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Birds Roam River to River Thanks To Community Effort

Small local birds and fauna are moving more freely through bushland corridors, and have a better chance of long term survival, thanks to the collective effort of residents, schools, the Councils of Ryde and Hunters Hill and the River to River Wildlife Corridors Project.

The three year, science based project began with extensive bird population surveys and the identification of a number of pockets of wildlife habitat between the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers, that had become isolated as the result of urban development.

Strategic mapping and the planting of over 13,000 native plants in residential gardens, school grounds and local parklands has now led to the establishment of a network of wildlife corridors linking up the habitat pockets throughout the two local government areas.

“We could not have achieved this outcome without the help of residents, community groups, schools and the staff from both Councils,” the Mayor, Clr Ivan Petch said.

“They all played a critical role in creating this legacy for the future survival of these small but important species.

“Without their commitment and enthusiasm these wildlife corridors would not exist and local birds and fauna would be confined to isolated pockets of bushland.”

More than one thousand residents took part in community plantings and workshops to help them identify local birds and fauna, advice on what to plant and how to create ideal habitat structures in their gardens using the native plants they were given.

The River to River Wildlife Corridors Project was jointly funded by the NSW Environment Trust and run by the City of Ryde and Hunters Hill Councils, in partnership with the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority.

Follow up ecological surveys to measure changes in bird populations are expected to be carried out in the future.

Go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/rivertoriver, call 9952 8222, or like us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/River-to-River-Corridors-Project/41696669853715>