



# O.F.F. NEWS



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

Print Post App. No. PP 255003/03239

Issue: 2006/10

October/November 2006

## **THREATENED TIGER QUOLL**

O.F.F. member, **Debbie Andrew**, has carried out the first comprehensive field studies of Australia's **largest marsupial predator**, the threatened Tiger Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*). This is the topic of her recently completed Master's thesis and she will speak about it at our next monthly meeting on **23rd October** (see details overleaf). As a Wildlife Officer with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Debbie has conducted fauna surveys and contributed to reserve establishment programs throughout NSW over many years. She should now be regarded as the authority on the **rarely seen but ecologically important** Tiger Quoll. We are very fortunate to have her as a member of the Society, and as the speaker at our next meeting.

## **EXCITING ADVENTURES IN THE ROYAL**

On Saturday 30th September, 25 members met at Garawarra Farm in the Royal National Park to walk to the Figure of 8 Pools. The day was cloudy and cool and in descending towards Burning Palms we noted the fresh breeze and white capped sea. At the southern end of Burning Palms beach we paused on a grassy knoll for refreshments. Then we headed around the rocky shore and encountered high seas breaking ahead at the point. Eight sensibles returned to the grassy knoll while 17 intrepids faced the waves. We continued on but around the point was a major and very recent rock fall blocking the way. We persevered, scrambling nimbly (some of us) over the huge boulders, displaced soil and tree stumps. Alas, after all this, the Figure 8 Pools were awash beneath the breakers. They were clearly visible from the higher rocks but you couldn't walk out to them. Next time ... The return to the beach meant again rounding the point. This time several intrepids got a comprehensive soaking from the sea. Still, we all enjoyed a lunch and then headed up by way of Palm Jungle and Werrong Lookout; the views were terrific. After that the firetrail was followed 3 km back to the Farm and everyone agreed it had been a pretty good day (Julian Sheen).

### **DON'T FORGET**

**O.F.F. ANNUAL DINNER THIS FRIDAY  
20th October**

## **SNOWY MOUNTAINS 2007**

The Snowy mountains never fail to work their magic - it is wonderful to arrive at **Smiggins Chalet** and experience the dry cool air after Sydney's January heat and humidity.

**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 and there is a very pleasant large common lounge room for pre-dinner happy hours and after dinner get together activities.

If you haven't been for some years it is a great place to come back to, and if you have never been why not join us in 2007 ?

For more information and booking contact **Robin Dickson** on **9580 5663**.

## **NEXT FIELD DAY: UPPER HACKING**

The next field day on **28th October** will be slightly different to that shown in the 2006 Program. The track we intended to take from Helensburgh station was closed after the bushfires in the 1990s and we will now start our walk at Garawarra Farm (as for the previous field day). This time we will go westward down The Burgh Track into the **rainforest along the valley of the Upper Hacking River**. Lunch will be at the northern end of Red Cedar Flats picnic area on Lady Wakehurst Drive, and participants may arrange to join or leave the group there if they do not wish to do the full walk. See overleaf for further details.

## **WALK AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING**

Members who have seen Al Gore's 'An Inconvenient Truth' or who are concerned about the now irrefutable facts of global warming should, if possible, join the 'Walk Against Warming' on **Saturday, 4th November**. This big event, co-ordinated by the Nature Conservation Council and supported by virtually all environmental groups, will commence at **11am in Martin Place, Sydney**. It will highlight the need to reduce carbon emissions, and has been timed to coincide with rallies throughout Australia and the world prior to the United Nations Climate Change Conference at Nairobi, on 16th-17th November.

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

**October 23rd (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.** 7.45 pm. Debbie Andrew will speak on ' Ecology of the Tiger Quoll - a threatened species' (see overleaf).

**October 28th (Saturday) FIELD DAY. UPPER HACKING RIVER.** Meet at Garawarra Farm car park at 9.30 am (as for the previous field day in September). Take Sir Bertram Stevens Drive through the Royal National Park, turn into the Garie Beach Road and almost immediately turn right onto the unsealed Garawarra Road. Follow this for about 2 km to the car park. After morning tea we will walk down The Burgh Track, cross to the western side of the Hacking River and continue through magnificent rainforest and open forest to the waratah farm (which supplied many of the waratahs for the Sydney Olympic Games). We will then proceed to the northern section of Red Cedar Flat picnic area where we expect to have lunch about 12.30 pm. As this is on Lady Wakehurst Drive (about 6 km south of Joan Holland Bridge) some participants may wish to arrange transport for either joining or leaving us there if they do not wish to do the full walk.

After lunch we will explore some minor tracks through the rainforest between Lady Wakehurst Drive and the Hacking River, returning to Garawarra Farm via Boora Flat and The Burgh Track again. Except for some short rainforest sections most of the 9 km walk is along well maintained tracks and roads. The final 2 km are a steady climb with many steps, but we can take it slowly and have frequent stops. Wear good walking shoes and bring lunch, water and hat. Leaders: Joan and Fred Bell, tel 9525 0552 or 0409 449 770 (mobile).

**November 27th (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.** 7.45 pm. Paul Storm will speak on 'Australian Flora & Fauna in Philately and the Decorative Arts'.

### 50th ANNIVERSARY PLANTING

There was a disappointing lack of participation in the Anniversary planting day on 7th October. Only four O.F.F. members came to help plant about 250 plants to improve habitat at Yawolloh Reserve. Julie McInnes from Hurstville City Council and one local resident also attended. A special thank you to Matt Allison who, in addition to a big effort of planting on the day, also planned and coordinated the project. Thanks also to Julie McInnes for arranging community liaison as well as attending on the day, to David Crawford who assisted with site preparation (110 planting holes), and to those members who did attend. (by Jan Douglas)

### SIGNIFICANT LOCAL FAUNA SIGHTINGS

As reported in local newspapers, several sightings of a wallaby (probably a **Swamp Wallaby**, *Macropis bicolor*) have been made in **Oatley Park** by local residents during the past few months. No similar sightings had been reported in this area since 1997. The **Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) is a spectacular waterbird, sparsely distributed around the Australian coast and rarely seen in the Sydney area. However, a specimen was observed last month on the Georges River near **Lugarno** by Debbie Andrew. From the colouring of a band on its leg she found out that it had been caught, banded and released at Ashby Island on the Clarence River in October last year.

### VERY BRIEFLY ....

**National Water Week:** October 15-21.

**Oatley Flora & Fauna Annual Dinner:** October 20

**Oatley Lions Festival:** Saturday, October 21. Please visit our stall, perhaps buy some plants, give stall holders a half hour break, or help pack up at the end.

**Rainforest birds tour with Steve Anyon-Smith:**

October 29, Sunday morning, Royal National Park. Cost \$30 per person. Further details and bookings, NPWS Discovery Program: 9542 0649 or 9542 0666

**Walk Against Warming:** November 4, Saturday, 11am, Martin Place, Sydney. Further details: Nature Conservation Council, 9279 2466 (see overleaf also).

**O.F.F. Christmas Picnic:** December 4, Monday, 5.30pm, Steamroller Park. Details next O.F.F. News.

### DID YOU KNOW ?

The last volcanic eruption on the Australian mainland was **only 5000 years ago at Mount Gambier**, South Australia. This was about the same time as the Sphinx and first Egyptian pyramids were being constructed, and after the Sumerian urban civilization had become well established. Other relatively recent eruptions were in **North Queensland about 12,000 years ago** and feature in the Aboriginal oral history of this part of Australia. (from Professor Bernard Joyce, University of Melbourne)