

MACARTHUR REGION

Plain being lost to housing, agriculture



Pat and Barry Durman and Julie Sheppard, from the National Parks Association Macarthur branch, are passionate about saving our precious Cumberland Plain bushland. Picture: Robert Pozo

Ecologist to give talk on threats

Daniel Zautsen

THE disappearance of the region's Cumberland Plain will be the focus of a talk by wildlife ecologist Peter Ridgeway at Campbelltown Arts Centre next week.

Mr Ridgeway will speak about the effects of development across Sydney on the Cumberland Plain and the various ecosystems within it that are under threat.

National Parks Association Macarthur branch member Julie Sheppard encouraged residents interested in preserving the region's environmental ecosystems to attend and engage with Mr Ridgeway.

"The Cumberland Plain has been here since well before white settlement and all across Sydney it is disappearing," she said. "There's only about 6 per cent remaining and it's being swallowed up by development.

"The Government has been very good in some

Rare treasure



» Only about 6 per cent of the Cumberland Plain remains
 » Threats to the Cumberland Plain include agriculture, housing and other developments and invasion by exotic plants

regards where they've protected certain areas but there's other things they are not doing very well at all when they approve all sorts of development."

Ms Sheppard said the Cumberland Woodland contained a unique suite of vegetation and supported animals such as wallaroos and echidnas.

Peter Ridgeway's Macarthur Heritage Nature Talk is on Wednesday, October 5, at Campbelltown Arts Centre. Entry is by gold coin donation. Details: Julie Sheppard on 0418 278 753.