



O.F.F. NEWS



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OATLEY BOWLING CLUB SITE

The terrible news has just arrived that at the Hurstville Council meeting on 22nd Sept this iconic site will most likely be taken from public hands, and given to developers, in response to an allegedly social need, dismissing opponents as a narrow-minded minority. Go urgently to <http://www.friendsofoatley.com/> **PLEASE REACT**

OBJECT TO LONGWALL COAL MINING

The Bulli Seam Operation (BSO) threatens the Headwaters of the Georges River and the Woronora and Cataract drinking water catchments. The expert panel established to review BHP's 30-year plan to undermine 220 sq kms of the landscape has delivered its final report to the planning minister, but it is not known when the minister's decision is to be announced. Many OFF members indicated to Sharyn Cullis at the August meeting that they would be objecting. Now is the time for lobbying letters, faxes, and conversations with politicians! To assist in your efforts, Sharyn has prepared a one page Letter Writers Kit with key facts, arguments and a list of politicians and their contact details. If you have not yet written faxed or talked, and do not remember the details, phone Sharyn 9579 1262 or mailto:go_river@hotmail.com to receive an email or post.

[Note the "underscores" after go and river, i.e. go_river_@]

SAVING RED RIVER GUMS

16,000 hectares of threatened river red gums along the Murray River on the NSW-Victoria border will gain from a NSW government plan to flood the Koondrook-Perricoota State Forest from 2011. The NSW Natural Resources Commission revealed in 2009 that in some areas, 75 per cent of river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) are stressed, dead, or dying from a lack of water. The new \$57m project aims to simulate a major natural flood every few years. <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/artificial-flood-boost-for-river-red-gums.htm>

OFF ANNUAL DINNER

The 2010 Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 12th November, 7 pm at South Hurstville R.S.L. Club, 72 Connells Point Rd, South Hurstville (near the corner of King Georges Rd) in the South Lounge.

Cost is \$35 per person for a Buffet including pre dinner platters, a selection of hot dishes, salads, desert, bread rolls and tea or coffee with mints. Drinks can be purchased at the bar. Singers are expected.

Prior booking is essential. **Alison Gilroy** and **Robin Dickson** will be taking bookings and payment at the September and October meetings. Otherwise, they can be contacted on 9580 5557 or 9580 5663.

Each guest is asked to wear a hat (conservative or zany/frivolous).

The donation of suitable raffle items would be warmly welcomed.

LIONS FESTIVAL - OATLEY - 16TH OCTOBER



Each year, on the 3rd Saturday in October the streets and parks of Oatley are transformed into a sea of stalls, entertainment, rides, music. www.oatleylions.org.au
OFF runs a stall each year, and is looking for volunteers for the day, or any part thereof. Please contact Liz Cameron.

WEEDS CRISIS

After land clearing, weeds are recognised as the most serious threat to endangered native plants and animals in NSW. This threat is rapidly increasing as more weed species are introduced and spread into new areas. That is why the Invasive Species Council has prepared *Stopping NSW's Creeping Peril*, a 26-page report calling for concerted action, largely from the NSW Government, to address the state's growing weed problem. The report has been endorsed by 30 organisations that represent weed experts, bush regenerators, land managers, volunteer weed groups, and national, state, and local conservation groups. <http://www.invasives.org.au/>

CLIMATE CHANGE: THE LATEST EVIDENCE

The *Australian Academy of Science* publication, "The Science of Climate Change: Questions and Answers" argues that: "The Earth's climate has changed. The global average surface temperature has increased over the last century and many other associated changes have been observed. The available evidence implies that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the main cause. It is expected that, if greenhouse gas emissions continue at business-as-usual rates, global temperatures will further increase significantly over the coming century and beyond." The full report is at www.science.org.au/ [Courtesy of the latest Hut News]

SEA EAGLES ON VIDEO

There is a nest of Sea Eagles high on a Scribbly Gum in the Newington Nature Reserve at Sydney Olympic Park. A team of Volunteers from the Birds Australia Discovery Centre and Sydney Olympic Park Rangers have placed cameras atop the trees to record these birds' behaviours and very interesting observations have been made. <http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/the-organisation/eaglecam.html>.

MORE WHALES

The Humpback Whale has been protected in the southern hemisphere since 1963 and a worldwide moratorium on whaling was declared in 1986. All marine mammals in Australia are protected and the Humpback Whale population is making a slow recovery. <http://www.npansw.org.au/> [These last two items are courtesy of the Hut News Sept n 91]

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

***Sept 27th (Monday)** 7.45pm: Regular monthly meeting with **Ben Hope** speaking on his study of the impact of hazard reduction burns on long-nosed and southern brown bandicoots in northern Sydney. Ben works as a technical officer with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. He will focus on the results gained by radio-tracking bandicoots before, during, and after a hazard reduction fire. [Robin Stacey, the scheduled speaker, had to withdraw, but hopes to be with us next year. Ben agreed to speak a month earlier.]

***Oct 10th (Sunday)** Field day to Jibbon Head, Royal National Park, 6.5 km return. Meet at the Bundeena Ferry Warf at 9.55am, or by train, take the 8.50 am from Mortdale (new timetable) to Cronulla, front carriage and catch the ferry from Cronulla wharf at 9.30am to Bundeena (Seniors fare \$2.85). The day includes Port Hacking and ocean views, Aboriginal rock engraving, and a possible swim at Jibbon Beach. There will be some uphill walking, then downhill on a sandy track to the coast, narrow cliff track, then across the sand on Jibbon Beach. Wear sturdy footwear, hat, and sunscreen. Bring lunch, plenty of water and cossie (optional). **Leader: Janet Austin** T 9579 2375.

***Oct 30th (Saturday)** Field day to Cockatoo Island. **Leader John Davoren** [Details in the next OFF News]

Nov 12th (Friday) 7 pm Annual Dinner at South Hurstville R.S.L. Club,

*[*Please note the several changes in dates, speakers, and destinations from the published program]*

LEGAL ASPECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

At the August 23rd meeting, Jeff Smith Director of the NSW Environmental Defender's Office spoke on Climate Change and the profound implications for biodiversity conservation in NSW. He spoke of the role of the EDO in arguing for the re-evaluation of the current approach to conservation, and the importance of the legal and ethical questions of what to protect and why. There is a need to enshrine references to climate change in legislation and to try to predict its effects. More at: <http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/>

SOUTH COAST FIELD DAY - 28TH AUG.

With a brisk breeze and brilliant sunshine, 18 walkers set off on the Kiama Coast walk, starting south of Kiama at Loves Bay, walking to Werri Lagoon at Gerringong over some quite steep hills and then returning to Loves Bay, a distance of 12 kilometres. Soon after starting, we were fortunate to see a pair of sea eagles circling over the hills. A little later, some sharp eyes noticed a pod of dolphins, very close inshore, apparently 'surfing' in the big swells. Then in the afternoon whales were spotted. The Kiama coastline is dramatic and from the highest point, there are views south to the Point Perpendicular region and north to Port Kembla. Interpretative signs along the way provided interesting details about the history and geology of that part of the coast. It was a delightful day and much enjoyed by everyone. [Report by Leaders Lesley and Peter Cox]

CABARITA AND BREAKFAST Pt - SEPT 16TH

Eight walkers joined Leader Keith Robinson's tour, starting at the Federation Pavilion and going on to the William Beech Monument, the Marina, Hen & Chicken Bay, Correy's historic house, several restaurants, and Cape Cabarita. Keith reflected on the history of the area, and the extraordinary mixture of conservation and development in recent years.

OFF SOCIETY LOGO.

OFF Committee has decided that the Society needs a logo for our publicity and promotion. If you are a Graphic Designer and could contribute ideas for an effective design, please contact the Secretary.

OFF DONATIONS FOR 2010

OFF has a tradition of donating to other environmental organisations. This year we will donate \$1400. An amount of \$200 will be given to each of seven groups. They are Total Environment Centre, Australian Bush Heritage, Birds Australia, Kuring-Gai Bats, Wires, Wilderness Society, and the Colong Foundation.

If you cannot open the pdf version of this newsletter, click here for an Adobe Reader <http://www.adobe.com/>

OFF WEBSITE

Members should look at the up-dated OFF website. There are new sections on Myles Dunphy Reserve, Stream Watch, Flying Foxes and photos and stories from our activities. The site is getting many "hits" from students doing environmental projects. Check it out at <http://off.oatleypark.com/>.

THE OFF COMMITTEE

Are you interested in joining our committee? We would like to hear from OFF members who would be interested in standing for the committee. New members would soon discover how rewarding participation is for the individual and the committee. New members will be particularly welcome.

Briefly

Friends of Hurstville Library meet on 4th Thurs. at the library Exhibition. Room at 10 am with interesting guest speakers; new friends welcome! Contact Dawn Emerson, Secretary Ph: 9543 1060

Marine sanctuaries The NSW government plans to remove the vital protection provided by marine sanctuaries for our turtles, dolphins, seahorses and hundreds of other marine plants and animals. This move goes against the overwhelming scientific and community support for marine parks. <http://www.bluemountains.org.au/>

Tackling Wicked Problems recently published by Newsouth Books looks at climate change and related issues and long-term solutions. <http://www.gleebooks.com.au/>

Turpentine Ironbark Forest Field Event, Macquarie University. Thurs 7th October 10.15am -12.30pm, through the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest remnant on Campus, followed by a planting bee and Lunch. RSVP to Angie Fricker by the 30th Sept on 98956137 or <mailto:angie.fricker@cma.nsw.gov.au>

Membership fees For 2011 members can opt to pay their membership fee by direct bank transfer - [more details when the renewal notice is sent out]. The fee for 2011 will remain at \$25 per family.

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