



## International Environmental Weed Foundation Annual Report – June 2019



*International Environmental Weed Foundation is pleased to present a report covering activities for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.*

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

The Habitat community nursery and food garden has continued to flourish over the past 12 months.

Habitat Network has expanded its small bird habitat corridors in Ryde and Hunters Hill. We also advised and supported others on developing their own projects in their local areas, for example, supporting a project and grant application by Grong Grong Progress Association to plant as a start 50 small bird habitat havens on public and private land. This grant application was not successful but has the community support and is now ready for future grant applications.

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

We are very excited to have completed our new Improving Linear Corridors poster. And have delivered numerous talks , workshops and stalls at events.



IEWF manages the following websites and social media:

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

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

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

HabitatNetwork is now also on Instagram.

[www.rncalliance.org](http://www.rncalliance.org) Note: this website will be closed as at end 2019 as a new site has been started and managed out of USA - <https://ecohealthglobal.org/>

We continue to utilise GoVolunteer website to attract new volunteers to The Habitat and a Google AdWords grant to promote our websites.

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

The Habitat was opened November 2012 so is now in its 6th year and apart from growing lots of plants continues to engage volunteers of diverse ages and abilities and we enjoy frequent visitors who buy plants, collect food or simply come in for a chat .

In calendar year 2018 there were 53 regular/semi regular volunteers and 168 who only attended a couple of days mostly to undertake community volunteering for their schools giving a **total of 221 active volunteers**. This was compared to calendar year 2017 with 74 regular/semi-regular volunteers and 131 irregular with a **total of 204**.

As usual The Habitat provided 50 plants free of charge to local schools, day care centres, etc for National Tree Day and we gave plants to local bushcare groups throughout the year. We hosted 9 workshops plus ran guided tours for garden clubs, day care and other groups regularly throughout the year.

**The Habitat statistics by financial year:**

	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Total volunteer hours	3521	4242	4301
Recorded visitors	1473	1603	1559
Total plants out (sold, donated or planted)	5402	4248	6259
Total out plus in-stock at EOY	8001	7776	9757

**Improving Linear Corridors**

IEWF received a grant from Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS) to produce a new poster on Improving Linear Corridors. This grant was completed with delivery of printed posters, a pull-up banner and a web page. These have been promoted and posters distributed at a Landcare NSW Council meeting where representatives of all NSW Landcare regions were present. They were also show-cased at the Landcare NSW Gathering in March 2019 where Local Landcare Coordinators and their hosts from around NSW were present.

We attended and spoke at a Greater Sydney Local Land Services Field Day at Mangrove Mountain on the NSW Central Coast.

This poster has been very positively received and many copies already distributed around NSW. We also provided artwork for a pull-up banner for Hunter Regional Landcare Network which included their own logo to use at their events.



We have also been invited to do a 15 minute talk at the Landcare in NSW Conference in Broken Hill in October 2019 to introduce the poster, its origins and concepts.

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

The **Lower Parramatta River Habitat Corridor project**, started in 2009, funded by an Environmental Trust (ET) Grant from 2016 to 2019, is a partnership between NPWS, Hunters Hill Council and Habitat Network and is about 4 km in length. This grant has been completed and its final report is due August 2019.

With Hunters Hill Council taking the lead we have been successful in winning funding for Stage 2 of this project which will provide \$30,000 over 2 years plus matching funding from Hunters Hill Council. The grant is from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (DPIE) Estuary Grant funding.

The final year of the ET grant saw community habitat plantings at Betts Park, Bedlam Bay, Clarkes Point, Kellys Bush and Gladesville Reserve along with contract work in all reserves within this corridor. Hunter's Hill Council also planted habitat havens in Riverglade Reserve and Bedlam Bay with corporate groups. And the Tarban Bridge Bushcare Group continued to undertake small infill plantings near Tarban Bridge.

A local bird experts have been undertaking bird surveys within our project area for the duration of the project.

Planting at Betts Park



### **Shrimptons Creek small bird habitat corridor**

This corridor has seen quite a bit of activity this past year. At The Habitat we had groups of older people led by Conservation Volunteers Australia doing a 'Green Gym' program funded by a grant. On average they had about 8 people each Wednesday for about 6 months volunteering with us undertaking nursery and garden activities. As part of their activities they undertook weeding and small habitat plantings (in batches of 20 plants) in Santa Rosa Park (200 plants in total) and also on the RMS site near Epping Road (60 plants in total).

The Ryde Council Bushcare Coordinator also organised a planting with a corporate group at ELS Hall (300 plants) and with a school group at Greenwood Park (116 plants).

One of our student volunteers had to organise a project from scratch planning all aspects of planting a habitat haven. Through this project a further 99 plants were planted in Santa Rosa Park.

A small planting of 15 plants was done in Greenwood Park site 3. Unfortunately there was a deluge and flood shortly after and the plants plus a telegraph pole which was the edge to this area were all washed away. We have decided not to plant further in this area.

The number of small birds in this corridor is still 8 individuals, 4 Superb fairy-wrens and 4 white-browed scrubwrens. The population on its own is too small to thrive. We are hoping with improvements in quality of habitat new birds may find their way to our corridor. In the meantime the habitat is improving for other fauna in this corridor. We continued with undertaking bird surveys every Spring and Autumn.

This corridor has a number of issues. A major issue is Macquarie Shopping Centre being over the creek and effectively blocking the connectivity of the corridor. We have had a discussion with the managers about a possible green connection across the centre of the buildings. There are large developments underway and being planned for the Macquarie Park area of this corridor including a State significant development expanding from 350 dwellings to 3500 dwellings plus high school, 2 day cares and some retail. We have been talking to the developers for this huge development to attempt to save all of the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark community of vegetation along Epping Road. This is important not only for the remnant being a threatened community but also as a habitat link across to Macquarie University and on to the Lane Cove River.

## Promotions, events and workshops

During the year talks were given to Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society, Putney Early Learning, Ryde Environmental Education Network and 2 for Excentrec Events at Carlingford.

We manned stalls at: Moocooboola Festival, Granny Smith Festival, Bedlam at the Bay, West Ryde Fair, Groovin' Grassroots and Ryde Sustainability Fair.

Coal Point Progress Association included our planting small bird habitat poster in their reference document 'Bonza Bushland Gardening Guide' available online and also printed and distributed to 1500 households.

See <http://coalpointprogress.blogspot.com/p/bonza-backyard-gardening-guide.html>

We are helping plan a demonstration native area at Kellys Bush in partnership with Hunters Hill Council and have put plants aside for this project at The Habitat.

The Habitat won 1st place in the annual community gardens completion in both the 'Community Garden' section and the 'Native and Habitat Friendly Garden' section. We have had 2nd and Highly Commended before but this was a 1st all round!

To see photos of more activities please visit <http://www.habitatnetwork.org/> activities photo pages.



CVA volunteers at The Habitat



New banners for The Habitat



The Habitat at West Ryde Fair



Supporting bee highway project