



FORMER OATLEY BOWLING CLUB SITE REMEDIATION DA

The Local Planning Panel considered the DA for the remediation of the bowling club site on Thursday 20 August. President Kim Wagstaff addressed the panel, stating that although OFF supported the DA, we considered that the communication of the event was poor, along with the documentation. He, along with 2 other OFF members, who also addressed the panel, expressed some concerns about the gabions proposed to be used to support the embankment after the contaminated fill was either capped or removed. The wall should enhance the bushland in the reserve, not detract from it.

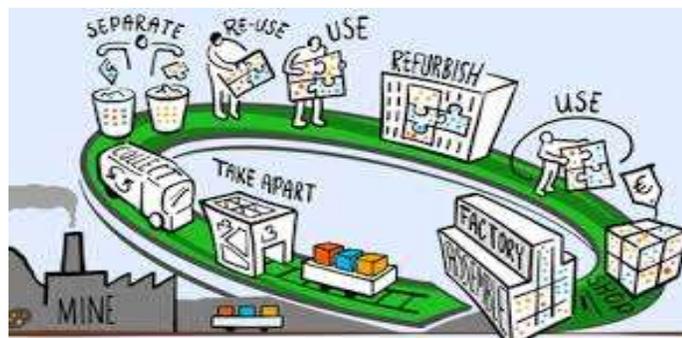
The Panel took these comments on board and decided to defer their determination for 60 days pending the submission of further details in relation to addressing visual impacts of the retaining wall including landscape and design treatment, and details of the interim finished surface treatments prior to final certification.

So yes, it's a slight delay but, whilst maintaining the public health and safety improvements of the remediation work, we expect a better environmental outcome will be achieved from this work especially as it is in the important and sensitive environment of Myles Dunphy Reserve.

GRC WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Georges River Council has engaged a consultant to assist with the development of a robust and thorough draft Waste Strategy for the Georges River Local Government Area. The draft outlines the future direction of Council over the next 20 years in sustainably managing waste generated by the community. It outlines Council's proposed vision for resource recovery and waste management: to continually improve on a reliable, environmental and economically sustainable waste management system for Georges River Council residents. The Strategy is now on public exhibition, with submissions closing on 31 September.

As mentioned in last month's Newsletter OFF is putting in a submission to this strategy and we encourage members to also make a submission. You can also complete an online survey to provide your feedback. Click here for details: [Waste Management Strategy](#)



AIR POLLUTION - Much Worse Than We Thought

The air pollution case against fossil fuels is still the best case! In fact, even as attention has shifted to climate change, the air pollution case has grown stronger and stronger, as the science on air pollution has advanced by leaps and bounds. Researchers are now much more able to pinpoint air pollution's direct and indirect effects, and the news has been uniformly bad.

The evidence is now clear enough that it can be stated unequivocally. It would be worth freeing ourselves from fossil fuels even if global warming didn't exist. Especially now that clean energy has become so cheap, the air quality benefits alone are enough to pay for the energy transition.

[Read more here](#)

NEW WETLAND NATIONAL PARK 'WONDERFUL ADDITION' TO CONSERVATION RESERVES

The NSW government's declaration of a massive new national park in north-western NSW is a welcome and timely development, says UNSW ecologist Professor Richard Kingsford, who did the first comprehensive aerial surveys of the area's waterbirds in the 1990s.

"The park is an extensive inland wetland east of Tibooburra that includes Caryapundy Swamp and the Bullo Overflow," says Prof Kingsford, Director of UNSW's Centre for Ecosystem Science.

"It's a magnificent delta system of the Bulloo River – one of Australia's magnificent free flowing rivers, supplying some fabulous wetlands. The river starts in southwestern Queensland and fills two major lake systems, the Bulloo Lakes in Queensland, before flowing over the border into the massive Bulloo Overflow in NSW. In floods, it can inundate nearly 180,000 ha, providing habitat for fish, waterbirds and other animals and plants." The researchers say one of the big challenges for the future will be to protect the waters that come from Queensland to supply this extensive area.

"In particular, now might be a good time to consider how this particular wetland might meet criteria for Ramsar wetland designation under the Ramsar convention, as a wetland of international importance," Prof Kingsford says. [Read more here](#)

PLANTING MAINTENANCE DAY – EFFORTS REWARDED

On 27th August at Lower Gannons Park, a concerted effort was made by 8 OFF volleys to weed the planting that we all did just over 12 months ago. All the tubestock have done extraordinarily well in the alluvial soil that had been removed from Dairy Creek during last year's civil works. Main weeds were ehrharta (of course!!) and various annuals. By 11am the area was virtually weed free and we had moved up into the resilient bushland above to curtail weed seeding down into our planting. BushCare Officer, John followed up with a spray around the edges to help for next time. All in all a good workout and a good news story.

INAUGURAL 'RE-GREENING COUNTRY' EVENT AT MOORLANDS

The health of our planet is slightly better thanks to a group of OFF members and friends who spent a weekend planting 1800 tubestock at Moorlands, a bio-dynamic sheep meat farm owned by Vince Heffernan.

Vince gave a talk to OFF in February 2020 with such passion for improving the environment and protecting endangered species. He had planted over 60,000 locally indigenous trees and shrubs across his 1200 hectare farm in efforts to provide essential habitat for native fauna including endangered species like the superb parrot.

After 3 months of planning, our group recently spent 2 days at Moorlands planting a variety of trees creating an open woodland environment on 20 ha which Vince has 'locked-up' for the next 5 years. With the help from Vince's friends from Canberra we planted the tubestock on Saturday so Vince was able to take us on a tour of his farm on Sunday morning. He explained his 're-greening' efforts and how endangered species like the Superb Parrot are now coming back to his property.

Future generations will be the beneficiaries of our efforts.



Coming OFF Events in September/October 2020

OFF Full Year Events Calendar at: off.oatleypark.com/program

OFF will continue with the monthly guest speaker program for 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we must conduct these meetings on-line, using the video conference application Zoom, which you can download for free via this link: <https://zoom.us/> or from Play Store (Google) or App Store (Apple). You should run a test before meetings to ensure you can connect on the night. You will receive an invitation prior to meetings or use the link below.

Note that some OFF presentations and earlier movies can now be found on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd_PLK8og40D0ekuYAys3IQ

28 September 2020 — Presentation on The Beauty and Diversity of Svalbard and Surrounds

Geoff Innes will take us on a journey to the European Arctic to explore the plants, animals and landscapes of Svalbard and East Greenland during the northern summer. This increasingly popular destination has much to offer any lover of nature. A few historical highlights will provide a human context to these largely untouched frozen lands.

As a former geoscientist, Geoff will describe how the landscape has formed, and bring an understanding to the forces that have shaped this Polar environment.

Please login before 7.30pm: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i_daK5memiUVeVb7bERgr5WgKybj2w

Sunday 11 Oct Field Trip – Warrimoo to Blaxland via Florabella Pass (limit 20 due to current restrictions)

Note: Date change to avoid long weekend and location of outing has changed. A medium grade, 8 km+ Lower Blue Mountains walk. Undulating, good tracks, with 300m ascent at the finish. Very attractive bush & scenery - angophoras, rock overhangs, Florabella & Glenbrook Creek views, some from on high and a lovely stand of blue gums near the end. Meet at Warrimoo Station 08:49 (dep Central 07:30, Platform 9 – check this nearer the date in case of trackwork etc), cars meet at the end of Florabella St 09:30. Estimated finishing time 14:00, so bring refreshments.

We follow the track down through the bush to Florabella Ck and follow the creek along to its junction with Glenbrook Ck. We then take the Pippa's Pass track, which comes out at Blaxland Library, thence along Hope St to the shopping centre. After-walk drinks available at the nearby Blaxland Tavern.

Please contact Graham Fry fryg45@gmail.com or 9580 6621 to register. Leader: Adrian Buzo 0406 860 628 (on the day).

Advance Notice November 1 & 2 (Sunday & Monday), 2 walks in the Central Coast: Patonga to Pearl Beach & return, and Bouddi Coastal Walk.

Over-night accommodation can be arranged at Patonga Campground if you wish to camp, as some members will; it is a lovely location and early bookings are recommended. More details are available from Adrian Polhill, 0424 478 498 or adrianpolhill@hotmail.com More information in next OFF News.

OFF Annual Dinner

The annual dinner will now be held later in the year due to the current restrictions. When Mortdale RSL informs OFF that normal operations are resuming, a new date will be set and members notified. Donations for the annual raffle are still most welcome. Contact: Sue Howard 9579 1718 or Vicki Bolling 9580 3107.

Meetings of the Society are normally held at the Oatley RSL Sub-Branch Hall, 25 Letitia St, Oatley 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.

However, until the restrictions of the COVID-19 Pandemic are lifted meetings will be held digitally using the Zoom application.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

OATLEY PARK BUSHCARE group is normally on second Saturday each month starting 12.00 pm. This month it will be held on 10 October. Meet at the main entrance in Oatley Park Ave. New participants welcome, contact John Kensett - GRC Bushcare Officer, m: 0435 963 643

LOCAL BUSHCARE Members can assist by volunteering to maintain OFF planting sites each month on the Thursday after general meetings (except December) from 8.00 am to 11 am. We will be back on 1 October at Boorea Reserve, supervised by a GRC Bushcare Officer.

STREAMWATCH details Heather Stolle 0425 291 879. This activity usually takes place on the Tuesday morning (9.00 am) after OFF General Meetings. This month we will be at Myles Dunphy Reserve on 29 Sept.

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY meetings held at 2.30 pm on the second Sunday of every month. These meetings are now being held on-line using Zoom. The address is <http://zoom.us/j/7868786878>.

FOX CONTROL: Council is monitoring the presence of Powerful Owls at key locations as part of the Powerful Owl Project to assess the success of the recently completed Integrated Fox Control Management Program. The most recent round of trapping eradicated 7 foxes, both fox and vixen, including in areas with known nesting Powerful Owls, such as Oatley Pleasure Grounds.

ROYAL NP - BUNDEENA TO MARLEY RETURN

On 29th August Spring had sprung and an amiable bunch of OFF members and guests (16 in all) sprang down the boardwalk that links some of the cliff track from Bundeeena to Marley Beach on a foray of natural discovery. It didn't take long before we were huddled around a solitary ground orchid with

a healthy helping of deliberation. Deb Andrew's diligent homework that evening deduced it to be a Brown Beak Orchid *Lyperanthus suaveolens* and the small bright mauve ones Small Wax-lip Orchid *Glossodia minor*. The Sun Orchid was possibly Spotted Sun Orchid *Theymitra ixioides* without spots. The spring colours were outstanding with *Boronia ledifolia* perhaps taking the prize but *Dillwynias*, *Phebaliums*, *Grevillea oleoides*, *Patersonias* and *Darwinias* worthy runners up. We also saw and heard plenty of birds like New Holland honeyeaters, whip birds, superb blue wrens and Deb managed to call to ground a difficult to see chestnut-rumped heathwren that reacted defensively to the recorded call on her mobile app. We lunched at Marley Beach (or Little Marley if you missed the party!) where geologist Geoff pointed out the striking sandstone feature – Soft Sediment Deformation.

Unfortunately, given the many opportunities of an ocean-view whales returning to Antarctica evaded us (probably too early). But gannets and a sea-eagle were sighted. Interestingly Covid-19 and Instagram have joined forces to attract so many more walkers on the track these days which can be tedious but potentially terrific as the more people, particularly recent immigrants, who visit our National Parks the more they will hopefully value them.



Patersonia



Dillwynia