



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 Meeting

Speaker: Sally Stevenson
Friday 13th August, 7.30pm
Robertson Community Centre
Caalong Street, Robertson

Indigo Foundation Supporting Development in Marginalised Communities



Indigo Foundation is a small independent volunteer led Australian community development organisation, providing effective and innovative assistance in public health & education to improve the lives of people in marginalised communities. Indigo was established in 2000 and is currently supporting projects in eight countries around the world.

Indigo works with local organisations to empower communities to access resources, and have control over the decisions that determine their basic needs and human rights. It provides financial and technical support to local 'not for profit' and community-based organisations, with a particular focus on local capacity building.

Sally Stevenson is the founding Chairperson of the Indigo Foundation. She is also Team Leader for the Asia Pacific Emergency Response Team of Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors without Borders, and mentor for senior management in Medecins sans Frontiers. This follows recent roles as Head of Mission for Médecins Sans Frontières in South Sudan and Ethiopia. With a Masters in Peace Studies and a Masters of Public Health, Sally has worked in the humanitarian and development world for more than 20 years with organisations such as World Health Organisation, World Bank, United Nations, Stanford University and AusAID. Sally was awarded the 2009 UOW Chancellors Award for Community Service.

Photo: Pat Duggan, Indigo Foundation Project Manager, travelled to Madhurantakam, Tamil Nadu. Indigo provides funds for the operation of an education program for Dalit ('untouchable') children.

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

Upcoming Events

- Sat 31st July** – REPS Caalang Creek working bee from 9.30am, pg 3
- Thu 12th August** – WSC Local Planning Strategy Robertson Workshop, 5.30pm, CEC Robertson, pg 2
- Fri 13th August** – REPS Talk '*Indigo Foundation*' Sally Stevenson, 7:30pm, Community Centre
- Sun 15th August** – CANWin joins 'Walk Against Warming', pg 6
- Tue 17th August** – NPA Talk '*Macquarie Marshes*' Kim Jenkins, 7.30pm, CWA Hall, Moss Vale, pg 2
- Thu 19th August** – Science Week Talk '*Our Seabird Islands*' by Nicholas Carlisle, Fitzroy Falls, pg 2
- Sun 12th September** – Sustainable House Day, CTC and Community Centre open, pg 3

June REPS Talk by Bruce Clarke

I had the pleasure in attending Jane Lemann's talk at the REPS June meeting.

Many of us know Jane already from her outstanding work on the Gib and many other local reserves.

Jane gave us a broad overview of the natural history of the Southern Highlands. The talk was really about the importance of bio-diversity and how we can preserve it, especially in relation to local parks, reserves and gardens. There were no PowerPoint presentations just Janes' wealth of knowledge on the local environment.

Jane also talked about the Great Eastern Ranges Project which is a brilliant encompassing concept to re-connect fragmented natural areas right along the Great Dividing Range. It provides a grand scheme (as big as the Great Barrier Reef) into which all of our gardens, reserves, roadsides, waterways and property remnants will link. It will create a network of habitat for bio-diversity movement and gene replenishment before it is too late. Plantings have already begun for the Southern Highlands Link between Morton and Nattai National Parks to support the special endangered creatures in our Shire. You are part of this great plan as every little bit counts!

Further information from Tim Beshara of Greening Australia, email: tbeshara@greeningaustralia.org.au

Lastly I would like to recommend (The Gib: Mount Gibraltar, Southern Highlands) available from local bookshops and council. Jane's huge involvement with the book and the Gib Landcare & Bushcare Group is a great inspiration to many of us.

Strategic Planning for Robertson 2011 - 2031 by Leon Hall

The Wingecarribee Shire Council is organising a Strategic Planning Workshop for Robertson. In April Council formally resolved to commence the process of reviewing the current Wingecarribee Our Future Strategic Plan and preparing a new Local Planning Strategy for the Shire from 2011 to 2031.

The Robertson area has been picked as the first 'cab off the rank' for community consultation. The meeting will be held on **Thursday 12 August from 5.30 pm to 8.30pm** at the St. Johns Anglican Church Hall, Robertson. A letter will be sent to residents from the council notifying them of this meeting.

This is the first of a larger consultation over the shire involving 21 towns and villages plus rural localities which could take up to 18 months to 2 years to complete. The 'workshop' will be to help resolve and determine the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in Robertson.

REPS would encourage any interested people to come along and make a valued contribution to Robertson for its planning and future directions.

NPA Public Lecture Macquarie Marshes

**7:30 pm Tuesday 17th August 2010
CWA Hall, Elizabeth St, Moss Vale
Supper provided - Gold Goin donation
Speaker: Kim Jenkins**

The National Parks Association has long held an interest in the Macquarie Marshes, a vast wetland system in north-west New South Wales. The marshes were listed under the RAMSAR Convention in 1986. The Convention recognises their international significance and as a signatory to the Convention Australia is obliged to conserve and protect the Marshes.

The marshes are home to more than 200 bird species including egrets, ibis and heron. These birds need redgums, reed beds, water couch and other wetland plants to provide food and nesting sites.

The life of the Macquarie Marshes is under threat from insufficient water. The Marshes have missed out on important flows of water since the building of the Burrendong Dam.

Science Week at the Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre 'Our Seabird Islands'

**Thursday 19 August, 2010 at 2.00pm
Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre**

Nicholas Carlile, a renowned Seabird Scientist, will give a free presentation at the Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre.

Australian islands are fragile places; natural wonders that are a special part of our heritage. Despite their isolation, they have had a higher number of bird extinctions than anywhere else in Australia.

During this seminar you will discover how scientific research and recovery programs are helping to conserve these unique landscapes and their fascinating birds for the future.

Nicholas will take you on a journey that few people have had opportunity to undertake themselves.

Please ring 48877 270 for bookings



Working Bee at Caalong Creek



Bruce Clarke sent in a couple of photos of the hard workers at the last working bee. You can see Ian Foster enjoying his labours on the left and the worker on the right is Elizabeth Bennetts, a member of the Wingecarribee Shire Council Bush Regenerator Team.

The next Caalang Creek working Bee will be Saturday the 31st of July from 9.30 am onwards. Please bring shovels, wheelbarrows & weeding tools and don't forget your hat & water bottle. It is important that as many people as possible turn up - we are part of the Wingecarribee volunteer bush regeneration community and as such will get ongoing support from trained professionals from Council. Coffee at the CTC afterwards.

Robertson Nature Reserve by Ford Kristo

Years of hard work in Robertson Nature Reserve by REPS volunteers is paying off. A recent inspection by volunteers and National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) staff found that past weed control work in the Reserve has made a significant impact on infestations of privet and other invasive species.

While weeds still exist in the Reserve, the NPWS believes if a strong effort is made over the next 12 months or so, the weed problem there will largely have been overcome. The task will be then to monitor and mop up any re-infestations.



Until now, weed control volunteers have been REPS members. However, the NPWS would like to invite all members of the community to join the volunteer effort, to deal the final death blow to the rainforest weed problem. The Nature Reserve volunteers meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 9.00 am to about midday. Please call Ford Kristo (NPWS Ranger) on 4887 8244 (BH) for more details.

Sustainable House Day September 12

Would you like to visit a sustainable house in Robertson—to find out more about reducing waste around the home, saving water, natural home heating and cooling, passive solar design, photovoltaics ... and more?

Sustainable House Day is a nation-wide initiative, where people open up their eco-friendly homes to showcase them to the public. By coming along to the Sustainable House Day on 12 September, you can find out directly from home owners who've put sustainable living into practice.

CANWin is looking for people who are willing to open their homes on the day to make it a success! The hours are flexible and they will aim to have a CANWin representative at each house to help out, if needed.

If your home has some sustainable features that you would like to show to others, please call Claire Burniston on 0431 729 974 or claire@freshsolaraustralia.com.au

For more information about Sustainable House Day, see www.sustainablehouseday.com

Robertson CTC will be open on the day showcasing some of the technologies installed to reduce our water and electricity. The work at the CTC has been made possible with a grant from the NSW Climate Change Fund's Public Facilities Program (Community Savers Stream).

REPS is also opening the Caalong Street Community Centre with information about the retro-fit and about REPS the organisation. If there are any volunteers who can help keep the centre open on the day please contact Monica (see page 8 for contact info).

Private Native Forests Awareness Field Days

Improving the long term sustainability and production from private native forests across NSW is the objective of ongoing private native forests (PNF) awareness field days across the state in 2010.

The Department of Industry & Investment, with support from the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water (DECCW), are holding field days to provide participants with an awareness of the opportunities and regulatory obligations of good PNF management and operations on their farm.

There is a field day proposed for Robertson in October. Contact the Murwillumbah Industry and Investment Office on 02 6672 2770 to express your interest.

Slime Moulds

photos and text by Denis Wilson

Slime Moulds were once regarded as Fungi, but these days they are classed as a separate Kingdom of creatures, Protocista, which are regarded as closer to amoebas than fungi. This form of Slime Mould is classed within the Amoebozoa, so technically it is no longer regarded as a fungus, let alone a “plant” as was once the case with all fungi.

Slime Moulds share some of the characters of both amoebas and fungi. The mature fruiting body, called the sporangium produces spores that eventually develop into a creeping, slime-like mass called a plasmodium. The plasmodium behaves like a giant amoeba, feeding on bacteria, fungi and decaying organic matter. The plasmodium eventually transforms into a sponge-like aethalium, analogous to the spore-bearing fruiting body of a mushroom; which then degrades, darkening in color, and releases its dark-colored spores. Slime Moulds are able to move around (in a limited manner). They do not have the same cellular material as fungi do.

This is one of those fine yellow foam-like structures which goes under the name of **“Dog's Vomit Slime Mould”**. [Fuligo septica](#). This species appears to be universal in distribution.

Full extent of the Dog's Vomit Slime Mould



It was in peak condition when I first found it - full of very fresh foam-like substance.



Close-up view of the fluffy structure of the fresh Slime Mould, resembling a “blancmange” dessert

The weather was hot and humid. These are perfect conditions for a Slime Mould to grow and to move around.

Later in the afternoon, there was a thunderstorm. I went back out and inspected the Slime Mould and it had transformed itself into a dark, nearly black, blob of something barely able to be described in polite terms.



What had been a creamy yellow "blancmange" substance had now turned black with spores. It looked very nasty indeed, but, hey, that's all right - it was doing its job - reproducing itself.



I suspect that the thunderstorm would be important for this Slime Mould to spread its spores.

Further reading:

Gaye Drady's "Hunter Valley Backyard Nature" report on Slime Moulds:

<http://hvbackyard.blogspot.com/2007/06/22-secretive-slime-moulds.html>

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slime_mold

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuligo_septica

[The Nature of Robertson](#)

Poetry Corner
Edited by Jonathan Persse

Can we imagine the world, our lives, without music? What a dreary environment we would then inhabit!

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- from Twelfth Night

If music be the food of love, play on;
Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting,
The appetite may sicken, and so die.
That strain again! it had a dying fall:
O! it came o'er my ear like die sweet. sound
That breathes upon a bank of violets,
Stealing and giving odour!

- from The Merchant of Venice

The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils;
The motions of his spirit are dull as night,
And his affections dark as Erebus:
Let no such man be trusted.

John Milton (1608 -'74)
- from The Hymn

Such Musick (as 'tis said)
Before was never made,
But when of old the sons of morning sung,
While the Creator Great
His constellations set,
And the well-ballanc't world on hinges hung,
And cast the dark foundations deep,
And bid the weltring waves their oozy channel
keep.

Joseph Addison (1672-1719)
- from Song for St Cecilia's Day

Music, the greatest good that mortals know,
And all of heaven we have below.

William Wordsworth (1770-1850)
- from The Solitary Reaper

Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang
As if her song could have no ending;;
I saw her singing at her work,
And o'er the sickle bending;—
I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more

P.B.Shelley (1792-1822)
- from To a Skylark

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.

* * * * *

Like a Poet hidden
In the light of thought,
Singing hymns unbidden,
Till the world is wrought
To sympathy with hopes and fears it heeded not:

Like a high-born maiden
In a palace-tower,
Soothing her love-laden
Soul in secret hour
With music sweet as love, which overflows
her bower.

A.W.E. O'Shaughnessy (1844 –'81)
- from We are the Music Makers

We are the music makers,
We are the dreamers of dreams,
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,
And sitting by desolate streams;—
World-losers and world-forsakers,
On whom the pale moon gleams:
We are the movers and shakers
Of the world forever, it seems.

Janet West : On Hearing Mozart

Pilgrimage to Salzburg.

Helpless acolytes flood to the city of rocks,
Cleft by the green tinged torrent of the snows.
Steeple, domes and towers conspire
To carry the immortal notes.
Food of angels... effortlessly skyward.
They are never sated by the flummery of phrasing,
Arpeggios twinkling upon the ether.
White-wigged shadows
Bend and circle to the minuet.
Seduced by sound,
The heart submits,
Delightedly.

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



Caalang Creek Working Bees

Caalang Creek Working Bees are 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.

The next Working Bees will be on the 31st July and the 28th August

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.

Help Care for Our Nature Reserve

**1st Wednesday of each month
9:00am to noon**

All welcome. Please bring garden gloves. For further information, phone Ford Kristo (NPWS) during business hours: 4887 8244

REPS Meetings for 2010

The remaining REPS Public Meetings for this year are listed below. Each meeting will include a talk that will be publicised in the Eucryphia prior to the meeting.

- Friday 13th August
- Saturday 9th October (walk, to be advised)
- Friday 12th November (Annual General Meeting)
- Friday 10th December (Christmas Party)

NPA Walk

Saturday 20th November
Budderoo NP, Gerringong Falls

This is a fairly flat walk following the Budderoo Track until an old fire trail leads off to the right. There are some muddy sections and the last 300 metres is off track.

Joan Lowe: 48612996 or 0417492981.
joan.lowe@bigpond.com

No public transport. Car pooling will be arranged from Bowral.

Get Up Walk Against Warming

Get Up have organised their annual event. This year, Walk Against Warming will take place on **Sunday 15 August 2010**. There is no locally organised event. CANWin has decided it would make a bigger impact if the group joined in with the major planned event in Sydney. The Walk will be starting at **12 Middy in Belmore Park** (next to Central Station).

There is a train leaving Bowral at 9.30am and returning from Central at 4.07pm. It would be great to get a strong contingent for the rally from Wingecarribee Shire.

From Get Up: "Due to the significance of this year with the Federal Election, we want the Walk to be the biggest yet and to do this, we are asking for your help. Together, we will remind government that we're doing our bit on climate change. We're working hard to reduce greenhouse pollution. We're saving water and energy. We're buying greenpower. We're forming climate action groups. It's time for the government to do their bit."

CTC Winter Sunday Series Cinema An Afternoon with Jaques Tati

Introduced by Tony Williams on Sunday September 19, 2010 at 2pm.

By public demand, Jacques Tati returns!! Mon Oncle. plus some excerpts from Tati films, *Traffic* and *Playtime*.

Café opens at 1.30pm.

Adults \$10 children \$5 (CTC fund raiser)

Light refreshments available. BYO beer/wine.

Coming up in the 'Meet the Film Makers' series Saturday October 30th (date to be confirmed) **'The Boys are Back'**, presented by producer **Tim White**.

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