



SHARYN ANDERSEN (CULLIS)

A memorial service for Sharyn, held on 22nd June at the St George Motorboat Club, was attended by over 250 people, as well as those who watched online. Family and friends spoke of her devotion to her family and love of the Georges River, her enthusiasm for travel to some amazing parts of the world, as well as her fierce campaigning on environmental issues, such as preventing mining under Sydney's water catchments, the formation of Dharawal National Park and her fight to save Koala habitat. She was much loved and will be sorely missed.

KAMAY BOTANY BAY NATIONAL PARK

Fourteen OFF members and friends met at the closed visitor centre in Kamay NP (Kurnell) on Sunday 26th June. We followed the Yena trail for a short distance before diverting onto the Banks Solander Track where signs indicate identical plant species to those that Banks and Solander had collected in 1770. Over 130 species were collected in this area and at the time it was one of the most significant botanical discovery areas found. We returned to the Yena trail admiring the banksias and other plants in flower before arriving at the currently under reconstruction whale watching platform. We had lunch here and saw plenty of whales heading north. After lunch some of the group headed further south to Cape Baily lighthouse while the remainder returned to the visitor centre following an alternative track. A great day in perfect weather with good opportunities to appreciate Australia's unique flora and appreciating one of the great whale success stories as numbers of Humpback whales have increased significantly since whaling stopped in the 1960's.



HEATHCOTE TO KANGAROO CREEK

The previous month OFF members enjoyed a beautiful autumn day in the Royal National Park meandering down to Kangaroo Creek from Heathcote. After negotiating our way down, on an at times rough and wet track, to be greeted by a wonderful scene with cascading water falling into large pools. What a great spot. See [website](#) for photos.

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

On June 27, we had a very entertaining and informative presentation from Joey Clarke, ecologist with Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Joey drew on his 10 years' experience at sanctuaries from Cape York to Central Australia, the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Kimberley, and outback New South Wales. Joey explained AWC's model of science-informed land management of sanctuaries covering 6.5 million hectares, strategic fire management in northern Australia and projects to restore populations of threatened Australian mammals. The recent restoration of the Great Bilby to the Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary in the Great Sandy Desert region was just one of the many highlights of his excellent presentation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF MICROPLASTICS

At the June 27 council meeting Georges River Councillors unanimously supported a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Mahoney requesting a comprehensive investigation into the impacts arising from synthetic playing fields. His major concern was how to prevent the migration of microplastics such as crumb rubber infill and artificial grass into the environment surrounding each synthetic playing field. Once prevention measures were investigated and implemented he suggested annual surveys could be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the prevention

measures. He also requested Council take note of the findings of the NSW Government Chief Scientist and Engineer who is in the process of compiling a report (due mid-2022) on the use of synthetic turf in public open spaces.

Vice-President Adrian Polhill also addressed the Council on behalf of OFF and explained results of the recent survey conducted by OFF under the supervision of Dr Scott Wilson, Chief Scientist at the Earthwatch Institute Australia and Research Director of the Australian Microplastics Assessment Project. Analysis of soil samples from the environment adjoining the Poulton Park synthetic turf playing fields revealed an estimated >1,000,000 pieces of crumb rubber infill were present in the survey area of 400m². Adrian mentioned that, he was unaware of the problem as he thought the crumb rubber was part of a solid rubber underlay. In fact the infill consisted of 1-2mm pieces of rubber used on the top of the synthetic grass, and can easily move into the environment if no prevention measures are in place. Dr Scott Wilson, and Connells Point resident, Professor Gary Housley, both voiced their concerns regarding the impact of microplastics on biodiversity and urged the council to support the motion.

OFF thanks members who conducted the survey and analysis of the soil samples, Dr Wilson for his time and expertise, and the GRC Councillors who recognised the importance of investigating and solving the issue of migration of microplastics into the environment.

UPDATE ON GLENLEE

Wonderful news! The NSW Heritage Council has given notice of its intention to consider listing Glenlee on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgement of its heritage significance to the people of NSW.

OFF members and all residents are invited to lodge submissions in

support by 10th August, 2022, to heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Further information can be found in the Georges River Council agenda at:

https://infoweb.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/.../ENV_11072022 or

[Glenlee \(Under consideration\) | Heritage NSW](#)



SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER BY GRC

OFF has been requesting a significant tree register for some time but Council has not been able to include it in their plans or budget. However, now Cr Peter Mahoney is pleased to tell us Council has now prioritised a significant tree register to be funded this year and to be delivered by June 2023.

A significant tree register will be a record of trees (at least public) in the LGA that meet a set criteria of importance. Including a tree on the register will help protect trees that have special historical, cultural or environmental significance, as applications to prune or remove a significant tree will require the consent of Council. OFF members should keep their eyes out for trees to add to the register when it becomes available.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATES

Following discussions and garnering opinions of members at last month's general meeting, the OFF committee has decided to change the dates of our general meetings in 2023, from the 4th Monday of the month to the 3rd Monday. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, this will avoid clashes with Georges River Council meetings which OFF members often wish to attend and, sometimes, address on important OFF campaigns. Our lobbying efforts are often aimed at GRC's environmental policies, programs and projects and we will benefit from being able to address the Council directly.

Coming OFF Events in July/August 2022

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

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_daK5memiUVeVb7bERqr5WgKybj2w Note: Some OFF presentations & movies can now be found on [Youtube](#)

25 July - Olive Pink Botanic Garden. Alice Springs, Ian Coleman

Ian is the curator at the Alice Springs Botanic Garden which was gazetted in 1956 as the Australian Arid Regions Flora Reserve after intense lobbying by the Garden's founder, and first honorary curator, [Olive Muriel Pink](#). It is located adjacent to the Todd River and not far from the centre of Alice Springs.

Ian will give an introduction to the Garden and will tell us about Olive Pink, a passionate advocate for improved rights and conditions for Australia's Indigenous people who, in her later years, concentrated on botanical pursuits and established the currently named Garden, spending the last two decades of her life battling drought conditions and almost non-existent operational funding to develop her vision for the Reserve.

He will then discuss various aspects of the garden and events that take place, including the Olive Pink Opera in early Oct 2022, interesting plant species of the Garden, the work of volunteers and research projects carried out. He will also talk about the unfolding ecological disaster of buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) in Central Australia and the importance of land restoration and botanic gardens, how termites not worms do all the work in the desert, working with Aboriginal communities, Central Australian Landcare projects and potential impact of climate change on flora in the arid regions/mitigation efforts/'climate ready' species

30 July Saturday – Oatley Lugarno Walk. Liz Cameron:

Saturday 30 July – Peakhurst to Lugarno and return. This walk of about 5 km is along bushland tracks skirting Lime Kiln Bay, Boggywell Creek and Lower Gannons Park, with short sections through streets. Lunch at Heinrich Reserve and take a peek through the fence at adjacent property 'Glenlee'. Not a difficult walk but undulating ground and flights of wooden and stone steps; some sections will probably be wet and slippery. Wear solid footwear and bring lunch, water and hat, and perhaps binoculars and wet weather gear. Meet at bottom of Pamela Avenue, Peakhurst Heights at 10.30 am. For more details ring Liz Cameron 9580 6621 or, on the day, 0419 280 473. NB this walk has been brought forward by a day because of Council activities for National Tree Day on Sun 31st July.

22 August-- Advance Notice: Film Trailer Screening Koala Corridor and Accompanying Talk, Georgia Wallace-Crabbe.

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.

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 13Aug. 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 28 July at Boorea Reserve supervised by a GRC Bushcare officer.

<https://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Council/Volunteering>

CREATING CANOPIES IN GREATER SYDNEY

The next planting event with GSLN (Greater Sydney Landcare Services) will take place at Renown Park (200 plants) on Wed 20 July 2022, 8.30 start. Meet in the park opposite 17 Mountbatten Street from 8am. Participants need to register through [Eventbrite](#) (which you have to sign up to).

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 26 July. Note: this month's event depends on replenishment of testing materials on order.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Sunday 31st July - National Tree Day at Beverly Hills Park from 10 am to 1 pm. The GRC Bushcare Team will be hosting a planting event and there will be a native plant giveaway. OFF will have a stall promoting our Society, handing out Oatley Park brochures and assisting Council staff with planting and plant giveaways. OFF members are warmly invited to assist. Bookings through [Eventbrite](#) are essential.

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.

RENAMING THE FORMER OATLEY BOWLING CLUB SITE

The closing date for submissions has been extended to 22nd Aug, so please lodge your's if not done so: [GNB Proposals](#)

ROTARY ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM

Adrian Polhill has been working with the Rotary Adopt A Tree project team to identify planting sites for 8750 native trees and shrubs during spring, 2022, and can confirm the following planting sites and dates:

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|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Moorlands, Dalton | 10 & 11 Sep | 1000 plants |
| Moorlands, Dalton | 24 & 25 Sep | 1000 |
| Moorabinda, Crookwell | 8 & 9 Oct | 1000 |
| Severn Park, Berridale | 15 & 16 Oct | 2000 |
| Belubula Park, Canowindra | 22 & 23 Oct | 2000 |
| Peelwood, (north of Crookwell) | 29 Oct | 500 |
| Calrossie Farm, West of Mittagong | 5 Nov | 750 |
| Renrow Park, High Range | 6 Nov | 500 |

If you would like to join any of these exciting re-greening events, please contact Adrian on 0424 478 498. OFF members are particularly welcome to join Adrian at the Moorlands' planting on Sep 24 & 25 and support Vince Heffernan once again, and see the forest we planted in September 2020 after 2 very favourable growing seasons.

PHOTO EXHIBITION - "TOO PRECIOUS TO LOSE"

This exhibition, now closed, garnered many positive comments from up to 451 visitors to the Dragons Lair gallery over the 26 days of its showing. They enjoyed beautiful photos of our precious local flora, and fauna. OFF thanks the talented local photographers who contributed photos, the Nature Conservation Council and all who worked so hard to make the exhibition a success.

And don't forget to check the [OFF Facebook](#) page!