



Eucryphia

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Robertson Environment Protection Society – to promote the protection and enhancement of the Robertson Environment
PO Box 3045, Robertson NSW 2577 www.reps.org.au

REPS Annual General Meeting and talk

“Reproduction and Conservation of Jaguars in Brazil”

Speaker: Rebecca E. Spindler
Friday 13th November, 7.30pm
Robertson Community Centre
Caalong Street, Robertson



Rebecca Spindler is Manager of Research and Conservation of the Taronga Conservation Society Australia.

Rebecca’s PhD work on embryonic diapause in marsupials lead her to the Smithsonian’s Conservation & Research Center, in Front Royal Virginia. During this time, she spent 5 Giant Panda breeding seasons in the Wolong Nature Reserve where she assisted with the Giant Panda Genome Resource Bank, establishment of breeding strategies and routine reproductive management. During this same period Rebecca established the Neotropical Carnivore Initiative and with colleagues throughout the Americas, she spearheaded a multidisciplinary project aimed at improving the health, reproduction and conservation of jaguars.

In April of 2007, she joined the team at the Taronga Zoo as Manager of Research and Conservation focusing the research of zoo scientists on wildlife ecology, behaviour, reproduction, genetics and pathology to inform best conservation practice. Rebecca is also rejuvenating Taronga’s commitment to conservation in Australasia through a grants program, advocacy and training for students and professionals around the world.

Rebecca’s talk will focus on the role of a captive population in developing techniques to better understand and ultimately conserve the largest cat in the Americas, and all species under its umbrella.

All welcome, informal discussion, light refreshment, gold coin donation

Upcoming Events

Fri 13th November – REPS AGM and Public Meeting ***“Reproduction and Conservation of Jaguars in Brazil”***, **Rebecca E. Spindler** , 7:30pm, Community Centre

Wed 18th November – NPA Talk *‘Mt Rae, logging for firewood’* by Mark Selmes, 7.30pm CWA Hall MV, see pg 7

Sun 8th and 22nd November – Make Your Own Food Workshops, 2-4pm, Robertson CTC, see pg 7

Sat 28th November – Caalang Creek Working Bee from 9.30 onwards, see pg 8

Fri 11th December – REPS Christmas Party, 6.30pm, Community Centre, see pg 8

REPS AGM

In advance of the REPS AGM (on Friday 13th November) office bearers' reports for 2009 are published below in this volume of Eucryphia.

President's Report

Another good year for the society! The highlights of the year started in November 2008 (after the AGM) with the 'cosmic' experience of hearing about our place in the universe by the renowned and multi-talented David Ellyard.

Then we had great cause to celebrate in the new year with the production of the 100th edition of our newsletter 'Eucryphia'. Congratulations to those who have produced the newsletter over the years. It keeps us informed about talks, venues, issues and a wide variety of interesting articles. Special thanks should be given to Monica Engel and Sheila Mc Innes for their continued excellent production of the newsletter.

The 100th edition also listed all the talks presented by REPS over the years (since Nov 1990). This list of over 100 talks shows the amazing depth and breadth of subjects discussed and the high calibre of speakers. Another milestone!

The talks list is now a bit longer. You may recall some of the other talks of this year. In February Geoffrey Dabb spoke on 'Observations of birds in slides and video', followed in April by Ford Kristo covering some of the work of a local firefighter with NPWS, and his interests as a photographer extraordinaire (as well as some philosophy). Ford's photos can be seen at www.fordfoto.com.au.

In June, we heard the fascinating adventures of Joseph Hooker, and of the speaker, Peter Donaldson, "Kangchenjunga, Joseph Hooker and the Origin of Species". In August there was a change of focus, visiting "recycling today" with Miles Lochhead, our Resource Recovery Centre manager. By the way, a question was asked if plastic pots can be recycled. Yes they can. You can take them in to the Resource Recovery Centre free of charge, (out the back just past the green waste section). Other plastics can also be recycled there.

All these talks were excellent and well attended. Thank you to the speakers (and organisers) who donated their time and expertise. Don't worry if you missed talks. If all the members turned up on the same night the venue would not be big enough!

REP's other activities included:

- work on the Hampden Park riparian area, mainly mulching, from the generous piles donated for this area. More work is needed here but the participants have made a steady improvement to the area over the year.
- Robertson Nature Reserve regeneration work and Pinkwood Park work including boundary delineation and map.
- a walk instead of a talk in October at Barren Grounds.
- a stall at the Robertson railway Spring Fair.
- site visit (REPS committee) to the Robertson STP area with Mark Williams, WSC.
- attended Indian Myna Conference at Nowra.

Recently I attended a targeted consultation on draft rules for groundwater and surface water sharing in the Greater Metropolitan region. The NSW Government Office of Water (NOW) is preparing Water Sharing Plans under the Water Management Act 2000. These plans will cover our area, including the Hawkesbury-Nepean, Shoalhaven and Illawarra catchments.

"For those users who extract only for supply of basic landholder rights, including stock or domestic purposes, there is little change as the plans primarily relate to conditions of access or trade for licenced water users for eg commercial, irrigation, town water supply purposes." (NOW)

The plans also aim to improve the health of our rivers as well as share water between all water users. It sounds good in theory but may be more difficult in practice. A public consultation period is planned for early next year.

It has been a quiet year for issues around our local natural environment (thank goodness) but within a global background of climate change issues. Recycling, alternative energies, "supporting local" and protecting and enhancing our natural environment, are even more poignant now.

On behalf of REPS I would like to thank all our committee members for their contribution to the Society. Please feel free to nominate if you would like to help on the committee.

Best wishes to all members and thank you for continued membership, which helps support your Society.

Leon Hall

Treasurer's Report 2009
Anne Wilson, Treasurer

ROBERTSON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION SOCIETY INC

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

These statements have been prepared in accordance with section 26(6) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 and Rule 17 of the Association's Rules.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

		\$
Current Assets		
Balance per Bank Passbook	General Account	6,203.46
	Grants Account	144.49
		<u>6,347.95</u>
Current liabilities		
Unpresented cheques		222.46
Net Assets		<u><u>6,125.49</u></u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM 01-10-08 TO 30-9-09

GENERAL ACCOUNT

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Memberships	1,675.00	Dept of Fair Trading	45.00
Interest	13.22	Hall hire	130.00
Donations	1,088.80	Audit fees	154.00
		Other meeting costs	551.90
		Printing/Postage/PO Box/Stationery	780.57
		Internet Web hosting	184.00
		Membership subscriptions/Conference fees	168.50
		Transaction charges	43.25
TOTAL INCOME	<u>2,777.02</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>2,057.22</u>
		Excess Income to Expenditure	<u>719.80</u>

Bank Reconciliation at 30-9-09

Opening Balance per Cash Book	5,261.20	Balance per Bank Passbook	6,203.46
Plus Excess Income to Expend	719.80	Less unpresented cheques #19919396,7	222.46
Closing Balance	<u>5,981.00</u>	Balance to cash book	<u>5,981.00</u>

GRANTS ACCOUNT

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Interest	0.44	Rivercare	446.50
TOTAL INCOME	<u>0.44</u>	Bank fee	15.00
		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>461.50</u>
		Excess Income to Expenditure	<u>-461.06</u>

Bank Reconciliation at 30-9-09

Opening Balance per Cash Book	605.55	Balance per Bank Passbook	144.49
Plus Excess Income to Expend	-461.06		
Closing Balance	<u>144.49</u>	Balance to cash book	<u>144.49</u>

Anne Wilson, Hon. Treasurer

Note to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2009

The financial report is prepared, on a cash basis whereby items are brought into account as money is paid or received, from the records of the association.

MINUTES of Robertson Environment Protection Society Inc

Annual general meeting held on Friday 14th November, 2008, 7 30pm.

PRESENT: Helen Tranter, J Becher, Jill Keft, Monica Engel, Anne Wilson, Lynette Skipper, Jack Skipper, Denis Wilson, David Mee, Judith Mee, Dean Pryke-Abertillery, Billie StJonPastoors, Ted Smith, Len Hainke, Jan Hainke, Mike and Barbara Meldrum, Roy Freere, Joan Freere, John Dorman, Roma Dorman, Tas Engel, Peter Glass, Sheila McInnes, Jonathon Persse, Margaret and A. Ralph, Ian and Sandra Wallace, Lisa Buckle, Oliver Buckle, Jane Maxwell, Tony and Anna Williams, David Tranter, Neil and Beth Boughton, Ian Foster, Lynn Stevenson, Chris Stevenson, Ted Molon, J Sandison, Leon Hall, Murray Hall.

APOLOGIES: Georgina Persse.

OPENING REMARKS: Leon thanked all committee members and welcomed all to meeting, especially David and Sue Ellyard, our speakers for the evening.

MINUTES FROM PRVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 9th November 2007 were accepted as a true record. Moved L. Hall, 2nd Jane Maxwell.

REPORTS: President's report as per November Eucryphia.

Treasurer's report as per November Eucryphia.

Moved A. Wilson, 2nd J Keft

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

All positions declared vacant. David Tranter took the chair and the following members were elected:

President – Leon Hall

Vice President – Jill Keft

Secretary – Lynn Stevenson

Treasurer – Anne Wilson

Committee Members – Denis Wilson, Helen Tranter, David Mee, Peter Glass, Monica Engel, Chris Stevenson, David Tranter.

Editor of Eucryphia – Monica Engel and Sheila McInnes and Margaret Chaboud

Talks Convenor – David Tranter

Publicity Officer – Helen Tranter

Librarian and Public Officer – Helen Tranter

Supper Convenor – Jane Maxwell

Caalang Creek Project Group – Steve Douglas

Meeting closed 8 10pm.

Agenda for REPS AGM 2009

1. PRESENT

2. APOLOGIES

3. OPENING REMARKS/Announcements

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM held on 14th November 2008

5. REPORTS

5.1 President's Report

5.2 Treasurer's Report

6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

TALK: Dr Rebecca Spindler - **Reproduction and Conservation of Jaquars in Brazil**

NEXT MEETING: Christmas Meeting Friday 11th December, 2009 (see page 8 for more details)

REPS Positions for re-election

Position	Current Office Bearer
President	Leon Hall
Vice President	Jill Keft
Secretary	Lynn Stevenson
Treasurer	Anne Wilson
General Committee	Denis Wilson, Helen Tranter, David Mee, Peter Glass, Monica Engel, Chris Stevenson, David Tranter
Publicity Officer	Helen Tranter
Eucryphia Editors	Monica Engel Sheila McInnes
Talks Convenor	David Tranter
Librarian and Public Officer	Helen Tranter
Supper Convenor	Jane Maxwell
Caalang Creek Project Group	Steve Douglas

CSIRO News

Following is an article from CSIRO's Double Helix Science Club (email newsletter - weekly) that says the recent dust storm we experienced wasn't all that bad for parts of the environment. In fact quite good? Read on.

News: Dusting off a feast fit for a fish

Last month, the residents of Sydney awoke to a strange, apocalyptic landscape. Dawn had struggled to push its way through the ochre-coloured haze that had crept over the city during the night, washing everything in an eerie red light. Far from being the end of the world, this massive cloud of dust led to an explosion of life in nearby ocean waters and even contributed to the removal of a few million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere.

On most days, 20 micrograms of dust per cubic metre drifts through Sydney's air. On 22 September, there were 15 400 micrograms. CSIRO estimates 16 million tonnes of topsoil were lifted from outback New South

Wales and South Australia and carried east by strong winds. Such an unusual combination of factors occurs once every 70 years, although global warming could see it become a little more frequent. In addition to weathered particles of rock, soil consists of the microscopic remains of dead organisms.

As protein breaks down, it forms the chemical 'urea', which is a useful source of nitrogen for growing plants. Given such nutrients are usually rather scarce in Australia's coastal waters, the tonnes of dust that fell into the water provided a feast for the phytoplankton.

These tiny plant-like microorganisms lie at the heart of the vast marine food web. More phytoplankton means more of the little fish that feed on them, leading to more big fish, and so on.

Measurements made by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science showed microscopic plant life 10 kilometres off Australia's east coast had tripled following the dust storm. This is potentially useful information for those concerned about our ocean's decreasing fish stocks. It is also interesting for those studying the effects of carbon dioxide on climate change. Like all plants, phytoplankton absorb CO₂ as they grow, acting as a significant carbon sink.

Questions have been raised regarding the possibility of fertilising the ocean with nitrogen to artificially create similar blooms in phytoplankton, both as a way of stimulating an increase in fish numbers and as a means of reducing the amount of carbon in our atmosphere.

From Science by Email 16 October 2009
(ScienceMail@csiro.au)

An unusual form of *Lyperanthus* (Orchid) at Berrima

By Denis Wilson

Several days ago I received a phone call from Jenny Simons, from the Australian Plant Society - Southern Highlands Branch. She said she had seen an unusual Orchid near the Berrima Weir, and wanted to know if I was interested.

Was I?

Jenny sent me a photo taken by a friend of hers, and I was able to identify the plant as a **yellow form** of *Lyperanthus suaveolens*, known generally as "**Brown Beaks**". The yellow form is well documented, but it is apparently not common, except on the NSW North Coast.

We arranged to meet on Saturday afternoon, and Jenny took me along a track, to find the plants she had seen several days before.

Having found these yellow flowered forms of *Lyperanthus*, we decided to look around (it was a nice afternoon for a walk). I was actually hoping to find some "*Caladenias*" in flower, but there were none to be seen.



Lyperanthus suaveolens yellow

photo Denis Wilson

Anyway, we had only gone about another 200 metres when I spotted a bunch of the classic **brown form** of *Lyperanthus suaveolens*. We were both tickled pink to have "completed the set" – and within 200 metres of each other.

It seems this species is not "common" in the Southern Highlands. I have seen one, once before, several years after I moved to Robbo, but before I had a proper camera, so I did not have any photographs of it. Jenny had seen this species before but not for many years, and that was in the Heathcote area, apparently. Neither of us had seen the yellow form before.

All together a pleasant afternoon walk. It is always fun to find a new species, or at least an uncommon variant thereof.

Editors note:

Have a look at Denis's blogspot "The Nature of Robertson" www.peonyden.blogspot.com. He has recently published his 100th post. A fine effort. There are many stories about orchids accompanied by Denis's detailed photographs as well as other snippets about life in Robertson.

Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

Birds again (and with us always). Portraits, an autobiography, and an inspiration.

Judith Wright

Magpies

Along the road the magpies walk
with hands in pockets, left and right.
They tilt their heads, and stroll and talk.
In their well-fitted black and white

they look like certain gentlemen
who seem most nonchalant and wise
until their meal is served – and then
what clashing beaks, what greedy eyes!

But not one man that I have heard
throws back his head in such a song
of grace and praise – no man nor bird.
Their greed is brief; their joy is long.
For each is born with such a throat
as thanks his God with every note.

Black Cockatoos

Each certain kind of weather or of light
has its own creatures. Somewhere else they wait
as though they but inhabited heat or cold,
twilight or dawn, and knew no other state.
Then at their time they come, timid or bold.

So when the long drought-winds, sandpaper-harsh,
were still, and the air changed, and the clouds came,
and other birds were quiet in prayer or fear,
these knew their hour. Before the first far flash
lit up, or the first thunder spoke its name,
in heavy flight they came, till I could hear
the wild black cockatoos, tossed on the crest
of their high trees, crying the world's unrest.

The Singing Garden – the Indian Myna

Gimme the town an' its clamour an' clutter;
I ain't very fond of the bush;
For my cobbers are coves of the gardens and gutter –
A tough metropolitan push.
I ain't never too keen on the countryfied life;
It's the hustle an' bustle for me an' me wife.

So I swagger an' strut an' I cuss an' I swagger;
I'm wise to the city's hard way.
A bit of a bloke an' a bit of a bragger;
I've always got plenty to say.
Learned thro' knockin' about since my people came out
From the land at the back of Bombay.

C J Dennis

When out in the bush I am never a ranger;
There never ain't nothin' to see.
Besides, them bush birds got no time for a stranger;
So town an' the traffic for me.
I sleep in the gardens an' loaf in the street,
An' sling off all day at the fellers I meet.

An' I swagger an' scold an' strut an' I swagger,
An' pick up me fun where I can,
Or tell off me wife, who's a bit of a nagger,
Or scrap with the sparrers for scran.
A bonzer at bluffin', I give you my word,
For, between you and' me, I'm a pretty tough bird.

(contributed by Leon Hall)

Ode to a Skylark

(Stanzas 1 and 2)

Hail to thee, blithe spirit!
Bird thou never wert –
That from heaven or near it
Pourest thy full heart
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.

Higher still and higher
From the earth thou springest,
Like a cloud of fire;
The blue deep thou wingest,
And singing still dost soar, and soaring ever singest.

P B Shelley

(Stanzas 20 and 21)

Better than all measures
Of delightful sound,
Better than all treasures
That in books are found,
Thy skill to poet were, thou scorner of the ground!

Teach me half the gladness
That thy brain must know;
Such harmonious madness
From my lips would flow, Thy world should listen
then, as I am listening now.

Please send a poem on the environment, written by yourself or another person, to Jonathan Persse, Sallyhill, Burrawang 2577

NPA Talk

Mark Selmes, Environmental Campaigner from the Southern Tablelands area will speak to the NPA Southern Highlands Branch about the threat to local forests from Firewood Logging.

Mark will give an illustrated talk about the forests of Mount Rae (between Crookwell and Taralga) and the threat posed to these forests by logging for firewood.

The main forest type there is Tableland Basalt Forest, an Endangered Ecological Community.



The main issue is clearing of the forest for firewood.

Under various "loopholes" in the NSW Threatened Species Act, the firewood loggers argue that their activities are "forestry", rather than clearing of a protected habitat (which it is). They have even attempted to by-pass Local Government approval processes. Mark has been campaigning against this clearing activity for some time, and has had considerable success, so far.

The threat to the forests is still on-going.

Needless to say, in these days of Global Warming, the idea of knocking down forests, to burn in open fires in Goulburn and Canberra makes absolutely no sense.

NPA General Meeting, Wednesday 18th November 2009

7:30PM at the CWA Hall, Moss Vale

Contact: Denis Wilson 4885 2725

Make your own food A community learning exchange project

The CTC@Robertson will be holding a series of workshops covering different aspects of making food. All the workshops will be presented by "local experts" from the Robertson community and the topics will include: Build a pizza oven, grow and propagate herbs, fruit trees – selection, care and pruning, bread baking, preserves, raising poultry, composting and other garden preparations, introduction to cheesemaking, and vegetable gardening.

The first two workshops being held are:

Sunday November 8, 2pm until 4pm – Planning and starting a vegetable garden.

The presenter of this workshop is Jane Maxwell. Jane is a gardener by trade who has lived in Robertson for 18 years. Jane supports using organic gardening practises.

Sunday November 22, 2pm until 4pm – Growing and propagating herbs.

Denis Wilson will present a workshop on plant propagation using herbs as an example. Growing herbs, is a simple step in starting to grow your own produce

Fee for each of these workshops is \$15.00 per person (\$10.00 concession) or \$25.00 per household (maximum of 2 people) .

Dates to be set for the Pizza Oven Building Workshop – Register your interest now!

Phone Monica at Robertson Community Technology Centre on 02 4885 2665

or email info@robertsonctc.org.au

www.robertsonctc.org.au

This project made possible through assistance by a grant from Mittagong RSL and Moss Vale Services Club.

WetlandCare Australia National Art Competition 2010

To celebrate World Wetlands Day 2010 on 2nd February, WetlandCare Australia is hosting its 3rd annual Australia-wide art competition, offering categories for children and adults. Detailed information and entry forms - www.wetlandcare.com.au

What are wetlands?

Wetlands in Australia are incredibly diverse, and include; swamps and bogs, beaches, rocky shores, mudflats, subterranean caves, farm dams, rivers and creeks, springs and soaks, floodplains, lakes, estuaries, inshore coastal/marine environments to 6m depth, as well as urban wetlands that can occur right in densely populated areas and provide habitat for urban wildlife. With such a diverse subject as wetlands, there is enough material for all artists everywhere!

The theme of World Wetlands Day 2010 is "Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change", and this is also the theme of the art competition. Works related to wetlands generally will also be accepted.

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2010 is designed to encourage everyone to think about what climate change may mean for wetland biodiversity on a local, national and global scale. Biodiversity means the diversity of all life forms in a particular habitat or region.

Wetlands are essential, not only as an intrinsic component of balanced ecosystems and sustainable catchments, but also because they provide services to human society and biodiversity generally. The solutions our planet needs require creativity and new ideas - a great opportunity to link art and environment!

Information and entry forms: www.wetlandcare.com.au



Caalang Creek Working Bees

Caalang Creek Working Bees are usually held on the last Saturday of each month from 9:30 am onwards subject to the weather. Please come and join us for as long as you are able. Please note that as there are no working bees in December and January there will be one held in early February.

The next Working Bees will be on the 28th November and the 6th February

Meet at the footbridge in Hampden Park. Don't forget water, hat and gloves. We now have tools available, but bring your own if you can.

Queries to Steve Douglas 4271 4957 or Leon Hall 4888 2222.

Mulch

There is an over-supply of mulch adjacent to the cricket oval, so if any member would like some mulch, go ahead and load your trailer from the pile.

Help Care for Our Nature Reserve

**1st Wednesday of each month
10:00am to noon**

All welcome. Please bring garden gloves. For further information, phone Helen: 4885-1394

REPS Membership Renewals now due

It is that time of year again when REPS Membership renewals are due. Please find the 2008-09 Annual Membership Renewal/Application form with this edition of Eucryphia. Please complete this form as soon as possible and return it with your membership fees to REPS, P.O. Box 3045, Robertson NSW 2577.

Your ongoing membership and support is much appreciated.

If you have any friends or neighbours interested in joining REPS pass a copy of the application form on to them. Alternatively new forms can be obtained from the Secretary, or via email: monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au.

REPS Meetings for 2010

The dates for next year's public meetings are as listed below. Each meeting will include a talk that will be publicised in the Eucryphia prior to each meeting.

Friday 12th February

Friday 9th April

Friday 11th June

Friday 13th. August

Friday 8th October (to be confirmed)

Friday 12th November (Annual General Meeting)

REPS Christmas Party

Friday 11 th December 2009 at Robertson Community Centre from 6:30 pm

All are invited to come along to the 2009 REPS Christmas Party. Pizzas will be ordered from Pizzas in the Mist – contribution approx \$10 per person.

Please BYO drink and anything else foodwise (eg nibblyies, salad) that you would like. Look forward to seeing you there!

For further information please contact Lynn Stevenson on 4885 2902 or ponto2@optusnet.com.au

Contact REPS

All those who are interested in supporting our aim are welcome to join REPS. Our aim is to promote the preservation and enhancement of the Robertson environment. We welcome contact with individuals and other community groups. For further information and subscriptions please contact: The Secretary – Lynn Stevenson
PO Box 3045,
Robertson NSW 2577
or President – Leon Hall on 4888 2222

We are always looking for new contributions to Eucryphia. If you have an essay, article, poem or photograph that you would like to share with other REPS members please contact Monica Engel or Sheila McInnes

email: monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au

All contributions will be most welcome.

Visit the REPS website

www.reps.org.au