

## International Environmental Weed Foundation Annual Report – June 2011

*International Environmental Weed Foundation is pleased to present a report on our activities during the year from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.*

### **Donations, Grants and Fund Raising**

**Johnson Controls Australia** is again donating \$1,000 USD for on-ground works in the Shrimpton's Creek catchment, Ryde for later in 2011. The JCI team are also going to actively undertake weed removal again in Greenwood Park.

**Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife** we completed the 3 year grant (valued at \$6,000) under their Private Land Conservation Grants Program for bitou bush management at our For Rest project site in Crescent Head. We have applied for a further 3 year grant. (As at August 2011 a further 3 year grant (valued at \$9,000) has been won to continue this important long-term project.) Note grants are awarded to the landowners.

**City of Ryde** has awarded us a community grant for \$1,000 to go towards the development of the Community Native Plant Nursery at Santa Rosa Park, Ryde.

**2010 NSW Government's Community Building Partnership (CBP)** Thanks to Victor Dominello MP and to the NSW Government we have funding of \$18,323 for the creation of a community run native plant propagation area at Santa Rosa Park on Quarry Road in Ryde. We are currently working with City of Ryde to re-categorise the land as "Community Open Space", to change the Master Plan and also the Plan of Management. We are hoping to be able to start construction by March 2012.

**Hunter's Hill Council** grant for \$700 to purchase display equipment (including projection screen, marquee, covers, tables and associated items) all of which have been very well used already. This grant has been finalised.

**Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority** Grant (value \$4,000) was used to upgrade, print and distribute 4 of our brochures so that they are more generally useful. It also gave us the opportunity to engage graphic artist Virginia Bear to create a visual habitat cross section from our "Planting a habitat haven" poster. This grant also has been finalised.

**Riverside Market stall** on the 4th Saturday of each month a small group of volunteers man the Habitat Network display & stall at Riverside Organic Market in Gladesville to sell local provenance native plants as a fund-raiser for the community nursery, sign up new members and to talk about creating small bird habitat.

### **Habitat Network project wins awards**

May 2011 - IEWF won 2 regional awards from the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority. We received a joint 1st for the Innovation Award and a Highly Commended for the Urban Landcare Award. Well done to all involved. See the Habitat Network website ([www.habitatnetwork.org](http://www.habitatnetwork.org)) for more information and to link to a video produced for the occasion.



*Bev showing 2 awards*

## Habitat Network

We have continued to grow the Habitat Network project as a working example of a Restoring Natural Capital project. This means a project is being run for the benefit of the environment, production systems and the local community.

In order to advance this project, extend our invasive plant and native plant education and also to continue Restoring Natural Capital we:

- network with, promote and support the activities of groups related to habitat preservation, restoration and enhancement. In 2011 we have added connections with groups in many locations including Coffs Harbour, Sutherland, Mt Annan and Manly.

- regularly give talks for other groups, such as (in 2011) City of Sydney, Sydney Metropolitan CMA, The Wilderness Society, Australian Plant Society - Sutherland, Ray Park Heritage Group and others planned with Menai Wildflower Group and Mt Annan Botanic Gardens.

- arrange for others to give talks. In April 2011 Tanya Leary did a wonderful talk on inner city bandicoots and Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife gave a talk on native habitat. We also promote talks and activities organised by other groups as appropriate, for example bird talks organised by Ryde -Hunter's Hill Flora & Fauna Preservation Society and Growers for Greenspace planting days.

- have a stall and display at the Riverside Organic Market, 4th Saturday morning of each month, where we sell local native plants to fund-raise for the Ryde community plant nursery and garden.

- put on displays, where we have habitat plant giveaways, talk to people about habitat for small birds and native animals and give out our educational material, all with the aim of encouraging people to increase native habitat at home. For example: Nov 2010 at Boronia Park Primary Big Day Out, Dec 2010 at Gladesville Market Day (organised by Gladesville Chamber of Commerce), June 2011 World Environment Day at Terry's Creek in partnership with Transition Epping and also at Ultimo TAFE, June 2011 at Eden Gardens One Drop Festival. Also planned: July 2011 with Ray Park Heritage Group, August 2011 at Moocooboola with Hunter's Hill Council and Willoughby Council's Fauna Fair, Sept 2011 at Lane Cove Tourist Park and Ryde Rivers Festival. The Ray Park Heritage Group has also put on habitat displays at Hornsby Council events such as the plant giveaway day in March 2011. Willoughby Council printed our new habitat haven poster as a banner and used it as a focal point at the bushcare stand at the Easter Show. Thanks to a **Hunter's Hill Council Community Grant** we have some new equipment to use for our displays and talks.

- are regularly developing and providing brochures, advice and display materials to National Parks, Councils, schools, other habitat projects. Watch our home pages of this website and [the Habitat Network website](#) for new materials. Also see our resource list below.



*Display at Easter Show with our banner*

- are continuing to add new weed pages to our [Web Weed Lookup](#).

- have developed invasive vine brochures in Mandarin and English which are non Council specific, with funds from the **Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority's grant** and the assistance of some wonderful volunteers. With this funding we also developed new Creating Habitat information brochures.

- are starting a community native plant nursery in order to have local provenance native habitat

plants available to the wider community for use in their gardens and at local bushcare sites. We have approval from Councillors and staff of City of Ryde to start. And we have funding to get the nursery up and running from the **2010 NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program**, thank you to the NSW Government and our local MP Victor Dominello. See [www.habitatnetwork.org/CommunityNursery.htm](http://www.habitatnetwork.org/CommunityNursery.htm) for more information. As an extension to this we plan to start a bushcare group for the upper catchment of Shrimpton's Creek - its primary focus will be creating small bird habitat and attracting small native birds back to the upper reaches of Shrimpton's Creek and to the nursery site.



*Santa Rosa native plant nursery & garden site*

- are working with City of Ryde to create a community food garden around the native plant nursery.
- are partners with Hunter's Hill Council working towards re-connecting native plant habitat corridors for small birds especially along Tarban Creek, through Riverglade Reserve and around to Bedlam Bay. We are also liaising with the RTA, NPWS, University of NSW, the Gladesville Hospital and Riverside Girls High all with interests within this corridor. We are also on the community advisory group for Ryde and Hunter's Hill Council's River to River project, aiming to reconnect native habitat from Parramatta River to Lane Cove River. This project is complementary to the Tarban Creek project.
- are looking for a location for a community sustainable garden in Hunter's Hill, but will focus more on this after the Ryde nursery and garden are up and running.
- organise walks and activities with our Council partners, for other Councils and habitat projects. In January 2011 we ran another fun and interesting Twilight Twitter led by Kurtis Lindsay. In Feb 2011 we took a group of Ryde Bushcare volunteers for a visit to the Ku-ring-gai flying fox colony where we not only saw flying foxes but also learnt a lot about appropriate habitat creation. Thank you to Nancy Pallin and Marjorie Beck for guiding us and for arranging this visit for us to this unique location and to Sandra Payne from City of Ryde Bushcare. And in May/June 2011 in partnership with Ryde's Catchment Connections project we guided more twilight fauna spotting walks, led by Kurtis.
- undertake bird surveys, led by Kurtis Lindsay and with assistance from others from Macquarie University, in both the Tarban Creek to Bedlam Bay corridor and also the Shrimpton's Creek corridor. Kurtis has also assisted Dr Andrew Hugget of Insight Ecology with surveys for the River to River project.
- assist with planting activities, plants, grant applications, and garden and/or habitat planning at local primary and high schools sometimes in conjunction with the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre, for example in June 2011 we were at West Ryde Primary School. May 2011 we judged a sustainability art competition and presented prizes at Holy Spirit School see our website for a short story about their habitat project. In Sept 2010 we presented at a teacher training day at the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre.
- maintain and update the information on [the IEFW, Habitat Network](#) and [RNC Alliance websites](#).
- produced some new materials and a presentation to be used for Keep Australia Beautiful's Graffiti Action Day. See below. The aim is to promote planting of habitat plants in front of walls or fences (where possible) as a graffiti prevention and /or security measure. In total in May 2011 1.5 km of plants were planted as part of this action day.

- do local home visits to discuss habitat, weeds and sustainable gardens. For people further afield (in Australia and overseas) we help with plant identification and advice via email. If we get stuck with an identification The Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney give us a helping hand. We encourage our members and friends to send their bird, animal and habitat photos for inclusion on the Habitat Network website. Visitors from overseas interested in habitat restoration and weed management are made welcome and as appropriate we make introductions to local professionals. In July 2011 we were delighted to meet with and co-ordinate a visit by an ecologist involved in landscape level restoration in Madagascar. We also allow our photos (not those of our members) to be used for not-for-profit publications - recent examples are Sutherland Shire's environmental weed identification web pages and Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Invasive Plant Field Guide currently in production. We have also this year helped in collecting results for a students PhD research degree at Deakin University.

## Resource list

### The following materials can all be downloaded from our websites

An introduction to [creating small bird habitat \(pdf 340 kb\)](#).

An introduction to [sustainable gardening](#).

[Weed removal & habitat - Before you start...look, listen & consider. \(432 KB\)](#)

[Planting a habitat haven poster A4 size - with plant guide cross section \(590 kb\)](#). and [Planting a habitat haven poster A3 size - with plant guide cross section \(676 kb\)](#).

How to [create a small bird habitat haven \(pdf 409 kb\)](#) in your garden or bushland area.

**Reduce graffiti**, add to security and create habitat - [habitat haven a natural graffiti barrier information sheet \(413 KB\)](#) and [A3 poster \(454 KB\)](#)

List of [native habitat plants for the Sydney region \(16.1 KB\)](#) and [edible plants. \(14.6 KB\)](#)

Lookup [native habitat plant photos](#).

Lookup [bird photos](#).

Lookup weed photos - For quick and easy identification of common garden weeds, potentially invasive plants and environmental weeds go to [Web Weed Lookup](#). Also find out more about what weeds are, how they are spread and how to control them.

**For schools and projects** here is an A3 poster with a suggested size and numbers of plants [for creating a habitat haven \(685 kb\)](#) . Another with more [plant species suggestions \(392 kb\)](#). And to assist in the planning of your habitat haven please use this [checklist](#).

[Habitat Network handout \(259 kb\)](#) uses simple graphics to illustrate the concept of habitat.

[Habitat Network poster A3\(283 kb\)](#).



*Bev & John talking about habitat at Willoughby City Council's Fauna Fair.*



*Spotted pardalote taking food to nest in embankment under Tarban Creek Bridge - within small bird project area - Tarban Creek to Bedlam Bay Corridor.*



*Nancy Pallin leading walk at Ku-ring-gai flying fox colony*



*School planting organised by Ray Park Heritage Group as part of their Habitat Corridor grant project*

*Holy Spirit Primary School habitat area and outdoor classroom*

