



OFF WALK POULTON PARK AND MOORE RESERVE

On Sunday, June 29, OFF members enjoyed a morning walk through Poulton Park. With so much to see and discuss, time ran out before we reached Moore Reserve.

We very much appreciated the western side of Poulton Park which, for over 20 years, has been rehabilitated by member Matt Allison and colleagues and is now flourishing with native vegetation. Some fallen gumnuts were collected to help identify the eucalypts and will assist us in the nomination of trees for the [Significant Tree Register](#)

We visited the mangrove boardwalk that Kogarah Council (with OFF and Coastcare) built in 2001 and discussed the value of mangroves, and were delighted by a pair of Golden Whistlers foraging in the canopy above us.

At the southern end of Poulton Park is a variety of colourful wildlife shelters that Council installed in a naturalisation program amongst native plantings undertaken in part by Bushcare volunteers and the Green Army. They contrast sharply with the adjacent soccer fields of synthetic turf containing rubber crumb.

It was a perfect winter's day with warm sunshine and a light breeze that heightened our appreciation of one of the lovely parks in our LGA. It's hard to believe that the rich variety of vegetation along Oatley Bay Creek is so accessible to walkers, being less than 1km from Hurstville Railway Station.



PLATYPUS IN THE SYDNEY BASIN.

In our June meeting Dr Michelle Ryan, a senior lecturer in Ecology and Environmental Science in the School of Science at the University of Western Sydney gave us some insight into the use of new DNA sampling techniques to discover previous unknown Platypus populations in the Sydney Basin. Similar to techniques used by Sydney Water and NSW Health it relies on detecting very small amounts of DNA shed by Platypus foraging or defecating in streams which can then be detected in small water samples. As DNA signatures are very specific to individual species a positive result does mean Platypus are present however a negative result does not necessarily mean they are not present, depending on dilution effects or patterns of use of the stream by the Platypus. Michelle spoke of the need to protect and restore creek and riverside, "riparian" vegetation for Platypus as it shades the water body and consolidates and maintains river banks where Platypus make their burrows which are essential for protection and raising of young. Michelle also spoke of the danger's plastic litter poses to Platypus, potentially fatally wounding them by entanglement or by accidental ingestion and the need to rid our creeks and rivers of plastic pollution.

Members may also be interested in viewing a recent ABC documentary [The Platypus Guardian](#). To quote the ABC: "In a time of hardship, Hobart resident Peter Walsh turns to the secretive platypus for solace, only to discover it is the platypus that need his help to survive in a habitat under threat."

MANGROVE DEATHS.

Members may have noticed that some mangroves along Lime Kiln Bay in Oatley park have died. This matter was raised by [Councillor Peter Mahoney](#); at the council meeting held on May 22nd and subsequently Council resolved to write to the ministers for Environment, Water and Agriculture, requesting that an investigation be undertaken into the sudden deterioration in the health of these mangroves.

Georges RiverKeeper has since posted on their website an item on this: [Mangrove dieback | Georges Riverkeeper](#) "After consulting with experts at Sydney Olympic Park Authority, the likely cause can be traced back to herbivory by the larvae of the native mangrove moth (*Ptymaxia* sp)"

PROTECTING GLENLEE

The campaign to **Save Glenlee** is one of OFF's most significant lobbying efforts due to its **extremely high value, both culturally and environmentally, to our local community**. Unfortunately, important heritage assessments and a new Interim Heritage Order have not been implemented as per pre-election commitments, and there has still been no commitment of funds, from any level of government, for the purchase of Glenlee.

According to a recent Friends of Glenlee Update, as a result of great work again by the Residents and Ratepayers group, a number of amendments were carried to the GRC Operational Plan, including \$50,000.00 for a Glenlee Aboriginal and Natural Heritage study. This is a first step towards having an interim and then a state heritage order applied to Glenlee.

To follow this up OFF held a snap rally on Friday 7th July outside the Mortdale office of our local member Mark Couré MP. Save Glenlee signs were left at Mark's office, to ensure that the issue remains front of mind.

Following that stop members boarded a train to Kogarah to visit the Offices of NSW Premier and Member for Kogarah Chris Minns MP as well as The Hon Linda Burney MP, Federal Member for Barton. Again, signs were left at these offices to remind them of the issue.



VERGE GARDENS

As many OFF members have been asking about verge gardens, here is some information about a very informative workshop run recently by Georges River Council at Carss Park.

If you're tired of mowing and edging your nature strip, how about considering some of these ideas?

- A Productive space - filled with edibles/bush tucker/herbs, beneficial to wildlife and pollinators.
- A Beautiful space - with colour, texture, diverse plants (natives, non-natives, herbs, flowers),
- A Practical space - water-wise plants and careful plant placement, water conserving methods, e.g. wicking beds & mulching, allowing for pedestrians and the postie, car parking and car door clearances etc.
- A Blessing - a space that will continue to engage with & impact the community positively.

See the OFF Facebook page for [photos](#) showing a mixture of different verge gardens within our LGA.

There are guidelines around what you are able to plant, and you will need to apply first. More information can be found [here](#).

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

17 July 2023: Flora and natural aspects of East Arnhem Land.

Note that this month's topic and speaker have changed from that in the annual program.

At this month's meeting Tony Porritt will give a slideshow presentation of the flora and natural aspects of East Arnhem Land. This is a part of Australia seldom visited by tourists, stretching along the west side of the Gulf of Carpentaria. It was an area considered as one of the Aboriginal homelands, where Aboriginal people can live a traditional lifestyle and maintain their connection to the land. As part of their visit in 2022 Tony & his wife Kate were able to visit some of these communities and to experience some aspects of traditional life. These experiences together with some of the flora unique to the area, will be included in a fascinating slideshow.

Supper will be served after this meeting. This will be an opportunity for members to linger and chat over light refreshments at the conclusion of the meeting - about 9 pm. Tea, coffee and fruit juice will be provided; you are invited to bring something sweet or savoury to share. Note that the meeting venue, Uniting Church Hall, is now heated.



23 July Sunday – Wildflowers in Royal National Park

A grade 3 walk from Waterfall to Uloola Falls to Karloo Pools and on to Heathcote Station. (11kms long). Meet at Oatley Train Station for 8.40am train from Platform 2 to arrive at 9.06am at Waterfall Station. Bring lunch, water and snacks to eat along the way, sunscreen and hat. Leader: Matt Allison, 0408 605 923.

27 July 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 we welcome new [bushcarers](#).

12 August 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 GRC Bushcare Officer on 0435 963 643 before coming.

21 August – Advance notice – Meeting: Kelp Forests. Aaron Eger (UNSW postgraduate student and OFF grant recipient)

National Tree Day Sunday 30 July

There are two planting events this year:

1. Georges River Council (GRC) at Beverly Hills Park, Tallawalla St Beverley Hills, 10.00am - 1.00pm: Information [here](#) including booking form. Council is also giving away 2 native plants (per household) for GRC residents, at the Council Depot, 100 Roberts Ave Mortdale, from 9am to 2pm. Info [here](#).
 2. Lugarno Progress Association (LPA) at Evatt Park at 10am. See LPA [website](#) for information and booking form.
- OFF members are invited to participate in both events, either to plant themselves or to volunteer to assist community members with planting.

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 is cancelled. GSLN has been requested to expedite the supply.

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY meetings held at 2.30 pm on second Sunday of every month on Zoom: <http://zoom.us/j/7868786878>

OFF 2023 RESEARCH GRANTS

OFF advised major NSW universities of availability of our research grants. Applications closed 30th June with four applications. The Research Grant Committee will make recommendations to the OFF committee in due course.

MEMBERSHIP. Memberships have now lapsed for those members who had not paid their fees by 30 June. If any of these members wish to re-join, they are more than welcome. Again, thanks to all who have continued their membership and made donations. Our members are our strength in our continuing endeavours to protect, conserve and enhance our natural environment.

GRC SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER (STR)

Don't forget to make your nominations in the Georges River Council's Significant Tree Register [Significant Tree Register](#), closing on 24 July. If you are unable to enter a tree/s yourself, you can send them to the OFF secretary at oatleyff@gmail.com and they can be entered for you..

And please check the OFF [Facebook](#) page and [website](#),