



O.F.F. NEWS



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

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AGM FIRST MEETING OF 2007

Best wishes for the New Year to all our members and friends are extended by the 2006 Committee. The first meeting this year will be the Annual General Meeting on **Monday, 5th February**, when the 2007 office bearers and Committee will be elected, followed by slides/pictures and a light supper, as detailed overleaf.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS: JANUARY 13-20

15 people arrived at Smiggin Holes to a smoky haze which did not clear until Tuesday. Fortunately, this was the day we had chosen to undertake the **high Main Range** (Lakes Walk, Thredbo Chairlift, Summit walkway) - an excellent decision as it turned out.

By Wednesday everyone was into the swing of things and all went to **Rainbow Lake** except for two energetic walkers who took off for **Mt Stillwell** and beyond. Near the end of the Rainbow Lake walk we were advised that **the Park had been closed** - a fire alert was in place ! Thredbo holidaymakers were evacuated that afternoon and we were informed that Smiggins would be evacuated if necessary, but probably not until Saturday (the day we were due to leave). Thursday afternoon the whole group visited **Happy Valley**, a working property and museum at Adaminaby. On the way we were delighted to drive through heavy, widespread rain. That evening all 15 of us enjoyed an excellent meal at **Stillwell Lodge Restaurant, Charlotte Pass**. The fire situation had now eased but the Main Range walking tracks and part of the Alpine Way remained closed.

Porcupine Rocks, Mount Piper and the Rennix Walk are a sample of the other walks enjoyed. Our evening get-togethers were also very much appreciated, thanks to those who provided DVD presentations and slides. Sadly, the countryside remains in severe drought and the rate of vegetation regeneration after the 2003 fire is disappointing. However, as usual, **a great time was had by all** - GREAT FUN - GREAT COMPANY ! (thanks to Robin Dickson for this report)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you paid your annual subscriptions for 2007 ? If not, please post your cheque to P.O. Box 52, Mortdale 2223, or pay Lesley at the AGM on 5th February. The subscription is \$25 per person or family (living at the same address).

DON McMINN

Sadly, we have to report the death of Don McMinn on 3rd January. Don was a foundation member of O.F.F., was one of the six people on the steering committee formed 30th November 1955 and was a member of the first elected committee in 1956. He lived in Bay Road, West Oatley, for 80 years and his parents owned paddocks which extended down to the Lime Kiln Bay wetlands. Don gave an interview for our 50th Anniversary, outlining his early involvement in Oatley Park and O.F.F. which is printed in *Being Green* (the history of O.F.F.).

(Alan Fairley)

RALLY AGAINST NSW PLANNING SYSTEM

The recent 'planning reforms' of the NSW Government have **outraged community groups** concerned with the environment, quality of suburban living, and fairness to small property owners. Many of these groups have come together to organise a **protest rally** at Hyde Park, Sydney on **Sunday, 11th February** at 11 am. Details may be obtained from Rolf Clapham on 0407 900 615, Rosemary Hadaway on 9633 3380 or at www.kabnsw.org.au.

GLOBAL WARMING: GLIMMERS OF HOPE

Following signs of **attitudinal shifts** by U.S. and Australian governments on global warming last year (see O.F.F. News 2006/6, 2006/11), there is more recent good news in this area, including the following:

- A landmark ruling by the Land and Environment Court that environmental assessments must include the greenhouse gas emissions from the **burning of exported coal**, and a decision by the NSW Government not to appeal against the ruling.
- Approval by the Federal Government of a **\$220 million wind farm** at Bald Hills in Victoria.
- The announcement of a large renewable energy package by the Federal Government, including a \$75 million contribution towards building the **world's largest** solar energy plant with a capacity of **154 MW**.
- Development of a photovoltaic cell in U.S.A. with a conversion **efficiency of 41%**, promising to greatly reduce the cost of generating solar energy.
- **Professor Tim Flannery** named 'Australian of the Year', which will further strengthen his impressive efforts to promote renewable energy and conservation.

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 5 (Monday) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 7.45pm. Reports on O.F.F.'s 2006 activities (including financial activities as listed below), and election of office bearers and Committee for 2007. 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' pictures and a light supper.** If you have digital pictures on a CD or slides of interesting places or Society activities, please bring a few of them along. Also, **please bring a plate of finger food** to contribute to the supper.

February 26 (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7.45pm. This will feature a talk by **Dr Kathy Stewart** of University of Sydney and some of her students on 'The Oatley Project' (more details in next issue of O.F.F. News).

March 3 (Saturday) FIELD DAY, Milsons Point Wharf to Greenwich Wharf. This is the first section of the Inner Harbour Loop Walk. Great views and the bushland headlands of Balls Point and Berry Island. About 10 km, taking about 4 hours + lunch. Meet at Milsons Point Wharf (next to Luna Park) at 9.45am. Catch 8.39am train from Mortdale; change at Town Hall for Milsons Point. Then walk down hill to wharf. Or catch the 9.35am ferry from Circular Quay. Leader: Alan Fairley.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF OATLEY FLORA AND FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC. FOR YEAR ENDED 31.12.06 Lesley Wylie, Hon. Treasurer (J. Watters Consultant)

<u>Credit Balance as at 01.01.06</u>	\$4,492.76	
<u>Receipts</u>		
Membership subscriptions	4455.00	
Donations	1235.00	
Annual Dinner	1560.00	
Ann. Dinner Raffle	105.00	
Sales – Plants/Books	263.50	
Stalls Proceeds	220.00	
Off History	150.00	
Mug Sales	196.00	
Interest	26.51	8,211.01
		\$12,703.77
<u>Payments</u>		
Printing/Postage	900.55	
Annual Returns	78.00	
Donation Uniting Church	260.00	
Projector Repairs	300.00	
Printing Programs	212.00	
PO Box rental	60.00	
Annual Dinner	1456.00	
Donations (see Note)	1100.00	
Public Risk Insurance Policy	749.52	
Kog.Council Grant Expense	830.00	
Oatley Lions Festival	90.00	
Nature Cons. Council Subs.	172.50	
Colong Foundn. Subs.	25.00	
'Being Green' Printing	199.55	
Sundries	116.74	6,549.86
<u>Credit Balance as at 31.12.06</u>		\$6,153.91

<u>Credit Balance as at 31.12.06</u>	\$6,153.91
Add Cash Management Trust a/c	7,445.99
	\$13,599.90
Less balance of KMC Grant	170.00
Total Society Funds	\$13,429.90

Note: Donations (\$100) Total Environmental Centre, Birds Australia, Kuringai Bats, WIRES, Wilderness Society, Environmental Defender's Office, Gene Ethics Network, NCC Climate Change, Protectors of Belrose Bushland. (\$200) Australian Bush Heritage.

The Society's funds at 31.12.06 were \$13,430 including \$1,718 in The President's Fund for donations to other environmental bodies.

Included in the Society's funds is 2007 Subscriptions in advance of \$1,625 representing 43% of members. Generous donations of \$970 were received Nov/Dec as contributions towards the purchase of a digital projector – Thank you.

VERY BRIEFLY

World Wetlands Day: February 2.

Rally against NSW Gov't Planning: February 11, Sunday, 11am, Hyde Park, Sydney (see item on p.1).

Oatley Lions' 30th Celebration: March 22, Thursday 7pm, Roslyn Gardens, Peakhurst. Details and bookings: Wendy Cornish 9570 5332 .

Clean Up Australia: March 4, Sunday. Details in next O.F.F. News and at February monthly meeting.