



No 94/1

O.F.F. NEWS

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OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA
CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.



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January/February, 1994

FIRE DISASTER

The question many people are asking as the horror of the recent fires subsides is

Will the bushland recover?

Some greening will occur within months, but the long-term effects are difficult to gauge. There are so many unknowns, so many gaps in our knowledge of the dynamics of our natural systems. For example:

*What effect fire has on individual plant species. It promotes the growth of some species, such as hakeas and grevilleas, but kills many ferns, ground orchids, she-oaks, etc. The bush will not be the same after a fire.

*How long does it take seeds to generate and mature, thereby producing seed for dispersal? The experience in native gardens shows some species take five years or more to seed. If another wild fire or control burn takes place in this period, the plant is lost.

*Very little is known about pollinating mechanisms for native plants. If large numbers of insects and birds have been destroyed, will the next flowering have enough pollinators? No pollinators = no seeds.

*What wildlife has survived? We can assume that most mammals have been killed. In smaller fires, mobile animals like birds can re-occupy burnt areas from non-affected bushland. With such widespread devastation, are there any nearby reservoirs of bush from which animals can rebuild their populations?

GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO EXAMINE ITS OWN POLICIES

"Greenies" have copped some media criticism for their supposed anti-hazard reduction burn policies which has allowed (so the criticism goes) a build-up of dry undergrowth. Most of this is quite untrue, irrational and an attempt to find scapegoats. Even if it was true, no amount of hazard reduction would have stopped the recent disaster which was the result of unusual weather conditions, strong hot winds and the activities of arsonists.

The Government must take some responsibility for the flash-point situation.

Consider :

* They have reduced National Parks and Wildlife funding and personnel to a level that the Service has no money to back-burn or keep fire trails in good condition. One example is in the Royal National Park where 9 staff were dismissed prior to the December holidays and there was not even enough staff to check illegal camping or to collect entrance fees (an estimated \$1.5 million loss of revenue).

*For years conservationists have been criticising aspects of Government planning policy. Why are developers allowed to sub-divide right to the edge of the escarpment, the most dangerous spot for wild fires which sweep up the hillsides? At Alford Point above the Georges River, Menai above Mill Creek and Lucas Heights above Woronora River, developers have been allowed to build houses right to the edge of the escarpment. These were the areas under the most threat from the recent fires. In the push for greater profits, the safety of residents has been put into jeopardy.

Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street,
(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

COMING EVENTS

February 7 (Monday). ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Reports and election of officers. Your chance to comment on the running of your Society and perhaps to become more involved. Come along and say hallo to everyone at this first meeting after the break. Members' slides and supper after the meeting so bring along a few of your most recent slides as well as a plate of food.

February 26 (Saturday). FIELD DAY. The plan was to visit Kellys Falls and the upper Hacking catchment. However, as much of this area was burnt out in the recent fires, there may be a change of plans. Find out at the next meeting or ring the leader, Val Argall, closer to the outing on 579 1874.

February 28 (Monday). As seen on T.V. and coming to us highly recommended, Steve Symonds from the Weather Bureau will talk on **The Weather and Us.** a very topical way to begin the year.

March 6 (Sunday). Australia's Clean-up Day. OFF will be making our usual contribution to this day. Details to be advised, but keep the day free.

PROPOSED COOPER CREEK TOUR

You will recollect Richard Quilty's talk on Burke and Wills and on Cooper Creek which he gave at our meeting last October. Sixteen of our members have shown interest and received the itinerary. In case there are others who would enjoy what promises to be a most interesting trip, here are some details:

Date: Sunday 14 August to Monday 22 August 1994, Sydney to Sydney. (nine days and eight nights).

Cost per person : \$1175 (twin share); \$1250 (single supplement).

Deposit per person: \$50 payable by 31 January. Fully refundable in the event of cancellation.

Balance: One month prior to departure.

Enquires and cheques to : Northwest Continental, P.O. Box 256, ROUND CORNER. 2158.

Richard is limiting the party to 24 persons in a 48-seater bus so there will be plenty of room.

Sh. 6571050

The tour cost includes all meals, morning and afternoon tea where appropriate, motel accommodation except in the tiny but clean, comfortable and hospitable hotel at Innamincka. O.F.F. members are urged to consider going on this trip, which involves travel to rarely visited places such as White Cliffs, Milparinka, Cameron's Corner, the Strzelecki Desert and, of course, Cooper Creek. Why not come?
(Harry Whaite)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Fees are now due. They are the same as last year: \$10 for full membership; \$7 for concession. Fees include subscription to OFF News (11 issues a year) and an annual programme of events. You may renew directly at next meeting night OR send a cheque to: Hon Treasurer, P.O. Box 52, MORTDALE. 2223.

Hon President : Graham Quint, 16 Evans Street, Peakhurst 2210. 534 3239

Hon Secretary : Keith Underwood, PO Box 52, Mortdale 2223. 570 1149

Hon Editor : Alan Fairley, PO Box 148, Oatley 2223. 570 8332



OFF NEWS



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OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

No. 94/2

February/March, 1994

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LOCAL TREE PROTECTION

The chainsaws were out again during the Christmas holidays. In West Oatley, and no doubt in other areas of St George, beautiful large trees which were part of the original vegetation of the district have been cut down with Council approval.

Typical of what is happening is the removal of two large trees from the property of No. 8 Douglas Haig Street. After local objections, Hurstville Council explained the reasons for its approval in these terms:

"The tree at the rear of the property, a Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus resinifera*), was in reasonable health however, it was situated less than one metre away from the dwelling. There was visual evidence that the roots of the tree were causing structural damage to the foundations of the house and the pathway, but the tree was considered to be situated too close to the house to recommend installation of a root barrier.

The Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus punctata*) at the front of the property was in poor condition. The rear of the tree had suffered extensive borer damage and appeared to be beyond reasonable means of recovery. The roots were also damaging the driveway. This is not a cause for removal in itself, however, in repair of the driveway, further deterioration of the tree's health would occur."

Council officers also expressed their concern about preserving the established vegetation cover within Hurstville Council area and noted that Council is not granting permission for removal of trees solely on the grounds of fire hazard risk.

What can you do to help protect the tree cover of our suburbs?

* Write to Council every time you see a tree being cut down in your area. Ask Council if permission has been granted and ask them to justify that permission. Hurstville Council has a Tree Preservation Officer (Mr Rob Casey). If the matter is urgent, telephone him on

330 6221. Other Councils will also have officers in charge of tree preservation.

* Send a copy of your letter to OFF so we can compile a data base of tree destruction.

* Lobby your Council for a register of significant trees in your area, like the one already in existence for Lugarno.

BURNING QUESTIONS

The National Parks Association has issued a leaflet entitled *Burning Questions*, *Are the 'greenies' really to blame for the bushfires?* which addresses many of the misconceptions about the bushfires of January 1994.

Some of the questions answered include:

Do fuel reduction burns prevent fires?

Answer. Usually not. Fuel reduction burns should only be carried out on bushland perimeters to reduce the possibility of fires threatening people and property. They are ineffective on a broad scale or in remote areas, especially in "blow-up" conditions. For example, some areas of Royal National Park burnt over recent years have still succumbed to fire. A fire even went through one area burnt five weeks previously.

Were firefighters' efforts hampered by environmental constraints?

Answer No. In emergencies like these, the authorities have the power to override environmental legislation. Prescribed burning as a precautionary measure was only prevented on two "no burn" days in 1993 under the Clean Air Act.

Is it true that national parks are not managed responsibly?

Answer. No. The NPWS fire management program is one of the most sophisticated and ecologically grounded programs in Australia. National parks have been unjustly singled out. Only 30 of NSW's 154 identified fires burnt in national parks; 87 burnt in state forests.

Copies of this leaflet will be available at next meeting.

How is the "hole" in the ozone layer?

You may recollect that at the February 1989 meeting we held a brief discussion on this problem of ozone depletion over Antarctica. After five years, it is worth bringing the matter back to your attention. It has been calculated that a 1% decrease in the ozone layer at any location will cause a 2% increase in ultraviolet-B radiation and a probable 4% increase in skin cancer. As an example, Greenpeace states that due to ozone-depleted air drifting up from the Antarctic in the spring and early summer, in Hobart on some days there could be an increase of nearly 20% in ultraviolet-B. Averaged over the yearly cycle, the increase would of course be much lower.

Proof has been slowly accumulating that this ozone-depleted hole in the Antarctic air is due to the release into the atmosphere of compounds containing carbon, chlorine and fluorine such as CFCs (chloro-fluorocarbons), HCFCs (hydrochloro-fluorocarbons which also contain hydrogen) and halons (which also contain bromine). Their main uses are in aerosol sprays, refrigerators, air conditioners, fire extinguishers, solvents and plastic insulation and packaging. They owe their popularity to their physical properties and non-toxicity to humans.

Unfortunately, in the sub-zero conditions of the Antarctic mountains, they tend to be broken up with the release of chlorine oxide. The last-mentioned reacts with the ozone in the layer about 15 kilometres up and, on average, may turn several hundred times its own mass of ozone back into oxygen at a rate greater than fresh ozone can be generated by incoming radiation from the sun.

Back in September 1987, 24 nations agreed to limit the use of CFC compounds world-wide. This is known as the Montreal Protocol

and its implementation was intended to take effect from 1989, with a reduction in the consumption of CFCs down to 50% by 1999.

Despite the proposed substitution of HCFC compounds, whose ozone depletion is only about one-sixth of that of CFCs, Greenpeace points out that, whilst we are planning to use new chemicals which will be less ozone-destructive, much more will be used on a world-wide basis and there will be a continuing rise in the depletion of the atmospheric ozone.

Greenpeace, amongst others, believes that a complete phaseout of CFCs and HCFCs will be needed to stop ozone destruction and that it should be commenced immediately. We are asked, as individuals, to put pressure on the Australian Government to adopt its own national ban on HCFC production and usage immediately and to lobby for an international ban at the 1994 Montreal Protocol meeting.
(Harry Whaite)

In an ideal world

With the duck-shooting season coming up in the next few months, it was interesting to come across this comment written 478 years ago:

"The Utopians consider hunting below the dignity of free men, and leave it entirely to butchers....In their view, hunting is the vilest department of butchery, compared with which all the others are relatively useful and honourable. An ordinary butcher slaughters livestock far more sparingly, and only because he has to, whereas a hunter kills and mutilates poor little creatures purely for his own amusement. They say you won't find that type of blood-lust even among animals."

From Sir Thomas More's *Utopia*, an outline of an ideal society, written in 1516 A.D.

SMIGGIN HOLES - 1994

This was the ninth time that the Tonkins had opened Smiggins Chalet to the mercies of OFF members, their friends and their children (and grandchildren). Back in 1986, most of the participants were the older members who needed some guidance in the planning of trips and walking in the Kosciusko region; these days, they all do their own thing and there is a larger number of younger folk prepared to do likewise.

Both weeks had several walks in common, such as Mount Stillwell, the Porcupine, the Waterfall and Palaibo tracks. However, the first week was hot and mainly cloudless and the Main Range - Lakes Walk (Kosciusko summit, Blue Lake, Watsons Crags) was favoured. The walk from the Crackenback chairlift to Dead Horse Gap and back to Thredbo Village was particularly popular. One couple did the walk to the Giant's Castle, now known as the "Rennix Walk".

During the second week, the weather was cooler, cloudier and rainy, and many Main Range ventures had to be abandoned. However, the party pioneered two new trips. The first was from Dead Horse Gap (1580 metres) to the Chimneys (1885 metres), a return distance of 17-18 kilometres. The second was a traverse from Mount Twynam along the Main Range past Mounts Anton and Anderson to the Tate East Ridge and down to Guthega Pondage. The total distance is about 20 kilometres from Charlotte Pass.

We would again like to thank the Tonkins for this further opportunity to visit and explore Australia's highest alpine areas.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Fees are now due. They are the same as last year: \$10 for full membership, \$7 for concession. Renew directly at next meeting night OR send a cheque to : Hon Treasurer, P.O. Box 52, Mortdale. 2223.

JERVIS BAY ARMAMENTS DEPOT

The Australian Conservation Foundation is urging us to write to Prime Minister Keating, Parliament House, Canberra, 2600, opposing the proposed armaments depot at Jervis Bay. The ACF suggests the letter should read as follows:

I am absolutely opposed to the relocation of the East Coast Armaments Complex to Jervis Bay. Despite the Federal Government's promise in 1989 to hold a public inquiry into the relocation of ECAC, this inquiry has never taken place. Instead, the Department of Defence has continually reiterated its preference for Jervis Bay without any thorough investigation of alternative sites.

I call on your government to once and for all remove Jervis Bay from the list of site options and to launch a full public inquiry into the relocation of ECAC.

Jervis Bay is listed on the Register of the National Estate for its unique environmental and Aboriginal cultural values. It must be conserved and protected for future generations to enjoy, not opened up for continuing industrialisation. It is unthinkable that your government would consider locating ECAC at Jervis Bay.

SOCIETY NEWS

** Our Hon Secretary for the last six years, Keith Underwood, has stepped down from that position. The Annual General Meeting passed a vote of thanks in appreciation of the work Keith has done for the Society during those years.

** The Society has purchased a good quality, slightly used slide projector for \$800. It will get a lot of use at our meeting nights.

** If you are up at Penshurst Library, have a look at the OFF display. It promotes the Society and at the same time educates the public about the plants of Oatley Park.

Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street,
(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.
Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

COMING EVENTS

February 26 (Saturday). FIELD DAY. Walk around and below Kellys Falls in the upper Hacking River catchment. This is one of the areas in the south which has not been affected by the January bushfires. Meet the leader, Val Argall, at the Kellys Falls car park at 9.30 am. Take the old Highway (not the Wollongong Expressway) to the Stanwell Park turn-off. Kellys Falls access road is between the Highway and Stanwell Tops. A walk of moderate difficulty around the gully rim and down into the rainforest gorge. Bring lunch and fresh water. Ring Val on 579 1874 for further details.

February 28 (Monday). As seen on T.V. and coming to us highly recommended, **Steve Symonds** from the Weather Bureau will talk on **The Weather and Us**. A very topical way to begin the year.

March 6 (Sunday). Australia's Clean-up Day. This year, OFF has volunteered to help clean up a part of the Royal National Park. The recent fires have exposed a large amount of rubbish and a number of community groups will be helping to gather some of it from the roadsides so it can be carried away. We will be working on part of McKell Avenue along the road from Waterfall to the Upper Causeway. Meet at 8.30 am at Waterfall Flat which is just past the entrance gate where fees are collected. **Registered OFF volunteers will not have to pay an entry fee.** Bring gardening gloves, a hat, a small bucket to collect the glass pieces and your lunch. We have suggested to the National Parks and Wildlife Service that we will have at least 25 volunteers - so please consider helping. Make it a family day! And at the same time, see some of the effects the fire has had. Volunteers are asked to REGISTER with Alan Fairley either at the next meeting or by phoning 570 8332 (in evening).

PROGRAMME FOR 1994

The activities programme for the new year will be available at next meeting on payment of membership renewal fees. There's another exciting and informative year ahead. Bring along your friends to club nights or to outdoor activities and help build the Society's community profile and membership.

HELP FOR WIRES

OFF has donated \$100 to the wildlife emergency rescue group, WIRES, which did such good work after the bushfires rescuing and caring for injured animals. WIRES phone number for Sydney rescues is 975 1633.

WILDERNESS UNDER ATTACK

The Society has received considerable information on the wilderness issue, especially from the Nature Conservation Council and the Colong Foundation for Wilderness. Lack of space prevents its publication here, but it will be available at the next meeting for your viewing.

The concern is that hard-won wilderness legislation is under attack by some country members of the Fahey Government, supported by 4WD and horseriding groups.

Conservationists are asked to let the N.S.W. government, your local M.P. and the Leader of the Opposition know that wilderness is non-negotiable. More details in next *OFF News*.

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94/3

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March/April, 1994

PAT AKKERSDYK

OFF members were deeply saddened to hear of the recent death of Pat Akkersdyk. Pat was a committee member of this Society for six years, but is best remembered for his wonderful knowledge of the local flora which he shared with people on numerous field trips. His extensive knowledge of Sydney's wildflowers was all self-taught and he had an extraordinary gift for remembering species names. Over the years, he compiled lists of plants for many of the walks around Sydney and had a large part in preparing a native plant checklist for the Royal National Park.

An indication of the regard and esteem which people felt for Pat was the large number of people who were present at his funeral. Members of OFF who attended included Janet Aitken, Don and Eileen McGuire, Bess McPhee, Val Boyan, Val Douglas, Arthur Newling, Vera Ferguson, Estelle and Gordon Geering and Margaret Turner.

The Society extends its deepest sympathy to Tess and her family.

JERVIS BAY

This month the Environmental Impact procedure will begin to determine whether Jervis Bay will be used as the site for an armaments depot and wharf. It is essential that the Commonwealth Government be told in unmistakable terms that Jervis Bay is totally unsuitable for such a development.

A letter in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (3-3-94) clearly enumerates the reasons against the proposal.

1. Jervis Bay and its catchment are listed on the Register of the National Estate for their scientific, recreational and cultural values.
2. The seagrass beds in Jervis Bay support the fish nurseries for the NSW South Coast fishing industry.
3. The appeal of Jervis Bay to tourists depends on the maintenance of the clear waters and minimising pollution in the catchment area. More than 750,000 people visit the bay annually and spend in excess of \$300 million.

4. The area has been a place of cultural and spiritual significance to the Aboriginal people of the South Coast for thousands of years.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to write a letter opposing any armaments depot at or near Jervis Bay. Address your letter to : The Prime Minister, Paul Keating, Parliament House, Canberra. 2600.

Additional reading: "Jervis Bay, No Place for Arms" in *Habitat*, November 1993

: Jervis Bay Special Issue of *Wetlands*.

MORE ABOUT WILDERNESS

In the recent controversy over the declaration of wilderness in NSW, it seems that politicians and the public lost sight of exactly what they were arguing about. What is wilderness?

One definition from a Federal government discussion paper states:

"A wilderness area is an area that is, or can be restored to be :

- of sufficient size to enable the long-term protection of its natural systems and natural biodiversity;
- substantially unmodified by colonial or modern technological society; and
- remote at its core from points of mechanised access and other evidence of colonial and modern technological society."

SOUTHERN OCEAN SANCTUARY

The World Wildlife Fund is urging support for the establishment of a sanctuary for whales in the Southern Ocean south of 40° S. The International Whaling Commission will meet in May to make a decision and a three-quarters majority is needed. WWF is asking all conservationists to sign a letter of support, copies of which will be sent to the Japanese Government. The pro-forma letter will be available at the next meeting night. OFF will forward the signed letters onto WWF.

Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street,
(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

COMING EVENTS

March 26 (Saturday). FIELD DAY. Walk the Bicentennial Coastal Walk along the Pittwater/Warringah ocean front. This walk will be from AVALON to NORTH NARRABEEN, a continuation of the walk we did last year from Palm Beach. Distance is 11 kilometres (about 4 hours), although it is possible to leave the walk after 7.5 km and catch the bus back from Mona Vale. This section of the Coastal Walk is a series of ups and downs as the track passes from beach to headland. There is some road and beach walking between headland reserves. Magnificent coastal vistas, cliffs, rock platforms and glimpses of the Peninsula lifestyle. Lots of swimming opportunities if the weather is warm enough. Bus 190 leaves Wynyard (York Street) at 8.30 am, arriving at Avalon at 9.42 am. The 7.36 am train from Oatley (change at Town Hall for Wynyard) should get you to the bus on time. Meet at 9.45 am at the southern end of Avalon Beach on the corner of Barrenjoey Road and Avalon Parade. Leader and contact : Alan Fairley, phone 570 8332.

MARCH 28 (Monday). Highly esteemed film maker PETER NORRIS will present a program of short films entitled *Tales of the Pacific*. Peter's films have won a number of national and international awards, so we should be in for another excellent evening of inspiration and information.

APRIL 30 (Saturday). Field Day. Walking around Springwood led by Janet Aitken. Details later.

SOCIETY NEWS

** **A date for your diary.** OFF will be having a mid-year dinner on Saturday, 16 July at the St George Masonic Club, Roberts Avenue. Details later.

** Graham and other volunteers would appreciate some help at the Gungah Bay workparties in the bushland behind the Bowling Club West Oatley. There is a workparty on the 2nd Saturday of each month (next : 9 April). Ring Graham (534 3239) for details.

** About 30 OFF members and friends helped clean up the Waterfall end of the Royal National Park for Clean Up Australia Day. Many bags of rubbish, mostly bottles, were left for collection beside the road. At least one bottle dated from 1953. It was a tremendous effort by community groups and the park has benefited a lot from the day.

** **Environmental Trust Grants.** The committee of OFF has prepared and lodged two applications for funds under the Environmental Trust Program. We have applied for \$15000 to regenerate the bushland beside the Oatley-Como walkway and for a special educational grant to prepare material on the conservation of indigenous trees in urban areas. Let us hope we are as successful as we were two years ago when we received the grant to improve Gungah Bay Reserve.

Members are reminded that, under our constitution, annual subscriptions should be renewed by the end of March.

If you did not collect a 1994 programme at the February meeting, one should be enclosed with this issue of *OFF News*. However, mistakes can occur, and should you still not have received a copy, contact Harry Whaite on 580 6459.

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94/4

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April /May, 1994

SOME GOOD NEWS

*** It appears that the Metromix proposal to mine sand offshore from Royal National Park will not go ahead. However, the problem still remains - from where is the sand going to be obtained to supply Sydney's future building needs? Some environmentalists fear that developers will now turn their interests to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Basin, where dredging the river and mining the banks will see more pollution of this system. Dr David Hughes feels that the answer is to recognise that Sydney is exceeding its ecologically sustainable limits to growth and calls for a campaign to halt the growth of Sydney.

*** **Jervis Bay.** Labor politicians in Canberra seem to be indicating that Jervis Bay will not be the site of the relocated armaments depot. No final decision has yet been made but the signs are encouraging.

*** **Legal Aid for Environmental Matters.** The Legal Aid Commission of NSW has advised that it has decided to reinstate legal aid for public interest environment matters. Legal aid may now be granted for public interests and test cases where there is a substantial public concern about the environment.

...AND THE NOT-SO-GOOD NEWS

Tail wags the dog?

More examples recently of the minority National Party's views dominating the NSW Coalition Government's policies when it comes to environmental matters. These examples include:

1. **Wilderness backdown.** A number of rebel National Party backbenchers have threatened to resign from the Coalition and become independents if the Government's Wilderness Act was not amended. Mr Fahey's decision to declare 350,000 hectares of wilderness has now been abandoned, areas have been split into smaller units, access along fire trails for horse-riding and 4WD vehicles is proposed and large areas of non-national park land have been omitted from the proposal.

2. **Fire policy.** The Nationals seem to have had a Cabinet victory with their policy to have mandatory

burn-offs, easing of controls on the removal of trees, upgrading of fire trails in national parks and simplification of approvals for fire permits. The Nationals leader, Mr Armstrong, was head of the Cabinet Committee on Bushfire Management.

*** The Minister for Planning, Mr Robert Webster (a National) has gutted Coastal Policy by refusing to accept a definition of "coastal" which includes the inlets, coastal lagoons and tidal estuaries.

*** Mr Robert Webster has interfered in the zoning process of rural lands at Helensburgh. After ten years of study and public participation, plus the expenditure of over \$1 million, the Wollongong City Council resolved to rezone lands of the upper Hacking Catchment as "Environment Protection 7d". Mr Webster has refused to accept that decision and has announced a public enquiry, just what the developers wanted.

THE FOX MENACE

A number of foxes have been seen recently in the local area, including one seen in daylight in Oatley Park. Given the devastating effect a fox can have on wildlife, the Society is concerned for the fauna of local reserves and has requested Council to consider control methods.

According to an article by Eric Rolls (*Sun-Herald*, 6th Feb, '94), foxes are now breeding out of control. Australia-wide they have become a major pest. They may be the reason that possum numbers are declining. An attempt to reintroduce palma wallabies in the Blue Mountains failed when foxes ate 48 of the released wallabies. They dig into the mounds of mallee-fowl and eat the eggs, and have eaten up to 90% of turtle eggs laid on Queensland beaches. Without an eradication program, we will end up, according to Rolls, with "a dull, homogenous world."

Native plants for sale. The beautiful Flinders Ranges Wattle (*Acacia iteaphylla*) is in flower in April and May. Some seedlings of this plant will be on sale at the next meeting for \$3.00.

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(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

COMING EVENTS

April 30 (Saturday). FIELD DAY. Walk from Springwood to Falconbridge in Blue Mountains National Park. Distance: about 12 kms. Train leaves Central at 8.02am. Catch 7.30am train from Mortdale (Central 7.51am) or 7.06am from Oatley, 7.08am from Mortdale (arrives Central 7.36am). There is a car park at Springwood not far from the station, on the southern side, in the main street. We will leave Springwood Station (southern side) at 9.30am. Lunch should be by a swimming hole. Leader: Janet Aitken, phone 790 2211.

May 2 (Monday). Bob Wilson tells us about *The Forgotten River*. With all the media focus on the problems of the Hawkesbury River, the Georges River has tended to be forgotten. There is no-one more qualified to tell us about this vital part of our backyard than Bob Wilson, former Chairman of the Water Board, consultant on the river to Liverpool Council and active member of the Georges River Coalition. Those who have heard Bob speak will know that they are in for an entertaining and thought-provoking evening. Following our 100+ attendance 1st meeting, make sure you come early to get a good seat.

May 23 (Monday). Next speaker. Doug Benson of the Royal Botanic Gardens -Plants and Geology in the Sydney Area.

SOCIETY NEWS

**** A date for your diary.** OFF's 40th Anniversary Dinner. When? Saturday, 16 July at 7 pm. Where? St George Masonic Club, Roberts Avenue, Mortdale. Cost: \$17 (no raffles). Menu to be ordered at the time of payment includes Entree, Main Course of steak or fish, Dessert and coffee. Pay Val Boyan no later than the meeting of Monday, 27 June.

**** Gungah Bay work party.** Graham has changed the day to a Sunday to make it more convenient for people. Come along and help regenerate the bushland behind the Bowling Club at West Oatley. Next work party is on May 1st, 9.30am until noon. Ring Graham (534 3239) for details.

****** There was an excellent attendance of 103 people at our last meeting. If you missed it, then you may get another chance as Peter Norris said he would be pleased to come again.

GEORGES RIVER ALLIANCE

The Georges River Environmental Alliance continues to develop. Its first Annual General Meeting was held on 16 April. The Executive elected can now plan for publicity and lobbying activities to upgrade the environmental quality of the River's catchment.

The official launch of the Alliance will be held on 18 June at 2 pm. It is hoped that a number of OFF members will attend.

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NEW FOCUS FOR OFF

The approaching OFF fortieth anniversary is an ideal opportunity for the Society to consider its achievements, examine its structure and put into place strategies to deal with the conservation challenges of the next forty years. The Society provides wonderful social interaction at its meeting nights, walks and the occasional dinner. Over forty years, countless happy memories have been shared by generations of OFF members.

But what of the future? The Society's Executive Committee, at its last meeting, had a lively debate on issues vital to the future of OFF. It was resolved that three immediate goals should be set and the progress towards their achievement monitored: -

- The Society's fund raising capacity should be diversified and expanded (eg., additional funding would allow the procurement of display fixtures and material to better promote the Society).
- There should be emphasis on diversifying membership to attract other sections of the local community sympathetic to the Society's aims and objectives but not currently represented.
- There needs to be a particular focus on recruiting individuals with special talents or experience to handle special tasks and facilitate the Society's need to address new and complex conservation issues.

Suggestions on achieving these goals would be very welcome !

Graham Quint, President

HELENSBURGH DEVELOPMENT

Renewed threat to Hacking River

The issue of urban development of land in the upper Hacking catchment at Helensburgh is again on the agenda with the announcement of the Minister for Planning, Robert Webster, that a Commission of Inquiry is to be held into urban expansion within the sensitive catchment.

It was believed that this whole issue had been resolved in April 1993 when Wollongong City Council resolved to rezone the land as Environmental Protection. Council's draft environmental plan was submitted to the Department of Planning but was rejected in favour of a new Inquiry. Democrat MLC, Richard Jones, has asked Mr Webster in Parliament if one of the major property developers and Helensburgh land owners, Lang Walker, made a donation of \$30,000 to the Liberal Party and why the Minister announced this inquiry when the Wollongong Council has, on two occasions, voted against the development of the area.

OFF was represented at a recent "Council of War" at Sutherland Environment Centre which was attended by 20 conservationists including delegates from Total Environment Centre, Port Hacking Protection Society, Helensburgh District Protection Society and Hacking Catchment Committee. Councillors from Sutherland

Council and Wollongong Council were also present and expressed their total opposition to the development and to the inquiry.

One worrying feature of the decision is the lack of democracy. After years of public participation, constant meetings, thousands of submissions (of which 5,346 supported the environmental protection zone) and the expenditure of at least one million dollars by Wollongong Council on the Helensburgh Plan, Mr Webster can completely ignore the decisions and side with a few developers who are pressing for urban expansion.

The arguments for the protection of the Hacking River catchment are the same now as they were three years ago except that now there is more need and more urgency. The Royal National Park after the bush fires will be in a state of crisis and recovery for many years. Development will degrade water quality, encourage silting and pollution and put more stress on the few unburnt areas along the river.

What you can do. Write to the Premier, Mr John Fahey, asking him to abandon the Commission of Inquiry into the Helensburgh Plan and instead to gazette Wollongong Council's environmental protection plan.

Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street,
(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

COMING EVENTS

May 23 (Monday). Doug Benson, Botanist from the Royal Botanic Gardens, will talk on **Plants and Geology in the Sydney Area**. Doug is a plant ecologist and the expert on the ecology of Sydney's native plants. He has written numerous articles and contributed to books such as *Rare Bushland Plants of Western Sydney*. This will be another informative and interesting evening.

May 28 (Saturday). **FIELD DAY.** A walk around Middle Harbour, Sugarloaf Bay and Castlecove. An area that most of us "Southerners" don't know very well. Distance : 9.5 km (3.5km of this is along roads to and from the track). An easy 4 hours walk with lots of stops to admire the scenery. The track runs through Harold Reid Bushland Reserve at Middlecove and along the shores of South Arm and North Arm of Sugarloaf Bay. Great views of Middle Harbour and a good variety of native plants. Lunch beside a little cove overlooking the Harbour. Bring water as there are no shops along the route. Meet at 10.15am at the corner of Eastern Valley Way and Sugarloaf Crescent, Middlecove. The 8.36am train from Oatley should get you there in plenty of time. Change at Town Hall for Wynyard, then catch Bus 208 (from Wynyard to East Lindfield) and alight at Sugarloaf Crescent (the stop is near the bottom of a small hill). Leader : Alan Fairley, phone 570 8332.

SOCIETY NEWS

**** Don't forget, OFF's 40th Anniversary Dinner.** When? Saturday, 16 July at 7 pm. Where? St George Masonic Club, Roberts Avenue, Mortdale. Cost: \$17 (no raffles). Menu to be ordered at the time of payment includes Entree, Main Course of steak or fish, Dessert and coffee. Pay Val Boyan no later than the meeting of Monday, 27 June.

**** Members' Forum.** Have your say. Time will be set aside at the next meeting for members to express concerns about environmental issues especially affecting the local area. About 3 minutes will be allocated to each person who wishes to speak

**** The Springwood walk** last month attracted a group of 22. Reports were that it was a fine day, a good walk and the lunch by the pool was particularly pleasant.

GALA DAY - SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE.

On Sunday, 22 May from 10am to 3pm at Gunnamatta Bay Park, Cronulla, near the railway station. A fun day for the family with activities for the children. Stalls galore, music, face painting, lucky dips, karate display, mediaeval display, dancers and much more.

OFF ROAD TOURS

We have received information from a local tour company which specialises in 4WD 14-seater coach charter. A letter with photos of the vehicle will be on the notice board at the next meeting.

BUSHFIRE RECOMMENDATIONS

A detailed look at the Cabinet Committee Recommendations on Bushfire Management and Control has been received from the National Parks Association. It gives a brief analysis of the recommendations, including the positive and negative features. The review will be available at the next meeting.

Hon President : Graham Quint, 16 Evans Street, Peakhurst. 2210. 534 3239

Hon Secretary : Robin Dickson, P.O. Box 52, Mortdale. 2223. 5805663

Hon Editor : Alan Fairley, P.O. Box 148, Oatley. 2223. 570 8332



94/6

OFF NEWS

Published by

OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.



Price 10 cents

June/July, 1994

SAVE THE HACKING

An urgent request has been received from the Save the Hacking Coalition. As mentioned in last issue of *OFF News*, the State Government has instituted a Commission of Inquiry into proposed urban expansion around Helensburgh - in reality, massive development. It is an outrageous proposal as Wollongong Council has twice before rejected such a proposal and thousands of citizens have made anti-development submissions which have been ignored. The developers are pushing hard despite the inevitable consequences in terms of polluting runoff, sewage and the effects on the Royal National Park.

The Inquiry is set down for July 5th. Public outcry against this totally unnecessary Inquiry is vital. Public action won the battles against the Megatip in 1992 and Ocean Sandmining in 1994. It is too late to make a submission to the Inquiry, but the Coalition is asking that you write a letter to The Premier, The Hon John Fahey, requesting him to cancel the Commission of Inquiry into "Landuse around Helensburgh" as any development will seriously degrade the Hacking River and have adverse effects on the Royal National Park and Port Hacking.

A form letter will be available at our next meeting, but members are encouraged to write before that date.

VOLUNTEERS IN ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

This issue of *OFF News* contains a request for help in post-fire restoration projects in the Royal National Park. We have offered to distribute this information on behalf of the Total Catchment Management Committee of the Hacking River as we think that many OFF members would be willing and able to assist in what appears to be very important work. If you have felt concern at the state of the Park after the bushfires, if you wanted to "do something", yet didn't know what to do, then this could be the answer.

SYDNEY'S KOALAS

We would all be saddened by the recent newspaper reports that only 100 koalas remain around Sydney and these are threatened by urban growth and bushfires.

WARRAGAMBA DAM - HEIGHT INCREASE

The latest threat to our natural heritage and to Blue Mountains wilderness areas is the State Government's proposal to increase the height of Warragamba Dam wall by 23 metres. Construction is planned to commence in 1995 and to be completed in the year 2000. The cost is estimated \$250 million.

The new wall will raise the water level in Lake Burragorang by up to 36 metres, which will double the lake's surface area and have enormous upstream effects. Key parts of the Nattai and Kanangra wilderness areas will be flooded and a wide range of wildlife, river and recreational values will be severely damaged. The banks of some of our most beautiful rivers, such as the Coss, Little, Nattai, Kowmung, Jooriland and Tonalli, will be converted into moonscapes.

The changing river levels behind the enlarged dam will kill off the native vegetation. Populations of at least nine rare plants will be reduced. The last virgin stands of Camden White Gum (*Eucalyptus benthamii*) will be lost forever.

The Alternative.

Sydney must reduce its water consumption. According to the Water Board, it is possible to reduce water usage by a third. This reduction would defer the need for a new water supply dam.

Studies have shown that the risk of extreme floods happening is very low. The biggest flood possible has a 1 in 100,000 chance of happening each year. Yet, despite this low probability, the Government is arguing that the dam wall must be raised for safety reasons. However, a new spillway as originally proposed by the Water Board could make the dam safe under any circumstances.

This "mega-dam" is another example of the "engineers know best" attitude seen in the Port Hacking tombolo "solution", where experts consider they have the exclusive right to decision making and the public can only accept or reject that option. This approach creates disasters such as Lake Pedder.

For more details on this issue, see *The Colong Bulletin*, May 1994.

Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street,
(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

COMING EVENTS

June 27 (Monday). National Parks of the United States. Alan Fairley will show his slides and tell about his trip last year through some wonderful national parks. Everyone has heard of Yellowstone and Grand Canyon National Parks, but you will be amazed at the variety of spots like Death Valley, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Mesa Verde, Rocky Mountains, Jean Lafitte, Badlands, Petrified Forest and Chaco Canyon. From California to Louisiana, Wyoming to Virginia - this will be a visual treat.

July 2 (Saturday). FIELD DAY. A walk to Mount Banks and Mount Banks Walls, Blue Mountains. Meet at 10.00am at Mt Banks car park/picnic ground. No public transport. Drive along Bells Line of Road either from Mt Victoria or Richmond. Mt Banks turn-off is between Mt Tomah and the Mt Wilson turn-off. Approximately 12km round walk, mainly easy grades. Knock-out views from Banks Walls lookouts. Leader and contact : Lesley Cox (phone 579 3782).

July 16 (Saturday). OFF Dinner - see details below.

OFF ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Bookings are going well for our dinner and it looks like it is going to be a popular and enjoyable evening. If you have not yet paid, the last chance is the meeting of 27 June (or send a cheque quickly to the Hon Secretary).

When? Saturday, 16 July at 7 pm. **Where?** St George Masonic Club, Roberts Avenue, Mortdale. **Cost:** \$17 (no raffles). The menu is ordered at the time of payment and includes Entree, Main Course of steak or fish, Dessert and coffee. See Val Boyan at the meeting.

MEMBERS FORUM. At the last meeting the question of having field days on some Sundays was raised. This matter was subsequently discussed at a committee meeting. The Society has in the past had a number of activities programmed for Sundays but a number of members could not attend because of church commitments and it was found that there were far more people out and about on Sundays and the walks were not so pleasant. However, to cater for those members who have to work or have other duties on Saturdays, some Sunday activities will be planned for 1995

WIRES CONTACT. For help and information on sick and injured native animals, the local WIRES contact is Narelle Salent, tel. 584 8063. Keep this information as you never know when it might be needed.

WALK REPORT. Thirty three people attended the last OFF walk around the shores of Middle Harbour. It was a beautiful sunny late autumn day and we had the area almost to ourselves. Lunch was on an old stone jetty looking out over the yachts moored on Sugarloaf Bay and at the million dollar houses lining the foreshores. Another great walk!!

GEORGES RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE. The big launch of this newly formed action group has been postponed until October 22 to give maximum notice to MPs and Councillors, to arrange suitable guest speakers and to allow interest groups from all over the catchment to organise displays. OFF will be involved and we urge all members to keep that day free and to attend. Details of the launch will be available on a flyer at the next meeting. More details in *OFF News* later.



Total Catchment Management
Community And Government Working Together
HACKING RIVER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Volunteer involvement in post-fire restoration projects at Royal National Park

**NSW
 NATIONAL
 PARKS AND
 WILDLIFE
 SERVICE**

South Metropolitan
 District
 Royal National Park
 Audley
 PO Box 44
 Sutherland 2232
 Tel: (02) 542 0666
 Fax: (02) 542 1420

The Hacking River Catchment Management Committee and Royal National Park management is keen to hear from you if you are interested in voluntarily helping with one or more of the problems facing Royal National Park as it recovers from the fires. Priority will be given to restoration and rehabilitation of those sections of the Coast Walk which are now more susceptible to water and wind erosion since adjoining vegetation has been burnt.

From the number of letters and phone calls received at "Royal" we believe there is potentially a large pool of volunteers interested in "doing anything to help". The community-based Catchment Management Committee (established under the *Catchment Management Act, 1989*) and the staff at Royal National Park are seeking funding from many sources; but volunteer help will be essential to supplement paid work of staff and contractors in view of the magnitude of the task before us. Here are some of the activities where we may need help. All volunteers would receive training and would be covered for Worker's Compensation while working under the supervision of a paid NPWS officer.

Yes, I may be able to offer my assistance in the following areas:

Tick Days which suit most (add M or A if only Mornings or Afternoons are suitable)

Activity	Estimate of volunteer days over 12 months	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Track route surveying with Soil Conservation Service								
Soil Erosion control (general)								
Soil Erosion Control (Revegetation)								
Local Native Plant Propagation								
Photography (Still) Project records								
Photography (Video)								
Weed removal								
Fauna Surveys								
Flora Surveys								
Track construction								
Administration								
Others (write below)								

Name: _____

Address: _____

Ph (Home) _____ (Work) if contactable _____ Fax _____

Return this and following page to "Volunteers Coordinator" c/o above address

Do you have any comments on any of the above?

Are you a member of any group which sent you this survey? _____

What is its name? _____

Please state any particular formal or informal qualifications, skills or interests you have that would help you perform the indicated tasks. (Don't worry if you have none; training will be provided)

With suitable training, might you be interested in helping to supervise a small (say 4-8) team of people in a chosen area of interest...but under immediate direction of a NPWS project manager? _____

If yes, in which interest area? _____

Do you have your own transport which you could use to reach the closest car access to the work site?

Would you be willing to come to a information session to learn about any volunteer programs we intend to run, and to give you a chance to seek more information on how volunteers can help? (Yes/No) _____

Indicate by "1" and "2" your two most preferred times...Sat Morning ...Sat Afternoon
...Sun Morning ...Sunday afternoon ...Some week -night (state which one) _____

Comments _____

We will contact you within the next couple of months about a planned information session to inform you about the volunteer program and possible projects. You will also have a chance to ask any detailed questions at this session. If you wish to clarify anything in this survey, please contact Patsy Nagle, Royal National Park's volunteers coordinator, on 542 0666.

Thank you for your interest.

R. H. Lowe

Robert Lowe, Chairperson, Hacking River Catchment Management

Ken Ayers

Ken Ayers, District Manager, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

4/5/1994



94/7

O.F.F. NEWS

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Price 10 cents

July/August, 1994

WARRAGAMBA DAM - ANOTHER VIEW

Following the article in *OFF News* in last issue, one of our members, David Pilgrim, questioned some of the facts and interpretation about the dam proposal at the Members' Forum of last meeting. David is a retired Civil Engineer from the Dept of Water Engineering at Uni. of NSW and a consultant for the Warragamba flood work.

A summary of his comments follow.

The Warragamba catchment is large and produces big floods. 40,000 people live downstream on the Nepean flood-plain. Because of new hydrological knowledge, it is questionable whether the dam can cope with the biggest flood. The dam needs some work.

Four points in the article should be questioned:

* The present plan is for the dam to be increased by 23 metres, but the water level will not be increased. The additional height will catch flood water to 18 m and will only fill in times of big floods (once every 80 years).

* The alternative of a large spillway is not viable as the geology is difficult and people down stream would still be affected by floods.

* The article implies that the design is overkill. There is need for maximum safety otherwise the designers could be charged with criminal negligence.

* There will be a large public input. There is an Environmental Impact Study and specialists and the public will have opportunity to comment.

BUSHLAND CLEARING

Sutherland Council has cleared native heath vegetation adjoining Billa Road at Menai for the development of "Nursery Fields". This is in spite of the fact that the National Trust pointed out to the Council in March the value of the area to the community and that any clearing would threaten the integrity of State Planning Policy No.19 ("Bushland in Urban Areas"). It may also be that the Council has breached the Local Government Act which requires that draft plans of management be prepared for community land. According to Section 44 of the Act, the use of community land must not be changed until a plan of management has been adopted.

SHELLFISH COLLECTION

Recently one of our members reported the collection of many large bags of shells from the rocks south of Garie in the Royal National Park. When approached, the family admitted they had come from the Western Suburbs to get shells for eating.

On further enquiry, a number of disturbing facts have come to light. 1. The National Park rangers have no authority to prevent such illegal activity as the intertidal zone is not within the park. 2. NSW Fisheries control such activity. To charge the offenders, they must catch them in the act. 3. Fisheries have no field officers patrolling in places like the Royal N.P.

In other words, our coastline can be stripped bare of molluscs and no-one is likely to get caught or charged. There is a legal bag limit of shellfish that one person may have in their possession at one time. This is 50 cockles, pipis and mussels; 20 limpets, snails, turban shells.

The Society has written to the Fisheries suggesting that park rangers be allowed to act on behalf of Fisheries, that there be greater policing of sensitive natural areas and that signs indicating Fisheries Regulations in different languages be erected.

KOGARAH BAY DREDGING

Kogarah Council and the Public Works Department are considering options for the dredging of Kogarah Bay. The three options are : A. to dredge a margin around the foreshore. B. to dredge navigation channels in the bay. C. to use the dredged material to construct wildlife islands in the northern section of the bay.

The problems are cost, what to do with the dredged material, the effect on the environment and the need to control siltation to prevent the bay simply filling up again after the dredging. Perhaps the Council should have a stronger voice in opposing sand mining upstream and urban developments in the upper catchments which cause an increase in sediment and fill up Kogarah's bays.

One suggestion which will need close scrutiny is to dispose of the dredged material along the shoreline between Tom Ugly's point and Carss Park and to extend Claydon Reserve with dredged material.

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(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

COMING EVENTS

July 25 (Monday). Species Care. A vital and enlightening talk by Kim Brebach of the Threatened Species Network. Did you know that there are at least 680 "threatened" animals nationally (including over 380 vertebrates) and that a national count of rare and threatened plants in 1988 was 2000 species? Come along and hear what can be done.

July 30 (Saturday). FIELD DAY. A "know your suburbs" walk led by Ralph Newbould. Jannali - Woronora River - Sutherland. Good views of Bonnet Bay and the river. Approximately 13 km. One steep climb. Start at Jannali and finish at Sutherland. Train from Oatley at 8.51am. Meet at Jannali Station at 9am.

August 22 (Monday). SPRING FLOWER NIGHT. Be sure to keep this evening free. Lots of activities, including native plant identification table, wildflowers trivia quiz, weed identification and native plants for sale at reduced prices.

ADVANCE NOTICES - BOOKINGS NEEDED

Saturday, 27 August. FIELD DAY. Muogamarra Nature Reserve, Cowan. A 4-5 hours guided walk to Peats Crater has been organised. There is a steep return ascent at your own pace. Entry fee : \$5 per car. Limited access to this reserve requires advance booking. Would people intending to attend please ring Val Argall as soon as possible to reserve a place. Phone: 579 1874.

Saturday, 24 September. BUS TRIP. Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens. Bookings and money to Val Argall on or before the OFF meeting of 23 August. Cost to be advised at next meeting.

SOCIETY NEWS

* As in previous years, the Society has ordered a number of National Parks Pocket Diaries for 1995. They will be on sale at meetings for \$9.50.

* The Society is to have a stall at two local Lions Club Festivals - one at Gannons Park, Lugarno on Sept. 11, the other at Oatley on Oct. 15. The Committee would appreciate

help for an hour or so on these stalls. A roster will be made up of volunteers at the next meeting.

* Members of OFF will judge a Best Native Garden in a forthcoming Heritage House and Garden Competition.

* National Forest Policy petition. We have been asked to encourage members to complete a petition to the Commonwealth Parliament expressing dismay at the continued destruction of old growth and wilderness forest. Copies of this petition will be distributed at the next meeting.

* The RAOU (Ornithologists) is making a special appeal for funds to protect sea birds. Threats include oil spills, harmful fishing methods, and the danger of swallowing floating rubbish dumped in the ocean. Albatross populations are the worst affected, with 14 species now endangered. A brochure with details will be at the next OFF meeting.

WIRES CONTACT. For help and information on sick and injured native animals, the local WIRES contact is Narelle Salent, tel. 584 8063. Keep this information as you never know when it might be needed.



O.F.F. NEWS



Published by

OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

94/8

August/September, 1994

Price 10 cents

MORE TREES REMOVED

Concerned residents of Marine Drive, Oatley, told our last meeting about three large Sydney red gums (*Angophora costata*) which had recently been cut down. These trees were at least 100 years old and were most likely part of the original tree cover of Oatley. Such action continues the sad but rapid defoliation of our suburbs. The tree cover of our area is a thing of great pride for most residents and is one of the reasons we like to live in the suburb. The removal of one tree one week, another next week, will eventually lead to the wholesale destruction of our trees and a reduction in community values.

The removal was particularly distressing as it seems as though the decision to remove the trees was supported by two Ward Aldermen despite the fact that the Hurstville Council's Tree Preservation Officer had recommended AGAINST the removal of the trees and that the decision went against the Council's own Tree Preservation Order which requires a tree to be dead, dying or dangerous before it can be taken out.

Following the Officer's refusal to grant permission, the property owner called in the Ward Aldermen to make an inspection. Councillor Philip Sansom agreed that the trees should remain, but Councillors Ross Stewart and Alison Bailey supported their removal and took the matter to full Council which approved their destruction.

It is of concern that individual Councillors can act against the principles of the Tree Preservation Order and fail to take into consideration the greater good of the community. After all, if a garage is to be built next door to you, you have the right to comment on the proposal. Surely you should have the same rights to comment if significant trees are to be removed from your vicinity.

By a vote of 50 to 4, the OFF meeting decided to write to Hurstville Council seeking answers and to invite the Ward Aldermen to our next meeting. We have also written to the Aldermen expressing our dismay and disappointment. It is hoped that a future Council meeting will be called to give the Tree Preservation Order more teeth.

CORAL TREES AND RAINBOW LORIKEETS by David Waterhouse

(David, one of our past guest speakers, has been observing the feeding habits of urban birds for some years. In this article he outlines the importance of Coral Trees in the suburbs).

Like most people interested in native flora and fauna, I believe that the suburban bushland remnants in the city are precious and need to be preserved, properly managed and appreciated.

Of late, there has been an increasing need for action to control the many introduced exotics in these few remaining patches of natural vegetation before they alter their character completely. The active control of exotic plants and garden escapes has increased in recent years, with both volunteer groups and local councils starting to make an impact.

While this is commendable and to be encouraged, I would like to sound a note of caution about any plans to totally eradicate or significantly reduce the number of Coral Trees (*Erythrina variegata*) in suburbia for reasons other than their attractive appearance or shade qualities.

Most observant South Sydney people would be aware that in the last decade or so the strikingly beautiful nectar-feeding Rainbow Lorikeet has successfully recolonised much of its former haunts and has adapted well to the new suburban habitat consisting of a mixture of native and introduced vegetation. While it is true that some householders encourage these birds to come to feeding platforms, they do not rely wholly on these for their food and in many cases, seeds, rather than nectar substitutes, are provided at these artificial feeding posts.

Continued over

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(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

COMING EVENTS

August 22 (Monday). SPRING FLOWER NIGHT. A special evening. Lots of activities. Native plant identification table, wildflowers trivia fun quiz (bring a pen), weed identification (bring along that weed and find out what it is), rare and endangered plant sales at \$3 a pot, video from Graham Quint and native plants for sale from Altra Nursery at reduced prices. Don't forget to bring some money.

August 27 (Saturday). FIELD DAY. Muogamarra Nature Reserve. Advance bookings required. Only 5 places left. Contact Val Argall on 579 1874 . A 4-5 hours ranger-guided walk to Peats Crater - steep ascent on return but at casual pace looking at wildflowers. Meet at Reserve. The gate is 3km north of Cowan on the old Pacific Highway; it is 2km from the gates to the parking area. Donation: \$5.00 per car. Meet between 9-9.15am, ready to leave at 9.30am. Cowan is about 1 hour 20 minutes from Oatley. Bring lunch, water, hat and sturdy shoes. Leader: Val Boyan, tel. 533 1013

September 24 (Saturday). BUS TRIP. Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens. Cold climate spring displays, spectacular views, short walk in nearby national park. Cost: \$17 .Reserve your seat by phoning Val Argall on 579 1874 and pay the money at the next meeting. Bus departs Oatley Road, adjacent to Oatley station at 9 am, returning at 5 pm.

CORAL TREES & RAINBOW LORIKEETS (continued)

In summer and autumn, rainbow Lorikeets can choose from a variety of nectar-bearing trees. However, in the cooler months, abundant Coral Tree blossom provides them with their main source of nectar and also corresponds with the start of their breeding period and when young birds need to be fed. The Coral Trees in Moore Reserve and Oatley Pleasure Grounds are a convenient source of nectar to those birds which breed in the cavities of old Blackbutts and Rusty Gums in these remnants of bushland.

If we wish to encourage these engaging parrots to once again become a familiar part of South Sydney's suburbia after an absence of nearly a century, we need to spare some Coral Trees, especially if they are not in direct competition with native species.

SOCIETY NEWS

* As in previous years, the Society has ordered a number of National Parks Pocket Diaries for 1995. It is expected that they will be on sale at the next meeting for \$9.50.

* The Society is to have a stall at two local Lions Club Festivals - one at Gannons Park, Lugarno on Sept. 11, the other at Oatley on Oct. 15. The Committee would appreciate help for an hour or so on these stalls. A roster will be made up of volunteers at the next meeting.

* Keep Australia Beautiful Week is being celebrated this year with an Expo at Bicentennial Park, Homebush Bay, on Sunday September 11, 10 am to 5 pm. There will be workshops on seed propagation, composting, paper making, greening your home and water recycling . For kids, there will be children's theatre, puppet shows and making recycled gifts. You can also join some of Australia's leading athletes and plant a tree on the Olympic site. Bring a picnic and explore the mangrove boardwalk. There will be free buses from Strathfield Station. A brochure on the day will be available at the next OFF meeting.

Hon President : Graham Quint, 16 Evans Street, Peakhurst. 2210. 534 3239

Hon Secretary : Robln Dickson, P.O. Box 52, Mortdale. 2223. 5805663

Hon Editor : Alan Fairlev. P.O. Box 148. Oatley. 2223. 570 8332



94/9

O.F.F. NEWS

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OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

September/October, 1994



Price 10 cents

INDIGENOUS TREE PRESERVATION

Following a request by the July meeting, an invitation was issued to the local Ward Aldermen of Hurstville Council to attend our August meeting to explain the Council's tree removal/preservation policies and, in particular, to explain why three perfectly healthy Sydney red gums were removed recently from a property in Marine Drive.

Divisional Manager, Engineering, Mr Chris Little, the Mayor and Ward Alderman, Bill Pickering and Ward Alderman, Ross Stewart gave up their valuable time to attend the meeting. Councillor Alison Bailey sent her apologies. Councillor Stewart argued for the rights of individuals on private land and for the consideration of each tree removal application on its merits and Councillor Pickering explained the Tree Preservation Policy and the difficulties involved in its application. He argued that Hurstville Council had done a lot to strengthen the Tree Preservation Order and appealed for a co-operative rather than a confrontational approach. These explanations were followed by questions from the members.

Follow-up meeting

The issue was explored in more detail at a round the table meeting at Hurstville Council Chambers on the Tuesday following the meeting (23rd August). Present for the Council were Chris Little, the newly appointed Manager of Parks and Recreation, Andrew Sharp, and Councillor Ross Stewart. Representing the Society and community interests were Graham Quint, Alan Fairley, Joan Ashton, Sharyn Cullis, Andrew Stewart and Nicole Hawick.

Discussion was frank on both sides. There was an obvious need to educate the community about the value of trees and the preservation of indigenous species. 1110 applications had been made to remove or lop trees in the last 6 months. Many of these had been rejected and of those rejected only 17 had been appealed. The Council felt a need for community backing when it makes difficult decisions.

The main direction of the meeting was towards developing guidelines as to what trees were important

and what trees were less valuable as a community asset. Currently a 200 year old native tree, which might be a rare relic of the original forest, is treated the same as a small exotic tree which someone planted in their garden just a few years ago and has grown too large for the site.

Graham Quint presented a proposal which would assess tree on a number of criteria and give it points for such qualities as indigenous, locally rare, significant fauna habitat, fire protection/retardant, historical significance or landmark. Negative points would be for a tree causing damage, being unsound, a fire hazard, common and non indigenous and planted recently. If the tree is assessed above a certain number of points on these criteria then the recommendation should be for retention not removal. This proposal was accepted very positively as it takes away the personal involvement in the decision making process.

Positive outcomes

The meeting had a number of positive outcomes. It was decided to:

- Consider Graham's assessment proposal;
- Consider the notification of the removal of "significant" trees to adjoining neighbours;
- Investigate the re-introduction of "free trees" - to be local indigenous species;
- Service organisations to be approached re assistance in removing leaves from gutters of elderly homeowners.

AUSTRALIAN TREE LOSS

Since 1989, 500 million trees have been planted under the 1 billion trees program, but some 2 billion have been cut down. That is, tree loss is outweighing tree plantings by 4 to 1.

ADDITIONAL WALK

OFF members are invited to join a walk through Wollie Creek bushland on **Sunday, 23 October**. Meet at 10 am at Fauna Street off Hartill-Law Avenue, close to Bardwell Park Station. Easy walk; bring drink and lunch. Contact: Graham Quint, 258 0123 (W), or 534 3239 (H).

Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street,
(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

COMING EVENTS

September 24 (Saturday). BUS TRIP. Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens. Cold climate spring displays, spectacular views, short walk in nearby national park. Cost: \$17. Bus departs Oatley Road, adjacent to Oatley station, at 9 am, returning at 5 pm. There may be some seats still available; ring Lesley Cox on 579.3782 or Alan Fairley on 570.8332.

September 26 (Monday). Returning by special request. TERRY BOYLAN, Curator of Reptiles at Taronga Park Zoo, will talk on **Reptiles of the Sydney Region**. LIVE snakes and lizards!! Those who attended Terry's last talk to the Society will remember the night with fascination and awe (and a little fear?). A great school holiday treat for the children.

October 29-30. Annual camping weekend to Bungleboori, north of Clarence on the way to Newnes Tunnel. More details later, but keep the weekend free.

GRANT FOR BUSH REGENERATION

The Society has been successful in obtaining a grant of \$15,000 from the Environmental Restoration Trust, a State Government system under the control of the Minister for the Environment.

The grant is for the restoration and regeneration of the bushland area beside the Oatley-Como Walkway. This is a small and narrow strip of natural vegetation, containing some species which are now almost extinct in the Kogarah Council area. It is badly infested with lantana, privet and other introduced plants and this grant will help employ a bush regeneration team to remove the exotics.

Local residents adjoining the bushland have been pushing for some clearing and hazard reduction because of the fear of fire, and it is hoped to develop an overall plan between Council, Fire Brigade and the Railways to satisfy the needs of local residents and to keep the best of the bushland.

The Society was unsuccessful in obtaining a grant to compile an inventory of indigenous trees in Oatley and to produce an education kit. Given the recent controversy over tree removal, such an inventory is badly needed.

POCKET DIARIES

As in previous years, the Society has ordered a number of National Parks Pocket Diaries for 1995. They will be on sale at the next meeting for \$9.50. They are an excellent gift to send to relatives or friends overseas.

LIONS CLUB FESTIVAL

The Society is to have a stall at the local Lions Club Festival at Oatley on Oct. 15. The day is a good opportunity to publicise the Society. Come along and say hello or give us a hand on the day.

KOGARAH BUSHLAND

Kogarah Council has approved a plan of management for **Moore Reserve, Oatley**, involving an expenditure of \$1 million over three years.

In the first stage \$465,000 will be spent on improvements to the bushland areas, improving the passive recreation facilities around the picnic area and the creation of a wetland, board-walk, cycleway and footpaths in the northern section of the reserve.

The Council also agreed to undertake a plan of management for **Poulton Park** at a cost of about \$30,000.



O.F.F. NEWS



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OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

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CONSERVATION NEWS

Woodchip licences. Applications to renew woodchip export licences are due to be considered by the Federal Government before the end of 1994. It seems that the Environment Minister, Senator Faulkner, would like to protect old growth forest from being logged, but export licences are issued by the Resources Minister, David Beddall, and he wants to approve licence renewal. Conservationists are urging a methodical approach which will identify environmental values of areas scheduled for woodchipping and hopes the Keating Government does not bow to the pressure of companies such as Harris-Daishowa and Sawmillers Exports.

Wilderness backdown. Once again the Fahey Government has given in to the pressure from its redneck National partners. Of eleven promised areas, three were dropped and three others were drastically reduced to accommodate horse-riding, off-road vehicles and fishing.

Restoring the Waters Project. Australian Conservation Foundation has announced a project to establish an integrated process whereby natural water courses and man - made drainage systems are interconnected. This will help manage the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater. It is centred around the rehabilitation of large concrete canals and degraded creek systems.

AWARE

A.W.A.R.E. stands for Australian Wildlife Ambulance Rescue Emergencies Inc. It is a voluntary organisation which maintains a telephone service for the public to request help for native animals in distress. Ken Griffiths told us about rescuing snakes and lizards, but any native animal can be given assistance. For information, phone 525 0010.

ADDITIONAL WALK

OFF members are invited to join a walk through Wollie Creek bushland on **Sunday, 23 October**. Meet at 10 am at Fauna Street off Hartill-Law Avenue, close to Bardwell Park Station. Easy walk; bring drink and lunch. Contact: Graham Quint, 258 0123 (W), or 534 3239 (H).

SOCIETY NEWS

*** Over 100 people attended our last meeting. Our speaker, Terry Boylan of Taronga Park's Reptile Section, was unfortunately ill and unable to attend but his place was ably taken by Ken Griffiths who had some wonderful slides of Sydney reptiles. The bus trip to Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens was also most enjoyable, although the bus broke down just before Mt Tomah and we had less time for our walk than we had intended.

***Don't forget that members have the opportunity to comment on any aspect of OFF or conservation matters during Members' Forum - a few minutes is set aside prior to the guest speaker.

*** The next meeting with Hurstville Council of the Working Party reviewing the Tree Preservation Order procedures will be held on Tuesday, 8 November at 7pm. A written account of the previous meeting (14 September) will be available for interested members at the next meeting.

****The River in Sydney's Backyard* - a video on catchment management has just been received by the Society. It is available for borrowing and would be particularly useful for showing to school students. It runs for 26 minutes. Presented by Robyn Williams of the ABC Science Show, the video takes a bird's eye view of the Georges River catchment from the oil refineries of Botany Bay to the pristine headwaters of O'Hares Creek.

Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street,
(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

COMING EVENTS

October 24 (Monday). Neville Clough presents **COCOS ISLAND**, a talk and slide presentation of the history, natural features and the people of this seldom visited island. Cocos Island lies in the Indian Ocean, half way between Perth and Colombo. It has had a most interesting history. Neville was in charge of the Civil Aviation Staff on the Island for more than 2 years. He knows its history and its characters well. Another top night!!

October 29-30 . Annual camping weekend to Bungleboori, north of Clarence on the way to Newnes Tunnel in the Blue Mountains. Bungleboori is in Newnes State Forest, 9 or 10 km by reasonable dirt road from Clarence. Turn off Bell Line of Road to your right at Clarence on the first road after the tarred road to the colliery. Toilet and washing facilities basic; bring own water. Great walks, wildflowers and enjoyable company. Meet at Govetts Leap car park, Blackheath, at 10am Saturday, for a walk to Pulpit Rock. Arrive at camp ground in the afternoon. Short walks to pagoda rocks on Sunday. Contact: Val Argall, 579 1874. You are asked to ring Val and register if you intend going on the weekend. Because of the unseasonal temperatures and dry winds, we need to have everyone's telephone number in case the national park is closed and we need to cancel the trip.

PUBLIC LAUNCH - GREA

The Georges River Environmental Alliance invites all OFF members to the public launch of the group during Waterweek. **When?** Sat. 22 October, 2pm-4pm. **Where?** Georges River Education Centre, Crn Homestead & Central Ave, Chipping Norton.

The programme includes Bob Wilson (ex Water Board) and David Hughes (Nepean-Hawkesbury lobby group) as speakers, workshop sessions with local politicians and councillors, and display stands on urban bushland and river protection.

Why not have a picnic at the Lake adjacent to the venue or join either of the two guided walks of Chipping Norton Lake, leaving at 11.30am and 12.30pm?

POCKET DIARIES National Parks Pocket Diaries for 1995 will be on sale at the next meeting for \$9.50. They are an excellent gift to send to relatives or friends overseas.

BARGAIN STALL

Val Boyan gives advance notice that there will be a bargain stall at the **November** meeting. Jams, novelties, Xmas specials.

SMIGGIN HOLES, KOSCIUSKO N.P.

Win and Norm Tonkin's chalet at Smiggin Holes will be available for us again early next year. Come and enjoy a week or a fortnight walking in the Snowy Mts in summer. Cost: \$250 a double per week, children free. Dates: 21 to 28 January; 28 January to 4 February inclusive. Ring Robin Dickson, 580 5663, for bookings or see her at the next meeting.

OATLEY PARK BURN-OFF

OFF had no objections to the limited fuel reduction burn recently in Oatley Park. A strip of about 100 metres facing Dame Mary Gilmore Drive was burnt to protect houses against wild fire. The Park has not seen a large fire for many years and it is hoped that the burn will encourage the regrowth of native plants in areas that were starting to look very tired.

However, there was one sour note. The burn-off was done on a day of predicted high winds and the fire escaped containment lines. It burnt the only two known plants of the rare *Personia hirsuta*. It will be interesting to see if these plants reshoot or regrow from seed.



94/11

OFF NEWS

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Price 10 cents

TWO IMPORTANT GATHERINGS

The month of October saw two gatherings which will have long-term importance for conservation of the environment in southern Sydney. On Saturday, 22 October, the Georges River Environmental Alliance was launched and on the following Saturday, 29 October, the National Parks and Wildlife Service launched the Draft Plan of Management for Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garawarra SRA at a gathering at Audley.

GREa launch. Over 150 people attended this gathering including a number of politicians and conservationists from action groups along the entire length of the river. Politicians who attended were Morris Iemma (Hurstville), Pat Rogan (East Hills), Craig Knowles (Moorebank), Brian Langton (Kogarah), Pam Allen (Shadow Minister for the Environment) and Richard Jones (MLC, representing the Leader of the Opposition, Bob Carr). Liberal local members Chris Downy and Terry Griffiths sent staff members along to represent them. It is pleasing to note that our local politicians have taken an interest in this matter and put aside valuable time to attend such a function.

Special guest, David Hughes of the Hawkesbury-Nepean lobby group CHANGE, told the audience that ordinary taxpayers subsidise the cost of developing and servicing new outlying suburbs by up to \$60,000 a lot. Bob Wilson, ex Water Board Managing Director, said that large housing developments upstream, together with garbage tips and sandmining, pose massive threats to the Georges River. The Convenor of GREa, Robert Balzola, promised that the Alliance would lobby the authorities for funding to protect the Georges River before this important natural and

recreational resource was pushed beyond the point of no return.

Draft Plan of Management. Conservationists have been waiting a long time for a plan of management for Royal and Heathcote National Parks. It was finally launched by the NPWS Director General, Robyn Kruk, at Audley on 29 October. Alan Fairley represented OFF.

The Draft Plan covers such issues as fire management, protection of flora, fauna and historic sites, weed eradication, track siting and maintenance, feral animals, camping and policy towards the cabins in the park.

The Draft Plan is on display and is available at NPWS., First Floor, 43 Bridge Street, Hurstville (behind the Bakery Museum) All members are encouraged to read the document and to make comment on it if needed. The final date for public comment is 20 February 1995.

FROM KOGARAH COUNCIL

Kogarah Council's meeting of 22 August authorised Council officers to proceed "with the preparation and distribution of a *Caring for Bushland Reserves* leaflet and that \$2600 be allocated from the Working Funds surplus for this purpose". The motion was moved by a good friend of OFF, Councillor Susan Gainsford. This leaflet is probably based on the idea originating with the OFF Committee late last year; a design was submitted by us to Kogarah Council.

FROM HURSTVILLE COUNCIL

A trial free green waste mulching site has been established at Heritage Park, Boatwright Ave, Peakhurst until December 3. Take your tree and shrub cuttings to the site and exchange them for the equivalent of mulch for your garden.

Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street,
(near the corner of Letitia Street), Oatley.

Please make yourself known as you come in.

It is intended that meetings commence promptly at 7.45 pm.

Visitors and children are welcome to attend all meetings and field days.

COMING EVENTS

November 28 (Monday). Sailing on the BOUNTY. Photographs and talk from Peter Galton, a professional cameraman, who sailed with the Bounty replica from Mauritius to Fremantle. As usual at this the last meeting for the year, there will be a get-together and supper after the talk. Please bring a plate of "goodies". Val Boyan will also have a **bargain stall** at the meeting - jams, novelties and Christmas specials.

POCKET DIARIES Only two left!!

Last chance for National Parks Pocket Diaries for 1995; on sale at the next meeting for \$9.50. They are an excellent gift to send to relatives overseas.

SMIGGIN HOLES, KOSCIUSKO N.P.

Win and Norm Tonkin's chalet at Smiggin Holes will be available for us again early next year. Come and enjoy a week or a fortnight walking in the Snowy Mts in summer. Cost: \$250 a double per week, children free. Dates: 21 to 28 January; 28 January to 4 February inclusive. Ring Robin Dickson, 580 5663, for bookings or see her at the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 1995

The Committee has decided to recommend to the next general meeting that fees remain at \$10 per household, but that the concession membership fee be abolished. This is because the concession fee no longer adequately covers the main expense against membership - the printing and delivery of the *OFF News*. The recommendation will be open for discussion at the general meeting.

NEW BOOK :ESD from A to Z

Dr Fred Bell, an OFF member and former senior lecturer at UNSW, has written this basic information resource book on **ESD (Ecologically Sustainable Development)**. It is a concise and up-to-date reference book on the closely linked issues of environmental protection, natural resources and sustainable development. It includes explanations of 295 items in alphabetical order from Acid Rain to ZPG and case studies from business, education and local government. It will be especially useful to students and all who wish to come to grips with current environmental/resource issues.

Because it was produced with the aid of a grant from the Environmental Trust, it can be sold for only \$8.50, including postage. Send your cheque to: Total Environment Centre, 1/88 Cumberland St, Sydney.

BUSH REGENERATION : YARRAN ROAD

In late 1992, OFF received a grant from the Environmental Trusts to carry out bush regeneration work at the bottom of Yarran Road, Oatley, west of the rail bridge over Georges River. A team of bush regenerators from the National Trust were employed to carry out the task. Their final report has now been received and it shows clearly the effort it takes to restore damaged bushland.

The site had areas of dense weed adjacent the road edge and below houses caused when road construction pushed fill over the slope and by long-term dumping of garden refuse. Stormwater run-off into the bush increased the problems. Sewer construction had disturbed part of the reserve and encouraged the invasive native *Pittosporum undulatum* to take over and reduce light levels to the detriment of other native species.

Work commenced in March 1993 and over 18 months around 1295 hours of work were spent on the area. The primary work was to remove weeds like lantana, fishbone fern, asparagus fern and morning glory. Banks were stabilised and the stormwater outlet was defined, with rocks to trap silt and rubbish. Seedlings grown from locally collected seeds were planted in weeded areas. Secondary or follow-up work included removal of those weeds which had regrown, especially such problem species as wandering jew, introduced grasses and *Thunbergia*. A prescribed burn was carried out on part of the site in June 1994 to reduce levels of fuel and also to promote the regeneration of native species.

Now the core of the reserve is weed free, the steep slopes have been stabilised and planted, the *Pittosporum* has been culled and the control burn should encourage native seedlings. Hurstville Council has allotted extra funding which will help the National Trust carry out follow-up work.

Why not visit the reserve and see the results??

Hon President : Graham Quint, 16 Evans Street, Peakhurst. 2210. 534 3239

Hon Secretary : Robin Dickson, P.O. Box 52, Mortdale. 2223. 5805663

Hon Editor : Alan Fairlev. P.O. Box 148. Oatley. 2223. 570 8332