



O.F.F. NEWS



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

Aug/Sept 2008

MANLY DAM WALK AUGUST 2ND

We started the circuit on a beautiful sunny winter's day, and stopped for morning tea at a lookout overlooking the dam. The twelve of us continued on through the muddy patches with minimum mishaps, and on up the hill with views to the ocean. The spring flowers were magnificent with masses of Sydney Boronia [Boronia ledifolia], Flannel flowers [Actinotus helianthi], Crowea saligna, Banksia ericifolia, and various Grevilleas. After a short walk on the fire trail we followed Curl Curl Creek through shade, ferns, and past waterfalls to the water's edge. After a late lunch at a picnic area we just had a short slog along the road to the cars. The tracks and picnic areas are very well maintained and there is very little invasion of exotics. [Report by Janet Austin, Walk Leader]

NTH SYDNEY WALK AUGUST 7

13 walkers assembled at the Union/Bank St Conservation Area, McMahons's Point. The leaders, Keith Robinson and Ted Green provided detailed notes and comments on the area as the tour passed through Graythwaite, Union and Bank St, and other significant places down to Berry's Bay. Governor Macquarie in 1817 granted much of this land to ex-convict, pioneer ferryman and farmer William Blue whose name still lives on in the area. The impressive examples of historic houses and workers' cottages were viewed and discussed. Also discussed were Holtermann's Nugget [in 1872 the largest ever discovered], his house and his photography. Many thanks Keith and Ted.

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

Graham Quint's words in his submission to the Sustainable Cities 2025 Inquiry concisely sum up the role and function of the National Trust as he described it in his speech to the OFF meeting on July 28th. "Since its formation in 1945 the National Trust has advocated and campaigned for the conservation of Australia's built, cultural and natural heritage. The Trust was the first body to commence programs for the regeneration of urban bushland. The programs have grown over the years and proven that natural ecosystems can be conserved and maintained to enhance and diversify urban environments despite the huge development pressures".

FOXES

It seems that the combined program of the St George area Councils on foxes is not to proceed at this stage. Letters from Kogarah Council are stating that more evidence is needed of an actual fox infestation before any action will be taken. Do you have any information about foxes that might help the Councils? If so send this to Council, perhaps with a copy to OFF!

BUSHCARE PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

Hurstville City Council is responsible for the management of 79 hectares of remnant bushland. The Kogarah Municipality has 58 hectares of remnant bushland, mostly along the Georges River. The Volunteer Bushcare Program is looking for volunteers to participate in the regeneration and preservation of bushland sites.

Details can be found at www.aabr.org.au/

NATIVE BIRD HABITAT

The *Birds in Backyards* program has just produced new Guidelines for developing urban bird habitat. Funded by a NSW Environmental Trust Grant, this project has produced the Guidelines for several different user groups including domestic gardeners and Bushcare volunteers. Look at www.birdsinbackyards.net/

SPEAKERS FOR NEXT YEAR

Our Program Officer is looking for interesting speakers on subjects related to flora and fauna for some of next year's meetings. If you have any suggestions please contact Melina Amerasinghe on 9580 1504.

OFF ANNUAL DINNER

	The 2008 Annual Dinner will be held on	
	Friday 31st October, 7 pm at South	
	Hurstville R.S.L. Club, 72 Connells Point	
	Rd, South Hurstville (almost cnr of King	
	Georges Rd) in the South Lounge. Cost \$32	
	per person for a comprehensive Buffet	
	including Cold Platters, Roast Carvery, Hot	
	Dishes, Salads, Desert, Bread Rolls and Tea	
	or Coffee with mints. Drinks can be	
	purchased at the bar.	
	Robin Dickson will be taking bookings and	
	accepting payment at both the August and	
	September meetings, or can be contacted on	
	9580 5663.	

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

- **Aug 25th (Monday) 7.45 Regular Monthly Meeting with Julian Sheen**, President of OFF, speaking on **the Canning Stock route**, not on the Arctic Environment that was announced earlier.
- **Aug 30th (Saturday) Field Day: Sylvan Grove Gardens** - Meet at 9.30am at Yeramba Lagoon parking lot, Henry Lawson Drive, Picnic Point. Moving on to Sylvan Grove Gardens, a guided tour is arranged. Next Lambeth Park, to start boardwalk along Georges River, flat walking. Followed by a walk around Yeramba Lagoon, some steps, damp in places. 5Ks altogether. Bring water and food, a suitable hat and footwear. . **Leader Heather Mackey** Phone 9528 7071.
- **Sept 22nd (Monday) 7.45 Regular Monthly Meeting with Ian Drinnan** of the Sutherland Shire Council speaking on **Menai Flowers**.
- **Sept 27th (Saturday) Field Day - Blue Mountains National Park** Leura to Katoomba **Leaders - Judith Malcolm and John Davoren**
- **Oct 18th Lions' Spring Festival** Oatley
- **Oct 27th 7.45 Regular Monthly Meeting with Graham Fry** speaking on **Preparing for Peak Oil**
- **Oct 31st OFF Annual Dinner** at R.S.L South Hurstville
- **Nov 8th (Saturday) Field Day: AEFI Secret Creek Wildlife Sanctuary** Lithgow. **Leader John Watters**.

RISKS IN LOGGING OLD FORESTS

An ANU study indicates there is much more carbon absorbed by our natural forests than was previously thought, and that much more is to be gained by leaving existing forests and not replacing them with new ones. However, the proposals on carbon trading plans to award points for planting new forests, not for preserving old ones. [Ben Cubby SMH .5/8/08]

PLANTING AT OATLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

On 31st July, to commemorate National Tree Day, OFF members Cathy, Matt and John Allison arranged for all the students at Oatley Public School to plant local native plant within the school grounds. 230 native plants, 100 donated by OFF, were planted (and mulched). The plants were Scribbly gums, [Eucalyptus haemastoma], Black she-oaks [Casuarina littoralis], Paperbark shrubs [Melaleuca nodosa], Lilies [Dianella caerulea], Banksia [Banksia serrata], Native grass [Poa affinis] and Wattle [Acacia suaveolens]. The children learned about the importance of native plant cover in providing sanctuary and nature corridors for native fauna. As a Conservation Society, OFF wants to lead by example in assisting in the reforestation of our locality. Can you think of another area where OFF can assist? [Report by Matt Allison]

PUBLIC MEETING- THE BOWLING CLUB SITE

Friends of Oatley Inc have called a public meeting at 7.30 pm on 1st September at the Oatley R.S.L. This is to address, among other things, Hurstville City Council's intentions regarding the part of the Myles Dunphy Reserve formerly occupied by the Oatley Bowling Club. Come and have your say. For more information see www.friendsofoatley.com.

TREE REMOVAL

Kogarah and Hurstville Councils still do not seem to be taking a strong stand on tree removal. In replies to letters of complaint about what appears to be haphazard removal of valuable trees from a number of streets, safety problems are usually claimed, even when there does not appear to have been any professional safety assessment. Report any tree removal with a copy to OFF.

FOR NOTING

Tom Wills: His Spectacular Rise and Tragic Fall

Greg de Moore, OFF member, has recently finished writing this book. Tom Wills was arguably Australia's most important sportsman. Born on the Molonglo River in 1835 he was this country's first great cricketer and was most significant in creating Australian Rules football, 150 years ago. Tom's father was tragically murdered by aborigines in Queensland in 1861 in the biggest single killing of white settlers. Tom survived this attack and only a few years later coached the famous aboriginal cricket team from Victoria, the very first cricket team from Australia to tour England.

Botany Bay

The Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance is an umbrella group for over 35 community and environmental groups within the catchment of Botany Bay. www.botanybay.info

Energy Efficiency

The Total Environment Centre says that we need to address it now. "It is practical and can make big inroads into greenhouse emissions quickly"

www.lowcarbonfuture.org.au

Our National Parks

"Our National Parks should be funded from core government funds. They are not for sale to any bidder". The Colong Foundation in response to proposals to hand over some areas of National Parks to developers and tourist bodies.

www.colongwilderness.org.au/tourism/

Pedestrian crossings Mulga Rd shops

Hurstville Council has just agreed to marked pedestrian crossings at Myall, Mi Mi and Woronora.

OFF NOTE www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au/



A GREENHOUSE NIGHTMARE...