

# Guru helps residents attract backyard birds

By AGRON LATIFI

The hunt is on to attract more birds, of the feathered variety, to Shellharbour City.

But attracting native birds is easier said than done.

Fortunately help is at hand with Shellharbour City Council hosting a free interactive workshop on Saturday.

Facilitated by local wildlife guru Peter Nolan from Habitat Ponds and Holly Parsons from Birds in Backyards, residents will learn bird identification tips while also receiving advice on helping make their backyard a native animal sanctuary.

Council environment and recreation officer Glen Isbester said residents would also be taken on a tour of local bushland to view some of the local wildlife with likely species spotted including lorikeets, cockatoos, finches, honeyeaters and birds of prey.

"Many residents may not be aware of how many



Holly Parsons (left) from Birds in Backyards with Kris French, will join Peter Nolan from Habitat Ponds at a free bird viewing workshop in Blackbutt Forest this Saturday. Picture: WAYNE VENABLES

amazing bird species we have living around this area, whether it be in the backyard, in our gardens or throughout the local bushland and surrounds," he said.

"Certain plants attract different types of birds, for instance rainbow lorikeets are attracted to particular flowering plants while a seed-eating finch enjoys the safety of spikey plants like banksias.

"This workshop will show residents how to attract and keep these animals coming

back to their properties through the creation of a specified habitat."

The workshop will be held in Blackbutt Forest on Saturday from 9am to noon.

The free course is part of the Sustainable Illawarra project and is open to residents of Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Council areas only.

Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting the council on 4221 6111.