



O.F.F. NEWS



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**OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA
CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**

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FROM 2005 TO 2006

The Society's 50th Anniversary Year has now passed and best wishes for the new year are extended to all. Before we move on to 2006, however, some brief final comments on 2005 will be made. Following the culmination of our celebrations at the 'best ever' Annual Dinner, the Anniversary Picnic in Oatley Park on 7th December was also a very enjoyable and highly successful event.

Regrettably, there were some less enjoyable events in December. A very vigorous and competent campaign by the Oatley community against the Coles supermarket proposal for Mulga Road was apparently not successful in halting this environmentally and socially detrimental development. Nevertheless, some innovative protest actions are still proceeding. Members not already involved in these and who may wish to participate should contact Anne Wagstaff on 9580 7919 or at wagstaf@bigpond.net.au.

FIRST 2006 MEETING

The first monthly meeting in 2006 will be the Annual General Meeting, followed by slides and a light supper, on 6th February. See details overleaf.

DEVELOPMENTS IN CLIMATE CHANGE

A Climate Institute has been established in Sydney with a \$10 million grant from an Australian philanthropic group to persuade governments and the community of the need for urgent action. From 1st March, Dr Corin Millais will be the CEO, and former NSW Premier Bob Carr has agreed to chair the Advisory Council. Dr Millais is currently CEO of the European Wind Energy Association which is the largest renewable energy organisation in the world.

A related development is a recently published report 'Climate Change and Company Values' by AMP Capital Investors, Baker & McKenzie, and Total Environment Centre. It may be downloaded from www.ampcapital.com.au/advisers/sri/papers.asp.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you paid your annual subscriptions for 2006 ? If not, please post your cheque to P.O. Box 52, Mortdale 2223, or pay Carolyn at the AGM on 6th February. The subscription is now \$25 per person or family (living at the same address).

RON READ

We were extremely sorry to hear of the death of one of our members, Ron Read, on 11th January. Ron and Muriel were frequent participants at Society events and Ron's well informed contributions to discussions at meetings were particularly appreciated. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Muriel and the family.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS: JANUARY 14-21

After the 92% humidity in Sydney just prior to leaving, it was amazing to arrive at Smiggin Holes to the wonderful dry air and coolness. Heaven - the luxury of being able to wear a jacket ! For those of us who have visited regularly each year it was like coming home - a sense of belonging and peacefulness. The Snowy Mountains never fail to work their magic.

In all, 15 O.F.F. members (staying for varying lengths of time) enjoyed the beauty of the area and one another's company. The pre-dinner happy hours and after dinner get-togethers were most pleasant. Thank you to those who provided digital TV presentations and slides. We were pleased to welcome a new member to our group, and also a visitor.

The time-honoured tradition of not doing a long walk on the first day was broken. Because of the unfavourable weather forecast we felt we should 'make hay whilst the sun shone'. However, we then experienced first-hand (to the detriment of some of us) why warnings of dramatic weather changes are given here, even in summer. The more intrepid walkers braved the rain and mist while others enjoyed a drive or curling up with a book.

On the first day a number of us tackled the Summit Road, some managing to reach the top of Kosciuszko and others getting only as far as Seaman's Hut. Walks on other days included Rainbow Lake, the Blue Lake, Bob's Ridge from Dead Horse Gap, Mount Stillwell, and the Lakes Walks Circuit.

Despite a couple of days of uncertain weather a great time was had by all. A comment from one member who had not been to the area for about five years was that the break let them 'see it all again with fresh eyes'. Perhaps this is an incentive for others to do the trip in 2007 ? (Thanks to Robin Dickson for this report).

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

Coming Events

February 6 (Monday) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 7.45pm. Reports on O.F.F.'s activities during the past year and election of office bearers and committee for 2006. Members are invited to comment on the activities, management and direction of the Society. The AGM will be as brief as possible and **followed by members' slides and a light supper.** If you have some appropriate slides, for example of interesting places or Society activities, please bring them along. Also, **please bring a plate of food** to contribute to the supper.

February 27 (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7.45pm. This will feature the **Thistle Y. Harris Memorial Lecture**, commemorating 50 years since the Society was addressed by the eminent conservationist and botanist, Thistle Y. Harris, on February 27th, 1956. The lecture will be given by **Associate Professor Paul Adam** and is titled 'Saving the NSW floral heritage: good intentions meet reality'. Professor Adam is Head of the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of NSW, and former Chairperson of the Scientific Committee for the NSW Threatened Species and Conservation Act.

March 4 (Saturday) FIELD DAY, Royal National Park spotlighting. An evening walk along the southern end of Lady Carrington Drive. Leader: Debbie Andrew. Details in next O.F.F. News.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF OATLEY FLORA AND FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

FOR YEAR ENDED 31.12.05 Carolyn Cotter, Hon. Treasurer (J. Watters Consultant)

Receipts & Payments

Credit Balance as at 01.01.05 \$11,297.60

Receipts:

M' ship subscriptions	4099.00	
Donations	50.00	
Donations for 50 th	234.20	
Anniversary Dinner	3435.00	
Anniv. Dinner – raffle	566.00	
Sales – Plants/books	128.00	
– Stalls etc	621.35	
– OFF mugs	742.00	
– OFF History	80.00	
HCC Grant – OFF History	1000.00	
KMC Community Grant	940.00	
Interest	<u>58.63</u>	<u>11,954.18</u>
		\$23,251.78

Payments:

Subscription to NCC	159.00
Donations (see Note)	800.00
OFF News – printing	193.20
– postage	538.50
– stationery	37.00
Office of Fair Trading	41.00
Uniting Church don. for hall	260.00
Printing programs	196.00
PO Box rental	56.00
Mug purchases	990.00
Anniversary dinner	3322.65
Musicians	300.00

Payments (cont'd)

GIO – Liability Insurance	722.01	
Administration	52.25	
Transfer to Cash Mgmt Acc't	7000.00	
DIPNR – Grant Balance	2749.46	
OFF History costs	566.95	
Digital voice recorder	775.00	\$18,759.02
<u>Credit Balance as at 31.12.05</u>		<u>\$4,492.76</u>
Add balance of Cash Mgmt Account	7,112.17	\$11,604.93
		<u>\$11,604.93</u>
Less grant balance owing to KMC	1000.00	
Total Society Funds		\$10,604.93

Note: Donations (\$100 to each group): Total Envmt. Centre, Aust. Bush Heritage, Birds Aust., Ku-ring-gai Bats, WIRES, Wilderness Soc., Environmental Defenders Office, Gene Ethics Network - Total \$800.00
Abbreviations: NCC – Nature Conservation Council, HCC – Hurstville City Council, KMC – Kogarah Municipal Council, DIPNR – Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources.

The Society's funds at 31.12.05 were **\$10,604.93** including **\$2,011.00** in President's Fund for donations to other environmental bodies. The surplus on the 50th Anniversary was \$612.55. Balance of OFF History Grant was \$513.05. Profit on sale of mugs was \$217.00. The **operating funds were \$8,593.93**, which is in line with the Society's policy of adequate reserves.

