



## NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

There will be a Special General Meeting at the end of the General Meeting on **25 June, 2018**. It should take approximately 15 minutes. The purpose of this meeting is to seek member's approval of the revised OFF Rules, henceforth to be known as the Constitution. Changes are required to ensure that OFF complies with *Associations Incorporation* laws. Note that changes to incorporated associations constitutions require approval by at least 75% of members attending the Special General Meeting. A copy of this new Constitution is available on the OFF website at:

<http://off.oatleypark.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/OFF-Rules-proposed-2018-amendments-to-OFF-Rules-as-amended-2006-changes-accepted-20180302-reduced-margins.pdf>

If you do not have access to the web and would like to read the new Constitution, phone the Secretary – Liz Cameron on 9580 6621 to obtain a copy.

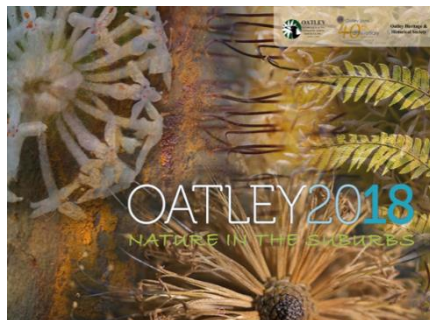
## OFF CELEBRATION DINNER

The annual OFF Celebration Dinner will be held on **Thursday 28 June, 2018** at OAT MILL, Oatley RSL from 6.30 pm (commencing 7.00 pm). The cost is \$38 per person. Dinner includes bread roll, entree, main, and cupcakes. Special dietary requirements available on request. Guests are to purchase drinks at the bar. OFF will hold a raffle on the night. Donations most welcome. For further information please contact Sue Howard 9579 1718.

## 2019 OFF CALENDAR

In previous years, OFF has produced a calendar that is released for sale at the Oatley Lions Festival held in October. The 2018 calendar featured wildlife of the Georges River area, and proved to be very popular with only a few copies left. Due to this success we are planning to produce another calendar with a similar theme for 2019.

The major difference is that there will not be a competition for the images. Instead, photographers will have the satisfaction of having their images published in the calendar. The criteria for the images is that they must be of flora or fauna in the St George area.



Entries will close on **Saturday, 1 September 2018** in order to meet the Oatley Lions Festival deadline. Entries can be emailed to [off@oatleypark.com](mailto:off@oatleypark.com) so, all photographers should start clicking!

## MEHREEN FARUQI, MP NSW GREENS VISITS OATLEY

Dr Mehreen Faruqi, Greens MLC and environment spokesperson visited Myles Dunphy Reserve on June 3, 2018 and gathered information from concerned residents about the many issues affecting our park.

Consequently, Dr Faruqi will present a Notice of Motion to State Parliament on June 19, 2018 which asks "the Minister for Planning to reject the gateway determination for the former Oatley Bowling Club site and to protect the area in perpetuity as public recreational space in public hands". More information can be found

at <https://www.mehreenfaruqi.org.au/community-calls-for-oatley-open-space-to-be-protected/>

## ELIZABETH FARM – ROSEHILL

On 3 June, 2018 eight OFF members took part in Vicki Bolling's walk around Parramatta, which followed on from last year's successful outing. The first visit was to the Lancer Barracks near the station. The barracks are a historic military facility, built in 1818. Today they are an operational army unit as well as housing a museum, and are the oldest continuously used military barracks on the mainland of Australia. Its greatest claim to fame is that the Australian Light Horse was initially based at the barracks.

The primary destination of the walk was to visit Elizabeth Farm - the property of John and Elizabeth Macarthur. The house was built in 1793 and is recognised as the oldest European building in Australia.



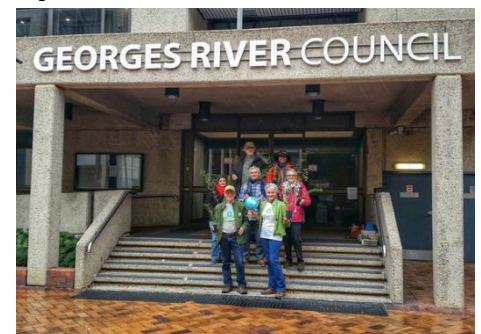
After a welcome coffee, a volunteer guide Lyn, gave the group a wonderful tour of the restored homestead complete with many historical stories of the Macarthur dynasty. The size of the house and complex of buildings were a revelation. Being allowed to explore all the different rooms and even sit on the furniture gave the group an opportunity to experience what life was like in colonial times.

The tour lasted two hours and finished with a lovely lunch in the grounds. After lunch all participants returned to Parramatta railway station via another historic Macarthur property, Hambledon Cottage – which deserves more exploration, perhaps a visit for next year. More information and photos from the walk can be found at:

<http://off.oatleypark.com/?p=7204>

## OFF BRINGS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TO GRC

World Environment Day is celebrated every year around the world on June 5. It came to the attention of some OFF members that the Georges River Council (GRC) didn't organise an event to celebrate it. So some of our dedicated OFF members decided to organise their own event outside the Hurstville customer service centre. They offered Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society brochures on local plants and birds to the public and council staff.



**25 June 2018 – Paul Irish, Author of “Hidden in Plain View”**

Author Paul Irish explores Aboriginal lives post 1788. Contrary to what you may think, Aboriginal people did not disappear nor lose their culture and die out within decades of Governor Phillip’s arrival in Sydney. They maintained a strong bond with the coast and its resources and tried to live on their own terms. Aboriginal people are prominent in accounts of early colonial Sydney, but then disappear from the historical record, re-emerging early in the twentieth century. Find out what happened to Sydney’s indigenous people between the devastating impact of white settlement and increased government intervention a century later.

**1 July 2018 – North Head Sanctuary, Manly Walk**

We will leave on the 8.43 am train from Oatley, in time for the 10.00 am ferry from Wharf 3 to Manly. The plan is to walk from Shelly beach up to the headland. The walk is around 8kms and will take most of the day if we stop to look at flowers, birds, views, whales and historic sites. Bring your binoculars, water, lunch and snacks. The only food available on the headland is the cafe at North Fort which might be an afternoon tea stop. There is an opportunity to get the bus back to the wharf from North Fort, or walk back to get the ferry at around 4.00 pm.

Walk Leader: Melina Amerasinghe Tel: 0400 300 662

**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.**

**BRIEFLY SPEAKING .....**

OATLEY PARK BUSHCARE group is on the second Saturday of each month starting at 12.00 pm. Meet up at the car park at the top entrance gate off Oatley Park Avenue. Georges River Council Bushcare Officer: John Kensitt 0435 963 643.

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

**30 YEARS AGO**

1988 not only marked Australia's Bicentenary but also 100 years since the proclamation of Oatley Park. The Society's activities that year focused on the Park. There was a special edition of *OFF News* in May and Hurstville Council reprinted 5000 copies of the Headland Track leaflet. At the time there was a more positive burning program underway in the Park with the National Trust setting alight to small strips of bushland to research the effects on plant re-growth.

During 1988-89 a whole new series of conservation problems arose with a newly elected State Liberal-National Government downgrading its environmental priorities. The *Crown Lands Act* allowed the sale of Crown Lands to the highest bidder and there were heavy staff cuts to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. On the national scene, the Hawke Labor Government was willing to grant Harris-Daishowa a further 15 years on its export woodchip licence, putting more pressure on the NSW south-east forest. To view the 1988 *OFF News* issues visit:

<http://off.oatleypark.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/R-1988.pdf>

**BIRD NEWS**

Recently some OFF members have noticed a small grey/brown bird in Oatley Park and Poulton Park. These birds are normally found in flocks of up to 20 birds and they forage in the foliage, often along creek lines or in trees near the river. This species is the Brown Gerygone, also known as the Brown Warbler. According to the Atlas of Living Australia <https://www.ala.org.au> there are not many records of this species in our area. Only three records of this species are recorded - two in Oatley Park and one in Poulton Park. Therefore, it could be regarded as an unusual bird for our area.

These birds live in rainforests and are very common along the Hacking Valley in Royal National Park. But during the non-breeding season they form foraging flocks which move out into more open areas. It is likely that these birds are from Royal National Park and are enjoying the delights of our local reserves.



Source: Birdlife Australia

So if you see a group of small, and very active birds hovering around foliage in trees near a watercourse it is likely to be the Brown Gerygones. They will return to the rainforest habitat in spring to commence another breeding season. So enjoy the presence of these delightful little birds over the next few months.

**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](https://www.facebook.com/pg/georgesrivertrees/photos/?ref=page_internal) We recommend you contact Georges River Council by emailing [mail@georgesrivercouncil.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@georgesrivercouncil.nsw.gov.au) or by phoning 9330-6400.