

International Environmental Weed Foundation Annual Report – June 2010

International Environmental Weed Foundation is pleased to present a report on our activities during the year from 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010.

Australian Government (formerly Envirofund Round 9) Grant

The grant that we won back in May 2008 for \$29,300 entitled "Restoring Natural Capital for Community and Landscape Level Benefits" from the Australian Government's Envirofund Grant Program was completed in December 2009. The grant funded a number of activities.

Habitat Network: This grant led us to the creation of the Habitat Network which will continue on into the future as a working example of a Restoring Natural Capital project. The Habitat Network is networking people and habitat with the primary focus on small bird habitat as a means to landscape level restoration and community education. By using small birds as the indicator species, we connect with many in the community, as everyone relates to small birds and their loss from our gardens. Through these connections we are able to gently educate people on topics as diverse as habitat, native plants, weeds, landscape function, ecological restoration and sustainable gardening.

Partnerships: We are continuing to work in partnership with our project partners City of Ryde, Hunter's Hill Council, the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre and Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society. We have promoted the Council's bushcare programs and Ryde's Catchment Connections project.

Activities: Throughout the grant period and during the following six months we have run workshops, displays at Moocooboola Festival, Eden Gardens, the Bondi Bohemia Festival and Land Cove Tourist Park all were good fun and we talked to many people about aspects of the "RNC Habitat Network" project.

We also ran: Visits to Cornucopia Nursery, bird viewing walks, twilight twitters and a number of talks for Easy Care Gardening, the Ecological Restoration Conference and the National Women's League of Australia. Andre Clewell also visited with us from the USA RNC Alliance and he spoke for us at 3 different venues including the Ecological Restoration Conference and attended a number of field excursions with various Councils and groups.

Having discovered a flying fox camp in Riverglade Reserve in May 2010 we ran a walk and talk at the camp, with a special guest speaker, John Martin, from the Botanic Gardens. Home visits for members of our Habitat Network to talk about gardens, weeds, natives and of course habitat and food plants were also popular.



Community Planting Days: We ran several community planting days at the Pamplin block in the Field of Mars Reserve, at Riverglade Reserve and Burrows Park. The Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre, with our assistance, has been planting a habitat corridor as a display area for their centre. We have networked with a number of primary schools and helped plan and plant habitat areas. For some schools we ran interactive presentations with the students in which we discussed RNC and habitat. We have developed some materials and an approach to assist the teachers and students in developing their own plans for their school's habitat corridors.

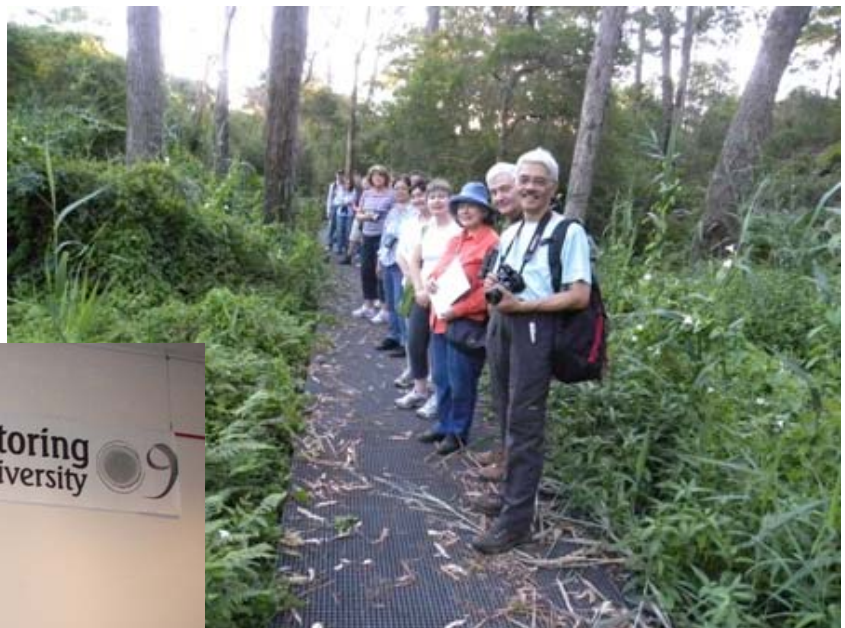
We thank Cornucopia (Mars Inc) for growing all of the local provenance habitat plants for this project. We pre-ordered plants with the grant funds to see us through the next year for promotions and some school and community plantings.

Information: Our Habitat Network logo, which was designed during the early part of this project, now graces all of our displays and brochures. Please visit www.habitatnetwork.org to view our brochures, information and photos. We have been very lucky to connect with Sue Stevens, Steve Anyon-Smith and Kurtis Lindsay who have input their wealth of small bird and habitat knowledge.



The grant funding finished December 2009 but by no means has this project stopped growing! We thank our partners and all involved for helping make this project a success. To date we have over 350 members. Members include families, businesses, community groups and any other interested parties. We have also distributed our materials to other habitat projects, Councils and Lane Cove National Park.

Habitat Network members on a Twilight Twitter in the Field of Mars Reserve



Andre Clewell keynote speaker at the 2009 Restoring Biodiversity Conference

Community Native Plant Nursery and Community Gardens

In order to extend our Habitat Network project and potential habitat corridors we need a source of affordable and suitable local native plants. We have been working towards establishing a community nursery in Ryde since late 2008. It has taken time but we are getting closer. As of August 2010 we have a location approved by Ryde Council in Santa Rosa Park, Quarry Road, Ryde. The next step is to get funding to connect water and construct a fence. We already have a glass house and plant benches donated.

In talking to the community about our Habitat Network project it has become obvious that Ryde and Hunter's Hill also need community gardens for demonstrating practical uses of native plants and their integration into sustainable gardens (which include habitat and edible plants). We are working with the Councils toward developing these practical projects. A number of individuals, community groups and schools are supporting us with advancing these projects.

In January 2010 we formed an informal group called the "Ryde Growing Community Network" to combine the efforts of all local groups wanting to start community gardens in an endeavour to get approval to commence community gardens and the native plant nursery in Ryde. We also have a group from Hunter's Hill supporting us with working towards Community Gardens in Hunter's Hill.

Council Projects

Ryde and Hunter's Hill Councils (supported by us and other groups) have won a grant to create two native plant / habitat corridors to connect the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers - the project is called "River to River". We are part of the reference group for this project. Our small bird surveys and work on creating corridors augment this project.

Published paper in Ecological Restoration magazine - June 2010

Our article entitled "Networking, Habitat Restoration, and Restoration Education in Sydney, Australia" was published in the US Ecological Restoration magazine, June 2010 special education issue. Visit our website www.habitatnetwork.org to connect to the article and read more detail about our Habitat Network project.

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority - grant won - June 2010

Sydney CMA funding will help us to further develop, print and distribute "Creating small bird habitat haven" posters and "Weed removal and Habitat" brochures. These resources in their current form can be found on our Habitat Network website. We are excited by the prospect of working with Virginia Bear again. Virginia is the wonderful graphic artist who designed our Habitat Network logo and associated drawings used in our brochures and for promotions.

IEWF has resigned from ACFID - January 2010

After almost 3 years as an ACFID Code of Conduct Signatory we resigned. The focus of ACFID on Asia and the detailed levels of documentation required are not compatible with the size of our organisation and objectives. We still commit to the professional Code of Conduct espoused by ACFID however we are no longer a signatory.

January 2010 - Passing of "a good old weed" Brendan Hannelly AO

We are saddened by the passing of one of our founding members who unstintingly provided his support to IEWF. Brendan took great delight in referring to himself as "the good old weed" and I think felt our Foundation reflected his character. Brendan was a giving person and loved to network with people from all walks of life - from politics and the IT industry to universities and schools. He will be missed.

University Alfredo Pérez Guerrero extensión Gualaceo, Ecuador

The environmental sciences degree course, which is presented as an Engineering Degree Course in the Restoration of Natural Capital, has been running now for almost 2 years. This course with its primary focus on Restoring Natural Capital is the first of its kind and is continuing to attract interest from all over the world. We as founding members of the university continue to hear good reports of the University's activities.

Our next focus in Ecuador was to work with Ecuagenera Nursery to establish an Environmental Research Station at one of the Ecuagenera Reserves. As of mid 2010 this is no longer a possibility however we will continue to assist them in their conservation efforts.

Google Grants Program and Websites

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. This free service is continuing to run and brings us a steady stream of visitors to our websites. Thank you Google!

Donation earmarked for invasive vine removal at Greenwood Park

A donation from Johnson Controls Australia in Macquarie Park for \$1,000 USD (\$1136 AUD) has been earmarked for urgently need invasive vine control at Greenwood Park, in partnership with City of Ryde. Vines being targeted are Morning Glory and Blackberry. The National Trust will be employed via Council to undertake this work. It is anticipated that the works will be undertaken in October / November 2010. Johnson Controls have already also donated their time to start this vine removal. Thank you Johnson Controls Australia for the interest, energy and donation.



Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre's habitat planting demonstration site - newly planted

Small Bird Surveys

Important elements of our Habitat Network project are small bird surveys and mapping. We have been assisted by Andrew Allen (lecturer at Macquarie University), Kurtis Lindsay and other students from Macquarie University. They have helped with surveys within Riverglade Reserve, Field of Mars Reserve and Bedlam Bay so that we have base data to monitor the effectiveness of some of the Habitat Network's and our partner's activities. We are also recording and mapping all small bird locations in Ryde and Hunter's Hill. We are in the process of ground-truthing previously recorded locations and adding new sightings.



Silver-eye one of our indicator species

We are continuing to update and manage the following websites:

www.iewf.org

www.rncalliance.org

www.knowyourgardensnatives.org ,

www.macronature.org

www.habitatnetwork.org

Thank you for your continued support

Bev Debrincat



*Johnson Controls Australia
volunteers with Sandra Payne
(City of Ryde Bushcare Officer at
Greenwood Park ready to start
removing Morning Glory.*