



## MEASURING UP

- Cumulative Statistics from Nov 2003 - Aug 2005

Seed collected	188kg
Stems & Trees Planted	150,659
Watering of plants (drought affected)	25,000
Track/boardwalk maintained	8km
Area Weeded	1580ha
Plants propagated	26,502
Flora & fauna surveys conducted:	53
Rubbish removed	2585kg
Old fencing removed	49km
Fencing installed	18km
Volunteer days	12,000
Media articles	139

## ABOUT REVIVE

Revive our Wetlands is the largest national wetlands revival program in Australia and it was established by Conservation Volunteers Australia and BHP Billiton. From 2000-2003, \$1.5 million of assistance and more than 17,000 volunteer days contributed to the revitalisation of 100 of Australia's most significant wetlands.

From 2004-2006, Revive is contributing an additional \$1.5 million and 15,000+ volunteer days invested at 10 priority locations across remote, regional and urban Australia along with many other smaller wetland projects around the country.

## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Revive* is featured as the lead story in the Department of Environment and Heritage "Wetlands Australia", national wetlands update magazine
- *Revive* used as a 'Best Practice' partnership that was profiled in the Prime Ministers Community Business Partnership promotional DVD
- The *Revive* Southern Rivers Wetlands Program - a unique regional partnership in only its second year, was recognised as a finalist in the 2005 Banksia Environmental Awards

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### • Wetlands and Water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods

9th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR, Iran, 1971)

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005  
[http://www.ramsar.org/index\\_cop9\\_e.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/index_cop9_e.htm)

### • From the water's edge to the red centre

Australian Water Association's Water Education Network's (WEN) 2nd National Water Education Conference

Alice Springs, April 2006

Unique opportunities plus a fabulous program make this ideal for organisations interested in supporting a national education forum

[www.awa.asn.au/events/educationconf06](http://www.awa.asn.au/events/educationconf06)

## WORD FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

As we near the end of the fifth year of the partnership, it is extremely encouraging to reflect on what has been achieved for Australia's wetlands through this award-winning community-business partnership. Ten *Revive* focus sites across Australia continue to receive significant on-ground assistance from CVA teams of *Revive* volunteers.

In 2005, *Revive* has completed more than 100 projects. A number of these projects included BHP Billiton staff and families, including: Cheetham Wetlands, west of Melbourne, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre near Perth. Further staff days are planned at Eagleby Wetlands near the Gold Coast and another day at Cheetham.

The Southern Rivers Wetlands program, one of the original *Revive* Focus Projects on the south coast of New South Wales, highlights the impact *Revive* has made on a local level and the catalytic role it has played in creating long-term regional partnerships. The Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is now a significant regional partner in the program, enabling work to take place on a greater number of wetlands and enhancing the capacity of local community groups to address the environmental priorities for their sites.

Funding is still available for *Revive* teams to contribute to smaller scale projects at other important wetland sites around Australia. Wetland land managers can apply for help via an expression of interest by emailing [revive@conservationvolunteers.com.au](mailto:revive@conservationvolunteers.com.au)

Libby McIntyre

## WETLANDS WARRIOR

Peter Loh, a regular volunteer to Point Cook - Cheetham Wetlands

### What have you learnt on the project?

- More about wetland environments and the importance and function of wetlands

- How to work in a team, having had my own business in the past, it is refreshing to work with others

### Have you made any new friends on the project?

- I have met international and Melbourne volunteers on the project. They are always interesting people from a diverse range of backgrounds
- I have enjoyed getting to know the team leaders as well

### What do you like doing best at Pt Cook?

- Cutting down a really big boxthorn, none of this microsurgery - give me some big ones to eradicate!

### What do you hope for Cheetham wetlands in the future?

- More funding to continue with the fox baiting program (Parks Victoria) and the weed eradication program
- I am fearful about the new suburbs/neighborhoods being built so close to the wetlands and the added pressure and impact this will cause on these wetlands



Volunteers at Cheetham Wetlands discover boxthorn at the end of the rainbow!

Creating a Better Earth



## What's Inside

REVIVE PILOT PROJECT

ILLAWARRA WETLANDS

MEASURING UP

ACHIEVEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

ABOUT REVIVE

Creating a Better Earth



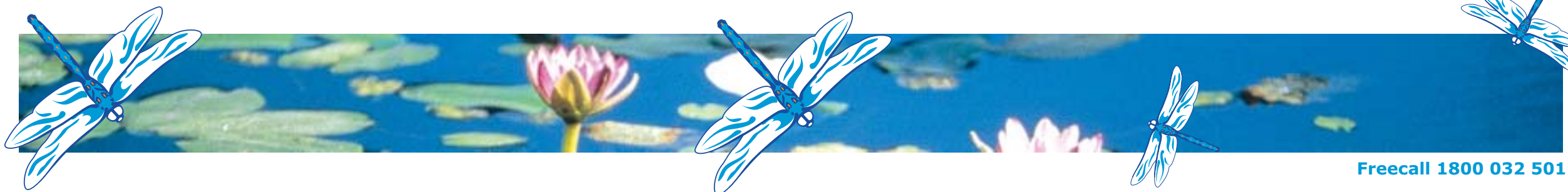
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 or call Libby McIntyre on 02 6882 5986

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AUSTRALIA



## CASE STUDY 1: Townsville "Common Interest" - the Original Revive Pilot project 2000-2005

In July 2000, the Revive our Wetlands program at the Town Common Conservation Park was launched and the challenge taken up by the local community. Named the "Common Interest" project, its main aims were to address environmental degradation including, native habitat decline and loss of biodiversity of these important wetlands. After five years the program is still going and has achieved some significant outcomes.

Provided with a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in their local area, volunteers commenced the long-term process of restoring valuable native habitat, learning vital skills in wetland conservation, increasing their awareness of wetland importance, and heightening community ownership of this important local asset.

The Town Common Conservation Park comprises of 3500 ha of up to six different ecosystems, all of which are heavily impacted by exotic plants and feral animals. Weeds have been the major threat, however volunteer contribution to address this issue has been immense. More than 5500 hours of volunteer contribution has significantly reduced

weeds in a number of areas such as Barramundi Island, Pink Lily and Jacana Lagoon and the Freshwater bird hide. Local regular volunteers have worked on weed control, seed collection, plant propagation, revegetation and track work have continually improved the "Common's" natural biodiversity. Several volunteers have been on the program since its inception

The Common Interest's success has been built on the volunteer's considerable commitment. Volunteers enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that areas have been rehabilitated and natural biodiversity returned.

*"To see indigenous grasses and animals return to an area once devoid of native vegetation and choked by exotic weeds is very gratifying and fulfilling and to do this with other volunteers, both local and sometimes international, adds to the overall enjoyment"* says Dave

With continuing support from volunteers, BHP Billiton, QPWS, Townsville City Council and traditional owners, the "Common" is an icon for Townsville and now has national significance.

**The Town Common Project was rewarded after five years of solid work by receiving the Environmental Excellence Award from Townsville City Council in the Community Group category – the award was presented on World Environment Day 2005.**

## CASE STUDY 2: Southern Rivers NSW - Illawarra Wetlands

arra region, the focus of Revive our Wetlands began at Tom Thumb and Coomaditchie Lagoons (Wollongong) in early 2001. Volunteer teams worked alongside Friends of Tom Thumb Lagoon and Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation (CUAC) to help rehabilitate these Endangered Ecological Communities. The Revive program was the catalyst to ensure these important wetlands were brought to local attention of local communities and understood for their important values and ecological functions

In 2004 CVA formed an additional innovative partnership with the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA), thereby creating a unique and innovative three way partnership between a community organisation, a major business and a Catchment Management Authority. Wollongong City Council's Enviro Fund, has also joined the partnership providing financial support to upgrade the Plan of Management and for a part-time Project Officer for Tom Thumb Lagoon to

engage the community in on-site projects. CVA has now extended this position to a full time Community Involvement Officer. Wollongong City Council has also provided much in-kind support for this wetland including supply of native plants, herbicides and other materials

The partnership has now evolved into the Revive Southern Rivers Wetlands Program (RSRWP) and has broadened the number of significant wetlands being managed in the Illawarra region. Currently the project is focusing on four sites selected for their high ecological value: Tom Thumb Lagoon at Wollongong, Werri Lagoon at Gerringong, Coomonderry Swamp at Seven Mile Beach and Lake Conjola between Ulladulla and Nowra. A diverse range of on-ground ecological restoration activities have been developed at these wetlands to provide the community with an opportunity to "make a difference" and learn about the importance of wetlands in their "patch"

**Revive Southern Rivers Wetlands Program was a finalist in the 2005 National Banksia Environmental Awards in Category 6 – Land and Waterways.**



Mayar Magyar (left) and Cliff Robinson carry out native plant maintenance at the Pallarenda Nursery



Tom Thumb Lagoon, a wetland in an industrial area