

Save our birds

OUR local indian myna man is on a crusade to rid the shire of indian mynas and save our native birds - and he wants others to join him.

Garry Cunich from West Pennant Hills makes and sells indian myna traps called Myna X.

He is flat out keeping up with the demand.

Mr Cunich wants to start a fund-raising association to subsidise the traps, raise awareness of native birds' and marsupials' plight, promote the eradication program, and offer assistance to residents who are happy to trap the birds but need help to kill them.

Such an organisation would lobby governments to pass legislation requiring local councils to take action against the birds, and take the traps on tour to field days and country fairs.

Mr Cunich said it was not a case of cruelty, but of getting rid of foreign pests.

"It's not a program to kill," he said. "It's a program to save native birds. You have to kill the mynas to save the lives of other birds."

"I don't actually hate indian myna birds. I admire them. They're smart, intelligent, they mate for life ... It's just that they're too good at what they do and they're doing it in the wrong place."

Mr Cunich wants to im-



Garry Cunich, the indian myna man, wants to save the Hills from indian myna birds.

plement stage two of his program, called Looking Up, which will be the manufacture, installation and monitoring of species-specific nesting boxes designed to help native birds and marsupials find safe places to breed.

Indian mynas occupy many breeding holes, or fill them with rubbish.

Their droppings make the holes toxic for natives.

Mr Cunich is holding a meeting about forming an association called Wings Across Australia from 3pm this Saturday at 1 View St, West Pennant Hills.

Contact Mr Cunich at info@indianmynaeradication.com or phone 9872 5822.