



Ian Davidson -MWWG Executive Member Profile

Ian Davidson's varied background and extensive experience in natural resource management means he has plenty to offer the NSW Murray Wetlands Working Group as a community member of its executive.

Since 2002, Ian has run his own independent environmental consultancy company, Regeneration Solutions, from his home in North East Victoria. Primarily his work involves identifying conservation values and assisting land managers in maintaining and enhancing those, and undertaking various research projects for both State and Federal Government departments and catchment management authorities. He has done numerous reports for organizations including Department of Defence, Albury Wodonga Development Corporation, NSW Rural Lands Protection Boards, and Local Government and is currently developing a broad-scale rapid assessment technique for Box gum woodlands for the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts and the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Ian began his working career as a field surveyor with the army in 1976 and then a radio radar technician before leaving and joining the Victorian Lands Department as a ranger in 1982, one of nine rangers in the state. He was responsible for management of all Crown Lands including water frontages (for conservation and recreation) in the Goulburn and Murray Rivers region. In the mid 1980s he began a Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks & Wildlife) degree with Charles Sturt University which enabled him to take on a job as a Fisheries and Wildlife Senior Planner, at Benalla, with the then Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

Originally a fisherman, Ian became interested in native fish management; especially as the area he covered included populations of endangered Trout Cod and Macquarie Perch. His work included a lot of wildlife management matters such as managing duck hunting and translocating koalas. In 1989 Ian was one of the key people involved in starting up Land for Wildlife in Victoria, a conservation program for private land which has subsequently been taken up by many other states throughout Australia. Over the years Ian's interest in pure conservation issues grew and during a short stint as acting manager of public lands for the Goulburn and North East for the DCFL, had a lot of grazing from public land, particularly waterfrontages, removed in the early '90s.

In 1992 Ian worked with the flora branch of the Arthur Rylah Research Institute in Melbourne for an 18 month project which involved a survey of remnant vegetation (Box Ironbark) on private land throughout Victoria. Around that time he was also the co-author of a number of conservation strategies including ones for the Superb Parrot around the Barmah area and the Regent Honeyeater in the Greta/Lurg area.

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Ian is on the National Recovery Team for the endangered Regent Honey-Eaters. As part of his degree he did a research project on the Grey-Crowned Babbler in Victoria and its habitat use. In 1996 he left the Department to take up a position with Greening Australia to run what was at the time one of the first Fencing Incentive Program in Australia. Over his six years with Greening Australia working across the NSW Eastern Riverina and South West Slopes he worked with over 100s of farmers with 10,000s ha fenced off for conservation purposes. Ian was also successful in getting non-government funding to develop a rapid assessment technique for travelling stock reserves (TSR) so systematic surveys to determine the conversation status of the various TSR (some 800 reserves in southern NSW) could be undertaken.

"Basically my skills are native plant and wildlife management and I know a bit about fish and aquatic plants," says Ian who, from 1998 to 2000, had a talkback science show on ABC regional radio called "The Nature Show".

Ian first became involved with the MWWG in 1996 as the Australian Conservation Foundation representative. Around this time Ian was also involved as the ACF representative on the NSW governments' environmental flows committee for the regulated parts of the Murray.

"I have a fairly hands on view of the world and believe if we have something that might work, let's try it," says Ian.

Ian is on the editorial board of the Australian scientific journal *Ecological Management and Restoration*. He has co-authored with practitioners a number of articles that have appeared in various journals and publications.

"That's something I see as important," says Ian. *"We need to get the ideas of people with practical experience down on paper."*



"The MWWG are very much a doing organisation and they have stayed that way which is why I am still involved. We are prepared to give things a go, trial methods of doing things, learn by mistakes and try to improve." –Ian Davidson

Executive member