also mentioned (call is a single "pop").

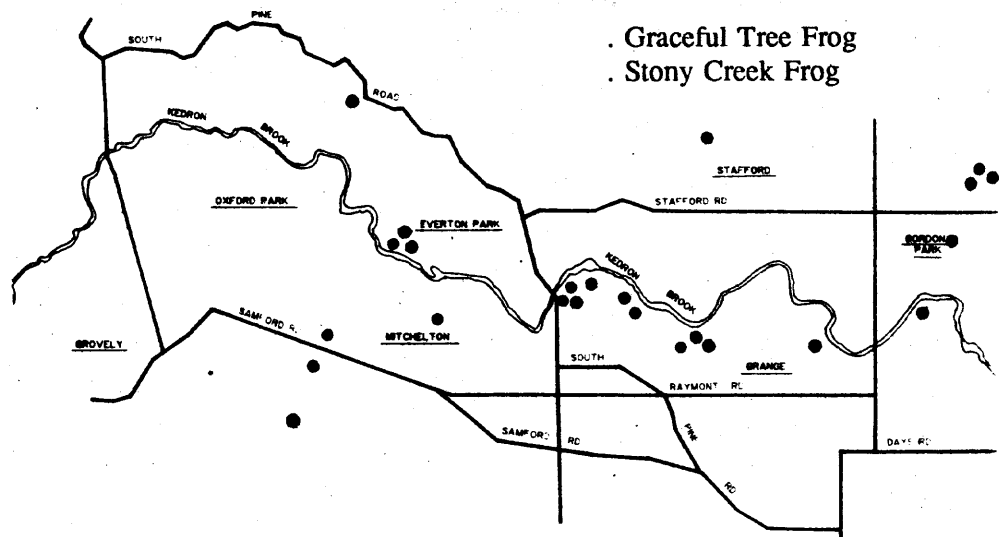
However the variety of local frogs is much greater than that. Lex Morley, President of the Brisbane Frog Society, reported the following recent sightings -

Grinstead Park (adj Shand St):

- . Ornate Burrowing Frog
- . Scarlet-Sided Pobblebonk
- . Green Tree Frog
- . Striped Marsh Frog
- . Bleating Tree Frog

And also, at Kalinga Park (near Toombul):

- . Graceful Tree Frog
- . Stony Creek Frog



RECYCLED OIL

Investigations during the last 10 years have found very high concentrations of petroleum toxins in local sea birds. One of the more obnoxious origins of this is sump oil - sump oil dumped into stormwater drains.



However there is an alternative. Sump oil is a very useable commodity. Better quality

sump oil is now refined into a high quality product marketed by Pearsons (sold through K Mart) and Marefine (Big W). This oil will soon be used in all Qld Govt cars.

Dirtier oil from diesel, LP gas and unleaded fuel systems is blended into fuel oil and used in boilers.

Even the most contaminated oils can be used - BHP saves \$2m a year by mixing 10 million litres of the dirtiest oil with coal to produce coke.

Used oil can be handed in at -

- . BCC tip, Fitzgibbon
- . K Mart Service Centres (Arana Hills, Chermside, Toombul)
- . Aspley Special School
- . Aspley Hypermarket

Sharon Hepburn

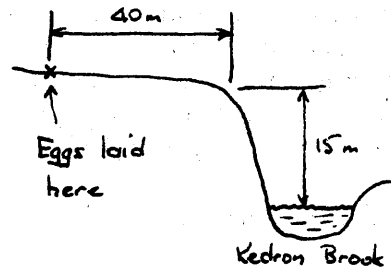
RECENT SIGHTINGS

At the Grange a Grey Shrike-Thrush has nested in a hanging basket on a verandah. This all-grey bird has been described as one of the world's most pleasing songbirds.

A White-breasted Sea Eagle was recently seen hunting along the Brook. While certainly rare in this area, there are many instances where it has been seen well inland along rivers and lakes.

The Grey Goshawk mentioned in the Spring '89 issue seems to have taken up residence at Sparkes Hill. Perhaps it has developed an appetite for Flying Fox.

A Long-necked Tortoise laid its eggs in Grange Forest Park last May. This is not uncommon, but the site chosen is certainly intriguing. It must have taken the animal all day to get there, and the young will have a long gauntlet to run before they are safe.



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CAN YOU HELP US ?

"The area is neglected, desolate and prone to grass fires". Only a few years ago, this was a very accurate description of that parcel of land now known as Grange Forest Park.

Since then, largely due to the efforts of a few, this land is now showing definite signs of becoming a significant bushland area.

Our next working bees are on -

- . 3 February
- . 10 March
- . 14 April

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

Bob Devine

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Callistamon Captain Cook

The weeping bottlebrush *Callistamon viminalis* can still be found as scattered individuals along Kedron Brook. While a lovely plant, it is much too big for most gardens.

Highly recommended, however, is one of its offspring, *Callistamon Captain Cook*. Growing to 2.5m, it retains all of the desirable characteristics of its parent.



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