



VICTORY FOR OATLEY: BOWLING CLUB TO REMAIN OPEN SPACE

At a Georges River Council meeting on 18 December, 2018 Mayor Kevin Greene made the shock announcement that the bowling club site in Myles Dunphy Reserve would remain open space. This ended community division dating back to 2006 when it was proposed to rezone the site to allow construction of a five-storey senior housing project.

OFF was at the spearhead of an energetic campaign against the proposal, with members attending Council meetings, lobbying Councillors, writing letters and signing petitions. The Society's argument was based on the loss of public open space as the site is a part of Myles Dunphy Reserve (even though Council claimed it was "adjacent" to the reserve). It is also in a bush-fire danger area with poor access, putting any future senior residents in danger.



Cr Greene pointed out that GRC's draft Open Space Strategy identifies many shortfalls in the current supply of open space and that the provision of council-owned sites for aged-care and senior housing should not occur at the expense of open space and recreational facilities. "The provision of open space for the public is a more critical priority for Council as they are rarely provided to any large extent by the private sector", said Cr Greene. He noted that the traditional role of government is to provide open space and recreational facilities to service the needs of the population.

It was proposed that the whole of the site should be retained as open space zoning and Council should explore opportunities to address the shortfall in recreational facilities at the Bowling Club site.

The full text of this minute can be read here:

http://infoweb.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/grinfocouncil/Open/2018/12/CCL_17122018_AGN_AT_SUP_WEB.htm

The St George and Sutherland Leader reported this on its web site:

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/5817176/oatley-bowling-club-site-to-remain-as-open-space/?cs=1507>

OFF FACEBOOK PAGE

In case you weren't aware, we are on Facebook at Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society. The page is updated regularly with news and photos and you are welcome to send in any items of interest. Click here to follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/OatleyFloraandFauna?>



2019 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Annual OFF subscriptions are now due. Subscription is still only \$25 per person or family (living at the same address), for the year.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO JOIN OFF COMMITTEE

Best wishes for 2019 are extended by the 2018 Committee to all our members and friends. The first meeting for the year will be the Annual General Meeting on **Monday, 4 February** where the 2019 office bearers and Committee will be elected. Come along to the meeting for a report on OFF activities and accomplishments over the past 12 months. This is your chance to comment on activities, management and direction of your society. Meeting start time is 7.30 pm. **Also, a reminder that we are calling for members to form a new Committee for 2019, you are invited to nominate at the meeting.**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT VISIT TO OATLEY

On 11 December 2018, Gabrielle Upton, the Minister for Environment, Local Government and Heritage visited Oatley to inspect the second round of planting at River Rd Reserve, carried out by OFF members and funded by the state government. She was accompanied by Mark Coure, Member for Oatley.

Members took the opportunity to raise several issues with the Minister. These included the establishment of a national park for koalas in south-west Sydney, improving and enforcing land clearing laws, introducing a ban on single-use plastic, the abuse of carbon offsets resulting in inappropriate plantings in 18 national parks, and the need to cull feral horses from Kosciusko National Park.

They also spoke about transitioning to renewable energy, the protection and restoration of bushland and forest habitat, the loss of green space in the local area, the ending of logging in native forests, and the transfer of the responsibility for recycling of packaging to back to manufacturers.



For further information on the visit, see:

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/5818315/environment-minister-visits-oatley/>

MURRAY-DARLING DISASTER

Pictures of a million dead fish in the Darling River near Menindee have shocked the public. The cause is not just the long drought, but government policy allowing exorbitant amounts of water to be drained from the Murray-Darling Basin, over decades. You can voice your concern by writing to the NSW Water Minister, Niall Blair and to the NSW Premier.

OFF SUPPORT FOR KOALAS

At the November meeting, \$111 was raised from the sale of jams made by Bev Watters and additional donations. This money will be sent to the Total Environment Centre's Save Sydney's Koalas campaign. Fruit for Bev's jams were donated by Deb Stephenson (oranges) and Heather de Moore (lemons and limes). Thank you to everyone who was involved and donated.

Coming OFF Events in January/February 2019
OFF Full Year Events Calendar at: off.oatleypark.com/program

4 February 2019 - Annual General Meeting

The first meeting for 2019. Hear reports about what OFF has been doing in the past year, followed by election of the new committee.

25 February 2019 – Australia’s Dry Lands, Talk by Professor David Eldridge

Prof. David Eldridge talking on Australia’s dry lands and the effect of agriculture and feral pests on our fragile landscapes.

Advance Notice – Clean-up Australia Day

Sunday 3 March, 2019. This year OFF will be cleaning up the edges of Poulton Park. Meet at Morshead Cr. at or after 8.30 am.

Advance Notice – Field trip to the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

Tuesday 5 March, 2019. Morning tour led by Gardens Guide and OFF member, Amanda Gibson. Details to come in OFF News February, 2019 issue.

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 at the entrance on Douglas Haig Street.

MYLES DUNPHY STREAMWATCH Details Heather Stolle 0425 291 879. This activity usually takes place on the Tuesday morning (9.00 am) after OFF General Meetings.

OFF ACTIVITIES 2019 The Activities Officer, Graham Fry is putting together the OFF program for 2019. He is looking for more outings for the program. So would members please consider leading an activity in 2019, it doesn't have to be a bushwalk, as visits to interesting places are always popular. Please contact Graham Fry fryg45@gmail.com with any suggestions.

POOL TO POND Ku-ring-gai Council has developed a program to help residents convert unused swimming pools into vibrant beautiful outdoor ponds - a great idea! To find out more, go to: www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/pooltopond

OFF ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2018

The Annual Financial report is shown in the following tables. The year on year comparison is impacted from the following factors.

- The injection of grant moneys in one year and spent in later years causes the large variations in surplus and later deficits.

- Also impacting the annual figures in any year is the holding by OFF of grant money for other organisations as they do not have the required accreditation.

- Activities that are 'one off' in nature, under miscellaneous.

OFF did show a slight surplus but that is offset by the moneys we owe or hold for others. We have an underlying balance of around \$16K and continue to budget and work to reduce this amount to a level more consistent with our continued financial commitments and ideals. We are committed to offering research grants as a means of reducing our total balance.

Rodger Robertson
January 2019

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF OATLEY FLORA AND FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

Income and Expenditure Statement 2018	2018	2017
INCOME		
Subscriptions	\$3,600.00	\$3,871.00
Donations	\$1,721.00	\$2,276.70
Sales stalls etc	\$141.00	\$170.50
GRC Grants various	\$6,750.00	\$74,686.00
Interest	\$722.14	\$0.00
Annual dinner	\$1,672.00	\$1,846.00
Calendar sales 2018 2019	\$1,806.00	\$3,934.00
Lions Loan for calendar	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Bird cards	\$39.00	\$356.50
Miscel Income	\$1,591.30	\$383.70
Total Income	\$21,042.44	\$90,524.40
EXPENSES		
OFF Newsletter printing postage	(\$912.99)	(\$1,474.70)
Insurance	(\$495.00)	(\$360.00)
PO box rental	(\$127.00)	(\$124.00)
Brochure printing various	(\$477.75)	(\$499.31)
Dept Fair Trading	(\$95.00)	(\$44.00)
2018 Calendar repay loan and profit distribution	(\$3,214.00)	\$0.00
Donations and Membership to other bodies	(\$895.26)	(\$400.00)
Annual dinner	(\$1,482.00)	(\$1,672.00)
2019 Calendar expenses	(\$3,561.80)	(\$3,494.70)
Grants expenditure	(\$3,131.73)	(\$37,902.20)
New Computer	\$0.00	(\$650.00)
Research grants	(\$4,386.00)	(\$5,000.00)
Lions stall	(\$150.00)	(\$210.00)
River road project	\$0.00	(\$1,054.00)
Miscellaneous	(\$1,484.05)	(\$640.10)
Total Expenses	(\$20,412.58)	(\$53,525.01)
Surplus	\$629.86	\$36,999.39

BANK RECONCILIATION and Other information	2018	2017
Chq acct Balance as at 1 January	\$14,970.45	\$12,971.06
Surplus on year	\$629.86	\$36,999.39
Cheque account balance 31 December	\$50,600.31	\$14,970.45
Various term deposits	\$8,490.07	\$43,490.07
Total balance at bank 31 December	\$59,090.38	\$58,460.52
Grants held for other organisations (balance)	\$3,866.27	\$380.00
Grants for OFF unspent	\$36,404.00	\$36,404.00
Loan from Oatley Lions	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00