

IEWF - Annual report to all members to June 2008

(31 July 2008)

Hi IEWF members and directors

Follows is an update on activities undertaken by IEWF over the past 12 months. Most of this you will already have read on our News page on our website www.iewf.org/news.htm.

We endeavour to keep our website up-to-date with all activities so that all members and other interested people can see what we are doing. Please let me know if there is ever anything that you feel should be included (or excluded).

Our accounts have gone to our auditors (Satill & Miller Services) and we should have all of our accounts and activities audited and statutory reports complete by the due date of October 31st. You will see this report again after that date along with a copy of the audited accounts and an invitation to our AGM.

Our activities for the year starting with most current first follow. Enjoy the read!

Wishing you are great year ahead and thank you for your on-going support.

Bev Debrincat

Australian Government (formerly Envirofund Round 9) grant won

"Restoring Natural Capital for Community and Landscape Level Benefits"

We were delighted to hear (May 2008) that we won a grant for \$29,300 for expanding the Restoring Natural Capital Workshop program and doing associated on-ground activities with City of Ryde and Hunter's Hill Council, the Environmental Education Centre in the Field of Mars Reserve and with Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society and the local community. We look forward to developing our activities with the surrounding schools, youth groups and building strategic community groups within the area.

This project will focus on introducing RNC and on building a Habitat Network throughout Ryde and Hunter's Hill.

Our first RNC workshop for this project will focus on Buffalo Creek catchment and is planned for August 30. We will be putting on an RNC and Know Your Gardens Natives display with Hunter's Hill Council at Mocooboola Festival on August 3rd at Boronia Park, Hunter's Hill. And our first workshop for Hunter's Hill will held on October 19th.

There are 2 new workshops being developed for this program which introduce RNC and promote the Habitat Network – one is for the community (completed) and one is for schools (underway). A schools competition to develop a logo for the Habitat Network will also be run as part of this program.

An introductory presentation has also been developed which introduces RNC and gives ideas about what can be done in an urban environment.

Know Your Gardens Natives and Gardening Australia

The NSW Government through it's Environmental Trust extended the reach of our Know Your Gardens Natives project by assisting with a reprint of the "Your Hidden Native Garden" booklets and providing 25,000 copies to be distributed with the July 2008 Gardening Australia magazine. We hope you all got your copy!

Restoring Natural Capital Workshops - Ecuador May 2008

RNC Alliance members from France, USA and Australia met up in Ecuador and ran workshops in Cuenca and Gualaceo and lectured at the university in Yantzaza. Many interesting discussions took place with various government and non government people regarding starting an RNC youth project and lending support to other projects. We were delighted to be shown around the Gualaceo catchment, Cajas National Park and the proposed Botanic Gardens site in Cuenca. There are many wonderful projects underway in this part of the world.

We are continuing to work with University Alfredo Pérez Guerrero extensión Gualaceo to push forward the launch of what will become the RNC centre for excellence. The new course is due to start in September 2009.

Restoring Natural Capital presentation for orchid growers

March 2008 an introductory RNC presentation was run for Berowra Orchid Society. And in July 2008 a revised presentation was run for Orchid S.P.E.C.I.E.S. (NSW). This presentation looks at why RNC and how it relates to orchid growers. Another presentation is planned for North Shore Orchid Society in February 2009.

Catchment Connections Project & Restoring Natural Capital Workshops

We have been invited to participate in the Catchment Connections Project being undertaken by Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Hornsby Councils. We have already run a demonstration RNC Workshop for this project. This workshop will lead into a bush friendly neighbours program and link into our Habitat Network from our grant detailed above.

Restoring Natural Capital Workshops

Our [RNC Workshop](#) launched in November 2007 and now being run in Australia and Ecuador. Workshop materials are available in English and Spanish. Shorter presentations and workshops are also available - see our Workshops page.

The RNC Workshop is free and runs for a full day or can run over 2 days if you have the time. The workshop is designed to look at local landscape issues (relating to water, soils, people, culture, production systems, flora, fauna and the natural environment), to build (and build upon) local community groups and to develop strategic landscape restoration projects planned and run (with guidance) by the community. This workshop is recommended to Councils, CMAs, Landcare groups and any community organisation to run for their local communities. We also run introductory presentations for clubs and community groups.

IEWF accepted as a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, October 2007

As a not for profit NGO we have a commitment to restoring degraded ecosystems for the benefit of man and the environment. As our projects focus on working with communities we felt that it was important to adopt a code of conduct which highlights the importance of community, culture and human wellbeing. We are therefore honoured to be accepted by the ACFID Code of Conduct committee.

Guest lecturer at University of Sydney, August 2007

For the third year running Bev Debrincat gave a guest lecture at University of Sydney as an introduction for 1st year students enrolled in a variety of courses related to agriculture, veterinary sciences and the environment. The lecture covered plant identification, the use of modern key systems and introduced the concepts of Restoring Natural Capital.

City of Ryde - Ryde Environmental Education Network and Sustainability Committee

We have continued to have representation with both of these advisory groups and may look at getting involved with the Ryde Bushland & Environs Committee as well for the coming year.