



# OFF News

## Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Society Inc.

Working to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment locally and globally, since 1955

Issue 5/2021 MayJune 2021

ISSN 2207-7863

### FIELD TRIP TO SYDNEY PARK (ST PETERS) AND CHAU CHAK WING MUSEUM (UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY)

On the morning of 4th May nine intrepid people defied wet weather to visit Sydney Park. We were greeted by an array of friendly dogs at the coffee kiosk then explored the grounds where extensive plantings have created a mosaic of eucalypt thickets, heathland, dense riverine vegetation and grassy hillsides. The string of wetlands is maintained by a stormwater harvesting system, and is home to many waterbirds, illustrated in Gavin Gatenby's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUZiqPZPIAU>

It was hard to believe that from the early 1800s until mid-1900s, this site was used for brickworks, rubbish disposal, gas storage and other industries. Terracotta troughs that aerate and distribute water throughout the wetland system are a reminder of the clay deposits that provided material for bricks, tiles and pottery items. Other reminders of these industries are the towering chimneys and disused kilns. <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/histories-local-parks-playgrounds/history-sydney-park>

From St Peters we caught a bus to the University of Sydney where we had lunch in the Courtyard café followed by a tour of the new Chau Chak Wing Museum. Dr Jude Philp, Senior Curator of the Macleay Collections, gave us an introduction to the Museum's galleries and the history of its collections, and Dr Tony Gill elaborated on the natural history displays. The Ian Potter Gallery featured a magnificent temporary exhibition - *Gululu dhuwala djalkiri* - of more than 350 paintings and sculptures representing generations of Yolŋu artists from East Arnhem Land. In the Power Gallery, which is an introduction to the wide diversity of the Museum's collections, one of our party found a photo of his relative in the RAAF wearing an anti-G suit designed at the University to protect pilots from extreme acceleration forces.

Our brief glimpse of the Museum could not do justice to almost 20 exhibitions on four levels, so return visits are planned by individuals. The Chau Chak Wing has an extensive program of talks and events.

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/museum>

### 'RE-GREENING' EFFORTS GO BUSH

On May 1st, the Kyle Bay Sea Scouts (plus parents) and members of Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society assisted the property owner, family and friends in planting 350 very healthy native trees and shrubs on a 10 ha property on the banks of the Wollondilly River near Marulan NSW. The majority of the eucalyptus, acacia and casuarina tubes were grown by Menai Wild Flower group nursery at Menai. "This action was small in proportion but hugely significant as together we try hard to turn around the dire consequences of ignoring signs that clearly show we need to care for the land" said coordinator of the day Adrian Polhill. Keep an eye out for further planting events later in the year at Crookwell, Gunning and High Range near Wombeyan Caves. Contact Adrian (0424 478498) if you would like to join one of these fabulous planting events

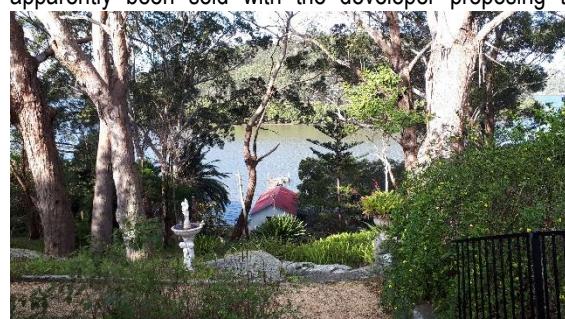


### MOORE RESERVE PLANTING

On OFF's scheduled monthly Bushcare maintenance day on 29<sup>th</sup> April 22 OFF members and GRC Bushcare volunteers and other community members planted 700+ plants around the OFF-leash dog area in Moore Reserve. The plants were funded by a grant from the Federal Government Communities Environment Program to Georges River Council which organised equipment and staff. Thanks to all who contributed to a very successful day, particularly Matt Allison who, in his usual way, did much of the hard work preparing for the planting.

### SALE OF GLENLEE LUGARNO FOR DEVELOPMENT!

This property, which was featured in this year's OFF Calendar (February) has apparently been sold with the developer proposing to build up to 30 residences on this valuable property. If this is approved by Georges River Council, it will mean that important and rare aboriginal and European



heritage and history will be destroyed along with the natural creek which runs through the property. In addition many large, old growth trees will be lost. If you would like to see this property saved as a public reserve including public access to the George's River foreshore, please consider signing this petition to the NSW Legislative Assembly: [Signing ePetition \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) See the OFF Facebook page as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/500086726732707/posts/5404862342921763/>.

### A WALK AMONG THE DEAD

Southern Sydney NPA will hold a Zoom Talk on 26 May, 7:15 for 7:30pm on the plants and history of Woronora cemetery.

Discover the native plants of Woronora Cemetery at Sutherland from remnant trees to planted shrubs with Australian Plants Society Sutherland Branch member Ralph Cartwright. His talk will be a mixture of historical information and photos of and information about some of the plants, both native and non-native, found in this very accessible location.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82806712201>

### THE ROAD TO SAVING AUSTRALIA'S REGENT HONEYEATERS

The world watches with bated breath as the future of one of our most endangered birds hangs in the balance:

<https://www.australiageographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2021/01/the-road-to-saving-australias-regent-honeyeaters/?fbclid=IwAR3XeuSmUJtSFPpOwTX-6xU7JwrcGHJXNYQs-hoM25hrPIQrfm9TGSFbX0>

Meanwhile, see them in Railway Road, Sydenham! A mural painted on the side of a building on the corner of Rowe Lane. →



### OFF FACEBOOK PAGE

Don't forget the OFF Facebook page, which is full of interesting stories and photos. Members can also contribute to this page by forwarding items to the administrator by sending a message to the OFF Facebook page. At the top of the OFF page click on

Message

## **Coming OFF Events in May/June 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\\_PLK8og40D0ekuYAy3IQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd_PLK8og40D0ekuYAy3IQ)

#### **24 May 2021 — Lifting the Veil on the unique wildlife of north western India**

**David Waterhouse** will tell us about the wildlife of Gujarat and Rajasthan in north-western India. In 2019, during the cool weather period in January, David undertook a wildlife tour, concentrating on mammals and birds of the open plains, forests and wetlands. He will illustrate his talk with stunning photographs.

#### **13 June Sunday – Fitzroy Falls East and West Rim Trails**

We plan to walk along the East Rim / Wildflower walk (7km return) in the morning, returning to the visitor centre for lunch & coffee.

In the afternoon we plan to do the West Rim walk (up to 2hrs return) with spectacular views.

Meeting point: 10am at the Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre. Leader Adrian Polhill, 0424 478 498.

#### **4 July Sunday. Advance notice: Palm Jungle Loop Track in Royal National Park.** Medium to hard walk, 10km round trip.

**The OFF Field Officer is now drafting next year's program and would welcome the participation of members. If you have any ideas for an outing or would like to lead one, please contact Lesley Wylie on 0400 562 085.**

**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\\_daK5memiUVb7bERgr5WgKybj2w](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i_daK5memiUVb7bERgr5WgKybj2w).**

#### **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**

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

#### **BRIEFLY SPEAKING .....**

**OATLEY PARK BUSCARE** 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 BUSCARE** Members can assist by volunteering to maintain OFF planting sites each month on the Thursday after general meetings (except December) at 8.00 am. On Thursday 27 May, we will be working at Gannons Park, 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 Dairy Creek on 25 May...

#### **CHANGES TO NATIONAL PARKS ANNUAL PASSES**

From 20 April 2021 NPWS annual and some day passes will transition to digital passes which will make it easier for park visitors to pay entry fees, manage and renew passes online, and apply for concessions.

When visitors purchase or renew their annual pass they will be immediately issued with a digital pass that is linked to their vehicle. This means no more waiting for a sticker in the mail to display on their windscreen.

Changes to park passes will happen in phases over the next 24 months as current passes expire. All passes, including existing annual passes remain valid until their expiry date and are still required to be displayed correctly on the vehicle. More information: [nswparkspass.info](http://nswparkspass.info)

#### **OFF MEMBER DOUG WICKENS TURNS 100!**

WW2 veteran and long-term OFF member (joined in 1995) has reached the age where he receives a letter from the Queen. Doug served in the Royal Australian Navy. Great times were had with Doug and Betty on OFF Activities such as the Outback Bus Trip to Innamincka and Annual Smiggin Holes holidays. Doug's recipe for a long life is to always have a plan for tomorrow- that plan might be totally changed when tomorrow dawns but at least you have a reason for getting up! HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOUG

#### **THE ISSUES WITH SYNTHETIC GRASS SPORTS FIELDS**

A number of experts in the fields of soil science, irrigation systems, economics, environmental pollution etc. were recently brought together to discuss the issues around installation of synthetic grass sports fields and compared them with best practice built natural turf fields. Plenty of good data and research is starting to emerge to support the points being made about the issues with these materials. The webinar can be viewed here: [Facebook](#)

#### **WALLERAWANG POWER STATION**

The skyline of Wallerawang, dominated by the chimneys of its former coal-fired power station, is about to look very different when it is to be repurposed into a renewable battery and industrial zone: <https://amp.abc.net.au/article/100119980>

