



THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WATTLES

At our November meeting Rhonda Daniels introduced the audience to the wonderful world of wattles, including the diversity of flowers, foliage and fruit, Aboriginal and European uses, our local acacias, and acacias in the garden. There was also some myth-busting and lots of photos. Rhonda is a long-time member of the Australian Plants Society NSW, and is active in various roles in her local Sutherland Group, APS NSW and the national body. She is also an enthusiastic Bushcare volunteer and also volunteers at Sutherland Council Community Nursery. She appeared briefly in a propagation segment on Gardening Australia in April. Rhonda loves sharing her enthusiasm for Australian native plants. Due to a technical issue, Rhonda's talk will not be available on the OFF YouTube channel.

AN ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

The re-greening project at Carss Park (Carlton Crescent) gives us much joy. This planting was established with 500-600 tubestock just 1 year 9 months ago in March 2022. It is truly wonderful to see this amazing ecological transformation in such a short time. A report by Greater Sydney Landcare can be viewed [here](#).



It is one of the many re-greening projects Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society members have supported since 2017 when Boorea Reserve (Oatley) was re-vegetated. In the past seven years Georges River Council, Greater Sydney Landcare and Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society have worked together on many re-greening projects. These projects have positively impacted our community in so many ways including creating canopies and cooler environments, and providing habitat for our precious flora and fauna.

Our Society members look forward to another productive year ahead.

RECYCLING

Many of our members are active recyclers, doing so to avoid waste and over-use of increasingly scarce resources, including disposal space. To assist the public in this endeavour, some businesses are now recycling some of their products. Here are some for your consideration:

- Sheridan [takes](#) towels and bed linen (any brand) in their stores.
- Blooms Chemists [collect](#) blister packs in their pharmacies.
- Athletes Foot will [take](#) any brand sport shoe in their stores
- All major supermarkets have drop-off facilities for batteries
- Lions, in partnership with Specsavers and the Fred Hollows Foundation also collect unwanted spectacles (but not cases) for those in need overseas. Drop off in-store or to a [Lions](#) member.

And don't forget the council [E-Waste](#) and [Chemical](#) clean-outs. Note: The E-waste clean-out also now includes polystyrene and hard plastics.

PYGMY POSSUM LODGE TRIP

OFF headed to the high country in Kosciuszko National Park, between 7 and 14 January 2024. Eleven OFF members and two prospective members set off to Pygmy Possum Lodge at beautiful and remote Charlottes Pass. The weather forecast was variable and rainy on our arrival but continued to improve over the week to fine sunny conditions.

The group went on many enjoyable walks, including the Charlottes Pass to Guthega section (9 km) of the new Snowies Alpine Walk, downstream along the beautiful Snowy River valley. The raised walkway kept walkers well above the alpine shrubs and gave great vistas of the Snowy River.

A full [report](#) can be found on the OFF website.

2024 MEMBERSHIP

Annual \$25 membership subscription was due Jan 1st. This can be paid by: **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER:** Please remember to enter your name into the transfer document otherwise there will be no record of your subscription payment/donation.

Bank Details: BSB: 062 206. Account Number: 901997. OR:

POST: Cheque or money order mailed to address in the footer. OR:

CASH, CHEQUE or CARD at OFF events

The annual Membership Fee of \$25 for individuals or households covers attendance at OFF events and activities. These fees have not increased since 2005, so you are most welcome to add a donation to your payment. Donations will be directed to OFF's annual postgraduate grants, assisting research by University students on topics relevant to OFF's mission. Your continued membership supports OFF's ongoing efforts to protect, conserve and enhance our natural environment both locally and globally, as our mission statement declares, so it is very important. Thanks to members who have already renewed and made generous donations.

UPDATE ON PLATYPUSES REINTRODUCED TO ROYAL NP

Six months after the historic reintroduction of 10 platypuses to Royal National Park south of Sydney, the iconic Australian animals are thriving in their new habitat. Each carries an acoustic tag which pings listening receivers up and down the rivers of the Royal. The latest data show nine of the ten animals are adapting well to their environment. The tenth platypus has ventured beyond the team's tracking capabilities. More information [here](#).



BRIEFLY SPEAKING

STREAMWATCH This activity takes place on the Tuesday morning (9.00 am) in the week after OFF General Meetings. This month we will be at Dairy Creek on 6 February. Details: Graham Lalchere, 0430 968 260.

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>

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM has a podcast available on its website: "Five Things: How to help our native bees". Hear native bee taxonomist, Michael Batley, discusses their importance, beauty and diversity. <https://australian.museum/blog/at-the-museum/native-bees/>

CANADA BAY COUNCIL LIBRARY is presenting a talk by Anne Goth, at the launch of her new book, Amazing Annoying Birds, Living with Australian Brush-turkeys. Thursday, 8 February 5.30-6.30pm, Five Dock Library | Level 1/4-12 Garfield St. Bookings essential: bit.ly/anngoth

Coming OFF Events in January/February 2024

OFF Full Year Events Calendar will soon be published at: <http://www.oatleyflorafauna.org.au/index.php/progam/>

Meetings are held in the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick St Oatley, starting at 7.30pm. Meetings are also 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 be found on [YouTube](#)

5 February 2024 – OFF Annual General Meeting

Our first Monday meeting for the year will be the Annual General Meeting. Hear reports about what OFF has been doing in the past year, and elect a new committee for 2024. You are invited to nominate at the AGM. A member, not necessarily on the committee, is required this year to coordinate the OFF research grants (Graham Fry can supply details). Following the meeting we will meet for supper and attendees are asked to bring a plate. A great time to socialise and catch up with like-minded people. Members are also invited to show photos after the meeting of OFF activities and/or their travels.

10 February 2024 - 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). Meet at the entrance on Oatley Park Avenue. New participants welcome. Please check with GRC Bushcare Officer on 0435 963 643 before coming

19 February – Advance Notice: General Meeting: Birds on Farms: From 1995 till now. Margot Oorebeek, Project Coordinator for BirdLife Australia.

22 February-2024 - 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](#).

25 February 2024 (Sunday) – Advance Notice – The Spit to Manly. Leader: Lesley Wylie

3 March 2024 (Sunday) – Advance Notice - Clean up Australia Day. Please keep this date free.

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.

OFF ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

The results at the end of 2023 show a dramatic difference in surplus than the previous year. But at the end of the year we are in a similar position to the end of 2022. The main features of 2023 were:

A negative surplus of \$10,912 after last year's surplus of \$14,157. This was due to a number of factors explained below.

The research grants for 2022 and 2023 were all paid in 2023. This was due to the Universities not sending us invoices for the 2022 grant recipients before the years end but they were very prompt in 2023. We had allowed for this so there was no problems but the end result is certainly affected by this event.

We paid out a Commonwealth grant (\$3600) to OHHS that we had held for them as OHHS spent the money and the grant was acquitted.

The loan of \$1000 was repaid to Oatley Lions given to us in 2021 for the production of the calendar.

So these three issues were shown in the balance sheet at the end of 2022 as monies we held but were expecting to pay out in 2023.

We purchased a new computer and other gear to enable us to transmit our meetings on the internet.

At the 31st December 2023 we had \$20,419 in the bank with few outstanding issues - we owe OHHS \$737 for calendars which will be paid back to them in 2024 but if there is a surplus on the 2024 Calendar then we should get a dividend.

Our future strategy is to get the overall balance below the current base and we will continue to support the Research Grants program to a level above our current income. When we get to a lower balance we will move to review the current research grant levels.

Rodger Robertson. 1 January 2024.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT	2023	2022
INCOME		
Subscriptions	3,774.52	3,849.15
Donations	3,760.20	3,040.10
Bequest	0.00	5,000.00
Sales/Stalls, etc.	1,199.61	1,170.92
Grants various	0.00	2,000.00
2023 Calendar sales	628.65	3,685.53
Lions loan for calendar	100.00	1,000.00

2024 Calendar sales	737.15	00.00
Grant held for OHHS	0.00	3,600.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,099.93	23,346.26

EXPENSES	2023	2022
OFF Newsletter printing & postage	(490.88)	(628.23)
Insurance	(441.00)	(420.00)
PO box rental	(153.00)	(144.00)
Brochure printing various	(190.30)	(185.00)
Office of Fair Trading	(50.00)	(48.21)
2023 Calendar costs	0.00	(4,418.15)
Donations and Membership to other bodies	(740.00)	(773.91)
Technical Costs + new computer	(1,635.32)	(407.80)
Research grants	(13,400.00)	0.00
Meeting hall hire	(250.00)	(500.00)
Photo exhibition	0.00	(492.08)
Plant costs	0.00	(812.40)
Transfer Grant to OHHS	(3,600.00)	0.00
Miscellaneous	(62.00)	(359.24)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(21,012.50)	(9,189.02)
SURPLUS	(10,912.57)	14,157.24

BANK RECONCILIATION and other information	2023	2022
Chq acct balance as at 1 January	31,254.14	11,817.01
PC acct	(68.58)	(77.60)
Transfer from Fixed Term Deposit	0.00	5,018.27
Surplus on year	(10,912.57)	14,157.24
PC account adjustment	77.60	339.22
Chq acct balance 31 December	20,419.17	31,331.74
Petty cash balance	\$68.58	77.60
Various term deposits	00.00	0.00
Total balance at bank 31 December	20,419.17	31,331.74
Grants held for other organisation (balance)	0.00	3,600.00
Grants for OFF unspent	0.00	00.00
Loans from Oatley Lions	00.00	1,000.00
Research grants yet to be paid	0.00	7,500.00
NET BALANCE FOR OFF	20,419.17	19,231.74