



O.F.F. NEWS



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

Print Post App. No. PP 255003/03239

Since 1955

Issue: 2009/6

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

June/July 2009

ORAL HISTORY

A grant from Kogarah Council has enabled OFF to purchase a Voice Recorder. The Recorder will be used to gather oral history on the effect of the ebb and flow of conservation and change on the environment, and particularly its impact on flora and fauna. OFF is seeking people with memories and ideas on this subject who would be prepared to have their contribution recorded, and is also looking for some who would like to conduct interviews of this kind.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING CENTRE

A sustainable living centre on the site of the former Oatley Bowling Club site would significantly enhance the area and the Myles Dunphy Reserve and would be very much in harmony with the goals of the Georges River Combined Councils Committee of which Hurstville is a participating member. A mixed use, sustainable living site would provide a wealth of social, environmental and economic benefits. A list of options for the site is set out on the Friends of Oatley website; www.friendsofoatley.com/

SUSTAINABLE LIVING COMPETITION

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society has a competition encouraging mountain residents to reduce energy and water consumption, offering a prize of \$6000 for the household with the greatest reductions in a twelve-month period.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROCK SHELTERS

In outcrops of rock like sandstone or granite, overhangs can form cave-type shelters, in some of which Aboriginal people stayed. Over the years, material would build up, including ashes from fires, sediments, food, discarded tools and material from the cave roof. When the caves are undisturbed, archaeologists can excavate these deposits and learn about the patterns of Aboriginal life. www.environment.nsw.gov.au/

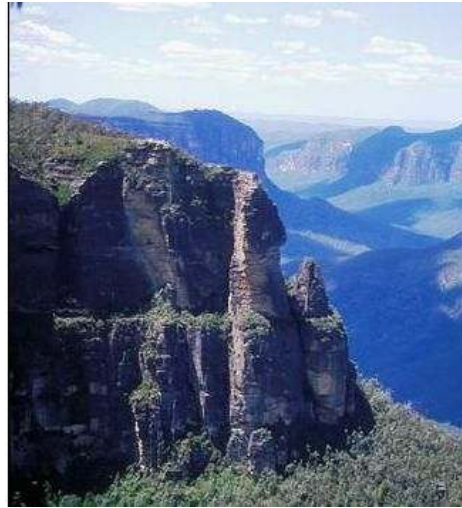
TRAPPING OF INDIAN MYNAS

Lake Cathie Landcare has been successful in trapping this invasive species, (*Acridotheres tristis*) sometimes called "rats of the sky", that invade nests of other birds, eat the chicks and make nests that rot leaving the trees unusable for native birds. www.fauna.org.au/

NEW MEMBERS

New members of the Society will be offered free garden advice and a home visit to discuss ways to improve their natural environment.

PULPIT ROCK WALK 30th MAY



Despite the early 5°C and the threats of a downpour, seven keen walkers gathered at Blackheath Caravan Park and went by car to the end of Pulpit Rock Rd where the walk began. Although light rain and mists came and went, the sun

filled the valleys and shone on the cliff faces just at the right times and in the most dramatic way. Views were enjoyed of the awe-inspiring panorama of the valleys and mountains. The sights included the Bridal Falls and other cascades along the cliffs and stunning views of the vast catchment of Govetts Leap and the Grose River. After a pleasant lunch at Boyd's Beach, we went on the Pope Glen Track through the rich forest along the creek back to Blackheath. [Report by Judith Malcolm and John Davoren, Walk Leaders]

RAIN FORESTS

More than half of Earth's rain forests have already been lost forever to the insatiable human demand for wood and arable land. Rain forests that once grew over 14% of the land on Earth now cover only about 6%. If current deforestation rates continue, these critical habitats could disappear from the planet completely within the next hundred years. The reasons for plundering rain forests are mainly economic. Wealthy nations drive demand for tropical timber, and cash-strapped governments often grant logging concessions at a fraction of the land's true value. "Homesteader" policies also encourage citizens to clear-cut forests for farms. Sustainable logging and harvesting rather than clear-cutting are among the strategies key to halting rain forest loss. If managed properly, the rainforest can provide the world's need for these natural resources on a perpetual basis. www.rain-tree.com/facts.htm

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

June 22nd (Monday) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting with Ross Bradstock speaking on "the Burning Question: Fire Ecology" Ross is Director of the Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires, University of Wollongong]

June 27th (Saturday) Field Day to Joadja. Joadja is 1½-2 hours from Sydney. Meet at the parking lot at 10am. Take the M5, turn left at the Mittagong sign, go into town and take the right hand road at the clock. Go along Wombean Caves Rd, turn left at Hancey's Lane and follow the sign to Joadja. 11 kms later turn right at the cattle grid and follow the dirt road for a further 4.5 kms to the entrance to Joadja Town.

Booking is required by the June 22nd meeting as this is an arranged tour. Entry is \$16.50 adults, \$10.50 for 10-17 year olds, and under 10 free. Morning tea provided but if you plan not to BYO lunch you need to book for lunch also. **Leader: Heather Mackey, 9528 7071, Field Officer: Janet, 9579 2375** or, if lost on the day ring **Joadja 4878 5129.**

July 27th (Monday) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting with Tim Entwisle speaking on *E Algis Omnia* [From Algae Everything]. Dr Tim Entwisle is Executive director of the Botanic Gardens Trust in Sydney, a highly respected scientist and communicator with a broad interest in plants, science and gardens.

Aug 1st (Saturday) Field Day to Spring Creek in the Kiama area. Travel by train and walk through an area rich in bird life. **Leaders Leslie and Peter Cox** [more in next OFF News]

PRESERVING FORESTS

An Environmental Impact Statement [EIS] for logging in the River Red Gum State Forests went on public exhibition on 1st June. Environmentalists have slammed the document for undertaking next to no surveys for threatened species, and failing to address the impact of logging on nationally significant wetlands. The National Parks Association of NSW described the Red Gum EIS as a 'phony' document without legal standing, and inadequate in its content.

WATER USE

Farmers use about 70% of the world's water, industry around 20% and domestic usage is around 10%. Around 1000 litres of water is needed to grow a kilo of wheat and 15000 litres to produce a kilo of beef. Hut news

MOUNT VICTORIA BYPASS

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is recommending to RTA an alternative bypass. It would miss Mt Victoria by heading westward from Soldier's Pinch, running north-west and meeting the present GW Highway at the bottom of Victoria Pass. This would minimise the environmental, social and heritage impacts inherent in all of the other proposed alternative corridors, and be far cheaper than a tunnel beneath Mt Victoria.

FUTURE OF THE BOWLING CLUB SITE

The large gathering at Boongarra Park on June 8th addressing the future of this important site gave a clear signal about the community preference for retaining the site in public hands. It seems, however, that the Hurstville Council is still favouring alienation as it wants the money from the sale or lease. If you have not already done so please sign the pro-public hands petition. You can obtain a copy of the form at any of the community organisations or on line at: <http://www.friendsofoatley.com/>

BRIEFLY

Charles Darwin. The Australian National Maritime Museum Darling Harbour has an exhibition dealing with his voyages and his theories coinciding with his 200th birthday. Entry is free.

Climate Change. "Our Future Our Choice" is on exhibition at the Australian Museum until 16th Aug.

Myles Dunphy (Selected Writings) available from The Colong Foundation 332 Pitt St Sydney

Regional Advisory Committee Vacancies. The Minister for Environment and Climate Change invites members of local communities to apply for membership of a National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee in their area. Term is four years, a voluntary position. Apply on line at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/npws, or rac@environment.nsw.gov.au or ring 9585 6117 Applications close on 30th June.

OFF NOTE

