



OFF News

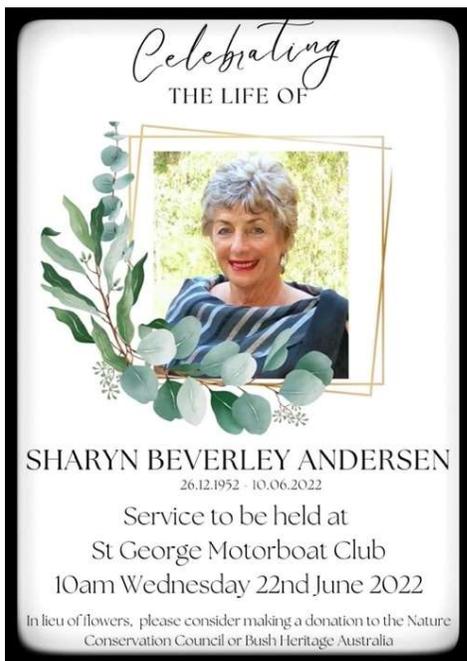
Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Society Inc.

Working to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment locally and globally, since 1955

VALE DR SHARYN ANDERSEN (CULLIS)

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DENDROBIUM LONGWALL COALMINE

OFF has been a long time campaigner against mining in our water catchment!



Oatley Flora and Fauna members are deeply saddened by the passing of Sharyn Andersen (Cullis).

Sharyn was a long-time OFF member and tireless campaigner for environmental justice. She was principal of the Georges River Environmental Education Centre, founder of Georges River Environmental Alliance and a community representative with the Georges River Combined Councils Committee.

Sharyn had a brilliant and strategic mind which enabled her to be a tenacious and effective leader, educator and advocate. Sharyn's passion and commitment was unwavering, and her enthusiasm encouraged many others to join her fight.

Sharyn supported a variety of causes but those closest to her heart included the protection of natural resources, especially the Georges River, Oatley Park and Myles Dunphy Reserve. She was a tireless campaigner for the koala colonies in southwest Sydney and the gazettal of Dharawal National Park.

Sharyn was a vocal opponent of coal mining under the Woronora catchment and was recently awarded a PhD for her thesis on that subject.

Sharyn will be hugely missed and the environment has lost a dedicated campaigner and friend. Sharyn made a difference and has left the world a better place.

Off continues to campaign against mining in the catchment area for the Sydney water supply. Despite the proposed extension of the Dendrobium longwall coal mine in the Illawarra being rejected by the Independent Planning Commission and WaterNSW in February 2021, the state government wants this disastrous project to go through!

Longwall mining damages reservoirs, cracks rock beds and increases the presence of heavy metals in drinking water. Yet there is no other major city in the world where longwall mining is permitted underneath publicly owned water catchments.

OFF recently made a submission objecting to the latest modified proposal to extend the mine into the controversial Area 5 near Avon reservoir and to extend the life of the mine for another 19 years. Submissions have now closed.

CREATING CANOPIES IN GREATER SYDNEY

Following OFF's successful planting projects in partnership with GRC and Greater Sydney Landcare Network at Peakhurst, Carss Park and Claydon Reserve, our next project will be at **Renown Park** on **Wednesday 20 July** when 200 plants will be planted. Volunteers much appreciated. Further details will be provided.

MEMBERSHIP

OFF membership has now reached a total 310. Membership will lapse for those who have not paid dues by 30th June. .

KOALA PROTECTION CAMPAIGN

Some good news about a cause high in Sharyn's priorities comes from Steve Anyon Smith who has been looking for koalas in Georges River National Park and Mill Creek. He has found a number, including mothers and young. There is evidence that they could be changing their habitat and no longer restricted to grey gums. Progress has been made in identifying individuals especially by nose markings.

SAVE GLENLEE

Great news! Council's lawyers have advised residents that the DA for 31 residential allotments has been withdrawn and the appeal in the Land and Environment Court has been discontinued.

Coming OFF Events in June/July 2022

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

<http://off.oatleypark.com/?p=7090> We have now returned to face-to-face meetings, starting at 7.30pm, in the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick St Oatley. Meetings will also be available on-line, 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 this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i_daK5memiUveVb7bERgr5WgKybj2w
Note that some OFF presentations and earlier movies can now be found on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd_PLK8og40D0ekuYAys3lQ

Sunday 26 June- Kamay Botany Bay National Park This easy walk is in the area where Joseph Banks collected plants in 1770 and descendants of those plants are still growing there and hopefully will be in flower. It is recommended that we leave our cars in the car park near the closed visitor centre. Please note that if you park here you will either need a NPWS pass or have to purchase one at the gate. Alternatively, you can park outside the park and walk to the visitor centre. The walk will start at 10:30am at the visitor centre. We will walk through eucalypt forest and heath land and after around 2.5km we will reach the coast where we will see whales on their northern migration. This whale watching area is Cape Solander and we will have lunch here while watching out for whales. One option is to continue walking 3km to Cape Baily. We can return on a different track and should be back to visitor centre by 2:30pm. **Graham Fry 0490 056 233**

Monday 27 June- General Meeting This will be in the Uniting Church Hall, Oatley and on Zoom. Our guest speaker is biologist **Susan Rhind** from Eurobodalla Council who will be speaking via Zoom from South Coast NSW about nest boxes. We want to help our birds and possums to find places to nest and raise their young as we know there are far too few suitable natural tree hollows for the animals who need homes. Nest boxes can provide a viable alternative to natural tree hollows for a range of wildlife. Susan Rhind will share the research that has been undertaken to find out what is needed to build nestboxes that work – not too hot, the right sized holes, where and how to site them. She will also highlight results of successful nestbox activities and reasons why some projects were successful. **Please note** this is a change from the speaker advertised in the printed OFF annual program brochure due to availability of speakers.

Advance Notice: Saturday 30 July – Field Activity: Oatley to Lugarno walk led by Liz Cameron has been brought forward to avoid a clash with GRC's National Tree Day planting event on Sunday 31 July.

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_daK5memiUveVb7bERgr5WgKybj2w.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

OATLEY PARK BUSHCARE group is normally on the second Saturday each month starting 12.00 pm, except January. The next session will be on 9th July. 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. This month we will be back on **Thur 30 June** at Boorea Reserve supervised by a GRC bushcare officer.
<https://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Council/Volunteering>

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 Reserve on **Tuesday 28 June**.

CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY meetings are held at 2:30 pm on the second Sunday of every month at Club Oatley (RSL) and are also on-line at zoom.us/j/2023151151. For details text George on 0467004892.

TECH HELP NEEDED!

The OFF committee has decided to continue live monthly meetings at the Oatley Uniting Church with a Zoom internet broadcast for those who cannot attend in person. However, this has proven to be a technological challenge for us and we have had a number of problems. As a result we were wondering if there are any OFF members who have skills in audio/computing who might be able to help us. If there is anyone who is willing to assist, would you please contact either Kim Wagstaff (0437 791 988) or Graham Fry (9580 6621).

REMINDER: To find notifications and reports on OFF activities, check the **OFF Facebook** page, to which you can also contribute by sending items/photos to the administrator for others to view and comment on.

RENAMING THE FORMER OATLEY BOWLING CLUB SITE



GRC is proposing to the Geographical Names Board to rename the former Oatley Bowling Club site to Arthur Hardiman reserve, disregarding the fact that the site already has an official name: **Myles Dunphy Bushland Reserve**. Myles Dunphy, also an Oatley resident, was well known for his commitment to conservation, and is often referred to as the Father of Conservation in NSW. To now rename a significant portion of the reserve that carries his name would be doing an injustice to the revered conservationist. OFF encourages members to lodge a submission in support of the current name. Go to: [NSW Place and Road Naming Proposals System](#) Also see more details on the OFF Facebook page.

POTENTIAL CHANGE OF MEETING DATES

OFF committee has been discussing moving the dates of our general meetings in 2023, from the 4th Monday of the month to the 3rd Monday. This would avoid clashes with Georges River Council meetings which OFF members often wish to attend and, sometimes, address on important OFF campaigns. OFF Committee welcomes members' feedback on this proposal.