



BILLION BEES PROJECT.

Saverio Russo became concerned about the depletion of native bees through current farming practices. He became captivated with them after he purchased his first hive and the number of his colonies expanded dramatically and led to the formation of a foundation dedicated to the restoration and long-term conservation of Australian bees in our communities.

Saverio is promoting provision of native bee hives within NSW, mainly along the coast. This will increase their numbers following the past years of drought and bushfires. He also stressed the importance of native bees as pollinators. His talk was well received, especially the prototype latest beehive he brought with him.

FORESHORE SCENIC PROTECTION AREA (FSPA) REVISITED

The Foreshore Scenic Protection Area (FSPA) is still under threat from Georges River Council (GRC). Following representations from OFF and others, the Council extended the deadline for feedback to 31 March 2023. We are again urging residents to make a submission to GRC. Please watch the OFF website, Facebook page and emails for updates and advice on this campaign and make sure you submit your comments prior to the deadline of 31 March 2023.



GLENLEE UPDATE

Signs are now available to erect in your property to show your support for keeping Glenlee intact in public hands. We need to show that the community cares about our heritage and environment. They can be obtained by emailing Chris Gambian at: info@glenlee.emailnb.com Please include your name, phone number and address.

Note also that the interim Heritage Order expired on 28 January. Can you please phone or email Mark Coure MP to ask for it to be extended to allow

further Environmental and Aboriginal Cultural heritage studies to be carried out. 02 9580 9349, oatley@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

SCIENCE IN THE REMOTE KIMBERLEY

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) invites you to join a webinar about their remote field ecology program in the Kimberley, with Dr Skye Cameron, joined by Joey Clarke, who spoke to an OFF meeting on AWC last year. Register [here](#) for 11am 1 February.

HELP PROTECT ROYAL NP FROM PEABODY COAL

Peabody's Metropolitan Colliery has released polluted waste material into a waterway which flows through to the heart of the Royal on numerous occasions through 2022. As part of the review of Peabody's license to pollute, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are seeking submissions from members of the public. The EPA have advised all options are on the table, including a potential cancellation of Peabody's license. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre asks that our members:

1. Make a submission for the EPA to cancel the license altogether, or
2. Ask them to tighten and amend it. Information is available [here](#).

CAMPAIGN FOR INCREASED SUPPORT FOR LANDCARE

OFF has commenced a campaign (lead by Vice-President Adrian Polhill) to increase Federal Government funding for Landcare, Greening Australia and like-minded organisations. The OFF website has written [letters](#) to Senators David Pocock and Jacqui Lambie (Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience) requesting their assistance. Please find time to support this important campaign and write to the Federal politicians who care about our planet and the impact of climate change.

2023 MEMBERSHIP

Annual \$25 membership subscription was due January 1st 2022. This can be paid by:

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER: Please remember to enter your name into the transfer document otherwise there will be no record of your subscription payment/donation. Bank Details: BSB: 062 206. Act Number: 901997. OR:

POST: Cheque or money order mailed to address in the footer. OR:

CASH, CHEQUE or CARD at OFF events

The annual Membership Fee of \$25 for individuals or households covers attendance at OFF events and activities. These fees have not increased since 2005, so you are most welcome to add a donation to your payment. Donations will be directed to OFF's annual postgraduate grants, assisting research by University students on topics relevant to OFF's mission. Your continued membership supports OFF's ongoing efforts to protect, conserve and enhance our natural environment both locally and globally, as our mission statement declares, so it is very important. Thanks to members who have already renewed and made generous donations.

COMMITTEE POSITION TO BE FILLED

A crucial committee position again 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; 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. We find it very difficult to operate effectively with this position unfilled.

AS STATED LAST YEAR, THE SOCIETY DOES NOT RUN ITSELF!

To continue 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, we need members to participate in running the Society. Please step up and don't leave it to the same small group of members. Every little bit helps. You will find it to be rewarding.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

STREAMWATCH Due to the change of general meeting dates, this activity will now take place on the Tuesday morning (9.00 am) 1 week after OFF General Meetings. Next month we will be at Myles Dunphy on 28 February. Please check by ringing 0430 968 260 before coming, particularly as our equipment supplies are low and have not yet been replenished.

OATLEY PARK BUSHCARE group is normally on the second Saturday each month starting 12.00 pm, except January. Next month it will be held on 11 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 on a Thursday either 1 or 2 weeks after general meetings (except Dec) from 8.00 am to 11 am. Next month we will be back on 23 Feb at Gannons Park supervised by a GRC Bushcare Officer and welcome new bushcarers. <https://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Council/Volunteering>

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>

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM is presenting a talk on Saturday 4th February 10.30-12.30: "Five Things: How to help our native bees". Hear native bee taxonomist, Michael Batley, discusses their importance, beauty and diversity. <https://australian.museum/event/native-bees>

Coming OFF Events in January/February 2023

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

Meetings are held in the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick St Oatley, starting at 7.30pm. Meetings are also 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_daK5memiUVeVb7bERgr5WqKybj2w Note: Some OFF presentations & movies can be found on [YouTube](#)

6 February 2023 – 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 2023. You are invited to nominate at the AGM. This year the Society again needs to fill the position of: Secretary. See page 1 for details. Following the meeting we will meet for supper. Attendees are asked to bring a plate. A great time to socialise and catch up with like-minded people.

20 February – Advance Notice: General Meeting: Nestboxes. Susan Rhind, wildlife conservation biologist,

26 February (Sunday) – Advance Notice – Forest Path, Royal National Park. Vicki Bolling.

5 March 2023 (Sunday) – Advance Notice - Clean up Australia Day. Please keep this 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 third Monday of the month. Visitors and accompanied children are welcome at meetings and field days. As noted above, the meeting is accessible on-line using ZOOM.

OFF ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

The financial objective of the Society is to lower its overall balance in an ordered manner, to a lower balance - perhaps around \$10,000 rather than the nearly \$20,000 shown in recent years. The research grants have been the main method of spending slightly more than we earn. In 2022 the winners of the grants have yet to invoice OFF but the reconciliation statement shows that after the intended expenditure on this item, it will bring our balance to a level of around \$19,200.

The vagaries of cash accounting show up this year with a considerable surplus after a few years of the opposite. The key number is our balance after considering loans and unspent grants. The \$3600 grant is being held for the Oatley Heritage and Historical Society as the Commonwealth Grant requirement needed an ABN number. OFF has one and OHHS does not. This grant will be spent in the next few months.

A bequest from the Walters family of \$5,000 has boosted our balance- the decision to spend more on research grants (\$7,500) followed this bequest. The fixed term deposit was finished in mid-year as the interest rates were poor. We may open a new one in 2023.

The OFF 2023 Oatley Calendar will make a profit and this will be finalised when sales are collected.

Otherwise, there is little to report as the year did not contain any real financial issues.

Rodger Robertson, Hon Treasurer, 1 January 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT	2022	2021
INCOME		
Subscriptions	3,849.15	4,373.56
Donations	3,040.10	3,204.10
Bequest	5,000	387,21
Sales/Stalls, etc.	1,170.92	0.00
Grants various	2,000.00	0.00
2022 Calendar sales	0.00	359.24
Lions loan for calendar	1,000.24	330.18
2023 Calendar sales	3,685.53	0.00
Grant held for OHHS	3,000.00	00.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	14.97
TOTAL INCOME	23,346.26	8,669.26

EXPENSES	2022	2021
OFF Newsletter printing & postage	(\$628.23)	(778.10)
Insurance	(420.00)	(410.00)
PO box rental	(144.00)	(136.00)
Brochure printing various	(185.00)	(0.00)
Office of Fair Trading	(48.21)	(47.00)
2023 Calendar costs	(4,418.15)	(1,501.55)
Donations and Membership to other bodies	(773.91)	(600.00)
ZOOM & Other Technical Costs	(407.80)	(630.65)
Research grants	0.00	(10,000.00)
Meeting hall hire	(500.00)	(260.00)
Photo exhibition	(492.08)	0.00
Plant costs	(812.40)	
Miscellaneous	(\$359.24)	(833.90)

TOTAL EXPENSES	(9,189.02)	(\$15,196.80)
SURPLUS	15,196.80	(6,527.54)

BANK RECONCILIATION and other information	2022	2021
Chq acct balance as at 1 January	11,817.01	18,274.62
PC acct	(77.60)	(339.22)
Transfer from Fixed Term Deposit	5,018.27	00.00
Surplus on year	14,157.24	(6,527.64)
PC account adjustment	339.22	409.15
Chq acct balance 31 December	31,254.14	11,817.01
Petty cash balance	77.60	339.22
Various term deposits	00.00	5,003.26
Total balance at bank 31 December	31,331.74	17,159.49
Grants held for other organisation (balance)	3,600.00	0.00
Grants for OFF unspent	0.00	0.00
Loans from Oatley Lions	1,000.00	00.00
Research grants yet to be paid	7,500.00	00.00
Net balance for OFF	19,231.74	17,159.49



OFF PICNIC 2022

OFF members enjoyed a festive Christmas gathering at the "Castle". To celebrate another successful year of activities and campaigns.

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

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