



O.F.F. NEWS



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NEXT MEETING: GREAT AUSSIE TREES

At our next monthly meeting on **27th August** (see over), the speaker will be **Bob Beale**, well-known environmental author and journalist.

In a note about his talk, Bob refers to 'passionate debate' about top Aussie sports stars, entertainers, artists, writers, politicians etc. He then writes ".....But what if you asked Australians to list our **greatest individual trees?** Most would probably struggle to name just one. Yet their ranks include both the world's oldest and tallest living things; trees of great rarity and astonishing beauty; trees sculpted and gnarled by centuries of flood, fire and drought; and trees that are the living embodiment of our remarkable natural and human heritage. Without them, our society could not exist. Perhaps our love-hate relationship with native trees – think ring-bark, chainsaw, bulldozer and woodchip – has blinded us to what they can teach us about our environment, to the special stories they can tell us about ourselves, or simply to inspire us."

Bob's presentation will give us a 'sneak preview' of his forthcoming book "**If trees could talk**" and it is sure to be of great interest to all O.F.F. members.

OATLEY PARK IN SEPTEMBER

In September the following should all be flowering conspicuously:

- Myrtle-leaf Wattle** (*Acacia myrtifolia*; shrub to 1 m, short broad leaves, pale yellow balls up to 8 in group)
- Sunshine Wattle** (*Acacia terminalis*; shrub to 3m, feathery leaves, pale yellow balls up to 40 in group)
- Sweet-scented Wattle** (*Acacia suaveolens*; slender shrub to 2m, straight narrow leaves, pale yellow balls)
- Pink Spider Flowers** (*Grevillea sericea*; shrub to 2m, flowers usually pink but sometimes white)
- Green spider Flowers** (*Grevillea mucronulata*; low or spreading shrub to 1.5m, groups of 6 or more flowers)
- Rough Wax-flowers** (*Philotheca scabra*; small shrub on sheltered slopes, white flowers with 5 petals)
- Fuschia Heath** (*Epacris longiflora*; 2 cm red tubes with white lobes, sharp-pointed leaves to 12 mm long)
- Bush Pea** (*Pultenaea stipularis*; shrub to 2m, yellow pea-type flowers, crowded thin leaves to 3cm long).

from list provided by Alan Fairley

FINAL NOTICE: ANNUAL DINNER

Oatley Flora & Fauna 2007 Annual Dinner will be held on **Friday 21st September**, 7.00 pm, at **Penshurst RSL Club** in the Legends Lounge. Cost: \$32 per person for a three-course meal including tea or coffee. A vegetarian option is available. Drinks can be purchased at the bar. **Robin Dickson** will be taking bookings and payments at the **August monthly meeting**, or she can be contacted on **9580 5663**

WALKING THE WODI WODI, 28th JULY

There were 19 of us eagerly anticipating a day of good company and spectacular views from the escarpment over Stanwell Park. After warm welcomes and morning tea at the kiosk, the usual 'riot act' was expertly read (thanks to John Davoren), featuring 'what would happen to us if we forgot our shoes, hats or pills'. We then signed the warrant and were off - down the road a km, a bit of tricky parking, ducked under the railway line and our journey had begun.

A gentle rise through the Blackbutt Forest got our agile bodies ready for the stiffer half hour climb to the summit where we were rewarded with views of the historic viaduct, Stanwell Park valley, and lungs full of fresh air. Another 150m to where 'lunch was served', views of the Seacliff Bridge, sparkling beaches and headlands north and south, and where someone claimed a 'sighting of NZ'.

Our ever nimble legs made short work of the descent, although we were impressed with some children playing chasings whilst running **up** hill ! Report by Joan Bell, who was ~~not~~ the leader. (~~not~~ edited)

NEXT DONATIONS FOR LAPTOP

In the renewal of memberships last year we were invited to make optional donations to help update O.F.F. equipment. The very generous responses to this enabled the purchase of a digital projector which is now being used for presentations at our monthly meetings (see July/Aug O.F.F. News). The Committee has decided to invite donations again with the next renewal of memberships. If the responses are similar, we propose to purchase a laptop computer to complement the projector and assist our Secretary in her record keeping and other work for O.F.F.

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

August 27 (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7.45pm. Bob Beale will speak on 'If trees could talk: great Australian tree stories' (see over)

September 1 (Saturday) FIELD DAY- Kurrajong Heights bushland meander. Meet for morning tea at **Bill and Ruby's place 10.30 am**, 5 Stanley Avenue, Kurrajong Heights (off Bellbird Ave), about 2 hours drive from Oatley. The first section of the meander is down the steep slope behind Bill and Ruby's place to inspect rainforest along **Little Wheeny Creek**. On returning we drive about 4km to Kurrajong Heights and take a short easy to moderate walk along a disused **historic road** built about 1850. We then continue driving towards Bilpin about 6km and turn off to **Burralow Swamp picnic area** where there is a good lunch spot and an easy walk for several km along an interesting valley with signs of early farming, scribbly gums, native orchids, a glow worm cave and a waterfall. Total walking time all together is about 2 hours. Bring strong walking shoes, hat, lunch and drinking water. Leader: **Bill Holland 0425 357 993**

September 24 (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7.45 pm. Nancy Pallin (Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society) will speak on 'The wonderful world of bats'.

CAPE YORK HERITAGE AREA

When the Wet Tropics of North Queensland were officially inscribed as a World Heritage Area in 1988 many conservationists considered that parts of Cape York Peninsula were equally worthy and should have been included. Their assessments of the conservation values of the Peninsula were confirmed in 2001 when an expert study for the Queensland Government found it easily met all the criteria for a World Heritage Area. That study, and persistent lobbying by conservation groups, eventually resulted in the introduction of **the Cape York Peninsular Heritage Bill** to the Queensland Parliament in June 2007. If this is passed it should provide protection for an area as large as Tasmania which The Wilderness Society describes as **'one of the three most unspoiled wilderness areas on earth'**. In addition to its natural values it has very significant historical and Aboriginal cultural values. As some opposition to the Bill is expected, The Wilderness Society and other conservation groups are continuing their effective lobbying and campaigning.

UPDATES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Recent noteworthy developments on this issue are:

- **The Greens** have introduced a **'Climate Futures Bill'** to the NSW Parliament, and their Federal colleagues have launched an Energy Efficiency Access and Savings Initiative (**EASI**) to assist household energy savings throughout Australia.

- Dozens of **local climate action groups** are now operating in the Sydney area. Typical of these is Sutherland Community Action Network (**SCAN**) which has over 100 members.
- Climate action groups throughout the World are dismayed by President Bush's **'Major Emitters Summit'** on September 27-28 which they believe aims to sabotage the efforts of the Kyoto Protocol.

VERY BRIEFLY

Concert for Cape York: August 26, Sunday. Sydney Town Hall, 2.30pm-5pm. All proceeds for protection of Cape York. The Wilderness Society, 9282 9553.

Keep Australia Beautiful Week: Aug 27-Sept 2, Details: www.keeppaustraliabeautiful.org.au

National Threatened Species Day: September 7, Details: www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/tsday

Lugarno Lions' Sustainability Expo: Sept 16, part of 2007 Lugarno Lions' Spring Festival. Promoted by Hurstville, Kogarah and Rockdale Councils. Displays, educational stalls, UNSW Solar Car, water and energy efficient products etc. etc. Information: 9330 6260.

NOTABLE QUOTE

"If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed". Chinese proverb introducing an item on climate change in *American Scientist*, Vol 80, 1992 (during the George Bush Senior Administration).