International Environmental Weed Foundation Annual Report – June 2025

International Environmental Weed Foundation is pleased to present a report covering activities for year ending 30th June 2025

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

We have had another exciting year with the help of our core volunteers and Directors. Habitat Network, The Habitat, small bird habitat corridors in Ryde and Hunters Hill, talks, promotions, displays, social media, submissions, etc all kept us busy. As has supporting the Lane Cove River (Durumbura Dhurabang) project, Greater Sydney Landcare, Parramatta River Catchment Group, Parramatta River and Waterways Network (PRAWN), the City of Ryde Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee, Ryde Environmental Educators Network and Hunters Hill Bushland Management Advisory Committee. See more details below.

For more details about PRAWN see Parramatta River Catchment Group — NSW Landcare Gateway and PRAWN-Brochure.pdf . Bev was highlighted as a River Champion in Our Living River newsletter in May 2025.

Bev featured in a Landcare Australia—Landcare in Focus article in November 2024—see Page 78 FA2_Spread_LandcareinFocus_Magazine_070125.pdf - this article also featured on Landcare Australia socials. An article about volunteering in March/April Dare magazine for seniors showcased Bev and volunteering, and she also featured in a Local Land Services article highlighting the Greater Sydney volunteering statistics in May 2025 —see Volunteers contribute $9.9M in conservation efforts | NSW Government . Bev was also invited by the State Government to attend the Global Nature Positive Summit—this was a very interesting event and the environmental attendees hope that business and government will live up to some of the ideals that were discussed.

A 'Small bird habitat corridors and connections' talk was delivered for Ku-ring-gai Council and two talks/ workshops/walks on the same subject were promoted and delivered at The Habitat. See The Habitat below for other groups with whom we engaged.

We 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
https://www.instagram.com/habitatnetwork/

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

We thank our members and volunteers for your continued support.

The Habitat - community plant nursery and food garden

The Habitat has continued to flourish and looks great with its 2 new shade shelters. With our weather becoming more severe—hotter, colder, wetter and drier—we decided more shelter was required for our tube sized plants! Changing conditions continue to add challenges to germinating seedlings and convincing cuttings to grow. Extreme conditions like the many wet days we have had this past 6 months have also impacted the work of people in their gardens and consequently plant sales.

The Habitat continued to support schools and bushcare sites by providing plants at no cost. We also did a no cost consultation with North Ryde Public School about their grounds and potential habitat plantings. They have completed 1 planting to date and plan to do more.

The Habitat statistics by financial year:

	2022-2023	**2023-2024**	**2024-2025**
Total volunteer hours	4094	3824	3484
Recorded visitors	1579	1367	1494
Total plants out (sold, donated or planted)	7796	6358	5007
Total out plus in-stock at EOY	11457	10744	10987

Pam Ward, Co-coordinator at The Habitat, for all of her committed and excellent work at The Habitat and in the local area was the winner of the inaugural Ryde Citizen of the Year Award 2024 Environment. Well done Pam! The Habitat also received awards for 'habitat friendly garden' and 'community garden' categories of the Ryde Garden Competition.

We had enjoyable visits from various groups including the Ryde Chinese Gardening Group, North Ryde RSL Garden Club and also Oatley Flora and Fauna. For these groups we provided an introduction to the nursery and garden, information about small bird habitat and a guided tour of the nursery and garden and of Santa Rosa Park habitat areas and beyond for those interested. One of the quarterly PRAWN meetings was also hosted at The Habitat.

Korean Forest Welfare Institute brought 24 of their volunteers from Korea and we were 1 of the sites they visited for a talk and walk. Luckily they brought a translator with them. It was interesting exchanging information about volunteering across different countries. It appears that all volunteers in Korea are paid by the government and some receive overseas trips as a reward! Another fun event was with City of Ryde's Artist in Residence, where she delivered a creative art session in the middle of The Habitat's community garden using plant materials and clay.

We joined the new Local Land Services' Volunteer Coordinators Network Nurseries group which meets face to face quarterly at different nurseries to gain and share ideas around nursery management.

During October and November 2024 on Wednesday afternoons we had a home schooling group (of around 5 adults and 9 x 2-10 year olds) helping us to design and develop the former play ground space into an informal nature play space. Together we planted a herb / sensory garden, built a dry creek bed with stones and sand, and constructed a fence woven with branches. This area will also contribute to seed production for the nursery. It is looking fabulous already.

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

Pam Ward receiving award as the inaugural Ryde Citizen of the Year Environment from Mayor and General Manager of City of Ryde for her great work.

Some of our young volunteers weeding the strawberry patch—The Habitat

New shade shelters to the right—The Habitat.

Shrimptons Creek—RMS site—habitat continues to grow as we continue to extend it. Front brown area has been sprayed in preparation for new plantings. A family of Superb fairy-wrens use this area—yeah!!

The Durumbura Dhurabang - Lane Cove River Project

We were delighted to be invited to be one of the stakeholders for this project by Dr Jo Rey and Nick Galea of Macquarie University. Stakeholders include Aboriginal women, university representatives, Councils, businesses, community groups and Sydney Water.

Shrimpton's Creek upon which The Habitat nursery and garden is located is a tributary of the Durumbura Dhurabang. We were included due to our work on improving the biodiversity and habitat values of Shrimpton's Creek and for our work monitoring the health of this tributary utilising our Streamwatch kit.

This project is being led by the traditional custodians of this land and water - Dhurug women and particularly Jo who is a Wullumedagal woman.

We have attended 3 stakeholder meetings and through Bev's role as Chair of Greater Sydney Landcare have connected Jo and Nick to the waterkeepers and riverkeepers for Hawkesbury Nepean River, Cooks River, Parramatta River and Georges River.

The aim of this project is to care for Country (Nura) using best practice while being led by cultural practices and through having a Healthy Country have Healthy People and a sustainable future.

The issues and challenges have been discussed, stakeholders have been asked what they can bring to this project and each Council has been asked to nominate a research project which can engage Macquarie University researchers and students.

Jo very kindly informally addressed the May meeting of PRAWN which was held on Country at The Habitat—her 15 minute presentation evolved in to an hour's discussion which was so interesting.

Shrimpton's Creek bushland corridor extension—Santa Rosa Park

Work continues along Shrimpton's creek to improve this small bird habitat corridor. On the previous page is a photo of an area of habitat being developed gradually on RMS land near Epping Road.

Close to the nursery we now have a relatively weed free native area which started as a gorilla project but now is recognised as part of a native corridor on Council's Master Plan. In sympathy with the neighbours it is being kept mostly as ground covers with just a few patches of shrubs for small bird protection.

As can be seen in this photo (to right) Council planted about 10 larger plants early in 2025 which will grow into trees. With our young volunteers on Saturdays we are planting understory, removing weeds and non-native grasses and gradually extending this area. Eventually we plan to include some mid-story plants and to also connect The Habitat, our gorilla area and this patch to the bushland along the creekline in 1 continuous corridor.

When planting we are planting the least attractive plants as anything of higher quality or larger in size gets stolen! Patience is a key to this project.