



O.F.F. NEWS



Published by
**OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA
CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**

Print Post App. No. PP 255003/03239

Since 1955

Issue: 2008/11

See OFF's Website at - <http://off.oatleypark.com>

Nov/Dec 2008

OATLEY ELECTORATE COMMUNITY AWARDS

I was delighted to nominate our retiring committee secretary Faye Coughlan for the Oatley Flora and Fauna component of the Electorate Community Awards on Thursday evening (6th November). Local M.P. Kevin Green presented the awards to various community groups and Faye proudly joined with the other recipients. The function was very well attended, especially by OFF members supporting Faye.

Faye has done a great job as secretary over the last four years and will be missed in that position. Fortunately she will stay on the OFF committee and continue in the vital role of Welfare Officer.

[Report by Julian Sheen, OFF President]

LITHGOW FIELD TRIP: 8th NOV 2008

59 travelled, 49 by train, 11 by car. We filled the top deck of the train carriage there and back. 4 children were part of the group and showed an interest in all of the proceedings. At Lithgow we went by the Jones Bros bus to the *Lithgow and District Community Native Plant Nursery*. It started in 1992 and propagates local species, distributing some 7000 plants each year. The volunteer staff gave us an informative talk and tour of the nursery. Our next stop was the *Secret Creek Sanctuary of Australian Ecosystems Foundation*. Trevor Evans, the owner, explained the origin and purpose of the sanctuary. After a delightful lunch we split into groups for an instructive tour of the 10 acre site. Of particular interest was the Quoll breeding program, and several emus and wallabies greeted us cautiously. We assembled for a photo for the Lithgow Mercury, and the bus then took us on a short trip around Lithgow and on to the 3.36 pm train. It was a most interesting and informative day, truly in harmony with OFF's objective of stimulating interest in and protection of Australian flora and fauna. [Report by the Director of the field day, John Watters]

BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS

Brush-tail possums are about the size of a cat with large ears, a pink nose and very large eyes. They are born one at a time, remain in pouch for 5 months, and are independent at 7 months. They are moving in with humans. If you need to move one, it is best to check with *Wires*. Note that a resident possum in your garden will keep other possums away. They are opportunistic eaters and may even eat an unprotected sausage from a barbecue. [Wires Fact Sheet]

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.

PEAK OIL

At the October meeting Graham Fry, an engineer and OFF member, spoke on Peak Oil. That is the point at which oil extraction reaches its maximum rate, and oil supplies begin to go into terminal decline. He presented illustrative graphs and charts with an analysis from various scientific sources. He showed that in the not-too-distant future oil will be less available and correspondingly more expensive. With the world becoming ever more dependent on oil and its products, this will happen even if new oil fields were to be discovered. The picture Graham painted was worrying, but, on the positive side, as he suggested, alternatives can and must be found; these will necessarily depend on local resources and require more community interaction, much in harmony with OFF's objectives.

WILDLIFE IN OATLEY PARK

The Atlas of NSW Wildlife records 8 species of lizards, 6 species of snakes and 2 species of frogs for Oatley Park and its surrounds but many of these records are old and most are rarely if ever seen today. The Eastern Water Dragon is one species often sighted along the creek which flows into Lime Kiln wetlands.

TREES

Our strange and wonderful native trees give the whole Australian landscape its unique appearance and feel: the lofty gums of the towering southern forests with their raw-boned elbows, gangling limbs and festoons of bark; the eerie ghost gums of the arid centre, the stern, claw-footed red gums standing guard on inland riverbanks. [Extract from *If Trees Could Speak*, by Bob Beale].

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Oatley's Lithgow Pilgrimage" The Lithgow Mercury of Nov 6th 2008 used this headline when reporting the OFF Lithgow field day [see above]. The article described OFF members as "well informed enthusiasts". And who would argue with that?

SNOWY MOUNTAINS 2009.

The escape to Smiggins Chalet will be from **Saturday 17th to 24th Jan 2009**. 17 members [9 rooms worth] have expressed an interest in this ever popular get-away. Please confirm your intention by contacting Robin Dickson on 9580 5663 as soon as possible for bookings. Robin is also happy to answer any queries. Tariff per night: \$95 per couple, double or share [with \$45 for an extra adult], \$75 single and \$35 per child.

COMING EVENTS

- Nov 24th 7.45 **Regular Monthly Meeting with Edward Duyker** speaking on **French zoologist Francois Peron**. Péron is described as the first informed zoologist to land in Australia. He collected an enormous amount of material and his extensive fieldwork and attention to detail was ahead of its time. The talk will be followed by a **Social Supper**.
- Dec 8th (Monday) 5pm **OFF Picnic/BBQ at the Steam roller in Oatley Park**. See below
- Feb 2nd 2009 (Monday) **OFF Annual General Meeting, Election of Officers, Members' photos and Social Supper**.

OATLEY'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT?

The Kogarah Council website, quoted in *The Leader* of 4th Nov refers to Oatley's village shopping area as a "CBD" and recommends a number of developments there. Some, like a lift at the station, seem positive. Others are not so clear. Cutting into the park for new parking spaces and barring traffic from passing by the Clock are examples that require much more discussion and yet the time for submissions has closed. www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au/]

OFF COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 2009

Several of the present Committee have indicated that they will not be seeking re-election at the 2009 AGM on 2nd February. The Committee has 15 elected members, and meets monthly, usually on the Monday after the monthly meeting. The Committee attends to correspondence, financial matters, policies and activities. If the idea appeals to you of becoming a committee member, please contact one of the present members before the AGM. They can advise on just how rewarding the roles can be.

BECOME AN OFF MEMBER

How can you hear a great speaker every month, keep informed on conservation issues, help protect your environment, meet people in a stimulating and friendly atmosphere, learn about our environment, wildlife and native plants on family-friendly monthly walks, and all for \$25 (family) a year?. Easy! Join *Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Society*. You can obtain an application form from the Membership Officer on 9580 5663, or off.oatleypark.com/documents

INDIAN MYNAS

These pest birds feed mainly on fruits, berries, grains, flower nectar and insects. However, they are also known to eat pet food and food scraps. What can you do to help get rid of them?

- Plant a range of native plants to provide protection for native animals.
- Cover gaps in buildings and eaves to block any active nest or roost entrances – lice carriers!
- Do not leave food scraps or pet food outside.
- Place a fake snake in a tree.
- Put up a picture of a hawk or other bird of prey on a window of your house.
- Place old CDs around your garden.
- Continually shoo Indian Mynas away.
- Try not to feed native or introduced birds as this encourages pest species. bankstown.nsw.gov.au/

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

For those interested in NPA events, please see the Southern Sydney website at www.npansw.org.au/

OFF Picnic in The Park, 1st December. This is the day for our annual Christmas get-together. It will be near the steamroller in Oatley Park after 5.30pm. **Bring your own** food, drinks, picnic chairs, table etc. Barbecues may not be possible if any fire danger.

BRIEFLY

Tag Along Tour, Sun 23 November J Marlow, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon. jacqui.marlow@optusnet.com.au

Wildlife of Southern Sydney slide show 26th Nov Sutherland NPA NSW phone 9299 0000

"Reserves of Oatley", 28th Nov, 10.30 am. This is the subject of a talk by Rafe Kowron to the *Oatley Heritage Group*, in the Community Hall, Oatley Library. If you are interested in attending or might have some information relating to the topic, contact the Group on Ph 9570 7201 heritage@exemail.com.au.

Earth Festival, 29 Nov A multi-arts entertainment event designed to promote love of the natural environment. Tickets: \$35 Adults, children under ten years free if accompanied by an adult. 12:00pm to 10:00pm at Centennial Park, Sydney. www.earthfestival.com.au

Ocean Care Day, 30th Nov, 12-4pm Bondi Pavilion Information Marine Discovery Centre 9300 0974

Sustainability in the Pub, Wed 3 Dec, 6.30 -8.30pm. At the Agincourt Hotel cnr Harris St, Broadway. Topic is "How do we get to a world without carbon pollution?" with Mark Diesendorf and Les Robinson.

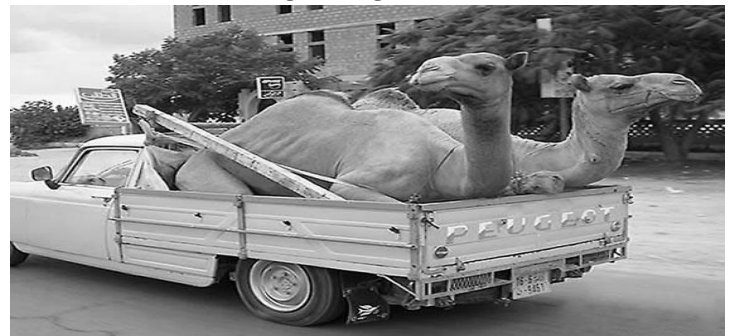
Register with judy.christie@cma.nsw.gov.au

Free Trees To Offset Carbon Emissions Up to 2000 trees will be made available free of charge in the Blue Mountains area to interested residents and community groups.

OFF SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2009

As for 2008, the annual subscription for 2009 will be \$25 per person or family (at the same address). You may pay this early, if you wish, by mailing a cheque to P.O. Box 52 Mortdale 2223 or by paying at the meeting on 24th November.

OFF NOTE



Twin Cams.



Oatley's lost trees

A paper from a project in
Ecopsychology, Social Ecology -
University of Western Sydney
> [Download PDF here \(1.9mb\)](#)

Upcoming

Walks & talks - come along!

>> [Download full 2008 program](#)

OFF Newsletters online

Download the current newsletter
or any from the archive since 2003.

>> [View newsletters](#)

ARCHIVE 2003-2005

The many stories and photos from previous years have been archived to a separate page.

> [CLICK HERE](#) to view.



**Download FlashPlayer to
properly view this site**

Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Society, Inc - © 2003 - 2007 All rights reserved.