



International Environmental Weed Foundation **Annual Report – June 2022**



International Environmental Weed Foundation is pleased to present a report covering activities for year ending 30th June 2022.

International Environmental Weed Foundation (IEWF) trading as Habitat Network and The Habitat

This year has seen us getting back to a new normal. Covid19 now is accepted as being here to stay and we all have procedures in place to make the most of the situation.

In this vein we have structured our volunteering at The Habitat, our hub, community nursery and food garden, so that volunteers are designated time slots to volunteer with us so that we can better manage activities and volunteers. Previously, once registered, volunteers could arrive when it suited them. We do however have 5 core volunteers who are present at all times. These volunteers have been crucial over the past 3 years in keeping the nursery and habitat restoration projects functional during lockdowns and restrictions.

We have continued to support local bushcare groups and schools from Council areas of Ryde, Lane Cove, Hunters Hill, Parramatta and Canada Bay by supplying plants and sometime with workshops or talks.

We have kept our websites up-to-date and remained active on social media. Check out:

www.iewf.org

www.habitatnetwork.org

<https://www.facebook.com/HabitatNetwork> and also HabitatNetwork on Instagram.

The Google AdWords grant is still helping to promote our Habitat Network website.

The Habitat - community plant nursery and food garden

It has been great having our former volunteers return and new ones join us. We were delighted this year to have our disability volunteers back on board after the covid restrictions lifted. As stated above we now allocate specific time slots for volunteers to work with us so that we can manage volunteer safety and activities appropriately.

The Tawny frogmouths are regular visitors in the tree above our sign-in sheets and our 2 bee hives and 3 worm farms are healthy and productive.



Tawny frogmouth at The Habitat

One of our volunteers, who has a wealth of bush regeneration experience has taken on the supervision of volunteers in the bushland of Santa Rosa Park section of our Shrimptons Creek habitat corridor with the specific aim of increasing their knowledge about the vegetation

communities and bush regeneration. He is dedicated to this bushland and puts in many extra hours to keep improving the structure of the plant community and biodiverse habitat.

As usual The Habitat provided 50 plants free of charge to many local schools for National Tree Day. We also continued the practice of providing 20 plants at no cost to local bushcare groups whenever they visited throughout the year. In total 2,851 were given away and 6,350 sold.

The Habitat statistics by financial year:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Total volunteer hours	4301	4337	4554	3612
Recorded visitors	1559	2260	2617	1815
Total plants out (sold, donated or planted)	6259	6083	6512	9201
Total out plus in-stock at EOY	9757	9635	12293	12013

As you can see by the above numbers we have continued to perform. Our visitor numbers dropped back to pre-Covid19 levels with workers returning to their offices after the Covid19 lockdowns. Our volunteer hours were down as we have restructured - giving our volunteers specific times to volunteer. With the wet year the number of plants out was higher than usual. We are anticipating another wet year to come and so it will be interesting to see if this trend continues. We have also been recording trees out for the NSW Premiers Greening Our Cities program.



We thank all of our volunteers for their support, especially Pam, Penny, Jenny and Steve.

Promotions, events and workshops

We continued to work with Greater Sydney Landcare and Landcare NSW and continue to support the bushland committees of both City of Ryde Council and Hunters Hill Council.

To see photos of more activities please visit our activities photos page:
<https://www.habitatnetwork.org/PhotoPages/ActivitiesPhotos.htm>

This past year we did a talk and/or workshop for Liverpool Council, Permaculture South and a local Joeys Scouts group.

We gave advice and laid out plantings with various schools, day care centres and others including Wellbank Children’s Centre, Victoria Avenue Children’s Centre, Anglican Parish of Hunters Hill and Hunters Hill Nature Play (a new all abilities playground in Hunters Hill).

Stalls were a bit unusual this year as due to the wet weather we have had to be in car parks and school grounds rather than on ovals. These included Moocooboola, Kelly’s Bush memorial for The Battlers of Kellys Bush (with the passing of the last of the Battlers) and a Ryde Sustainability Fair.

We have not produced any new promotional material this year but have handed out many of our brochures at events, distributed to other organisations for their stalls and plan to hand out brochures, especially the ‘Improving Linear Corridors’ poster at the National Landcare Conference in August 2022 see <https://www.habitatnetwork.org/Linear%20corridors%20posterA4.pdf>

Hunters Hill Small Bird Corridor and Lower Parramatta River Habitat Corridor

Please see our websites for a full write up of this project and especially last years annual report. Annual reports can be found at: <https://iewf.org/about.htm>. A detailed write up of the project from 2008 to 2020 can be found at: https://www.habitatnetwork.org/HH_Small_Bird_Corridor_2020-01.pdf

For this past financial year Hunters Hill Council and Habitat Network were successful in winning a new DPIE Coastal and Estuary Grant for \$76,000 to continue work on the Hunters Hill Small Bird Habitat Corridor for another 3 years. See <https://www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/>. Hunter's Hill Council also completed the reporting for the previous DPIE Coastal and Estuary Grant in November 2021 for which we were a partner.

Through the new grant we are aiming to join our habitat corridors (9 km to date) into a network (see green lines on the below map) by working with private land owners as defined in the Hunters Hill Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (2021-2026). The Hunters Hill Bushland Advisory Committee (of which we are a member) helped to put together this strategy with students and professors from Macquarie University. We plan to doorknock residents within the network and encourage inclusion of small bird habitat plantings within their gardens to connect habitat between bushland parks and reserves.

Through this project we will be funding work in 3 of the local reserves within the corridors to improve the quality of the bushland as well as raising public awareness of the importance of habitat corridors and connections, and encouraging participation.

You can see some case studies of the early adopters of habitat gardens in this network on the Hunters Hill Council website link above. Particularly see the Anglican Parish of Hunters Hill habitat garden planted in October 2021 which is looking fabulous and led by Reverend Michael is already planning how to double the size on their habitat planting.

Thank you to Hunters' Hill Council for their continued support and for organising additional habitat plantings in Kellys Bush, Betts Park, Gladesville Park and Riverglade Reserve during the year.

Importantly the numbers of small birds in this corridor continue to flourish as nesting sites continue to be expanded and habitat improved through this on-going project.



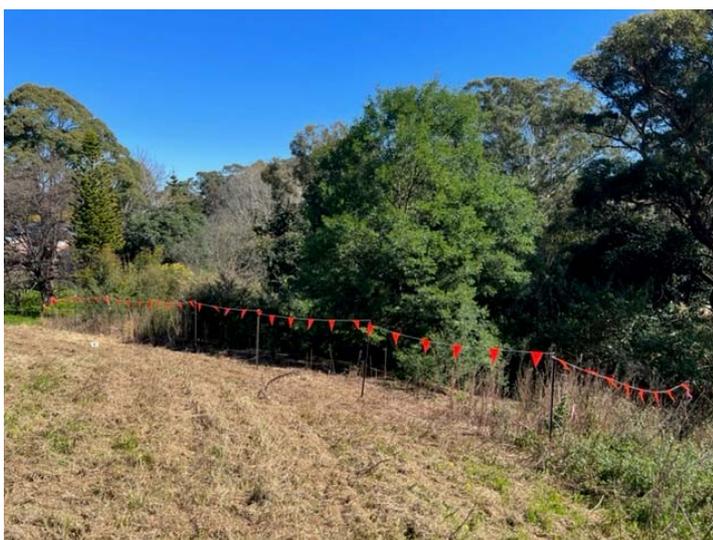
Shrimptons Creek small bird habitat corridor

The Shrimptons Creek corridor (see map on following page) saw some great work over the past year improving habitat in Santa Rosa Park while the top end of the creekline from Epping Road to Wilga Park struggled. In the latter area there have been 3 new high rise developments under construction and the construction of a new bridge commenced. This has put significant strain on the fauna population along this section of the creekline from not only noise but loss of vegetation and loss of connection between bush areas. There is still another high rise complex due to start construction.

Discussions were held with the management of Macquarie Shopping Centre which is built over the top of the creek effectively blocking the habitat corridor between Wilga Park and Lane Cove River valley. We have asked that in any future development that green walls and



Construction of new bridge across creekline has commenced



RMS planting near Epping Road

vegetation be incorporated so that a green connection can be made between Wilga Park and Lane Cove River valley. This connection wont help the smaller birds but will assist larger ones. The management has agreed, but we will need to watch for future Development Applications to ensure its included.

The Santa Rosa Park section of this corridor is looking fabulous thanks to the work of our volunteers.

City of Ryde Council organised a planting with Corporate Volunteers in ELS Hall Park. And we have continued to weed and improve the habitat planting on the RMS land next to Epping Road (opposite Booth Reserve).

Being a wet year, frogs (especially Common Eastern froglets and Striped marsh frogs) have flourished in Santa Rosa Park and care has been taken to maintain habitat for them when weeding.

The small bird population along the Shrimptons Creek corridor is suffering and probably has declined from the 8 individuals (superb fairywrens and white-browed scrubwrens). It is difficult to say what birds remain due to the constant noise and disturbance in the areas where they were previously located.

We maintain a positive outlook as by improving the habitat for the small birds in this corridor (even of they are not there in the future) we are improving habitat for pollinators, lizards (especially the water dragons) and the other birds using this corridor.



Legend

— Creepline

Shrimptons Creek Corridor
and selected sites

Marsfield

N