



O.F.F. NEWS



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March/April 2008

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

The site for O.F.F. on Clean Up Australia Day was Poulton Park, Hurstville Grove. Thirteen members attended collecting 26 bags of rubbish. About a third of the bags, filled with drink containers were recyclable. There was less rubbish upstream this year than previously, but about the same amount as last time on the bay side. [Report by site coordinator, Liz Cameron].

CONSERVATION ON CAMPUS

Dr Fred Bell spoke at the last OFF meeting on plans to make Newcastle University's Ourimbah Campus a model of ecological sustainability. The plans require the beautiful bushland setting and adjoining forest habitats to be preserved, the Campus to become self-sufficient in water and electrical power supplies, and all waste to be recycled.

THE CREMORNE WALK

Twenty one OFF members blessed the meteorological gods as Saturday 1st March dawned with clear skies. The weather remained magnificent all day. The Harbour looked beautiful and the walk from Cremorne Point to Taronga Zoo wharf was much enjoyed. The focus on domestic architecture 1903-1940 proved most interesting and the pathways were sumptuous. Special thanks go to the lady who invited us onto her balcony to view her house [former Fijian Consulate] and its surrounds. Thanks also to the possum that entertained us from the branches of a shady tree and the black rabbit boldly eating grass near Mosman wharf. Well done to North Sydney Council with its huge sign against tree poisoners. Best wishes to the crew of the sailing boat swamped in the harbour who declined our ferry's offer of help, saying they were expecting a tow. [Report by Julian Sheen - Walk Leader]

LAST CALL-ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Is your 2008 subscription overdue? Please note that, according to the Constitution, membership ceases if payment is not made by 31st March.

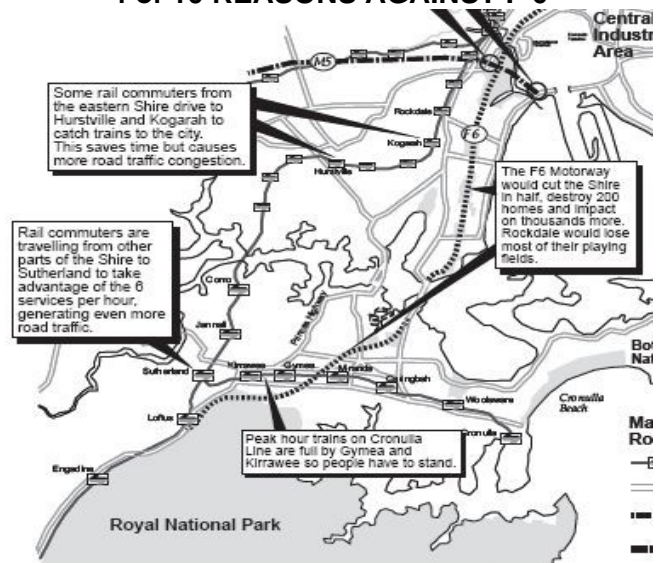
OATLEY PARK

Although Oatley Park and adjoining reserves contain little more than half a square kilometre of bushland, animals can move between this and larger reserves along the Georges and Woronora rivers through swamps, tidal flats and other natural corridors. It is a significant conservation reserve and home to about 320 species of native plants. There have been reports of echidnas, wallabies, koalas, wombats and platypus within 20 km of this area. <http://off.oatleypark.com/flora.html>

USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

As we become more aware of the problems associated with the over use of cars we seek to drive our cars less. Recent news media reports indicate that numbers are going up on trains and buses. However, buses are not being extensively used in areas like Oatley where there is little advertising, timetables are hard to find, and certainly not easy to read. There are almost no adults on unlisted buses from Oatley West to Mortdale at 7 and 8 AM. Buses leave Hurstville station at various times during the day and some will go to Oatley West "on request". For more information T 91538787 or www.punchbowlbus.com.au

4 of 10 REASONS AGAINST F 6



<http://www.ssec.org.au/carts/downloads/10ReasonsFinal.pdf>

Meetings of the Society are held at the Uniting Church Hall Fredrick St [cnr Letitia St] Oatley starting at 7.45pm, usually on the fourth Monday of the month.

Visitors and accompanied children are welcome to all meetings and excursions.

COMING EVENTS

- **31st March (Monday)** 'Wetland birds of Moore Reserve', Oatley Presentation **Speaker: David Waterhouse** examining the positive effects of the restoration of the Limekiln Bay and Moore reserve wetlands on Oatley's bird populations.
- **April 6th (NB Sunday *)** *Please note that the walk for April printed in the OFF program had to be changed as the Cowan Creek track is still closed following last year's bushfires.* The walk now will be **Hunters Hill to Lane Cove National Park**, part of *the Great North Walk*. The whole walk is about 13km, but you can leave after 9 km. Fairly level track beside Lane Cove River. Lots of views, historic sites (Fairlyland, old Fiddens Wharf) and lovely bushland. Meet at Druitt St bus stop (near Kent St, beside Town Hall) at 9.05am for 9.13am bus no 506. Alight at Hunters Hill Hotel where walk will begin. Return by bus to Chatswood Station. **Leader Alan Fairley** (tel 9570 8332) will be catching the 8.17am train from Oatley.
- **April 28th (Monday)**, Oatley Presentation -**Speaker: Erin Dixon (Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority)** 'Managing Natural Resources within Sydney'

EARTH HOUR

You are reminded that Earth Hour is on 29th March at 8pm. You are asked to turn off your electric lights for an hour as a gesture in fighting global warming. To emphasise the message we suggest that you light a lantern or fire-safe candle in a prominent place to indicate that the "electric darkness" is intentional, and not just because you are out. See: www.earthhour.org.

MYLES DUNPHY RESERVE

OFF has written again to Hurstville Council regarding Council's decisions on the former bowling club site adjacent to the Reserve. OFF continues to argue that the site should be zoned for specific recreation (6A Zoning) with open discussion and detailed consultation with the community. It is not yet clear if the Council's study of the reserve has been completed and whether its report will be made public.

GARBAGE RE-USED

Recycling garbage is clearly important in caring for the planet, helping to reduce carbon emissions and re using material that would otherwise pollute the environment. Looking at the use of red, yellow and green bins in the neighbourhood, it does not appear that everyone is using the system efficiently. Some use only the red and some only the yellow bin. On one estimate, Sydney households generate 1.8 million tonnes of garbage a year. Most goes to the tip and only about 20 % is recycled, even though 90% of those surveyed favoured recycling.

RECYCLING WATER

Kogarah Council, Beverley Park Golf Course, Sydney Water and Copa Water are backing a recycling project on the Beverley Park Golf Course. The sewer mining plant can produce 200 kilolitres/day of class water. infolink.com.au/articles

PLANT CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

21-24 April at Mulgoa [//www.anpc.asn.au/conferences](http://www.anpc.asn.au/conferences)



A HELPING HAND!

It is good when people who have found a lost pet go to a lot of trouble to locate the owner. In this case the search for a cat owner may be in vain.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY [ICE]

It is recommended that you have an emergency number listed on your mobile phone [if any] under the heading of ICE with a name next to it. If you are in an accident, the ambulance or police can then easily contact the person nominated.

GEORGES RIVER COMBINED COUNCILS

The Combined Councils Committee has nine Councils working together to lobby for the protection of the River. It manages the 'Riverkeeper Program', designed to rehabilitate the river and to ensure its sustainable future. If you have any queries about the health of the River contact the Committee through your local Council. P191 of: Kogarah Council Report_06-07.pdf

ENDING INJURED ANIMALS' HOTLINE

Telstra states that its decision to cut the "triple 0 line" for injured native animals in April was "due to the implementing of new technology". Others suggest that this regrettable decision has been taken because the line was not making enough money.

OFF NOTE

"We were puzzled, if not a little alarmed, when our 5 year old daughter at dinner announced that her teacher keeps talking about naked trees and how we must take care of them. She then asked if we had any around our house. We sometime later worked out that the teacher was talking about native trees."