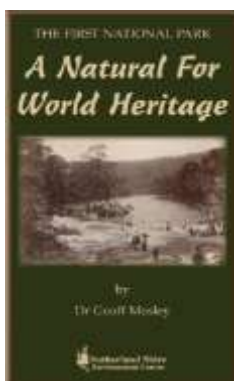




## NATIONAL PARKS

Geoff Mosley argues in this book that national parks are the world's best known and most important conservation measure, but that of all the 962 places on the World Heritage List not one has been selected to commemorate their development. The gap would be filled if the Royal and Heathcote National Parks and the Garawarra State Conservation Area were nominated for the World Heritage List, and so accepted for their internationally significant cultural and natural heritage values. [Promotional](#)



[pamphlet www.firstnationalpark.org.au/](#)

A feature of this book is the way in which it illustrates how the national parks, developed from urban parks, set aside as lungs for growing cities, evolved to focus on intensive recreation nature conservation. The RNP [dedicated April 1879] contributed to the spread of national parks and diversification of their management in New South Wales and elsewhere. Its legacy includes parks in the Blue Mountains, Snowy Mountains and other wilderness areas.

[australia.gov.au/about-australia/](http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/)

## CHALLENGES FOR THE GEORGES RIVER AREA

Formerly the Tucoerah River, it was an important focal point for Aboriginal life and culture. Renamed the Georges River by Governor Philip, it is some 96 kms in length, flowing from near Appin, north, past Campbelltown, Glenfield, and Liverpool, and then east to Botany Bay. The catchment area (the land that drains into the river) covers some 960km<sup>2</sup>. With over a million people it is one of the most highly urbanised catchments in Australia.



Looking east from Oatley Bay to the Pacific Ocean

Developments caused serious ecological and aesthetic damage, resulting from poor or no urban planning, from storm water, sewerage pollution, flooding and loss of flora and fauna. [off.oatleypark.com/](http://off.oatleypark.com/) [www.environment.gov.au/](http://www.environment.gov.au/)

The [GRCCC](#) is one body doing great work to enhance the health of the river system, but faced with inadequate and deteriorating infrastructure, and the high costs associated with improving it, the tasks ahead are very challenging.

## DON'T LEAVE IT TO EXPERTS!

Under this puzzling heading the U.S. Environmental Agency declared, "To be effective, a citizen organisation must be credible. It must know what it is talking about. It must know how to discriminate between accurate and inaccurate information. It must not accept as gospel whatever uninformed individuals might say. Get the facts! Check your sources! If someone claims that technology does not yet exist to deal with a particular problem, or that it's too costly to install, check it, and help the public [and perhaps the uninformed!]. In doubt, seek outside guidance." In OFF News Nov 1973

## THE FUTURE OF NATIONAL PARKS

Keith Muir, director of the *Colong Foundation for Wilderness* points out that the only way for the NSW Government to avoid a high-profile public shaming is to reject all the recommendations of the recently released Public Lands Inquiry Report. Noting that Sydney is to host the World Parks Congress in November 2014, an important event held only once every decade, he argues that the congress delegates must pour scorn on the NSW Government for failing to defend national parks from attack by the Shooters and Fishers Party. The Public Lands Inquiry, chaired by Shooter Robert Brown MLC, seeks to destroy the long-standing political consensus over the management of national parks, wilderness areas and nature reserves. The first recommendation of the Shooters' Inquiry pushes for multiple use of all public lands. The Shooters' proposal would turn national parks into grazing lands, logging areas, mines and tourist resorts.

[www.colongwilderness.org.au/media-releases/](http://www.colongwilderness.org.au/media-releases/) [www.birdlife.org.au/media/protect-the-places-we-love/](http://www.birdlife.org.au/media/protect-the-places-we-love/)

## AUSTRALIA'S CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

With over 60 presenters and 30 workshop topics, the event will be at Sydney Secondary College, Taylor St, Glebe on Sat-Sun 22-3<sup>rd</sup> June. [climatesummit.org.au/](http://climatesummit.org.au/)



## MORE ON LOGGING

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW has renewed its call for an end to unsustainable native forest logging and a rapid transition to plantation sources of timber after it was revealed that the NSW Forestry Corporation lost almost \$8 million on its native forestry operations last financial year. The *Sun Herald* reported that taxpayers paid \$671 a hectare subsidising the loss-making native forests operations of the corporation. "It is absurd that the people of NSW are paying millions of dollars each year to prop up an industry that is destroying thousands of hectares of wildlife habitat every year and yet does not enjoy public support," Its CEO, Pepe Clarke said. "The environmental arguments against logging of native forests are already well established. These figures now demonstrate a clear economic case for ending unsustainable native forest logging and accelerating the transition to a more sustainable plantation based industry." <http://nccnsw.org.au/media/>

## DID YOU KNOW?

Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens were established in 1816 by Governor Macquarie and are regarded as the oldest scientific institution in Australia. A number of trees in the Gardens in 1816 are still living, and the renowned Herbarium contains over one million preserved plant specimens, some collected by Sir Joseph Banks.

## FUNDING COMMUNITY ENERGY

Right across Australia local communities are working hard to set up community-owned renewable energy projects to power their towns and buildings, and are seeking financial assistance to achieve this. The Coalition for Community Energy is calling for a \$50 million government grant.

[www.fundcommunityenergy.org](http://www.fundcommunityenergy.org)

## COMING EVENTS

**June 24<sup>th</sup> (Mon) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting with Gary Schoer speaking on In the footsteps of Shackleton: An Antarctic adventure to South Georgia, Elephant Island and the Antarctic Peninsula.** Gary will share some images from his fourth expedition to Antarctica and try to convey how Shackleton and his fellow explorers coped with the Southern Ocean when their ship, Endurance, failed to live up to its name as it was crushed by the ice. [Searching For Shackleton by Gary Schoer](#)

**June 29<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Field day walking from Wattamolla to Curracurrong (Eagle Rock).** Turn at the RNP sign at Loftus; follow Audley Rd to Sir Bertram Stevens Dr, then to Wattamolla Rd. The walk will be approximately 7km return, mostly easy with 70m ascent. Last year we walked north from Wattamolla; this year we will head south along the Coast Track with cliff edge viewing for migratory whales. Bring lunch and drinking water. Meet at 10am at upper car park, Wattamolla (near toilets). In case of rain or if in need of a spare seat in car, ring leader **Alan Fairley** ☎ 9570 8332 (up to 8.30am on the day).

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> (Mon) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting with Sharyn Cullis and Phil Andersen speaking on Travels through Three National Parks in Patagonia.**

**July 27<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Field day to Thirlmere Lakes. Leader: Graham Fry** ☎ 9580 6621

**Aug 26<sup>th</sup> (Mon) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting with Alan Fairley speaking on Exploring the Galapagos Islands**

**Aug 31<sup>st</sup> (Sat) Field day to Muogamarra Nature Reserve** between Cowan, and the Hawkesbury River.

**Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> (Mon) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting with Dave Kirshner, "Goanna Man", speaking on Monitor Lizards.**

SAVE MONEY AND THE ENVIRONMENT May 27<sup>th</sup>

Forty four members and guests gathered for fellow OFF member, Graham Fry's illuminating presentation on how to save energy use in the home. This is important because, as well as saving money on energy costs, it reduces our impact on the environment - something we should always be trying to do. Graham showed some of the greatest savings result from replacing electric with solar hot water systems. At his house this measure reduced his electricity use by 40%. Other tips were replacing halogen lights with compact fluorescents or the newer [LED](#) lamps (which are both very efficient and have a long life). He showed how the replacement of halogen lighting by LED lighting could pay for itself in 14 months. He reminded the audience that insulation in the ceiling substantially reduces heating and cooling requirements, and closing curtains and blinds can also reduce heating and cooling costs.

WALK IN PEAKHURST AND LUGARNO June 1<sup>st</sup>

Eighteen OFF members and friends enjoyed mild weather with only a sprinkle of rain towards the end of our 8 ½ km walk, which included four reserves in Peakhurst and Lugarno (Jinna Reserve, Gannons Park, Heinrich Reserve and Evatt Park) and local streets. A few steep hills were testing for some of us, but the very moderate pace helped.

Optional checklists of plants and birds provided a prompt to look a little harder at our surroundings, and the new OFF bird brochure helped in identifying ducks on Webbs Dam. We lunched in Evatt



Evatt Park Lugarno

Park which was an orchard from the 1880s, a market garden until about 1960, and much earlier, the site of an unusual volcanic intrusion called a [diatreme](#).

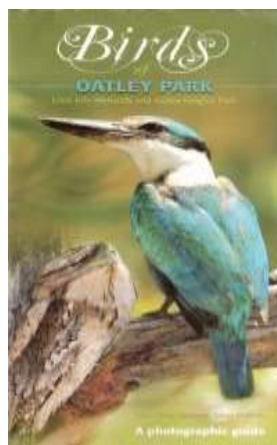
The difference between areas where Bushcare is active and other bushland areas shows that more funding is needed for bush protection and regeneration. We shared information about the early years of European settlement in the area, including land grants, family businesses, local industries and social change. We also saw and heard evidence of the continuing loss of large native trees from our local area. Though most of us were very close to home, almost everyone visited unfamiliar locations and learned something about how the landscape has changed, and about some of the people who lived there. Perhaps the walk is a reminder that we don't have to travel far to visit new and interesting places. [Report by co-leader Jan Douglas] [sites.google.com/site/lugarnohistory](http://sites.google.com/site/lugarnohistory)

YOU CAN ENJOY ACCESSING O.F.F. NEWS ON THE INTERNET, AND SAVE POSTAGE COSTS FOR THE SOCIETY.

## O.F.F.'S NEW BIRD BROCHURE

107 bird species have been recorded in the area in recent years. Some are attracted by flowering gums, others by the estuarine flats, the ponds and reed beds of the wetlands. Cockatoos, king parrots and rosellas nest in hollows of large trees. Raptors are often seen overhead and ospreys are known to nest nearby. This area of significant bushland, with bush corridors linking nearby reserves is an important sanctuary for resident and migratory birds, many of which are featured in the brochure.

[The brochure is funded by Hurstville City Council and OFF members]



## FOR NOTING

**A** Aboriginal History in Royal National Park & Surrounds at Kurnell Visitors Centre, Cape Solander Dr, Sun 21<sup>st</sup> July 2-6pm. RSVP by 21<sup>st</sup> July to Margaret Philips ☎ 9542 0648 or [mailto:xyz@xxx.org.au](mailto:mailto:xyz@xxx.org.au)

**A** Australian Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2012 Exhibition, 8 June to 7 Oct. [www.australianmuseum.net.au/](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/)

**E** arth Masters: Playing God with the Climate Author Clive Hamilton investigates the risks of some of the measures being proposed to save the planet. [www.clivehamilton.com/](http://www.clivehamilton.com/) <http://off.oatleypark.com/>

**L** ugarno History Riverside Reflections: Memoirs of Lugarno, by Glenyss Barnham, and Ferries and Farms: A History of Lugarno by Graham Blewett.

**M** yles Dunphy Streamwatch, testing the creek lines flowing to the Georges River next meets 9am on Tues 25<sup>th</sup> June. Details: Sharyn (☎9579 1262), Heather (☎ 0425 291 879).

**N** ew Planning System for NSW - White Paper See comments by Environmental Defenders Office NSW [www.edo.org.au/](http://www.edo.org.au/)

**T** otal Environment Centre is addressing climate change, green energy, natural areas waste and recycling [www.tec.org.au/home.html](http://www.tec.org.au/home.html)

