



# O.F.F. NEWS



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## FROGS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

Because they are soft-bodied, easy to catch, relatively defenceless, and relatively common, frogs and tadpoles are important items in the food chains of reptiles, fish, birds and other predatory animals. However, the **populations of many frog species seem to be declining rapidly throughout the world.** This is a source of much concern, not only because of the potential extinction of frog species but also because of the implications for their predators. We look forward to **Dr Arthur White** speaking about some of these issues, and also about the special attributes of Australian Frogs at our next monthly meeting (see over). Dr White is Convenor of the Frog and Tadpole Study Group based at the Australian Museum, and is a leading expert on this topic.

## CURRA MOORS WALK

July 31 was a perfect day for the Curra Moors field trip led by Val Boyen and attended by 19 OFF members. Highlights of the day were a good display of early spring wildflowers, and sightings of many bird species, two whales and one echidna. Photos and other details may be viewed on OFF's website at [www.off.oatleypark.com](http://www.off.oatleypark.com)

## 2005 - OFF's 50th

Oatley Flora and Fauna began in 1955. Some ideas about how we should celebrate our 50th birthday have been suggested. These include a picnic in Oatley Park, a tree planting, creating a time capsule, a commemorative mug and a very special Annual Dinner. **Do you have any more ideas - the more the merrier !!**

And **VOLUNTEERS are needed.** Can you help the Committee with some time, as well as ideas? It should be great fun putting a very special programme together for 2005. See Lesley Cox, Jan Douglas or Robin Dickson at meetings, or give any of them a call.

## PHYLLIS BRYDEN

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Phyllis Bryden, a very active member of O.F.F. in earlier days. She was Vice-President for 8 years and a Committee member for 11 years (1980-90). Our appreciation of her work for the Society and our deepest sympathy are extended to her family.

## KOSCIUSZKO SUBMISSIONS: LAST DAYS

Public comments on the Kosciuszko National Park draft plan of management (see previous two issues of OFF News) must be lodged by **Friday, August 20.**

More individual submissions are needed (just a few words will be O.K.) requesting measures such as:

- stronger protection of the habitats of the Mountain Pygmy Possum and Corroboree Frog, both of which are on the endangered species lists,
- prohibition of horse-riding, trail bike riding and off-road driving on karst (limestone) soils and in other environmentally sensitive areas,
- more thorough investigations of possible adverse impacts of the cloud seeding proposals.

## ANSWER TO KURNELL QUESTION

A number of recent actions by NSW Planning Minister Craig Knowles have dismayed the conservation movement, and many consider that the former good environmental credentials of the Carr Government have now been destroyed. The latest of these actions is the issuing of a revised draft management plan for the Kurnell peninsula which, contrary to the earlier plan, allows continued intensive sand mining with residential/industrial development on most worked-out sites. Ironically, this follows nomination of much of the same area for National Heritage listing, as reported in the last OFF News. As also reported in the News, many people were asking why heritage listing was not sought and obtained long ago. The answer, of course, is in this revised management plan. Why would anyone want to compromise the economic values of the area by making it part of our National Heritage?

Meetings are held at the **Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street, Oatley.**  
(near the corner of Letitia Street)

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

## Coming Events

**August 23 (Monday)** Regular monthly meeting at 7.45pm. **Dr Arthur White** will speak on **frogs**.

**August 28 (Saturday)** Field Day. **Bicentennial Park**. Birdwatching. Judy Harrington, the Environmental Ranger, Sydney Olympic Parklands, will lead us on a morning tour of this lovely park - free of charge ! We are to meet her at **the Visitor Centre at 8.00am** (we hope not too early for some). There is plenty of parking. We will leave cars there and walk to the waterbird refuge for morning tea (no facilities there so carry tea etc). We can then return to the Visitor Centre by a different route to lunch by the cars where the kiosk will be open. Judy suggests those who have time can then go by car to Woo-la-ra or the Northern Water Feature. Easy walking. Bring binoculars. Rain coats if wet. Leader: **Carolyn Cotter**, tel 9579 6631.

**September 27 (Monday)** Regular monthly meeting. **Gordon Hocking** will speak on **environmental protection and the growth paradigm** (note this is a change in the original programme for 2004).

### ANNUAL DINNER - NEW VENUE

The Society's dinner for 2004 will be on **Friday, 8th October** at **Penshurst Hotel** in the VIP Lounge, 6.30pm for 7.00pm. There is plenty of parking in the Connelly Street car park. Entry to the VIP lounge is from Victoria Street.

This year we have a **great menu for \$25**. It includes three choices of main course (featuring chicken, king prawns or steak) and three choices of dessert. Copies will be on display at the August and September monthly meetings.

Val Boyen will take bookings and money at the meetings, or she can be contacted on 9533 1013.  
**Final booking date:** Wednesday, 29th September

### SEAWEED WEED IN BOTANY BAY

The recent discovery of *Caulerpa taxifolia*, also known as 'killer green algae' in Botany Bay, Port Hacking and several other NSW estuaries is a cause of much concern. This bright green seaweed is an invader from tropical waters and has most of the characteristics of the worst land weeds. It is extremely hardy, very fast growing, breaks easily into small fragments that readily reproduce, quickly smothers native marine growth, and is toxic to fish or other marine animals that try to graze on it. Identification criteria and other details may be obtained by email from [nimpis@csiro.au](mailto:nimpis@csiro.au)

### FERAL DEER INVADE OUR SUBURBS

During the past few months, feral deer have been sighted in bush remnants and parks at Hurstville, Kogarah, Carss Park, Sans Souci, Kyeemagh and Wolli Creek. One was also reported struck by a car in King Georges Road, Blakehurst. Their apparent migration from the Royal National Park has been attributed to the drought and the current deer culling program in the Park.

### VERY BRIEFLY .....

**National Threatened Species Day:** 7 September.

Details 9281 5515 or [www.wwf.org.au/tsn](http://www.wwf.org.au/tsn)

**Grevillea Park, Bulli:** Open Days, Sat, Sun, 25-26 September, 2-3 October.

**Oatley Lions Festival:** 16 October, Memorial Gardens, Oatley. Details in next OFF News.

**Nature Conservation Council Conference:**

23-24 October. The Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens. Contact OFF Secretary for registration before October 1.

**Environmental Forum - Sydney Case Studies:**

5-6 November. Details in next OFF News.

### DID YOU KNOW ?

Alan Fairley has listed about 315 species of native plants growing in Oatley Park. At least 120 (38%) of these have parts used as food by Aboriginal people and early European settlers.