



# O.F.F. NEWS



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Since 1955

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

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## OATLEY ELECTORATE COMMUNITY AWARDS

The OFF Committee is delighted to express its appreciation of Faye Coughlan's hard work as OFF Secretary by nominating her for this award. Julian Sheen will make the presentation at the Awards Dinner on Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, at the Illawarra Catholic Club, Hurstville - 7 for 7.30 pm. Dinner \$35 pp. The Committee hopes you can join us on this special occasion. Please contact Robin Dickson [9580 5663] by 27<sup>th</sup> Oct if you would like to attend.

## WALK: LEURA TO KATOOMBA SEPT 27

16 members gathered at Oatley Avenue in Katoomba and walked some seven kilometres from Gordon Falls Park to Katoomba Falls Park mostly along the Prince Henry Cliff Walk. They enjoyed the marvellous views from many vantage points including Tarpiean, Olympian and Fossil Rocks, Honeymoon, Echo Point, Millamurra, Lady Darley, Wollamai, and Cliff View Lookouts. Each provided a perfect elevated and unique view of the Jamison Valley and Mt Solitary, and communicated a dramatic sense of the Blue Mountains ambience.

[Report by walk leaders Judith Malcolm and John Davoren]

## THE MENAI ENVIRONMENT

At the last OFF meeting Ian Drinnan, a senior biologist with Sutherland Shire Council, spoke of his work in the Menai area. The program he described focuses on an interconnected system of bushland areas, linked by slim corridors, with the objective of maintaining the local trees and plants and the dependent creatures in the area.

## EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME...

The Environmental Defender's Office recommends that the proposed emissions trading scheme involve measures addressing climate change. It listed the removal of perverse tax incentives to pollute (e.g. the FBT rebate for company cars), mandatory fuel efficiency standards for motor vehicles, investment in public transport and rail freight, supporting the renewable energy sector, and encouraging state and territory governments to implement changes to their planning policies and so reduce the heavy reliance on cars. [www.edo.org.au/policy](http://www.edo.org.au/policy)

## LIONS FESTIVAL OATLEY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCT

OFF had a stall at the Festival. It was a lovely and successful day. Lots of friends and other interesting and interested people dropped in. Many thanks to those who helped set up the stall, and to those who staffed it during the day. Just an hour or so assisting was a great help.

## THE CARBON FOREST FORUM

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW organised this forum on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. The objective was to advise on recent scientific findings on forests' carbon absorption and the implications of those findings for the proposed carbon credit trading scheme.

An OFF member who attended reports that the forum generally found, contrary to expectations, that natural Australian forests absorb much more carbon than timber plantations, but there is now a danger that this factor might increase the logging of natural forests because of their extra carbon credits. Conservationist groups were encouraged to draw attention to this possibility when making their submissions on the trading scheme. Many forum participants had strong reservations about carbon credit trading in general, while two or three supported the scheme and doubted that it would lead to the destruction of Australian natural forests.

## OATLEY PARK IN SPRING

Wildflower species blooming in Oatley Park during the September-November period include:

- Eggs and Bacon (*Dillwynia retorta*)
- Wedding Bush (*Ricinocarpus pinifolia*)
- Shiny Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia nitida*)
- Blue Dampiera (*Dampiera stricta*)
- Fuchsia Heath (*Epacris longiflora*)
- Rough Wax-flower (*Philothea scabra*)
- Green Spider Flower (*Grevillea mucronulata*)
- Pink Spider Flower (*G. sericea*)
- Red Bean (*Kennedia rubicunda*)

[Alan Fairley provided this list]

## BIRDS IN OATLEY PARK

It is difficult to say exactly how many bird species can be found within the park at any one time; numbers vary depending on the season and availability of food. 145 species are currently listed on the OFF website.

## NEED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INSURANCE

O.F.F. is one of the community groups in the *Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance* [BBACA], working with local councils. Gary Blaschke, from BBACA has proposed that developers be required to lodge a bond to cover any damage to the environment or the community resulting from their projects. This needs an amendment to the planning laws, and the O.F.F. Committee has agreed to endorse Gary's proposal.

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

- **Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 7.45 Regular Monthly Meeting with Graham Fry** speaking on **Preparing for Peak Oil**. Graham will address the increasing speculation on the future of oil supplies and the proposition that there will much less available within a few years. He will address the implications of such a reduction for our economy and lifestyle, and look at strategies to reduce the impact of a declining oil flow.
- **Oct 31<sup>st</sup> OFF Annual Dinner** at R.S.L. South Hurstville. Please note that pre-booking is required.
- **Nov 8<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) Field Day: Secret Creek Wildlife Sanctuary Lithgow**. The train leaves Central at 8.18am. At Central board the 2<sup>nd</sup> front carriage top level. Cost of \$25 includes bus hire [but not the train], lunch and entry to the sanctuary. Return train leaves Lithgow at 3.36 pm. **Leader John Watters**. Contact him at 9534 1096, mob 0419 471 038. Prior booking is essential. At the last report 45 have booked.
- **Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 7.45 Regular Monthly Meeting with Edward Duyker** speaking on **French zoologist Francois Peron**. Péron is described as the first informed zoologist to land in Australia. He collected an enormous amount of material and his extensive fieldwork and attention to detail was ahead of its time. The talk will be followed by a **Social Supper**.
- **Dec 8<sup>th</sup> (Monday) 5pm \*\*\*\*\* OFF PICNIC AT THE STEAM ROLLER IN OATLEY PARK. \*\*\*\*\***
- **Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009 (Monday) OFF Annual General Meeting, Election of Officers, Members' photos and Social Supper.**

### BOWLING CLUB SITE

OFF recently wrote again to Hurstville Council on this part of the Myles Dunphy Reserve. OFF, in company with other organisations, is strongly recommending that the site be made available to the public, not be sold, or otherwise handed to an outside body, that no activity be permitted on the site that would damage or threaten the bushland nature of the reserve, and that any use of the site be compatible with the rest of the reserve and not occupy more space than did the Bowling Club. The person replying from Council seemed irritated that OFF had not been satisfied by an earlier Council letter (sent in 2006) stating that the matter was still being considered. It seems that Hurstville Council does not consider the matter to be important.

### ALTERNATIVES FOR THE BC SITE

*Friends of Oatley Inc* and the speakers at their recent public meeting have made a number of detailed recommendations to Hurstville Council about the possible use of the Bowling Club site. Primarily they want Council to recognise and maintain the zoning of the site as 6(a) - *Open Space* to ensure that it is used for the provision of community services and recreation. They have a number of very interesting suggestions about possible use of the site. These can be found on their website [www.friendsofoatley.com](http://www.friendsofoatley.com).

### TREE REPLACEMENT

OFF recommended to Kogarah Council that it plant Blackbutts or Angophoras to replace the poplars removed along Oatley Parade. OFF's letter argued that there is a vital need for significant large trees, and it would be a strategic environmental step to plant them in the park. Council staff replied that deciduous trees are preferable as they provide "more sunlight in winter and better shade in summer for children walking under them". One wonders how many children suffer from sun problems in Oatley, and whether the few that do would be much helped by the presence of deciduous trees in Oatley Gardens. The Nature Conservation Council and Forests NSW are two sources arguing for more large carbon absorbing trees. [www.forest.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.forest.nsw.gov.au/)

### BRIEFLY

**National Water Week 19-27 Oct** is designed to assist our community to take actions that help protect and conserve the precious resource - water. There is a national schedule of programs and events that encourage protection, rehabilitation and improvement of water environments such as streams, wetlands, waterways, beaches, and estuaries.

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

**Walk Against Warming 15 Nov**, 11am, Martin Place, Sydney. Families, workplaces and communities are invited to walk for renewable energy and a safe climate future for our children, to send a message to the government to support strong, urgent action and justice for developing nations affected by global warming. [www.walkagainstawarming.org](http://www.walkagainstawarming.org)

**Earth Festival 29 Nov-** A multi-arts entertainment event designed to promote love of the natural environment. At least 10% of any profits will go to shark conservation causes. Tickets: \$35 Adults, children under ten years free if accompanied by an adult. 12:00pm to 10:00pm at Centennial Park, Sydney. [www.earthfestival.com.au](http://www.earthfestival.com.au)

**Threatened Frogs:** At Sydney Olympic Park 16 Nov, 7pm, a Sydney Metropolitan CMA's Threatened Species Demonstration Sites Project, to learn about endangered bell frogs, frog habitats, how to attract frogs to your garden and other things to help conserve frogs. Book by 7 Nov with Natalie on 9585 6905 or [natalie.izquierdo@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:natalie.izquierdo@environment.nsw.gov.au).

### OFF NOTE

