



### OLIVE PINK BOTANIC GARDEN, ALICE SPRINGS.

Ian Coleman, the curator at the Olive Pink Botanic Garden, Alice Springs spoke to us via Zoom from Alice Springs. His information packed presentation included; Introduction to the Olive Pink Botanic Garden and its amazing fertigation system: interesting plant species of the Garden: research projects: the unfolding ecological disaster of buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) in Central Australia and the importance of land restoration and botanic gardens: termites not worms do all the work in the desert: working with Aboriginal communities: potential impact of climate change on flora in the arid regions.

If you have not visited the Olive Pink Botanic Garden, be sure to put it on your next Central Australian trip and meet Ian in person.

### RIDGE TRACK, GEORGES RIVER NATIONAL PARK, LESLEY DEVINE.

OFF members had a lovely walk along the Ridge Track in the Georges River National Park, stopping along the way on rocky outcrops with great views down the Georges River and Mill Creek. Then we headed across Henry Lawson Drive for the Yeramba Lagoon Loop Track. The lagoon is now open to the river, which is tidal at this point. It was almost low tide, exposing built up silt but there was very little weed. We still saw many types of ducks and cormorants. It was a warm day so we were grateful for the large Eucalypt and Angophora trees and bushes for shade. We saw many Red Devils (*Lamertia formosa*) flowering, flannel flowers still in bloom, and pink spider flower Grevilleas (*Grevillia sericea*). We are fortunate to have this amazing bushland only 15 minutes from Oatley!



### FORESHORE SCENIC PROTECTION AREA (FSPA) REVISITED

As reported in last month's edition, submissions on GRC's proposed changes to the FSPA could be posted until 31<sup>st</sup> March. Among others, OFF also put in a submission and it can be viewed [here](#). Hopefully council will take notice of the (hopefully) many submissions this time as well as previous submissions and will not reduce protection for our important biodiversity, but improve protection.

### GLENLEE

Following the previous commitment from the new Minister for the Environment, [Penny Sharpe MLC](#) and [Clr Ash Ambhaipahar \(AA\)](#) to issuing a new IHO for Glenlee and ensuring that proper site heritage assessments will be conducted, it will be important to follow up on these commitments. [ref: AA's Facebook page] Has the Minister requested an update on IHO for Glenlee? Note also that there has been no commitment yet of funds for purchase of Glenlee from any level of government.

### 2023 NSW STATE ELECTIONS

OFF asked all candidates for the seat of Oatley where they stood on a number of environmental issues of concern to members. We received replies from 4 of the 5 candidates and published their responses on Facebook. You can also see these responses here for [Natalie Mort](#), [Labor](#), [Liberal](#), [Sustainable Australia](#) and [Greens](#).

### OFF RE-GREENING EVENTS

Committee member Adrian Polhill reports that the Rotary Adopt A Tree Planting project will have planted 10,000 this year following a recent event at Mittagong, and another later next month. Many OFF members participated in these events.

Adrian also reported that another 5000 trees will be planted at Vince Heffernan's property Moorlands through Greening Australia funding for Saving Our Species. These trees will be planted throughout August and September in 3 paddocks adjoining previous plantings completed in 2020, 2021 and 2022. The goal is to provide essential habitat for native fauna including endangered species like the Superb Parrot which breeds in the South West Slopes during spring and early summer in grassy box woodland. Members and friends are encouraged to participate in this planting; further details will be provided closer to the events.

### CREATING CANOPIES IN GREATER SYDNEY – GSLN PROJECTS

Greater Sydney Landcare funding is now available for 200,000 trees in Sydney plus maintenance (over the next 3 years). OFF will ask GRC for approval to plant 20,000 of these in the LGA at a number of prospective sites. OFF will write to GRC seeking approval for this planting. Members will have an opportunity to participate in these important plantings when approval from GRC is obtained. More details in future editions.

### KOALA PROTECTION CAMPAIGN

OFF has joined the Sydney Basin Koala Network as a collaborator. Following the NSW election the New NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe has announced the transfer of Sydney Water Corp land at Heathcote containing koalas to the NPWS. The new government has also committed to the great northern Koala Park. Pressure also needs to be kept up for protection for the western Sydney Koalas, which are threatened by housing development.

### CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY AND SEWAGE POLLUTION

At a recent meeting with the GRC General Manger, OFF committee members brought up an important issue of concern from potential pollution risk exposure resulting from lack of communication between Sydney Water Corporation (SWC) and GRC. Participants in a GRC clean up event were unwittingly exposed to a sewage spill area which SWC had been cleaning up for 5-6 weeks beforehand. Communication from SWC needs to improve for public health and safety.

### GRC HISTORICAL MARKERS PROGRAM,

Georges River Council has now opened applications for the Historical Markers Program 2023. The annual program was launched in 2018 to provide an opportunity for members of the community to recommend people and places of historical and cultural importance for recognition. Over the years, the markers create an open-air archive for people to explore. OFF encourages members to make applications for people or places that they feel deserve lasting recognition. One example may be Myles Dunphy who is generally recognised as the "Father of Conservation" in NSW. Apart from the reserve named after him, there does not appear to be any formal recognition of his achievements. This could be an opportunity to do so. Further information is available on the GRC [Historical Markers Program 2023 Your Say page](#).

### OATLEY PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

A report on the Plan of Management was presented to the GRC Environment and Planning Committee (E & P) meeting on Tuesday, 11 April 2023. It will be placed on public exhibition following review by the Department of Planning and Environment, allowing for public submissions, including from OFF. This is an important report for OFF members, who are encouraged to review the report.

This meeting was open to the public and livestreamed. The broadcast link will be available on Council's website [here](#). A copy of the report was published on Thursday 6 April, under Council Business Papers (Environment and Planning Committee Agenda) on the link above.

## Coming OFF Events in April/May 2023

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

We have returned again 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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i_daK5memiUVeVb7bERgr5WgKybj2w) Note: Some OFF presentations & movies can now be found on [YouTube](#)

### Wed 26 April, Wednesday - Inspection of Lucas Heights power station and Menai on-site nursery at Resource Centre. Adrian Polhill (0424 478 496)

An outing with a difference. You have a unique opportunity to visit the EDL landfill gas power plant at Lucas Heights, as well as the volunteer nursery managed by the Menai Wildflower Group. We will meet in the Cleanaway Resource Recovery Park at Little Forest Rd, Lucas Heights at 9am. On arrival drive through the 'right hand' weighbridge lane and inform the weighbridge operator of the purpose of your visit. You then turn left immediately after the weighbridge and park in the admin carpark. Each visitor must 'sign-in' at the Cleanaway office. As there is limited car parking, carpooling is advised. A Cleanaway staff member will accompany us to the nursery, where we can park our cars temporarily. After the tour of nursery, we will drive 100m and park at the EDL power plant. EDL staff will lead us through a site induction and provide safety vests/hats before the plant tour. On completion of the tour, exit directly from there, and move to the ANSTO coffee shop. This is a busy landfill operation, so appropriate clothing & covered footwear is necessary. Notify Adrian if you would like to attend; numbers restricted. The approximate schedule is: 9-10.30 Menai Wildflower Group Nursery; 10.30-12.30 EDL power plant; 12.30 ANSTO Cafe for coffee / lunch.

### 17 April 2023: Flying Fox Conservation and Management.

Mathew Mo will present a crash course in flying-fox conservation and management. It has been two decades since the grey-headed flying-fox was listed as a threatened species under NSW legislation. The conservation and management of this species continues to be compounded by negative interactions between humans and flying-foxes, a range of anthropogenic threats affecting flying-foxes and situations involving mass mortalities of flying-foxes. This talk will attempt to provide a snapshot overview of what is otherwise a very large and diverse topic. Matthew is a senior project officer at the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and coordinates the Saving our Species conservation project for the grey-headed flying-fox. He also coordinates the Flying-fox Consultative Committee. His work is published in a number of peer-reviewed scientific journals including *Australian Zoologist*, *Pacific Conservation Biology* and *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*.



### 27 April 2023 - Local Bushcare

Members can assist by volunteering to maintain OFF planting sites on a Thursday either 1 or 2 weeks after general meetings (exc Dec) from 8.00 am to 11 am. This month we will be at lower Gannons Park supervised by a GRC Bushcare Officer and welcome new bushcarers.

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

### 13 May 2023 - Oatley Park Bushcare

OFF members volunteer to carry out bush regeneration at Oatley Park on the second Saturday each month starting 12.00 pm, (except January). Please check with Bushcare officer on 0435 963 643 before coming.

### 15 May - Advance notice: Meeting. Saving our Species projects in South Eastern NSW. Damon Oliver (DPE)

### 28 May -- Advance Notice: Walk to Dharawal NP in memory of Sharyn Cullis and Dharawal history

*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.*

## BRIEFLY SPEAKING .....

**STREAMWATCH** This activity takes place on the Tuesday morning (9.00 am) 1 week after OFF General Meetings. This month would have been on 25 April, ANZAC Day, so it has been cancelled.

**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>

**RESILIENT WILDLIFE** of the sprawling suburbia of south-eastern Sydney is described in an article co-authored by Matthew Mo, who will be speaking to our meeting this month (on flying foxes), and can be viewed [here](#)

### LIONS MARKET DAY

Off will be participating in this event on 29th April from 8.30-2.30 at Oatley Uniting Church. Come along and say hello or better still help us operate the stall (ring Secretary on 0408 462 836). We will sell native plants, hand out brochures and let locals and visitors know what we do and why we do it – to protect, conserve and enhance the environment locally and globally.

### OFF 2023 RESEARCH GRANTS

OFF has committed another \$6,000 for research grants this year. Application forms will be sent out during this month to Universities to request students to apply. Previous recipients have appreciated this help with their studies and have then volunteered to speak to OFF meetings on their research, including in this year's program of talks.

### AUSTRALIA'S 'EASTER BUNNIES' ARE UNDER THREAT.

A group of conservationists have returned bilbies to ecosystems where they'd become extinct. [Here's](#) how their numbers doubled in a year.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Members are reminded that if fees are not received by 30 June, your membership will lapse. Thank you to those members who have paid, particularly to those who have made generous donations.

Don't forget to check the OFF **Facebook** page and **website** to find information on OFF's activities and events, or to comment on issues.