



O.F.F. NEWS



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LAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR 2006

Our last monthly meeting for 2006 will be the **27th November** (see details overleaf). The evening will feature a talk by **Paul Storm** entitled 'Australian Flora and Fauna in Philately and the Decorative Arts'. This will be followed by a **social supper** and **bargain stall**.

GLOBAL WARMING CAMPAIGNS

The 'walk against warming' in Sydney on 4th November (see last O.F.F. News) was very successful, with an estimated **25,000** people taking part. A number of O.F.F. members were among the walkers, sending politicians a clear message to sign the **Kyoto Protocol**.

To **sustain the message** of the walk, concerned O.F.F. members have been asked to join the 'Citizens Climate Campaign'. If you have email, this is done very easily by sending the word 'Yes' to climatez@aapt.net.au. At the beginning of each month you will then receive:

- information about an aspect of climate change,
- a few points to make in a suggested letter,
- contact details of appropriate politicians to which your letter could be directed.

The aim is to encourage thousands of Australians to individually lobby our elected politicians each month. It is essentially a 'numbers campaign' coordinated by **Robin Mosman** of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, supported by a number of other people and community groups. The campaign and its coordinators have **no political affiliations**.

KILLING WEEDS SWEETLY

Household sugar could soon become the new, **ecologically friendly herbicide** for many weeds. Recent research at Charles Sturt University has shown that it can stimulate the growth of micro-organisms in the soil which prevent weeds taking up nutrients. So far there appear to be **no adverse effects on native plants**. Further information may be obtained from *The Australian Landcare Magazine*, March 2006, or from Dr Suzanne Prober at suzanne.prober@bigpond.com.

'BEING GREEN'

If you missed out on your copy of 'Being Green' (story of O.F.F.'s first 50 years) more will be available for \$10 per copy from Alan Fairley at the next monthly meeting on 27th November.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS 2007

Places are still available for our annual trip to the beautiful Snowy Mountains in summer. To book or obtain further information call Robin Dickson as soon as possible on 9580 5663.

Dates: Saturday, 13th Jan. to Saturday, 20th Jan.

Cost: \$49 per person per night, double or share

\$73 per person per night, single

\$26 per child per night (6-18 years).

Accommodation is in self-contained apartments, with a large common lounge room for social activities.

UPPER HACKING RIVER FIELD DAY

A cloudy but fine day on 28th October provided good walking conditions for the 11 members on the Upper Hacking River field day. Features of the day included:

- the delightful setting of Lilyvale Cottage which may be a good venue for future O.F.F. events,
- Robyn Dickson's surprise when she recognised Lilyvale Cottage as the homesite of a relative (and legendary family character) many years ago,
- some plant species not often observed on our walks: Lilac Lilly (*Schelhammera undulata*), Grass-leaved Conospermum (*Conospermum tenuifolium*) and a Bush-Pea (*Pultenaea blakelyi*).

A more detailed report will be placed on our website, www.off.oatleypark.com (Fred Bell, co-leader).

NAMING OF JOAN HOLLAND BRIDGE

Participants in the last two field days have driven past the Joan Holland Bridge at the upper causeway on the Hacking River. To answer a question some asked, the late Joan Holland was **president of the Bundeena Progress Association** and campaigned strongly for many years for an all-weather road crossing of the river. Her efforts were finally fulfilled when the bridge was **opened in 1993**. Before then, Bundeena's road access was often cut off in wet weather by floods.

THYLACINE IN ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

Fossils indicate that the presumed extinct thylacine or **Tasmanian tiger** (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) occurred throughout the Australian mainland, possibly less than 2000 years ago. Further evidence of this is provided by Aboriginal rock art. A rare example in the Sydney area is on the shore of **Southwest Arm** in Royal National Park. It is clearly a drawing of a thylacine with a snake and wallaby. (from S.S.E.C. Newsletter, Dec. 2004)

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

November 27th (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING. 7.45 pm. Paul Storm will speak on 'Australian Flora & Fauna in Philately and the Decorative Arts'. This is the last monthly meeting for 2006, ending with a social supper and bargain stall. Please bring a plate of finger food and money for the bargains.

Note that there is no field day in November this year

December 4th (Monday) Annual Christmas Picnic/Barbecue in Steamroller Park (part of Oatley Park), from about 5.30 pm. Bring your own food and drink and, if you wish, picnic chairs, table and gas barbecue (provided there is no fire ban).

February 5th, 2007 (Monday) Annual General Meeting. Election of officers, slide night and social supper. If you have old slides of past trips/events that members have not seen, or new slides of special interest, bring them along. Please bring, also, a plate of finger food for the supper.

SUSTAINABILITY AT PIGFACE POINT

Pigface Point is on the southern bank of Georges River about 12 km upstream of Oatley Park. A bushland property here is the home of Ted Trainer, well-known promoter of sustainable living, academic, and author of books such as the highly acclaimed 'Abandon Affluence'. For some years Ted has been developing his property as an **alternative lifestyle educational site**, and from time to time conducts tours of the site to demonstrate and explain his ideas. One of these tours, on **Saturday, 25th November** from 9.30 am to about 12 noon, will include the following topics:

- global resource limitations and implications
- simple, low-cost, self-sufficient living
- waste utilisation, recycling and permaculture
- building a council-approved house for \$10,000.

Directions for travelling to Pigface Point and other information on its features may be obtained from Fred Bell on 9525 0552 or from Ted Trainer's website: <http://socialwork.arts.unsw.edu.au/tsw/>

TOWRA TRACK OPEN AGAIN

Towra Point Nature Reserve contains the **largest remaining wetland** near Sydney. An O.F.F. field day to this remarkable area was planned in 2004 but had to be cancelled when the track was found to go through an old asbestos dump and was subsequently closed. This problem has apparently been resolved but **access is still very restricted**. Guided walks are now conducted through the area by NPWS officers as part of their 'Discovery' program, and one of these will be on **Saturday, 2nd December** from 9.30am to 1.30 pm. Participants must book in advance on 9542 0649 (Coordinator) or 9542 0666 (Visitors Centre, Audley).

ALL ABOUT RAINWATER TANKS

Standards Australia and the Australian Rainwater Industry Development Association have recently produced a large and comprehensive handbook, 'Rainwater Tank Design & Installation HB 230-2006', now available for \$46. Further information and an order form may be obtained from www.arid.asn.au or from Brendon Scotter on 9543 0300.

VERY BRIEFLY

Sydney Ports Open Day: November 25, Saturday, 11am-2pm, Botany Town Hall. Community and environmental benefits (sic) of Port Botany expansion.

Buy Nothing Day: November 26, Sunday. Penrhyn Estuary. Details: Chairperson@botanybay.info. Part of International day to expose the adverse effects of consumerism. See <http://www.buynothingday.co.uk>

Sustainability Education Conference: November 27, Monday, 9am-5pm, Novotel Motel, Olympic Park. Department of Environment in partnership with other agencies and community groups. Cost: \$55 per person. Details: Carol Davies or Peter Salier on 8837 6000 or Sylvia at sylvia@horizoncommunication.com.au

NPWS Towra Point Wetlands Walk: December 2, Saturday. See 'Towra Track open again' on this page.

Oatley Lions' 30th Celebration: March 22, Thursday 7pm, Roslyn Gardens. Details and bookings (ASAP): Faye 9570 6338 (after 7pm).

DID YOU KNOW ?

Assuming minimum requirements for pasture growth and cattle raising, it takes at least **18,000 litres** of water to produce **every kg of butter** and **50,000 litres** to produce **every kg of beef**. (*National Heritage*, Spring issue 2006)