



### CAN LIFE ON EARTH BE COMPLETELY DESCRIBED OR DOES TAXONOMY HAVE LIMITS?

There are between 4 and 10 million species in the world, but fewer than 20% have been named and described. In 2000, the ALL Species Foundation called for the discovery, identification, and description of all the remaining species within 25 years!

At our May meeting, Dr Dan Bickel (Australian Museum) used the example of some families of flies to demonstrate the futility of this goal. Even in Europe, where flies have been studied and described for over 250 years, new species are still being discovered. In most other regions, the fly fauna is poorly known and intensive surveys within small geographic areas have yielded high diversity, suggesting there are many more species to be discovered. The small pool of fly taxonomists cannot hope to survey and describe all the flies in the world. Likewise other insect groups. Dan concluded that this lack of knowledge is not necessarily a bad thing. If major ecosystems are conserved in reserves large enough to protect the diversity of better-known animals such as birds, the diversity of flies and other invertebrates would also be protected.

This talk wasn't aired on ZOOM; ∴ is unavailable on OFF's YouTube channel.

### MALABAR HEADLANDS LOOP TRACK.

Oatley Flora and Fauna members and friends had an enjoyable day walking the Maroubra Headland track. Highlights included seeing a pod of three whales that put on a display very close to shore.

The walk had spectacular coastal views and also went through coastal banksia heathland with spots of colourful flowers including native fuchsia, banksia, wattle and flannel flowers. Many birds were also seen, including New Holland Honeyeaters and a Nankeen Kestrel. It was a beautiful walk on a perfect blue sky day that was greatly enjoyed by all! Thank you Lesley for organising the walk. Photos of the day can be seen in [Google Photos](#).

### GLENLEE UPDATE

Following the purchase of Glenlee the Friends of Glenlee (FoG) committee continues to raise issues both with GRC and the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Penny Sharpe. Brian Ralston, FoG President and Secretary Linda Simon are meeting with the Minister on 12 June. The focus will now be on enhanced protection of the site and artefacts, discussions with the new owners on how we ensure this and discussions with Council to ensure the local heritage order is adhered to.

One issue to be raised with the Minister relates to the current listing of Glenlee as a local heritage site. This protection does not currently apply to "chattels and items of personality". However the Minister has the power to authorise a Council to "make an interim heritage order for a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct in the council's area that the council considers may, on further inquiry or investigation, be found to be of local heritage significance, and that the council considers is being or is likely to be harmed."

None of this continued campaigning takes away from FoG's disappointment with all levels of government and political parties. They had the opportunity to preserve Glenlee and put it in public hands. FoG had a range of suggestions on how it could be used, eg, small historical museum, kayaks from the jetty, community meeting place, community gardens, etc, that would enhance our living and natural environment.

### NEXT PLANTING EVENTS FOR 2024

There are 2 planting events coming up this month.

#### Buff Banded Rail Habitat Planting (Council led Event)

Buff Banded Rails are a shy bird and by establishing a protective habitat for them in Evatt Park will ensure their longevity within the reserve. Bring your own gloves, hat and water bottle. Ensure you wear appropriate clothing, long sleeves, long pants and enclosed footwear. All tools will be provided.

Date and time: Friday 14 June 2024, 9.00am - 11.30am

Address: H.V Evatt Park Forest Road, Lugarno.

Bookings are essential. [Book now](#).

### Creating Canopies in Georges River (Council led Event)

This event is part of Landcare NSW and Greater Sydney Landcare's program to plant 200,000 trees as part of the Greening our City program to help mitigate urban heat in Greater Sydney.

Trees are being planted to help cool down Sydney and create valuable habitats for birds and other wildlife. Green spaces aren't just great for wildlife, they're also associated with better physical health, lower stress levels, and greater community satisfaction. Plus they cool down our neighbourhoods! Now's your chance to get involved with greening your community. Please wear long sleeves, long pants, closed sturdy shoes, a hat, and sunscreen, and bring a drinking bottle with water. On-site training, tools, and **lunch** will be provided.

Address: Lower Gannons Park, South Peakhurst. Parking available at Vale Lane and Ernest Street.

Date and Time: Saturday 29 June 2024, 9.00am - 2.00pm.

RSVPs are essential. To avoid disappointment please register. [Book Now](#)

### KOALA FILM

OFF members may remember Georgia Wallace-Crabbe and Greg Miller speaking at the 22 August 2022 OFF meeting on the documentary they were producing on the plight of koalas in Eastern Australia. The completed film **THE KOALAS** is to be shown at Dendy Newtown on Thurs June 20 6:15pm. The screening will be followed by in-person discussion with Georgina and Greg and speakers from WIRES and Save Sydney Koalas.

Dendy describes the film as "A powerful film that celebrates resilience in the face of the challenges and invites audiences to become catalysts for change, this pertinent call to action is not to be missed. On the East Coast of Australia, where ancient forests meet the urban fringe, koalas are facing unprecedented challenges. **THE KOALAS** sheds light on a disturbing truth: the very entities entrusted with safeguarding our natural treasures are contributing to the demise of these emblematic creatures."

Members and friends are advised to purchase tickets quickly as a limited number are available and it's very popular. Those attending could travel together or meet up at Dendy and attend as a group. You can book using this [link](#) (click on the time).

### WILDSEEK DRONE SURVEY SUCCESS!

In other Koala news, a good story from the Sutherland Shire. Over twenty koalas have been found in one drone survey in Lucas Heights in the Sutherland Shire. The survey was undertaken by Wildseek, which is a project by Landcare Australia, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and WIRES, to establish and support a network of Community Hubs for the conservation and rescue response of native species. While this news is fantastic, it again highlights the perils of Sutherland Shire not being listed in the Koala SEPP (State Environmental Planning Policy), meaning koala habitat is not recognised. Wildseek is also currently surveying areas in the Hills Hornsby area and we can't wait to see the results.

### OATLEY PARK DAMAGE REHABILITATION

OFF is pleased to see that rehabilitation work has been carried out in Oatley Park to an area that was damaged when it was apparently used as a "campsite". Thanks Council.



### GRC SIGNIFICANT TREE REVISED POLICY

Georges River Council, at its meeting held on Monday 27 May 2024, resolved to adopt the revised Tree Management Policy and Amendment No.6 to the *Georges River Development Control Plan 2021* in accordance with the post-exhibition amendments as outlined in Item ENV018-24. The Minutes of the meeting are available [here](#): Cont'd on P2.

## Coming OFF Events in June/July 2024

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

Meetings are held in the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick St Oatley, starting at 7.30pm. Meetings will also normally be available on-line, using the video conference application Zoom. If you are on the OFF News email list, you will receive an invitation by email prior to meetings or use this link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i\\_daK5memiUVeVb7bERgr5WgKybj2w](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3742141020?pwd=i_daK5memiUVeVb7bERgr5WgKybj2w) Note: Some OFF presentations & movies can now be found on YouTube

### 17 June – Building Bridges to Boorowa. An Urban-Rural Tree-Planting Partnership. Andrew Scott.

Andrew, a Bushcare officer at North Sydney Council, will tell us about the Building Bridges to Boorowa program, which started in 2000 when a Council Bushcare volunteer learnt of the environmental problems facing this rural region, including soil salinity and loss of habitat for threatened species including the Superb Parrot. Bushcare then identified an opportunity to help Boorowa landholders with their revegetation projects by bringing volunteers to the area for a weekend to help plant trees & shrubs. Since then, it has become an annual event with the exception of 2020 & 2021 visits which were cancelled due to Covid-19. To date over 60,000 trees and shrubs have been planted through this program to provide habitat for local wildlife around Boorowa in South West NSW.

### 30 June 2024 (Sunday) – Red Hands Cave, Glenbrook (Note. This field day has been swapped with May's programmed field day.)

Meet at 9.00am at the NPWS office, 68 Bruce Road, Glenbrook. Medium walk. Bring along water and snacks to have along the way. Lunch is available at one of the many cafes in Glenbrook. For car pooling and other information contact Matt Allison on 0408 605 923.

### 27 June - Local Bushcare

Members can assist by volunteering to maintain OFF planting sites on a Thursday either 1 or 2 weeks after general meetings (exc Dec) from 8.00 to 11 am. This month we will be at lower Gannons Park supervised by a GRC Bushcare Officer. We welcome new bushcarers:

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

### 13 July - Oatley Park Bushcare

OFF members volunteer to carry out bush regeneration at Oatley Park on the second Saturday each month starting 12.00 pm, (except January). Meet at the entrance on Oatley Park Avenue. New participants welcome. Please check with GRC Bushcare Officer on 0435 963 643 before coming.

**Advance Notice: 15 July – Georges Riverkeeper - Looking after our Waterways. Rob Dixon. Note. There will be supper and historic OFF photos after this meeting.**

**Advance Notice: 21 July (Sunday) – The Convict Trail in Dharug NP. Leader: Liz Cameron.**

**Additional Advance Notice: 11 August (Sunday) – Barren Grounds Nature Reserve walk. Leader: Debbie Andrews. Note date change from 25 August as advised in the yearly program.**

**Meetings of the Society are at the Uniting Church Hall, Frederick St Oatley from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, usually on the third 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 .....

**STREAMWATCH** takes place on the Tuesday morning (9.00 am) 1 week after OFF General Meetings. This month we will be at Myles Dunphy Reserve on 25 June. Check before coming on 0430 968 260.

**CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY** meetings are held at 2.30 pm on the second Sunday of every month. These meetings are now being held on-line using Zoom. The address is <http://zoom.us/j/7868786878>

### MEMBER COUNCILLOR PETER MAHONEY SERIOUSLY INJURED

OFF member and Georges River Councillor Peter Mahoney, who has been working tirelessly on behalf of the community and our environment throughout his current term of office, was involved in a very serious car accident early last week. He has sustained extensive injuries and is currently in St George Hospital undergoing investigation, diagnosis and treatment. On behalf of all OFF members we extend our sincere and very best wishes to Peter for a full and speedy recovery.

### GRC Significant Tree Revised Policy, cont'd

The adopted Tree Management Policy (Version 3.0) will come into effect on 10 June 2024 along with Amendment No.6 to the Georges River Development Control Plan 2021. Council's website will be updated with the updated documents on the effective date. The public notice has been published on Council's website: [Georges River Council - Notice of Adoption: Revised Tree Management Policy and Amd No.6 to the GRDCP 2021 \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Georges-River-Council-Notice-of-Adoption-Revised-Tree-Management-Policy-and-Amd-No.6-to-the-GRDCP-2021)

Please note that this revised Tree Management Policy includes the Significant Tree Register. Members are advised that they can submit nominations of significant trees in our LGA at any time and are strongly encouraged to do so.

### MEMBERSHIP

Thank you again to those members who have paid their annual fees, particularly to those who also made generous donations. Remember, it is necessary for fees to be paid by 30 June, otherwise membership lapses. We like to keep our members, even if you cannot actively participate. A substantial membership base assists in our lobbying to protect, conserve and enhance our natural environment. Of course, any help in managing and directing your Society is appreciated, but knowing that there are many like-minded members with the same beliefs reinforces the efforts made by those with the time and energy to do so.



Don't forget to check the OFF Facebook page and OFF website for more information and news, and to comment on OFF's many activities.