



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST PHOTO EXHIBITION

Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Society (OFF) with support of Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) will hold the exhibition at Dragon's Lair Gallery, Hurstville Museum and Gallery, May/June 2022

Theme: Local Biodiversity.

OFF seeks to highlight the biodiversity that makes our bushland rich and special – the beautiful, unusual and overlooked plants and animals that live around us.

Guidelines/priorities for photographers:

- Diversity of subjects, especially the unusual and overlooked;
- Dynamic images preferred over static portraits;
- Local provenance - Georges River LGA and immediate neighbourhood;
- Include brief context notes – eg, locality, story behind the image etc.
- Sharply focused high resolution images needed for final selection;
- Copyright will remain with the photographer but OFF may need a release for a few images to promote the exhibition in advance;
- Photos can be framed/mounted by photographer or OFF can arrange framing in a specific size.

OFF will also consider short videos of wildlife active in their habitat to complement the printed images.

Please submit initial expressions of interest with low res photographs and/or outline of potential videos to: oatleyff@gmail.com **by 21 February.**

For further enquiries and more information please email: oatleyff@gmail.com or phone Kim Wagstaff 0437 791 988

CLIMATE CHANGE HABITAT ASSOCIATIONS AND RANGE LIMITS OF THE WEEDY SEA DRAGON

At our last meeting for 2021, OFF grant recipient, Sam Allan, gave a fascinating talk on Range Limits, Habitat and Prey Associations of the Weedy Seadragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*). Sam is a Master's research candidate with the Fish Ecology Lab in the School of Life Sciences at the University of Technology Sydney. He discussed his research conducted over the past 18 months in Sydney, concentrated in Botany Bay, Bondi, Manly, and Port Stephens. We learnt that weedy sea dragons are quite charismatic: the males brood the young; every individual can be identified by the spot pattern on its side; 80% of their diet is mysid shrimp; and they can be found most readily at the kelp - sand interface. These characteristics led to first-time, comprehensive research into their habitat and spatial distribution along our coast line. It is hoped these results will help prioritise conservation efforts of this iconic species into the future as the climate changes.

COMMITTEE POSITION TO BE FILLED

A crucial committee position needs to be filled at the AGM, that of Secretary. This position could be shared by two or more committee members; tasks include attending committee and general meetings; taking minutes; recording attendance, writing (with key input from other committee members) and sending letters approved by committee; collecting mail from PO Box in Mortdale; reading mail (including emails); recording and sorting correspondence ready for committee meetings.

THE SOCIETY DOES NOT RUN ITSELF! We will find it very difficult to operate effectively unless this position is filled. If members wish to see OFF continue to be a successful advocate for the environment, particularly the local environment in which we all live and have an interest, then please step up. It's not hard and it is rewarding.

PASSING OF LONG-TIME MEMBERS

Sadly three OFF members of very long-standing have died in the past few months. Margaret Walters on 20th October, and her husband Graham Walters on 12th January. The Walters had been members since 1968.

Their enduring allegiance and support for our Society was recognised in 2017 with a certificate of appreciation from OFF.

Barbara Carrard died on 16th January; she and her husband George joined in 1982 and their long membership was also formally acknowledged in 2017. George continues his untiring work with the Citizens Climate Lobby to raise awareness of, and encourage action to counter, climate change.

CREATING CANOPIES IN GREATER SYDNEY

Coming up on 9th March is a planting day to be held at an area next to the Carss Park Community Centre. This is part of the Creating Canopies project led by the Greater Sydney Landcare Network (GSLN). Planting will commence at 8am, followed by morning tea at the nearby Mens Shed. GSLN will provide equipment etc. We hope to see a big turn-out of OFF members for this very rewarding and sociable activity. Bring gloves, hat, sun-screen and water.



Bonnet Orchid (*Cryptostylis erecta*)

This lovely Orchid was found in Kyle Williams Reserve.

It is a beautiful example of why this reserve, and others, need to be protected by Georges River Council from wilful damage by uncontrolled mountain bike riders. Signs have been erected in some reserves, but their warnings need to be more explicit and enforced.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

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 on 8 February.

OATLEY PARK BUSHCARE group is normally on the second Saturday each month starting 12.00 pm, except January. This month it will be held on 12 February. Meet at the entrance on Oatley Park Avenue. New participants welcome, 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) from 8.00 am to 11 am. However, this month we will be back on 24 Feb at Boorea Reserve (near Oatley Station) supervised by a GRC Bushcare Officer. We would welcome new bushcarers. Just contact <https://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Council/Volunteering> website and volunteers will be notified via email.

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY meetings held at 2.30 pm on the second Sunday of every month. These meetings are now being held on-line using Zoom. The address is <http://zoom.us/j/7868786878>

2022 MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget that your annual \$25 membership subscription was due January 1st 2022. See last month's Newsletter for payment details. Retaining our membership base is important, not only for running the Society and making grants to students, but it gives OFF more credence in the community and, importantly, with authorities that we deal with, knowing that OFF represents a considerable number of environmentally concerned community members.

Coming OFF Events in January/February 2022

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

Due to uncertainty with COVID, we will continue with on-line meetings for the time being. Meetings will be held using the video conference application Zoom, which you can download for free via this link: <https://zoom.us/> or from Play Store (Google) or App Store (Apple). You should run a test before meetings to ensure you can connect on the night. If this is possible, you will receive an invitation prior to meetings or use the link below. Note that some earlier presentations can be found on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd_PLK8og40D0ekuYAys3IQ

7 February 2022 – OFF Annual General Meeting

Our first Monday meeting for the new year will be the Annual General Meeting. Hear reports about what OFF has been doing in the past year, and elect a new committee for 2022. You are invited to nominate at the AGM. This year the Society needs to fill the position of: Secretary. See page 1 for details. Note that this meeting will be held via ZOOM only. Apologies to those who were hoping to attend in person.

28 February 2022 — Effects of reintroduction of Western Quoll on prey species, and Refuges for Crest-tailed Mulgara after drought.

These topics will be presented by UNSW postgraduates who were OFF 2021 grant recipients.

Ben Stepkovitch will present his findings from investigating the ecosystem effects of western quoll (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) and the reintroduction on prey species inside a fenced reserve. Ben is a Research grant recipient and is studying for his PhD study at the UNSW Centre for Ecosystem Science, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Dympna Cullen will tell us about her research to determine the attributes and connectivity of ecological refuges for the crest-tailed mulgara following a prolonged period of drought. Dympna is a PhD candidate at UNSW and works as a Casual Senior Field Ecologist for the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) on various translocations and surveys, and as an independent Wildlife Biologist on various projects. Prior to commencing her PhD, Dympna worked and did research at Scotia Sanctuary and researched Koalas on Kangaroo Island.

6 March 2022 (Sunday) – Advance Notice - Clean Up Australia Day

OFF will run 2 sites for this year's clean up, morning and afternoon, so there will be ample opportunity to participate. Please keep the date free.

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. However, current COVID-19 restrictions apply, ie, masks must be worn in-doors and numbers are restricted to 20 plus organisers to maintain social distancing.

OFF ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

The information on the accounts is shown below. The accounts show two rather large deficits in 2020 and 2021. The 2020 result was a timing issue- OFF spend considerable funds on Grants received in previous years and a resultant deficit of some \$5,500 resulted- but it could have been more considering that UNSW lost our Research Grant cheque for \$4000. This research grant was acquitted in 2021 thereby resulting in OFF deficit for the year being some \$6,500.

Meeting expenses were higher than recent years as the COVID-19 caused OFF to continue its meetings with costs of hardware and internet charges being charged for the purpose of the continuance of the meetings. A worthwhile cost to keep going! The Research Grant program will continue at a level which will reduce our overall funds but OFF ended the year with over \$17,000 of funds available so there are a few years before we need to review the cost of \$6,000 per year on these grants. OFF is reviewing ways to allow donations to the Research Grants to be tax deductible and this may open new avenues for funds to be made to these important endeavours.

Rodger Robertson, Hon Treasurer, January 2022

Income and expenditure statement	2021	2020
INCOME		
Subscriptions	4,373.56	4,050.00
Donations	3,204.10	3,380.00
Sales/Stalls, etc.	387.21	0.00
Grants various	0.00	7,567.01
Annual dinner	0.00	0.00
2021 Calendar sales	0.00	436.11
2022 Calendar sales	359.24	4,823.00
Lions loan for calendar	0.00	1,000.00
EDO bird cards and other benefits sales	330.18	272.55
Miscellaneous Income	14.97	0.01
TOTAL INCOME	8,669.26	21,528.68

EXPENSES

OFF Newsletter printing & postage	(778.10)	(1,025.24)
Insurance	(410.00)	(390.00)
PO box rental	(136.00)	(134.00)
Brochure printing various	0.00	(215.20)
Office of Fair Trading	(47.00)	(47.00)
2021 Calendar costs	(1,501.55)	(3,212.00)
Donations and Membership to other bodies	(600.00)	(536.05)
Annual dinner	0.00	0.00
key Net 2020 Calendar payments	0.00	(2,206.34)
Grants expenditure	0.00	(17,008.19)
ZOOM	(30.65)	(237.80)
Research grants	(10,000.00)	(2,000.00)
EDO and other payments	(341.50)	
Miscellaneous	(492.00)	(64.20)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(15,196.80)	(27,076.11)
SURPLUS	(6,527.54)	(5,547.43)

BANK RECONCILIATION and other information

	2021	2020
Chq acct balance as at 1 January	18,274.62	20,231.20
PC acct	(339.22)	(409.15)
Transfer from Fixed Term Deposit	(6,527.54)	4,000.00
Surplus on year	409.15	(5,547.43)
Chq acct balance 31 December	11,817.01	18,274.62
Petty cash balance	339.22	409.15
Various term deposits	5,003.26	5,003.26
Total balance at bank 31 December	17,159.49	23,687.03
Grants held for other organisation (balance)	0.00	0.00
Grants for OFF unspent	0.00	0.00
Loans from Oatley Lions	0.00	1,000.00
Unpresented cheques	0.00	4,000.00
Net balance for OFF	17,159.49	18,687.03

OFF Secretary: Liz Cameron, PO BOX 52, Mortdale 2223 Tel: 9580 6621 Email: oatleyff@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.oatleyflorafauna.org.au> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OatleyFloraandFauna?>

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