



# 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](http://www.reps.org.au)

## REPS Annual General Meeting and Talk

### ***“Tales of an Itinerant Solar Physicist - Satellites; Sunspots; and Climate in the Past and Future”***

**Speaker: Dr Ken McCracken**  
**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 7. 30pm**  
**Robertson Community Centre**  
**Caalong Street, Robertson**



Author of  
“Blast Off”

Dr McCracken has conducted Solar research for more than 50 years. He made some of the earliest satellite measurements of cosmic ray production by the Sun, when it was said, "You don't need to be mad to conduct experiments in space, but it helps". His and the work of others showed how the Sun does bad things to power generating systems, confuses pigeons, and sends radio signals to the wrong places.

Dr McCracken has wide and varied interests and has been at the fore-front of many scientific projects including: Cosmic Ray research in the 1950s in Tasmania, Rocket science and building satellites in the USA in the 1960s, Locating x-ray stars, Remote sensing, Geophysical exploration for Minerals with the CSIRO in Australia, scientific consulting and latterly beef breeding at Mount Jellore.

His talk to REPS will describe work done with Swiss colleagues using glaciological records to study how the Sun has varied over the past 10,000 years. He will outline their discoveries about the ‘Hallstatt Cycle’ that has alternatively warmed and cooled the Earth every 2,200 years. The Earth is presently mid-way between the cool part of that cycle (1400AD) and the warm part (similar to the "Roman Maximum"). Thus, in addition to man-made warming contributions, the Sun will continue to warm the Earth for another 400 years.

The talk will not be in fancy scientist-speak: as a farmer, Ken knows how to call spade a spade.

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

### Upcoming Events

- Fri 12<sup>th</sup> November** – REPS AGM and Public Meeting ***“Tales of an Itinerant Solar Physicist - Satellites, Sunspots, and Climate in the Past and Future”***, **Dr Ken McCracken**, 7:30pm, Community Centre  
**Tue 16<sup>th</sup> November** – NPA Talk *‘The Science Behind Bushfire Management in Australia’* by Roger Good, 7.30pm, CWA Hall MossVale, see pg 8  
**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> and Sun 21<sup>st</sup> November** – Southern Highlands Studio Art Trail see page 8  
**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> November** – Caalang Creek Working Bee from 9.30 onwards, see pg 10  
**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> December** – December Social Evening, 7.30pm, Community Centre, see pg 10

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## REPS is 20 Years Old

REPS had its beginning in November 1990, so this November we will be 20 years old and we plan to begin our celebration with a birthday cake for supper after the AGM and talk. So come along and join in for this and then again for more celebrations at our Social Evening in December (see page 10).

## REPS AGM

In advance of the REPS AGM (on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November) office bearers' reports for 2010 are published below in this issue of Eucryphia.

## President's Report

After 7 years as President I have decided to step down from this position. I will continue to help the society where I can but also need a break. Thank you to the members for your support over this period. It has been enthralling with many issues and events. REPS is doing well and will have its 20th birthday in November.

I think the local environment has generally improved over the year. REPS has been involved with continual enhancement of the bush area of Hampden Park with further planting, weeding and mulching of the area. Also a small band of long term members continue to weed disturbed areas of the Nature Reserve and Council has targeted privet surrounding the Nature Reserve. We have also had an interest in Pinkwood Park which puts on a floral display each year.

The Robertson Railway Station also looked magnificent this year corresponding with the Robertson Spring Fair where REPS had a stand with the local Australian Plants Society (Helen Tranter), and next door, the National Parks Association (Tony Hill et al.) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Beth Boughton) covering many aspects of the local natural environment. David Tranter was also busy raising money for the station, selling cut waratahs and a variety of plants. A large number of enthusiastic people passed through and a good time was had by all (thanks Anne Wilson et al.).

The talks at our general meetings also continued a good tradition of excellent subjects (and speakers) accompanied by good attendances and great interest. Recapping topics:

- November 09 - "Reproduction and Conservation of Jaguars in Brazil" - Rebecca Spindler
- February, this year - "Sustainable Living Without the Hot Air" - Ben van der Wijngaart and Deny Christian, REPS and Wingecarribee Environment Levy, WSC
- April - "The Spatial and Social Organisation of the Tiger Quoll - *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* - in Coastal New South Wales" - Debbie Andrews

- June - "Our Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Conservation" - Jane Lemann
- August - "Supporting Development in Marginalised Communities, Indigo Foundation - Sally Stevenson

In October REPS organised a walk at Barren Grounds where many native plants were in spectacular flower. I also look forward to the talk by Dr Ken McCracken (a REPS member) on the broader environmental subject of the Sun and its influence. His great experience and knowledge should make this a talk not to be missed.

In addition REPS has commented on a number of issues this year including the Metropolitan Water Sharing Plan and the Robertson Development Control Plan and members of the Committee have developed a brochure on the Leylandii Cypress (available at the next meeting).

Our committee has worked well together over the year and on behalf of the society I would like to thank them for their professional and friendly attitude and voluntary work. Our newsletter 'Eucryphia' has also been a mainstay of the society keeping members informed about a variety of activities and environmental subjects thanks to the editors and contributors.

REPS has over 100 members and being a member is a great way of supporting our society. If you would like to contribute further then please consider being a committee member or with just helping out e.g. with bush regeneration at Hampden Park or the Robertson Nature Reserve.

Best wishes for the coming year and congratulations REPS on your 20th birthday!

**Leon Hall**



Wildflower walk, Barren Grounds  
Photo: Jan Hainke



Caalang Creek working bee  
Photo: Bruce Clark

**Treasurer's Report 2010**  
**Anne Wilson, Treasurer**

**ROBERTSON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION SOCIETY INC**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2010**

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 2010**

|                           |                 |  |                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|------------------------|
| Current Assets            |                 |  | <b>\$</b>              |
| Balance per Bank Passbook | General Account |  | 7,015.92               |
|                           | Grants Account  |  | 144.63                 |
|                           |                 |  | <u>7,160.55</u>        |
| Current liabilities       |                 |  | 0.00                   |
| Net Assets                |                 |  | <u><u>7,160.55</u></u> |

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

**GENERAL ACCOUNT**

| <b>INCOME</b>                         | <b>\$</b>              | <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                  | <b>\$</b>              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Memberships                           | 1,485.00               | Dept of Fair Trading                | 47.00                  |
| Interest                              | 10.15                  | Hall hire                           | 170.00                 |
| Donations with memberships            | 515.00                 | Audit fees                          | 165.00                 |
| Donations at meetings                 | 242.15                 | Other meeting costs                 | 128.40                 |
| Donations from plant sales            | 170.00                 | Printing/Postage/PO Box/Stationery  | 376.73                 |
| Donation towards leaflet              | 30.00                  | Internet Web hosting                | 144.00                 |
|                                       |                        | Membership subscriptions/donations  | 354.50                 |
|                                       |                        | Transaction charges                 | 31.75                  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <u><b>2,452.30</b></u> | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>            | <u><b>1,417.38</b></u> |
|                                       |                        | <b>Excess Income to Expenditure</b> | <u><b>1,034.92</b></u> |
| <b>Bank Reconciliation at 30-9-09</b> |                        |                                     |                        |
| Opening Balance per Cash Book         | 5,981.00               | Balance per Bank Passbook           | 7,015.92               |
| Plus Excess Income to Expend          | 1,034.92               | Less unrepresented cheques (none)   |                        |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>                | <u><b>7,015.92</b></u> | <b>Balance to cash book</b>         | <u><b>7,015.92</b></u> |

**GRANTS ACCOUNT**

| <b>INCOME</b>                         | <b>\$</b>            | <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                  | <b>\$</b>            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Interest                              | 0.14                 |                                     | 0.00                 |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <u><b>0.14</b></u>   | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>            | <u><b>0.00</b></u>   |
|                                       |                      | <b>Excess Income to Expenditure</b> | <u><b>0.14</b></u>   |
| <b>Bank Reconciliation at 30-9-09</b> |                      |                                     |                      |
| Opening Balance per Cash Book         | 144.49               | Balance per Bank Passbook           | 144.63               |
| Plus Excess Income to Expend          | 0.14                 |                                     |                      |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>                | <u><b>144.63</b></u> | <b>Balance to cash book</b>         | <u><b>144.63</b></u> |

Anne Wilson, Hon. Treasurer

Note to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2010

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 from the** Robertson Environment Protection Society Inc annual general meeting held on Friday 13th November, 2009, 7.30pm will be handed out at the AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

## Agenda for REPS AGM 2010

1. PRESENT
2. APOLOGIES
3. OPENING REMARKS / Announcements
4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM held on 13th November 2009
5. REPORTS
  - 5.1 President's Report
  - 5.2 Treasurer's Report
6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Committee members
  - Talks Convener
  - Publicity Officer
  - Public Officer
  - Librarian
  - Supper Convener
  - Caalang Creek Project Group

**NEXT MEETING:** TBA

## 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<br>Sheila McInnes  |
| Talks Convenor               | David Tranter   |
| Librarian and Public Officer | Helen Tranter   |
| Supper Convenor              | Jane Maxwell  |
| Caalang Creek Project Group  | Steve Douglas   |

**TALK:** Dr Ken McCracken – “Tales of an Itinerant Solar Physicist – Satellites; Sunspots; and Climate in the Past and Future”

## August Talk Review – Indigo Foundation

by Patricia Lee

Sally Stevenson of the small independent community development organisation, the Indigo Foundation, gave an inspiring talk to REPS members in August. She showed how small, underprivileged communities in Australia and overseas could benefit with assistance from NGO's (Non-government Organisations) for a small outlay of money. Especially appealing was this organisation's clear principles and its outstanding successes.

On its website, the Indigo Foundation's ethos is:

“Our work is grounded by two sets of principles, and it is these that allow us to establish and maintain quality projects. These are our:

**Guiding Principles** - sustainability, community ownership, transparency and gender equity;

**Operational Principles** - for example, core funding, participation and partnership development, and medium to long-term commitment to communities.”

Sustainability and close community consultation certainly seem to be the stand out features of this group.

Sally told us about the Foundation's intervention in 2000 in a small farming community in Indonesia on Rote Island near West Timor. The area is very arid and marginalised. The Delha community consists of four main villages (plus a number of sub villages) and has a population of approximately 2,800. Owing to its remote location, Delha receives little government (or non-government) development assistance and lacks basic services such as water supply and electricity. The village of M'bore is 1.5 kilometres from a local lake. The farmers grew shallots, raffia for hats and garlic for a local weekly market. Using permaculture principles, project officers sought to increase the yield and variety of crops the village grew. In the first year of the project the village was able to increase its shallot crop yield from 3½ tonnes to 17½ tonnes. The farmers' income increased as they were able to sell shallots more regularly.

The project officers from Indigo spent a lot of time consulting with local farmers and the villagers as to what they needed first. In 2004, the first water from the lake was used for irrigation after IF sent a water engineer to help set up pipelines. A diesel pump was purchased for \$800 with the help of World Vision and by 2008 the shallot crop yield had increased to



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22 tonnes. IF was sensitive to the need for change happening at a pace set by the community. Now the village grows tomatoes, cucumbers, spinach and carrots. Fences have protected the crops from wandering herds of cattle and goats. There has been a dramatic increase in fresh food availability and wealth from the export of shallots.

This micro-finance, total cost to date is only \$5000, has led to money being invested in a community bank where families can access the funds on a rotation basis every 3 years. They pay the loans back from increased yields. All the villagers' homes now have private toilets and brick walls. For the first time kids from the 22 families who live there are able to go to university. This is a profound change in just a few years.

Their success has given the villagers confidence to lobby the government for a 100 metre deep bore. With the water which was once collected by hand from the lake over 1.5 kilometres away, the women can now raise chickens and dry mango and banana strips. They have more time and money to continue increasing their prosperity. Local villages are jealous of M'bore's success and the IF is helping them too to a better lifestyle using the principles of equity and sustainability to share in M'bore's success. Even the local snake-necked tortoises have benefited! They are to be helped with a conservation project.

Other projects mentioned by Sally were in Afghanistan where local refugee Hazara children were supported in their education, and in Walpiri Country in Northern Territory. IF also supports community elders who are seeking to rehabilitate and educate young petrol sniffers in their own community's Anangu culture.

In September 2009, Indigo Foundation chairperson Sally Stevenson won a University of Wollongong's Chancellor's Award for Achievement in Community Service for her commitment to Indigo Foundation.

For further information and to make a donation for the group's impressive work among impoverished and needy communities throughout the world go to: [www.indigofoundation.org/](http://www.indigofoundation.org/)

## Barren Grounds Wildflower Walk

By Helen Tranter

On Saturday 9th October, 10 REPS members and friends had a very interesting and enjoyable walk in Barren Grounds to see the spring wildflowers. The day started a bit foggy and damp but luckily it didn't rain. We were fortunate to have as one of our guests the ecologist, Dr Steve Douglas, who was a great help in our plant identifications.

We took the track westward, past the stone lodge, and soon saw a magnificent display of heath flowers; white *Epacris obtusifolia*, pink *Sprengelia incarnata* contrasting with the 'eggs and bacon' coloured pea flowers of *Aotus ericoides*. There were large patches of blue flowered *Dampiera stricta* along the track with every so often the dark pink flowers of *Boronia barkeriana*. Small shrubs with clusters of tiny yellow flowers at the top of their branches were identified as *Leionema diosmeum* (previously *Phebalium*) and the larger white flowered shrubs we saw were *Zieria arborescens*.

It was an easy walk along the track with clear changes in vegetation from heath to mallees and small trees as well as occasional patches of swamp plants. At the junction it was decided the natural stone bridge would be a good place for lunch, so we headed that way. The highlights along this part of the track were a big red waratah flower, some bushes of really dark pink *Tetratheca thymifolia* and a Native Currant bush, *Leptomeria acida* full of fruit. On the slope towards the creek the large, old, senescent bushes of *Banksia ericifolia* have created deep shade where some rainforest species such as *Pittosporum*, *Sassafras* and *Pepperbush* are starting to grow. This area may require a fire to regenerate.

Bushes of densely flowered pink *Boronia thujona*, such a feature of Barren Grounds in spring, became more common as we approached the stone bridge. It was great to see the creek flowing so freely after all the rain as we sat on the rocks eating a welcome lunch and admiring the *Boronia* on the banks. With all our flower stops it had taken about 2 hours to get to the stone bridge but the return, even up hill, back to the cars, was much quicker. Most of the group had to leave then, only 4 deciding to finish the day by walking east along the track to the lookout. In all a great day for flowers and chatting.



Photo: Jan Hainke

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## Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

Sand History is a child building a sandcastle by the sea, and that child is the whole majesty of man's power in the world.  
Heraclitus, c.535-475 BC

To see a World in a Grain of Sand,  
And a Heaven in a Wildflower,  
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand,  
And Eternity in an hour.

**William Blake - from Auguries of Innocence**

I met a traveler from an antique land  
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,  
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,  
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,  
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:  
And on the pedestal these words appear:  
'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:  
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!'  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,  
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

**P.B. Shelley – Ozymandias**

Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.  
Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.  
Let us then, be up and doing  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labour and to wait.

**Henry Longfellow - from A Psalm of Life**

The Walrus and the Carpenter  
Were walking close at hand;  
They wept like anything to see  
Such quantities of sand:  
'If this were only cleared away,'  
They said, 'it would be grand!  
'If seven maids had seven mops  
Swept it for half a year,  
Do you suppose,' the Walrus said,  
That they could get it clear?'  
'I doubt it,' said the Carpenter,  
And shed a bitter tear.

**Lewis Carroll - from Through the Looking-Glass**

For look! Within my hollow hand,  
While round the earth careens,  
I hold a single grain of sand  
And wonder what it means.  
Ah! If I had the eyes to see,  
And brain to understand,  
I think Life's mystery might be  
Solved in this grain of sand.

**Robert W. Service – A Grain of Sand**

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Softly and humbly to the Gulf of Arabs  
The convoys of dead sailors come;  
At night they sway and wander in the waters far  
under,  
But morning rolls them in the foam.

Between the sob and clubbing of the gunfire  
Someone, it seems, has time for this,  
To pluck them from the shallows and bury them in  
burrows  
And tread the sand upon their nakedness;

And each cross, the driven stake of tidewood,  
Bears the last signature of men,  
Written with such perplexity, with such bewildered  
pity,  
The words choke as they begin -

*"Unknown seaman"* - the ghostly pencil  
Wavers and fades, the purple drips,  
The breath of the wet season has washed their  
inscriptions  
As blue as drowned men's lips,

Dead seamen, gone in search of the same landfall,  
Whether as enemies they fought,  
Or fought with us, or neither; the sand joins them  
together,  
Enlisted on the other front. *El Alamein.*

### **Kenneth Slessor – Beach Burial (1942)**

Turn home, the sun goes down; swimmer, turn home.  
Last leaf of gold vanishes from the sea-curve.  
Take the big roller's shoulder, speed and swerve.  
Come to the long beach home like a gull diving.

For on the sand the grey-wolf sea lies snarling;  
Cold twilight wind splits the waves' hair and shows  
The bones they worry in their wolf-teeth. O, wind blows,  
and sea crouches on sand, fawning and mouthing;  
drops there and snatches again, drops and again snatches  
its broken toys, its whitened pebbles and shells.

### **Judith Wright – from The Surfer**

Sand, A Journey through Science and the Imagination has very recently been published by Oxford University Press. The author, Michael Welland, "weaves together the many facets of sand – its science, its art, its music, its metaphorical power. In every grain of sand, there are many worlds."

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

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Ford Kristo Foto  
Frantic Forest - Photographic Exhibition



## Southern Highlands Studio Art Trail

Artists around Robertson will open their studios on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November again this year. Studios and galleries open for the trail include:

- Greg Dark, 562 Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls
- Rick Osborn, 114 Myra Vale Road, Fitzroy Falls
- The Kaya – 68 Cleary’s Lane, Wildes Meadow
- Susan Buret, 12 Harman Street, Burrawang
- The Village Woodworks, 4872 Illawarra Highway, Robertson
- Cloud Farm, 1785 Tourist Road, Mount Murray
- Ford Kristo, NPWS Visitor Centre, Fitzroy Falls
- Neil Boughton and Jeremy Holt, Fitzroy Gallery 1349 Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls
- Light Horse Gallery, 45 Hoddle Street, Robertson
- Fettle’s Shed Gallery, Heritage Railway Precinct, Yarranga Street, Robertson
- The Green Heart Gallery, Old Cheese Factory, Hoddle Street, Robertson

For further information see [www.southern-highlands.com.au/WAR](http://www.southern-highlands.com.au/WAR) or call into the Robertson CTC to pick up a copy of the Wine Arts & Roses brochure including maps.

## NPA Talk

### The Science behind Bushfire Management in Australia

Roger Good will speak with regard to bushfires in protected areas (National Parks, Nature Reserves, wilderness areas etc). He will focus on the need for effective management for biodiversity conservation and the maintenance of the integrity of the areas and their long-term sustainability.

Naturally occurring bushfires are very much a part of the environment of the majority of Australian natural areas and vegetation and hence fires are a major management issue in protected area management, particularly at the bushland interface with urban and rural developments.

Bushfires are beneficial to the sustainability of natural ecosystems but are detrimental to the survival of many ecosystems and species when the fire regimes, (frequency, intensity, season of occurrence and the cumulative number of fires) change dramatically from the natural fire regime.

What is Prescribed Burning, and is it followed or abused?

After every major bushfire event there are repeated calls for more prescribed burning as the panacea for protection of life and property in the event of a future wildfire occurrence. The futility of simply ‘doing more’ after each major fire event is evident in the history of bushfire events.

Prescribed burning, often referred to, albeit incorrectly, as planned burning, fuel reduction burning, hazard reduction burning, and sometimes, even more loosely and dangerously as protection burning, remains an issue of considerable and polarised debate.



Roger Good

Tuesday 16 November at 7:30 PM in the CWA Hall, Moss Vale (adjacent to Council Chambers). Light Supper provided - Gold Coin Donation.

Following is a transcript of the speech made by David Tranter at a community meeting held by WSC at Mittagong RSL in July.

### Wingecarribee 2031 Vision

We meet here tonight in the area known to Governor Macquarie as “Winge Karrabee Karrabee”, the “*place of many wildfires*”. Compared to the 40,000 years that the First People have made this place their home, the next 20 are but the flash of a firefly in the night. Yet, in that brief interval, the atmosphere and ocean will exceed their capacity to process fossil fuel wastes, fresh water, arable land, phosphate fertilizer, uranium and petroleum will become scarce, petrol costs will escalate limiting how far people and food move around; and the economics of the time will be *the wise use of scarce resources*.

The Shire’s population will probably stabilize at ~ 50,000 as people choose a rich life rather than a life of riches; quality rather than quantity, development rather than growth. Drawing on unique community spirit, climate, soil, rainfall, water catchment, aquifer, scenic attractions, national parks and nearby markets, we will transform



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problems into challenges, challenges into opportunities, and create a sustainable oasis in a desert of despair.

Encouraged by the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation and the School of Permaculture that the University of Western Sydney established on the Moss Vale campus, Council granted rate relief to share-farmers. This had the effect of fostering the production of prime beef and alpaca fleece, cool-temperate fruits and vegetables, boutique dairy products and fine cabinet woods and timbers. Complemented by burgeoning Community Gardens, the Shire soon had enough food for its own needs with a surplus to export by rail to the nearby markets of Sydney, Wollongong and Canberra. By then, electric rail motors were running every hour on the hour to all the towns and villages in the Shire.

As long distance plane travel declined, tourists became interested in nearby train destinations such as ours, blessed as we are with a lovely rural landscape, spectacular national parks, mountains, escarpments and waterfalls. Encouraged by Tourism NSW, Council persuaded Charles Sturt University to establish an Ecotourism School on the Moss Vale campus. Before long, professional tour guides, including many Aborigines, began to line up at all the railway stations in the Shire to welcome city visitors bent on escaping from the dreariness of suburbia to restore their equanimity and renew their soul. Transported in comfort to one of many tourist lodges that local entrepreneurs had built beside adjacent national parks, they were taken out on guided walks through the bush for the experiences of their life.

As desalination costs increased, the State revisited its earlier plan to tap the Kangaloon Aquifer. Unwilling to allow a scarce local resource to be used for flushing Sydney and Wollongong toilets, Council negotiated a Joint Management Agreement with the State under its Water Sharing Plan in which urban water spendthrifts would be charged the true value of groundwater, the extra income to be used to subsidise local infrastructure projects such as Public Transport. This had the effect of reducing water demand and ensuring its long-term sustainability.

To reduce the carbon footprint of the Shire and conserve its agricultural potential, Council encouraged high density infill in Bowral, Moss Vale and Mittagong and discouraged the use of energy-guzzling air conditioners. This was done by supplying residents with cheap energy, winter warmth and summer cooling from local gas-fired power stations, topped up by wind turbines on surrounding heights, initiatives funded by Government Infrastructure Grants.

As people rejected “stuff” in favour of necessities, they abandoned “Big W” in favour of Council’s state-of-the-art Resource Recovery and Sustainability Centre and “Community Exchange Southern Highlands” (CESH),

where individuals traded goods and services with one another. And, all this without prejudice to local employment, education, fast broadband, health, recreation, biodiversity and the increasingly popular environment levy.

And so it came to pass that, by 2031, we had shaped a sustainable future for the Shire - a food source rather than a food sink; a water catchment rather than a housing catchment. Linked by energy-efficient public transport, our towns and villages had maintained their own identity, each with its own sense of place, examples to the nation of enterprising, rural communities, each sufficient in itself, yet linked with one another like a Necklace of Pearls in a Sea of Green.

- David Tranter, July 2010

There is still time for you to have your say about how you would like the shire to look in 2031. Take the time to have a look at the plan.

## **Wingecarribee Shire Council Strategic Plan on Display**

Draft Wingecarribee 2031+ is a long term plan for Wingecarribee as developed by our community. This is your opportunity to view the plan and give us your feedback and comments.

‘A healthy and productive community, learning and living in harmony, proud of our heritage and nurturing our environment.’

Does this sound like somewhere you’d like to be?

Please provide your comments or feedback to:

Mail Wingecarribee Shire Council

PO Box 63, Moss Vale NSW 2577

Email: [2031@wsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:2031@wsc.nsw.gov.au)

Exhibition closes 4:30pm Friday 12 November 2010

Draft Wingecarribee 2031+ can be viewed at:

Website: [www.wsc2031.com.au](http://www.wsc2031.com.au) or [www.wsc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au)

In person:

- Civic Centre  
Elizabeth Street  
Moss Vale 2577
- Bowral Library  
Bendooley Street
- Mittagong Branch Library  
Queen Street
- Visitor Information Centre  
62-70 Main Street  
Mittagong 2575





## Caalang Creek Working Bees

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

### The next Working Bees will be on the 27th November and the 26th 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.

## Help Care for Our Nature Reserve

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 Membership Renewals now due

It is that time of year again when REPS Membership renewals are due. Please find the 2010-11 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](mailto:monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au).

## REPS Meetings for 2011

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 11<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October - Walk

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November (Annual General Meeting)

## Welcome New REPS Members

Leo Butler  
Stephen Curtain

## December Social Evening Friday 10th December 2010 at Robertson Community Centre from 7:30 pm

At our end of year social evening we will continue our 20th Birthday celebrations. Pizzas will be ordered but you may like to bring drinks and other chosen eatables. Let's have a Happy Birthday!

Do you have any memories as stories, photos or poems you would like to bring along to share? There will be a display of some of our struggles and achievements to look and wonder at.

More details to be revealed at the November Meeting.

Regards, Helen

## 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](mailto:monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au)

All contributions will be most welcome.

**Visit the REPS website**  
[www.reps.org.au](http://www.reps.org.au)