

Inland Rivers Network Annual Report for 2009-2010



Photo: Brolgas near Nyngan, by Neil Zoglaven. This fabulous image is one of many to be added to the IRN photo archives from the series of wetlands workshops held across NSW in 2010.

IRN has been able to further its objectives thanks to the dedicated and able contribution of largely volunteer members, with some supporting finance from modest grant and donation monies.

Highlights during the year:

- Establishment of a base in Newtown within the NPA NSW Office;
- Employment from January 2010 of Emma Hollows as part time Administration Coordinator;
- Successful completion of a high conservation value wetland education project, through publication and dissemination of a handbook followed up by a series of workshops in several of the main inland NSW subcatchments, with support from an Environmental Education Trust grant;
- Quarterly Newsletters and website maintained up to date;
- Contribution to a number of Parliamentary Inquiries through submissions and hearing presentations;

- Participation in various meetings, briefings and conferences on water management, and water legislation, particularly with respect to the initial stages of the Murray Darling Basin Plan under the newly established Murray Darling Basin Authority.
- Significant contribution to NSW Office of Water, through meetings and submission, in response to draft NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy.

Administration

Executive meetings of the core Office Bearers and Executive have been held throughout the year, covering essential administration, governance matters and policy development.

Community Education & Awareness

Contact with other individuals and groups working for improved health of inland river and wetland systems have been maintained. Additional resources are needed to enhance this aspect further and will be part of the operational planning for the coming year.

Grants & Volunteer Support

The activities of IRN have been made possible thanks to the dedicated voluntary work of our executive and supporters, underpinned by much needed but modest grant funds. Grant funds received during 2009-2010 financial year were \$10,000 for Administration under the NSW Environmental Trust – LEGC programme and \$27,471 from NSW Environmental Trust grant for the second and final tranche of an “Education & Engagement in High conservation Value Freshwater Areas” project. Particular thanks are also due to the Australian Conservation Foundation for their support since establishment, including provision of office space in Sydney up to the end of 2009.

A prime focus throughout this year has been on working to achieve a robust Basin Plan for the long term. This will continue to be the predominant task in the year ahead, assisted by some very welcome recently received donations.