



O.F.F. NEWS

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MYLES DUNPHY RESERVE

O.F.F. Committee has recently written to **Hurstville Council and The Leader**, expressing concerns about the future of Myles Dunphy Reserve. Our views are:

- the bushland in the reserve must be protected and preserved,
- the bowling club site must retain the present zoning, i.e. open space/recreation,
- there must be consultation with the local community on the future of the bowling club.

At our next monthly meeting on **23rd April** (see overleaf), **Heather Stolle** will speak about bushcare in the reserve. Heather is a member of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators and is a **Bushcare Officer with Hurstville City Council**. Her talk will provide a good opportunity for members to discuss this important and topical issue.

THE OATLEY DUNPHYS

The naming of Myles Dunphy Reserve, after a remarkable Oatley resident, was suggested by O.F.F. and approved by Hurstville Council in 1992.

Myles Dunphy OBE, who died in 1985, was largely responsible for some of our most important national parks, and is often regarded as the 'Father of Australian Conservation'. His effective conservation campaigning was continued and extended by his son **Dr Milo Dunphy OA**, former Total Environment Centre Director, who died prematurely in 1996.

Myles' remaining son is **Professor Dexter Dunphy**, a distinguished international authority on organisational behaviour. He is currently focusing on the roles of corporate organisations in achieving sustainability, and this may well provide an effective approach to conservation in a future global corporate economy.

PERSONAL LINKS TO THE DUNPHYS

Around 1948-49, as a young scout leader and keen hiker/camper, I knew the odd name *Myles Dunphy* quite well. A number of **maps prepared by Myles** for bushwalkers, and bearing his name, were frequently used by my troop. They were then the best available maps for most of our hiking and camping activities.

A few years later, when I was working in the NSW Water Commission, that odd name kept coming up again amongst the senior engineers, usually coupled

with 'crank', 'ratbag' and much worse. They were struggling to answer **Myles' persistent public criticisms** of plans for water supply dams on the Warragamba, Shoalhaven, Colo and Grose Rivers (all except Warragamba were later abandoned).

In 1972 I joined the management committee of the newly formed **Total Environment Centre**, which had just appointed **Milo Dunphy** as its first Director. I remained a member of this committee for more than 20 years, working part-time with Milo and his staff as a voluntary scientific advisor. During that period I prepared and edited many of TEC's technical reports and I also accompanied Milo on some of his **bushwalks with politicians** (notably Bob Carr).

Frankly, it was not easy for me to work with Milo. His passionate, never-give-in approach was not at all compatible with the objectivity and logical rigour expected in my efforts as a professional scientist. Nevertheless, I deeply respected the **strength of his commitment** to conservation and his great **ability to influence important people**. He was a brilliant speaker, writer and debater, and from him I learned (slowly and reluctantly) that words are so often much more powerful than facts and numbers.

As a University of NSW academic during the 1980s, I also had occasional contacts with **Dexter Dunphy**. Only recently, however, did I realise how relevant some of his work could be to **conservation in an uncertain future**. (Fred Bell)

COLO WALK REPORT: 1st APRIL

Twenty members and friends gathered at the village of Wilberforce on a beautiful Sunday morning before driving off down the Putty Road. North of the Colo River bridge we found the turnoff to Bob Turner's track and reunited at the smaller bush car park at the top of the trail. The descent into the gorge was slow which meant we could enjoy the view and the ambience of the bush. On reaching the bottom we were truly rewarded by a beautiful river, beach and gentle rapids. The water was clear as crystal and the rocks shone underneath. Lunch and swimming were a great pleasure. We then faced the climb back to the top which, it was agreed, was arduous. But in time we all made it to the car park and agreed that it was well worth the effort. (Julian Sheen)

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

April 23 (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7.45pm. Heather Stolle will give a talk on bushcare in Myles Dunphy Reserve entitled "**Small reserve: big impact**" (see overleaf).

April 28 (Saturday) FIELD DAY. Narrow Neck Fire Trail to Clear Hill. **Approx. 20 km return.** Magnificent views over Kanangra-Boyd wilderness and Lake Burragorang. **Meet 8.45 am at the locked gate** about 1 km from Golden Stairs car park. To get there, drive from Katoomba along Cliff Drive and turn into Glenraphael Drive. Continue until you reach the locked gate about 3 km from the Cliff Drive turn off. About **2 hours drive from Oatley.** As this is a full day walk, bring plenty of water, hat, first aid kit, morning tea and lunch plus snacks. Wear strong walking boots/shoes as the gravel road is undulating with some steep grades and is rocky/eroded in places. There is a scramble up off the road along a short rough track to the morning tea spot where there are fine views. **Children on the walk will need to be carefully supervised** as there are sheer cliffs with no guard rails at some viewing spots. Clothing for changeable weather is also advisable.

Participants who do not want to walk the full 20 km can return at any time after signing off. A good place to do this is after the morning tea stop which is approximately an hour's walking from the car park. Leaders: **Peter and Lesley Cox, tel 9579 3782 or 0438 878 774 (M).**

May 28 (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7.45 pm. Ken Griffiths will speak on Frogs and Reptiles of Sydney.

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL CLEAN UP

A free clean up for household chemicals will be held from 9am to 3.30pm on **Saturday 26th May** for all Sydney residents. The collection point for this area will be the Hurstville Council Works Depot, cnr Depot Rd and Roberts Ave. Paints, pesticides, herbicides, oils and fuels, solvents and cleaners, batteries, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, pool chemicals, fluorescent tubes, acids and alkalis will all be accepted. More details: www.cleanout.com.au or **131 555** (thanks to Jim Nicholson for this item).

OATLEY PARK THIS MONTH

Alan Fairley has listed the following plants in Oatley Park that should be flowering conspicuously now:

Sunshine Wattle (*Acacia terminalis*; shrub to 2m, bipinnate leaves, bright yellow flowers)

Sweet-scented Wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*; slender shrub to 2m, pale yellow or cream flowers)

Variable Bossiaea (*Bossiaea heterophylla*; shrub to 1m, yellow and red pea-type flowers)

Rough Wax-flower (*Philothea scabra*; white with 5 petals, small shrub on sheltered slopes).

Native Fuchsia (*Correa reflexa*; yellow-green bell-shaped flowers, Hills Lookout and sheltered places)

Woolisia (*Woolisia pungens*; small sharp leaves and clusters of white flowers, along Headland Track.

VERY BRIEFLY

Illawarra Grevillea Park Open Days: April 28 & 29, May 5 & 6, 10am-4pm. Princes Highway, Bulli. Details: 4284 9216 or info@grevilleapark.org.

Homo sapiens: Overabundant and Ultimate Pest ? Public Forum, Dr Alan Jones: Saturday, April 28, 2pm, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St Sydney. Further information: 9939 6889

Beat the Drought Talk: Tuesday, May 1, 10.30am-12pm, Royal Botanic Gardens. \$18. Bookings: Friends of Botanic Gardens, tel 9231 8182.

St George Councils' Eco-living workshop: Saturday, May 5, 2-4pm, Syd Frost Memorial Hall, Hawthorne St, Ramsgate. Bookings etc: 9330 6260.

Recommended DVD on oil crisis: "Crude Impact", www.crudeimpact.com/page.asp?content_id=9638.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"I want to see the evidence, I want to see the science. I mean, these sweeping generalisations are next to useless", **John Howard** on global warming, ABC's Four Corners, 28/8/06 (following the release of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*).

"There is no point in saving the planet if we ruin the economy doing it", **Morris Iemma** (reported in *The Land* 8/2/07 p.24).