

THE FRIENDS OF OOLONG

Sponsor: Dr David Suzuki

OVERVIEW:

The Friends of Oolong have undertaken a long term of natural resource management - with a strong focus on scientific research and education - for protecting the wetland and woodland, to recreate habitat that meets the needs of native species and to link vegetation habitat/remnants together to allow movement of species within them. The Sanctuary is supported by the community and corporate sectors, through the Friends of Oolong Inc., and works cooperatively with Government agencies in the preservation of our heritage and of endangered wildlife species.

WHAT WE DO:

The Friends of Oolong environmental organisation is fulfilling an important role in conservation. This is being widely recognised as supported by the testimonials we receive.

We are undergoing a complete and detailed inventory of the fauna and flora in - and an evaluation of - a model of habitat/remnants, linked by crown roads (government owned) on private land. We call it Oolong Sanctuary. We have already amply proven how delicate and vulnerable but rich this environment is with its several endangered fauna and flora species. One of the crown roads of our model is a wildlife corridor and also a critical habitat to three threatened bird species. The ecosystems in remnants need to be protected and moreover linked with other remnants to allow the movement of the fauna. This model is the best under study in Australia. Its duplication would be at considerable government saving. At present the NSW Department of Lands is urging landholders to purchase these crown roads while the Department of the Environment is funding \$7 million worth of incentives to private landholders and the Bush Heritage Fund are purchasing land to build a 2800km coastal wildlife corridor.

We undertake also R&D on several species and collect and classify native grass, shrub and tree seeds. We have also several on-going projects, but some are acted upon only as finance permits and as volunteers are available with their in-kind contribution.

All projects at Oolong are for the environment and are undertaken by local communities, active members of our organisation and similar associations as well as local, interstate, overseas volunteers. All contributions are in-kind. No member of the organisation receives a salary or wage. We are proud of this but there is a limit on what can be expected from volunteers, who have their own commitments as well.

WHO BENEFITS

SE NSW Schools (patrons: Alby Shultz MP Federal member for Hume and Katrina Hodgkinson MP State member for Burrinjuck). Qualified specialists organise visitations and conduct tours to introduce school children to the bush.

ACT Schools Program (patron: Mary Porter AM MLA Member for Ginninderra). Qualified specialists organise visitations and conduct tours to introduce school children to the bush.

Community groups, landholders and individuals will be assisted by the Friends of Oolong under the Oolong Challenge to restore crown roads to link remnants on private land.

Other community associations like ANOS, COG, FATS, the Cumberland Bird Observers and many others with regular visitations.

Any visitor with conducted tour of Oolong 24/7.

Australians and overseas visitors, students, who browse our well designed and informed web site on fauna and flora with illustrations for assignments; landholders get up to date information on conservation on private land and on any government incentive on conservation, also how to use the 'Safe the Bush Toolkit'. (www.pcug.org.au/~gianni)

Our heritage and wildlife declining species and those on the endangered list.

SOME OF THE PROGRAMS

Progress on our programs has been slow but nevertheless we have now reached a crucial stage of development with two of the programs:

- 1) The education program with conducted tours and visitations by schools from the SE NSW and the ACT and the preparation of a syllabus to be submitted to the education department on “education IN environment”.
- 2) The Oolong Challenge of the Friends of Oolong collecting, preparing and germinating endemic seeds to be used to revegetate crown roads and wildlife corridors. Grass seeds and trees in tubes will be distributed free to these communities, who will maintain these corridors.

To be noted that under the Oolong Challenge the Friends of Oolong are contributing to a recently launched initiative by state and federal governments to restore a 2800Km coastal wildlife corridor, which will stretch from the Victorian Alps through to Atherton in Queensland. The hardest links to restore are those large tracts of lands cleared for agriculture. The Friend of Oolong have been aware for a long time that this is a major issue and are prepared for it.

The Challenge financially in its initial stage is financed with funds allocated by the John & Joan D’Addario Foundation Inc. (USA) Trust to support our association. We need a major sponsor for this challenge to continue and spread over other nearby regions.

SUCCESS STORIES

(Copy attached from community builders. nsw website)

HOW TO CONTACT US

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IMAGES ORGANISATION’S LOGO

Friends of Oolong

www.pcug.org.au/~gianni



ILLUSTRATIVE PICTURES (.JPG, or GIF Format)

The whole website is full of pictures both .JPG and .GIF



Large Bent-wing Bat



Oolong orchid



Yellow-groined toadlet



Speckled Warbler
(Declining woodland specie)

(All threatened in NSW)