



KOALA SIGHTINGS IN HEATHCOTE NATIONAL PARK

Citizen scientist, Tom Kristensen, stepped in at the last minute to talk to us about koalas in the Heathcote National Park. The listed speaker, Ian Coleman from the Olive Pink Botanical Garden, Alice Springs was unable to present his talk due to family illness. We will hear from him early 2023.

Tom explained how he and Steven Anyon-Smith commenced their search for koalas in 2020 and have found and named >100 previously undocumented koalas. They learned identification of koalas relied heavily on specific markings on their noses. They had also documented a variety of eucalypts which the koalas used for food. A total of 37 people joined this zoom meeting. Tom's great presentation was well received and is a timely introduction to the next OFF meeting when Georgia Crabbe-Wallace will present 'film trailers' documenting the many environmental issues faced by koalas.

PEAKHURST LUGARNO WALK

A brief shower did not dampen the spirits of the 17 people who undertook the walk from Jinna Rd Reserve, Peakhurst to Heinrich Reserve, Lugarno on Sunday 7th August. Many were unfamiliar with parts of the walk. A diversion made to admire a bushcare site in Peakhurst Foreshore Reserve revealed a peaceful haven. The highlight for most was a lookout in the reserve at the entrance to Boggywell Creek, with stunning views down the river, across to Glenlee and also to the Osprey nest supported on a



construction crane. Whipbirds were heard, native pigeons were sighted as well as several wattle species in bloom, including in the flourishing OFF plantings at Gannons Park. An excellent day's walk, not far from home.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

On National Tree Day, Sunday 31st July, the planting of 1000 native species was completed in short order due to the large number of volunteers, including many children and their parents. OFF members also assisted the council with the associated plant giveaway, while also distributing OFF brochures. Oatley Lions were also on hand with their usual free sausage sizzle and drinks.



OFF members also partnered with Lugarno Public School (LPS) students, parents, Greening Australia, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Councillor Peter Mahoney: Peakhurst Ward, Georges River Council to plant more than 100 locally indigenous plants. Megan Argent, from Save Glenlee, highlighted the plight of Glenlee and the importance of protecting existing trees as well as planting new ones. Many thanks to Jasmine Theophile, the P&C and staff for organising the successful event and encouraging environmental awareness. The young LPS students are so fortunate to have such wonderful P&C, staff and community groups supporting them.

Prior to National Tree Day, 15 OFF members also planted 320 local native plants on the soggy slope overlooking Renown Park as part of another Greater Sydney Landcare Network Creating Canopies Program. Let's hope they don't drown with more excessive rain!

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF MICROPLASTICS

OFF has written to the Leader, SMH and the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, who is conducting an independent review into design, use and impacts of synthetic turf in public spaces. He requested details of the Poulton Park survey to pass on to the Review Committee.

Cr. Mahoney and Adrian Polhill visited Penshurst Park July 28 and observed significant amount of crumb rubber and synthetic grass on the playing field surrounds. Adrian has written to the Council outlining the lack of prevention measures and procedures but the response received is 'unhelpful'. We await the CS&E's report, which should come out soon, to progress this issue. He will also write to them about Peakhurst Park synthetic playing field

RENAMING THE FORMER OATLEY BOWLING CLUB SITE

There are now 2 separate related proposals on the GNB website:

- 1) To rename the former Oatley Bowling Club site (the Council proposal) [NSW Place and Road Naming Proposals System](#), and
- 2) To reduce the extent of Myles Dunphy Reserve (GNB's new proposal). [NSW Place and Road Naming Proposals System](#)

This second proposal can be misleading as it can give the impression that proposal 1 is a fait accompli. It is important that objecting submissions are lodged for both proposals, the closing date for which is now 27 August.

OFF is of the view that the former Oatley Bowling Club site has always been a part of Myles Dunphy Reserve (MDR). GRC has put a proposal to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) to rename the former Oatley Bowling Club site to Arthur Hardiman reserve, disregarding the fact that the site already has an official name, Myles Dunphy Bushland Reserve (MDBR) Further, the GNB itself has now published a new proposal (alongside the current proposal to name Arthur Hardiman Reserve) to effectively facilitate Council's proposal by publishing a proposed description of MDBR as encompassing Myles Dunphy Creek, excluding Lots 100 and 106 DP1252069 (currently bushland) which are part of the originally assigned reserve. At the end of the day if these two proposals are approved a significant part of MDBR will be excised and have a new name of Arthur Hardiman Reserve.

MDBR and the creek that runs through it are the only places in NSW named after the former Oatley resident known as the Father of Conservation in NSW. He was recognised locally not only for his conservation work but also for his work with the Parks and Playground Movement which lobbied Council to increase parkland in the Council area. In particular, parts of the land which MDR now occupies were specifically suggested to be acquired for recreation for future generations by Myles Dunphy in 1944. To now rename a significant portion of the reserve that carries his name would be doing an injustice to the revered conservationist and parkland campaigner

SATIN BOWERBIRDS IN REGENERATED BUSH – Graham Fry

"When we moved into our house in 1984 in Hurstville Grove there was one native plant on the block. So we started a project to create a wildlife attractive area and now we have over 250 native plants in our garden and in the park next door. The project was successful and we used to get lots of small birds until noisy miners arrived in 2000 and drove out the small birds and we now only get large birds. In May we heard a strange noise coming from over the fence. On inspection I discovered we had a male satin bowerbird building a bower amongst our plantings. He had a collection of blue items predominantly bottle tops and was carefully arranging them and making peculiar calls.

Over the next few weeks there was a lot of activity with more than one bowerbird present at times and now nearly all the bottle tops have gone, I presume another male satin bowerbird had stolen the treasured blue items. Nevertheless our male is still carrying on constructing the bower and invading our vegetable patch being very fond of lettuce and other vegetables. So while we no longer have our small birds we still get great pleasure from wildlife and that our efforts to create wildlife friendly habitat has been rewarded."

Coming OFF Events in August/September 2022

OFF Full Year Events Calendar: <http://www.oatleyflorafauna.org.au/index.php/progam/>

We had returned to face-to-face meetings, but have reverted back to having our meetings on-line only for the moment, due to the resurgence of COVID, using the video conference application Zoom. If you are on the OFF News email list, you will receive an invitation prior to meetings or use this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i_daK5memiUVeVb7bERqr5WgKybj2w Note: Some OFF presentations & movies can now be found on [Youtube](#)

22 August – Film Trailer Screening, Koalas and Loss of Habitat, Georgia Wallace-Crabbe

Filmmaker Dr. Wallace-Crabbe will preview 2 documentaries including 'The Koala Corridor', a film she is currently co-directing with Gregory Miller to uncover if enough is being done to preserve the endangered species. She believes this native animal is representative of a larger issue. 'The Koala Corridor' looks at koalas, their habitat, and the fate of this iconic marsupial in the wild. Less than 1% of koala habitat survives west of the Great Dividing Range, where colonies have been smashed by high temperatures and land-clearing for agriculture and mining. However, until recently, it was thought that Koalas would survive in the East coast bushland regions, but the mega fires, weakened environmental protection laws and the race to clear land for new housing has seen koala colonies under increasing stress.

Georgia will also talk more about the film as a work in progress. Tax deductible donations to this not-for-profit film are most appreciated and can be made [here](#).

28 August Sunday – Woronora River Bridge Loop, Kim Wagstaff

Enjoy this 6.9 km loop trail near Woronora. Generally considered a moderately challenging (Grade 3?) route, it takes about 2.5 hours, viewing the river, excellent bushland, lovely sandstone formations and some urban areas. This looped route begins and ends at Prince Edward Park, Woronora near the end of Prince Edward Park Rd. Allow 30 mins driving to get there from Oatley. Meet at 9.30am.

Sign off back at the park or stay around and enjoy BYO lunch. Unfortunately, the Boatshed Café is closed due to flooding.

Wear sturdy shoes, a hat, appropriate clothing and bring water and sunscreen (lunch optional). Leader Kim Wagstaff 0437 791988

Note: The advertised walk in the OFF Program (Mt Keira Ring Track) could not be conducted due to track closures for repairs and maintenance by NPWS.

26 September -- Advance Notice: Rewilding Minibeasts for Biodiversity Function, Peter Contos, OFF Research Grant Recipient.

Meetings of the Society are at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick St Oatley from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, usually on the fourth Monday of the month. Visitors and accompanied children are welcome at meetings and field days. As noted above, the meeting is accessible on-line using ZOOM.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

OATLEY PARK BUSHCARE group is normally on the second Saturday each month starting 12.00 pm, except January. The next session will be on 10 Sep. Please check with Bushcare officer on 0435963643 before coming.

LOCAL BUSHCARE Members can assist by volunteering to maintain OFF planting sites each month on the Thursday after general meetings (except December) from 8.00 am to 11 am. This month we will be back on 25 August at lower Gannons Park supervised by a GRC Bushcare officer.

<https://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Council/Volunteering>

Don't forget to visit the **OFF Facebook** page [and](#) the OFF website! You can find more reports and photos of our walks and events there, as well as videos of OFF talks and other interesting information.

ROTARY ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM

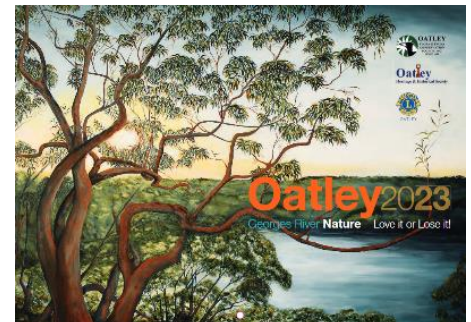
This program will be running for some time this year, so there is plenty of time to be involved. The Rotary Adopt A Tree project will be planting 8750 native trees and shrubs during spring, 2022, at the following planting sites and dates:

Moorlands, Dalton	10 & 11 Sep	1000 plants
Moorlands, Dalton	24 & 25 Sep	1000
Moorabinda, Crookwell	8 & 9 Oct	1000
Severn Park, Berridale	15 & 16 Oct	2000
Belubula Park, Canowindra	22 & 23 Oct	2000
Peelwood, (north of Crookwell)	29 Oct	500
Calrossie Farm, West of Mittagong	5 Nov	750
Renrow Park, High Range	6 Nov	500

You can [book](#) directly with Rotary if you would like to join these valuable re-greening events. OFF members are particularly welcome to join Adrian at the Moorlands' planting on Sep 24 & 25 and support Vince Heffernan once again, and see the forest we planted in September 2020 after 2 very favourable seasons.

CALENDAR

The OFF calendar has now been finalised and will soon be available. The price will remain the same, at only \$10.



CREATING CANOPIES IN GREATER SYDNEY

The next planting event with GSLN (Greater Sydney Landcare Network) will be at Claydon Reserve, Ramsgate Rd, Sans Souci (200 plants) on Wed 14 September 2022, 8.30 start, followed by morning tea. GSLN will provide equipment. Bring gloves, hat, sun-screen/rain

coat and water Participants need to register through [Eventbrite](#) (which you have to sign up to).

STREAMWATCH Details **Heather Stolle 0425 291 879**. This activity usually takes place on the Tuesday morning (9.00 am) after OFF General Meetings. This month we will be at Myles Dunphy Reserve on 23 August. Note: this month's event depends on replenishment of testing materials on order.

CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY meetings are held at 2:30 pm on the second Sunday of every month at Club Oatley (RSL) and are also on-line at zoom.us/j/2023151151. For details text George on 0467004892.