



THE IMPORTANCE OF ROADSIDE GREENSPACES

Increasing urbanisation and development continues to exert pressure on land use in our cities. We can assume that remnant patches of vegetation such as in backyards, gardens and public parks are an important component of the suburban habitat, as well as improving our own well-being.

Interestingly, research reported in *Urban Forestry, Urban Greening* (Vol 30, March 2018) suggests that roadside greenspaces also support a unique community of ants, beetles and spiders, and notes that management practices like increasing habitat complexity are important. "Maintaining and enhancing the conservation value of these spaces requires both an understanding of the biodiversity they support, and the factors, including habitat traits, influencing species occurrence". The results highlighted the important role of a sometimes overlooked greenspace in the urban environment.



BEVERLEY PARK GOLF CLUB APPLICATION TO REMOVE 156 TREES AND FENCE OFF COURSE

As at 27 March 2018 the residents' committee had recorded 238 submissions against the Development Application. OFF has also lodged an objection which states in part that the (Biodiversity Corridor) map shows vegetated areas of the BPGC as being Supporting Habitat and the grassed areas as Supporting Areas. Given the prominence of the site, and the number of trees to be culled, there is a distinct possibility that developers and home owners will seize on this council-sanctioned slaughter of both natives and exotics and will be quick to use it as a precedent to justify tree removals on their own properties across the local government area.

Our key concern however is the complete fencing off of the golf course. This is a public space and yet unless you are a golfer you will be effectively locked out of public land. This creeping privatisation of public land by quasi-public organisations is a major concern. The issue was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 8 April, 2018 'Residents see red over Sydney golf club's plan to build border fence'

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/residents-see-red-over-golf-club-s-plan-to-build-border-fence-20180406-p4z870.html>

Members are welcome to lodge individual submissions. An online petition against the perimeter security fence can be signed at:

<https://www.change.org/p/gail-conolly-objection-to-perimeter-security-fence-surrounding-beverley-park-golf-course>

EXCURSION REPORT: EDGECLIFF TO CIRCULAR QUAY WALK

Sydney is arguably one of the best cities in the world for walking because of its spectacular harbour and coast. On 21 March 2018 despite the bleak rainy start for those of us keen to explore, we embarked on a walking excursion of the city's eastern fringe commencing at Edgecliff. Some highlights during the 5km walk included, Rushcutters Bay Park, so full of charm and activity, being set against the picturesque harbour provided an opportunity to admire the luxury yachts, whilst dodging dogs in the leash-free park. Next stops included Kings Cross and the El Alamein fountain.



According to the Office of Environment and Heritage "The El Alamein Memorial Fountain is of State significance as a war memorial to the Australian soldiers of the 9th Division who fought near the Egyptian town of El Alamein in two battles which helped turn the course of World War II towards victory for the Allies". We then walked through the back streets and lanes of historic Woollahroo. Our journey coming to a breathtaking end at the Opera House and Circular Quay. It was a good walk with good company.

Keith McRorie – Leader

REPORTING TREE REMOVAL

OFF welcomes notifications from members of trees which have been removed, pruned or poisoned and we're happy to upload details, including photos, on the website and Georges River Trees Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/georgesrivertrees/photos/?ref=page_internal

We recommend you contact Georges River Council by emailing mail@georgesrivercouncil.nsw.gov.au or by phoning 9330-6400.

NEW OFF NEWS EDITOR

We are pleased to welcome Adelina Cubelic as the new Editor of OFF News and thank her for the fine work she did in compiling her first newsletter, the March/April edition.

PHOTOS NEEDED

Do you have any 35mm slide photos of OFF activities from the 1980s, 1970s or even earlier? The Society would like to borrow them so we can make digital copies as part of our historical records. We would need them to be on loan for a few weeks. If you can help, see Alan Fairley at one of OFF's meetings.

Coming OFF Events in April/May 2018
OFF Full Year Events Calendar at: off.oatleypark.com/program

23 April – The Old Burma Road to Shangri La with Julian Sheen

Julian will take us on a journey that starts in the Irrawaddy delta at Rangoon amongst the aging grandeur of a dilapidated empire and the unspeakable richness of the Shwedagon Pagoda. His talk will also explore the traditional aquaculture of Inle Lake and the lost Hindu greatness of Bagan, once home to 6000 temples. Sharing his travels to Mandalay and Maymyo he will also cover his train journey to the Golden Triangle in eastern Myanmar and onwards to China, including the mighty Yangtze River. Finally, he will recall his experiences in the far eastern Himalayas and legendary Shangri La. A talk not to be missed - a celebration of cultural diversity, with the added treat of poetry.

27-29 April – Trip to Capertee Valley

OFF have again arranged a weekend at Capertee National Park. We have booked both the homestead and the cottage, but as in previous years this location is very popular and all our accommodation is now booked out. However, there is still plenty of camping space for those who want to get closer to nature. If you are interested please contact **Graham Fry** at fryg45@gmail.com or on 9580 6621.

3 June – Field Trip Advance Notice, an Exploration of Parramatta with Vicki Bolling

More details to come.

Meetings of the Society are held at the Oatley RSL Club, 23 Letitia St, Oatley (lower level sports room) from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, usually on the fourth Monday of the month. Visitors and accompanied children are welcome at meetings and field days.

Note ** The RSL Club management has requested that all meeting attendees be RSL Club members, so please join if you are not already a member. Fees are \$6 per year or \$12 for 3 years. Don't forget to ask for your parking sticker which provides you access to the RSL car park. Of course you can be signed in by a RSL member if you are not a member. To enter the club, you should do either of these things.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

OATLEY PARK BUSHCARE group is on the second Saturday of each month starting at 12.00 pm. Meet up at the carpark at the top entrance gate off Oatley Park Avenue. Although this group is overseen by council, it is in essence an OFF initiative and so it is important that it is supported by members so we can be seen to be 'putting our money where our mouth is'.

MYLES DUNPHY STREAMWATCH Details Heather Stolle 0425 291 879. This activity usually takes place on the Tuesday after OFF General Meetings.

FLYING FOX NUMBERS IN MYLES DUNPHY RESERVE

On 15 February 2018 our regular flying fox watcher Geoff Francis, counted 3400 bats flying off in a northerly direction. This is the highest count since the all-time high of 4170 recorded flying out on 29 March 2011. Near-by residents have seen and heard them feasting on Figs, Palms and Bloodwoods.



Grey headed Flying Fox numbers are decreasing as a result of habitat destruction. They are important to the existing forest ecosystem as they pollinate and disperse seeds of many of our tree species.

Visit <http://off.oatleypark.com/?cat=7> for more information and photos.

MAY FLOWERS IN OATLEY PARK

Although it is off-season for most wildflowers, any short walk along the tracks of Oatley Park will reveal some flowering plants even at this time of year. There is a host of

wonderful low growing natives that add a splash of colour now. Most common are the small wattles; Flax Wattle (*Acacia linifolia*), Sweet-scented Wattle, (*A. suaveolens*) and Prickly Moses (*A. ulicifolia*).



The small yellow-green tubular flower of *Correa reflexa* is common in the understorey. They feature beautiful pendulous, bell-shaped flowers which are designed for bird pollination, so you can expect regular visits from several species of nectar feeding birds while they are in flower.

Close examination of the ground will reveal the dainty ground orchid known as Pixie Caps (*Acianthus fornicatus*), with a single small upright stem to 12cm tall growing from a heart-shaped single leaf. Spend more time this autumn enjoying the wildflowers in bloom.