



# O.F.F. NEWS



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Since 1955

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

Sept/Oct 2008

## **WALK: SYLVAN GROVE AUG 30<sup>th</sup>**

Perfect pre Spring weather added to the occasion for the 19 members who joined the walk. Sylvan Grove Garden is a credit to Bankstown Council. Staff member Jim led us through the extensive range of native plants; and, at times, Greenhood orchids carpeted the ground. The Boardwalk allowed a leisurely procession with panoramic views along the Georges River. This was followed by the Yeramba Lagoon circuit walk, and the indigenous plants there provided a climax to a most enjoyable day. [Report by Walk Leader: Heather Mackey]

## **THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE**

Julian Sheen spoke at the last meeting about his driving adventure crossing the Gibson and Great Sandy Deserts from Wiluna north-east to Halls Creek along the track that was once used as a stock route. He gave details and showed beautiful photos of the unusual flora, of the remote track, and of some of the 51 wells constructed for the watering of stock. He spoke of the tough conditions, difficult roads, mechanical breakdowns, sand dunes, stony outcrops and corrugations that had to be faced to complete the journey.

## **GREEN POWER**

This is energy generated by renewable sources such as wind, solar, hydro and biomass. You can choose to have part of your electricity from this source. Government accreditation ensures the energy sources are new and environmentally beneficial. [www.greenelectricitywatch.com](http://www.greenelectricitywatch.com)

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Australia can become an admired leader in addressing climate change. And 2008 is the year it can be done! Professor Garnaut's Climate Review has made it clear that if we do not tackle climate change, we have so much to lose, including our Great Barrier Reef and the Murray-Darling which is not only our food bowl, but the source of many of our iconic cultural images. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre suggests a letter to politicians along these lines. <http://www.ssec.org.au>

## **DID YOU HEAR THAT, KU-RING-GAI?**

The "Planning and Heritage" Minister announced that in Ku-ring-gai there is going to be a net 10,000 additional dwellings over the next 25 years for that area to carry its share of the mandatory increase in Sydney's population.

Quentin Dempster: Stateline 24/08/08

## **OLIVE WHAITE**

Harry Whaite and Family express their most sincere thanks to OFF members for their expressions of sympathy over the recent passing of Olive, with a special thanks to the many who attended her funeral service. Olive was much involved, and much remembered in OFF, made a significant contribution to the Society, a committee member for 11 years, and OFF News Editor, later Minutes Secretary, each for 3 years.

## **THE OFF COMMITTEE**

With the AGM approaching the Committee would like to hear from OFF members who would be interested in standing for the committee. The Society much depends on the work of the committee, and new committee members would soon discover how rewarding participation is for the individual and the committee. New committee members will be particularly welcome.

## **LIONS FESTIVAL OATLEY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**



Each year, on the 3rd Saturday in October the streets and parks of Oatley are transformed into a sea of stalls, entertainment, rides and music. OFF is running a stall and is seeking volunteers to "person" it. [oatleylions.org.au/](http://oatleylions.org.au/)

## **SPEAKERS FOR OFF MEETINGS NEXT YEAR.**

If you have any suggestions please contact Melina Amerasinghe on 9580 1504.

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## **LAST NOTE ON OFF'S ANNUAL DINNER**

	**The 2008 Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 7 pm at South Hurstville R.S.L.**	
	72 Connells Point Rd, South Hurstville (almost	
	cnr of King Georges Rd) in the South Lounge.	
	Cost \$32 per person for a comprehensive Buffet	
	including Cold Platters, Roast Carvery, Hot	
	Dishes, Salads, Desert, Bread Rolls and Tea or	
	Coffee with mints. Drinks can be purchased at	
	the bar.	
	**Robin Dickson** will be taking bookings and	
	accepting payment at the September meeting, or	
	can be contacted on 9580 5663.	

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*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

- **Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> (Monday) 7.45 Regular Monthly Meeting with Ian Drinnan**, Manager and Principal Environmental Scientist, Environmental Unit, Sutherland Shire Council speaking on **Menai Flowers**.
- **Sept 27<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) Field Day - Blue Mountains National Park** Leura to Katoomba. Assemble at 32 Oatley Ave Katoomba [left off Lurline St, near cnr Stephen St] by 10.15. Cars will take walkers to Gordon Falls Lookout, and we will proceed along the Prince Henry Cliff Walk, with significant stops and views, including Leura Cascades, to Echo Pt and then on to Katoomba Falls Park. If travelling by train, board the rear carriage departing Central at 8.18am. *Train travellers must let us know* so that someone will be at Katoomba station to meet you at about 10.22. Total walk time 4 to 4½ hours, some inclines and descents, many with steps but with some eroded paths. Remember water, food, hats and good walking shoes. **Leaders - Judith Malcolm and John Davoren**, Contact on mob 0431 703 621.
- **Oct 18<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) Lions' Spring Festival Oatley** - see the note on page 1.
- **Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 7.45 Regular Monthly Meeting with Graham Fry** speaking on **Preparing for Peak Oil**.
- **Oct 31<sup>st</sup> OFF Annual Dinner** at R.S.L. South Hurstville - do not forget to book - see note page 1.
- **Nov 8<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) Field Day: Secret Creek Wildlife Sanctuary Lithgow**. The train leaves Central at 8.22am and Lithgow at 3.36 pm. Cost of \$25 includes bus hire [but not the train], lunch and entry to the sanctuary. **Leader John Watters**. *Payment must be made to John at or before the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept meeting*. Contact him at 9543 1096 for registration and any queries.

### PUBLIC MEETING- THE BOWLING CLUB SITE

*Friends of Oatley Inc* arranged this on 1<sup>st</sup> September to address Hurstville City Council's intentions on the Oatley Bowling Club site. Some 150 attended the well organised meeting, strongly endorsed the site's retention as a public area, and called for real public consultation about the site's future. [www.friendsofoatley.com](http://www.friendsofoatley.com).

### TREE REPLACEMENT

Kogarah Council is talking of planting deciduous trees to replace some of the poplars which have been removed in recent years in Oatley Gardens along Oatley Parade. To which one can only say, "why not plant Blackbutts or Angophoras?" These will grow to a substantial size, and we certainly need large trees in our parks, since they are not being planted in the streets or in private gardens. Some Kogarah Citizens may like to write along these lines to Kogarah Council!

### THE PORT BOTANY EXPANSION

Preliminary work is taking place. Dredging and construction will follow for 24 hours a day until 2012. The impact on the environment from the construction and operation of the port will be significant. Unfortunately, *Save Botany Beach* (SBB) and other community organisations could not prevent the port expansion. The NSW Government decided to construct at twice the size recommended by an independent Commission of Inquiry, and at a cost above \$1billion <http://www.savebotanybeach.com>.

### BREAKING THE CLIMATE DEADLOCK

A move in this direction was launched in Chiba, Japan, on 20th March 2008 aiming to build decisive political support among the key players - US, EU, China, India, Japan and Russia. The aim is an international agreement on climate change and the strategies needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with those advocated by the scientific consensus. [theclimategroup.org/](http://theclimategroup.org/)

### WIRES RESCUERS ?

Specialise in the rescue of native animals; relocate them from unsuitable environments. WIRES are looking for people to take on this and related roles. Contact [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au) Phone 13000 094 737

### BRIEFLY

**Wetland Care Art Competition** To celebrate World Wetlands Day 2009 on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, WetlandCare Australia is hosting an Australia-Wide Art Competition, with categories for both children and adults, and also offering a Primary School Prize.

[www.wetlandcare.com.au](http://www.wetlandcare.com.au)

**Green is Good** Jeff Angel of The Total Environment Centre has just released this book on climate change and public awareness.

**On Borrowed Time** CSIRO has developed this computer program for students on the issues of environmental conservation. It is to be sent to every secondary school and is available on [www.publish.csiro.au](http://www.publish.csiro.au)

**Free Biodiversity Conference** on Sunday 21 Sept, 9.30 to 4pm at Turramurra Masonic Hall with guest speakers, including internationally recognised ecologist, Professor Andy Beattie. For information contact Environmental Defender's Office - New South Wales (Ltd) [www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/](http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/)

**Healthy People Healthy Parks**. This is a program of events and activities that highlight the benefits of a healthy park system and life. Info: 1300 361 967 [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/)

**Lost Gardens of Sydney** Title both of a recent book by Colleen Morris and of a display currently at the Museum of Sydney

### OFF NOTE courtesy of Nicholson

