



# O.F.F. NEWS



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## Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*). Flowering now in Oatley Park



### BIRDS OF OATLEY PARK

In a recent email to OFF, Warren Mallard made some interesting comments on the birds he remembers from Oatley Park in the 1950s. He notes, "Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters were the most prevalent, and there were colonies of Dusky Wood Swallows nesting at the end of Lime Kiln Bay. Grey Thrushes also nested in the area. A White-breasted Sea Eagle nested for a number of years in a large *Angophora costata* at the end of Lime Kiln Bay, but left once Peakhurst houses sprang up. Southern Yellow Robins were common, nesting with Silvereyes in the Melaleuca forest of Lime Kiln Bay. There were two species of Quail also in the park, and there were no Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Noisy Miners, Rainbow Lorikeets, or Scaly-breasted Lorikeets."

Warren's notes open up the question of how different is the birdlife now. Official lists are from about 1975 based on much earlier observations. One list contains 114 species; another more than 145, so there is a need for a new list for Oatley Park, Lime Kiln Bay, and Oatley Heights Park, noting behaviour and locations. It will take some time to complete, as a number of birds are summer visitors or only vagrants. The completed list will then go on the OFF website. If you have records of recent bird sightings, please send them to Alan Fairley.

<mailto:a.fairley@bigpond.com>

### SOME GOOD NEWS

The *Colong Bulletin* notes that Genowlan Mountain and Mount Airly near the Gardens of Stone have been preserved as a 3,650 hectare State Conservation Area after a 30 years campaign.

The historic site of Yerranderie has also come into public ownership after Ms Val Lhuede donated this 467 ha property to the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife.

[http://www.colongwilderness.org.au/media\\_releases/MR04032011.htm](http://www.colongwilderness.org.au/media_releases/MR04032011.htm)

### GETTING GREENER

OFF's *Getting Greener* project for the Lower Georges River Sustainability Initiative [LGRSI], funded by the NSW Environment Trust is proceeding well.

- Dr Holly Parsons of Birds Australia ran two Birds in Backyards workshops in March and April; 40 people attended and 300 native plants, propagated by the Menai Wildflower Group and Jason Cockayne, were given to the participants.
- Twenty people joined bird walks in autumn at Lime Kiln Bushland Sanctuary (led by Jason Cockayne) and Poulton Park (led by Liz Cameron and Graham Fry). Jason has conducted seven garden inspections to advise on how to make backyards more attractive to small birds.
- The final two free *Birds in Backyards Workshops* will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August (Carss Park Community Gardens) and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September (Illawong Rural Fire Service Brigade Station). Both will run from 10 am to 12 noon. Bookings for the workshops are essential. Please contact Liz Cameron (ph. 9580 6621, [lizc@pacific.net.au](mailto:lizc@pacific.net.au)) or Jason Cockayne (m: 0411 744 715, [jay.shaz@hotmail.com](mailto:jay.shaz@hotmail.com)).

### MARINE PARKS (MORATORIUM) BILL

The NSW Upper House passed this Bill on 23 June. It is now in the Lower House. The bill would suspend the creation of new marine parks, and prevent the Government from making a regulation to extend sanctuary zones, for five years. The Government has proposed amendments linking the length of the moratorium to the conclusion of the forthcoming independent review of NSW marine parks. The Government anticipates the audit report by 31 December.

### ENERGY CONUNDRUM

In his book *Chaos, Collapse, And Survival* Peter Goodchild comments that the problem of the world's diminishing supply of oil is a problem of energy, not of money. Everything in the modern world is dependent on oil and other hydrocarbons. From these we get fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, lubricants, plastic, paint, synthetic fabrics, asphalt, pharmaceuticals, and many other things. We are dependent on these for manufacturing, for transportation, for agriculture, for mining, and for electricity. As the oil disappears, so will the means of supporting the billions of people who now live on this planet. The current favourite for alternative energy is solar power, but to meet the world's present energy needs using solar power, we would need an array of collectors covering about 550,000 km<sup>2</sup>, the size of France. The production and maintenance of this array would require vast quantities of hydrocarbons, metals, and other materials, indeed a self-defeating process.

<http://www.countercurrents.org/goodchild130311.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

**July 25<sup>th</sup> (Monday) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting with Ken Griffiths speaking on Photographing Nature**

**July 31<sup>st</sup> (Sunday) Field day: Blue Mountains National Park - Lockley Pylon Leader: Alison Gilroy.** The walk is about 6 kms. The start is some 1.5 hours by car from Oatley. Leave Great Western Highway at the main turnoff to Leura, up to the roundabout, turn right, and go straight ahead to Roosevelt St, turn left, then right into Highland Ave. Meet at no.79 Highland Ave at 9.30am where we will have morning tea. We will then drive down the Mt Hay road for 11 kms to Lockley's Pylon walk. The walk is along a rather rough undulating bush track, but with no major climbs or descents, and stunning views east, back to the city, and west and north. Bring the usual - lunch, sturdy walking shoes, woolly hat, and gloves (can be very exposed on the ridge). Rail track work rules out trains; car sharing will be arranged. **Ring Alison on 9580 5557**

**July 31<sup>st</sup> (Sunday) National Tree Day**, for more information see <http://treeday.planetark.org/>

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> (Monday) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting with Margaret Bradhurst speaking on Sydney's Native Orchids - month by month**

**August 27<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), Field day: Royal National Park Burning Palms. Leaders: Julian and Ian Pitt**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) Additional Field Day** to complement Birds in Backyards workshops: Bird walk in Poulton Park, Hurstville Grove, looking at some small birds that need a dense understorey of shrubs for shelter, food and nest sites. Walk starts at 8 am for 1-2 hours. Meet at the steps in Whitfield Parade leading down to Poulton Park (approx. opposite No. 38). **Leaders: Liz Cameron & Graham Fry.** Tel. 9580 6621; [lizc@pacific.net.au](mailto:lizc@pacific.net.au)

## CLIVE BAKER

Clive gave a very interesting presentation at the June meeting on Trekking in Kokoda. He described the terrain, the people living in the area, the tourism and recalled significant events there during WW11.

Born in England in 1941, Clive's family migrated in 1951. As a teenager, he took up bushwalking, spent time in the army reserve commandos, and developed a taste for outdoor adventure. In the mid-1980s, he walked the Kokoda Trail, and that began a love of Papua New Guinea, exploring battlefields, mixing with villagers and trekking. For a while, he organised and led trekking trips to Kokoda and other destinations, more as a lifestyle rather than a money earner.

Clive's interest in military history led to his co-authoring *Battle of Milne Bay* and *Kokoda Trek* walking guide. He developed, and is still running the mail-order on-line War Book Shop that, among other things helps with tracking wartime relatives. [www.warbooks.com.au/](http://www.warbooks.com.au/)

## FANTASTIC FUNGI WALK

We were lucky to have lovely weather for our walk on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. 15 of us enjoyed a wonderful morning with the Kearneys in Lane Cove Bushland Park. The setting was idyllic and we spent a couple of hours scrambling around the banks of the creek and finding surprises everywhere we looked. Whilst we were told "the season" was two weeks past its peak, we were all fascinated with the many different types, sizes, and colours of the assemblage. We felt privileged to be guided by people so willing to share their knowledge and their wonder of the whole area. All had a great time. [Walk Report by Leader Robin Dickson]

GARDENS OF STONE WEEKEND OCT 29-30<sup>th</sup>

At the June meeting John Watters outlined the proposed program for examining the Gardens of Stone on the October 29<sup>th</sup> weekend.

Keith Muir, Director of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness is to be the leader. Keith spoke at the 2009 September meeting on the threats to this magnificent area. Over 1088 hectares of public forest are now at risk of exclusive occupation and destruction by open cut coal mining.

We will be travelling to the area in 4WD vehicles. Accommodation for the Saturday night is for participants to arrange. There are a range of cabins at the Lithgow Tourist and Van Park, and Lithgow has five motels. Details of meeting places and vehicle sharing will be available closer to the date.

Please let Alison Gilroy [9580 5557] or John Watters [9534 1096] know if you are interested in taking part in this weekend away.

## MAY PLANTING DAY AT DAIRY CREEK

It was a fun event with 22 volunteers planting 600 seedlings along the newly named Dairy Creek, upstream from Lime Kiln Bay wetland. The plantings complimented earlier work by H.C.C. Bushcare volunteers to increase biodiversity and provide habitat along the creek. The Menai Wildflower Group and the Bushcare volunteers propagated seed earlier collected from the reserve. The opportunity to increase the numbers of *Baeckea linifolia* from a single remaining species has proved encouraging; newly planted seedlings are doing well. Thanks to all participants, on completing the work to give a little back to the local environment. [Report by Jason Cockayne]

## Briefly

**The Keepers and the Kept.** Former reptile zookeeper Taronga Zoo, and Melbourne, and London, Terry Boylan, talking about his new book at Hurstville Library, 21<sup>st</sup> July: 7pm, bookings 9330 6142. <http://hurstvilleimg.blogspot.com/2011/>

**Wilderness.** To see why wilderness has become so confused a term look at [www.wildernesstruths.com](http://www.wildernesstruths.com)

**Mining Law in NSW:** An Environmental Defenders Office discussion paper looks at the legal framework regulating mining, identifies key inadequacies with the system, and recommends changes See it on <http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/>

**Animamundi Film** - Sydney Premiere, Aug 25<sup>th</sup> Chauvel Paddington, an innovative documentary about the planetary animal called the Earth and the human animal. <http://animamundimovie.com/>

Who came up with that rubbish about the climate changing?

