



# O.F.F. NEWS



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## ANOTHER URBAN OASIS

With its safe, leafy streets, family-friendly homes, and bushland gardens, Oatley has been described as an **'oasis in the urban blight'**. Similar sentiments are expressed about Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens by Libby Cameron, the speaker at our next monthly meeting. Her talk is entitled **'Maintaining an oasis in the concrete jungle'**. Libby represents the *Friends of the RBG* which aims to promote enjoyment and understanding of the Gardens, and also to protect their conservation, scientific, educational and recreational values. As the objectives, outlook and some of the problems of *Friends of the RBG* are much the same as ours, this should be a very informative meeting. It will be on **Monday, 25th June**, as detailed overleaf.

## NORTH HEAD LOOP WALK REPORT

In glorious weather on 2nd June, 17 O.F.F. members set out from Manly to walk the North Head Loop track of **Sydney Harbour National Park**. Panoramic views of the Harbour were the highlight of the morning, with a very pleasant coffee break at Little Manly Cove. We then continued on through the old gasworks site which is now **Little Manly Reserve**. As we approached the coast the old anti-aircraft battery installations were inspected, and the track passed through natural bushland with Grey Spider flower (*Grevillea buxifolia*), Fuchsia Heath (*Epacris longiflora*), and Flannel Flower (*Actinotus helianthi*) all in bloom. The lunch stop was above **Shelly Beach** where extensive views of the northern beaches were enjoyed. **Cabbage Tree Aquatic Reserve** was the final section of the walk, completing a great day for us all. (report by Heather Mackey, field day leader)

## O.F.F. ANNUAL DINNER 2007

**September 21st** has been selected for the social event of the year, our Annual Dinner. Details of the venue etc will be given in later issues of O.F.F. News.

## 'BEING GREEN' AT NEXT MEETING

'Being Green' is a history of the Society written by Alan Fairley for our 50th Anniversary in 2005. It will be available again at the next monthly meeting on 25th June for \$10.00 per copy. See Alan at the desk near the back of the room.

## NORM TONKIN

We were extremely sorry to hear of the death of Norm Tonkin on 16th June. Norm and Winn Tonkin have been members of the Society since 1968 and have played important roles in many of our activities. Until recently they owned Smiggins Chalet in the Snowy Mountains and made it available to the Society for our annual January visits to this part of NSW. They also owned 'Scottsdale', a 1,300 hectare property in southern NSW which was recently acquired by the Australian Bush Heritage Fund. Winn continues to be a regular participant in our monthly meetings and field days.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Winn, and to family and relatives.

## MYLES DUNPHY RESERVE WALK

Following her stimulating presentation at the April monthly meeting (see April/May O.F.F. News), Heather Stolle has agreed to lead a 2-hour walk through Myles Dunphy Reserve on **Tuesday, 26th June** (details overleaf). The walk will be **open only to the first 15 people** who book by calling Julian Sheen on 9594 4888. As shown by Heather in her talk, this local bushland reserve has substantial conservation significance and future actions may be necessary to protect it from impending development.

## NEW PROJECTOR AT WORK ALREADY

As mentioned in the previous O.F.F. News, the Society has recently purchased a DELL digital projector, the cost of which was met almost entirely from members' donations. We are pleased to report that its value was amply **demonstrated at the May monthly meeting**. It was needed and used then by Ken Griffiths for his presentation on frogs and reptiles.

## GLORIOUS GREVILLEAS GALORE !

Members with strong interests in Grevilleas and Prostantheras must see the special collections of these and other native flora at the 15 hectare **Illawarra Grevillea Park**, Princes Highway, Bulli. It is open to the public on only a few days each year. These include the **last two weekends of July**. Further information: tel 4284 9216 or email [info@grevilleapark.org](mailto:info@grevilleapark.org)

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

**June 25 (Monday) REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7.45pm.** **Libby Cameron** (Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens) will speak on 'Maintaining an oasis in the concrete jungle' (see overleaf).

**June 26 (Tuesday) MIDWEEK WALK - MYLES DUNPHY RESERVE, OATLEY:** (see overleaf) Meet at the old Bowling Club off Mulga Road at 9.30am. Duration: up to 2 hours. Places are limited to 15 and **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.** Phone Julian Sheen on 9594 4888. **Leader: Heather Stolle.**

**June 30 (Saturday) FIELD DAY - TO BEDLAM & BANJO & BACK:** Ferry to Kissing Point, a walk through Putney and Tennyson to Banjo Paterson Reserve at Bedlam Point, Gladesville (and hopefully a look inside *Banjo Paterson Cottage Restaurant!*). Wander among the historic buildings in the former Gladesville Hospital grounds then through Gladesville Park to 3.35 pm return ferry from Huntley's Point wharf. Train from Oatley 7.47am, Mortdale 7.49am. Change at Town Hall for Circular Quay. 9.25 am ferry from Wharf 5. Easy 11 km walk. Bubblers at various points. Bring lunch and camera. **Leader: Cliff Crane,** tel 9580 3269 or mob. 0401 875 391 (on walk day only).

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

### RENEWABLE ENERGY vs LOBBY POWER

**Dr Mark Diesendorf**, an internationally recognised expert on renewable energy, has just released the results of his recent detailed research in a book entitled '**Greenhouse Solutions with Sustainable Energy**'. This clearly shows that most of Australia's future energy needs can be met economically from renewable sources, contradicting the influential (but inexpert and self-interested) claims of the **powerful coal lobby.**

### ADAPTATION OF BIOTA TO WARMING

**Professor Lesley Hughes** of Macquarie University is an authority on the **potential effects of global warming on native plants and animals.** She was the keynote speaker at a forum in Sydney on 12th May and made the following particularly interesting points:

1. The temperature changes expected by 2030 would be equivalent to latitudinal climate shifts of 250 to 500 km, and altitudinal shifts of 200 to 400 m.
2. It will be more difficult for plants and animals to adapt in flat areas than in mountainous areas.
3. In Landcare and Bushcare revegetation programs, some of the new plants should not be propagated from local plants but from the **same species in warmer areas.** This will result in greater genetic diversity and better chances of adaptation.

Point 3 suggests some of the present **Landcare and Bushcare practices may need reviewing.**

### VERY BRIEFLY ....

**Wildlife Awareness Week:** July 1-8

**Native plants for your garden workshop:** Saturday, July 14, 10.30am-12.30pm., Greening Australia Nursery, Knox Road, Doonside. Bookings essential: 9672 4009 or [mclarke@ga.org.au](mailto:mclarke@ga.org.au)

**Illawarra Grevillea Park open days:** Saturdays and Sundays of July 21-22 and 28-29 (see item on p.1).

**'Secrets of the Silk Road'**, by Alan Fairley: Wednesday July 25, 8pm, Multi Purpose Centre, Flora St Sutherland. National Parks Association free slideshow. Details 9299 000, [www.npansw.org.au](http://www.npansw.org.au)

**Schools Tree Day:** July 27.

**National Tree Day:** July 29.

**Recommended new book:** 'Greenhouse Solutions with Sustainable Energy' by Mark Diesendorf. Published by UNSW Press, RRP \$49.95 (see this page under 'Renewable energy vs lobby power'.)

### DID YOU KNOW ?

Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens were established in **1816 by Governor Macquarie** and are regarded as the oldest scientific institution in Australia. A number of trees in the Gardens in 1816 are still living, and the renowned Herbarium contains **over one million preserved plant specimens.** Some of these were collected by Sir Joseph Banks in 1770.