



O.F.F. NEWS



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JASON'S QUEST

Jason Cockayne will be the speaker at our next monthly meeting on 23rd July (see overleaf). The topic of his talk will be '**Restoration work at Lime Kiln Bay**' which is one of his particular responsibilities as Hurstville Council's Wetland Officer. This project is not concerned with the mangroves but aims to restore the **rushes and sedges** of the freshwater creeks and wetlands. Jason is a local resident and has recently become a member of O.F.F. We look forward to gaining much knowledge from his experience and expertise in an important area of conservation for our waterways and shores.

PARKING PROBLEM AT NEXT MEETING

We have been warned that members with disabilities could have difficulty getting to the next monthly meeting. They may have to walk up the steps from Letitia Street to reach the door of the Uniting Church. **The parking area could be temporarily closed** to vehicles and pedestrians as it is scheduled for resealing around 23rd July, the date of the meeting.

BALMAIN-BEDLAM WALK REPORT

After a pleasant but chilly ferry ride we arrived at the starting place - Kissing Point. A young couple spied by a walker proved this spot true to its name - a good start to the day! In the bitter westerly wind, 21 of us, including the leader, gathered to sign on and then eagerly moved off to thaw out. We meandered through waterfront reserves, deviating into some residential streets with interesting mixtures of building types. Our morning tea stop, Putney Park, could boast the best tubular slippery dip in Sydney - tested and agreed by some of our young-at-heart members !

Spectacular river views abounded and we enjoyed the native flora and birds along the way to our lunch spot at Banjo Paterson Park. After lunch we viewed the outside of Banjo Paterson Cottage at Bedlam Point (wedding in progress inside). This was followed by a look over the well tended grounds and fascinating buildings of the old Gladesville Hospital, then to Gladesville Wharf for our return ferry. The one disappointment of the day was that the promised Banjo ballads did not eventuate. A GREAT DAY THANKS TO CLIFF CRANE ! (report by Robin Dickson)

O.F.F. ANNUAL DINNER 2007

The 2007 **Annual Dinner** will be held on **Friday 21st September**, 7.00 pm, at Peshurst 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 accepting payment at both the July and August monthly meetings, or can be contacted on **9580 5663**.

UPDATE ON MYLES DUNPHY RESERVE

In response to a letter from O.F.F. Committee on the future of Myles Dunphy Reserve, Hurstville Council's property manager has written to inform us that:

- **information is still being obtained** to review future options for the former bowling club site,
- when Councillors are informed of the options, **"full consultation with the public** and special interest groups will be undertaken, including public meetings and written submissions."
- ".... the Council has **not resolved** to develop or dispose of the former bowling club site."

A number of O.F.F. members took part in an excellent walk through Myles Dunphy Reserve on 3rd July. This was led by Heather Stolle, following her talk on the reserve at the May monthly meeting. The walk clearly demonstrated the very impressive efforts of Heather and her bushcare volunteers in restoring the original native vegetation of the area.

NATURE OF SOUTHERN SYDNEY

In a **combined celebration** of the National Parks Association's 50th anniversary and the National Parks and Wildlife Service's 40th anniversary there will be a special series of **eight evening lectures and several field trips** by experts in botany, zoology, geology, Aboriginal history and related topics. They will refer particularly to southern Sydney, and the field program will feature inspiring locations. The lectures will be held on Thursday evenings at St George & Sutherland Community College, Jannali, from **2nd August to 20th September**. Cost per person: \$55. For details and bookings, contact the College on 9528 3344 or Gary Schoer on 9570 1813, or see www.sgsc.nsw.edu.au.

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

July 23 (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7.45pm. Jason Cockayne will speak on 'Restoration work at Lime Kiln Bay, Oatley Park'.

July 28 (Saturday) FIELD DAY- STANWELL PARK - WODI WODI TRACK. The walk starts at **10 am near the Beach Kiosk** at the end of Station Street, Stanwell Park. If you wish to come by train catch 8.48am train from Oatley and change at Sutherland for 9.11am Kiama train, arriving at Stanwell Park 9.45am. Depending on the weather, we will have morning tea and spend some time at the beach. We will then go by car about 1.4 km south of the beach to the start of the Wodi Wodi track (which is hard to find if you don't know it). The **first 2 km** of the track is a **fairly gentle rise** along parts of the old historic Bullock Road to the picturesque Blackbutt Forest. We then climb for about **1 km up a steep track** with steps to the top of the escarpment. Here there are **great views** of the coastline, Seacliff Bridge, historic viaduct etc, and it's a good spot for lunch (there are other options for people who want to avoid the steep climb). The viewing places have no guard rails so children will need to be carefully supervised. Return essentially the same way, the total walking distance for the full trip being **about 6 km**. Wear hat and strong shoes. Bring lunch, water and extra coat if weather is changeable. Leaders: **Joan and Fred Bell**, tel 9525 0552, mob 0409 449 770.

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

'A CRUDE AWAKENING'

This highly recommended documentary film, similar in style to 'An Inconvenient Truth', explores an even more pressing issue. The world is rapidly approaching 'peak oil' (an expected dramatic change in supply). We are using crude oil faster than it can be produced, and global reserves are becoming depleted. No new major fields have been discovered since the 1970s.

The film shows how oil affects every part of our lives, from the obvious such as transport to the less obvious such as food production (with fertilizers), medicine, cosmetics, etc. It is a sobering thought that so many products we take for granted may be unaffordable in just a few years. One of the experts in the film says bluntly that he doubts his grandchildren will ever fly in a plane because air travel will become prohibitively expensive. The worry of this crisis is that governments are not taking it seriously and not investing in a future less dependant on oil. This is said to be because politicians would not get elected if they suggested our way of life will have to change.

'A Crude Awakening' is a film that all should see. It has been showing at the 'arthouse theatres' such as the Chauvel at Paddington and the Cremorne Orpheum, and is expected at other theatres soon. (thanks to **Graham Fry** for this review)

VERY BRIEFLY

'Twenty years of the Wilderness Act', The Colong Foundation for Wilderness: Tuesday July 24, 6.30pm, 'The Station' at Jackson's Landing, Bowman Street, Pyrmont. Presentations by the Hon Bob Carr and Henry Gold OAM. Drinks and supper provided, entry by donation at door. Details and RSVP : 9261 2400.

'Secrets of the Silk Road', free slideshow by Peter Vaughan, Wednesday July 25, 8pm. Multi Purpose Centre, 123 Flora St Sutherland. National Parks Association. Details: 9299 0000, www.npansw.org.au

Schools Tree Day: July 27.

National Tree Day: July 29.

NPWS and NPA Anniversary Lectures: Each Thursday from August 2 to September 20, 7pm, St George & Sutherland Community College, Jannali. Cost per person \$55. (see 'Nature of southern Sydney' overleaf for more details)

OFF JOKE

NPWS ranger to man on river bank: "That's a big bag of fish. How many have you caught ?"

Man: "If you can guess that, you can have them".

NPWS ranger: "Can I, really ?"

Man: "Yes, both of them."

(from Cliff Crane on walk, in lieu of Banjo ballad)