



OFF News

Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Society Inc.

Protecting the local environment since 1955

<http://off.oatleypark.com>

Issue 1/16

Jan/Feb 2016

AGM FIRST MEETING OF 2016

Best wishes for 2016 to all our members and friends are extended by the 2015 Committee. The first meeting this year will be the Annual General Meeting on Monday, 1st February at the Oatley RSL. General Meetings will be at the RSL from now on, and from 7.30 to 9.30pm. [See notes below]

HUMAN CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL WARMING?

In the [Global Warming Controversy](#), campaigning to undermine public trust in climate science has been described as a "denial machine" of industrial, political and ideological interests, supported by conservative media and sceptical bloggers in [manufacturing uncertainty](#) about global warming.^{[9][10]} In the public debate, phrases such as *climate scepticism* have frequently been used with the same meaning as *climate denialism*.^[11] The labels are contested; those actively challenging climate science commonly describe themselves as "sceptics", but many do not comply with [scientific scepticism](#) and, regardless of evidence, continue to deny human caused global warming.^[3] (<https://en.wikipedia.org/> & https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_denial)

DRILLING IN THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT

The *National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority* [NOPSEMA] says it is not satisfied by BP's environment plan for deep-sea drilling off Australia's southern coastline.

The regulator says BP will have to modify its environment plan before any drilling can go ahead. "After a thorough and rigorous assessment, it has determined that the environment plan does not yet meet the criteria for acceptance under the environment regulations, and has so advised BP".
<http://indaily.com.au/news> ; <https://www.wilderness.org.au/campaigns/great-australian-bight>

20TH NOVEMBER: RIVER BOAT POSTMAN CRUISE

Thirty OFF members took part in the last outing of 2015. After a relatively early start in order to get to Hawkesbury River station by 10am, we boarded the boat for a very pleasant 3-hour cruise on the Hawkesbury River. There was a good commentary and the participants were surprised at the number and extent of the many small settlements along the shoreline. We dropped off mail at most stops except for one, where we were met by a dog who gratefully accepted his regular anzac biscuit!



It was a very hot day but the cooling breeze on the water helped to keep us comfortable. After a nice lunch we arrived back at the wharf at 1pm in time to catch the train back to Central and onto Oatley. Whilst the day was not as active as some outings, it was a good opportunity to socialise and I think most people enjoyed the day. [Report by Field Day Leader [Graham Fry](#)]

OFF MEETINGS AT OATLEY RSL, FROM 1ST FEB.

The decision to move our meetings from the Uniting Church Hall in Frederick St has not been taken lightly, and there is some regret at ending such a long and cordial association with the Church. However, the new venue is suitable in many ways, with good acoustics, sound system, projector, and screen. It also has good seating and more parking spaces.

BADGERYS CREEK ENVIRONMENT

The Colong Foundation believes that overflights from the proposed Western Sydney Airport will cause significant noise impacts to wilderness in the Blue Mountains. The Foundation fears that if the airport is approved the Blue Mountains will lose its green cachet and affect its tourist-based economy. "The proposed Badgerys Creek Airport draft environmental impact statement has confirmed a 24-hour a day operation and a lower quality of life for the people of Western Sydney. The noise from 24-hour-a-day airport operation will cause sleep interruption for many people and the road traffic associated with the proposed airport will create unacceptable levels of smog. To be fair, the people who live in the eastern half of Sydney should get the 24 hours a day airport, as the existing airport can disperse its air pollution, but a Western Sydney airport, jammed up against the Blue Mountains cannot," notes Keith Muir, Colong Foundation for Wilderness.

<https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/media-releases/>

EARTH HOUR 2016

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, 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 will do your part to protect our planet.

On 19TH March turn out your lights from 8:30pm for one hour to show your commitment to a better future. <http://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/earth-hour>

THE POWERFUL OWL PROJECT

Chris Lloyd keeps us informed on developments in this *Birds in Backyards* Project. Particularly helpful is the update of December, noting, among many items, that they have 120 volunteers working in the program, 50 recruited in 2015.

Car strikes continue to be a major threat to Powerful Owls in the urban area. From data supplied by WIRES, Taronga Zoo, AWCN and local vets, there have been 22 fatal car strikes since March 2012 in Sydney. The data collected is really important for the effective management of the threatened urban Powerful Owl populations, and is shared with land managers and local councils.

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/> & <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

The Australian Marine Conservation Society ([AMCS](#)) has pointed to the collapse in Chinese thermal coal imports as another reason to stop dredging in the Marine Park and World Heritage Area. Figures show Chinese imports of coal are down by 39% compared to last year.

AMCS argues that the collapse of the seaborne coal industry is further evidence that dredging in the Reef's waters for coal is bad for the economy and the environment. It is more important to protect the Reef than to protect coal.

Mining and burning coal is one of the leading causes of global warming. It causes the waters of the Reef to warm and become more acidic. Unless we reduce our reliance on coal and move to renewables, we are risking the future of the Great Barrier Reef. <http://www.marineconservation.org.au/>

Meetings of the Society are now held at the [Oatley RSL & Community Club](#), 23 Letitia Oatley from 7.30 to 9.30pm, usually on the fourth Monday. Visitors and accompanied children are welcome at meetings and excursions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 1st (Mon) 7.30pm. Annual General Meeting at the Oatley with the election of officers and review of the work of the Society. If you are interested in nominating for the committee, please contact Liz Cameron. If you have interesting photos please bring them for a "PowerPoint presentation", [sorry no slides, must be digital photos on CD or memory stick!]. The meeting will close with a social supper - please bring a plate.

Feb 22nd (Mon) 7.30pm regular monthly meeting, now at the Oatley RSL. Our speaker is Dr Dennys Angrove a former CSIRO Atmospheric Scientist addressing the question of whether climate change is supported by science. Dennys is now a volunteer on the Climate Citizens Lobby.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT for 2015
Rodger Robertson - Treasurer

Income	2015	2014
Subscriptions	\$3,940.00	\$3,650.00
Donations	\$1,982.00	\$1,445.00
Sales Stalls etc.	\$308.00	\$301.00
NSW Gov Grant Drain Project	\$4,550.00	\$0.00
Interest (cheque Acct)	\$3.46	\$1.27
Annual dinner	\$3,390.00	\$2,534.00
2015 Calendar sales	\$909.00	\$9,834.50
2016 Calendar sales	\$1,023.00	\$0.00
Capertee trip	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
Sydney Observatory trip	\$0.00	\$336.00
Miscellaneous income	\$345.00	\$200.00
Total income	\$16,450.46	\$19,401.77
Expenses		
OFF Newsletter printing postage	-\$1,098.24	-\$1,111.39
Insurance	-\$295.00	-\$275.00
PO box rental	-\$115.00	-\$107.00
Church Hall hire	-\$477.00	-\$432.00
Dept Fair Trading	-\$53.00	-\$52.00
Oatley Lions stall	0	-\$130.00
Sydney Observatory Trip	0	-\$16.00
Bushcare day	-\$97.97	-\$202.40
Donations and Membership	-\$3,135.00	-\$695.70
Annual dinner	-\$3,555.00	-\$1,724.00
2016 Calendar expenses	-\$1,000.00	-\$7,562.63
Capertee expenses	0	-\$960.74
Drain Project expenditure	-\$3,474.10	0
Miscellaneous	-\$186.96	-\$407.43
2015 Calendar profit - OHHS/Lions	\$1568.00	0
Total	-\$15,055.27	\$17,763.32
P/L	\$1,395.19	\$1,637.95
Bank Reconciliation	2015	2014
Balance at Jan 1 2015	\$10,322.51	\$5,847.53
Transfer from Fixed account	\$0	\$2,873.03
Profit on year	\$1,395.19	\$1,637.95
Cheque account balance 31/12/15	\$11,717.70	\$10,322.51
12-month term deposit (net)	\$8,176.00	\$8,000.00
Total balance at bank 31 Dec	\$19,893.70	\$18,322.51

Donations	2015	2014
Nature Conservation Council	\$350.00	\$310
Sydney Wildlife	\$0	\$200
Batter Planning Network	\$0	\$250
Environmental Defenders Office	\$1,000.00	\$600
Colong Foundation	\$400.00	\$300
Wilderness Soc	\$0.00	\$300
WIRES	\$200.00	\$0
Kuringai Bats	\$285.00	\$300
Total Environment Centre	\$150.00	\$150
Blue Mountains Conservation Soc	\$300.00	\$300
Sydney Metro Wildlife	\$0.00	\$100
Friends of Royal	\$0.00	\$30
Lock the Gate	\$250.00	\$250
NCC PSW donation	\$0	\$100
Climate Council	\$5000	\$00
Kuringai Bats	\$285	\$300
Better Planning Network	\$0	\$250
Total	\$3,135.00	\$3,390

Notes.

1. NCC membership shown with donations.
2. Accounts included advance subscriptions and donations for 2016.
3. Interest from Term Deposit account was \$176 and is not included in above P/L accounts.
4. 2015 Calendar profit of was split evenly between OFF, OHHS and Oatley Lions. It was mostly earned in 2014 but paid out in 2015.
5. 2016 Calendar money in excess of OFF seed of \$1000 will be repaid to OHHS. If profit on project is realised, then profits will be shared as in previous years.
6. Unpresented Cheque of \$235 to Ross Crates not in accounts
7. Drains Project account still to spend \$1075.90.

Rodger Robertson 13/1/16

FOR NOTING

Clean Up Australia Day 2016 Sunday 6th March. Details of OFF participation will be in next News and at the February meeting. <http://www.cleanupaustrialaday.org.au>

Earth Hour will be held on 19th March between 8.30 and 9.30pm local time. www.timeanddate.com/earth-hour

Myles Dunphy Streamwatch, next meets at 9am on Tues 23rd Feb [Details: Sharyn ☎9579 1262, Heather ☎0425 291 879].

Oatley Flora & Fauna on facebook highlighting Oatley & Surrounds with latest news alerts <https://www.facebook.com/>

Oatley Heritage & Historical Soc. [OHHS] AGM Friday 26th Feb at the RSL at 10.00am. <http://www.oatleyhistory.org.au/>

Paws Newsletter for Parks & Wildlife Supporters <http://www.fnpw.org.au/>

Renew Membership – Welcome New Members. Members may opt to pay their membership fee by direct bank transfer – [details in the renewal notice due out soon]. **Please include your name** if you pay by direct transfer. Details of OFF Membership are on our website at <http://off.oatleypark.com/>

NSW CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

The EDO notes that the NSW Government is inviting public comments on developing a container deposit scheme for NSW.

Container deposit schemes use rewards to encourage people to return their drink containers to a collection point. They reward environmentally responsible behaviour, reduce drink container pollution and increase recycling. The Government has released a discussion paper that outlines the key elements of a scheme and presents two possible models. Submissions are invited until Friday 26 February 2016. [Read more and have your say](#)

The Leader finally published the photos and LKB/ drain stencilling story in the Wed 20th January 2016 edition. More at <http://www.theleader.com.au/story/>

