

## Case Study:

Winners of Council's 2004 Eco-Champion Garden Award were Matthew and Kelly Saunderson from Greystanes. With a passion for local wildlife, native plants were the obvious choice when they moved into their Greystanes home and started to clean up the garden. Their aim in planting local native species was to improve the local environment by providing much-needed habitat for birds, insects, lizards and other animals. Matt and Kelly have also installed a pond and wetland plants for some croaky friends, the Bleating Tree Frog family, that help control mosquitoes in their backyard.

Their garden comes alive with colour from late winter to late summer with plants such as Native Indigo (*Indigofera australis*), *Grevillea Juniperina*, Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*), Wallaby and Kangaroo Grasses, Gorse Bitter Pea (*Davesia Ulicifolia*) as well as some hybrid grevilleas to provide colour all year round.

And as for watering, what watering! Aside from the establishment period (which was approximately 4 months) their garden has rarely been hand watered. 'Local plants are used to local rainfall patterns, so they don't really require anymore water than nature gives them', said Matthew Saunderson. 'And even though we are currently going through a severe drought, all the plants are green, flowering and healthy.'

Matt and Kelly are also lucky enough to back onto one of Council's bushland reserves and by planting local native species they have extended the habitat area of the bush and are not encouraging any potential weed problems.

'There is a common myth that native plants often look scrappy and untidy compared to traditional gardens, however choosing the right type of plants and regular pruning, keeps our garden looking neat and colourful' Kelly said. 'We should be proud of our local plants. They are found nowhere else in the world. We all have a part to play in helping the flora and fauna return to our area' Matt added.

## What if I don't have a backyard?

If you don't have a backyard or you want to do more to help improve the biodiversity of the Holroyd LGA, you can join one of Council's Volunteer Bushcare Groups.

Being part of one of the Volunteer Bushcare Groups is a great way to care for our environment and give something back to the Holroyd community. You'll help make a real difference to the environment as well as meeting new people and having fun.

There are currently four active bushcare groups within the Holroyd LGA and new members are always welcome. These being:

- Alpha Park Bushcare Group – protecting and restoring remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Alpha Park Reserve;

- Greystanes Creek Management Committee – a group that has been active for the past 10 years ensuring that the Greystanes Creek Reserve remains a public reserve for habitat, vegetation conservation and a valuable resource for regional and local reserve users
- Pendle Hill Creek Bushcare Group – a relatively new group working to rehabilitate Pendle Hill Creek, to increase the creek's biodiversity; and
- Canal Reserve Bushcare Group – a relatively new group undertaking works involving bush regeneration, weed control, planting, promoting community awareness and participation in the Lower Canal Reserve.

If you are interested in joining one of the Bushcare Groups or would like further information about Bushcare, please contact Council's Bushland Officer on 9840 9840.

# Protecting and Enhancing the Biodiversity of Holroyd City

*The diversity of native plants and animals in our backyard and beyond all play an important role in keeping our air and water clean.*

*Holroyd City Council with the assistance of the NSW Government has developed this brochure to show what you can do in your backyard and beyond to help protect and enhance the biodiversity of Holroyd.*



**Holroyd City**  
Built Around People

OUR ENVIRONMENT  
*it's a living thing*

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This project has been completed by Holroyd City Council with the assistance of the NSW Government through the 'Our Environment: It's a Living Thing' program



*Kunzea ambigua*

### Biodiversity: What is it?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of all life forms, the different plants, animals, microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form. Biodiversity is considered at 3 levels with conservation of diversity at all 3 levels essential in the survival of living things: genetic material (genes), species and ecosystems.

### Why is biodiversity important?

Biodiversity is the basis for healthy, functioning ecosystems and is essential for soil formation, nutrient storage and movement, pollination and reproduction, and pollution breakdown and absorption.

Biodiversity is critical for the survival of all the earth's species, including the human species, for the provision of resource services such as clean air and clean water. On a local scale, biodiversity is important for community well being in terms of aesthetics, science, recreation, culture, health and spirit.

### What is the biodiversity of Holroyd?

The Holroyd LGA is dominated by Wianamatta Group sediments (rock & soil layers) on the flat to undulating

*Acacia decurrens*



*Indiofera australis*

Cumberland Plain. The natural vegetation of this landscape is Grey Box and Grey Box-Ironbark Woodlands. In addition, the Sydney Coastal River-Flat Forest and Cook River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest is, or has been known to occur in the Holroyd area.

Over 200 years ago, before European settlement, the distribution of the Cumberland Plain Woodlands covered approximately 122,000 hectares, bounded by the Hawkesbury-Nepean River in the north, and the local government areas of Camden and Campbelltown in the south, Penrith in the west and Parramatta in the east. Today, there is only 8% (or 9760 hectares) of the original extent with a further 13% (or 15,860 hectares) remaining as scattered trees across the landscape.

Due to the expansion of urban development, Cumberland Plain Woodland remnants in the Holroyd LGA are typically small and isolated pockets threatened by weed invasion, mowing and further clearing. In a biodiversity survey of the Greater Western region in 2003, the Holroyd LGA had the lowest biodiversity when measured in terms of number of species.

### What can I do to help improve the biodiversity of Holroyd?

In our backyards, we can all do something to improve the biodiversity of Holroyd – grow plants that are native to our local area, including:

- plant local native species
- install a small pond to provide water and habitat for frogs;
- install a nest box especially designed for native birds and possums;

- provide rocks for shelter, shade and sun bathing opportunities for small animals;
- use a native turf species such as *Microlaena stipoides*; and
- adopt good garden practices such as worm farming or composting, mulching our gardens and installing a rainwater tank and drip irrigation system.

Growing local native plants helps to link green corridors for local wildlife such as birds, frogs and lizards, and local plants are better suited to the climate and therefore require less watering. The table opposite lists native grasses, groundcovers and climbers; shrubs; and trees that are local to the Holroyd LGA.

By using compost, worm castings and mulch on your garden, you will improve the quality of your garden soil and encourage a healthy productive garden.

### Composting

Any organic matter such as food scraps, newspapers, fallen leaves, pruning and grass clippings can be composted.

### Worm Farming

Red or tiger worms are the worms most commonly used for worm farms. They are wonderful garbage guzzlers and can eat half their body weight in food scraps a day.

The material produced from composting and worm farming is a great way to reduce your household waste and produces a great organic product to improve the soil in your garden without having to use chemicals. You can purchase a compost bin or worm farm from Council. Contact Council's Customer Services Department on 9840 9840 for more information.

### Mulching

In bushland areas, the soil is covered with leaf litter. In your garden you can recreate the healthy growing conditions of nature by covering your soil surface with mulch. Mulching helps maintain even soil temperature, reduces water loss through evaporation, slows weed growth and provides a slow-release nutrient source.

Note: Keep the mulch away from the plant trunk to avoid collar rot.



*Cormbia maculata*

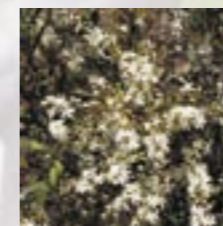


Central Gardens

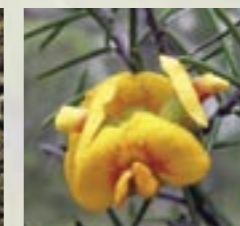


*Melaleuca decora*

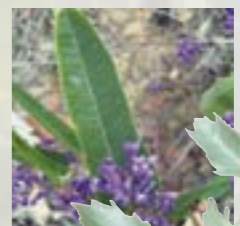
LOCAL NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE HOLROYD LGA							
BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	Height (m)	Width (m)	Full Sun	Partial Sun	Attract Birds	Attract B'flies
<b>NATIVE GRASSES, GROUND COVERS AND CLIMBERS</b>							
<i>Brachycome angustifolia</i>	Native Daisy	0.15	1-1.5	♦	♦		♦
<i>Carex longebrachiata</i>	Weeping Sedge	0.5	0.3	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>	Australian Bindweed	0.2	1	♦	♦		
<i>Austrodanthonia sp</i>	Wallaby Grass	0.8	0.5	♦	♦		♦
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	Smooth Flax Lily	0.5-1	0.5-1	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>	Long Hair Plume Grass	0.6-1	0.5	♦	♦		♦
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney weed	0.2	1	♦	♦		
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Purple Twining Pea	Climber		♦	♦		♦
<i>Hibbertia diffusa</i>	Wedge Guinea Flower	0.2	0.5	♦	♦		
<i>Kennedia rubicunda</i>	Dusky Coral Pea	Climber		♦	♦	♦	
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny Headed Mat Rush	1	1	♦	♦		♦
<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	Wonga Wonga Vine	Climber		♦	♦		
<i>Polymeria calycina</i>	Polymeria	Climber		♦	♦		♦
<i>Scaevola albida</i>	Pale Fan Flower	0.2	0.5	♦	♦		
<i>Themeda australis</i>	Kangaroo Grass	1	0.5	♦	♦		♦
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Native Violet	Trailer	1-1.5		♦		♦
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	Tall Bluebell	0.3	0.4	♦	♦		
<b>SHRUBS</b>							
<i>Acacia falcata</i>		4-6	2-3	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	2-5	1-2.5	♦	♦	♦	♦
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Red Bottlebrush	0.6-1	2-3	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Clerodendrum tomentosum</i>	Hairy Clerodendron	3-5	1.5-2	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	Gorse Bitter Pea	1	1	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Dillwynia sieberi</i>	Eggs and Bacon	1-1.2	1	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	Common Hop Bush	1-3	0.5-2	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Sticky Hop Bush	2-3	1-2	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Native Indigo	2-2.5	1-2	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Kunzea ambigua</i>	Tick Bush	2-3	2-2.5	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Maytenus silvestris</i>	Narrow-leaved Orangebark, Orange Bush, Orange Bark	1.5-2	1-1.5	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Melaleuca erubescens</i>	Rosy Paperbark	1.5-2	0.6-1	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Melaleuca thymifolia</i>	Thyme Honey Myrtle	0.5-1	0.3-0.8	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Notelaea longifolia</i>	Large Mock Olive	3-5	2-4	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	Ball Everlasting	1-2	0.5-1	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Pittosporum revolutum</i>	Wild Yellow Jasmine, Rough fruit Pittosporum	3-6	2-5	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Pultanaea microphylla</i>	Spreading Bush Pea	1	0.5	♦	♦	♦	♦
<i>Pultanaea villosa</i>	Bush Pea	1-1.5	1	♦	♦	♦	♦
<i>Rapanea variabilis</i>	Muttonwood	2-2.5	1.5-2	♦	♦	♦	
<b>TREES</b>							
<i>Acacia decurrens</i>	Early Black Wattle	5-15	5-8	♦		♦	
<i>Acacia parramattensis</i>	Sydney Green Wattle	6-8	3-5	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lilly Pilly	8-20	4-15	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Angophora floribunda</i>		10-25	6-15	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i>	Grey Myrtle	2-7	1.5-3	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i>	Red Ironbark	15-20	10-15	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i>	Grey Box	10-25	10-20	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>	Mugga Ironbark	10-30	8-20	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Exocarpea cupressiformis</i>	Native Cherry	6-8	3-5	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Melaleuca decora</i>	White Cloud Tree	4-7	1.5-2.2	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>	Prickly Leaved Paperbark	5-10	3-6	♦	♦	♦	



*Bursaria spinosa*



*Dillwynia sieberi*



*Hardenbergia violacea*

Waratah: floral emblem of New South Wales.

