

Ecosystem survives



Staying native: Sonia Bennett is overjoyed that Wallaby Grass and other Australian plants have survived land clearing in a little part of Seven Hills.

Picture: Natasha Paes

By **Roderick Shaw**

AUSTRALIAN native grass (Danthonia or Wallaby Grass) thrives in a small corner of Seven Hills, surviving western Sydney's urban sprawl.

The block, on the corner of Ellam Drive and Leabons Lane, hosts other native plants such as salt bush (*Einaidia Polygonoides*), kidney weed (*Dichondra Repens*), *Brunoniella Australis* and *Vittadinia*.

Local environmentalist

Sonia Bennett said it was remarkable that so many Australian natives had managed to survive in a tight spot.

"Preserving this is most important," Mrs Bennett said.

"These are Cumberland Plain Woodland plants - native to western Sydney - but we haven't got much left.

"Our bushland is getting smaller because of land clearing."

She called on Blacktown Council to take special care

when mowing land which had surviving native plants.

She also said residents could help when planting lawns and gardens.

"It would be nice if we could change from European plants and try to grow what belongs to the Cumberland Plain," Mrs Bennett said.

"These are the great survivors. But when it's gone, it's gone forever."

■ For advice about native plants, contact the Blacktown District and Environment Group: 9621 2105.