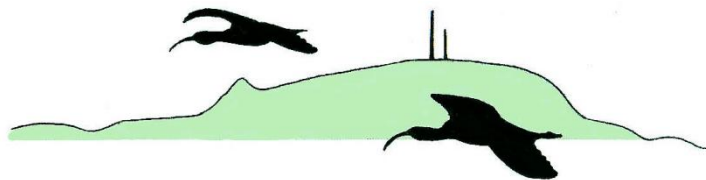


ORANGE FIELD NATURALIST AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 8th February, 7.00pm
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
and talks by Colleen Farrow and Casey Edwards

TOPIC: Central Tablelands LLS
(see below for details)

VENUE: Orange Community Information and Services Centre.
(Next to Senior Citizens Centre. Enter from Woolworths carpark.).

Committee Meeting at 6.30pm
All members are welcome

EXCURSION

Sunday, 11th February
Wambool Reserve
meet at 9am
at the Orange High Bus Bay
Bring morning tea.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 2017 AGM
4. President's Report – Geoff Selwood
5. Treasurer's Report – Dr Dick Medd
6. Election of Office Bearers
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Publicity Officer
 - Committee Members (3)
7. Other business

Next Meeting

Following the AGM, **Colleen Farrow** and **Casey Edwards**, from the Central Tablelands

LLS, will cover two topics for us. Colleen will provide an overview of opportunities to work in partnership with LLS and Casey will talk on Native Vegetation Legislation, providing an update on implementation in the Central Tablelands. Both are important topics for OFNCS and there will be ample time for questions.

Next Excursion

The excursion on 11th February will be to Wambool Reserve near Bathurst. Further details will be provided at the meeting.

April Excursion

Rosemary has organised through Graham Brown for us to visit the heritage areas of Cadia in April. Graham has suggested a couple of books which we might find worth reading prior to the visit, if we can find them. They are *Treasures of Cadia* (early mining history) and *Gems of the Valley* (individual accounts of life and times). In particular, he recommends Peter Toedter's section in *Gems of the Valley* as it sets the scene for modern mining activity.

RED ALERT

from Jenny Medd

Mountain Biking in Mt Canobolas SCA

Mayor Reg Kidd has been in the local press recently talking up the prospect of Mountain Biking in and around Orange. Last year Orange City Council [OCC] commissioned a concept plan that showed up to 65 km of new purpose-built Mountain Bike tracks could be accommodated in the Mt Canobolas State Conservation Area [SCA] and subsequently requested that there be a change in the Plan of Management [PoM] for Mount Canobolas SCA to allow tracks to be built.

Seemingly the Mayor has been lobbying the Minister for the Environment, Local Government and Heritage to fast track the process to change the PoM.

Such action looks like preferential treatment for Orange City Council and that will be the case unless environmental groups also get the chance to see the draft of any new or revised PoM. Being kept informed of

developments is something that OFNCS and other environmental groups should be asking for as a matter of urgency.

The current Plan of Management (2003) specifies where bikes can be ridden in the SCA which is basically the publicly accessible roads and the fire trails. Construction of new Mountain Bike trails is not permitted in the current plan. So be alert that there may well be a new plan which probably will allow the construction of MTB trails. The concern is that OCC and the Minister may be working together to facilitate development of mountain bike trails within the SCA and doing their best to keep opposition in the dark so be prepared to be pro-active in defence of the SCA's conservation.

Xmas Party

Our Xmas Party, at Orange Mountain Winery, was not as well attended as in previous years. This is possibly because of a promised thunderstorm although the OM

winery is well set up for inclement weather. Those who attended had a really great afternoon and thanks to Terry and Julie Dolle, our hosts. A photo appears below.

NOTICES

1. Subscriptions.

Payment of Annual Subscriptions is due following the Annual General Meeting in February. Please send your cheque or money order made out to "OFNCS" to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr Dick Medd, OFNCS, PO Box 369 Orange NSW 2800.

Subscription rates:

Single member – \$25

Each additional family member – \$5

Concession rate (emailed newsletters) – \$12.50

Concession rate (printed newsletters) – \$25

Note: concession rate is for *bona fide* pensioners and students only



OFNCS/ECCO Xmas Party at Orange Mountain Winery