



O.F.F. NEWS



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REGISTRATION, RISK & INSURANCE

All members, including those who normally receive O.F.F. news by email, will receive the next issue by ordinary mail, together with the 2006 program of activities, and information about the new registration procedures. **Please read this information and respond accordingly.** In particular, please send in your new registration form as soon as possible, even if you have previously completed a risk waiver form. These new procedures are due to insurance requirements, and we regret any resulting inconvenience.

NOTES ON AGM, 7th FEBRUARY

An impressive item at the Annual General Meeting was Secretary Faye Coughlan's comprehensive report on the Society's Anniversary Year activities. President Jan Douglas thanked the Committee and others for their support throughout the year, and paid special tributes to retiring Treasurer, Carolyn Cotter, and retiring Publicity Officer, Margaret Schonell. Jan was re-elected President for 2006, Faye was re-elected Secretary and **Lesley Wylie was elected the new Treasurer.** All the other 2005 Committee members were re-elected. Full details of this year's Committee and Office-bearers are in the 2006 Program of Activities.

NEXT MEETING, 27th FEBRUARY

On 27th February 1956, **exactly 50 years** before our next monthly meeting, a fledgling Oatley Flora & Fauna Society was stimulated by a presentation from the acclaimed botanist, Thistle Yolette Harris (married name, Thistle Stead). Our next meeting will therefore feature a **Thistle Y. Harris Memorial Lecture** to be given by **Professor Paul Adam**, Head of Biological & Earth Sciences, University of NSW, former Chair of the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee, and Board Director of The National Trust. He will discuss, with special reference to threatened species, the decline in government support for 'off-park' conservation, despite continuing public support.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2006 SUB ?

If not, please post your cheque for \$25 (per person or family) to P.O. Box 52, Mortdale 2223, or pay Lesley Wylie at the meeting on 27th February.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA

Sunday, 5th March

This year Clean Up Australia Day is on **Sunday 5th March.** The area we will be working on is at the bottom of **Poulton Park** at the head of Oatley Bay. Unfortunately this is RUBBISH CENTRAL and really needs a clean up. The meeting point is the reserve at the corner of Morshead Drive and Kyle Parade (at the start of the Yara-nura Boardwalk). We will be there from 9am till 12 noon so do your community a favour and come along for **as little or as long as you can spare.** Bring boots, gloves etc for the mangrove area.

(Julian Sheen, Co-ordinator)

LIME KILN BAY AND BUNDABERG RUM

Congratulations to the Lime Kiln Bay Bushcare Group for obtaining a Bundaberg Rum Grant of \$4920 for bank stabilisation and plantings. Bundaberg Rum, in providing such grants, has become a major business supporter of the Landcare Australia scheme. (from Hurstville Bushcare Volunteer Network Newsletter, *The Bundaluk*).

PLEASE RESPOND TO SENATE INQUIRY

A Senate Committee of Inquiry has invited written submissions by **Wednesday, 1st March**, on the 'funding and resources available' to meet the objectives of Australia's national parks and other conservation reserves. It is particularly concerned with the **values, objectives and costs** of such areas. Unfortunately, the publicising of the Inquiry has been limited and few conservation groups seem aware of it. There is a possibility that submissions from opponents of national parks (adjoining land owners, developers, shooters etc) could outweigh submissions from conservationists. This would provide justification for a **reduction** in taxpayers' expenditure on conservation rather than the **increase** we would like to see. A submission by O.F.F. Committee is now being prepared but there is a **need for many more submissions** from individuals and other conservation groups on the **benefits of national parks.** These could refer, for example, to their cultural, aesthetic, spiritual, ethical, scientific, educational, tourist and/or potential resource values, and their importance for maintaining biodiversity to meet uncertain needs of the future. Details of the submission procedure, terms of reference etc may be obtained from Department of the Senate, Parliament House, Canberra 2600, tel 6277 5818, or email ecita.sen@aph.gov.au

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

February 27 (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7.45pm. This will feature the **Thistle Y. Harris Memorial Lecture** to be given by **Professor Paul Adam** entitled 'Saving the NSW floral heritage: good intentions meet reality'. Other information overleaf (page 1).

March 4 (Saturday) FIELD DAY. Royal National Park spotlighting. An easy evening walk along Lady Carrington Drive. Meet at southern entrance to Lady Carrington Drive at **8.15 pm**. This is about 0.5 km north of the upper causeway along Sir Bertram Stevens Drive. Some members may wish to bring a picnic tea to have at the upper causeway picnic area before 8.15pm. You will need to bring a torch and, if you have them, binoculars. A jumper is suggested if the weather is cool. The walk will be cancelled if there is heavy rain at the time but if in doubt you may call the leader, **Debbie Andrew**, on her mobile, 0427 330 657. Her home number is 9570 2695.

March 27 (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7.45pm. This will include a presentation by **Dr Kathy Stewart** of Sydney University about an environmental education project at Oatley involving our Society. Other features of the meeting will be detailed in the next issue of O.F.F. News.

NO DESALINATION PLANT, BUT... ?

Protests by environmentalists throughout the Sydney area, including O.F.F. and some of its members, undoubtedly contributed to the recent decision by the NSW Government to abandon its proposed Kurnell Desalination Plant (see Nov-Dec O.F.F. News). However, as **Sydney's water problems remain**, a Parliamentary Inquiry on 'sustainable' solutions invited public comments up to February 17. A response to this was prepared by Lesley Cox on behalf of O.F.F. and endorsed by the Committee. It stressed the need for **recycling and other environmentally favourable measures**, and a copy will be placed on our website at www.off.oatleypark.com.

Although this is all claimed to be good news for the environment, some of us doubt there could be any **truly sustainable** solutions if the present drought is maintained by **global warming** (as alleged by many scientists) and Sydney's population **continues to grow**.

SOME DEFINITELY GOOD NEWS

- **Mitsubishi** has decided to stop sourcing woodchips from **old growth forests**,
- Cattle can no longer be grazed in **Victoria's alpine parks** (they have been excluded from Kosciuszko National Park for decades, with very beneficial results for conservation),
- **Toyota** has announced that its new **Prius** car generates up to 90% less harmful emissions than any similar sized car. The company is also actively advocating the **extensive planting of trees** to help reduce the rate of global warming.
(from a recent issue of 'The Colong Bulletin')

SALES OF SPECIAL PLANTS

Interesting selections of native and exotic plants are now on sale at the **Royal Botanic Gardens** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 11.30 am to 1.30 pm. Phone 9231 8182 for details.

Wollemi Pines, of course, are not yet on sale at the Royal Botanic Gardens but are expected to be available from **Forests NSW Nurseries in April**.

VERY BRIEFLY

Climate Change & Biodiversity Seminar. Eminent Oxford Professor Norman Myers, Thursday, 9 March 6pm-8pm, Level 60, 1 Farrer Place Sydney, Cost: \$10, Details/Registration: Tisha 9262 6989 (EDO Office).

The Mulga Road Tree Project (Oatley Coles Protests). Contact Sharyn Cullis, philipanderson@iprimus.com.au, or Anne Wagstaff, wagstaf@bigpond.net.au, tel 9580 7919 for details of meetings and current developments.

New reference book: *Field Guide to Flora, Fauna and Heritage Features of the South Coast of NSW*. Cost: \$30, Forests NSW Batemans Bay Office, tel 4472 6211.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"The earth itself is what ultimately controls economic activity because it is the source of the material upon which economic activity works...Ecological fallout from economic development is in no way an 'externality'... it is a positive depletion of real wealth, of human and natural capital." from a speech by Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, 2005 (speech reported in full in Newsletter No 66, Sustainable Population, Australia inc.)