



BUILDING BRIDGES TO BOOROWA

Andrew Scott (North Sydney Bushcare) described the 'Building Bridges to Boorowa' program, a remarkable 25-year partnership between North Sydney Bushcare and Boorowa Community Landcare Group. The key drivers for the program were, and still are, the shrinking habitat of the Superb Parrot and other endangered birds, as well as environmental challenges of soil salinity. Since it began in 2000 volunteers from North Sydney have been working alongside Boorowa Landcare volunteers to plant over 73,000 native trees and shrubs across the region. These efforts have created wildlife corridors, combated soil degradation, and enhanced natural habitats. The program's success lies in collaboration, with each partner playing a crucial role: volunteers contribute time, farmers prepare sites and purchase trees, and councils provide support.

It is a brilliant model on which to build more city-country partnerships resulting in wonderful ecological transformations and stronger community spirit.

Talk is on the OFF YouTube [channel](#) (with some cuts due to tech issues).

RED HANDS CAVE, GLENBROOK

The walk to Red Hands Cave at Glenbrook, scheduled for Sunday 30th June, was postponed as the track was closed and there was a high chance of dubious weather. It may be run at a later date, after the track is re-opened.

GLENLEE UPDATE

Friends of Glenlee (FoG) has issued an update on actions being taken:

- Meeting with Minister for Environment and Heritage, Penny Sharpe
FoG executives met with the Minister on 12 June. The focus was the need for a comprehensive conservation management plan for the site and assessment for Aboriginal and natural heritage. Unfortunately the Minister was not willing to consider what she might be able to do, being advised that she did not have the powers to authorise such inspections.

- Continued protection of Glenlee and its historical artefacts

The focus for FoG had shifted slightly and is now on protection of the site and artefacts on the site. Representations have been made to Council, when locals were concerned at the works taking place on the property. Council stated that "the owner was advised to cease all works immediately and not conduct further works until written approval has been provided by Council".

- Meeting with the new owners

FoG executives met the new owner on site on 18 June, noting work had taken place to address issues with the house. There is a caretaker on the site apparently undertaking gardening. The owner indicated his intention to build 3-4 houses for his extended family on the site. Most historical artefacts have been removed, but he said that the local museums had been down to consider preserving some of the settler tools and other items.

2024 PLANTING EVENTS

The next planting in our area is a National Tree Day event led by Georges River Council on 28th June at Pearce Avenue Reserve, Peakhurst. This is Bushcare's biggest event of the year and will help enhance native plant corridors within our Local Government Area (LGA). Bring your own gloves, hat and water bottle and wear appropriate clothing, long sleeves, long pants and enclosed footwear. All tools will be provided. Entrance to the reserve is from Pearce Avenue. Remember Sunday, 28 July 2024, 10.00am - 1.00pm.

NSW COAL WATCH (www.lockthegate.org.au)

Coal mine expansions threaten our land, water and future.

If NSW citizens are to avoid worsening extreme weather events, like floods, droughts and fires, then there can be no new coal mine expansions. But coal companies want to pour fuel on the climate fire. They have plans for up to 19 new coal mine expansions in NSW. If approved, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from these coal expansions would be equivalent to 17 years of NSW annual emissions. NSW can't meet climate goals, and neither can Australia or the globe, if these mines go ahead.

The NSW Premier and his Ministers can take action to ensure these projects do not go ahead.

Ask the NSW government to stop approving coal expansions. Sign the [PETITION](#). Get involved

KOALA FILM

On the evening of Thursday, June 20, 12 OFF members attended a screening of the newly released documentary film **The Koalas**, at the Dendy Newtown. This film was produced by Georgia Wallace-Crabbe and Greg Miller. It highlighted the plight of Koalas in many areas, eg, Victorian native plantations, the area south-west of Sydney at Mount Gilead, where housing development is causing extreme loss of habitat, including tree corridors. It also showed a small victory where traditional owners have halted logging of large sections of native plantations. The dedicated work of volunteers who care for injured and sick koalas in the Port Macquarie region was also shown. It is hoped a screening will be arranged somewhere in the Sutherland Shire. The screening was followed by in-person discussion with Georgina and Greg and speakers from WIRES and Save Sydney Koalas.

GANNONS PARK PLANTING EVENT

OFF members participated, along with many other enthusiastic people, in a hugely successful planting day at Gannons Park south on Saturday, 29th June. It was organised by [Greater Sydney Landcare](#), [Georges River Council Bushcare](#), and Oatley Flora and Fauna. A record number of volunteers -

about 150 - made fast work of planting 3,000 plants on an area formerly a tip. It was wonderful to see groups come from all over Sydney and as far away as India 😊 It is fabulous to see so many like-minded people of all ages, caring for the environment and wanting to make the world a better greener and healthier place.



One of the groups was Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing - Australia. More than 50 volunteers came from this group which was originally founded in India and is based on the teachings of Saint Dr Ram Rahim Singh Ji Insaan. They work for the community and the environment and have planted more than 40 million trees worldwide. They are also regular participants in blood and plasma donations, helping the less fortunate in India as well as environmental work such as clean ups and plantings. We thank this group for their help on Saturday's planting and look forward to working together again. Photos of the day can be viewed [here](#).

SOLAR COULD LEAVE NUCLEAR & ALL ELSE IN THE SHADE

As reported by the ABC, the Economist magazine has recently produced a special issue: The Dawn of the Solar Age. The Economist is a British weekly news magazine that has reported on economic thinking and served as a place for economists to exchange views since 1843. The Economist reported solar power was growing so quickly it was set to become the biggest source of electricity on the planet by the mid-2030s. By the 2040s - within this next generation - it could be the world's largest source of energy of any kind, overtaking fossil fuels like coal and oil. Installed solar capacity is doubling every three years, meaning it has grown tenfold in the past 10 years. Moreover every forecast by the International Energy Agency (IEA) for growth of solar since 2009 has been wrong, being much lower than reality. Even the most optimistic forecast, by Greenpeace, has been way short of reality. Batteries are more difficult, but even there, the Economist reports that the efficiency of batteries is soaring and the price is plummeting. Oxford University energy specialist Rupert Way finds that a "fast transition" scenario based on the actual installations of solar means that by 2060, solar will be by far the world's biggest source of energy, exceeding wind and green hydrogen and leaving nuclear with an infinitesimally [tiny role](#). The full report can be read [here](#). Also see solar uptake graph on page 2.

Coming OFF Events in July/August 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_daK5memiUjVb7bERqr5WgKybj2w Note: Some OFF presentations & movies can now be found on YouTube

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

We all know the importance of the Georges River to the local environment and the community. It's essential that incredible value is protected for future generations. Georges Riverkeeper is an organisation that has been working to help maintain and improve the condition of the Georges River for over 4 decades. In the next Oatley Flora and Fauna meeting, Rob Dixon from Georges Riverkeeper will be presenting on the river and current Georges Riverkeeper programs. Rob has been working for Georges Riverkeeper for four years and has a background in environmental science, wetland ecology and bush regeneration. Members are asked to bring a plate for the supper and historic photos for showing.

21 July 2024 (Sunday) – The Convict Trail in Dharug NP. Leader: Liz Cameron.

Devine's Hill and Finch's Line Circuit, Dharug NP. Gentle ascent on gravel road with interpretive signs about early colonial history, level walking through woodland (birds, wildflowers) then a short steep descent – walking poles advised. Total distance 7.5 km, about 4 hours. Allow at least 2 hours to drive from Oatley to Wiseman's Ferry; car-pooling recommended. Meet in ferry carpark at 10am near coffee cart. After ferry crossing there will be a short car shuttle; parking is limited. Detailed information can be found at these links: [Self-guided tour](#), [NPWS info](#) and [Dept of Planning app](#) (iPhone only). Please notify Liz if you are coming - 9580 6621 (preferred) or 0419 280 473.

25 July (Thursday) - 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 and 10 August (Saturdays) - 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.

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

Griffith Trail. 8km loop, mainly level, variety of surfaces including rock, grass, sand and mud (after wet weather). Could be wildflowers and rare birds. Meet 10 am in picnic area 1km from entrance. Bring lunch, water, wet weather gear and sunscreen. Wear sturdy shoes and a hat and possibly walking poles. Check with Deb on 0409 172 501 or email at deba55@tpg.com.au the day before if inclement weather. Allow approx. 1 1/2 hours to drive from Oatley. More info [here](#).

Advance Notice: 19 August – Building Behavioural Resilience in Bilbies, Quolls and Stick-nest Rats. A/Prof Katherine Moseby

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 Tuesday mornings (9.00 am) 1 week after OFF General Meetings. This month we will be at Dairy Creek (near Scout Hall in Glen Road) on 23 July. 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 RECOVERING

OFF members will be pleased to know that Georges River Councillor Peter Mahoney, who was badly injured in a serious car accident last month, is recovering well and is now in convalescence.

VALE ALLEN LOWE

In sadder news, we note that member Allan Lowe has passed away after a long illness. Allen and his wife Sue joined OFF in 2018. Allen was a keen nature photographer and OFF has used his photos in various displays, eg, our exhibition Too Precious to Lose and our calendars. Condolences to Sue.

GRC SIGNIFICANT TREE REVISED POLICY

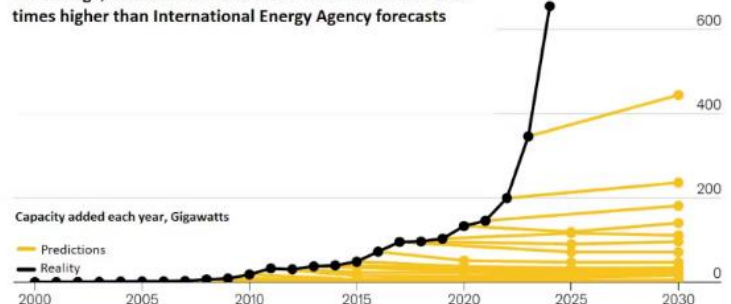
Members are reminded that they can submit nominations to the Significant Tree Register at any time, using the links at the bottom of this [page](#).

KILLERS IN THE SUBURBS

Inside Sydney's underground tree-killing industry. Our area is not alone in suffering illegal tree removals, as the ABC [reports](#).

ACTUAL AND PREDICTED WORLD-WIDE SOLAR UPTAKE

On average, actual installations have been more than three times higher than International Energy Agency forecasts



Installations for 2024 are an estimate. (Supplied: The Economist, IEA, Energy Institute, BloombergNEF)

MEMBERSHIP

Now that we are in the second half of the year members who have not paid their fees for this year will be removed from our membership and mailing lists. Therefore this is the last Newsletter edition they will receive. We thank them for their membership and remind them they can re-join any time.

Check the OFF website and OFF Facebook page for more information and news on OFF's activities. You can also comment on what we do or make suggestions. Please get involved in your society.