

Kyle, Julia (from ANU Newsroom)

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Forestry an urban affair for local student

Growing up among the parks and reserves of the garden shire suburb of Glenhaven had a big influence on the future of Julia Kyle.

An appreciation of the importance of green open spaces in a suburban area for both the community and environment saw Julia take on an undergraduate degree in Forestry at the ANU School of Resources, Environment and Society.

Four years later, Julia, 24, is doing her Honours in Urban Forestry – the interaction between people, trees and green spaces in cities.

“Being from the city I thought it would be great to understand more about the environment I grew up in and understand the dynamics between built areas and vegetation,” Julia says.

“People need to be aware that trees and green spaces in cities have important benefits. For example, if there were no trees in cities, the air temperature would be a lot warmer – in Australia, stifling in summer – because there would be no shading of built land, which reflects heat.”

Her Honours project focuses on the disappearance of established tree areas in Canberra as residential development trends toward condominium style accommodation and urban sprawl.

“A decision needs to be made now if the landscape of Canberra should reflect a garden city in the future. There is still time to reverse current trends,” Julia says.

BSc Forestry ANU final year 2001