

Secretary's Report to 67th AGM – for OFF News February/March 2022

Highlights:

Revegetation of parks and reserves - 950 native plants, over 140 hours of labour; collaboration with GSLN's Creating Canopies program and GRC.

Signage installed on Headland Track in Oatley Park and linked to OFF website, interpretive brochures printed.

Council adopted two place names we proposed – Boorea (Turpentine) for reserve in Oatley that OFF has revegetated, and Myles Dunphy Creek.

Membership grew to 312. Sadly, six elderly current or former members died – Grace and John Blake, Dorothy Rootes, Margaret and Graham Walters and Barbara Carrard.

\$6,000 in research grants disbursed to three postgraduate students.

Objections lodged to DAs for properties in Foreshore Scenic Protection Area – includes 'Glenlee', Lugarno.

Submissions on GRC Management Plans for Oatley Bowling Club site and Oatley Flying-fox Camp.

Submissions on Draft PoM for Royal NP, Kosciuszko NP Wild Horse Heritage, Warragamba Dam Raising Project.

Successful bid to hold nature photography exhibition in Hurstville Museum and Gallery next June.

Propagated casuarinas for endangered cockatoos, and shrubs and trees to revegetate rural properties; planted eucalypts at Kurnell Desalination Plant.

Campaigns:

Repair damage to Oatley Park and other bushland from unauthorised bike tracks, unregulated parking in OP; numerous requests to Council to rectify damage, suggestions made for mitigation. Supported petition to construct dedicated bike facility.

Oatley Park Plan of Management and Master Plan – Council has invited OFF to give feedback.

Loss of trees in LGA – lobbied for creation of Significant Tree Register and for all tree removal applications to be posted on GRC website.

Mine threats to water resources - opposed Wongawilli Colliery - Modification 2 Proposal - under Sydney Water Catchment.

Koalas – supported funding for "Koala Corridor" documentary; attended Koala Day of Action; petitioned Minister for Environment to save Menangle Creek Koala Corridor from development.

Promoted Save Glenlee (Lugarno) campaign

Health hazards of wood heaters – lobbied local and state governments.

Maintenance and Monitoring

Bushcare at four sites (140 hours); Streamwatch and rubbish audits in Dairy and Myles Dunphy Creeks (60 hours). Clean Up Australia Day with Oatley Lions in Poulton Park (27 registered). Georges River Paddle Against Plastic, and Graffiti Removal Day.

New focus on pollution caused by microplastics and run-off from synthetic turf playing fields.

Membership and Activities

Robin Dickson is retiring after 28 years on committee.

Eleven issues of OFF News published, Facebook page continues to promote activities; two Powerpoint presentations from 2019 uploaded on OFF website.

Continued co-operation with like-minded organisations.

Ten meetings held, four in person with simultaneous broadcast via Zoom; six on Zoom only. Average audience 35; 56 for Richard Kingsford's presentation on Sturt NP. Four recipients of OFF research grants gave talks. Up to 14 visitors logged into individual Zoom broadcasts. Most presentations uploaded to OFF's YouTube channel.

Only three field activities, average of 11 participants; 18 joined Sharyn Cullis's trip to SW Sydney where a Koala population is threatened.

Three pre-Christmas street stalls with OHHS and Oatley Lions in Oatley and Mortdale. Annual Dinner cancelled but 31 attended Annual Picnic in Oatley Park Castle in December.

Elizabeth Cameron
Retiring Secretary, February 2022