



RE-INTRODUCING LOCALLY EXTINCT MAMMALS TO STURT N P

On 23 August 2021 - Professor Richard Kingsford made what some viewers thought was one of, if not, the best presentations to an OFF meeting. Saving endangered fauna, as part of The Wild Deserts initiative, is a very complicated endeavour. 35,000 ha of desert ecosystem in Sturt National Park in northwest New South Wales need to be restored by eradicating or controlling introduced animals, managing native herbivores, and reintroducing regionally extinct mammals. The audience gained an appreciation of how complicated it was to establish a fenced off area for endangered fauna and no doubt now appreciate what other organisations like AWC have to go through, although in their cases they are using their own properties not the State Government's.

This talk is now available on OFF's [YouTube channel](#). Well-worth watching if you have not seen it.

Richard also mentioned that UNSW has a number of students studying the impacts of the reintroductions including Chloe Robinson who was one of the winners of an OFF grant this year. It's nice to think that our donated funds are going towards such an amazing project as Wild Deserts. It will be interesting to hear about Chloe's research next year at an OFF meeting.

KOALAS

OFF has requested information from the Department of Defence on the status of the Koala population in the Holsworthy Military Barracks. The Minister for Defence Industry, in March 2021, replied that Defence supports local governments and NSW Government agencies in compiling data on koala populations and, in 2018, Defence participated in a regional survey under 'Save our Species' program. The survey indicated that Koalas within the Defence estate were healthy and unstressed, but population numbers were not provided. Defence has been working with Campbelltown City Council (CCC) to better understand koalas within the LGA and a Koala Occupancy/Population Assessment Interim Report will shortly be published on the Campbelltown City Council website. The CCC Coordinator Natural Areas has referred us to the following webpage for information on Koalas in southern Sydney, including the Wild Koala Seminar held earlier this year: <https://www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/LocalEnvironment/Koalatown/CouncilTakesActionOnKoalas>

Local naturalists Steve Anyon-Smith and Tom Kristensen are on a mission to learn more about the Koalas of Heathcote National Park. Previously thought to only be present in very low numbers Tom and Steve have already identified 15 individuals, including this mother and young, and considers there are still more to be found. Heathcote NP is providing important habitat and a potential refuge for Koalas in the Greater Sydney region



Mother and young in Heathcote NP

TOWRA POINT

OFF's Conservation Advisor, Deb Andrew, is very concerned about the imminent loss of Towra Spit Island in Towra Point Nature Reserve (a Ramsar site). This would mean severe and immediate impacts for endangered shorebirds of Botany Bay/Port Hacking and the consequences for shorebird conservation in NSW. OFF has written to Matt Kean (NSW Minister for the Environment) and Mark Speakman (Member for Cronulla) on this matter.

UPDATE ON GLENLEE

Developers are set to remove 200 trees on land with significant Aboriginal and European History. The proposal to build more than 30 houses on Glenlee in Lugarno has been made without consideration to its natural and cultural heritage values. Glenlee contributes to the view from Oatley Park. It plays an important role in a wildlife corridor from Oatley Park, Lugarno and on to the Georges River National Park. Glenlee is also significant as an archaeological site with Indigenous activity and a legacy of early Australian history.

The developer's appeal against Council's deemed refusal of the DA is currently proceeding in the Land and Environment Court with a conciliation conference listed for 22 October 2021. Council's Statement of Facts and Contentions has been filed with the court and made available to residents via HWL Ebsworth's Letter to Residents regarding conciliation dated 14 September 2021 and can be [seen here](#).

The campaign team needs to engage experts to provide reports that will carry significant weight with the court, to present with the residents' case and they can't be engaged until the funds are in hand.

If you want to help save the natural and cultural heritage of Glenlee, you can make a donation to the Save Glenlee fighting fund, join the Friends of Glenlee Association Incorporated and sign the petition asking the government to buy Glenlee for the community and future generations.

<https://www.saveglenlee.com> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/603634930557880>

FLYING FOXES

The Draft Oatley Flying Fox Camp Management Plan 2021 is now on public exhibition: <https://yoursay.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition-of-the-draft-oatley-grey-headed-flying-fox-camp-management-plan-2021>

Submissions close 8 October 2021. Please comment.

Remember that Grey-headed Flying-foxes play a key role in pollinating important native plants.

REGREENING COUNTRY: MORE PLANTS READY TO GO

Readers, particularly participants, will be pleased to know that the 1800 tube stock planted 1 year ago at Moorlands are thriving in almost perfect growing conditions with regular rainfall and little damage from wildlife.

In more good news, the next batch of 750 tube stock will be delivered by the end of September, 500 to Moorlands and 250 to Marulan. There was some concern that these plants would not be able to be used due to lockdowns.

PROTECTING THE GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS PRESENTATION AND NPA SOUTHERN SYDNEY BRANCH AGM

Members are invited to a presentation about the campaign to Protect the Greater Blue Mountains by Harry Burkitt, General Manager of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness which has been around for 53 years since 1968. Harry will speak about current threats facing the Blue Mountains (a World Heritage Site) and how the campaign addresses the threats regarding fires, Warragamba Dam raising and coal mining and working to protect values – with UNESCO and in corporate and political circles.

Wednesday, 29 September 2021 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start

The ZOOM link for the meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8102670640>

CONTACTING COUNCIL TO RAISE AN ISSUE

Georges River Council have created a link on the front page of their website called Log it/Fix it. This creates a Customer Service Request which should be responded to by council: <https://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Home>

An alternative is to use an app called [Snap Send Solve](#)

You can download this onto your Smartphone and use it on site if you find an issue when you're out and about, enabling the use of photos with position coordinates from the phone's GPS to be included in the request.

Coming OFF Events in September/October 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_PLK8og40D0ekuYAs3lQ

27 September - Wind Energy.

Dr David Osmond, a wind engineer with Windlab, will introduce wind energy, including siting, historic growth, development and future predictions (including solar). He will also discuss issues associated with obtaining most of our power from variable renewable energy sources.

After obtaining his BSc in Maths and Physics and then his PhD from ANU in Earth Sciences (Geophysical Fluid Dynamics), David worked at the CSIRO in the Wind Energy Research Unit and then Windlab, after it was spun out of CSIRO in 2003. Windlab Pty Ltd is a global renewable energy development company established to commercialise world leading atmospheric modelling and wind energy assessment technology, developed by Australia's premier scientific research institute. Windlab owns and exclusively utilises this suite of industry best practice tools to identify and efficiently develop, finance, construct and operate high quality wind farms around the world, with considerably greater certainty and substantially less risk

25 October – Advance Notice: How smart are fish

Cullum Brown, a Marine Biologist from Macquarie University, will discuss intelligence and learning behaviour

2 to 4 October Saturday and Sunday: Field Trip to be advised. Cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions

31 October Sunday – Heathcote Creek and Tamaroo Ridge, Heathcote NP (medium Walk). Cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

Note that the remainder of the 2021 field program has been cancelled until further notice

The OFF Field Officer is still drafting next year's program. Please contact Lesley Wylie on 0400 562 085 if you have any ideas.

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

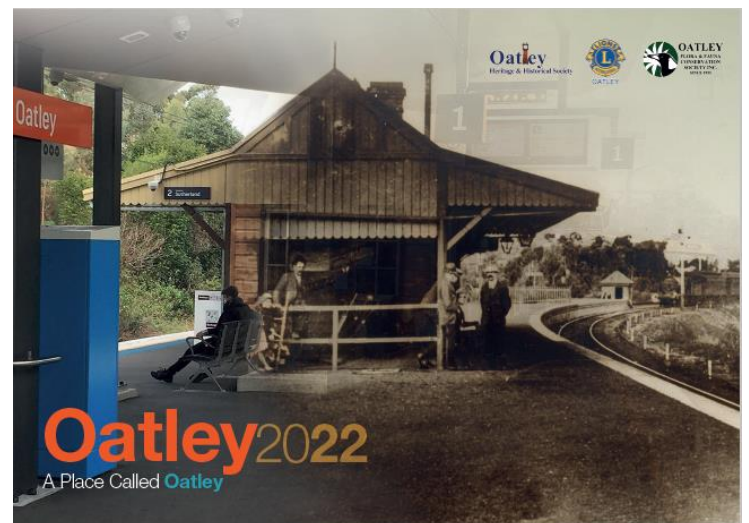
LOCAL BUSHCARE Members can assist by volunteering to maintain OFF planting sites each month on the Thursday after general meetings (except December) at 8.00 am. But this session is cancelled due to the lockdown.

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/>

2022 OATLEY CALENDAR is now available from shops in Oatley. The theme of the 2022 Calendar, produced by Oatley Heritage and Historical Society, is from the book by Julian Sheen "A Place Called Oatley". It deals with the early history of Oatley. It's in the usual high quality visual style and is \$10. It is available from Oatley West Newsagent, Mullane's Pharmacy,

and in East Oatley from Povelli's Cafe and the Hungry Spoon. If you need a copy mailed then contact Rodger Robertson 0408 232 874 for more details.



The OFF Facebook page can keep you up to date on OFF's activities and more. You can also send interesting and relevant items and photos to the administrator for others to view.

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