



Ifpra Circular

International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration
Asia Pacific Regional Newsletter

Parks - Not Just for People

Successful collaborations in Park Management and Conservation

The disappearance of wildlife, and particularly frogs, from our many parks and conservation areas is recognised a major environmental problem worldwide. In Australia, around 70 species of frog are considered to be in decline - almost 30% of the known species.

As managers of open space and natural areas, park managers are becoming more and more important as players in the protection of wildlife and habitat in most countries. A good example of a recent collaboration between urban park managers and conservation / research

In an effort to try to save the species from extinction, Sydney's Taronga Zoo has established the largest and most successful captive breeding program for the species in the world. This breeding program was established 4 years ago with a handfull of frogs that were rescued from a Sydney suburb.

Reintroducing these frogs back into the wild requires a co-operative program from Taronga Zoo and some managers of Sydneys' open space and parkland. One such program has been established with The City of Botany Bay, in Sydney's



Students monitoring the Green and Golden Bell Frogs in the newly created habitat ponds, Sir Joseph Banks Reserve, Botany.

organisations is the recovery program for the endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog in the City of Botany Bay, Sydney, Australia.

The Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*) is an endangered species which has undergone a dramatic decline in the Australian state of New South Wales. Once one of the most common frog species, it is now found in less than 30 sites across the State. The largest known population remaining is at Homebush Bay, the site the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

southern suburbs.

Mr Kevin Lowe, Manager of Parks and Landscape at the City of Botany (a member of IFPRA) has established, with the Zoo, new habitat for the Green and Golden Bell Frog in one of the largest open space reserves in the city. Four large ponds, dug at various levels and planted with suitable plant species have been established as the new home for the frog species (at a cost of A\$60,000).

Visit the IFPRA Asia-Pacific Web Site: www.zip.com.au/~ifpra_ap

To compliment the reintroduction program, the Council in conjunction with the Zoo, several other Government Departments and the local community have established a program called “Frog Focus” aimed at not only educating the community about the frogs, but to also involve the community in the process of reintroduction.

Mr Lowe expects the program to eventually become as widespread as the very successful Bushcare and Landcare community programs operating in the State. Bushland and Landcare are co-operative community based programs aimed at developing a greater community awareness of remnant bushland and land management, as well as actively involving a “getting your hands dirty” approach to work.

“Frogs are a good environmental barometer. They are highly sensitive to environmental changes and their decline is an indicator of wider environmental degradation. By re-establishing populations and monitoring their progress we can learn a lot about our environment” Mr Lowe said.



Interpretive signage produced by Botany Bay City Council

For further information on the “Frog Focus” project, please contact Melissa de Britt (Senior Education Officer at Taronga Zoo - email: mdebritt@zoo.nsw.gov.au) or Mr Kevin Lowe (Manager of Parks and Landscape at Botany Bay City Council - email: lowek@botanybay.nsw.gov.au).



Zoo Education Staff and local school children examining tadpoles

“Frog Focus Botany” involves the community in the release of frogs into the specially created habitat, monitoring the progress of the frogs through collecting data (and tadpoles!), and through direct habitat management (eg. planting programs). At a broader level, the program also brings together Zoological staff and school children to increase awareness of conservation.

Council has installed interpretive signage at the site for public and school education, complimented with brochures and information sheets on the project.

The program has been provided with financial assistance from the NSW Department of Education and Training, Zoological Parks Board of NSW and Parks and Leisure Australia. Due to its success at Botany, even the Australian Stock Exchange has joined the project as a major sponsor with plans now in place to take “Frog Focus” to other communities throughout Australia.

Chairpersons Message

On behalf of IFPRA Asia Pacific, may I welcome the following new members:

- Australia:** Mr. L Dennis, Mr. P Duncan, Bicentennial Park (Sydney) and University of Melbourne (Victoria);
- China:** Dr. C Wu and Xiamen Association of Parks Administration;
- Hong Kong:** Mr. W. Yeung;
- Japan:** Mr. K Tadatoshi and Parks and Open Space Association of Otsu.

IFPRA members who have visited Sydney may remember Mrs Patricia Hill, secretary to John Brandenburg (IFPRA Asia-Pacific Secretary). In March, Pat resigned from the City of Rockdale to work closer to her home. Patricia ably assisted John with International visitors to Sydney with tours and on-site activities. The larger visiting groups from China and Japan and the delegates on the very successful post-congress tour (1998 Melbourne Congress) will particularly remember Pat. Thankyou Pat for your assistance to IFPRA over the last 5 years.

Ms. ZHENG Shuling



Regional Snapshots

Brisbane, Australia - Migratory birds inspire a new grassroots link focussing on wetland conservation. There are shorebirds which annually embark on an epic journey between wetlands in Siberia and Brisbane in Queensland, resting en route at a wetland in metropolitan Tokyo. This amazing fact has brought together the cities of Narashino in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, and Brisbane in Queensland. Narashino Mayor Isamu Araki and Brisbane City Lord Mayor Jim Soorley signed an agreement in Brisbane on 25 February 1998 committing their cities to joint research and cooperation for the conservation of the cities' wetlands, which are vital for the survival of migratory birds.

Located just 30km from the centre of Tokyo, Narashino City boasts the last remaining natural wetland on the highly industrialised and developed Tokyo Bay. This wetland, Yatsu Higata, covers just 40ha. - small by Australian standards - but is of great ecological significance for the bird and marinelife found there. Of the 100 bird species which frequent the wetlands, 60 are waterbirds. Such is its significance, Yatsu Higata is one of Japan's ten and the worlds 931 wetlands registered under the Ramsar Convention. Yatsu shares this prestige with the Boondall Wetlands, which are a significant component of the Moreton Bay Ramsar site of Brisbane City.

(Source: Quarterly newsletter of the Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney))

Singapore - The organising chairman for the 2002 Asia Pacific Congress to be held in Singapore, Mr Otto Fung, has advised that the congress logo which appeared in the last issue of the Circular has special significance. The logo shows the year 2002, with the "I" shown as a small letter and the "P" with a small leaf attached. This symbolises the horticulture profession of our institute, and the "R" ends with a tail to show the dynamic energy within us. In addition, the whole logo symbolises a flower blooming indicating that there is great potential in our profession with many more good years to come.



Hamamatsu, Japan - Hamamatsu City, located roughly halfway between Tokyo and Osaka, will host the Pacific Flora 2004 International Garden and Horticulture Exhibition. It will also host the 2004 IFPRA World Congress. Hamamatsu has a lot to offer in regard to horticulture and park management with spectacular parks and floral displays. The city received the best award at Nations in Bloom '98 and hosted the Nations

in Bloom finalists early this year.

For further information on the city and both events, please access the website at <http://www.city.hamamatsu.shizuoka.jp>



Commissioners News

Nations in Bloom - Registrations are now being sought for Nations in Bloom 2000. The objectives of the competition are the encouragement of enhanced public awareness of exemplary environmental management, as a means of improving the quality of life for all citizens and to encourage others to achieve high standards. Washington DC will host the finalists. For further information, email: nationsinbloom@ilam.co.uk

Outdoor Design Source - The Outdoor Design Source is a new directory published by Universal Magazines which lists more than 4,500 companies involved in the planning, design and construction of parks and open spaces in Australasia. The publication was voted Best Directory of the Year in 1999 and a comprehensive website was recently launched. IFPRA is one of 20 major associations supported by Outdoor Design Source with a full page editorial. For further information: <http://www.outdoordesign.com.au>

Koala Count - Most of our members outside of Australia may have noticed that the stamps on envelopes carrying the last issue of the IFPRA Asia-Pacific Circular carried small koala symbols on the stamp selvedge. The number of Koala's is called the "Koala Count" and signifies the reprints of the stamp issue. A kangaroo symbol indicates the 5th reprint. News for those stamp collectors out there!!

Expressions of Interest - The Commission is calling for expressions of interest for hosting the 2005 and 2008 Regional Congress. We are currently in negotiation with Parks and Leisure Australia seeking it to host the 2005 Congress. Melbourne and Adelaide have already hosted IFPRA events and Sydney is the city of choice in the current discussions. Please contact the Secretary, Mr. John Brandenburg, for further information.

Circular Production Team and Credits:

Stories and Editing: John Brandenburg and Kevin Lowe.
Newsletter Production: Ian Perkins Consultancy Services
(Email: ipcs@zip.com.au)



IFPRA Asia • Pacific

Regional Noticeboard

2000

5 - 9 June

Millenium Turfgrass Conference

Venue: Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Australia.

Contact: AGCSA - Level 1, 19 Railway Parade North,
Glen Waverley. 3150. Australia.

30 October - 1 November

Parks and Leisure Australia National Conference
& Treadlightly Australia World Congress

Venue: Surfers Paradise Marriot Resort, Queensland, Australia.

Contact: Secretariat

Tel. +61 3 9690 6744 Fax. +61 3 9690 7155

Email: wscn@convention.net.au

2001

17 - 21 September

19th IFPRA World Congress

Venue: Somerset West (40km from Cape Town) South Africa.

Contact: The Congress Secretariat

Tel. +27 11 789 1384 fax. +27 11 789 1385

WWW: www.ierm.org.za

Email: ierm@vdw.co.za

2002

IFPRA Asia / Pacific Congress - October

Venue: Singapore.

Contact: Mr. Otto Fung Wai Chan

C/- National Parks Board

Singapore Botanic Gardens

1 Cluny Road, Singapore. 259569

Fax: +65 4723 033

Email: Otto_Fung@NPARKS.GOV.SG

2003

IFPRA Europe Congress

Venue: Stavanger, Norway

Contact: Parks Department, PO Box 317, N-4001,
Stavanger, Norway

2004

IFPRA World Congress

Venue: Hamamatsu City, Japan

WWW: <http://www.city.hamamatsu.shizuoka.jp>

New IFPRA World Website: <http://www.ifpra.org>



Regional Directory

This section of the newsletter will provide, in future issues, the contact details for Commission Members and Representatives for the Asia Pacific Region.

Executive

Chairperson	•	Mrs Zheng Shuling (China)
Immediate Past Chairman	•	Mr Robert Small (New Zealand)
Chairman Elect	•	Dr Russell Arthur Smith (Singapore)
Secretary	•	Mr. John P Brandenburg (Australia)
		PO Box 940, Rockdale. NSW. 2216. Australia.
		Tel: +61 2 95621837 Fax: +61 2 95621888

Members

Dr Anne Binkley	•	Australia
Mr Li Rusheng	•	China
Vacant	•	Hong Kong
Dr Mariko Handa	•	Japan
Vacant	•	Malaysia
Mr. Rob Small	•	New Zealand
Mohammed I Al-Humaidhi	•	Saudi Arabia
Mr Otto Fung Wai Chan	•	Singapore