



O.F.F. NEWS



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

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BUNDEENA-MAIANBAR

January/February 2004

OATLEY TREES AND SUB-

WALK 29TH NOV

The weather was fine and warm and, after a pleasant ferry ride from Cronulla, 24 of us assembled on Horderns Beach, Bundeena, where we were met by Helen Vogt of the local Yarmouth Historical Society. She kindly provided us with information about the Bundeena-Maianbar Heritage Trail, some of which coincided with our intended walk. It included historical features such as Bundeena House, Constables Steps, Cabbage Tree Point Reserve and Simpson's Homestead. After seeing these, we stopped for morning tea at the site of Simpson's Hotel (which burned down about 50 years ago) and then proceeded to the site of the old fish hatchery which operated from about 1900 to 1914. We then walked along the western shore of Cabbage Tree Basin through coastal eucalypt forest and retraced our steps to the Bonnie Vale picnic grounds for lunch.

Deeban Sand Spit, extending out into Port Hacking, was explored after lunch. According to various records, this was once covered with dense scrub and casuarina trees but was severely destabilized during the 1800s through cattle grazing, timber cutting and dredging. We examined the present sparse dune vegetation on the spit and then returned past the Bundeena shops to catch the 3pm ferry back to Cronulla. This completed a short, but quite enjoyable field day.

Fred Bell

BUNDEENA PUBLICATIONS

Some of the participants on the November walk expressed an interest in the three leaflets covering the heritage walk and a new book on "Maianbar". Helen Vogt has advised Fred Bell that these are now available. The attractive and interesting book (54 pages) sells for \$12.50 and is available from Yarmouth Historical Society, P.O. Box 3107, Bundeena 2230, or phone Helen on 9523 8568.

DIVISION

A number of members have attended local meetings over the holiday period to discuss undesirable building applications. Not only is there the usual concern about over-development (too many units on a site), but they involved the destruction of large indigenous trees. It seems that every time new buildings are proposed, a large tree is "in the way" and can't be saved. A significant part of what makes Oatley the "green suburb" is being lost – it is death by a thousand cuts. This time we are fighting to save 200 year old Blackbutts on the corner of Ada St and Hurstville Rd, another in Mulga Rd and some in Wyong St. Each of these issues is on-going.

SOCIETY NEWS

*** The Society awarded a book prize to a Year 6 student for environmental excellence at Oatley, Oatley West and St Josephs Primary Schools. Robin Dickson, Cliff Crane and Alan Fairley shared the task of handing the books to the winning students at the schools' Presentation Day.

*** Alan Fairley presented the Society's views to a consultant working on Hurstville Council's Oatley Park Management Plan.

*** Val Boyan is no longer collecting Trash and Treasure for sale. Funds raised were a major source of income for the Presidents Fund (see Treasurer's Report). Perhaps members could make a voluntary contribution when paying membership fees to help compensate for this loss in funding.

*** Val is still collecting aluminum cans. Bring them along to the Monday meetings.

*** OFF has completed its Oatley Park Heritage Application and sent it to the appropriate assessment authority.

*** For World Environment Day, OFF has combined with the Georges River Community Service to conduct a children's art project.

*** **Don't forget!! Membership fees are due if not already paid - \$20 per family.**

*** Check out our web site : off.oatleypark.com

Meetings are held at the **Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street, Oatley.**
 (near the corner of Letitia Street)
 Please make yourself known as you come in.
 It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.
 Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

Coming Events

February 2 (Monday). ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Reports on OFF's activities during the past year and elections of a new committee. Come along and show your support for your Society. The AGM will be as brief as possible. It will be followed by **members' slides** and a **light supper**. Do you have any recent slides of interesting places or trips which you would like to share? Please bring a plate of food to contribute to the success of the evening.

February 23 (Monday). Regular meeting at 7.45pm. Details in next *O.F.F. News*.

February 28 (Saturday). First walk of the new year. West Head with Alan Fairley. Short walks, views, Aboriginal engravings. Details later.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

By Carolyn Cotter, Hon. Treasurer

Receipts and Payments : Year ended 31.12.03	<u>Credit Balance as at 31.12.03</u>	\$20821.22
<u>Credit Balance as at 1.1.03</u>	\$5340.28	Less Grant Amounts
<u>Receipts</u>		Kogarah Council 3000.00
Subscriptions	3211.00	Nat. Heritage 10450.46
Donations	71.50	<u>13450.46</u>
Annual Dinner(profit)	165.00	Total Funds of the Society
Sales – plants/books	145.00	<u>\$7370.76</u>
Trash/Treasure Stalls	642.00	
Interest	10.36	
Raffle	113.00	
Grant (Kogarah C'nl)	3000.00	
Term Deposits drawn down (N.H. Grants)	<u>51853.26</u>	
	<u>59211.12</u>	
	64551.40	

Payments

Donations (Note 1)	600.00
Subscriptions (Note 2)	334.00
O.F.F. News –printing	48.33
- postage	807.50
- stationery	48.45
Programs (printing)	187.00
Donation –Uniting Church	250.00
Display Unit	275.00
Oatley Bowling Club	35.00
Annual Return	39.00
Public Liability Ins.	462.00
PO Box Rental	52.00
Admin. Expenses	238.90
Lions Fairs	115.00
Kogarah C'cl Grants	40238.00 <u>43730.18</u>

Note 1 Donations (\$600). Total Env. Centre \$500. Aust. Bush Heritage Fund \$100.

Note 2 Subscriptions (\$334). NPA \$65, Colong Fdt \$36, Sth West Env \$25, NCC \$145, Fraser Is Def Org \$15, Friends of Bats \$15, Wildlife Pres Soc \$33.

The Society's funds as at 31.12.03 were \$7370.76. After allowing for subscriptions in advance and outstanding liability for printing of newsletter, Society funds total approx. \$5800.00. The Presidents Fund stands at \$1676.00 – therefore the operating funds of approx. \$4100 represents some 16 months of membership fees-in line with the Society's policy of reserves. Over the past 5 years Trash & Treasure and stall proceeds were \$3312, mainly due to the efforts of Val Boyan. These receipts for the Presidents Fund have enabled the Society to greatly assist other organizations, e.g., the Total Environment Centre has received \$2500 over the past 5 years.