



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
Friday 11th February 7:30pm
Robertson Community Centre
'The Eastern Australian Rainforest Seed Project'
Dr Kim Hamilton

Kim Hamilton BAppSc (Hons), MTeach, PhD has worked on several projects dedicated to the facilitation of conservation and use of tropical and rainforest plant diversity in support of sustainable agriculture and natural ecosystem conservation. Her research findings have been presented at international conferences and published in referred scientific journals and contribute to a greater understanding of the seed physiology and storage characteristics of Australian rainforest species. Kim is currently based at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens as coordinator and researcher for the Rainforest Seed Project.

Many Australian rainforest species are under threat in the wild and are vulnerable to increased pressure from climate change. Seedbanking is a cost effective way of conserving vulnerable species outside of their natural habitat but not all species, especially many rainforest species, can survive the seedbanking procedure that requires tolerance to seed desiccation. Currently being compiled, as part of the Rainforest Seed Project, are the seed physiological and morphological characteristics of Eastern Australian rainforest species to relate to their tolerance to drying. The relationships between these factors are being teased out in groundbreaking work never done before for Australian species, and only a few times for species from other parts of the world. This information will contribute to the global effort that is being made to understand and conserve rainforest species.

Images K. Hamilton

The Rainforest Seed Project is a 3 year project (2008-2011) and is part of Seed Quest NSW, a partnership with the Millennium Seed Bank Project (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), made possible by the support of the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Sydney through generous donations from Allianz and two private benefactors. The project is on target for collecting and testing the seeds of 150 rainforest species, including 50 threatened species or near relatives. Targets will be completed and exceeded over this summer when the major northern NSW collections are made.

The species identified to have non-orthodox seeds (i.e. cannot be stored in conventional seedbanks) need to have alternative storage techniques developed. For long-term storage, cryopreservation offers the only safe and potential option. This could include cryobanking of seeds or plant material (e.g. embryo, shoots) at very low temperatures in liquid nitrogen.

An exciting recent development has been the NSW Government investment in plant conservation by funding the construction of PlantBank, a Botanic Gardens Bicentenary project to construct a facility at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. Plantbank will store and research NSW species as well as representatives of other floras and a key PlantBank project is the conservation of rainforest species.



Rainforest fruits



Rare listed *Syzygium moorei*

Upcoming Events

- Fri. 11th February – REPS Public Meeting 7.30pm, Robertson Community Centre *see above*
Sun 13th February – CANWin 'Ecopella' 2.00pm Wingecarribee Council Theatre, Moss Vale *see page 8*
Tue 15th February - NPA, Tim Bashara, *The Great Eastern Ranges Corridor*, CWA Hall, Moss Vale, 7.30pm *see page 7*
Sat 19th February – CTC garden working bee from 8.30am onwards *see page 8*
Sat 26th February - Caalang Creek Working Bee – 9:00am Caalang Creek *see page 8*
Sat 26th March – Caalang Creek Working Bee – 9:00am Caalang Creek *see page 8*

From the President

As REPS commences a new year we look forward to more interesting and convivial meetings and the continuation of our worthy projects for the protection of the remarkable environment at Robertson. We also look back on twenty years of achievements, with particular respect for the many enthusiastic and committed folk who have given so much time and effort in the pursuit of our aims. When this organisation was formed we were especially motivated by an admiration of and concern for the preservation of the fascinating and beautiful rainforests that make the Robertson district special. Much has been achieved in research as well as in educating members and the wider population about the plants and wildlife through our meetings and publications. It is a pleasure and honour to be again in the chair and working with old and new friends. We will strive to continue these and related endeavours in 2011.

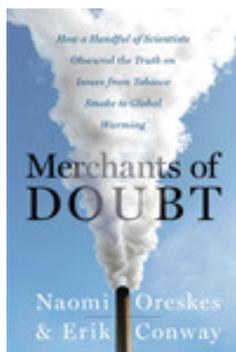
Allan Stiles

Two Books Reviewed and Paraphrased

by David Tranter

“Merchants of Doubt” by Naomi Oreskes

(Professor of History and Science at the University of California) and Erik M. Conway



This book is a chapter and verse account of how big business in the USA recruited superannuated scientists who had been involved in developing the atomic bomb to discredit those who alerted the world to such threats as “nuclear winter”, environmental pesticides, tobacco smoking, second-hand smoke, man-made erosion of the ozone layer and global warming. Appropriating

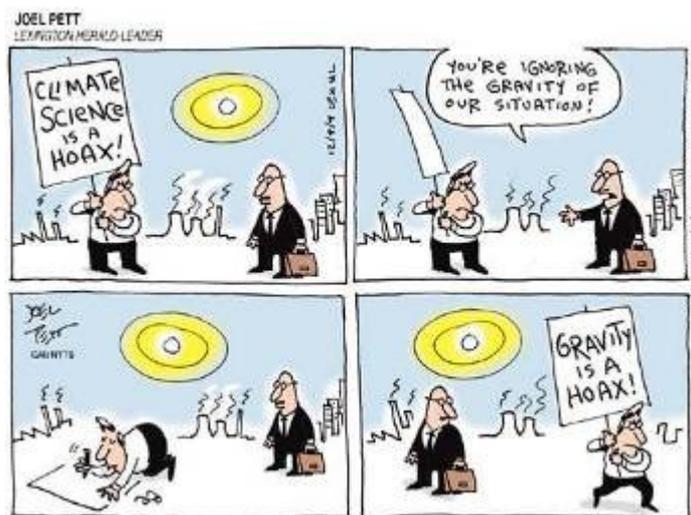
doubt, the main tool of science, those “merchants of doubt” packaged, marketed and promoted doubt as a product that could be sold to an unsuspecting public. With over 1000 well documented references that can be independently confirmed, the authors’ meticulously researched book has now exposed the unscrupulous anti-social machinations of vested interests.

The authors’ story begins with the following imagery: “Hundreds of millions of us are gathered at a banquet finer than the best of ancient Athens, Rome or Mediaeval Europe. Eating and drinking to our hearts’ content, we are surprised when a man in a white dinner jacket arrives at our table to present the bill. Some of us claim the bill’s a fake; others that it’s not ours; others that the bloke mightn’t be a real waiter, just someone trying to raise funds for a pet project; others that he might go away if we ignore him. To be fair, maybe we didn’t know it was a banquet. If we did, perhaps we thought it was free. But, if there’s no such thing as a free lunch, we have to pay the bill, change the way we do business, or both. The bill includes the cost of ocean acidification, acid rain, erosion of the ozone layer, poisonous pesticides, tobacco smoke and global warming.

What a bugger! Why should our generation have to pay for uncertain future gains? Unless the evidence is certain, maybe we should do nothing?

Although doubt is the currency of science, it is easy to take uncertainties out of context and create the impression that the science is unresolved. So if someone tells us that scientific issues are uncertain we might think that the science is muddled. That would be a mistake. Science is a continual process of discovery driven principally by curiosity and, as Julian Cribb has recently observed, “If there are any rewards for professional scientists, they are for the quality of their publications not their publicity.” It is true that, to be certain current global warming is man-made, there would need to be undeniable evidence that doing **nothing** would lead to global warming and that doing **something** would prevent it. But how could one ever prove anything about the future? Do we demand undeniable evidence in real life? The authors develop that theme with the following example.

One of the biggest financial decisions that most people ever make in life is to buy a house. We consider factors, such as size, location, access to work, shopping and recreation, safety and security, quality of local schools and of course the price. But before we make an offer we take good care to do a title search. We would do that for ourselves if we could, but we can’t because we don’t have the expertise, so we hire an expert, trusting that he’s reliable. We can’t do our own science either; we have to leave that to the experts. We seldom succumb to indecision paralysis; we do what seems the most sensible thing in the circumstances.



A scientific hypothesis is like a prosecutor’s indictment. It’s up to the jury to decide on the volume, strength and coherence of the evidence and to take as much time as they need to reach a verdict. But scientists are not licensed like doctors, airline pilots and politicians, so how can we determine their expertise? Well, as it happens, science has its own quality control system to ensure that ideas are subjected to rigorous scientific scrutiny. This includes specialist scientific conferences and peer-reviewed scientific journals. Science relies on the consensus of experts, based on the organised accumulation and scrutiny

of the evidence. That's how we have learned that the Earth isn't flat as was once thought; that the continents are not fixed on the face of the Earth, but drift slowly around like Noah's Arks, complete with their own historic suites of plants and animals; that our "land of drought and flooding rains" is due to the "El Nino-Southern Oscillation" phenomenon. Science is the source and foundation of our current economic prosperity.

But if we don't go to scientific conferences or read scientific journals, how can we evaluate the significance of scientific evidence? Do we look to the mass media for guidance? At this point, the author flags a warning: The forte of the media, as in politics, is confrontation; black versus white. Shades of grey don't make for good news copy. The media present what they assume to be opposing scientific viewpoints in a misguided attempt to be seen as "fair". But a pre-requisite for that strategy is the ability to distinguish between science and advocacy, between fair dinkum climatologists and "has-beens" with vested interests or chips on their shoulders. Canvassing supposedly controversial issues that have already failed the scientific test of peer group review is at best careless, at worst mischievous. Such so-called "debates" generate more heat than light. Scientific debates are not conducted in the mass media but in international peer-reviewed specialist scientific journals.

So, if one can't rely on the media for enlightenment, how are we to distinguish between good science and bad science? Well, there are several ways: Every country has its science academies whose members are distinguished by the excellence and objectivity of their science, as judged by their national and international peers. In Australia that's the Australian Academy of Science. In Britain it's the Royal Society. To make assurance doubly assured, the credentials of deniers can be revealed by googling the Institute for Scientific Information's website "Web of Science", an international index of peer-reviewed scientific publications. The challenge is to distinguish genuine, practising climate specialists from mischief-makers; cutting-edge climatologists from superannuated has-beens.

Few smart people are ever smart about everything. Specialising in such fields as climatology, medical research and space research require so much focus and dedication that it's difficult if not impossible to become an all-round expert. Geologists and physicists might know a bit about climate, but they're not climate experts. Heart specialists might know a bit about malaria, but they're not malaria experts. Air Force captains might know a bit about submarines but they're not submarine experts. An all-round expert is basically a contradiction in terms."

This book documents in specific detail how Merchants of Doubt have misled the public over the past 50 years. It is a fascinating, if depressing read. I am astounded and appalled at the success of deniers in the face of genuine scientific scholarship. At this very moment those "Merchants of Doubt" and their undercover agents are engaged in lobbying the Republican majority in the US

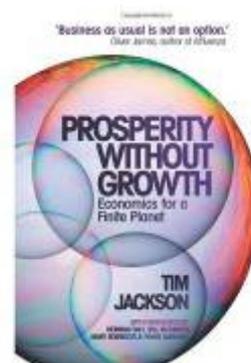
Congress to demolish the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Prosperity without Growth"

Economics for a Finite Planet

Tim Jackson

(Economics Commissioner on the Sustainable Development Commission; UK Independent Adviser on Sustainable Development; Professor of Sustainable Development, University of Surrey.
Earthscan, 2009, 264pp



This book is a positive and optimistic blueprint for the global transition of our current growth economy to a sustainable steady state, reinforcing and extending Hugh Mackay's recent book "What makes us tick". "Society is faced with a profound dilemma", says the author. "To resist growth is to risk economic or social collapse. To pursue it relentlessly is to endanger the ecosystems on which we depend for our long-term survival. Simplistic assumptions that capitalism will stabilise the climate and solve the problem of resource scarcity are bankrupt. The starting point is to unravel the forces that keep us in damaging denial. Affluence breeds and indeed relies on the continuous production and reproduction of consumer novelty. But relentless novelty reinforces anxiety and weakens our ability to protect long-term social goals. None of this is inevitable. We can and do create the social world; its norms are our norms; its visions are our visions. Its structures and institutions shape and are shaped by those norms and visions". Our goal is to flourish as human beings within the ecological limits of a finite planet. At the moment our sense of identity, our expressions of love, our search for meaning and purpose, even our dreams and desires, are articulated through the language of goods. Stuff on its own doesn't help us to flourish. An important part of prosperity is to flourish as human beings on a finite planet and participate meaningfully in the life of society.

We are faced with two crises: an economic one, particularly unemployment; and an ecological one. The loss of a job is a kind of grief – it shakes our confidence and threatens our social world. The risk of unemployment is heightened in an unequal world, the stigma of unemployment played out largely through social comparison, the sharper the comparison the more debilitating the stigma. Consolidating

the things that matter to us and reducing unnecessary commitments increases our resilience to external shocks and can even improve our quality of life. People engaged in attempts to live more frugally seem happier than those driven by materialism.

“Rebuilding prosperity from the bottom up is what’s required and though it may seem daunting, the reality is that we already know a lot about what’s needed. But attempts by one group to persuade another to forego material wealth are morally suspect. It’s like asking people to give up certain social and psychological freedoms. Progress relies crucially on the construction of credible alternatives. The task is to create real capabilities, physically, financially and emotionally, for people to flourish in a less materialistic way.

“In particular, we need to revitalise the notion of public goods, public space, public institutions and common purpose - to invest money and time in shared goals, assets and infrastructures. Green space, parks, recreation centres, sports facilities, libraries, museums, public transport, local markets, retreats, “quiet centres” and festivals are some of the building blocks for a new vision of social participation. They are sites for the cultivation of a common citizenship where people from different walks of life encounter one another, and acquire a sense of a shared life in a common venture. All that we want the economy to deliver are security, a livelihood through paid work, participation in the life of society, and a sense of belonging through a common endeavour that allows us to pursue our potential as individual human beings.

“Some of the conditions for a new economy include resilience, work, equality and limiting demands on the environment to its natural carrying capacity. Economic organisation needs to work with the grain of the community and the long term social good, rather than against it. This includes community-based ecological enterprises delivering local services, food, health, public transport, community education, maintenance, repair and recreation which provide the potential for meaningful work with a low carbon footprint. Manufacturing will need to pay more attention to durability and repairability; construction to the design of sustainable and repairable infrastructures; agriculture to land integrity and livestock welfare; finance to prudent long-term investment in increased energy and resource efficiency, renewable and low-carbon technologies and infrastructures, public assets and climate adaptation.

“Historical rates of growth have exceeded the carrying capacity of the earth and must be limited; for example, the capacity of the atmosphere to absorb fossil fuel emissions. If developed economies were to cap their emissions on a per capita basis, their GDP could be reduced by about 75%. Growth could further be constrained by making a structural transition to a service-based economy channelling savings into ecological investment. If those structural adjustments were still inadequate to limit growth to sustainable levels, working hours could be reduced, but to be fair to everyone, the work available should be shared.

The three macro-economic adjustments that would be required are:

- Structural adjustment to service-based industries
- Investment in ecological assets
- A stabilising working time policy

“At the moment, the whole economy is underpinned by the revenue generating potential of ecological services. So, in principle, public sector investment in these assets should seek returns from their productive capabilities. If capitalistic economies are those where ownership and control of the means of production are in private hands, then the new economy will be less capitalistic, changing the balance between private and public investment. Less productive investments are less attractive to private capital so the role of the state in protecting these assets will be vital. To finance those investments without increasing public sector debt would require either higher taxation or public sector ownership of productive assets. The reality is that pure state ownership and pure private ownership are just two variants in a wide range of possibilities; for example, ‘distributed ownership’ and control, which have a surprisingly long pedigree and are experiencing a resurgence.

To reassert the crucial importance of shared endeavour is not to demonise individual needs or personal dreams. The point is to redress the balance between self and society in a way that re-establishes the importance of public goods in working for the benefit of us all. The cultural drift that reinforces individualism at the expense of society and supports innovation at the expense of tradition is a distortion of what it means to be human. This drift serves and is served by the pursuit of growth. Those who think that growth will lead to a materialistic Utopia are destined to be disappointed. We simply don’t have the ecological capacity to fulfill that dream. By the end of the century our children and grandchildren will face a hostile climate, depleted resources, habitat destruction, species decimation, food scarcity, mass migration and resultant war.

“So our only real choice is to work for change; to transform the structures and institutions that shape the social world; and to articulate a more credible vision for lasting prosperity. Change can be expressed through the way we live, the things we buy, where we invest our money and how we spend our leisure time. It can be expressed through our work, how we vote, the democratic pressure we exercise on our leaders, through grass-roots activism and community engagement, and through individual frugality. Structural change is essential at the society level to stabilise ecological bounds, fix the illiterate economics of relentless growth and transform the damaging social logic of consumerism. A better and fairer social logic lies within our grasp, unconstrained by either ecological limits or human nature, but only by our capacity to believe and work for change.”

What could be more sensible?

Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

Floods – very much in our minds this summer, but rarely an inspiration to poetry, except perhaps in metaphor. The Bible, two English poets, the River Tiber and three Australian poets, give us a nice variety.

Book of Genesis, chapter 8, verses 1 - 4

And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged:

2 The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained:

3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.

4 And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seven-teenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616): Julius Caesar
I. 2. 100 - 111

For once, upon a raw and gusty day,
The troubled Tiber chafing with her shores,
Caesar said to me, 'Dar'st thou, Cassius, now
Leap in with me into this angry flood,
And swim to yonder point?' Upon the word,
Accoutred as I was, I plunged in
And bade him follow; so, indeed he did.
The torrent roar'd, and we did buffet it
With lusty sinews, throwing it aside
And stemming it with hearts of controversy;
But ere we could arrive the point propos'd,
Caesar cried, 'Help me, Cassius, or I sink!'

IV. 3. 217 - 221

There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat;

Thomas, Lord Macaulay (1800 – 1859): Horatius
Stanzas 59 - 61

Back darted Spurius Lartius;
Herminius darted back:
And, as they passed, beneath their feet
They felt the timbers crack.
But when they turned their faces,
And on the farther shore
Saw brave Horatius stand alone,
They would have crossed once more.

But with a crash like thunder
Fell every loosened beam,
And, like a dam, the mighty wreck
Lay right athwart the stream;
And a long shout of triumph
Rose from the walls of Rome,
As to the highest turret-tops
Was splashed the yellow foam.

And, like a horse unbroken
When first he feels the rein,
The furious river struggled hard,
And tossed his tawny mane,
And burst the curb, and bounded,
Rejoicing to be free,
And whirling down, in fierce career,
Battlement, and plank, and pier,
Rushed headlong to the sea.

Charles Harpur (1813 – 1868): A Storm on the Mountains, Stanza 8

The darkness thickens! With despairing cry
From shattering boughs the rain-drenched parrots fly;
Loose rocks roll rumbling from the mountains round,
And half the forest strews the smoking ground;
To the bared crags the blasts now wilder moan,
And the caves labour with a ghostlier groan.
Wide ranging torrents down the gorges flow
Swift bearing with them to the vale below
Those sylvan wrecks that littered late the path
Of the loud hurricane's all-trampling wrath.

P.J.Hartigan (1879 – 1952): Said Hanrahan
Stanzas 12, 15 & 16

'If we don't get three inches, man,
Or four to break this drought,
We'll all be rooned,' said Hanrahan,
'Before the year is out.'
It pelted, pelted all day long,
A-singing at its work,
Till every heart took up the song,
Way out to Back-o'-Bourke.
And every creek a banker ran,
And dams filled overtop;
'We'll all be rooned,' said Hanrahan,
'If this rain doesn't stop.'

Dorothea Mackellar (1885 – 1968): My Country

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel sea,
Her beauty and her terror –
The wide brown land for me!

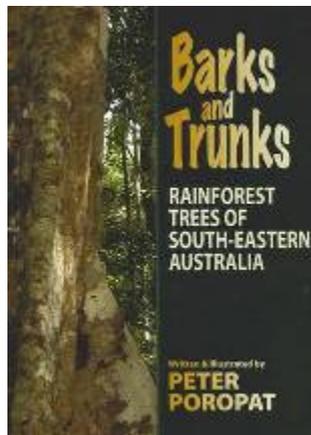
Please send a poem – why not one of your own? – to Jonathan Persse, Sallyhill, Burrawang 2577.

Barks and Trunks – Rainforest Trees Of South-Eastern Australia

Volume 1

Written and illustrated and published by Peter Poropat in 2009.

ISBN 978-0-9806282-6-5
reviewed by Allan Stiles



How often have we stood in a rainforest before an unfamiliar tree, the leaves, flowers, and fruits of which were far above, and puzzled over its identification? This recent publication may well provide the answers to such questions as it contains excellent photographs of mature, old-growth rainforest tree-trunks, leaves, fruits (and sometimes flowers), all taken in their natural habitats. Botanic and common names accompany detailed descriptions in non-technical terms. In the introduction the author gives an account of his youthful fascination with the Illawarra rainforest remnants that led to three decades of walking around rainforests in Victoria, NSW, and South Queensland, a rainforest regeneration project on the Berkeley Islands in Lake Illawarra, and this publication. This book is recommended, as many of our local trees are included.

Talk Review

**Tales of an itinerant solar physicist:
Satellites, Sunspots and Climate in the Past
and into the Future -- Dr Ken McCracken**
by Chris Stevenson

Ken McCracken presented a very entertaining and informative talk to the November meeting of REPS, on his work and experiences as a physicist during the developmental stages of space exploration from the 1950's and latterly as a solar physicist investigating the effects of solar activity on the climate here on Earth.

Ken has conducted research on the Sun for more than 50 years. He made some of the earliest satellite measurements on the production of cosmic rays by the Sun and, along with others, showed how the activities of sunspots can adversely affect the control and operation of power generating systems, cause radio signals to be

misdirected and affect the homing capabilities of racing pigeons.

Ken's early work was with the Swiss Department of Aquatic Sciences and The Environment where glaciological records were used to study changes in the Sun over the past 10,000 years. Ken outlined their discoveries about the "Hallstatt Cycle" which alternately warms and cools the earth over a 2,200 year period. Ken informed the meeting that the Earth is currently mid-way between the cool part of that cycle (1400AD) and the warm part. Thus, in addition to man-made contributions, the Sun will continue to warm the Earth for the next 400 years or so.

Ken's presentation was very informative and much appreciated. It is always very interesting to hear about the work of eminent scientists and the range of research they cover in a lifetime. While Ken explained the inevitability of that part of global warming attributable to the "Hallstatt Cycle", the exacerbation of this warming by the greenhouse effect must remain of ongoing concern.

Earth Hour 2011 Lights Out

Earth Hour is a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community.

It starts with a simple flick of the switch at 8:30pm on March 26 2011, in a global display of commitment to the betterment of the one thing that unites us all – the planet.

One hour in which to pause and celebrate this magnificent planet and our life on it, one hour in which to reflect on and recharge our sustainability efforts.

Last year, almost a billion global citizens, from over 129 different countries, united in the action of lights out.

Thousands gathered in public spaces for official Earth Hour ceremonies to switch the lights off some of the world's most iconic landmarks, including the Forbidden City in Beijing, Eiffel Tower in Paris, Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Bosphorous Bridge in Istanbul and India Gate in Delhi.

Bigger really is better. This year, mobilise your friends, family, community and networks to show the world what can be done. To show that together we are more than "just one person" when it comes to acting on climate change. To send a powerful reminder to world leaders that we care want action and leadership.

<http://www.earthhour.org.au/>

NPA Talk

Tim Beshara from Greening Australia on the Importance of the Southern Highlands in the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor

Tim joined Greening Australia in 2004 to manage the Greening Western Sydney Project. His current work covers a broad area of policy advocacy, science and program development. He will:

- Give an entertaining and informative talk about how important the Southern Highlands is for local and national nature conservation.
- Discuss why the region has an amazing diversity of wildlife and flora and what we can do to conserve them.
- Outline the major wildlife corridor routes through the area.
- Discuss the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative.
- Explain how 'thinking big' will help us better conserve nature; what is being done locally to contribute to the initiative.
- Outline an impressive project to rehabilitate 15 kilometres of the Wollondilly River.

Greening Australia is excited to be working for conservation in the Southern Highlands as part of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative. The Southern Highlands Link is special because it has more threatened animals than anywhere else in the extensive Sydney Basin. It is worthy of a special effort and he is proud to be part of it. Tim has a degree in Environmental Science with majors in Geology and Geography and a Master of Arts in the Social Sciences.

CWA Moss Vale,
Tuesday evening February 15, 7.30pm

From The Nature of Robertson

Thursday, January 27, 2011

[Painted Button-quail chick found in Kangaloon](#)

by Denis Wislon

This bird is a juvenile of a Painted Button-quail (*Turnix varius*). That constitutes a breeding record for Kangaloon, (Tourist Road, outside the gate of the SCA Fire Trail 2A). The habitat is mixed Scribbly Gum and Stringybark Forest, with native grass and Pea Plants (Bitter Pea especially) and mixed Proteaceous scrub undergrowth. Sandstone soil substrate.

This is how the bird looked when it was found. The body feathers near the legs are very "downy" which confirms the juvenile status of this bird. For a size comparison, it is roughly the size of a "Chicken" (of the domestic hen) at about one week old. Typical of ground-nesting birds, this chick had very well developed legs and feet.



Dead chick of Painted Button-quail

The three toes of this bird are very strong, and although it is just a few weeks old, the toe nails of this chick are showing some signs of wear. The toe nails are very thick, and heavy. They are quite different from the needle-like nails of most perching birds, or especially the birds of prey - hawks and owls. These toes are built for walking, not for grasping either a perch, or for capturing prey.

It is reported that the young of the Painted Button-quail can fly within two weeks of hatching, so I assume this bird was capable of flying.



The hind toe of Button-quails is reduced to a remnant callus. This is clearly visible in this image.

Incidentally, as the head and body was more or less intact, I conclude that the bird was not killed by a fox, which would be the chief threat to a ground-nesting bird like this Button-quail.

If you would like to read the full article, have a look at Denis Wilson's blog.

Text and Images from peonyden.blogspot.com

Reminder REPS Membership Renewals
Your support for REPS is very much appreciated.
Have you overlooked the renewal of your REPS membership for 2011?

If you have received a REPS membership renewal form with this Eucryphia, our records show that your REPS membership fees are now overdue. Please refer to the form enclosed for information about the ways in which you can renew.

Caalang Creek Working Bees
Saturday 26th February and 26th March

9:00 am onwards. Meet at the walking bridge, near the mulch. Bring a wheel barrow, shovel or rake etc. or just bring yourself. You may need gloves, hat, and water. All Welcome. Any queries, Steve Douglas 42714957 or Leon Hall 48882222.

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

CANWin Afternoon to Inspire Activism

In partnership with Wingecarribee 2031+ CANWin presents an afternoon of songs of inspiration and reflection by Ecopella.

Ecopella is an environmental choir that sings about the beauty of our world and the struggle to protect it from exploitation and destruction. They serve the environment movement by providing activists and audiences with the opportunity of enjoying a very high standard of a cappella singing. Ecopella's music has a strong environmental message and encourages positive change in people's thoughts and actions. You may have seen them perform at the Illawarra Folk Festival at Bulli in January. You can read more about them at www.ecopella.org.au

The afternoon gathering begins at 2pm on Sunday 13th February at the Wingecarribee Council Theatre, Donkin Avenue, Moss Vale. Please bring some food to share for afternoon tea.

CTC@Robertson

The CTC has re-opened for 2011. Some of the upcoming activities include:

- Garden working bee on February 19 from 8.30am
- Wordpress course being organised (please let Monica know if you would like to join)

- The Film programme presented by Tony Williams will continue and those on the cinema mailing list will receive the usual updates.

REPS Meetings for 2011

Please make a note in your diary of the following dates for this year's REPS Public Meetings.

These meetings will include a talk that will be publicised in the Eucryphia prior to each meeting.

Friday 11th February

Friday 8th April

Friday 10th June

Friday 12th August

Saturday 8th October – Walk

Friday 11th November – AGM

Friday 9th December – Christmas Party

REPS Committee List 2010

President – Allan Stiles

Vice President – David Mee

Secretary – Lynn Stevenson

Treasurer – Anne Wilson

Committee Members – Helen Tranter, David Tranter, Leon Hall, Peter Glass, Monica Engel, Bruce Clarke, Leo Butler, Chris Stevenson

Public Officer and Publicity Officer – Helen Tranter

Talks Convenor – David Tranter

Eucryphia Editors – Monica Engel, Sheila McInnes

Supper Convenor – Jane Maxwell

Caalang Creek Project Group – Steve Douglas

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.

Please contact The Secretary – Lynn Stevenson

PO Box 3045, Robertson NSW 2577

or President – Alan Stiles on 4885 1698

Also, we are always looking for new contributions to Eucryphia. If you have an essay, article, poem or photograph that you want to share with other REPS members please contact Monica Engel.

Telephone: 4885 2665

Or email: monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au

All contributions will be most welcome.

www.reps.org.au