



International Environmental Weed Foundation Annual Report – June 2016



International Environmental Weed Foundation is pleased to present a report covering activities for the period 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016.

International Environmental Weed Foundation (IEWF) trading as Habitat Network

IEWF continues to focus on ecological restoration with a specific focus on native biodiversity. Our projects include **Habitat Network**, **The Habitat** community native plant nursery and food garden, Hunters Hill small bird habitat corridor and Shrimptons Creek small bird habitat corridor.

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

We have representation on Greater Sydney Landcare Network Committee (the regional Landcare and bushcare representative body for Greater Sydney), on Landcare NSW Council and its Executive, and locally on the bushland and environment committees for Hunters Hill Council and City of Ryde.

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.

Please see below for more detail.

Habitat Network

Under the Habitat Network banner we have continued to develop small bird habitat corridors and connections, network with our members, run workshops, make representations, host stalls, give talks, create new brochures, run **The Habitat** and a few other things. See below for more details.



The Haven at The Habitat a lovely Christmas present from City of Ryde

The Habitat - community native plant nursery and community food garden

The Habitat is run as a partnership between Habitat Network and City of Ryde Council. Council is providing the land, water and advice, our volunteers run the facility. On December 23rd 2015 Council handed us keys to a newly built office / kitchenette and loo for use by The Habitat volunteers (see photo page 1). Our part of this building is known as 'The Haven'.



Native bee workshop with Megan Halcroft at The Habitat

We are continuing to build our community of volunteers. This last 6 months we had 47 regular volunteers and 41 casuals, the previous 6 months we had 39 regulars and 40 casuals. Most days we have between 8 and 15 volunteers, aged between 2 and 80, of all abilities and many nationalities. The Habitat is open 10 am to 4 pm every Wednesday and Saturday.

The Habitat statistics for financial year:

	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Total volunteer hours	2,921	3228	3099
Recorded visitors	1,520	1334	1422
Total plants out	3704	5246	6016
Total out plus in stock at EOY	6774	8225	8585

The Habitat volunteers grow local provenance native plants specifically for small bird habitat, using seed and cuttings collected from local bushland, and grow food plants from seed and cuttings. They also care for 2-3 worm farms, undertake composting, maintain both the nursery and food garden, and assist with habitat planting projects.

The Habitat provides opportunities for us to engage with a broad audience to share knowledge relating to plants, habitat, sustainable living, ecological restoration and more. Plants are provided by The Habitat at no cost to local restoration projects undertaken by bushcare / landcare volunteers under the supervision of local Council Bushcare Officers. Plants are also provided at no cost to local schools to undertake a National Tree Day event with their students in July/August each year. We connect to the schools through the Ryde Environmental Education Network, Councils and our website. Plants are also sold to the public with all funds raised staying with The Habitat for supplies and new equipment. During the next year we hope to fund an 8 m x 8 m shade structure for protection of the seedlings and cuttings.

This year The Habitat hosted 12 events including workshops on native bees, worm farming, composting, food gardening, an introduction to The Habitat for a Chinese group, a Ryde Environmental Education Network meeting and a Christmas gathering. We also undertook 6 planting events - 4 along Shrimptons Creek (3 in Greenwood Park and 1 in Tindarra Reserve, North Ryde) and 2 in the Hunters Hill corridor (on both Council and Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) land



Habitat planting at Tindarra Reserve, North Ryde

between Tarban Creek Bridge and Gladesville Bridge, Huntley's Point). Additionally we did some in-fill planting in the top area of the Shrimptons Creek corridor near The Habitat in Santa Rosa Park.

Shrimptons Creek small bird habitat corridor project

This project has been gradually evolving over the past 3 years. In April 2012 we undertook a bird survey for our project area as baseline data. In 2013 and 2014 we grew and planted canopy species for the upper section of Shrimptons Creek (area closest to The Habitat). Plants mostly included *Syncarpia glomulifera* and *Melaleuca linearifolia*.

In 2014 we produced a formal plan for a small bird habitat corridor along Shrimptons Creek which aims to engage all neighbours backing onto the parks and reserves along Shrimptons Creek. We also established photo points for monitoring the project.

To help fund the production of printed material for this project we applied for a grant and received \$1,100 from Greater Sydney Local Land Services. To the right is the front cover of one of the brochures we produced.

In 2015 we commenced door knocking, distributed information and plants and

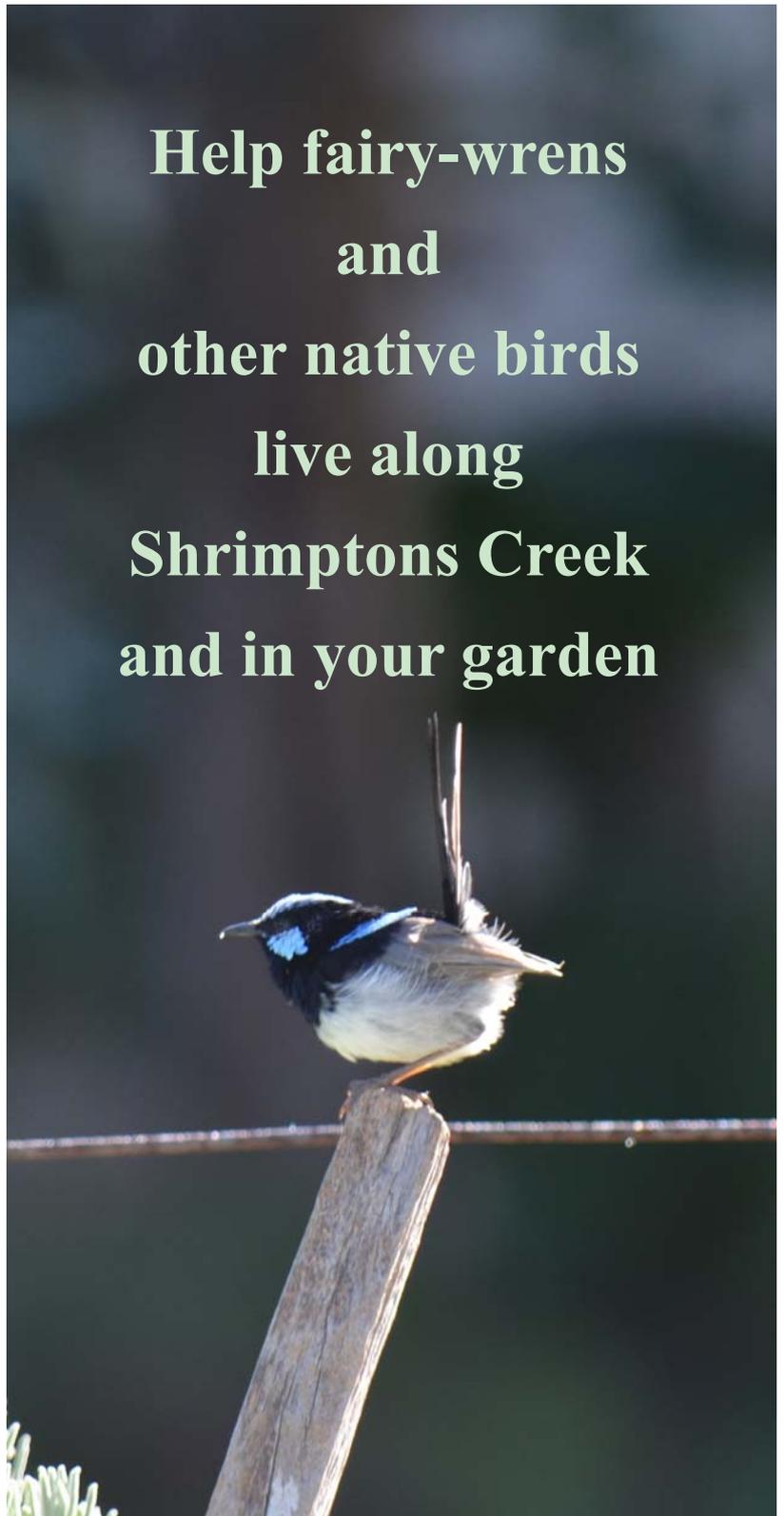


organised 2 planting events to

create small bird native habitat connections along the creekline. The plantings were both in Greenwood Park. An email list of enthusiastic planters has also been created.

Early in 2016 we continued our doorknocking, distributing more information and plants, and letterboxed those houses we had previously doorknocked. With every planting we will re-engage all neighbours along the creekline either

Help fairy-wrens and other native birds live along Shrimptons Creek and in your garden



directly, via email and/or by letterboxing. Even if the neighbours don't come along to plant they will be involved in the story and can observe changes and progress. Two more plantings were completed in 2016 the first in Greenwood Park and the second in Tindarra Reserve.

Hunters Hill Small Bird Corridor - successful grant application

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 project will now be extended during 2016 to 2019 to include an area along the Parramatta River from Kellys Bush to Clarkes Point in Woolwich thanks to a successful grant application submitted by Hunters Hill Council in partnership with Habitat Network and National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Within the small bird corridor are a number of volunteer bushcare groups of which 2 are led by our volunteers in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service and Hunters Hill Council. These 2 groups are known as Bedlam Bay Bushcare and Tarban Bridge Bushcare.



Planting near Tarban Creek Bridge May 2016 - this is the site where Superb fairywrens have nested in our habitat planting for the past 2 years. This latest planting is to increase the depth of the habitat area originally planted in 2012.

Hunters Hill Small Bird Corridor - successful breeding area

In December 2014 and again in 2015 one of the planted habitat islands was used by Superb fairy wrens as a nest site and small birds have been regularly seen using other planted islands of habitat in this corridor.

Hunters Hill Grant Project—Bird Surveys

In December 2013, March 2014, November 2014, March 2015, December 2015 and March 2016 Habitat Network undertook bird surveys for Hunters Hill Council as part of their NSW Environmental Trust grant project entitled "Restoring EECs along the Lane Cove River Estuary". With the help of a very knowledgeable local young man, Max Breckenridge, we surveyed 7 locations in Buffalo Creek Reserve, Boronia Park and Ferdinand Street Reserve on each occasion. Annual reports and a final report for the grant authority were also produced.

Grants

IEWF applied for and won funding from the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS) to produce printed materials for the Shrimptons Creek small bird habitat corridor project.

A second grant was also received from GSLLS which funded the updating and reprinting of 1 brochure and

the production of 2 new brochures in Mandarin and another in Cantonese. All brochures can be found on the Resources pages of www.iewf.org and www.habitatnetwork.org.

Greater Sydney Landcare Network (GSLN)

IEWF/Habitat Network representation continues on the committee of this regional network which aims to provide support, leverage funding for big picture projects and foster closer links between landcare and bushcare groups across the Greater Sydney area and with the rest of NSW. Our representative also represents GSLN on the Landcare NSW Council (LNSW) and is now also on the LNSW Executive.

Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee (BEAC) City of Ryde , Bushland Management Committee (Hunters Hill)

IEWF/Habitat Network continues to be represented on and contribute to these committees. The Biodiversity Plan for Ryde is still in draft form with Council.

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, Riding For the Disabled Fun Day and at the launch of the Ryde River Walk in Banjo Paterson Park.

A talk about The Habitat and Habitat Network was given for Transition Parramatta.

Workshops were hosted at The Habitat covering subjects such as composting, worm farming, kitchen garden, native bees.

Two Discovery Walks were led through the Field of Mars Reserve in Spring.



Hunters Hill small bird habitat corridor

Left - 2012 - no understory all mown

Below - 2016 - after planting and regeneration. Now used by Superb fairywrens, White-browed scrub wrens and Red-browed finch.

