

Achievements

Achievements 2000 - 2003

Stems planted	199,614
Plants propagated	57,845
Weed removed	741.53 ha
Track built and maintained	90.49 km
Flora/fauna surveys conducted	99
Community Volunteer days completed	17,816

Upcoming Events

28-29 January 2004 Australian Water Association conference 'Education: The key to sustainable water management. Canberra
www.awa.asn.au/events/education04/

2 February 2004 World Wetland Day www.ramsar.org

10-11 February 2004 Murray-Darling Basin Commission, 'Habitat Rehabilitation Workshop'. Albury-Wodonga
Mark Lintermans, Co-ordinator, Native Fish Strategy and Pilot Sustainable Rivers Audit
lintermans@netspeed.com.au

28 March -1 April 'Enviro 04: Sustainability Conference and Exhibition', Sydney, NSW
www.enviroaust.net/e4

Join one of the Revive projects running across Australia by visiting www.reviveourwetlands.net

Thank You!



Conservation Volunteers Australia and BHP Billiton thanks everyone who has assisted 'Revive our Wetlands' to date.

'By far the greatest resource is people. At the local level, in any part of Australia, groups of people with common concerns or interests, whether they be Landcare groups, bushwalking groups, birdwatchers, national parks volunteers, or simply volunteer "working bee" groups, are the most valuable and efficient resource.'

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts (1992)

You make a difference



Conservation Volunteers Australia

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Summer Newsletter 2004

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to our first Revive newsletter for 2004. We are delighted to announce the Revive our Wetlands program will continue across Australia for the next three years to 2006 with an additional \$1.5 million invested by BHP Billiton. CVA and BHP Billiton look forward to working with the community to restore and maintain the health of significant Australian wetlands.

In July 2003, Revive our Wetlands won the Science, Environment, Health and Education Award and the National Partnership of the Year Award in the Financial Review Magazine Corporate Partnership Awards. This award is a testament to the contribution of thousands of volunteers and 100 Revive project partners.

As a further recognition of Revive, BHP Billiton won the Special Award category of the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships for 2003, for the contribution they have made to communities across Australia (including Revive).

A booklet showcasing Revive's Achievements was published late last year and captures our impact to date. If you have not already received a copy of this booklet please let us know; you may even be in one of the photos!

Over the next few pages we introduce you to the exciting 'new look' Revive and the ten Focus Projects we will concentrate on in this new phase. Enjoy !



Libby McIntyre

Revive Our Wetlands Manager



About Revive

Revive, with the assistance of thousands of committed volunteers, has achieved significant environmental outcomes and has become the benchmark for business-community partnerships in Australia.

For the past three years, \$1.5 million of assistance and more than 17,000 volunteer days have contributed to the revitalisation of 100 of Australia's most significant wetlands.

Over the next three years, Revive will continue to make a difference to important wetlands across Australia by providing a substantial time and resource commitment. It will assist community efforts at 10 priority locations across remote, regional and urban Australia.

We have set a target of 15,000 volunteer days for Revive. With your help, we can achieve this aim.



Revive Volunteer at Planting Day - left
International Revive Volunteers - top
Bird Monitoring at Wonga Wetlands - bottom

Introducing Revive's Ten Focus Projects 2004 - 2006

Revive Focus Projects are as diverse as remote desert wetlands and coastal marshes next to major cities. There are rainforests, deserts, riverbanks, sand dunes, salt-marshes and freshwater wetlands. Opportunities exist for metropolitan, urban and rural Australians to visit and contribute to the conservation of these wetlands.

10) **Top End Floodplains** Two of the most important breeding grounds in Australia for the Magpie Goose are located on the Adelaide and Mary River floodplains, near Darwin. Nearly 500,000 geese have been recorded in one season. The sites are a major dry season refuge area for almost 90 species of waterbirds and a significant migration stopover for shorebirds. Between 15-18 species of frog, Dugongs and freshwater turtles make the landscape home. Some of the Top End's largest areas of wooded swamp and mangroves are located here, so regeneration will be a major goal, alongside a reduction in feral animal and grazing traffic.

9) **Newhaven Station** Here the once thought to be extinct, Night Parrot has been sighted. Newhaven Station, which was over 360 km NW of Alice Springs, comprises 262,000 ha of Australia's heartland. The Station is a rich wilderness of grasslands, woodlands, rocky ranges, wetlands and salt-pans, providing habitat for 34 species of threatened plants and animals, including the Marsupial Mole and Black Footed Rock Wallaby. Birds Australia bought the station to manage in consultation with Aboriginal custodians, due to its traditional cultural significance. Project activities will include the provision of facilities for naturalists and tourists, ecological restoration and flora/fauna surveys.

8) **Beelihar Wetland System** In the midst of suburban Perth is a chain of lakes that make up the Swan Coastal Plain, a major migration 'stop-over' for waterbirds. The lakes are brackish seasonal lakes with extensive fringing of sedges. Nearby lakes are jointly listed as sites under the Ramsar International Convention on wetlands. The Australasian Bittern, a threatened species has been recorded recently and nearly 30% of bird species that inhabit the site are listed under migratory treaties. The Southern Brown Bandicoot is also listed as Endangered. Working with CALM, local councils and the wetlands education centre, the project will conserve their important habitat.

7) **Ned's Corner Station** The Trust for Nature (TFN) have newly acquired this remarkable 30,000 hectare property on the Murray River, between Mildura and Adelaide. The project will help protect the environmental and cultural heritage of the region. Ned's Corner is the largest privately held landholding on the Murray. Native plantings will help to reduce vital soil loss, while stabilising buffer zones and local seed will be collected. Weeds such as Patterson's Curse will be culled and water quality will be monitored and combined with community education.



1) **Kyambul Lagoon** Between Cairns and Townsville is the nationally listed Tully/Murray River Floodplain, one of the wettest regions of Australia. Its upper catchment forms part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Kyambul is floodplain lagoon system which is as one of the most threatened ecological communities in this bioregion. The project plans to eradicate Pond Apple, listed among the top 20 Weeds of National Significance. It will also complete water, bird and animal surveys, undertake green corridor revegetation and protect cultural sites.

2) **Townsville 'Common Interest'** The original Revive Project. Just kilometres from the Townsville CBD, the common is one of the most expansive wetland complexes on Australia's east coast. Comprised primarily of intertidal mangrove swamps, backed by floodplain water bodies, the area abuts the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. International migratory birds agreements apply, with 13 of the avifauna being rare or endangered. Invasive weeds will be significantly reduced while significant quantities of native seed will be collected and propagated, with plenty of local plantings being planned. Grass Owl habitat will be improved and public access points maintained.

3) **Moreton Bay Wetlands** South of Brisbane are the Moreton Bay Wetlands, bounded by two of the largest sand dune islands in the world. The tidal flats exposed at low tide provide a variety of habitats, in particular for migratory bird species. The overall site contains 5 major ecological communities. These internationally important wetlands provide habitat for migratory birds from the Arctic, Siberia, East Asia and North America. Seagrass communities support the threatened Dugong and the largest feeding concentration of the endangered Green Turtle in Australia.

4) **Lower North Coast Wetlands** Between Port Macquarie and Newcastle in NSW are found the Cattai and Darawahk wetlands. Hydrologically and biologically connected to the Nationally Significant Wetland of Crowdy Bay, both sites will provide important test cases for the remediation of Acid Sulfate Soil concerns. The region hosts 14 Threatened Species, 9 Migratory Species and 9 Listed Marine Species. Wildlife corridors will be revegetated, while grazing access will be reduced through fencing work. Migratory bird and flora/fauna monitoring will track improvements. Public access and signage will be enhanced.

5) **Southern Rivers Wetlands** Between the NSW South Coast centres of Wollongong and Nowra are Tom Thumb and Coomonderry Lagoons. Tom Thumb Lagoon, Wollongong, is the second original Revive site and is a remnant 5 hectare urban wetland containing significant mudflat and saltmarsh habitat. Coomonderry Lagoon, Shoalhaven Heads, is a large freshwater swamp supporting a range of bird species and the threatened Green and Golden Bell Frog. This project will continue the work Revive has achieved to date in the region, restoring the habitat of important coastal wetlands.

6) **Cheetham Wetlands** To the west of Melbourne are 500 hectares of lagoons and saltmarsh, created through the activities of an old saltworks. This is Cheetham Wetlands, home to over 200 species of birds. The nearby Port Phillip Bay wetlands can have up to 65,000 birds. Next door is Point Cook Marine Park, a Ramsar listed wetland, which has the endangered Orange-bellied Parrot as its most notable inhabitant. Working with Parks Victoria, the project will monitor birds, collect seed, improve dune/foreshore conditions, remove invasive species such as African Boxthorn, while planting trees and repairing/constructing park fixtures.

