



International Environmental Weed Foundation Annual Report – June 2012

International Environmental Weed Foundation is pleased to present a report on our activities during the year from 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012.

Landcare Conference

At the invitation of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA we represented Sydney bushcare at the NSW Landcare Facilitators Conference near Canberra in June 2012.

Hunter's Hill small bird corridor

We have established a new bushcare group that meets at Tarban Creek Bridge to maintain and extend small bird habitat connections within the Hunter's Hill small bird corridor.

As part of the Hunter's Hill small bird corridor project and also the Ryde and Hunter's Hill River to River project we partnered with Hunter's Hill Council for 2 small bird habitat planting days in April 2012. As at July 2012 the plants are all growing very well.

Transition Epping

We have continued to support Transition Epping and their projects across the Hornsby / Epping area, including assisting with school and community food garden projects. We are also looking at opportunities with them for habitat planting projects.

Members photos

A number of members and friends of the Habitat Network have been providing a regular stream of photos of birds and other animals for inclusion on the photos pages. Photos of activities have also been added to the website.

Lane Cove River Catchment Day

We participated in a combined high schools environment day in October.



*Top photo provided by
Alex Portilla, Ecagenera
Nursery, Ecuador*

*Left photo provided by Ron
Johnson, South Australia.*

New Resources

New information sheets were created; the first featuring the Brush-turkey and another focused on habitat in asset protection zones. We received support from local Councils, bird specialists, and a fire specialist, Quong Tran (for the latter) to produce these articles.

We have also provided materials and photos to assist the Sydney Metropolitan CMA in creating their new bushcare resources.

Weed photos were also provided to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for inclusion in their Invasive Plant Field Guide in both French and English.

Resources and press articles can be found on www.iewf.org and www.habitatnetwork.org.

“The Habitat” - community native plant nursery and food garden

During the year we worked with City of Ryde to consult with the local community and to have the land for the nursery re-categorised as Community Open Space so as to allow the nursery and garden. The nursery and garden project space and design, through Council fully embracing this project, grew dramatically in this time so that ultimately we will have a centre which will be able to produce more plants and accept more volunteers. Once we get the basics in place with the limited funding available we will seek additional funding to expand the facilities within. This will give us time to start functioning and ascertain what else we actually need.

We started building 9 July 2012 and plan to have the nursery and garden open by the end of August / early September. Our official opening will be held on 3rd November 2012.



Above - Pam Ward helping with 1st hole at nursery site - 9 July 2012



Left - Fence being erected around the nursery space



Right - The area in the fore-ground will be the open community food garden and to the rear within the chain wire fence will be the community native plant nursery.

Johnson Controls Australia is again donating \$1,000 USD for on-ground works in the Shrimpton's Creek catchment in Ryde. The JCI team are also going to actively undertake weed removal in Greenwood Park. This is the 3rd year that JCI have supported and undertaken volunteer activities for which we are grateful.

Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife has awarded a 3 year grant (July 2011 to June 2014) valued at \$9,000, under their Private Land Conservation Grants Program to continue our long-term project of bitou bush management at the For Rest project site in Crescent Head. Note, the grant is awarded to the landowners.

City of Ryde awarded us last year a community grant for \$1,000 to go towards the development of the community native plant nursery at Santa Rosa Park, Ryde. This was used to buy a 5,000 litre water tank for the community native plant nursery and garden that we are building.

A 2010 NSW Government's Community Building Partnership (CBP) grant was awarded to us in 2010 for \$18,323 for the creation of a community native plant propagation area at Santa Rosa Park on Quarry Road in Ryde. As at July 2012 we have commenced building the nursery and will finalise this grant by the end of this year.

Sydney Metropolitan CMA/Landcare NSW provided through our application \$400 for tools for the Bedlam Bay bushcare group. This group works in the Hunter's Hill small bird habitat corridor and is run under the NPWS with guidance from the Habitat Network.

Riverside Market stall continued this year on the 4th Saturday of each month with a small group of volunteers manning the Habitat Network display & stall. The volunteers sold local provenance native plants as a fund-raiser for the community nursery, signed up new members and discussed creating small bird habitat.

Unsuccessful grants - a NSW & a Federal Government grant were applied for but this time round we were not successful.

Websites & You Tube - We continued to maintain and develop the 3 websites for IEWF, Habitat Network and the RNC Alliance. We have produced and uploaded 80+ You Tube videos mostly of birds. Links to these videos can be found on the "HabitatNetwork" You Tube channel or on the Habitat Network photos pages.

Facebook - The Habitat Network Facebook page was started March 2012 and is a new approach to connecting with other groups and interested individuals. As at July 2012 we have 44 "likes".

Articles - An article about small bird habitat in the **Namoi Valley Independent** newspaper (905 KB). It was also printed in the **Quirindi Advocate**, both in June 2012. **Northern District Times**, Jan 2012, printed a brush-turkey article where we were quoted.

Displays and stalls to promote the Habitat Network and the nursery/garden - at Riverside Markets on the 4th Saturday of every month, at Moocooboola Festival in Boronia Park in August 2011 (with Hunter's Hill Council), Lane Cove Tourist Park in September 2011 and at Ryde's Granny Smith Festival in October 2011.

Royal Easter Show - In March 2012 we were invited to be present at the bushcare stand hosted by Sydney Metro CMA to specifically talk about habitat and weeds to visitors to the stand.

Small bird corridor article - discussing the Hunter's Hill small bird habitat corridor and the Ryde - Hunter's Hill River to River corridor was printed in the December 2011 issue of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators newsletter and can be viewed on the Habitat Network website.