



FIELD TRIP TO SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY UNEXPECTED ANIMAL HABITATS AND HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Sunday 28th March was a lovely sunny day after a long period of torrential rain across the Sydney basin. Sharyn Cullis led the walk and 18 enthusiastic people had a great day out. We visited a bushland reserve in Campbelltown



that has a resident small population of Koalas, but unfortunately luck was not on our side for sighting them. We did however observe the rare musk lorikeet in the trees. Then we ventured into Appin visiting 2 important Koala corridors and had grateful access to a large heritage property called Gilead farm. It is here that developers have state government approved plans to build thousands of homes that will compromise Koala habitat and

local heritage value such as the first flour mill in NSW. Later we set off for Jingga pools in Dharawal National Park for an afternoon swim. On the way we saw the endangered lime/yellow Cunningham Banksia, and a rare and endangered Rosenberg Goanna enjoying the sun on a rock. Lesley Devine

OATLEY LIONS COMMUNITY MARKET DAY 17th APRIL.

The market day was a chance for OFF and various other local community groups to reconnect with each other and the community after a long break due to COVID-19 curtailing such events (eg, 2020's Lions Oatley Village Festival). There were over 20 such groups participating in ideal weather and there was a wonderful family atmosphere allowing OFF to showcase our activities. Many native plants were sold, information was provided, such as the loss of Koala habitat in south-west Sydney and pamphlets and brochures were distributed, especially the new Headland Track brochure, which proved very popular.



OFF volunteers were able to discuss local issues and express their concerns with Mark Coure MP and Cr Sandy Grekas.

VALE JOHN BLAKE

23rd Feb 1929 – 8th March 2021

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of John Blake. At his Funeral Service his son Garth told how John was torn between two career options, law and surveying, and that his love of the outdoors made surveying his final choice. John and Grace (20.9.1930 – 12.2.2021) joined OFF in 1990 and were very active society members until they could no longer participate because of aged health conditions. John was Field Officer for 5 years 1995 - 1999.

Of special mention in those years were two bus trips to inland Australia. One in 1998 to White Cliffs, Woomera, Lake Eyre and Innamincka - didn't quite make Innamincka because of weather conditions - and so another trip was arranged in 1999. Wonderful times for OFF Members to remember.

ROYAL EASTER SHOW SUCCESS

At this year's Royal Easter Show OFF member Marie O'Connor received a Standard of Excellence award as well as first prize for her stunning wool and bead embroidery. It features the colourful buds, flowers, fruits and foliage of a variety of eucalypts. Congratulations Marie!

HEADLAND TRACK PROJECT

OFF recently completed the project to install signage on the Headland Track in Oatley Park after much work by OFF members and Georges River Council staff.

This project was funded by Georges River Council's Community Grants Program. The signage consists of a major sign, containing information and a map of the track, at the beginning of the track in the Castle car park and 8 numbered posts indicating points of interest along the track. Each sign and post includes a QR (Quick Response) code which can be read by mobile phone to access a guide on OFF's website.



GEORGES RIVER PADDLE AGAINST PLASTIC 2021

OFF members and Plastic Man joined the Georges River Paddle Against Plastic 2021 at Lambeth Reserve, Picnic Point. The event was supported by Georges



Riverkeeper, Ocean Crusaders and the City of Canterbury/Bankstown. Over sixty volunteers succeeded in retrieving over 200kg worth of rubbish from the river, and the OFF "kayak crew" looks forward to the next even

Coming OFF Events in April/May 2021

OFF Full Year Events Calendar: <http://www.oatleyflorafauna.org.au/index.php/progam/>

We have returned to face-to-face meetings, starting at 7.30pm, in the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick St Oatley. Meetings will also be available on-line, using the video conference application Zoom. If you are on the OFF News email list, you will receive an invitation prior to meetings or use the link in the meeting details. Note that some OFF presentations and earlier movies can now be found on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd_PLK8og40D0ekuYAys3lQ

26 April 2021 — Double Header! Veolia's Colin Storey on water treatment and report from OFF grant recipient Grace Lui

Colin (Safety and Quality Adviser Kurnell Desalination Plant, formerly Principal Chemist at the Woronora Water filtration plant) will speak about the Woronora and Illawarra Water Filtration plants, including the reason for their construction and the basic processes involved in treating water to make it suitable for drinking. He will also include a brief description of the Kurnell Desalination Plant and its processes in treating seawater to make it suitable for drinking.

Grace, (PhD candidate, UNSW & the Australian Museum) will tell us how Australia's frogs are coping with human-driven landscape changes and the impacts of chytridiomycosis, the disease that has caused catastrophic declines of hundreds of amphibian species globally. She will be sharing information that she has gleaned from surveying Booroolong and Stoney Creek frogs in the Central Tablelands of NSW. These two species are superficially similar in appearance and inhabit similar environments, but their populations are responding in dramatically different ways – while one is declining, the other appears to be coping. She will address this conundrum with a focus on disease dynamics and habitat modification.

4 May TUESDAY– Sydney Park (St Peters) and Chau Chak Wing Museum (University of Sydney) outdoors and indoors

Roam over the 40-ha park, learn its history, explore the wetlands that incorporate a stormwater harvesting system. Then catch a bus to the University where we will lunch (bring your own or buy there) and visit the new Chau Chak Wing Museum. The Museum has four floors of galleries that showcase the University's Nicholson collection (ancient history); Indigenous, natural history, historic photos, scientific equipment (Macleay collection) and the Art Collection. Major temporary exhibition of E Arnhem Land artworks dating from 1920s.

Catch 9.05 train from Oatley (last carriage), change at Sydenham for St Peters. Return by walking to Redfern Station through University grounds or catch a bus from Parramatta Road to Central. COVID precautions include use of QR codes and masks on public transport. Leader: Liz Cameron 9580 6621 / 0419 280 473

29 April. Thursday, 8-11 am Planting at Moore Reserve.

This is OFF's scheduled monthly Bushcare maintenance day and there will be about 500 plants to infill the revegetated area around dog park. Georges River Council staff will organise equipment etc. for the planting which was funded by a grant to GRC from the Federal Government Communities Environment Program. We hope to see a big turn-out of OFF members for this very rewarding and sociable activity.

Date change: Fitzroy Falls East and West Rim Trails field day to be led by Adrian Polhill will now take place on **Sunday 13th June** instead of 30th May.

Meetings of the Society are at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick 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. As noted above, the meeting is also accessible on-line using ZOOM. Please login before 7.30pm: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i_daK5memiUVeVb7bERqr5WgKybj2w .

COVID requirements and information for attendees at the hall

A yoga class uses the hall immediately prior to our OFF meeting and surfaces will have been wiped clean.

Do not attend if you feel unwell

Check-in via the QR code or the sign-in book (for those without smart phone and/or COVID app.)

Hand sanitiser will be available. Seats will be arranged to facilitate social distancing.

Attendees should remain seated for the duration of the meeting

Please wait until you are outside the Hall before having a chat.

Members who have not renewed their 2021 membership are reminded that fees are now due.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

OATLEY PARK BUSHCARE group is normally on the second Saturday each month starting 12.00 pm, except January. Meet at the entrance on Oatley Park Avenue. New participants welcome, please 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) at 8.00 am. See item above for planting at Moore Reserve on Thursday 29 April.

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 27 April.

GREATER SYDNEY LANDCARE NETWORK PLANTING (GSLN)

OFF recently partnered with Greater Sydney Landcare Network and Georges River Council, to plant over 150 trees in 3 local reserves as part of the Creating Canopies Project. We planted tubestock, mostly species from STIF communities, at Peakhurst Park and Henry Lawson Drive Reserve, and also did some infill planting in the nearby Pearce Avenue Reserve. These plantings will help create pockets of shade at our local parks in addition to improving habitat in the landscape. :

