



FLYING FOX CONSERVATION.

The crash course in Flying Foxes from Matthew Mo was both interesting and informative. Audience members learnt about the important ecological service through pollination and seed dispersal provided by this keystone species. They feed mainly at night travelling 10s of kilometres in search of flower-nectar and fleshy fruits of a wide variety of tree species. They roost in camps which are common around Sydney, including the one in Myles Dunphy Reserve (MDR), which consists of Grey-Headed Flying Fox (listed as vulnerable). Their main lifecycle progression is: birthing in spring, lactation in summer, conception in autumn to winter and gestation through winter, living up to 18 years. One notable feature is that flying foxes do not roost permanently in camps, but are transient, as they move up and down the coast as their food sources vary during the changing seasons. Flying Foxes are severely affected by extreme heat as observed in the local camp a few years ago and should not be disturbed; this is one reason why the track under their camp in MDR has been blocked. Thank you Matthew.

INSPECTION OF LUCAS HEIGHTS POWER STATION, Adrian Polhill.

EDL Electricity Generating Plant at Menai Resource Recovery Facility.

This plant is beside what used to be known as the Menai Tip. A group of OFF members and others undertook a visit in conjunction with a visit to the adjacent Menai native plant nursery. The purpose of the operation is to draw methane from decomposing rubbish beneath the tip and channel it to the seventeen units which use the methane to drive generators for the production of electricity for the grid. The generator can produce enough electricity to serve 11000 homes.



We were presented with an excellent explanation of the plant by John and Brendon of the site management team. They explained how the methane was pumped from underground by a large number of gas wells

distributed across the rubbish site then piped to the next-door power generation facility. Their explanation was in detail and in depth. It is expected that significant amounts of gas will continue to be derived from rubbish over the final 15 years of the resource facility's life, contributing energy to the grid and reducing the amount of methane that would otherwise escape to the environment. The visitors agreed that the visit was well worthwhile, improving our knowledge and understanding of a little known but valuable conservation facility.

INSPECTION OF MENAI ON-SITE NURSERY at Resource Facility

Prior to the above inspection, Lloyd Hedges, manager of the Menai Wildflower Group's Propagation nursery at the Cleanaway Resource

Recovery Park, explained the stages involved in producing 1000's of tube-stock for various projects, such as "Glossies in the Mist" (30,000 trees already produced and planted in the Southern Highlands).. Seeds are first germinated in a mix of perlite and vermiculite; different techniques are required to start this process

depending on the species, eg, pink flannel flowers need to be exposed to "smoke water". After initial germination, plants are transplanted to tubes, which are then allowed to grow on in the greenhouse, where they are kept moist. Volunteers assist each Monday morning. New volunteers are always welcome. Contact Adrian Polhill 0424 478 498).



BIRD SURVEY ON THE BIRDS ON FARMS PROJECT Members have taken part in a number of tree planting activities in the southern highlands

One of the properties where the plantings took place is Moorlands, owned by Vince Heffernan, Vince gave a presentation to OFF some years ago about his regeneration project. In April six OFF members carried out the first bird survey on the property to setup a base line dataset so the changes in avifauna can be measured. Five surveys on the property were carried out, sampling old growth forest areas through to the regenerated sites. Not surprisingly the old forest areas were the richest sites for birds but the other sites all had surprisingly good numbers of birds as well. In total across all the sites we recorded 28 species. The data has all been entered into the Birdlife Australia "Birdata" database. The next survey will be in October when there should be more birds as the summer migrants should have arrived by then. Details will be advertised in the Newsletter closer to the date of these surveys.if interested members wish to participate

TREE PLANTING IN OATLEY PARK

On Wed 3 May Georges River Council tree officers and parks staff were assisted by 11 OFF members in a successful sunny morning planting around the Adventure Playground. 21 large trees and 50 medium trees were planted..This was a good opportunity for OFF members and GRC staff to get to know each other. Photos are available [here](#).



OFF 2023 RESEARCH GRANTS

OFF has invited universities to advise their research students that the Oatley Flora and Fauna Research Grants will be available again this year. The Treasurer has advised that there will be \$6000 available; this significant amount is all due to the generosity of our members. We should all be very proud of these grants as it not only increases OFF's reputation in the scientific community but it actually promotes Oatley as well as an area of Sydney where the locals value their natural environment. The application closing date is the 30th June and by August the selection committee will have selected the successful applications and received the OFF's committee's approval. Our members will then be notified and of course the successful applicants will be encouraged to give a presentation on their research to a future OFF meeting. Visits from past recipients have been stimulating.

DYING MANGROVES

Following OFF members observing that mangroves in Lime Kiln Bay are dying. GRC Cr Mahoney has asked GRC that the following items be included on the 22nd May Council meeting agenda: Notice of Motion, for Council to write to the ministers for Environment, Water and Agriculture, requesting that an investigation be undertaken into the sudden deterioration in the health of mangroves in Lime Kiln Bay

REMOVAL OF DEAD PLANT MATERIAL FROM GRC RESERVES

OFF members have observed members of the public removing dead habitat/plant material from public reserves and noticed that there is no signage to inform public that this is illegal. OFF wrote to GRC requesting confirmation of legality or otherwise, but the response from GRC was unsatisfactory. Further representations will be made on this matter

Coming OFF Events in May/June 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_daK5memiUVeVb7bERqr5WgKybj2w Note: Some OFF presentations & movies can now be found on [YouTube](#)

15 May 2023 - Still Saving Our Superb Parrot - the strength of community partnerships

Dr Damon Oliver has worked on the conservation of threatened species for over 30 years, including nearly 25 years with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, where he is Senior Team Leader – Ecosystems and Threatened Species, South East Branch, Biodiversity and Conservation. He has primarily focused on the ecology and management of threatened woodland and grassland birds, but has a background in pollination and vegetation ecology. He currently manages a team of 8 staff in Queanbeyan, focusing on the recovery of threatened plants, animals and ecological communities in the southeast of NSW. Damon particularly enjoys collaborating with community stakeholders and NGOs who share his passion to protect and improve the conservation status of threatened birds in regional landscapes, including the superb parrot and other woodland birds.



28 May, Sunday – Jinga Track, Dharawal NP – Walk in Memory of Sharyn Cullis. Lesley Wylie, 0400 562 085

Meet at Victoria Rd carpark (Campbelltown side) at 9:30am. Please car pool as carpark is small. First part of walk is to O'Hares Creek lookout (easy level path) where people are welcome to talk about Sharyn Cullis. Then we will head back to the carpark and go across to the Minerva Pool lookout, where we'll have lunch (this track is a bit rough walking over rocks and tree roots, etc). Walk is 5.5kms in total and will take approximately 4.5 hours. Bring water, snacks and lunch if you're coming to the Minerva Pool lookout. Contact Lesley Wylie for any questions or car-pooling arrangements 0400 562 085.

25 May 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 Boorea Reserve supervised by a GRC Bushcare Officer and welcome new [bushcarers](#).

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.

19 June - Advance notice – Meeting: Platypus Studies at Mulgoa Creek. Dr Michelle Ryan

25 June - Advance Notice - Poulton Park and Moore Reserve (medium walk). Leaders, Graham Fry and Liz Cameron

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. Due to lack of supplies this month's activity 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>

GLENLEE

The campaign to Save Glenlee continues. Friends of Glenlee want the Government to acquire the property for the community and thus compensate the owners. Please attend a community rally at Heinrich Reserve (next to Glenlee) on Sunday 21st May at 2pm and show support for their efforts. Details [here](#).

ATTENDANCE AT KBPA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

OFF's 2 vice-presidents were privileged to attend the belated celebration of Kogarah Bay Progress Association's 100th anniversary recently. Attendees included the premier and local member Chris Minns and fellow minister and local member Steve Kamper, both of whom wholeheartedly congratulated KBPA on their many years of successful community service. OFF also congratulates a fellow local and active community group, whose members include local councillors recently elected to Georges River Council.

OATLEY LIONS AUTUMN MARKET DAY (Saturday 29 April)

Rain did not dampen the spirits of those who turned out for the Lions Market at Oatley Uniting Church. The OFF stall saw a steady stream of visitors, many of whom were repeat customers from last year keen to buy more native plants. We sold 50 plants which will hopefully end up in backyards around the local area attracting wildlife. Our stall was an opportunity to distribute brochures, promote OFF activities such as our walks, plantings, Clean Up Australia Day, our next talk on Mon 15th May and generally reach a wider audience.



MEMBERSHIP. Thank you to those members who have paid, particularly to those who have made generous donations. Remember, if fees are not received by 30 June, membership lapses.

The OFF Facebook page and website are worth visiting to find more reports and photos of our walks and events, seasonal flowers, videos of past OFF talks and other interesting information.