



# O.F.F. NEWS



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

Print Post App. No. PP 255003/03239

Since 1955

Issue: 2008/4

See OFF's Website at - <http://off.oatleypark.com>

April/May 2008

## **WALK: HUNTERS HILL TO LANE COVE N.P.**

Fifteen people enjoyed this 9 km stretch of the Great North Walk on 6<sup>th</sup> April. The track meandered through narrow bushland reserves with scenic views of Lane Cove River. One interesting spot was the site of Fairyland Pleasure Ground which operated from the 1930s to 1970, but is now almost completely overgrown. There were not many wildflowers in bloom (except for some fine pink *Crowea*), but the large number of ground orchid leaves indicated a good flowering later in the year. The weather was mixed, with a heavy shower half way along the route, then clearing to dry us out by the time we reached the Lane Cove National park. It was another good trip to an area few of the participants had visited before. [Report by Alan Fairley – Walk Leader]

## **HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL CLEAN UP**

A free clean up for household chemicals will be held from 9am to 3.30pm on Saturday and Sunday 24-25th May hosted by Hurstville City Council. The collection point is the Hurstville City Council Works Depot, Depot Road (corner Roberts Avenue), Mortdale. 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 131555: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/)

## **PLASTIC POLLUTION!**

The debate about plastic bags continues and clearly many still find them very convenient for shopping, forget to take their own bags and routinely receive 3 to 7 plastic bags at checkout. According to Clean Up Australia we use in excess of 6 billion plastic bags per year. Plastic bags can be hazardous to wildlife, entangling animals or being mistaken for food; they can block drains, trap birds and kill livestock. Recycling plastic bags is one of the most obvious responses, but only 10% of users do so using receptacles at some supermarkets. Bags cannot be included with other household recyclables

[www.abc.net.au/science/features/bags](http://www.abc.net.au/science/features/bags)

## **OATLEY PARK NOW**

Alan Fairley has listed the following plants in Oatley Park that should be flowering 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 (*Philotheca scabra*) - white with 5 petals, small shrub on sheltered slopes.
- Native Fuchsia (*Correa reflexa*) - yellow-green bell shaped flowers, Hills Lookout, sheltered places.
- Woollisia (*Woollisia pungens*) - small sharp leaves and clusters of white flowers, along Headland Track.
- Barbed Wire Grass (*Cymbopogon refractus*) - an upright grass with flower spikes resembling barbed wire, a feature of the park's understorey at the moment.

## **WATER RESTRICTIONS**

The Australian Productivity Commission claims that restricting water use results in, among other things, deterioration of lawns and gardens, and injuries sustained from carrying grey water in buckets. It makes no mention of the benefits achieved by the restrictions, and the waste when restrictions are removed; nor does it consider in detail efficient use of water, careful garden watering, grey water and rainwater tanks. Its answer seems simply to increase water rates. [www.smh.com.au/news/water-issues](http://www.smh.com.au/news/water-issues)

## **RECYCLING WATER**

More than 15,000 households at Rouse Hill are currently connected in a third pipe recycled water scheme run by Sydney Water. The homes have two water supplies: recycled water and drinking water. The taps, pipe work and plumbing fittings are coloured lilac to ensure that recycled water is not confused with drinking water.

[www.urbanecology.org.au](http://www.urbanecology.org.au)

Meetings of the Society are held at the Uniting Church Hall Fredrick St [cnr Letitia St] Oatley starting at 7.45pm, usually on the fourth Monday of the month.

Visitors and accompanied children are welcome to all meetings and excursions.

## COMING EVENTS

- **April 28th (Monday), Regular Monthly Meeting -Speaker: Erin Dixon (Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority)** 'Managing Natural Resources within Sydney.' on the management of Sydney's natural resources and the work entailed in preserving our vulnerable bushland.
- **May 2<sup>nd</sup> (Friday Evening) Field day Spotlighting in Oatley Park.** Meet at the top entrance at 6:00 pm. Bring torch, binoculars [if any] and warm clothes. Children to be accompanied by an adult. Expect 2 hours. **Leader Debbie Andrew** contacted (w) 95856915 (h) 95702695.
- **May 26<sup>th</sup> (Monday), Regular Monthly Meeting Speaker: Martyn Robinson (Australian Museum)** 'Backyard Invertebrates'
- **June 1<sup>st</sup> (Sunday) Field day to Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens-'Cool climate garden in the Blue Mountains'** **Leader: Robin Dickson**
- **June 23rd (Monday) Regular Monthly Meeting and Lloyd Hedges** on 'Outback trip to Corner Country'

## EARTH HOUR

24 global cities participated at 8pm on March 29. Our area seemed to go well, but only a few restaurants arranged candle-light dinners. Some households lit the lantern or fire-safe candle as a sign of their participation. Some houses, apparently opposed, left all lights on – including some they rarely use!

## MYLES DUNPHY RESERVE

Hurstville Council has replied to OFF's letter regarding Council's decisions on the former bowling club site adjacent to the Reserve. The reply states that Council has not resolved to develop or dispose of the site, and that a full consultation with the public will be undertaken before a decision is reached.

## A BAT DILEMMA

*The Kur-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society* is against the re-location of the flying foxes from the Botanical Gardens as it is unlikely that another camp site will work. While an over-supply of bats is a serious threat to some flora, KBCS points out that nectar and fruit feeding bats are vital to forest regeneration and play an important role in the natural control of insect populations

[www.sydneybats.org.au](http://www.sydneybats.org.au)

## BEWARE TREE POISONERS

Sadly such people are still active and determined to destroy trees just to get a "better view". Some have been caught recently in our area. Please relevant Councils! Do copy other Councils, like North Sydney and Canada Bay, and place a large bill board in the space once occupied by the trees. <http://www.smh.com.au>

## COAL AND OIL AGAINST SOLAR AND WIND

A survey by Greenpeace has concluded that 78% of Australians do not know that coal, gas and oil receive a lot more public money than do climate solutions, solar and wind, but 90% want to see either equal or more money going into renewable energy sources. [www.123campaign.com](http://www.123campaign.com)

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## VERY BRIEFLY

**Illawarra Grevillea Park** Princes Highway, Bulli. Open Days 10am-4pm: April 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, May 3, 4<sup>th</sup>. 4284 9216 [www.grevilleapark.org.au](http://www.grevilleapark.org.au)

**Sustainable Population Australia Inc.**  
Saturday, 10 May 2008 2.00 pm at Sydney Mechanics School of Arts 280 Pitt Street  
**Guest speaker: Dr Ted Trainer**, theme "Over consumption" [www.population.org.au](http://www.population.org.au)

**Aust Network for Plant Conservation**  
This year's conference is on April 21 focusing on our declining native flora. 02-6250 9509 or [www.anbg.gov.au/](http://www.anbg.gov.au/)

**The Colong Foundation for Wilderness**  
very interesting information, books CDs.  
9261 4200 [www.colongwilderness.org.au](http://www.colongwilderness.org.au)

## THE EASTERN CREEK FACILITY

According to Michael Duffy (SMH 23 Feb) this is possibly the most effective household waste-recycling facility in the world. *Global Renewables* employs 80 people and uses manual sorting, sieving, blowing, magnetic attraction and biological digestion. Organic matter is turned into fertiliser. Enough water is extracted to make the facility self sufficient. The methane produced is used to power generators, and it even exports electricity to the grid. [www.globalrenewables.com.au](http://www.globalrenewables.com.au)

## OFF NOTE

