

Annual Report – International Environmental Weed Foundation July 2009

Accounts

Our accounts will be audited ready for distributing to Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts by the end of October 2009 and for our AGM in November/December 2009.

If you would like a copy sent to you please let me know. As usual this year's and all previous year's reports are available to all members and supporters, just email me at info@iewf.org.

Message from Bev

As usual we have had a busy year especially as we all work other full time jobs. I believe we are making a difference. I have been involved and am still involved in various committees with both Ryde and Hunter's Hill Councils and promote IEWF and our activities at as many appropriate opportunities as possible. Louise and John also throughout their various roles promote us. And I hope all of our member do the same – even if it's only to invite people to look at our website – www.iewf.org.

Andre (Andy) Clewell one of the RNC Alliance original members will be here in September. He will be speaking at the SERI conference in Perth and also the Restoring Biodiversity Conference in Sydney. Paddy Woodworth another significant RNC Alliance member will be in Perth for the conference too. Andy and Paddy will be talking RNC to many people and should have an impact.

During the year we concentrated on our Australian Federal Government grant project "Restoring Natural Capital for Community and Landscape Level Benefits" which is focused on Ryde and Hunter's Hill in Sydney. This is proving to be a great project to demonstrate restoring natural capital in the urban environment.

Thank you for your continued support. Please see below for specific activities carried out over the past year.

*Regards
Bev*

*Bev Debrincat
Executive Director
IEWF*

RNC – Habitat Network grant project

In May 2008 we won a Federal Government Envirofund grant of \$29,300 for a project entitled "Restoring Natural Capital for Community and Landscape Level Benefits" and so most of our time has been taken with running this project. It has been developed in partnership with City of Ryde, Hunter's Hill Council, the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre and with support from Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society and the local communities of Ryde and Hunter's Hill.

We have developed Restoring Natural Capital (RNC) workshops for the community and talks for primary schools and local community groups. The workshops and talks have been made available generally via our website and copies have been sent to Ecuador, Cambodia and Zimbabwe as well as to locations in Australia. The schools talk was distributed to 16 of our local primary schools via USB keys.

As a result of running the RNC Workshops it was identified that we are losing our local small native birds



Pamplin Block, Field of Mars Reserve

and we urgently need to create habitat corridors and networks. And so we have developed an RNC project called the "Habitat Network" which will focus on creating (and planting) a Habitat Network throughout Ryde and Hunter's Hill. This network will be on private and public land. It will build community while building habitat for our small birds.

A habitat network is a practical way to have many people involved in restoring our natural capital for the benefit of the people and the environment.

We have run a display at Moocooboola in Hunters Hill (and have others planned for August 2nd at Boria Park and Aug 5th at the Ryde Business and Sustainability Expo).



Workshop - FOM Environmental Education Centre

We have run several community days at the Pamplin Block in the Field of Mars Reserve and also at the top of Buffalo Creek in Burrows Park. The Pamplin Block is a grassed area in the middle of good bushland and is currently infested with rabbits. The first task here was to erect rabbit proof fencing and do other site preparation works. At both locations we have planted habitat plants selected especially to favour small birds. These plants are being grown from local provenance seed by Cornucopia Nursery (Mars Inc) another not-for-profit community organisation.

The Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre is directly involved with the Field of Mars part of the project through National Tree Day and plantings around the Education Centre with their students on an on-going basis. They have also provided a venue at no charge for running workshops.

Taronga Park Zoo was going to be involved in sustainably using the bamboo which borders some of the grass area at the Pamplin Block. Unfortunately their collection vehicle is not appropriate to the terrain.



Display at Moocooboola, Aug 2008



In 1st term 2009 the teachers from 4 primary schools had students participate in a logo drawing competition to help us design a logo for the Habitat Network. In May 2009 the Hon Maxine McKew MP presented the prizes to the winning students at an awards ceremony at Ryde East Primary School. A wonderful logo for the Habitat Network has been produced using inspiration from the winning entries. The logo will eventually be printed as stickers to be displayed by participating households.

As well as running our RNC workshops we have run "RNC Habitat Network" workshops and introductory talks at various venues and taken people for walks where we talk about history, habitat and invasive plants.

From all workshops we have promoted and extended the

local council run bushcare programmes.

Early in 2009 we developed a brochure focused on educating people about invasive vines, encouraging the removal of these vines and the replacement with native habitat plants. With the help of the Tzu Chi Foundation (a locally based Taiwanese Buddhist foundation) we have translated it into Mandarin and are running an awareness program with their members. See our website home page to download copies of these brochures.

During the workshops it was identified that Ryde and Hunter's Hill need a community native plant nursery and also community gardens for demonstrating practical uses of native plants and their integration into sustainable gardens. We are working with the councils towards developing these practical projects. A number of community groups, organisations and schools are supporting us with advancing these projects.

During 2009 a number of primary schools have carried our Habitat Planting Days at their schools as a component of our Habitat Network. National Tree Day will also see additional planting of habitat areas.

University Alfredo Pérez Guerrero extensión Gualaceo, Ecuador

The environmental sciences degree course which we have been pushing to get started for the past few years was finally launched in January 2009 and with a full complement of students. This course is presented as an Engineering Degree Course in the Restoration of Natural Capital. With its primary focus on Restoring

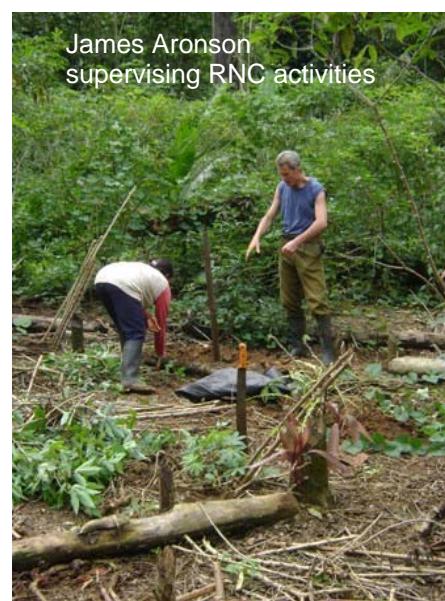


James Aronson teaching
in an outdoor classroom

Natural Capital it is the first of its kind and is already attracting interest from all over the world.

James Aronson from the RNC Alliance in

France took a group of university students from Spain to work with the new university's students on practical applications of RNC at 2 sites in Ecuador. I believe the trip and experience was a great success.



James Aronson
supervising RNC activities

Our next focus is to work with Ecuagenera in Ecuador to establish an Environmental Research Station at one of the Ecuagenera Reserves for use by the local universities. This project will need a lot of financial assistance for everything from building the centre, specialist teachers, tools, books and student sponsorship. We will try to assist with raising awareness and avenues for funding.

Google Grants Program

In July 2008, IEWF was selected to participate in the Google Grants program on the basis that our organisation had the potential to benefit from free Google AdWords advertising. From this we have seen a significant increase in the number of visitors to our website and those associated with us.

New Green Waste brochures featuring IEWF photos

In October 2008 the Bureau of Rural Sciences produced a pair of brochures to promote best practice processing of green waste, to minimise weed spread. The brochures, one produced for local governments and the other for home gardeners (features IEWF photos). They can be downloaded from: http://adl.brs.gov.au/brsShop/html/brs_prod_90000003980.html and http://adl.brs.gov.au/brsShop/html/brs_prod_90000003979.html

International Environmental Weed Foundation aims to:

- (a) protect and enhance a significant aspect of the natural environment by carrying out research into invasive plants; and
- (b) facilitate and support the conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems; and
- (c) create a web based invasive plant identification system which will be available to the community on the internet to assist the average non-scientist to identify weeds and obtain current information regarding weed control techniques; and
- (d) provide community information and education in relation to invasive plants.

Qualifications of Directors:

Bev DeBrincat is the Founder and Executive Director. Bev is also Financial Controller for her family eBusiness company, eCorner Pty Ltd.

Being a practical organiser, with a background in the computer industry and bushland management, Bev is able to undertake a wide range of projects. Her education and experience encompasses systems development and management, marketing, bushland management (formerly an on-ground supervisor with the National Trust). She has also been involved in a number of workshops in bushfire management, soils, soil biota and fungi, feral animal control, translocation, bush regeneration, weed control, natural regeneration gardening – some at the receiving end and some at the giving end. Bev was co-ordinator of her local Community Fire Unit in Sydney and is active in both city Bushcare and country Landcare. As a landholder, in the Macleay Valley Coast (Northern Rivers CMA), for the past 30 years she has co-managed the regeneration and restoration of her 22.92 hectare property of which 22.8 hectares are now under a Voluntary Conservation Agreement under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974. This property includes Littoral Rainforest, Coastal Wetlands and Dunes. Bev was responsible for starting the bushcare program within her local city council area by networking local volunteers and, with their assistance, obtaining grant funding.

IEWF has a number of projects underway with various educational institutions and independent practitioners, in Australia and Ecuador, see our News page and www.knowyourgardensnatives.org. IEWF is the co-ordinator for the RNC Alliance for the Pacific region, networking local scientists and practitioners with those from overseas, see www.rncalliance.org.

IEWF, Bev, the volunteer network and other partners have been successful in winning and managing grants for projects such as coastal dune restoration works, bush regeneration, creek restoration and education in both Sydney and/or the mid-north coast.

Louise Brodie is a director of International Environmental Weed Foundation (IEWF) and has qualifications in agriculture and horticulture. She has held a number of senior positions during her career including having been a member of the Board of Greening Australia (NSW). Her background is in bushland restoration and vegetation management. More recently Louise has worked with funding programs which assist landowners in managing and restoring their land for biodiversity. Currently Louise works for NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water putting in place agreements with landholders to manage their land for natural and cultural heritage.

John Debrincat is a director of IEWF and has extensive experience in the Information Technology Industry. He is a Fellow of the Australian Computer Society. John is the founder, Managing Director of eCorner Pty Ltd, which specialises in offering eCommerce solutions throughout Asia Pacific and which sponsors a number of websites for various environmental organisation. He has been a senior executive in various information technology companies for over 20 years.

He is Chairman of the Australian Computer Society Foundation. This is a non-profit organisation that has raised over \$8 million dollars for scholarships since 2001, and has funded over 550 scholarships for Information Technology students to universities in Australia and New Zealand. He is an Honorary Life Governor of Sydney University Foundation for Information Technologies. The Foundation provides guidance and advice on the issues related to Information and Communications Technology research and development. It provides linkage between industry and the university.

Summary of Financials

Full financial report is available on request.

IEWF made a loss of \$5,306 for the year ended 30 June 2009 (2008 \$27,847 profit).

No single appeal or other form of fund raising for a designated purpose generated 10% or more of total income for this financial year.

Donations received were \$1,100 from eCorner Pty Ltd to buy a digital projector for use in running workshops and for giving presentations.

There were no overseas expenditures for this financial year.

All expenditures for the year were related to the running of the Australian Federal Government grant project for which we received funds in the preceding year.

	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Activities income	300	480
Grant income	-	29,300
Donations received	1,100	-
Payments to suppliers	(12,168)	(4,203)
Interest received	9,751	5,498
Expenses reimbursed	-	27
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Net cash used in operating activities	(1,017)	31,102
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CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of non-current assets	(1,100)	-
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Net cash used in investing activities	(1,100)	-
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CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Formation costs - -		
Net cash used in (provided by) financing activities	-----	-----
	-	-
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Net (decrease)/increase in cash held	(2,117)	31,102
Cash as at 1 July 2008	137,210	106,108
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Cash at 30 June 2009	135,093	137,210
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