

## **IEWF - Annual report to all members to June 2007**

(08 July 2007)



(Photo: neighbours property impacted by grazing Crescent Head)

Hi IEWF members and directors

Follows is an update on activities undertaken by IEWF over the past 12 months.

### **Register of Environmental Organisation (REO)**

Our long awaited inclusion on the **Register of Environmental Organisation (REO)** went through on 13 February 2007. This means that all donations to IEWF are now tax deductible. If you or any of your contacts wish to make a donation the cheque needs to be made payable to "International Environment Weed Foundation – IEWF Public Fund". This is a little long winded but a compromise between the bank and the Registration requirements.

### **IEWF website.**

**This** is being regularly updated; we have added

- more weed pages
- introductory pages for the RNC Alliance (see below).

Also the NEWS page is regularly updated so don't forget to have a look from time to time.

### **"Know your garden's natives" (KYGN)**

This project is funded by a grant through the NSW Government's Environmental Trust and was completed on time at the end of February 2007. This project ran for 2 years (1 year plus a 1 year extension) and was run by Karina Hanemann, with some assistance from our Directors. Karina produced:

- a user friendly web-site
- introductory brochures
- a booklet "Know your gardens Natives" has been produced and 600 distributed to-date to City of Ryde Council and a few to local primary schools. You can email Karina at [info@knowyourgardensnatives.org](mailto:info@knowyourgardensnatives.org) if you would like a copy
- educational materials
- do have a look at the website linked from [www.iewf.org](http://www.iewf.org) or directly at [www.knowyourgardensnatives.org](http://www.knowyourgardensnatives.org)

### **Talks by IEWF**

We gave a few **talks** during the year.

- Karina introduced her KYGN project to the community at the Field of Mars in Ryde as part of the Ryde-Hunter's Hill Flora & Fauna Preservation Society's (RHHFFPS) open day.
- Karina spoke at the University of Queensland's St Lucia Campus as part of their 'Students of Sustainability' conference.

- IEWF ran a weeds workshop, a natives workshop and a walk and talk about local weeds and natives at the RHHFFPS open day.
- IEWF ran our 2<sup>nd</sup> weed identification class with the 1<sup>st</sup> year agricultural students at the University of Sydney. We have been invited to do this again in August 2007 and we will take the opportunity to additionally introduce the RNC project.

### **Media Coverage**

We had some local **media coverage** for IEWF and KYGN – see our News page on [www.iewf.org](http://www.iewf.org) if you missed seeing this.

### **Fund Raising**

Our **fund raising** site – [www.macronature.com.au](http://www.macronature.com.au) for selling digital photos still hasn't made us any money but does give us a greater presence in the on-line world. **eCorner and ePages** are very kindly **sponsoring** this site and the IEWF and RNC Alliance websites.

We continue to seek funding including from grants for projects which further the Foundation's Aims.

### **RNC (Restoration of Natural Capital) Alliance**

In January 2007 IEWF became the **Pacific Co-ordinator for the RNC Alliance**. RNC is the Restoration of Natural Capital and is essentially landscape function restoration for the benefit of man and the environment. For more information please see introductory pages on [www.iewf.org](http://www.iewf.org) and [www.rncalliance.org](http://www.rncalliance.org).

- We have been working on putting together an RNC 1-day **workshop** which already has a lot of interest with Landcare groups and with City of Ryde Council.
- John and Bev's project at Crescent Head (see photos) is a great example of landscape restoration
- We have applied for an EnviroFund Grant to help kick off these workshops and to do an on-ground demonstration project.
- James Aronson founder and world wide co-ordinator visited with us in March 2007 and our Directors, James and David Tongway (who runs Landscape Function Analysis Workshops here in Australia) spent time planning our future direction with the RNC Alliance.

### **University Alfredo Pérez Guerrero extensión Gualaceo, Ecuador (UNAP)**

We have been assisting the University in establishing firstly the university extension in Gualaceo (John and Bev are both Founding Members of the University in Gualaceo) and also in setting up an Environmental Sciences course. The university launched its first 5 courses in October 2006 (Marketing, Business Management, Accounting, Tourism and Information Technology). UNAPs aim is to offer advanced education to the less privileged and/or to those from remote locations within and beyond the Andes.

Bev attended the opening ceremonies in Ecuador (at my own expense). We were hoping to get the Environmental Sciences course up and running October 2007 but due to this being a course with greater overheads it may take a bit longer. If you hear of anyone who may be able to help please let me know.

In the interim UNAP has just launched a Centre for Research initially focusing on Ecuadorian orchids. This will be teaching local people scientific method and skills and will lead into a full environmental research centre. Jose (Pepe) Portilla one of the Founders of UNAP and Wayne Hanson (assisting with fund raising for UNAP) are currently in Australia. Our Directors have met with them to discuss the Environmental Sciences course.

### **CITES sponsorship for co-ordinator of UNAP environmental sciences course**

IEWF provided \$1000USD sponsorship for Mariana Mites (a lecturer and co-ordinator with UNAP) to attend the CITES conference as the elected member of the Scientific Committee for Flora For South America and the Carrabean held in the Hague, The Netherlands, from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup> 2007. This was and is a great honour for the university and for Mariana.

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that the international trade of specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

### **Green Circles Project**

IEWF is now a partner organisation with the City of Ryde **Green Circles Project** which is about educating students, parents and teachers within Ryde in natural resource management.

### **Australian Council for International Development Inc. (ACFID)**

We are in the process of completing our application to join **Australian Council for International Development Inc. (ACFID)** once we have been accepted and comply to their Code of Practice we are able to apply for **AusAID** funding to undertake overseas projects.

### **Accounts and Administration**

Our **accounts** are audited annually and have been sent to our accountants for the 2006-7 year. We need to have our annual reports, ASIC report and statistical report (for REO) complete by October 31 so look out for the audited accounts and an invitation to our AGM soon thereafter.

Thanks to John and Louise for their support as co-directors. All 3 of us are continuing to be involved in a number of other environmental and computing Foundations, Associations and committees with obvious benefits.

### **AGM**

**Telephone or email or meeting for AGM? Please let us know your preference.**

We plan to run our AGM informally via email again this year after we have received our audited accounts probably in November. Or if any of you would prefer it we can run a teleconference AGM. We do not expect you to travel from HK, USA, Melbourne, Hunter Valley etc to attend our meeting. Please let us know your preference.

Our audited accounts will be sent to you via email once they are received from our auditors. If you have any particular issues you wish to raise for discussion at our AGM please do a "reply all" on this email so that we are all kept in the loop. Or email to me for a private discussion beforehand if you wish. This report is the annual report and will therefore be part of the AGM for acceptance.

Essentially the AGM is for reviewing/accepting this report, reviewing/accepting the audited accounts and discussion of any issues.

IEWF being an incorporated company has Directors as proposed at its incorporation. These people will hold those positions until death or removal by the company or resignation (please see our Constitution as emailed to you in December 2006). Therefore we do not need to vote on who holds what office. The positions held are:

Bev Debrincat	- Executive Director and Secretary
(Margaret) Louise Brodie	- Director
John Debrincat	- Director

All three of us also were accepted by the Minister for the Federal Department of Environment and Water Resources in February 2007 as worthy persons for managing the IEWF Public Fund.

If you would like to become more involved in our activities we would love to hear from you. Please contact me if you have any questions or if I have neglected to mention anything of importance. Best wishes to you all and thank you for your on-going support and interest.

Regards  
Bev



(Photo: Dunal restoration Crescent Head natives have replaced bitou bush)