



O.F.F. NEWS



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

July/Aug 2008

HEATHCOTE NATIONAL PARK WALK 28 June

Most of the 27 participants arrived at Waterfall station by train. After the usual signing on, off we tracked, eagerly anticipating the salutary benefits of the bush, down the slope to Camp Coutts with 'morns' on a north facing rock on Heathcote Creek. We followed various fire trails, admiring the abundance of wildflowers, including Gynea Lilies, Woollisia, Hibbertias, winter wattles and the *Grevillea diffusa ssp constablei* (found only in the Waterfall-Sutherland area). Off the fire trail, we pursued the Bullawaring Track to Kingfisher Pool for lunch. Some of us searched for the elusive Yelgun Cave and found it! But the rude graffiti adorning the walls was clearly not the Aboriginal artwork expected. We returned to Waterfall along the Bullawaring, still within delightful bushland. Jeff Angel and Sue Kennedy of the *Total Environment Centre* were with us on this trip, adding further to quite a special and most enjoyable day [Report by Joan and Fred Bell, Walk Leaders]

THE CHANNEL COUNTRY

At the 23rd June OFF meeting Lloyd Hedges spoke about the Channel Country in far southwest Queensland, involving three major internally draining river systems flowing towards Lake Eyre - the Cooper, the Diamantina and the Georgina. The area has a myriad of channels on the flat plains. The land fall is only some 10cm per kilometre, so the water meanders in channels and floodways as it heads south. The area is rated desert with an annual rainfall of 200m and evaporation rate of 16 times the rainfall. It is so remote that children must use school of the air and correspondence in primary school, and board for secondary. One station has an area of 160,000 acres, roughly twice the size of Sutherland shire and another is 1.5million acres.

**Members please note October 31st for the
OFF Annual Dinner at RSL South Hurstville.**

SEA DRAGON POSING IN BOTANY BAY

This is one of a number of species critically endangered by the cumulative effects of proposed developments in the Bay. Others threatened include: - Anemones, Okenia, Whales, Bottlenose Dolphins *Ceratosoma brevicaudatum*, *Verconis tambja*, seagrass beds.

Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance www.botanybay.info



OATLEY PARK THIS MONTH

In mid winter the wattles usually put on a good show. Gosford Wattle (*Acacia prominens*) has abundant yellow flower heads and is found on the exit road near the oval. Queensland Silver Wattle (*A.podalyriifolia*), although not a local native, makes a brilliant show near the picnic area. The widespread Sydney Golden Wattle (*A. longifolia*) can be identified by its flower spikes. Myrtle-leaf Wattle (*A. myrtifolia*) is a low wattle scattered throughout the park. Other flowers include those of Broadleaf Geebung, *Persoonia levis* (yellow flowers), *Leucopogon ericoides* (tiny white flowers), Rusty Petals, *Lasiopetalum ferrugineum* (clusters of brownish flowers), Grey Grevillea, *Grevillea buxifolia* (grey spider flowers), Bitter Pea, *Daviesia ulicifolia* (yellow pea flowers with red centre) and the yellow pea flowers of *Pultenaea stipularis* and *Pultenaea daphnoides*.

BIOBLITZ08

On 28 September 2008, during Biodiversity Month, the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) will be hosting an inaugural interactive environmental event within the urban parks and open spaces of the City of Sydney. The event is called BioBlitz08 where eager students can learn about exploring, discovering and recording as many plants and animals as possible with scientific experts in a 24 hour period. Further Information: Andrew Cox, Tel: 9299 0000; Mobile: 0438 588 040, <http://www.bioblitz.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

- **July 28th (Monday) 7.45 Regular Monthly Meeting with Graham Quint**, Conservation Director of the National Trust [and a former OFF President] speaking on **Landscape conservation**.
- **Aug 2nd (Saturday) Field Day Manly Dam Reserve Circuit**. Drive through the main gate of Manly Dam Res. at the end of King St. Manly Vale, about 1 hour drive from Oatley. Meet near the power boat ramp & children's playground (near toilets) at 9.30 am. The walk, about 7.5 km, starts down over the footbridge on Manly Creek, around the dam proceeding in an anti-clockwise direction. Low lying areas may be muddy, with a medium ascent and descent on a fire trail. Features include spring wildflowers and water views. Bring morning tea, lunch, water, hat and walking shoes. Leader **Janet Austin**, phone 9579 2375, and, on the day Mobile 0448833811
- **Aug 7th (Thursday) Extra Field Day to North Sydney's Hidden Valley** postponed from mid July. Meet at Nth Sydney Station at 10am to see quaint workman's cottages and gardens with lots of history and stories, with links to Henry Lawson, the Holtermann Nugget, and *Graythwaite* Red Cross home for WW1 returned soldiers, and many other points of interest. Bring lunch. **Note: Bookings are required by July 31.** Phone **Janet Austin on 9579 2375**. Leaders **Keith Robinson (0427 611 795)** and **Ted Green**.
- **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 Native Garden** - Orchids and other native plants. **Leader Heather Mackey**.
- **Sept 22nd (Monday) 7.45 Regular Monthly Meeting with Ian Drinnan** of the Sutherland Shire Council speaking on **Menai Flowers**.

LOW EMISSIONS

"Australian Governments should look to facilitate (not fund) partnerships with fossil-fuel corporations that already have the technical and financial resources to cooperate on low-emission technology research and development".
<http://www.edo.org.au/policy>

RETAIN OUR FORESTS

"You may also be surprised to learn that current estimates of annual emissions from deforestation do not take into account emissions from logging or forest degradation. This is despite overwhelming scientific research in the Amazon, North America, the Congo Basin, Papua New Guinea and Australia, which clearly establishes that logging reduces the carbon stored in previously un-logged natural forests by 40 to 60%." Alec Marr Executive Director <http://www.wilderness.org.au>

TREES IN OUR AREA

An OFF member wrote to Council in April expressing surprise and concern at how many trees had been approved by Council to be removed from properties in one street in Oatley in the previous 6 months, given that Council's previous record on tree preservation and concern about climate change. The letter noted that trees are being removed for all new houses and swimming pools, that there seems no requirement to retain even the old established gardens, and old healthy trees are being removed as well. The writer wondered whether there was still a tree preservation order in place. At last report, no reply had been received from Council.

VERY BRIEFLY

Animal Survival: Life in The Wild: a book discussing the survival techniques and day-to-day lives of animals throughout the world.
<http://www.australianmuseum.net.au>

Australian Flora and Fauna: very interesting details current and historical at the Australian Museum at present.

Councils Anti Fox Campaign: Councils in the St George area are planning a joint effort to reduce fox numbers. The plan is not available yet.

Green Wash: *Choice Magazine* June08 has details of false advertising on low environmental impact products <http://www.choice.com.au/>

CO₂ Emissions NSW for the week ending 11 Jul 2008 is 1.997 million tonnes and for 2008 to date: 53.122 million tonnes. <http://www.theclimategroup.org/>

OFF NOTE

<http://www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au/>

