



AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY (AWC)

At our 24th Nov meeting, Leah Royle, Development Executive of AWC, gave an interesting presentation on the Wildlife Conservancy's role protecting endangered wildlife, animals, ecosystems, and biodiversity.

AWC was formally established in 2001 by [the late Martin Copley](#) to help address Australia's problem with its worst mammal extinction rate in the world. AWC is developing a new conservation model to reverse the wildlife decline. With [23 properties](#), the largest private owner of land for conservation in Australia, it is protecting endangered wildlife across more than 3 million hectares in regions such as the Kimberley, Cape York, Lake Eyre, and the Top End. It protects a very high proportion of Australia's terrestrial biodiversity - 67% of terrestrial mammal species, 83% of terrestrial bird species, and 50% of reptile and frog species. AWC protects some of the largest remaining populations of many of Australia's endangered species including Bilbies, Numbats, Woylies, Bridled Naitail Wallabies, Gouldian Finches, and Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens. <http://www.australianwildlife.org/>

FIVE FERRIES WALK

On 29th Nov, ten OFF members met at Circular Quay for this field day event. Ferry 1 was the 9am to Rydalmere, and from there we walked to the Silverwater Bridge, and crossed the Parramatta River, heading for Olympic Park. We had morning tea at Blaxland Park, with, for some, a much-needed caffeine charge, and then moved on to Olympic Park to catch Ferry 2 to Meadowbank. On the way to Kissing Point, we paused at Bennelong's grave in Putney. We lunched at Kissing Point, and then travelled on Ferry 3 to Abbotsford. Walking along the foreshore to Chiswick, we took Ferry 4 to Huntley's Point. Six of the party then decided to stay on board and return to Circular Quay. The remaining four walked across the Gladesville Bridge, for a great view of Sydney, then down to Drummoyne Wharf, catching Ferry 5 to the Quay. Overall, it was a pleasant walk; the day was fine, sunny, and not too hot. [Report by Leader Jennifer Whaite]



www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au/

EXPECT MORE HEATWAVES

The CSIRO notes that the duration, frequency and intensity of heatwaves have increased across many parts of Australia, based on daily temperature records since 1950. Days where extreme heat is widespread have become more common in the past twenty years. Some recent instances of extreme summer temperatures experienced around the world, including record-breaking summer temperatures in Australia over 2012-2013, are very unlikely to have been caused by natural variability alone. www.csiro.au/Outcomes/ & <http://www.cawcr.gov.au/projects/climatechange/> & <http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/>

RIISING SEA LEVELS

The Pacific Island nation of Kiribati has 100,000 people living on less than 320 square miles. It is a "frontline nation" facing a serious threat of permanent inundation from rising sea-levels. At low tide, one can



glimpse how the once-fertile soil has been transformed into thick clay of mud, sewage, and stagnant water. Stumps of dead coconut trees and car parts slowly rusting in the harsh Kiribati sun give a post-apocalyptic feel.

During "[king tides](#)" the ocean engulfs living spaces; previously only twice a year, now more than twenty times a year. Communities suffer from coastal erosion, and face the threat of contamination of their fresh water supply. It is now a question of when they will have to leave. mashable.com/kiribati-last-generation/

A HUNDRED PERCENT RENEWABLES

There were several instances in 2014 when wind energy accounted for all electricity demand in South Australia. On one day, the combination of wind energy and rooftop solar provided more than 100% of the state's electricity needs, for the whole working day. <http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/>

THREAT OF FERAL CATS

Feral cats have caused the extinction of some ground-dwelling birds and small to medium-sized mammals, and are a major cause of decline for many animals. Control is difficult as they are spread thinly over large ranges, are shy and difficult to locate. The most effective and available form of feral cat control over large areas is poison baiting. The [Curiosity@bait](#) for feral cats is a long-term \$4.1 million project to develop humane, broad-scale toxic bait in conservation areas. www.environment.gov.au/ & <http://www.australianwildlife.org/>

SNOWY MOUNTAINS 2015

Our annual trip to Smiggin Holes Chalet will be from Sat 7th to 14th Feb. [Costs per night are \$119 double or twin room, \$98 single room, \$48 per child 6-18]. We need to book a minimum of 10 rooms but you do not have to stay for all 7 days. **Please confirm your booking by 24th January.** Information and bookings, Liz Cameron ☎ 9580 6621 or lizc@pacific.net.au



Nearly 900 calendars have been sold with profits of around \$600 to each of OFF, OHHS and Oatley Lions. Sales continue at special rates of \$4 each or three for \$10.

Earth Hour 2015 March 28th 8.30PM

During Earth Hour, hundreds of millions of people around the world turn off their lights for one hour to show their commitment to helping the planet. It is a symbolic reminder that the world's environmental issues do not have to overwhelm us. Small things we do every day will make a better future and make change happen. So whether you reflect under the stars or celebrate by candlelight, turn off your lights and show you'll do your part to protect our planet. Turn out your lights for one hour on Sat Mar 28 at 8:30 p.m. to show your commitment to a better future. <http://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/earth-hour>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 2nd (Mon) 7.45pm Annual General Meeting** with the election of officers. followed by members' photo slides and a social supper. Members are encouraged to bring a plate, and to display interesting photos. Twenty is a recommended photo limit!
- Feb 23rd (Mon) 7.45pm regular monthly meeting.** Our speaker is **Dr Cameron Webb**, Medical Entomology, University of Sydney, and Pathology Westmead Hospital, speaking on mozzies and mosquito-borne disease. <http://cameronwebb.wordpress.com>
- Feb 28th (Sat) Field Day:** Dharawal NP - Stokes and O'Hares Creeks. Medium to good fitness required; trails are steep and rough in sections but with cool clear streams at the end. Bring walking poles, drinks, morning tea, lunch, and swimmers. Finish about 2pm. Meet 9.30am [around 45 mins driving time] at western entrance to Dharawal National Park, end of Victoria Rd, [Wedderburn](#). [For more details, car-pooling etc. contact Leader: Sharyn Cullis, go_river@hotmail.com ☎ 9579 1262, 📞 0421 714 391]
- Mar 2nd (Mon) 10:00am Liverpool Waste Water Treatment Plant** guided tour by Sydney Water Corp for OFF.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF OATLEY FLORA AND FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2014

Rodger Robertson - Treasurer

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Income	2014	2013
Subscriptions	\$3,650.00	\$3,691.00
Donations	\$1,445.00	\$2,011.00
Sales Stalls etc.	\$301.00	\$259.85
Oatley RSL donation	\$0.00	\$500.00
Hurstville Council Grant	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
NSW Government Grant	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Misc. Income	\$200.00	\$19.00
Interest(chèque acct)	\$1.27	\$1.56
Annual dinner	\$2,534.00	\$0.00
Calendar sales	\$9,834.50	
Capertee trip	\$1,100.00	
Sydney Observatory visit	\$336.00	
Total income	\$19,401.77	\$9,982.41
Expenses		
OFF Newsletter printing postage	-\$838.69	-\$831.49
Insurance	-\$275.00	-\$290.00
Mail box rental	-\$107.00	-\$99.00
Church Hall hire	-\$432.60	-\$408.60
Dept Fair Trading	-\$52.00	-\$51.00
Oatley Lions stall	-\$130.00	-\$120.00
Sydney Observatory trip	-\$16.00	
Print programs	-\$272.80	-\$266.20
Bushcare Day	-\$202.40	
Donations and membership	-\$3,390.00	-\$3,230.00
Annual dinner	\$2,290.00	
Calendar expenses	-\$8,390.50	
Capertee expenses	-\$960.00	
Brochures printing		-\$5275.75
Misc. Expenses	-\$407.43	-\$552.30
Total expenses	-\$17,763.82	-\$11,124.34
Net Profit/Loss	\$1,637.95	-\$1,141.93

BANK RECONCILIATION

	2014	2013
Balance as at 1 January 2014	\$5,847.53	
Transfer from Fixed Account	\$2,837.03	
Profit on year	\$1,637.95	
Cheque account balance 31/12/14	\$10,322.51	\$5,847.53
12 month term deposit (net)	\$8,000.00	\$10,392.30
Total balance at bank 31 Dec	\$18,322.51	\$17,847.48

DONATIONS	2014	2013
Nature Conservation Council	\$310.00	\$300
Environmental Defenders Office	\$600.00	\$600
Colong Foundation	\$400.00	\$400
Wilderness Soc	\$300.00	\$300
WIRES	\$0	\$300
Kuringai Bats	\$300.00	\$300
Total Environment Centre	\$150.00	\$300
Blue Mountains Conservation Soc	\$300.00	\$300
Sydney Wildlife	\$200.00	\$200
Friends of Royal	\$30.00	\$30
Lithgow District Community Nursery	\$0.00	\$200
Better Planning Network	\$250.00	\$0
Sydney Metro Wildlife	\$100.00	\$0
Lock the Gate	\$250.00	\$0
NCC PSW donation	\$100.00	\$0
Australian Institute	\$100.00	\$0
Total	\$3390.00	\$3230.00

NOTES

1. NCC and Friends of Royal membership with donations
2. Accounts included advance subscriptions and donations for 2014.
3. Interest from Term Deposit account was \$444.73 and is not included in above P/L accounts.
4. 2015 Calendar expenses and income includes Lions Club seed money. It has been repaid in full.
5. Profit from Calendars yet to be distributed to Lions, OHHS--- approx \$500 to each as at 31 Dec.
6. Fixed balance is at August so transfer to working account includes \$15.57 of interest post 30 June

AGM FIRST MEETING OF 2015

Best wishes for 2015 to all our members and friends. The first meeting of the year will be the Annual General Meeting on Monday, 2nd Feb when the 2015 office bearers and Committee will be elected. We would like to hear from anyone interested in joining the committee. The AGM will be followed by a slide show and supper. Members are encouraged to bring and display interesting photos, [Ø>15!] and some finger food for supper.



FOR NOTING

Australia Day Festival - Hurstville City Council in Oatley Park Mon 26th Jan from 10am. OFF will have a stall - helpers welcome. [Australia-Day-Festival.html](#)

Celebration Dinner - **OFF's 60th** Thurs May 14th at The Gardens on Forest.

Clean Up Australia Day 01/03/2015. Details of OFF participation will be in next News and at the February meeting. www.cleanupaustriaday.org.au/

Colong Foundation, the successor to Myles Dunphy's National Parks and Primitive Areas Council, continues the battle for the wilderness. <http://www.colongwilderness.org.au/>

Earth Hour 28/03/2015 between 8.30 and 9.30 pm local time. www.timeanddate.com/earth-hour

Liverpool Waste Water Treatment Plant guided tour Sydney Water Corp for OFF Mon 2nd March 10:00am.

Myles Dunphy Streamwatch, next meets at 9am on Tues Feb 24th. Details: Sharyn (☎9579 1262), Heather (📞 0425 291 879).

Renew membership - Welcome New Members Details of OFF Membership are on our website at <http://off.oatleypark.com/>

Snowy Mountains Trip Note the Jan 24th booking deadline.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2015

Have you paid your membership fee yet? The fee is \$25 per family. One way to pay is by direct bank transfer to BSB 062 206 Act no 901997 Oatley Flora and Fauna Con Soc, **AND put your full name on the transfer form.**