



## WIND ENERGY

On 27 September, Dr David Osmond spoke passionately about the Australian wind energy industry. David previously worked at CSIRO in the Wind Energy Research Unit and currently is the Senior Wind Engineer at Windlab which was spun off from CSIRO in 2003.

An audience of 41 heard David discuss the evolution of wind turbines. The tallest now stands as high as Sydney Tower when including the wing span of the blade. He explained optimal wind speed efficiency, typical output and wind farm site requirements. We were very pleased to hear the operating costs of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar were 25-50% less than non-renewable sources. David highlighted the significant reduction in GHG emissions due to renewable energy installations e.g. South Australia GHG emissions fell by 56% since 2015! In wrapping up, he indicated globally the energy sector is moving rapidly towards renewable energy as 238GW of new wind and solar plants were installed in 2020 versus 60GW of new fossil fuel plants. (Recording of this talk is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-W1mGVxfoY>)

## UNCOMMON PLANT IN POULTON PARK

We are fortunate to live in an area dominated by sandstone for two reasons:

- Sandstone soils are very poor in nutrients so our forebears didn't clear a lot of vegetation on sandstone.
- Sandstone soils support a huge range of species.

As a result we have a number of parks in our vicinity with a rich native flora. I think we sometimes take it for granted and it isn't until we visit an area deficient in wildflowers that we appreciate what's on our doorstep. Recently Liz and I were walking through Poulton Park admiring the many plants in flower when we noticed an unusual daisy. We took photos and after perusing a number of plant books including Fairley and Moore, tentatively identified it as *Olearia viscidula* (Wallaby Weed or Viscid Daisy Bush). This identification was confirmed by an experienced botanist on the excellent NSW Native Plant Identification Facebook page.



On the Australian Virtual Herbarium we found that although there were many records of this daisy from the Southern Highlands and the foothills of the Blue Mountains, there were very few from the Georges River area and just three from our local area. Those three were all collected in 1893 at the same time from sites that are now built over and so this plant in Poulton Park might be the last one in our immediate area. Alan Fairley lists it in the Plants of Oatley Park and so it may be more common but no one has recorded it in any of the plant databases.

We have advised Georges River Council Bushcare and added the record to the Australian Virtual Herbarium. It just shows what we may discover if we take the time to carefully check an unfamiliar plant in our bushland.

NSW Native Plant Identification Fb page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/332752936930981>

Australian Virtual Herbarium:

[https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Olearia+viscidula#tab\\_map\\_View](https://avh.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?taxa=Olearia+viscidula#tab_map_View)

(report by Graham Fry and Liz Cameron)

## UPDATE ON GLENLEE

See last month's Newsletter for details of the developer's completely unacceptable proposal for this significant site.

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. Another appeal has been lodged

against the Interim Heritage Order that was recently placed on the site. It is understood these two proceedings are to be run and heard together, which has potential to extend the timeframes. In the meantime detailed heritage studies are being undertaken.

Council's Statement of Facts and Contentions has been filed with the court and made available to residents. In addition to Council lawyers and relevant experts a number of residents will be able to speak to the court at the Conciliation Conference to give a local perspective of the impacts.

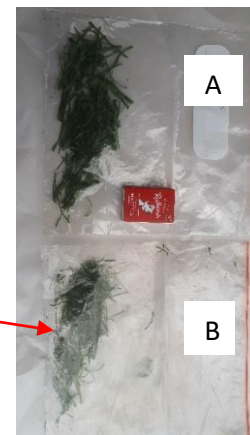
If you want to help save the natural and cultural heritage of Glenlee, you can make a donation to the Save Glenlee fighting fund, join the Friends of Glenlee Association and sign the petition asking the government to buy Glenlee for the community and future generations.

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

## SYNTHETIC TURF – SOURCE OF MICROPLASTICS

Three parks in the Georges River LGA– Poulton, Peakhurst and Penshurst - have synthetic turf playing fields. In Poulton Park, two grass soccer fields were surfaced with synthetic turf and re-opened in November 2020. The fields are adjacent to Oatley Creek and OFF members are concerned that fragments of synthetic yarn will end up in the watercourse.

On 8th October 2021 (less than a year after the fields opened and with COVID precautions limiting play) 3 OFF members sampled 2 sites of 1m<sup>2</sup> each, west (sample A) and east (B) of the fields. In a short time 380 pieces of yarn (length 5 to 50mm) were collected, weighing more than 4 grams. Yarn from the western sample was more intact and sometimes still in tufts; the eastern sample had more small single fragments and some were half-buried in the soil. This is probably because there is more foot traffic on this side of the field.



Given the short time the fields have been in use it is concerning that so much plastic is coming off them. How much more is there when you consider the whole area around the fields? How much is blowing and washing into the adjacent creek and then into the Georges River? Is GRC monitoring this?

## OFF SECRETARY POSITION VACANT

After 13 years as Secretary, Liz Cameron is resigning at the AGM in February. Please give earnest consideration to nominating for this role. Liz is happy to talk to you or you can contact Kim Wagstaff about your potential nomination.

Following are the secretarial tasks (you might like to share them with a friend or colleague): Attend committee and general meetings; take minutes; write and send letters approved by committee; collect mail from PO Box in Mortdale; read mail (including emails); sort correspondence ready for committee meetings.

It is important that OFF has key committee positions filled to not only spread the workload but also to maintain the momentum that OFF membership has built up in so actively caring for our environment.

## Coming OFF Events in October/November 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\\_PLK8og40D0ekuYAys3lQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd_PLK8og40D0ekuYAys3lQ)

### 25 October – How Smart are Fish: Intelligence and Learning Behaviour.

Most people have a very low expectation of fish intelligence. The reality is fish are far smarter than we give them credit for. After **Culum Brown** introduces us to the intelligence of fishes we will see them in a different light. He will also discuss some of the implications from our new appreciation of fish cognition.

Culum is a well-known champion of fish intelligence and welfare. He did his science degree at University of Melbourne, Honours and PhD at the University of Queensland, multiple post-docs at Cambridge University, University of Edinburgh and the Smithsonian. He was a lecturer in Animal Behaviour at the University of Canterbury before moving to Macquarie University where he is now a Professor and teaches Vertebrate Evolution and Behaviour. Culum has made a significant contribution to the study of behavioural ecology of fishes over his research career. His research niche lies in the study of fish behaviour and its application to fisheries science with his most significant contribution being the enhancement of our understanding of fish cognition

### 22 November – Advance Notice: Climate Change, Habitat Associations and Range Limits of the Weedy Sea Dragon

Sam Allan, UTS postgraduate student and OFF research grant recipient

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

Advance Notices: 6 December - Christmas Picnic in Oatley Park

Street Stalls in December to sell 2022 Oatley calendar

Although the 2021 program has been interrupted by COVID lockdowns, we are optimistic that we can resume the field program in 2022 (with appropriate protocols if necessary)

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\\_daK5memiUVeVb7bERqr5WqKybj2w](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i_daK5memiUVeVb7bERqr5WqKybj2w) .

### 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

### BRIEFLY SPEAKING .....

**OATLEY PARK BUSHCARE** group is normally on the second Saturday each month starting 12.00 pm, except January. Now that COVID lockdowns have stopped we hope to start again on 13 November. Please check with Bushcare officer on 0435963643 before coming.

**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. This session is still cancelled due to GRC concerns.

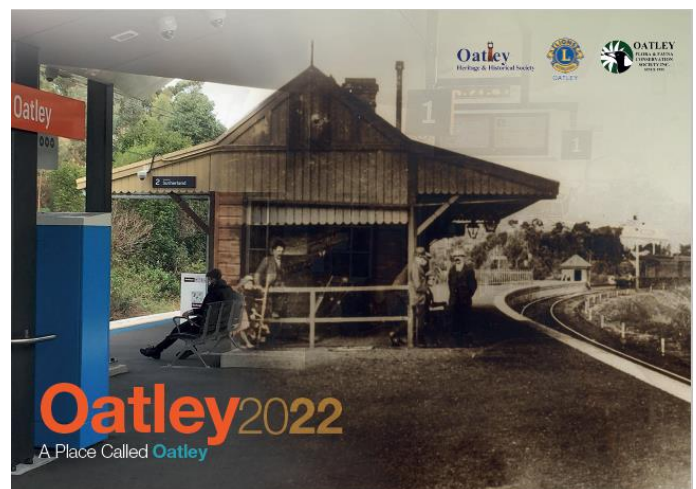
**STREAMWATCH** Details Heather Stolle 0425 291 879. This activity usually takes place on the Tuesday morning (9.00 am) after OFF General Meetings. With lockdowns cancelled, we will be back at Myles Dunphy on 26 October.

**CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY (CCL) SOUTHERN SYDNEY SUBURBS**  
Meet at 2:30 pm on second Sunday each month. Meetings are face-to-face at Club Oatley with masks & 1 person/4m<sup>2</sup>. Limited participation online. Welcome for light lunch at 1:15. Also hybrid meetings at 7:30 pm on fourth Tuesday at SMSA, 280 Pitt St. Online address for both meetings is [zoom.us/j/2023151151](https://zoom.us/j/2023151151). If lockdown then online only. More information from George Carrard 95793020 text 0467044892.

**BOOREA RESERVE** has been proposed by OFF as the name for the site of OFF's planting near Oatley Station. The Geographical Names Board (GNB) is now seeking community feedback on the proposed name. Please support OFF in acknowledging the traditional owners by using their name for

one of the dominant trees of the area as the name of the reserve. See [Leader](#) article with link to GNB web site. Submissions close 29th October.

**2022 OATLEY CALENDAR.** Is available from Oatley West Newsagent, Mullane's Pharmacy, Povelli's Cafe and the Hungry Spoon. If you need a copy mailed then contact Rodger Robertson 0408 232 874 for more details.



Please check the **OFF Facebook** page for OFF's activities and send interesting and relevant items/ photos to the administrator for others to view.