



O.F.F. NEWS



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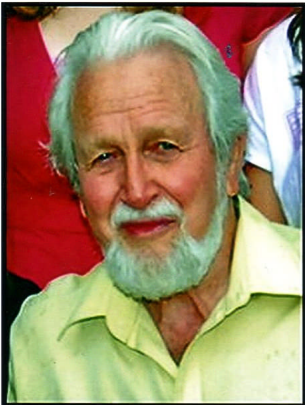
Since 1955

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

Aug/Sept 2009

VALE FRED BELL

Frederick Charles Bell



12th Sept 1932 - 22nd July 2009

Fred was a very active member of Oatley Flora and Fauna for seventeen years. He held the positions of Vice President for two years, Committee Member for eight and Editor of the OFF newsletter for four. As editor, he was able to draw on many contacts for news items, including those from the Total Environment Centre of which he was a foundation member.

Fred grew up in Rockdale area and was a significant leader in the Scout movement.

Dr. Frederick C. Bell BSc (Syd) MSc (Civil Eng) PhD (NSW) had three different but interrelated career paths.

His first was as an hydrologist and he became Professor of Engineering Hydrology at Colorado State University.

His interests then turned to mathematical modelling of natural processes, and later he was senior lecturer in climatology, geomorphology, biogeography, and environmental science at the University of New South Wales.

His third path was as a consultant in environmental impact assessment, predictive modelling, and risk analysis and he was involved in the investigation and promotion of ecologically sustainable development. Fred was author or co-author of some 120 publications or major reports in the areas of his research and professional experience.

For Oatley Flora and Fauna Fred was both a great resource of knowledge, energy and commitment, and a thorough gentleman, "an utterly decent bloke". He led field days and presented talks at OFF meetings on topics such as native food plants, North Queensland rainforests and endangered species. All of us will sadly miss him.

Fred and Joan had recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. We offer our heartfelt condolences to Joan and to their family.

WATTLE

There are over 600 different species of Wattle found all over Australia with shapes varying from low, spreading shrubs to large, upright trees, often called 'Mulga'. Whilst most flower in early spring and summer, there are wattles that bloom all year. www.aussie-info.com/identity



WATTLE DAY - SEPTEMBER 1st

Celebration of Wattle Day reached a height during World War 1. Volunteers sold many sprigs of wattle on the day to raise funds for the war effort. Many sent boxes of wattle to soldiers in hospitals overseas, and it became a custom to enclose a sprig of wattle with each letter to remind our soldiers of home. After the war, Wattle Day remained as a special day. In NSW, on August 1st, because of the earlier wattle flowering here, but in 1937 the day went back to 1st. September, now the accepted date across Australia.

OATLEY PARK IN SEPTEMBER

The following should all be flowering. Alan Fairley provided the list.

Myrtle-leaf Wattle (*Acacia myrtifolia*; shrub to 1 m, short broad leaves, pale yellow balls up to 8 in a group)

Sunshine Wattle (*Acacia terminalis*; shrub to 3m, feathery leaves, pale yellow balls up to 40 grouped.)

Sweet-scented Wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*; slender shrub to 2m, straight narrow leaves, pale yellow balls)

Pink Spider Flowers (*Grevillea sericea*; shrub to 2m, flowers usually pink but sometimes white)

Green spider Flowers (*Grevillea mucronulata*; low or spreading shrub to 1.5m, groups of 6 or more flowers)

Rough Wax-flowers (*Philotheca scabra*; small shrub on sheltered slopes, white flowers with 5 petals)

Fuschia Heath (*Epacris longiflora*; 2 cm red tubes with white lobes, sharp-pointed leaves to 12 mm long)

Bush Pea (*Pultenaea stipularis*; shrub to 2m, yellow pea-type flowers, and crowded thin leaves to 3cm long).

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

Aug 24th (Monday) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting with a representative from **Sydney Water** speaking on "Managing a Precious Resource: Future Supply and Efficient Use".

Aug 30th (Sunday) Field Day to Heathcote National Park, Waterfall to Heathcote **Leader Alison Gilroy**. We will be catching the 8.18 train from Oatley, and meeting at Heathcote station at 8.45am. Most of the walk follows beautiful Heathcote Creek, via Battery Causeway, Kingfisher Pool, and Bondel Pool. We will need our lunch as the walk will probably take us about 6 hours, and is about 11kms. There is a fair amount of up and down. We will be returning from Waterfall station.

Sept 28th (Monday) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting with **Keith Muir** speaking on **The Gardens of Stone** - a wonderland or a woebegone plateau?

Oct 3rd (Saturday) Field Day Discovering Auburn on Saturday 3 October 2009. The walk includes Gallipoli Mosque, Botanic Gardens, the Japanese Garden, Duck Creek and several other places

Leader: Keith Robinson T9869 8743 Mob 0427 611 795 More on this day in the next Oatley Flora and Fauna News. [Note the change of date from 31st Oct]

Oct 26th (Monday) 7.45pm Regular monthly meeting

Oct 31st (Saturday) Field Day to South Coast -Beecroft Peninsula, near Currarong. **Leader Janet Austin** [note the change of date from 3rd Oct- more details the in next OFF News]

FUTURE OF OATLEY BOWLING CLUB SITE

Have your say at the public meeting arranged by Hurstville Council on **Saturday 19th Sept**, [not 17th] at 2.30pm at the Marana Auditorium. If not able to attend, please write or <mailto:hcc@hurstville.nsw.gov.au> by 2nd October outlining your thoughts on the site's future

EVERYTHING FROM ALGAE

This was the topic of the talk at the July meeting by Dr Tim Entwisle, Executive Director of the Botanic Gardens Trust. Tim argued that algae play a basic role in the evolution of the plant world, and include most of the 'higher level variety' of life around us. Algae are not just slimy things that form algal blooms. They are much more; beautiful and bizarre, often rare and restricted, and they have a distinctive Australian character. Many species are found only here, some with evolutionary histories back to Gondwana. They range from single cells through to filaments and sheets, to the giant kelps in the oceans. Tim described his study of algae as a fascinating journey, with lots of new discoveries on the way, and on a path that took him to his current position. See more on Australian freshwater algae at: <http://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au>; www.talkingplants.blogspot.com.

FIELD DAY TO SPRING CREEK - 1ST AUGUST

With weather clear and sunny, seventeen set off from Bombo Railway Station for the Spring Creek Wetlands. This little valley originally cleared of cedar and forest became dairy farms then market gardens. Revegetated, with extensive wetlands and a bird hide to observe many waterfowl, walking was easy and pleasant. A Satin bowerbird had conveniently built its bower almost beside the bird hide. Following a brief stop in Kiama cemetery to examine some historic memorials, we then explored the old Bombo quarry, interesting for its geology and history. The brilliant weather and stunning views made a most pleasant day. [Report by Walk Leader: Lesley Cox]

OPEN DAY HEINRICH RESERVE LUGARNO

Open Day is on Sat 22nd Aug, 1 to 4pm, Bayside Drive near Jacaranda Ave Lugarno. The Australian Government has funded a bushland restoration project to improve the quality of stormwater into Lime Kiln Bay, a joint venture of Heinrich Bushcare Group and Hurstville Council. The Bushcare volunteers will show you the work involved. Details from Heather Stolle, Bushcare Officer. 9330 6468 or 0425 291 879

NOTE THE OFF ANNUAL DINNER

The 2009 Annual Dinner is on Friday 6th November, 7 pm at South Hurstville R.S.L.

BRIEFLY

Blue Horizons: A photographic exhibition by Wyn B Jones celebrating Sept 25th 1969, date of the designation of Blue Mountains National Park [Myles Dunphy's name comes to mind!] Starts Sat 29th Aug to 30th Sept, 10 to 4 pm at the Visitor Centre, Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens Enquiries 4567 2154 www.colongwilderness.org.au

Climate Change: Dr Mark Diesendorf a leading researcher on the theory of sustainability and sustainable energy is speaking on climate change and its possible impact on the St George region, 8th Sept, 7pm Conference Room, Hurstville Council Administration Building Call Deborah Cooke on 9562 1663

Energy Efficient Homes Package: The Federal Government has announced a new bonus scheme to reduce household greenhouse gas emissions. It provides households with options of rebates for either ceiling insulation [up to \$1,600], or \$1,600 on solar hot water. <http://www.environment.gov.au/>

Local Environmental Plans: Fact sheets are now available online. The Environmental Defenders Office has provided details on current LEPs and environment planning. www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/factsheet

Oatley Lions Festival: This year it will be on Sat 17th Oct. <http://www.oatleylions.org.au/> Oatley Flora and Fauna would like to run a stall and is looking for volunteers. Contact Liz Cameron T9580 6621

Sutherland S.H.I.R.E. Virtual Museum: A new website with images and articles focussing on the history and environment of the local area, and certainly worth a close look. <http://www.doryanthes.info/>

Unload guns in Parks: Public Meeting Tues 25th Aug 6.45pm to 9pm Ku-ring-gai Town Hall 1186 Pacific Highway, Pymble www.nature.nsw.gov.au/NOHUNTING [the NCC cartoon captures something of the atmosphere!]

Our Parks & Animals, not Fair Game!

