



# O.F.F. NEWS



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**OFF'S WEB SITE**

September/October 2003

**PHONE**

**TOWERS**

**IN**

Want to view the Society's web site and the photos from the last field trip but don't have your own web facilities? It's easy, and free, at the local libraries. For example, if you hold a Hurstville or Kogarah library card, go to Oatley library and ask for a few minutes of time on the computer. The librarian will show you how to get the web page. Type in **off.oatleypark.com** and you will have our site straight away. Other libraries have similar help and web facilities.

## **SOCIETY NEWS**

\*\*\* Hutchison Telecom has sought leave to appeal the Oatley Park communications tower decision. It will be heard by the High Court of Australia on 3 October.

\*\*\* OFF committee members represented the Society at the Botany Bay Region Forum on Sat. 6 September at Rockdale.

\*\*\* OFF has agreed to help the Georges River Community Service promote its children's art competition as a contribution to World Environment Day 2004.

\*\*\* Graham and Janet Austin are seeking walks leaders for next year's programme. See them at the next meeting night.

\*\*\* GO BUSH Safaris have sent the Society its 2004 itinerary. Members can get the details of the trips on the internet ([www.gobush.com.au](http://www.gobush.com.au)) or by phoning (02) 9817 4660.

## **WWF TARKINE APPEAL**

The Tarkine, one of Australia's great wild places, is the name given to a 377,000 ha expanse of rainforests, mountain ranges and magnificent coastline in north-west Tasmania. It has been identified as one of the 200 most important ecosystems in the world.

Incredibly, it is under threat from logging and Worldwide Fund for Nature Australia has launched an appeal. You are urged to send a donation to WWF, Protect the Tarkine Appeal, Reply Paid 528, Sydney 2001.

## **NATIONAL PARKS**

The Minister for the Environment, Bob Debus, has written a long reply to the Society's concerns about the *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Telecommunications Facilities) Bill 2003* which will allow phone towers to be erected in NSW national parks.

After a long justification (which essentially is that the Government introduced this Bill "to improve access to modern telecommunications services for people who live in country NSW"), the Minister claims that the legislation contains a number of strict environmental safeguards. These include :

- The Minister must be satisfied that there is no other feasible location for the facility outside the park;
- No facilities will be permitted in wilderness areas;
- The facility must be essential for the provision of telecommunications to either the reserved land or surrounding communities;
- The siting of the new facility must take into account the relevant park plan of management;
- The site and construction will have to be selected to minimize visual impact;
- Where possible, new facilities must be co-located with an existing facility or be sited on previously disturbed land;
- All applications received will be advertised and referred to the local NPWS Regional Advisory Committee for comment.

The letter is available from Robin Dickson if you wish to read it completely.

## **OATLEY PARK MOUNTAIN BIKES**

Robin Dickson and Alan Fairley met with Officers of Hurstville Council Victor Lampe and Andrew Sharp on 28 August to discuss this issue. Mr Lampe seems genuinely concerned about the damage to the park and recognizes that it will get worse if no action is taken. Further meetings are planned.

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

**September 22 (Monday).** CRAIG SHEPHARD of the National Parks and Wildlife Service will discuss the difficult but important problem of **Managing Pest Species**, with a particular reference to Royal National Park, but also elsewhere in N.S.W.

**September 27 (Saturday).** **FIELD DAY. Walumarra Track in Royal National Park.** Walk through heath into tall eucalypt forest, then into a rainforest gully. See a variety of plant communities. A one way walk, requiring car shuttle. About 5 km, with two creek crossings and relatively steep downhill grade (140 m drop) on a well-made track. See some impact from fires and recent strong winds; also lots of spring flowers.

Meet at 9am at the intersection of Lady Carrington Drive and Sir Bertram Stevens Drive (ie, south end of Lady Carrington Drive). Suggest entering the Park from Waterfall (about 45 minutes by car from Oatley - allow longer if coming via Audley). Little parking is available at the start of the walk, so we need to take as few cars as possible from the meeting point to the start of the walk (about 6.3 km north along Sir Bertram Stevens Drive). Walk should be completed by 1pm. Bring water and morning tea, and lunch if you want to stay on in the park after the walk. If traveling by train, please notify the leaders a day or two beforehand to arrange transport. Leaders : **David Crawford and Jan Douglas**, tel 9533 2187.

**October 10 (Friday).** OFF Annual Dinner (see below).

**October 27 (Monday).** Dr Val Attenbrow, Archaeologist and **Sydney's Aboriginal Past.**

### OFF ANNUAL DINNER

Have you booked for the Annual Dinner?  
Don't delay. Give you name and money to Val Boyan at the September meeting or ring her on 9533 1013.

Date. Friday, 10 October.

Place. Function Room of Mortdale RSL.

Time 6.30 for 7.00pm

There is a new chef and a new menu. A great value 3 course dinner for **\$25.00** per person.

### WALK REPORT – BOBBIN HEAD

It was a wonderful day for the seven folk who walked from the Sphinx to Bobbin Head and back on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August. We had a glorious sunny day and Alan Fairley introduced us to a large array of everyday and endangered plants, some found only on the northside. We saw six species of orchid, including a patch of about 30 white caladenias and lots of tongue orchid leaves clinging to the rocks. There were also small

plants of *Boronia rigens* which have minute but very distinct boronia flowers. We had Muriel, Audrey and Eileen join us for lunch. On the way along Cowan Creek, we found evidence of middens, while on the return route we viewed a collection of Aboriginal rock carvings. Alan added the icing to our day.

From Janet Aitken

Some plants seen in flower along the walk :

*Hibbertia bracteata*, *Leucopogon setiger*, *Grevillea linearifolia*, *Pultenaea stipularis*, *Boronia thujona*, *Eriostemon australasius*, *Boronia ledifolia*, *Leionema (Phebalium) dentatum*, *Acacia oxycedrus*, *Darwinia procera*, *Darwinia biflora*.

For **photos** of this walk, click on to our web site

[off.oatleypark.com](http://off.oatleypark.com)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** OFF has a stall at Lugarno Lions Festival, Gannons Park, on Sunday 21Sept. Helpers would be appreciated, if only for one hour. Ring Val Douglas on 9580 7783.

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