



LANDCARE PROGRAMS IN GREATER SYDNEY

At OFF's 26 July 2021 meeting Madeleine Florin, the Greater Sydney Regional Landcare Coordinator with the Greater Sydney Local Land Services, provided a comprehensive overview of Greater Sydney Landcare Services and some inspiring projects. She invited OFF to a "Productive partnerships and collaborations" workshop planned for 29 October. This workshop will be interactive, and participants will go away with a plan that fits their needs and objectives.

She provided a few of the links and contacts:

- LLS Landcare and Community News Subscribe [here](#)
- Small Farms Network Subscribe [here](#)
- Greater Sydney Landcare Network news Subscribe [here](#)
- Streamwatch news Subscribe [here](#)

You can view Madeleine's presentation slides at the bottom of this [page](#).

A bonus for OFF was an introduction to Jessica Lumbroso, StreamWatch coordinator for Greater Sydney. OFF followed up with an additional meeting with Jessica to discuss current and potential future StreamWatch activities

GEORGES RIVER LGA NEEDS A DEDICATED BIKE COURSE

Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Soc supports Georges River Councillors

At the Council meeting on July 26, the following Notice of Motion was unanimously supported by Councillors: *"That the General Manager prepare a report on the feasibility of constructing a BMX/mountain bike facility within the local government area to provide additional recreational opportunities for the community and to reduce the incidence of unauthorised bike tracks in Oatley Park and other bushland areas."*

OFF has written to the General Manager and all Councillors, commending this resolution. It is a good start but action is needed in the short term to mitigate the damage that is occurring at an accelerating rate in our bushland reserves.

When speaking in support of the motion Cr Grekas mentioned the possibility of immediately providing a temporary facility in the reserve behind the Glen Rd, Oatley Scout Hall. A track had already been constructed by local bikers at that location but was removed by Council several weeks ago.

Given the escalating level of damage being caused to Oatley Park, and the continuing COVID lockdown restrictions that are driving bike riders to seek places to ride for outdoor exercise, OFF has asked Council to consider providing a temporary track at Glen Rd or allowing bikers to build a temporary track there themselves. This site is outside Oatley Park but close to it, so it would be a viable alternative for some bikers and potentially relieve some pressure on Oatley Park.

There may be other non-bushland sites that Council could temporarily designate as acceptable for biking activity. OFF encourages Council to engage with responsible bike riders so they have some input into any sites sanctioned for temporary biking activity.

A community member has started a petition supporting construction of a dedicated BMX/Mountain Bike facility as a matter of urgency. OFF supports this and asks you to sign this [petition](#).

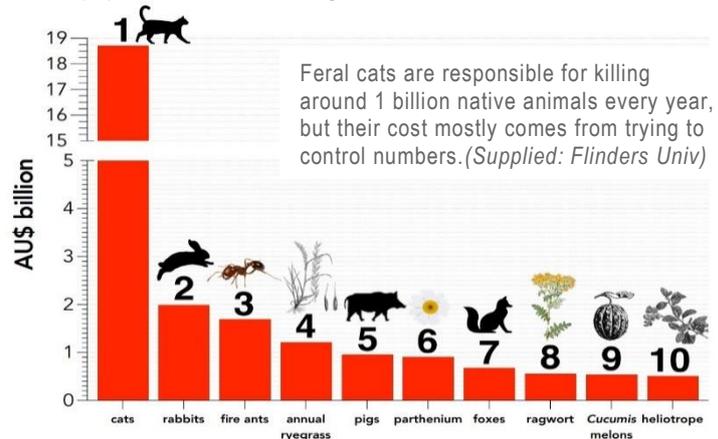
INVASIVE SPECIES HAVE COST AUSTRALIA \$390 BILLION IN THE PAST 60 YEARS

A recent research article released in the scientific journal Neobiota, and [reported](#) by the ABC calculated that Invasive species have cost the Australian economy \$390 billion in just the past 60 years.

Key points in the article are that Invasive species cost the Australian economy billions of dollars, weedy plants are the most expensive species in South

Australia, Victoria and Tasmania and early detection and eradication is key to limiting the economic impact. But although staggering, Professor Corey Bradshaw from Flinders University, one of the authors, said the \$390 billion figure is probably an underestimation. "This is just the tip of the iceberg," he said. Weedy plants are the most expensive group on the list, according to Professor Bradshaw: "That's not a surprise because they affect the agriculture industry mostly, and so there's a big economic incentive to assess how many are out there and report those costs."

However feral cats are the most costly individual species, which is mostly down to population control, coming in at over \$18 billion, as illustrated.



A reminder about the petition to prevent domestic cats roaming in NSW. Please pass on the [link](#) to other contacts who are likely to support this petition.

OFF RESEARCH GRANTS

As noted last month applications for the next round of grants closed on 30th June, with 11 applications received. Applications were received from students at the University of NSW, UTS and La Trobe University (joint study with UNSW). The OFF research committee has now reviewed the applications and recommended 3 applications to the OFF Committee for endorsement. The approved projects, each receiving \$2,000 are:

- Peter Contos** (La Trobe University)
Rewilding with minibeasts for biodiversity and ecosystem function
- Chloe Robinson** (University of NSW and La Trobe University.)
Does Reconstructing Mammal Assemblages Change Arid Food Webs?
- Aaron Eger** (University of NSW)
Developing a low cost and scalable solution for marine forest restoration

We look forward to hearing about their research next year as part of OFF's regular talk series. The winners are very grateful to OFF members for donating the monies.

UPDATE ON GLENLEE

Great news! A six month (not 12 months as reported in the [Leader](#)) Interim Heritage Order has been gazetted to cover the property located at 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno. This will provide temporary protection of the buildings, land, and relics etc. on the site and allow time for more detailed investigations to be undertaken of their local heritage significance. See Leader report.

In relation to the DA appeal in the Land and Environment Court (LEC) a Section 34 Conciliation Conference has been set down for 22 October 2021. In the meantime Council will be preparing a Statement of Facts and Contentions (SOFAC) and the appellant will provide a reply to the SOFAC.

A number of community submissions have been lodged with Council asking that funds be allocated in the draft Georges River Council Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2021 – Section 7.11 and Section 7.12 specifically to contribute to the acquisition of 'Glenlee' for open space.

Coming OFF Events in August/September 2021

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

Due to the current COVID restrictions, meetings will only be available on-line until further notice, 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_PLK8og40D0ekuYAys3IQ

23 August 2021 - Re-introducing locally extinct mammals to Sturt National Park

Professor Richard Kingsford will tell us about Wild Deserts, part of the Save Our Species initiative. 35,000 ha of desert ecosystem in Sturt National Park in north west New South Wales are being restored by eradicating or controlling introduced animals, managing native herbivores, and reintroducing regionally extinct mammals.

Professor Kingsford is a river ecologist and conservation biologist who has worked extensively across the wetlands and rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin and Lake Eyre Basin. He has worked with many different communities and governments across this region. His expertise includes: River ecology, water use in Australia, wetland ecology, waterbirds, river policy, dam building effect, rewilding, adaptive management of ecosystems and conservation biology.

27 September - Advance notice: Wind Energy.

Dr David Osmond, a wind engineer, will introduce wind energy, including siting, history, development and future predictions.

29 August Sunday – Mount Keira Ring Track and Wollongong Botanic Gardens Cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

2 to 4 October Saturday and Sunday - Advance notice: Field Trip to be advised.

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_daK5memiUVeVb7bERqr5WgKybj2w .

COVID-19 information

As noted above, the next meeting will only be held on-line.

Please do not attend the Uniting Church Hall until notified

If you have not paid your 2021 membership fees you are no longer a member and are encouraged to re-apply for membership.

<http://www.oatleyflorafauna.org.au/index.php/membership/>

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

OATLEY PARK BUSHCARE group is normally on the second Saturday each month starting 12.00 pm, except January. However, due to the COVID lockdown, this activity is cancelled

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. But this session is cancelled due to the lockdown.

STREAMWATCH Details Heather Stolle 0425 291 879. This activity usually takes place on the Tuesday morning (9.00 am) after OFF General Meetings. This session is also cancelled due to the lockdown.

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY meetings held at 2.30 pm on the second Sunday of every month. These meetings are currently being held on-line using Zoom. The address is <http://zoom.us/j/2023151151> More information can be found at <http://ccl.org.au/>

EXPLORE OATLEY'S ORIGINAL BOUNDARY

Past President Julian Sheen is planning on leading a walk for the Oatley Heritage and Historical Society encompassing the original James Oatley grant (300 Acres), including Boundary Rd, Moore Reserve, Oatley Point, Neverfail Bay, Gungah Bay reserve, Gungah Bay Rd, Boundary Rd and Oatley Senior Citizens Centre. Further details when this is possible.

NEW ON OFF WEBSITE

1. Two very interesting PowerPoint presentations to OFF meetings in 2019 have been loaded onto the OFF website because they cannot be uploaded on the OFF YouTube channel.

The **first** presentation is Deb Andrew, OFF's Conservation Advisor, The Burrarorang: a Hidden Refuge in the Warragamba Catchment Area.

<http://www.oatleyflorafauna.org.au/index.php/2021/07/22/the-burrarorang/>

This wildlife Sanctuary is at risk if plans to raise the Warragamba Dam wall by 14 metres are realised. From the webpage above, you can also open a film "Give a Dam: flooding the Blue Mountains"

The **second** presentation was by Jayden Walsh, an enthusiastic young naturalist with extensive knowledge and appreciation of wildlife: Reptiles and Amphibians of Sydney.

<http://www.oatleyflorafauna.org.au/index.php/2021/07/09/reptiles-and-amphibians-of-sydney/>

2. Oatley Park Seasonal Blooms – August

<http://www.oatleyflorafauna.org.au/index.php/blog>

OFF FACEBOOK PAGE Don't forget to check the [OFF Facebook](#) page and contribute by forwarding items to the administrator, and add to the interesting items and photos that can be found there.