

9/11/06

- **Two fires** were recently deliberately lit **in McRae's Paddock**. Police caught a teenager who admitted lighting the first fire on 7 July 2006 at the southern end of the valley but the arsonist who lit the second fire on 9 July 2006 at the central/northern end of the valley was not caught. Both fires have resulted in loss to native seedlings planted as part of re-establishing a riparian corridor along Kedumba Creek from funds provided by a Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) grant. Considering the grant funds provided by SCA awarded through Council in December 2001 to "The Bush Doctor" totalled approximately \$90,710 (for labour and material associated with weeding, planting and embankment restoration – completed in July 2004), \$200 (< 200 plants) compensation or other amount (decide a fair figure) for replacement of lost plants (to be planted by Friends or Kedumba Creek Bushcare) should not be seen as unreasonable. Request "Gully Traditional Owners" or Friends' permission to seek compensation of \$200 or other amount through Council.

- **Recent approved developments in Kedumba Valley** include dwellings at the housing estate bounded by Wellington Rd, Narrow Neck Rd and Farnells Rd and at Loftus St and Glenwattle Cl.

- The recent introduction into Parliament House of the **Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Banking) Bill** approved by Hon. Bob Debus and the NSW Government is a real threat to bushland blocks within Upper Kedumba River Valley. This Bill has not been supported by environmental groups and allows the clearing of threatened species habitat and the destruction of biodiversity values to function.

- **Slashing of native vegetation/swamp along Neale St.** Request Friends' permission to write a formal complaint to Council requesting remediation and protection of vegetation by landowner.

- **Proposed amendments to the Friends' Constitution**
 - "Rule 1: Interpretation" change from:

"Katoomba Falls Creek Valley was the former name of the valley now called Upper Kedumba River Valley. The former name has been retained in the name of the organisation."

To (proposed in bold and italics):

“Katoomba Falls Creek Valley was the former name of the valley now called Upper Kedumba River Valley. The former name has been retained in the name of the organisation ***and from time to time the valley may still be referred to as Katoomba Falls Creek Valley.***”

- “Rule 1B: Objects” point no. 6 change from:

“To ensure the land uses of the lands within the Upper Kedumba River Valley conform to the zonings within DLEP 2005 and LEP 1991 and the categories within the Upper Kedumba River Valley Plans of Management (April 2004).”

To (proposed in bold and italics):

“to ensure the land uses of the lands within the Upper Kedumba River Valley conform to the zonings within ***LEP 2005*** and LEP 1991 and the categories within the Upper Kedumba River Valley Plans of Management (April 2004).”

- “Rule 1B: Objects” point no. 8 change from:

“to ensure the rehabilitation of scoured, eroded and damaged areas of the Upper Kedumba River Valley, especially in the Frank Walford Park and middle sections of the valley, and especially the swamps, with special attention to elimination of exotic weeds and plant and animal pests and to promote revegetation.”

To (proposed in bold and italics):

“to ensure the rehabilitation of scoured, eroded and damaged areas of the Upper Kedumba River Valley, especially in the Frank Walford Park and middle sections of the valley, ***including McRae’s Paddock, Katoomba Falls Reserve and Selby Street Reserve,*** and especially the swamps, with special attention to elimination of exotic weeds and plant and animal pests and to promote revegetation.”

creek bank in McRae's Paddock