



BLUE GUM SWAMP TRACK, WINMALLEE

On Sunday, 27th August OFF members enjoyed a wonderful day walk on the Blue Gum Swamp Track in Winmalee. They walked down to the forest floor and heard an incredible number of bird calls, including honeyeaters, robins, bellbirds and lyrebirds, which Debbie Andrew helped to identify. The tall Blue Gums in the forest were spectacular and some members are already planning a return trip. Another highlight were the early Waratah flower buds which we saw on the return walk. Thank you Lesley Wylie for organising such an enjoyable walk!



More photos of the day can be seen in OFF [Google photos](#).

CONSERVATION OF KELP FORESTS

One of the OFF Research Grant recipients, Aaron Eger gave a very interesting presentation at our August meeting. Aaron's presentation focused on the need to protect our kelp forests which not unlike land forests are rapidly disappearing. Kelp forests exist in cooler waters and not surprisingly water temperature is a factor in kelp forests' decline. Human activities including cutting kelp is also impacting these forests. Kelp forests are particularly important for many species of marine life and for some species critical for their survival. Worldwide, there has been a huge reduction in forests and for example, the Tasmania kelp forests have declined by 80%. Fortunately, there is a worldwide group that is actively regenerating kelp forests and helping educate the population of the benefit of having healthy kelp forests in our oceans.

Aaron's talk can be viewed on OFF's YouTube channel [here](#).

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN TRIP TO SNOWY MOUNTAINS

For many years OFF members spent a week or so in the Snowy Mountains in early January. However, the 2019 bushfires and then COVID stopped this traditional activity. As these restrictions have now lifted, the committee would like to know if there is sufficient interest from our members to re-start this annual event in 2024. If you are interested in going to Pygmy Possum Lodge at Charlotte Pass in early January for up to a week, please let Graham Fry know, he can be contacted on 9580 6621 or fryg45@gmail.com.

PROTECTING GLENLEE

Friends of Glenlee's Linda Simon has advised that "A meeting was recently convened by the State Minister for the Environment with representatives of Georges River Council (staff and councillors) to which FoG President, Brian Ralston, was invited to participate. No resolution of the issue regarding the public acquisition of Glenlee was reached. However, the Minister and Council have agreed to undertake further investigations, following which a further meeting will be held."

At the Council meeting of 28/8/23 via a motion put forward by Councillor Mahoney it was unanimously resolved:

- That Council supports the preparation of a business case which details options for possible future uses for Glenlee,
- That the General Manager approaches the Hon. Penny Sharpe, to seek full funding for the preparation of the business case.

This is another positive step towards building the case for ultimately bringing Glenlee into the public domain.

RE-GREENING

Another 600 plants were planted on the weekend of August 26 & 27 at Vince Heffernans 'Moorlands' property. 14 volunteers contributed to the productive environmental transformation commenced 25 years ago. Volunteers came from Ulladulla, Goulburn, Sydney, Culburra and Canberra to add to the 1300 native trees and shrubs planted 2 weeks earlier, augmenting the grassy woodland habitat of the Superb Parrot and many other species of native animals and birds. Over the next two months another 3500-4000 trees and shrubs will be planted on various dates listed via this [link](#).

The interview with Simon Marnie from ABC Radio on Sunday 13th August may still be heard via this [link](#). Adrian and Janine Polhill can be found at 20min 30sec.

Special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers for their support and contribution during the weekend

SAVE SYDNEY'S KOALA PETITION.

There is a healthy, thriving koala colony in Sydney!

Sydney's koalas were driven to near extinction back in the 1930s due to the prolific demand for their pelts. But in south west Sydney the Holsworthy Military reserve gave sanctuary to a handful of survivors, that were left alone for the next 80 years, allowing the koalas time to recover. This colony is also Chlamydia free, unlike many other populations in Australia, which have often been left infertile and blind.

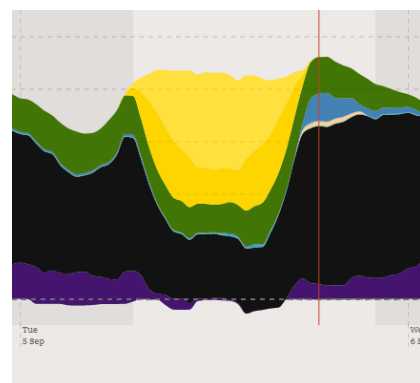
But now, just as this special little koala colony's numbers have grown, and they are once again venturing out into South Western Sydney around Campbelltown and Appin in search of new habitat, they face new threats. They are now being killed by cars as they try to cross the treacherous Appin and Heathcote roads. And now there is another threat to their survival.

Thirty thousand new homes and a 6 lane highway upgrade are planned as part of the Macarthur Priority Growth Area, including a housing project by Lendlease at Mt Gilead. This estate cuts through the closest point between the Georges River and the Nepean River, both vital bushland corridors for koalas and other wildlife. If this development goes ahead as planned it will destroy this vital koala corridor and habitat.

The Total Environment Centre is now running a petition to the NSW Legislative Assembly to save these Koalas. Please sign this [petition](#) which includes measures to protect these precious animals from further harm

SOLAR ENERGY IMPACT ON OUR ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

The media frequently are critical of our moves to reduce our carbon emissions and in particular that we should keep our coal fired power stations in service as they are essential for reliable power supply. However, what is not reported is how much power people with solar panels are providing and what a huge impact that is having on coal fired electricity. This graph shows the power consumption in NSW over 24 hours on Tuesday 5th September. The colours in the graph are solar – yellow, wind – green, hydro – blue and black – coal. Remarkably it shows that in the middle of the day solar is providing almost 60% of our power needs with wind providing another 12% with coal only providing 28%! The majority of the solar power is coming from roof top installations. Of course, once the sun goes down coal is again dominant but wind and hydro are still providing 25% of the power needs. With more wind turbines and much more storage, we would be able to significantly change the power spread and eventually eliminate coal fired generation.



Coming OFF Events in September/October 2023

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

Meetings are held in the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick St Oatley, starting at 7.30pm. 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 by email 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](#)

18 September 2023: Social Science Research into Weed Management, Sonia Graham

Associate Professor Sonia Graham, a researcher at the University of Wollongong, for 15 years has studied how and why land managers and government agencies work together to manage weeds, and examining the benefits and costs of doing so.

Successful weed management programs often focus on number of weeds removed or restoration of native vegetation. But weeding is a social activity not just ecological. Sonia will explain what social science tells us about what people think about weeds, whether they talk to others about weeds and what drives them to work together with others, and discuss the range of social benefits from people working together and why we need to think more about people when planning weed management programs



17 September Sunday – Mount Keira Ring Track and Wollongong Botanic Garden, Kim Wagstaff. Note. Change of date from Program

This walk was advertised in last month's Newsletter however we have had to **CANCEL this event** due to the unavailability of the leader - Kim Wagstaff. OFF apologises for any inconvenience.

28 September 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 (Oatley Station) supervised by a GRC Bushcare Officer and we welcome new [bushcarers](#).

14 October 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.

4 November – Advance notice – Bradley's Head (Taronga Zoo) to Chowder Bay and Return...

16 October – Advance notice – Meeting: Applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) to camera imagery to improve wildlife conservation and management. Jessica Tin-Ying, UNSW postgraduate and OFF research recipient

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.

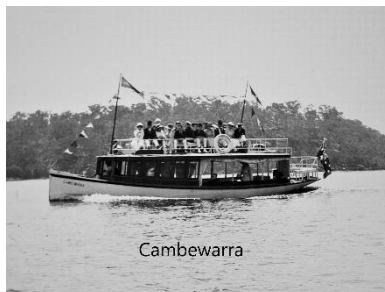
BRIEFLY SPEAKING

STREAMWATCH Due to lack of supplies this month's activity is 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>

OHHS CRUISE

It's not too late to join the Oatley Heritage and Historical Society (OHHS) cruise on the Georges River on 22nd September. Starting at Sans Souci Wharf and journeying to the old Lugarno Punt site, taking note of historical features, we will enjoy a relaxing sojourn on our wonderful Tucoerah* (Georges) River. Meet at the wharf at Sans Souci Park at 11am. Cost is \$51 for seniors, including lunch. Enquiries, Rodger Robertson, 0408 232 874



Cambewarra

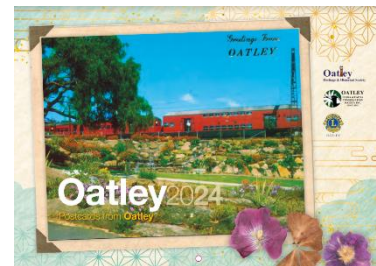
* Indigenous name for the Georges River

2024 OATLEY CALENDAR

The 2024 calendar, produced this year by Oatley Heritage and Historical Society, is now available at the following locations:

- Oatley West Newsagency, 119 Mulga Road, Oatley West Mulga Road
- The Hungry Spoon Cafe Oatley, 59 Rosa St, Oatley
- O'Connors Pharmacy, 12 Frederick St, Oatley.

It will also be available at the Oatley Lions Market Day in November. It's still great value at \$10 and will make a great present.



MEMBERSHIP.

OFF Annual membership fee of \$25 will be due 1st January 2024, as membership runs from Jan 1st 2024 to December 31st 2024. New members can join now & will be financial through to December 2024. Just send a completed membership [form](#) to one of the Membership Officers at suhoward@bigpond.net.au or beuzevilles@outlook.com Members whose memberships have lapsed are welcome to re-join.

Remember to check the OFF [OFF Facebook](#) page and [website](#) for information and news on OFF's activities.