

## **President Address - Oatley Flora and Fauna - Annual General Meeting**

So, to the coming year! What can we look forward to and what are our priorities for 2023?

Given, as we understand it, our LGA is making no progress on achieving the set tree canopy targets (we are removing more trees than are being planted), I believe our key priorities should be:

- A. Protection of existing trees and vegetation- to maintain existing canopy and biodiversity/habitat benefits; and
- B. Planting lots more trees - Locally (and regionally) to increase canopy cover and habitat for biodiversity;  
We will need to work cooperatively with Georges River Council (GRC) and the Greater Sydney Landcare Network (GSLN) to progress supporting strategies such as:
  - Revising the current Tree Management Policy to bolster compliance and enforcement actions;
  - Lobbying to maintain the current area and level of protection of the tree canopy and biodiversity of the FSPA;
  - Save Glenlee to prevent loss of a large area of native forest, habitat and biodiversity corridor along the Georges River; and
  - Campaigning to increase Federal Government funding for Landcare, Greening Australia and like-minded organisations.
- C. Continuing to improve the water quality of the Georges River, focusing on monitoring, stormwater run-off, gross pollutant traps, microplastics and sewer overflows.
- D. Continuing to increase OFF membership numbers, particularly in a younger age range and more culturally diverse profile. Facebook has helped in this endeavour to some extent and we have encouraged events with scouts, school groups and general community and family groups to engage with both children and parents. This is to some extent a longer term goal.

### **Thank you**

I'd like to thank all the committee members for their support and encouragement and for their contributions across the myriad of issues and projects and campaigns that you have heard described earlier. For raising and following up issues and conducting discussions to arrive at largely consensus-based decisions and for all the hard work in keeping OFF running effectively and efficiently.

Thanks in particular go to Erica Buzo who stepped into the vacant Secretary role earlier in the year bringing her enthusiasm and commitment to the committee. We very much appreciate the contribution during the time that Erica has been able to put into the job. Erica will be retiring from the committee this year to allow more time for the demands of treatment of husband Adrian's serious ill-health. We wish Erica and Adrian all the best and we will be thinking of you in the coming months.

Finally, thank you to all members for your support of, and participation in, OFF activities. Please continue to provide your feedback on our activities, events, and campaigns both how they could be improved and suggestions for new ones. I look forward to the year ahead. It promises to be another busy but exciting year for all of us. Together we can work to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment - locally and globally. And in doing so we will make a difference!

Kim Wagstaff

President