



International Environmental Weed Foundation Annual Report – June 2017



International Environmental Weed Foundation is pleased to present a report covering activities for the period 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017.

International Environmental Weed Foundation (IEWF) trading as Habitat Network

IEWF, under the Habitat Network banner, continued to consolidate **habitat corridors and connections** across Hunter's Hill and Ryde as well as encouraging others to work on habitat corridors and connections in their own area. A group from Ku-ring-gai have started a new habitat project supported by their local Council after seeing our Habitat Planting Workshop and visiting our Tarban Bridge sites, which are a link in the Hunter's Hill small bird habitat corridor.

We have continued to network with our members, run workshops, make representations, host stalls, give talks, create new brochures and run **The Habitat**.

The Habitat community native plant nursery and food garden continued to attract volunteers from diverse backgrounds, with diverse abilities and produced over 10,300 food plants and local provenance native plants while building social capital. Plants were sold from the nursery and at promotional events, given to bushcare groups and schools, planted in habitat corridors and in The Habitat's community garden.

Weed identification and weed management information and advice was provided via our website www.iewf.org and via email. **Habitat advice** was provided via our websites, the nursery and workshops.

We continued our **representation** on Greater Sydney Landcare Network Committee (the regional Landcare and bushcare representative body for Greater Sydney), on Landcare NSW Council and it's Executive, and locally on the bushland and environment committees for Hunters Hill Council and City of Ryde Council.

IEWF manages the following websites and social media:

www.iewf.org

www.habitatnetwork.org

www.rncalliance.org

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

We also utilise GoSeek/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 4th year had many wonderful volunteers. Last calendar year it had over 60 regular volunteers and over 60 casual volunteers. We have seen a big increase in teenagers attending for the purpose of community volunteering and they generally complete 20 hours volunteering time each. On an average day there are between 9 and 13 volunteers at The Habitat.

The Habitat statistics for financial year:

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Total volunteer hours	3228	3099	3521
Recorded visitors	1334	1422	1473
Total plants out	5246	6016	5402
Total out plus in stock at EOY	8225	8585	10322

The Habitat hosted 10 events during the year including insect, planting habitat, kitchen garden and composting workshops, Hollows as Homes workshop, garden visits by groups and a corporate volunteering day. On a regular basis a small bus load of 2 to 5 year olds visit to do fun activities in the nursery and garden such as collecting strawberries to eat, watering, weeding and playing in the sensory garden.

The Habitat provided 50 plants to local schools again this year for National Tree Day.

With a regular group of 5-6 young adults for work experience from House With No Steps a new garden was created and additional habitat planted along Shrimptons Creek. Many new skills were learnt and the plants are flourishing.



Saturdays are a popular day for teenagers to volunteer at The Habitat

The Habitat volunteers were nominated for a City of Ryde group award. Some of our volunteers were invited to attend the ceremony.



Grants

IEWF applied for and won grant funding from the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS) to produce a printed poster detailing how to plant small bird habitat in gardens. Thank you GSLLS! This poster has been well received.

See poster linked from our [resources page](#) on HabitatNetwork.org

Hunters Hill Small Bird Corridor and Lower Parramatta River Corridor

Habitat Network continued working with Hunters Hill Council on the Hunters Hill small bird corridor project, which 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. This corridor connects to the Lower Parramatta River Corridor which runs from Clarkes Point along the river to Bedlam Bay Regional Park. An Environmental Trust grant which runs from 2016 to 2019 is funding the Lower Parramatta River Project. This grant project is a partnership between Hunters Hill Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Habitat Network.

Small bird habitat island plantings were undertaken at Clarkes Point, Betts Park, Crown Street and Bland Street in Henley, and Bedlam Bay and 2 additional sites prepared for planting at Bedlam Bay. Prior to these plantings neighbours were letterboxed and or doorknocked to invite them to participate. Plantings were well attended by local volunteers, some neighbours and people coming via the National Tree Day website. Bird surveys are regularly being undertaken throughout the Lower Parramatta River project area.



*Bedlam Bay habitat planting - Lower Parramatta River Corridor Project—photo Jacqui Vollmer
Hunters Hill Council*

Tindarra Reserve - Shrimptons Creek corridor planting event



Shrimptons Creek small bird habitat corridor project

The volunteers from The Habitat have continued to augment the small bird habitat plantings along Shrimptons Creek especially with volunteers from House with No Steps and St Patricks College. We held a public event to plant at Tindarra Reserve in November and since then a small group of The Habitat volunteers have been maintaining the Tindarra planting near Kent Road.

In consultation with City of Ryde Council and Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) a new habitat island was started on RMS land near Epping Road.

Johnson Controls Inc did another corporate planting day this one at ELS Hall to create an additional small bird habitat island for our corridor. This planting was led by the Bushcare Officer from City of Ryde Council. A big thank you to both organisations.

Sponsorship

IEWF provided some seed funding to help develop a new smartphone application by a University of Sydney Masters student which is now helping the plight of Cambodian farmers to manage the spread of weeds in their rice fields. This app has been delivered and identifies and provides management information about the 45 most common weeds found in the rice fields.

“WeedID contains a photo dictionary of the most common weeds in northwest Cambodian rice fields at different stages of growth. The app has images of seeds, seedlings, mature plants and flowers that will all help to identify the weeds which are devastating Cambodian farmers’ rice crops,” said developer and student, Yehezkiel Henson. See:

http://sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2017/07/18/what_s-that-weed-in-my-rice-field-.html and <https://weedidcambodian.wordpress.com/>

Promotions, events and workshops

The Habitat and Habitat Network were promoted at stalls that we ran at West Ryde Fair, Moocooboola Festival in Hunters Hill, Granny Smith Festival in Eastwood organised by City of Ryde and at RiverFest with Hunters Hill Council to promote activities within the Parramatta River Corridor.

We ran a workshop on planting small bird habitat for Wild Things community group in Ku-ring-gai. It was suggested that we needed a poster specifically for planting habitat in gardens. Following this we applied for a Greater Sydney Local Land Services grant and produced a new poster. See [Resources pages](#) on our websites. Following this workshop Ku-ring-gai Council has sponsored a small bird habitat corridor project in their area.

Another habitat planting workshop was run for the Bundilla Scouts in the Hills district following which they weeded an area and planted small bird habitat. And a talk was given to Diversional Therapists at Royal Rehabilitation Hospital in Ryde. See under The Habitat for workshops run at The Habitat.



Planting a Habitat Haven Workshop run for Wild Things in Ku-ring-gai (left) and for Bundilla Venturer Scouts (below)

