

Completed Dissemination Projects Archive

Learning from projects funded by the NSW Environmental Trust

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Table 1 Completed Environmental Trust dissemination projects – summary

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| Project name | Project leader | Outcomes |
| Aboriginal bush foods | Purfleet - Taree Aboriginal Land Council | Website of traditional bush foods and their uses |
| Aboriginal tour guide training | Department of Environment and Climate Change (Parks and Wildlife Division) | Workshops and associated training materials to support the training of Aboriginal tour guides |
| Aged care: caring for the environment | SD Environmental Management | Guideline, information sessions and online interactive introduction to the guideline |
| Agricultural education for non-English speaking background (NESB) market gardeners | Department of Primary Industries | Workshops and fact sheets for NESB market gardeners on fostering effective relationships with council |
| Biodiversity education for culturally and linguistically diverse communities | Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Sutherland, Liverpool, Sydney and Canterbury Councils | A series of workshops for Non-English speaking communities to improve understanding of biodiversity and native plants and animals |
| The biodiversity incentive tool - Better Knowledge Better Bush | Biobroker | Workshops and user kit |
| Biodiversity responses to fire regimes under climate change | Office of Environment and Heritage | Booklet and factsheet |
| Birds in Backyards in regional NSW | Birds Australia | Series of eleven workshops and resource kit on enhancing urban bird habitat |
| Bush Stone-curlew conservation enhancement | Nature Conservation Working Group | Workshops, Bird Fair, posters and stickers |
| Coastal ambassadors – protecting our coast | Pittwater Council | Brochure, workshops and seed funding |
| Cape Byron sustainability trail | Cape Byron Headland Reserve Trust | Educational signage and brochure |
| CatchMODS modelling tool | Australian National University | Workshops that demonstrated a new catchment modelling tool |
| Dam management – improving biodiversity and water quality | NSW Department of Primary Industries | Training and workshops |
| Eco-friendly youth centres | North East Waste Forum | Workshops |
| Ecologically sustainable development workshops | Local Government and Shires Associations | Workshops showcasing sustainable practices in specific Local Government areas |
| Eco-OOSH - A whole of centre approach to sustainable living | Network of Community Activities | Workbook and training for out-of-school-hours (OOSH) childcare centres |
| Environmental management training for tourism businesses | University of Western Sydney | Manual and workshops |
| Estuarine wetland assessment techniques | WetlandCare Australia | Workshops and support material for assessing wetland health |
| Fishing line recovery for inland waterways | Ocean Watch Australia | 43 fishing-line recovery bins (TAngler bins), flyer, sticker and poster |
| Floodgates | Department of Primary Industries and Wetland Care Australia | Regional workshops on the management of floodgates and wetlands |
| Foreshore erosion field day and interactive learning package | Pittwater Council | Open day, fact sheet, online virtual tour and blog |
| Four-wheel driving with the environment in mind | TAFE Western Institute and Dubbo 4WD Club | Booklet and training on responsible four-wheel driving |
| Getting started in bush regeneration | Environmental Training and Employment, NSW | DVD and video to assist community groups starting out in regeneration |
| Greek environmental education training | Greek Welfare Centre | Workshops for the Greek community on green cleaning and energy conservation |
| Grow me instead: A guide for gardeners in the greater Sydney district | Nursery and Garden Industry, ACT | Booklet on alternative native plants to replace invasive garden species in Sydney |
| Habitat stepping stones | Access Macquarie Ltd | Redeveloped website, plant lists for each participating LGA, leaflets, 200 pledges across participating LGAs and detailed recommendations |
| Handbook for sediment quality assessment | Centre for Environmental Contaminants Research, CSIRO | Conference and handbook on the latest science for assessment of contaminated soils |
| Know your garden natives | Environmental Trust and International Weeds Foundation | Booklet and magazine cover display for Gardening Australia magazine July 2008 that promoted the updated 'Know your garden natives' booklet |
| Koala habitat management and restoration | Lismore City Council and Friends of the Koala Inc. | Brochure on koalas and koala habitat and interpretive signage at restoration sites |
| Local living: Sustainable living for local communities | Blue Mountains City Council | A training workshop and support materials for local government on creating and facilitating sustainable living community workshops in their own council areas |
| Long-stem planting guide | Gosford City Council and Australian Plant Society (Central Coast Group) | The Long-stem Planting Guide and field day |
| Mentoring – expanding sustainability knowledge | Central West Regional Organisation of Councils | Mentoring program and guide to mentoring |
| Minimise and manage the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* | Botanic Gardens Trust | Brochure, poster, workshops, fact sheets |
| More little green steps – sustainability for early childhood | Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN) | Resources to support the National Quality Standards, networks, workshops, and mentoring |
| A network of educators delivering ‘Starting in your Backyard’ | WetlandCare Australia | Workshops and webinar |
| Nutrient dynamics in riverine estuaries | Office of Environment and Heritage | Conference and workshop |
| Predicting and preserving preferred habitat | Bangalay (Ecological and Bushfire) | Six articles and a factsheet |
| Prevalence of acid sulphate soils in inland catchments | Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre and CSIRO | Workshops and a range of educational tools for Catchment Management Authorities and land managers on the occurrence of acid sulphate soils in inland wetlands |
| Preventing further degradation of freshwater mussel populations | Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water | Brochure, workshops, factsheets |
| Privet-removal training for community groups | Shoalhaven City Council | Workshops on techniques for safe removal of privet |
| Providing automated fish passage at Balranald Weir | Department of Primary Industries | Workshop for fisheries and river managers and information on the operation of the fish lock |
| Pygmy Perch habitat rehabilitation | Department of Primary Industries and Richmond Valley Council | Workshop and factsheets |
| Rainforest remnant rehabilitation training and rainforest walk interpretation | Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group and EnviTE | Workshop, documents on rainforest rehabilitation and interpretive walk |
| Regenesis – expanding the vision of future-proofing NSW | Blacktown City Council | Workshops and toolkit |
| Restoration of grassy White-box woodlands | Charles Sturt University | Media and scientific dissemination of new techniques for restoring grassy box woodlands |
| Revegetation of native plant communities | Australian Network for Plant Conservation | Two workshops on the rehabilitation and management of disturbed native vegetation |
| Road crossings and fish passage workshops | Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries Management) | Workshops in coastal catchments on addressing the impacts of road crossings on fish passage |
| Rural partnerships | North Sydney Council | Workshop and guidelines |
| Securing a sustainable food future | Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers | Toolkit, workshops, discussion group and individual council projects |
| Shared island management experiences and restoration of seabird nesting habitat | Department of Environment and Climate Change (Parks and Wildlife Division) | Workshop, booklet and case studies on island management |
| Sharing the knowledge - traditional burning | Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council | Workshops and mentoring |
| Stop salvinia strangling our waterways | Department of Primary Industries | Field manual, four accredited training workshops and four field days, establishment of 39 biological control sites |
| Stories of experience | Council on the Ageing (COTA) | Book highlighting the environmental practices of older Australians |
| Successful farming incorporating native vegetation | Learning from Farmers | DVD of inspirational stories from farmers |
| Sustainable future for small business | SD Environmental Management | Centre management and retailer workshops |
| Switched-on energy conservation in NSW environmental education centres | Illawarra Environmental Education Centre | Teaching program, school visits, conference presentation |
| Translocation of threatened plant species in Australia | Australian Network for Plant Conservation | Workshops and second-edition guidelines on latest techniques for translocation of threatened plants |
| Waste trailer regional roadshow | Northern Inland Regional Waste | Education program throughout the New England area |
| Wild about seabirds | Australian Seabird Rescue | Manual, DVD and fold-out pocket guide |

# Completed Environmental Trust dissemination projects

## Aboriginal bush foods website **Purfleet–Taree Aboriginal Land Council**

Information from a previous project on bush foods and their traditional uses for medicine, food, art and culture has been made available for public use on the web. A workshop was also held with neighbouring Land Councils to make them aware of this resource and how to go about undertaking a similar project in their local area. A brochure promoting the website was produced and sent to schools, councils and other interested stakeholders across the region.

For further information visit the [Purfleet–-Taree Aboriginal Land Council](http://www.ptlalc.com.au/) website.

## Aboriginal tour-guide training **Department of Environment and Climate Change (Parks and Wildlife Division)**

This project was based on a successful training program in the Hunter region. The original training course was adapted, with greater emphasis on interpreting the environment from an Aboriginal context and developing training session plans, to assist Aboriginal people to deliver tours. Five workshops were held in late 2007 and early 2008 with the Githabul people of Kyogle, the Cadigal people of Ku-ring-gai, the Blue Mountains community, the Barkandji community and La Perouse Aboriginal communities, to evaluate the package's effectiveness, suitability and the level of support it would receive from the Aboriginal community. The training package was promoted and distributed to regional officers of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (now the Office of Environment and Heritage) and Aboriginal Land Councils in NSW so that they can use the program to train more Aboriginal people in tour guiding.

## Aged care: caring for our environment **SD Environmental Management**

This dissemination project built on a Trust-funded grant that developed resources to support staff development regarding environmental sustainability in aged care facilities. The dissemination grantee developed Making Sustainability Work: A guideline on how to use educational tools for sustainability. They delivered presentations to aged care providers in NSW on how to use the guide to engage management and staff and achieve long term behavioural change. The grantee also developed an online learning module to introduce aged care facility staff to the topic and facilitate use of the guideline.

## Agricultural education for non-English-speaking-background (NESB) market gardeners **Department of Primary Industries**

This project worked with 184 non-English-speaking-background (NESB) market gardeners operating within the Sydney basin, to encourage effective relationships and interactions with their local councils. Four workshops were conducted for Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Cambodian market gardeners about methods and techniques to reduce their impact on the environment. Nine multilingual brochures were updated and made available to councils with NESB market gardeners. In addition to this a new brochure was put together to give councils hints and tips about working with their local ethnic communities. These brochures were made available through the workshop series.

## Biodiversity education for culturally and linguistically diverse communities **Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Sutherland, Liverpool, North Sydney and Canterbury Councils**

This project delivered 13 training events for three culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities: Chinese, Arabic and Vietnamese. The training centred on the Backyard Buddies Program, originally conducted by the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (now the Office of Environment and Heritage) and then modified by Bankstown City Council to be suitable for CALD communities. The training educated 353 members of the CALD communities in understanding biodiversity, the environment and native plants and animals. Seven Sydney-based councils offered the training, which involved classwork, animal displays (which allowed participants to handle native animals) and tree planting.

## Biodiversity incentive tool – Better Knowledge Better Bush **Biobroker**

Through the dissemination project, Biobroker developed a series of resources including a newsletter, information kit and web site to supply up-to-date information on the Biodiversity Incentive and Monitoring Tool (BIT) to Catchment Management Authorities and local government. In addition, it brought together 45 Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs; now Local Land Services) and local government staff at six workshops to provide training and support in the use of BIT. The workshops were well received with participants stating they rapidly became familiar and comfortable with using the tool for assessments. A customised version of BIT was also developed with Murrumbidgee CMA as part of Eco-Tender Assessment, this included an information sheet and customised user manual.

Biodiversity response to fire regimes under climate change booklet   
Office of Environment and Heritage

This project, conducted by the Office of Environment and Heritage (formerly the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water), produced a booklet entitled Vegetation, Fire and Climate Change in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, for land managers and the community. The booklet summarised research carried out on fire history and puts this in the context of other information on the vegetation, fire regimes and climate change projections specific to the World Heritage Area. The booklet was launched at the tenth anniversary celebrations of the listing of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area to an audience of around 150 people and to date over 2,000 copies have been distributed. A four-page fact sheet summarising the main elements of the booklet has been published on the [Hotspots](http://hotspotsfireproject.org.au/) web site.

## Birds in Backyards in regional New South Wales **Birds Australia**

Birds Australia conducted a series of eleven highly successful workshops which were attended by 303 community members and council staff. The workshops promoted seven previously produced guidelines that target different stakeholders such as gardeners, planners and landscape architects and provided advice to them on how to protect and maintain native bird habitat. An education resource kit was also developed and provided to council staff, on how to carry out and promote Birds in Backyard workshops in their region.

## Bush stone-curlew conservation enhancement **Nature Conservation Working Group**

The Nature Conservation Working Group presented their knowledge and raised the public profile of the Bush stone-curlew breeding and habitat management through five workshops across NSW, which were attended by 88 people. The Bush stone-curlew is an endangered bird species that lives in open wooded country. In addition to the workshops a brochure and stickers were made available to Catchment Management Authorities and to the public through the Leeton Bird Fair, which was attended by 180 people.

## Cape Byron sustainability trail **Cape Byron Headland Reserve Trust**

The Cape Byron Sustainability Trail project undertaken by the Cape Byron Headland Reserve Trust has resulted in the development of a 1.5km interactive walking trail on the high-profile Cape Byron Headland Reserve. The walk includes seven innovative signs in combination with a brochure that links the signs together, provides additional information on the walk and provides the user with a take home checklist to assist them in implementing changes in their own life to protect the environment. The project was promoted during an official launch in June 2010 and since that time has proven popular with those walking the track. The project has been highly successful with a survey showing that 100 per cent of people would recommend the walk to others and over 80 per cent were going to change some of their actions as a result of the walk. In the 15-week period after the launch of the program, approximately 55,000 people were recorded to have accessed the site. With over 700,000 visitors to this site per year and an average life expectancy of the signs of 10 years, this project may influence around seven million people.

## CatchMODs modelling tool **Australian National University**

This dissemination project furthered the learnings from a research grant on the management of diffuse-source pollutants, piloted in the Ben Chifley Dam catchment near Bathurst. Workshops were held for Catchment Management Officers from the Murray, Lower Murray, Lachlan, Central West and Namoi, Border Rivers and Gwydir Catchment Management Authority areas, demonstrating CatchMODS, the catchment-modelling tool produced as a product of this research.

## Coastal ambassadors – protecting our coast **Pittwater Council**

Pittwater Council, through its Coastal Environment Centre, recently completed an Education grant that worked in partnership with Surf Life Saving Northern Beaches to train volunteers/ambassadors at a combination of workshop sessions, hands-on field trips and visits to rock platforms and sandy beaches. The ambassadors then shared their knowledge and promoted responsible enjoyment of the coastal environment to others in their club or group through contributions to club newsletters, environmental events and initiatives such as beach clean-ups. New South Wales has over 2,100 kilometres of coast line to enjoy, manage and protect. This dissemination project will provide surf-lifesaving clubs with an opportunity, through a series of 20 training events, to gain valuable skills and have access to resources to implement positive environmental initiatives.

## Dam management – improving biodiversity and water quality **NSW Department of Primary Industries**

This project has made more widely available a handbook developed by the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority and the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to improve water quality in farm dams. The project delivered nine workshops across the state, successfully training 26 representatives from DPI and Catchment Management Authorities (now Local Land Services), and reaching 239 farmers and land managers. These stakeholders now have a better understanding of biodiversity and healthy dam management, including an increased awareness of the benefits of improved water quality on livestock production. The grantee extended the value of the project by creating ongoing linkages with Hunter Valley miners through the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue, raising awareness of the need to manage farm dams and mine voids into the future.

## Eco-friendly youth centres **North East Waste Forum**

In this project the North East Waste Forum ran three workshops and presented at the NSW Youth Affairs and Policy Association conference. These events were attended by 57 youth organisations, and a further 3,300 people have accessed information on the program through its website. The conference, workshops and website provided participants with information on the benefits of integrating waste reduction and energy and water conservation into work activities, programs and youth centre management. Youth centres act as a central learning point for young people to become more environmentally aware and empowered with knowledge about how to reduce their impact on the environment. Five centres that attended the workshops participated in a mentoring program and some outstanding outcomes were achieved such as the development of environmental action plans for four of the five centres and involvement of young people in implementing sustainable initiatives.

## Ecologically sustainable development workshops **Local Government and Shires Associations**

Seven general workshops showcasing environmentally sustainable practices were conducted across New South Wales for Council staff and Councillors in 2007. In addition, four intensive workshops were offered: after submitting expressions of interest, Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils, Ashfield Council, Great Lakes consortium of Councils, and Shoalhaven/Eurobodalla Councils were invited to participate. The intensive workshops were attended by 472 people and provided the opportunity to undertake an in-depth analysis of the councils’ operations and make plans to improve their sustainability over a six-month period.

## Eco-OOSH: a whole-of-centre approach to sustainable living **Network of Community Activities**

Network of Community Activities produced and distributed a workbook to enable OOSH (out of school hours) centres to aid children to experience, enjoy and interact with the natural world and move towards its preservation, and to provide guidelines and best practice to assist OOSH carers in running centres according to environmentally sound principles. The dissemination program further funded Network of Community Activities to organise training workshops on Eco-OOSH. The workshops were conducted in Sydney, Tamworth, Leeton, Wollongong, Hunter, and Queanbeyan.

Workbooks are available for purchase from the [Network of Community Activities](http://networkofcommunityactivities.org.au/) website.

## Environmental management training for tourism businesses **University of Western Sydney**

This project provided training for councils to assist them with implementing an environmental management training program for local tourism businesses. The program builds on the original program Environmental Management Training for Tourism Businesses, run in Manly, Sydney, and the Challenging Barriers to Sustainability Practice in NSW program, conducted by the Camping and Caravan Industry Association.

A step-by-step guide was produced, which provides information on how to implement a sustainable tourism program. This [Sustainable Places Training for Tourism Business –- Information Kit](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/grants/sustainplaceskit.pdf) can be downloaded from the Environmental Trust’s website.

## Estuarine wetland assessment techniques **WetlandCare Australia**

Wetland Care Australia has developed a scientifically rigorous method for assessing the health of estuarine wetlands through their research grant Estuarine Wetland Health Assessment and Investment Prioritisation. The methods were designed to help both natural-resource professionals and the community assess and prioritise wetlands according to various health indicators. Wetland Care Australia, with funding from the dissemination program, delivered three workshops to promote the use of their Wetland Assessment Technique Manual at Nowra, Belmont and Port Macquarie, which were attended by a total of 66 participants. The workshops effectively facilitated and supported collaboration, cooperation and network building between those working in wetlands.

## Fishing line recovery for inland waterways **OceanWatch Australia**

This project conducted by OceanWatch Australia, encouraged inland recreational fishers to dispose of their fishing line responsibly by the installation of 43 TAngler bins with the ability to reach 1,500 recreational fishers across inland NSW. The bins to date have collected a small amount of line, but we have learned that in regional areas the educational messages attached to the bins have had a much larger impact than the amount of line in the bins suggests. Seventy percent of land managers responsible for the maintaining bins acknowledged the value of the bins in their region. In addition to the bins, 1,600 flyers, 1,700 stickers, 32 posters and 10 T-shirts were distributed to tackle shops, caravan parks and local government offices to expand the message to locals and visitors to the region.

## Floodgates **Department of Primary Industries and Wetland Care Australia**

Combining the research findings of two Environmental Trust grants from different disciplines, the Department of Primary Industries and WetlandCare Australia produced a series of regional workshops along the NSW coast. The collaboration linked the research in a practical workshop setting, with information to assist local government and landholders to effectively manage their floodgates and wetland systems for enhanced environmental values and agricultural productivity. Feedback by participants indicated that there was an excellent mix of both technical and nontechnical information and that this had increased their interest in floodgate and wetland management.

## Foreshore erosion field day and interactive learning package **Pittwater Council**

This project provided coastal councils with information on the highly successful design and implementation used in foreshore remediation at Rowland Reserve, Bayview, Sydney. The project showcased the success of the design in fitting in to the aesthetics of the site, whilst at the same time meeting the needs of the environment. This project made available to other land managers the systems, processes and lessons learned by Pittwater Council through a field day, educational signage, fact sheet and online resources. The field day attracted 22 individuals and over 114 people have used the resources made available on the web, which include a fact sheet, an online virtual tour and a blog.

## Four-wheel driving with the environment in mind **TAFE Western Institute and Dubbo 4WD Club**

This project delivered two training courses for four-wheel drivers to educate them on ways to undertake their recreational pursuits whilst protecting the environment they enjoy. The course was offered across NSW and involved both class work and an outdoor component. The course was conducted over one weekend and one full week in the Macquarie Marshes and Mungo areas of NSW. The original glovebox booklet produced by the 4WD Club on Environmentally Sensitive Four Wheel Driving was updated, redesigned and placed as an insert in the 4x4 Magazine in its October 2006 edition. TAFE will conduct further 4WD training as demand arises.

## Getting started in bush regeneration **Environmental Training and Employment, NSW**

This video assists community groups with bush regeneration. Produced by Environmental Training and Employment (ENVITE) on the NSW North Coast, the video has three components: site assessment and goal setting; weed control techniques; and natural regeneration and planting. This video clearly explains how a community group can set up a site, what needs to be considered and how to monitor the site by setting up photo points to determine whether the project objectives are being achieved. It also demonstrates a range of weeding techniques. Each local council in NSW received a copy of the video for community groups to borrow. The Environmental Trust also has copies available for groups wishing to undertake restoration and rehabilitation projects.

## Greek environmental education training **Greek Welfare Centre**

This project originally worked with 700 Greek people in Sydney to educate them about four important environmental issues. Through this project the Greek Welfare Centre worked with the Ethnic Communities Council to deliver a series of eight workshops within the Sydney, Illawarra and Hunter regions. These workshops focussed on green cleaning and energy conservation.

## Grow me instead: A guide for gardeners in the greater Sydney district **Nursery and Garden Industry, ACT**

This booklet targets a group of plants, known as ‘garden escapes’, that are recognised as invasive in Sydney's bushland. Many of the plants that have become invasive in bushland around Sydney have come from private gardens. By careful selection of plants at your local nursery or garden centre you can avoid adding to the weed problems in Sydney's bush environments and help preserve indigenous species and habitat for native animals. The Grow Me Instead booklet shows alternatives to popular plants that are causing real environmental problems. The booklet deals only with species in the greater Sydney basin and is not intended for use beyond this region.

For more information visit the [Nursery and Garden Industry website](https://www.ngina.com.au/).

## Habitat Stepping Stones **Access Macquarie Ltd**

This project furthered the benefit of the original Habitat Stepping Stones project by working with Bankstown, City of Sydney, Pittwater, the Hills Shire and Parramatta councils to engage their residents about habitat creation. Access Macquarie Ltd redeveloped the original website which provided information on how to create wildlife-friendly stopovers and invited residents to pledge to create a habitat stepping stone, which was represented by a bird placed on a map on the website.

Residents made 200 pledges and planted 774 plants across the five council areas. The grantee conducted a strong evaluation and delivered a set of observations and recommendations which can inform future projects.

## Handbook for sediment quality assessment **CSIRO Centre for Environmental Contaminants Research**

A highly successful conference was held in Sydney in June 2005 to introduce practitioners to the latest science for the assessment of contaminated sediments. As a component of the grant a 'Handbook for Sediment Quality Assessment' was produced and published for release at the conference. At the conference, scientists from CSIRO, OEH and the University of Canberra made presentations covering topics in the Handbook. The number of participants (140) greatly exceeded expectations and they came from a wide range of commercial and government organisations. Positive evaluations were received from the participants.

## Know your garden natives **Environmental Trust and International Weeds Foundation**

The booklet titled ‘Your hidden native garden”, guides the user through how to find and look after a range of common native plants that may occur in their backyard. This booklet was distributed to over 20,000 people on the cover of the July issue of Gardening Australia magazine for its Sydney distribution. Some additional copies of the booklet were distributed to councils at their request.

## Koala habitat management and education **Lismore City Council and Friends of the Koala Inc.**

This project has distributed 20,000 brochures to educate communities on the NSW Far North Coast about local koala populations and how they can help to conserve koala habitat. The brochure was distributed through six local councils, government agencies and tourist centres. Prominent educational signage was also installed at Robinson’s Lookout and the Memorial Gardens in Lismore to expand the knowledge of the general community about the importance of koala habitat management.

The brochure, and additional information, is available on the [Friends of the Koala](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org/) website.

## Local living: Sustainable living for local communities **Blue Mountains City Council**

This program built upon a successful Mountain Living course developed by Blue Mountains City Council. The Mountain Living course gave landowners knowledge and encouragement to better manage their land and minimise future environmental damage by providing training on the major environmental and catchment management issues in their area. A two-day workshop was conducted in March 2008 and attended by 18 environmental educators and local-government staff, who were trained in how to adapt and implement the program for their council area, and how to successfully engage their community.

## Long-stem planting guide **Gosford City Council and Australian Plant Society (Central Coast Group)**

The central component of this grant undertaken by Gosford City Council and Australian Plant Society was the development of the Long-stem Planting Guide, which brought together information from previous studies on long-stem planting and outlined the techniques used in riparian, rainforest, coastal sand dune and saline environments. This method of planting, originally pioneered by Bill Hicks, enhances the plants’ ability to access subsoil moisture, avoids root competition with weed species, and leads to higher survival and growth rates. Over 1,700 copies of the booklet have been distributed and the document has already been reprinted.

The guide provides a step-by-step understanding of this innovative method of planting, which has applications for community groups and organisations involved in bush regeneration works, land management and natural resource management across New South Wales. During this project, the guide was promoted in The Land newspaper, with a weekly readership of over 155,000, and in the Australian Network for Plant Conservation Bulletin, which is distributed to 305 member organisations. The guide has also been made available for download from the [Environmental Trust’s website](https://www.google.com.au/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjq5eyNz9jWAhWKWLwKHaBiAtYQFggoMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.environment.nsw.gov.au%2Fresources%2Fgrants%2FLongstemguide.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1e43FWJORpsNrUPhPCFR3j).

## Mentoring – expanding sustainability knowledge **Central West Regional Organisation of Councils**

This mentoring program had two main components: the expansion of the existing mentoring program to councils across regional NSW and the development of resources and guidance materials on how to run a peer-to-peer mentoring program. This project provided six mentees from councils in regional NSW with access to mentoring by consultants that enhanced their ability to undertake sustainability initiatives in their council area. The mentors and mentees have committed over 60 hours each to the process over the six months that the program ran and gained a better understanding of how to approach council management to achieve their sustainability goals. The peer-to-peer mentoring guide will continue to assist mentoring programs to be delivered within individual councils. The guide brings together the experiences and knowledge of those involved in the mentoring process. It provides a step-by-step process for carrying out a mentoring program and templates to assist with the implementation of each stage of the program.

## Minimise and manage the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* **Botanic Gardens Trust**

*Phytophthora cinnamomi* is a plant pathogen that can cause leaf death and branch dieback, and which often progresses to kill infected and susceptible plants. The Royal Botanic Gardens Trust has promoted the role we all could have in preventing the spread of this pathogen through three workshops along the NSW coast, which drew 58 participants, and a workshop for National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) staff. The NPWS workshop has resulted in information on *Phytophthora* being included in the National Parks Operations Manual. As well as the workshops a brochure on *Phytophthora* aimed at land managers, National Parks officers, councils and Catchment Management Authorities (now Local Land Services) was developed and 5,000 copies have been distributed.

To help combat the spread by the community 10,000 brochures suitable for distribution to bushwalkers through the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Centre, the Botanic Garden at Mount Tomah and at national parks visitor centres across NSW were developed and distributed. The Botanic Gardens Trust also produced a magnet for people to take home as a permanent reminder of the role they can have in stopping the spread of the disease.

## More little green steps – sustainability for early childhood **Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN)**

The NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN) delivered teachers’ kits, workshops and meetings across the Hunter, Penrith, Parramatta and Hornsby regions as part of the More Little Green Steps Dissemination project. The project developed resources to complement the teachers’ kits: these assist early childhood centres to address National Quality Standards and Framework (NQS) criteria, against which they are now assessed and rated. Follow-up advice and assistance was provided through networking and mentoring to childcare and family day-care co-ordinators across the four regions, including two-day workshops that were attended by 108 participants. Pre- and post-workshop surveys documented an increase in participants’ knowledge and subsequent development and implementation of practical sustainability actions. The follow-up mentoring offered to more than 16 services helped to consolidate learning and change, facilitated information-sharing between participants and supported services in embedding environmental sustainability into their operations and curricula.

## A network of educators delivering ‘Starting in your Backyard’ **WetlandCare Australia**

This project developed a training toolkit and provided training on the highly successful principles and delivery method from the original Starting In Your Backyard program. Training was delivered to 77 environmental educators and natural resource managers from councils, Catchment Management Authorities, Landcare and other non-government groups across the state, through five workshops and two webinars (web based seminar). Feedback from participants showed that 74 per cent found the workshops extremely or very useful and 80 per cent said that the workshops and toolkit provided them with sufficient information to run the program in their community. For further information on this project and to obtain a copy of the training toolkit, please visit the [WetlandCare website](http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/index.php/).

The second phase of this grant involved WetlandCare Australia assisting individuals trained at the workshops and by the webinar to run their own locally specific programs. A total of 57 community participants were involved in the five locally run workshops.

## Nutrient dynamics in riverine estuaries **Office of Environment and Heritage**

This project brought together researchers and policy makers in the fields of hydrology, biogeochemistry, ecology, and geology to assess the current state of understanding of nutrient dynamics in Australian riverine estuaries, identify areas of research priority for the future, and facilitate interactions between scientists and decision-makers. During a conference and workshop, these multidisciplinary experts shared their knowledge and contributed to identifying up-to-date knowledge of, and future priorities for, riverine estuary management options. The grantee produced a document outlining the conference proceedings, and the work of one of the participants has been published in a specialist modelling journal.

## Predicting and preserving preferred habitat **Bangalay (Ecological and Bushfire)**

Given the rate of species extinction within Australia, there is an increasing need to improve land managers’ and consent authorities’ understanding of preferred habitat for rare and cryptic plant species. This project promoted a model that can used to assist in predicting the likely habitat of cryptic plant species. Six articles have been published in relevant journals, magazines and newsletters, including Australasian Plant Conservation; the newsletter of the Ecological Consultants Association; and the LandLink Newsletter. A fact sheet was also developed for land managers and distributed to 170 people from Catchment Management Authorities (now Local Land Services), councils and other consent authorities. This provided land managers with a better understanding of appropriate measures to take when determining whether a particular species is present during conservation assessments.

## Prevalence of acid sulphate soils in inland catchments **Murray–Darling Freshwater Research Centre and CSIRO**

The original research grant discovered that the prevalence of acid sulphate soils was not only a coastal issue but also potentially a concern for inland waters. This project delivered six workshops on how to identify and manage inland acid sulphate soils. The workshops were attended by 114 participants from Catchment Management Authorities, local government, irrigation authorities and local landholders. Educational materials were developed to support the workshops and included a brochure, CD and webpages. A decision support tool developed through the original grant has also been used during the project to assist in determining areas prone to acidification.

## Preventing further degradation of freshwater mussel populations **Office of Environment and Heritage**

This project, conducted by the Office of Environment and Heritage (formerly the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water) worked with coastal Catchment Management Authorities to raise awareness of the importance of managing catchments in a way that protects vulnerable mussel populations. Nine presentations (targeting around 100 individuals) to a range of groups were conducted along with two media articles written on the importance of mussels as environmental indicators. The legacies of this project are a fact sheet and a website on the importance and role of freshwater mussels in the environment. Over 800 brochures have been distributed and in the first month of the website being available it received more than 400 page views.

## Privet-removal training for community groups **Shoalhaven City Council**

The original project worked successfully with several community groups to understand and target a highly troublesome weed: privet. Training was conducted on techniques to safely remove privet and to ensure the environment was maintained. This program was extended with a further five workshops being conducted that trained a further 58 volunteers in the Shoalhaven and surrounding council areas.

## Providing automated fish passage at Balranald Weir **Department of Primary Industries**

This project developed a brochure, sign and workshop on the automation of a fish lock which provides passage for fish over the Balranald Weir on the Murrumbidgee River. The signage demonstrates the importance of fish being able to access large stretches of rivers for breeding. It has been installed near the weir, which is visited by almost 20,000 people a year. The workshop, conducted in late 2008, was attended by 27 participants and covered the importance of fish passage and the unique operation of the Deelder fish lock. The [brochure](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/268315/AE_2008_Output-986_Baumgartner_Pamphlet-re-Deelder-Lock_BROCHURE.pdf) and additional information is available on the Department of Primary Industries web site.

## Pygmy perch habitat rehabilitation **Department of Primary Industries and Richmond Valley Council**

This project, conducted by the Department of Industry and Investment and Richmond Valley Council, brought together 24 participants at a workshop on the management of stormwater drains for habitat values. Four fact sheets were also produced and are downloadable from the Department of Industry and Investment web site. The fact sheets encourage land managers to manage drainage systems to maintain aquatic habitat.

## Rainforest remnant rehabilitation training and rainforest walk interpretation **Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group and EnviTE**

This project ran a workshop for 36 managers of rainforest remnants and gave them skills for training others in their local communities on the importance of rainforest remnants and the best methods of managing them. The Big Scrub Landcare Group has been highly successful in sourcing funding and managing remnants on the NSW North Coast and this project drew on their experience and knowledge. In addition to the workshop a series of key learning documents on site assessment, weed control, and monitoring and evaluation were developed and distributed. Educational signage was also installed at a commonly visited rainforest remnant at Booyong Flora Reserve to educate the general public about the importance of these remnants.

## Regenesis – expanding the vision of future-proofing NSW **Blacktown City Council**

‘Regenesis’ is a model for planning and planting locally native forests that create additional revenue for landholders to establish and maintain vegetation. The dissemination project took the resources from the initial grant and developed a three-tiered model of implementation to allow other councils and landholders to set up future revegetation works to be eligible for carbon trading. Seven workshops were conducted across NSW: they attracted 107 participants, with 96 per cent of participants reporting that the workshop gave them a good understanding of the Regenesis project. When surveyed, 20 participants had undertaken additional research into Carbon Farming Initiatives and ten continued to seek mentoring advice and support after the workshops. The post-workshop survey also found that five participants had formed partnerships with other organisations and had undertaken planting activities using the model. An unexpected and positive outcome resulting from this program was that the staff delivering the workshops have benefited by interacting with other sectors, enhancing their approaches to carbon sequestration.

## Restoration of grassy white-box woodlands **Charles Sturt University**

This research grant modelled restoration techniques that represent significant advances in the restoration of Grassy White-box woodlands. New management techniques were demonstrated in trials to reduce soil nitrate levels and reduce the cover of exotic annual grasses, the major barriers to woodland restoration. This vegetation type is found extensively in NSW and is in decline. The extension program has further disseminated this research to national journals, urban and regional press and scientific newsletters and radio.

## Revegetation of native plant communities **Australian Network for Plant Conservation**

This project offered two training courses in the rehabilitation and management of disturbed native vegetation. The workshops were tailored specifically to the Coffs Harbour and Ulladulla regions and workshops equipped attendees with the knowledge and skills required to undertake ecological rehabilitation and management of disturbed vegetation. The workshops had a mix of presentations by skilled practitioners and visits to selected field sites. The 197 participants across the two workshops expanded their skills and knowledge, exchanged ideas, worked with experts and broadened their networks.

## Road crossings and fish passage workshops **Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries Management)**

This project disseminated the learnings of the previous grant project ‘Reducing the Impact of road crossings on environmental flow, water quality and fish passage’ to those who are directly involved with waterway crossing design, construction and maintenance. Workshops were held in each coastal Catchment Management Authority area to inform participants of the impacts of road crossings and suggest better designs to minimise their negative impacts. A take home resource kit that covers the information discussed at the workshop was developed to support the workshops.

## Rural partnerships **North Sydney Council**

This project encouraged Sydney-based councils to develop partnerships with rural Landcare groups and councils to conduct rehabilitation works in rural locations. North Sydney Council has been running a program where on one weekend each year volunteers from North Sydney head out to Boorowa to assist the local Landcare group with creating native wildlife corridors for the endangered Superb Parrot. A workshop was conducted and attended by 14 councils and provided information on how to establish relationships with a rural council. To complement the workshop, guidelines were created and distributed providing further details on developing partnerships to another 50 councils across the state. Twelve councils took up the opportunity to participate in a trip to Boorowa to get a hands-on experience of what the weekend trips achieve.

## Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers **Securing a sustainable food future**

This project brought together a range of approaches to managing food resources developed through three urban-sustainability grants. Northern Rivers RDA developed a complete food security kit to assist councils working with the community to address social and environmental challenges related to food. The kit provides resources to help establish and manage community gardens, farmers’ markets and roadside stalls, as well as sourcing sustainable catering and reducing waste.

Six workshops were held for local councils across NSW to convey the key messages on food security and to promote the availability and use of the toolkit. An online discussion group has been established to facilitate networking and knowledge sharing between workshop members and anyone interested in running a food program. Finally, three councils involved in the original urban-sustainability grants completed grant-funded initiatives: Coffs Harbour Council held a food-industry networking event hosted by celebrity gardener Costa Georgiadis for local growers, wholesalers, restaurateurs and retailers; Wollongong City Council developed verge garden guidelines that are included in the food-security kit; and Clarence Valley Council held a forum, with UK food cooperative expert Chris Walsh as keynote speaker, to help the local food industry improve its profile, quality and distribution networks.

## Shared island management experiences and restoration of seabird nesting habitat **Office of Environment and Heritage (Parks and Wildlife Division)**

This project brought together 21 island managers to learn from one another and share their experiences of managing island environments. Based on the success found on Montague Island with kikuyu management and enhanced seabird nesting habitat, Island managers shared information on what they know about managing islands. The workshop was held on Montague Island and showcased the successful rehabilitation works (the results of which were written up as a case study). The outcomes of the workshop, including information from island managers on their shared experiences, methods, successes and failures in island management, will be made available.

## Sharing the knowledge – traditional burning **Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council**

Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) worked in conjunction with the Environmental Trust-funded Hotspots program and the Rural Fire Service to develop fire-management plans for sites of cultural significance. The fire-management plans incorporated traditional burning practices that would help reduce the incidence of damaging high-intensity fires.

The dissemination project will allow Darkinjung LALC to share the knowledge and skills gained through the initial grant with other Aboriginal communities in the Hunter Region. This project will provide four Aboriginal Land Councils with an opportunity to incorporate traditional burning practices into their land and fire management. Training will be conducted through eight workshops and then through mentoring support over a six-month period.

## Stop salvinia strangling our waterways **Department of Primary Industries**

This highly successful project developed a practical field manual and training to give weed personnel and land managers a better understanding of appropriate measures to effectively control salvinia, a weed of national significance. Over 100 people have been trained to use the salvinia weevil as biocontrol and 450 weed officers have received the high-quality, practical field manual. Mentoring support has seen 39 biological control sites established around the state. As well as combatting this invasive species, the project has extended the region in which the salvinia weevil is an effective biocontrol tool; namely, from Sydney to Moruya on the NSW South Coast.

## Stories of experience **Council on the Ageing (COTA)**

Stories of Experience: Learning from the Environmental Experiences of Older Australians is the culmination of a previous grant to the Council on the Ageing. The book brought together personal stories from older Australians that highlight some of the environmentally sustainable practices used in the past and how these relate to present environmental issues. The book’s theme included energy use, waste minimisation, transport, biodiversity, water use and reuse and chemical use.

Stories of Experience aimed to broaden the community's knowledge and understanding of the older generation's experience in protecting the environment, and provided an opportunity for older Australians to share their life experiences and promote sustainable living in their local communities. The book was distributed to non-profit organisations and libraries across NSW.

## Successful farming incorporating native vegetation **Learning from Farmers**

This DVD tells the story of a diverse group of farmers who have found success by maintaining and replanting native vegetation on their properties. The story is a down-to-earth yet inspirational journey through the lives of 12 farmers from the Riverina Murray Area who have all turned their farms around and are discovering financial, aesthetic, and environmental improvements.

The Environmental Trust is offering copies of this DVD to assist groups wishing to work with landholders to undertake restoration and rehabilitation projects, or to promote native vegetation in farming. Please visit the [Learning from Farmers](http://www.learningfromfarmers.com.au/) website for more information.

## Sustainable future for small business **SD Environmental Management**

This project offered a unique opportunity for two shopping centres to integrate environmental sustainability into their centres and to educate their tenants about ways to reduce their electricity and water consumption and the amount of waste discarded. Westfield Bondi Junction and Stockland Greenhills both successfully ran this project. Over 34 tenants of the two centres are now more aware about protecting the environment by minimising energy and water use and reducing waste. This project has resulted in all the participants either undertaking or investigating the options available to achieve water, energy and waste savings. Westfield has continued working with this model and has made the resources available on its intranet. The project will be further promoted through internal conferences so others can use the resources.

## Switched-on energy conservation in NSW environmental education centres **Illawarra Environmental Education Centre**

Illawarra Environmental Education Centre recently completed an Eco-schools grant for which it developed information material and a trailer that visited schools. The trailer and the materials focussed on getting teachers and students ‘switched on’ to how energy works and ways to conserve energy both at school and at home. This dissemination project will bring together knowledge and resources to help improve, sustain and create an environment where students and teachers are aware of energy and how simple it is to teach students about new ways of conserving energy both at school and at home. The trailer will visit 50 schools across NSW to deliver ‘energy-wise’ materials and training, and to promote the availability of Environmental Trust Eco-schools grants as a source of funding for schools to undertake projects of this nature. The project will also engage with and encourage other Environmental Education Centres across the state to take on similar programs through a presentation at the Environmental Education Conference and the development of an iBook and ITunes U course.

## Translocation of threatened plants species in Australia **Australian Network for Plant Conservation**

Translocation is the deliberate transfer of plants or regenerative plant material from one place to another for introduction, regeneration or restocking. The Environmental Trust funded the Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) to update its guidelines for translocation with the latest science. The second-edition 80-page colour publication includes information on definitions and objectives, deciding whether translocation is a viable option, the translocation process from project proposal, development, through to monitoring, community participation, and case studies. It places more emphasis on evaluating whether translocation should go ahead, including monitoring and evaluation, and involving local communities. ANPC disseminated the guidelines through a series of workshops, tailored to each location, in Coffs Harbour, Queanbeyan and Newcastle.

Guidelines can be purchased from the [Australian Network for Plant Conservation](http://www.anpc.asn.au/).

## Waste-trailer regional roadshow **Northern Inland Regional Waste**

The Northern Inland Regional Waste travelling roadshow took an impressively designed waste-education trailer around the New England North West region of NSW. The trailer, visited by 3,800 people in 11 council areas, presented a series of locally relevant waste messages to local schools and highly visited areas such as shopping centres. The trailer also featured at the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

## Wild about seabirds **Australian Seabird Rescue**

Delivered collaboratively with a range of NSW government and non-profit organisations, this project has produced a suite of high-quality, practical resources for assisting injured, entangled or oil-spill-affected seabirds. The project trained more than 40 wildlife carers and the final resources, including the **First Responders Resource Guide for Seabird Emergencies** book, a training DVD and a fold-out pocket guide, were launched during the Transport for NSW oil-spill exercise in Port Kembla in August 2014. Based on feedback from the launch participants, the resources have already become useful reference guides for use in the field.