



# **International Environmental Weed Foundation** **Annual Report – June 2018**



*International Environmental Weed Foundation is pleased to present a report covering activities for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.*

## **International Environmental Weed Foundation (IEWF) trading as Habitat Network**

Habitat Network continued to build social capital and grow plants and community at The Habitat and continued to consolidate **habitat corridors and connections** across Hunters Hill and Ryde as well as encouraging others to work on habitat corridors and connections through giving talks, manning stalls and displays, attending events and through social media and websites.

We have continued to represent landcare and bushcare via local, regional and State committees.

IEWF manages the following websites and social media:

[www.iewf.org](http://www.iewf.org)

[www.habitatnetwork.org](http://www.habitatnetwork.org)

[www.rncalliance.org](http://www.rncalliance.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/HabitatNetwork>

We also utilise GoVolunteer website to attract new volunteers to The Habitat and Google AdWords grants to promote our websites.



### **The Habitat - community native plant nursery and community food garden**

The Habitat in its 5th year engaged with many wonderful volunteers. In calendar year 2017 there were 74 regular/semi-regular volunteers and a further 131 coming to volunteer once or twice mainly for community volunteering from high schools.

#### **The Habitat statistics for financial year:**

	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>
Total volunteer hours	3099	3521	4242
Recorded visitors	1422	1473	1603
Total plants out	6016	5402	4418
Total out plus in stock at EOY	8585	10322	11549

The Habitat hosted 11 events including composting and worm farm workshops, kitchen garden workshops, a Ryde Environmental Education Network meeting, walking and garden group tours, out of school hours care group visit. We also had a group of teachers from the Australian Association of Environmental Educators (AAEE) Conference attend a workshop on how to plant small bird habitat and have a guided tour of The Habitat. Every few weeks Explore and Develop Day Care brought up to 9 littlies (between 2 and 5 years old) to help in the garden.

The Habitat provided 50 plants to each of 6 local schools this year for National Tree Day and 6 bushcare groups utilised our free plant offer.

## Grants

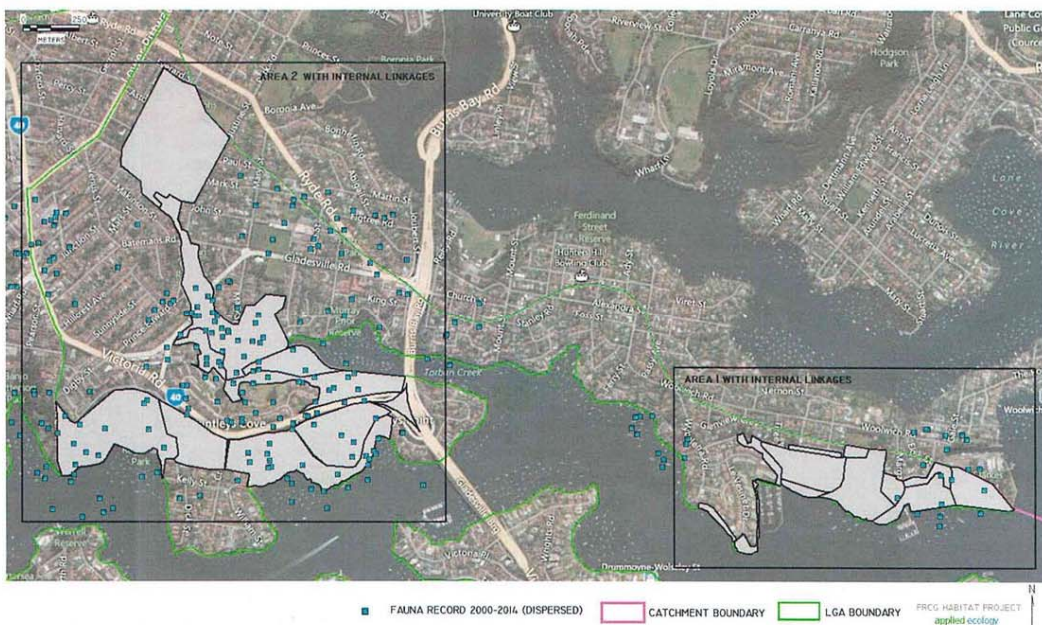
IEWF applied for and won grant funding from the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS) to produce a new poster on Improving Linear Corridors. The draft of the poster is with the designer and will be produced in the latter half of 2018. A web page to complement the information on the poster is also in production.

## Hunters Hill Small Bird Corridor and Lower Parramatta River Habitat Corridor

The **Lower Parramatta River Habitat Corridor project**, funded by an Environmental Trust Grant from 2016 to 2019, is a partnership between NPWS, Hunters Hill Council and Habitat Network and is about 4 km in length. Plantings and contract work have continued to plan with excellent results to date. Plantings from the first year have continued to thrive and additional plantings at Clarkes Point, Bedlam Bay, and Tarban Bridge are doing well with the advantage of having been watered several times during this dry time. Bird surveys are regularly being undertaken throughout the Lower Parramatta River project area with frequent recordings of Superb and Variegated fairy-wrens, Silvereyes, White-browed scrubwrens and Pardalotes.

The **Hunters Hill small bird corridor project** extends from the top of Tarban Creek, around the waterfront passing through Riverglade Reserve, under Tarban Creek Bridge and Gladesville Bridge, and through Betts Park and Bedlam Bay Regional Park near Gladesville Hospital and is about 4 km in length. This corridor overlaps with the Lower Parramatta River Corridor which runs from Clarkes Point along the river to Bedlam Bay Regional Park. Strategic plantings have been undertaken at Riverglade Reserve and around the Tarban Bridge area. Some of the plantings from earlier in this project are being well used by the small birds, such as Superb fairy-wrens, and are providing additional nesting sites and protection. Note: the first planting in this corridor project was undertaken in 2009.

### HUNTERS HILL CORRIDORS KEY MAP



Map showing Lower Parramatta River Habitat Corridor which runs along the Parramatta River (waterway along the bottom of the image) and the Hunter's Hill Small Bird Habitat Corridor shown in the left side box.

## Shrimptons Creek small bird habitat corridor project

This has been a dry year and so planting has been more restricted than in previous years however some in-fill planting to thicken the mid-storey habitat was carried out by nursery volunteers in the Santa Rosa Park section of this corridor. A habitat haven, also known as a habitat island, has been established between the nursery and where the creek emerges from the top piped section also in Santa Rosa Park.

Since commencement of work on this habitat corridor in late 2013, 7 habitat havens have been planted (RMS land x 1, Greenwood Park x 3, ELS Hall Park x 1, Tindarra Reserve x 1, Santa Rosa Park x 1). This corridor extends along 3.3 km of creekline see map on page 4. Volunteers have also undertaken in-fill planting with mid-storey vegetation in a number of areas containing established native plants. Nursery volunteers have undertaken maintenance of 4 of the planted habitat islands, the others are occasionally managed under contract via City of Ryde Council. All habitat plantings are co-ordinated with City of Ryde Council who have planted small bird habitat in ELS Hall and along the creekline in Wilga Park.

This corridor which is long and narrow and has many issues has only a maximum of 8 Superb fairy-wrens and 8 White-browed scrubwrens. We are unsure if our efforts will save this population—we can but try.

## Promotions, events and workshops

We gave a talk in September 2017 at the Australian Association of Environmental Educators and also provided a field event for the conference at The Habitat where we ran a workshop for a bus load of educators demonstrating how to plant a small bird habitat haven and guided visitors on a tour of the nursery and food garden.

A talk was given and 3 small bird habitat planting workshops were run at the Australasian Bird Fair in November 2017. A talk and 1 workshop were presented at Stoney Range Regional Botanic Garden in March 2018 and a short talk was given at Samsung offices in June 2018. Also in May 2018 we gave a talk at the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Bushcare / Landcare Forum which was attended by 130 people. Talks all focused on our small bird habitat corridors including talking about issues, how to and results. Several workshops were run for local schools and day cares.

As usual we had a stall with display at Moocooboola in Hunters Hill, at West Ryde Fair and at Granny Smith Festival in Ryde. Additionally we ran a stall and display for World Environment Day in Memorial Park in June 2018.



*In October 2017 Habitat Network was presented with a NSW Landcare Champion Award , 2017 Fairfax Landcare Community Group Award, for our nursery and habitat corridors projects, this followed winning a GSLLS regional Landcare Award in May 2017. Bev (back left) accepted the award in Albury at the NSW Landcare Conference. Others shown in the photo were also winners from the Greater Sydney region in other categories.*

For more photos of activities undertaken please go to <http://www.habitatnetwork.org/PhotoPages/ActivitiesPhotos.htm>





Left: Bedlam Bay planting of a small bird habitat haven Lower Parramatta River Project - July 2017.

Right: This Tarban Bridge habitat planting has been used as nesting site by Superb fairywrens since 2014. Extension planting was undertaken in 2016 and during this past year. This photo 2016. Hunters Hill Small Bird Corridor.



Map showing Shrimptons Creek Small Bird Habitat Corridor

