



# O.F.F. NEWS



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## OPENING SPEECH AT COPENHAGEN

Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] stated in his opening address, "The evidence is now overwhelming that the world would benefit greatly from early action on climate change, and that delay will only lead to costs in economic and human terms that become progressively higher. IPCC has been able to provide substantial evidence through its assessments that science provides us with a basis for undertaking changes that this conference must urgently initiate. [However], given the wide-ranging changes that are likely to be made, some will find it inconvenient to accept them."

[www.ipcc.ch/pdf/presentations/](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/presentations/)

Fred Bell noted in a paper he wrote early in 2009 "Most scientific sceptics actually agree with IPCC that the present warming trend is real, and has been occurring since 1970 or earlier, and that concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have continuously risen for at least 150 years. Both [factors] should now be regarded as established facts."

## RISING TEMPERATURES

The Climate Group reports that temperatures were consistently above average in 2009, the second warmest year on record in Australia. New maximum temperature records were set in numerous cities early in the year, as well as in the unusual heatwaves in August and November. 1999 – 2009 was the warmest decade on record. The Bureau of Meteorology now believes that Australia's decadal temperature profile has shifted from one influenced solely by natural variations, to the upward trend caused by anthropogenic factors. Globally, 2009 was the fifth warmest year on record. [www.theclimategroup.org/](http://www.theclimategroup.org/)

## THE OATLEY BOWLING CLUB SITE

Serious vandalism at the site in December sparked off another message to Hurstville Council. OFF supports Friends of Oatley in asking the Council to undertake emergency steps to stabilise the building and make it available and useful to the local community while a decision on its future is awaited.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you paid your annual subscriptions for 2010? If not, please post your cheque to P.O. Box 52, Mortdale 2223, or pay Lesley Wylie at the AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> February. The subscription is still only \$25 per person or family (living at the same address). Donations are also welcome

## LUCKY LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds are natural controllers of aphids, scale insects and mites which otherwise damage plants. If your garden has regular ladybird visitors, you can be sure it is receiving a helping hand to keep healthy. This is probably why nearly all cultures believe that ladybirds are lucky. The nursery rhyme "Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home" encourages children to catch the beetles and blow them on their way to disperse them amongst the crops to destroy pests.



[www.fnw.org.au/Backyard\\_Buddies/B-mail\\_November\\_09.html](http://www.fnw.org.au/Backyard_Buddies/B-mail_November_09.html)

## FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

One effective way to halt climate change is to ensure the conservation and protection of national parks is extended to other natural areas, including intact native forests, rainforests, wilderness areas, wetlands and urban wildlife corridors.

Recent research found that maintaining forests and their soils is one of the most effective means of storing carbon. Forests function as air coolers, rain catchers and air filters that remove carbon monoxide and air pollution. Destroying forests accelerates global warming because it leads to less rainfall and increased desertification. If we stop the clearing, logging and degradation of forests in Australia and around the world we would reduce global emissions by approximately 25 per cent per year.

Dr Mary White, a palaeo-environmentalist, argues strongly that if Australian politicians are serious about climate change they would immediately halt the clearing of Australian forests. They would also ensure that poorer nations are assisted to keep their forests.

This is taken from an article by Janine Kitson [www.npansw.org.au](http://www.npansw.org.au), edited here and endorsed by Alan Fairley. Alan also noted this admirable conservation sentiment while in India and brought it back to share with us.



## IMPACT ON WILD LIFE

Rising temperatures and sea levels, bushfires and other dramatic environmental events will have a considerable impact on our native wildlife and ecosystems. [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/)

## SNOWY MOUNTAINS 2010

Robin Dickson would like to know how many members might be interested in our annual trip to Smiggins Chalet for the week 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February. [Costs are \$99 double or twin share, \$47 extra adult in room, \$78 single, and \$37 per child]. If you are thinking of going on this trip, please contact Robin at the next OFF meeting or 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

**Feb 1<sup>st</sup> (Monday) 7.45pm Annual General Meeting** with the election of officers and review of the work of the Society. If you are interested in nominating for committee membership, please contact Liz Cameron. The challenging position of Program Officer, for example, is available at this stage. If you have interesting photos please bring them for a "PowerPoint presentation", [sorry no slides, must be digital photos on CD or memory stick!]. The meeting will close with a social supper - please bring a plate.

**Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> (Monday) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting** and **Gary Dunnett**, Regional Manager, Sydney NPWS speaking on "Port Hacking - Under Water Marine Life".

**Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Tree Planting Oatley West Public School.** [See the note below].

**Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday) Business Clean Up Day** and **Mar 5<sup>th</sup> (Friday) School Clean Up Day**

**Mar 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) Field Day** migratory wading bird observation Kurnell. **Leader Debbie Andrew** [More details next OFF News].

**Mar 7<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) Clean Up Australia Day** -OFF members and friends will be working in the Poulton Park mangroves.

**Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> (Monday) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting** with **Dr Peggy Eby** speaking on **Flying Foxes in Sydney**.

**Mar 28<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) Field Day.** Tour of the **Glen Reserve** and **Burnam Burnam Sanctuary, Bonnet Bay.**  
**Leader: Jason Cockayne**

### SUMMARY OF THE O.F.F. FINANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.09

This report by Lesley Wylie, Hon. Treasurer, is now with the auditor.

<b>Credit Balance as at 01.01.09</b>		<b>\$5,743.00</b>
Receipts		
Subscriptions	\$4,025.00	
Donations	\$1,140.00	
Sale - Plants	\$277.85	
Annual Dinner	\$1,600.00	
Annual Dinner Raffle	\$208.00	
Possum Boxes - refund Oatley West PS	\$200.00	
Cancelled Cheque to Birds Australia	\$320.00	
Sundries	\$90.00	
Interest	\$17.10	
<b>Total Receipts as at 31/12/09</b>	<b>\$7,877.95</b>	
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$13,621.03</b>
Payments		
Department Fair Trading	\$45.00	
Uniting Church	\$275.00	
Printing/Postage	\$803.10	
Australia Post Box Rental	\$75.00	
Printing Programs	\$225.50	
Hall Sound Equipment	\$264.83	
Annual Dinner	\$1,525.00	
Insurance	\$749.52	
NCC Membership	\$200.00	
Donations (see Note)	\$1,800.00	
Lions Oatley Festival Stall	\$90.00	
School Book Prizes	\$37.90	
Printing Oatley Bowling Club Flyers	\$122.50	
Birds Aust. Donation re-issued from 2008	\$320.00	
Sundries	\$360.15	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>\$6,893.50</b>	
<b>Credit Balance as at 31/12/2009</b>		<b>\$6,727.53</b>
Add Cash Management Trust A/c	\$8,751.06	\$15,478.59
Less balance of HCC Grant	-\$311.70	
<b>Total Society Funds</b>		<b>\$15,166.89</b>

**Note:** Donations - \$100 each went to Sydney Wildlife, Auburn Council Wildlife Reserve, and the Florentine Protection Society. \$200 went to the

Colong Foundation, Birds Australia, WIRES, the Environment Defenders Office, Kuringai Bats, and the Wilderness Society, while \$300 was given to Australian Bush Heritage.

The Society's funds at 31/12/09 stood at \$15,167 including \$802 to the President's Fund for donations to other environmental bodies.

Included in the Society's funds is \$1,500, 2010 subscriptions paid in advance from 37% of members. Generous donations of \$630 were received in November for the President's Fund.

Thank you very much.

#### BRIEFLY

**Carbon accounting:** The Wilderness Society notes that Forestry Tasmania is planning to log, and find out the true carbon value of Tasmania's forests in Feb and March. [www.wilderness.org.au/articles/](http://www.wilderness.org.au/articles/)

**EcoForum Feb 23rd - 24<sup>th</sup> Conference & Exhibition** Australian Technology Park, Sydney NSW  
[www.ecoforum.net.au/2010](http://www.ecoforum.net.au/2010) [quitz@ecoforum.net.au](mailto:quitz@ecoforum.net.au)

**International Year of Biodiversity.** The UN declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity.  
[www.cbd.int/2010/](http://www.cbd.int/2010/)

**Smiggins Chalet:** Our annual trip is for the week 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February and some twenty members have already indicated that they will be there for some or all of the time. Please let Robin Dickson know urgently if you are able to join us.

**Tree planting planned for Oatley West Public School.** There are a considerable number of young native plants for a planting in the area of the newly exposed rocks at OWPS. The planned date is 27<sup>th</sup> February. Members of the school community will be there. They would be delighted to receive help from members of OFF. [More details in the next OFF News.]

Carbon Footprints do seem to have been rather circular at Copenhagen!



Copenhagen carbon footprint