



Eucryphia

ISSN 1037 – 2032

Number 114 – August 2011

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: John Bradshaw
Friday 12th August, 7.30pm
Robertson Community Centre
Caalong Street, Robertson

Rock Art in the Kimberleys



Since his retirement, John Bradshaw has led a number of expeditions into remote areas of Western Australia, gathering information about his pioneer forebears, including Joseph Bradshaw and Aeneas Gunn. His illustrated talk will outline the European discovery and description of rock art of the Kimberley and include a short account of his own experiences in this pristine part of the continent.



In 1997 one of the great mysteries of Australia's Kimberley region was finally solved when the mysterious rock paintings, described and documented by pastoralist Joseph Bradshaw during his 1891 Prince Regent River expedition, were eventually located. In Joe's footsteps, over 100 years later, John Bradshaw embarked on an expedition with fellow rock art enthusiasts Adrian Parker and Chris Done to view the elusive galleries that have remained an enigma for decades; their location, still to this day, a closely guarded secret. Their experiences were described in their book, *A Kimberley Adventure*, copies of which will be available at the REPS meeting.

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

Upcoming Events

Sat 30th July – REPS Caalang Creek working bee from 9.30am, pg 8

Fri 12th August – REPS Talk 'Rock Art in the Kimberleys' John Bradshaw, 7.30pm, Community Centre

Tue 16th August – NPA Talk 'Voyage to the Kermadecs' Dr Kevin Mills, 7.30pm, CWA Hall, Moss Vale, pg 5

Sat 3rd September – Threatened Species Day, REPS stall, Highlands Marketplace, Mittagong, pg 8

Sat 10th September – Introduction to the Robertson Nature Reserve, 10.30am, pg 8

Sun 25th September – Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve walk on the Qwerty track, pg 5

From the President

Allan Stiles

It was with great pleasure and no surprise that on the Queen's Birthday it was learnt that the speaker at our last meeting, Robert McLean, has been awarded the honour of AM "For service to social welfare through leadership roles in the not-for-profit sector, to conservation and the environment through The Nature Conservancy (Australia), and to business." Sincere congratulations to Robert.

I very much look forward to the August meeting when John Bradshaw (whose great-uncle Joseph Bradshaw was the first person of European descent to see them) will speak about the amazing ancient rock art in the Kimberleys. John has been on expeditions to see and photograph some of these, and is the co-author of *A Kimberley Adventure*, an account of the rediscovery of those paintings his great-uncle saw in the nineteenth century. John's presentation, with the many photographs to be shown, promises to be truly fascinating.

The recent early death of Anders Bofeldt was sad news indeed. Anders' knowledge of the plants of the Illawarra, including the Robertson district, was unsurpassed and a day in the bush with him (as some of us had the pleasure of doing several times) was always a memorable event. Anders could identify every plant that we saw. His discovery of plants previously unknown in the region was an admirable and exciting achievement and his collection of herbarium specimens is substantial. To know what a new plant is requires one to know what it isn't, and Anders certainly could do that. He spoke to REPS and contributed articles to *Eucryphia* (which we once again acknowledge) and it is our intention to republish those informative articles in *Eucryphia* and on our website. Anders, with his comprehensive knowledge, will be sadly missed.

June REPS Talk by David Mee

Report on the talk "New Directions in Landscape-scale conservation, with a focus on Northern and Western Australia".

Presented by Robert McLean to the Robertson Environment Protection Society on Friday 10th June, 2011.

It was a great pleasure to meet and listen to Robert Mclean present his talk with enthusiasm and breathtaking scope, and then on the Sunday after, the

Queen's Birthday, find that he was awarded Membership of the Order of Australia (AM) for his achievements in business and conservation. Congratulations Robert.

The cold night did not deter keen members, but numbers were down a little compared to normal.

The audience enthusiasm made up for the numbers, nevertheless.

The meeting was opened by President Allan Stiles, who asked Jane Lemann to introduce and welcome the speaker, Robert McLean and his wife Paula. They have lived at Berrima on the bank of the Wingecarribee River for around 20 years, so are "locals". Robert is chairman of The Nature Conservancy Australia board and a member of the Asia-Pacific council of The Nature Conservancy. (See last issue of *Eucryphia* for a fuller introduction).

Robert began by describing the aims of "The Nature Conservancy", an organisation founded in the USA, that he invited to establish a presence in Australia.

Their mission is "to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth, by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive."

The organisation pioneered the concept of purchase of suitable land, and placing conservation covenants on it. In the USA there are 1600 land trusts with such covenants.

Since 1951, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has over one million members, 119 million acres under conservation, 5000 miles of river and more than 100 marine conservation projects.

Robert presented a map showing the presence of TNC around the world. He then focused on "Megadiverse" Australia, showing a list of unique major species.

The strategies of TNC include

- Protecting land
- Addressing broad scale threats
- Investigating enabling conditions (eg taxation issues of donation.)

A set of approaches was discussed, starting with the Australian achievements.

TNC has been in Australia for over 10 years. During that period, \$33M has been invested. Nearly 6 Mha has been protected; 3Mha through land acquisition and 2.2 Mha as indigenous protected areas.

TNC in Australia employs 11 staff and has access to international expertise. TNC works on a partnership model, and Robert showed a slide with many different familiar logos of conservation groups in Australia. He noted that the cost of placing covenants differed considerably from State to State, Rob showed a map of Australia with the initial projects and priority regions. Initial results are strong, Partnering with Bush Heritage and Australian Wildlife Conservation, in the year 2000 there were 13 properties, growing to 36 by 2010. The approaches are

- Science based
- Works on the ground
- Non-confrontational and pragmatic
- Collaborative
- Leveraged (eg 10% of funding to enable others, including Government, to purchase land).

TNC Australian priorities are

1. Northern Australian Savanna
2. The great western woodland (WA)

In Western Australia, the great western woodland takes in a large area of arid land (less than 10mm rainfall pa). It includes 10,000 or 25% of all Australian species of plant (Australia has 30% of all the plant species on earth). It is the largest Mediterranean climate woodland on earth, covering 40Mha and stores 2 billion tonnes of carbon. Over 50% of it is subject to mining claims. TNC is seeking partnerships with claimants.

Northern Australia hosts the largest tropical and subtropical savanna grasslands on earth, with over 100 Mha overall, four times that of the largest in Africa. It includes the largest expanse of pristine rivers in Australia. Fire is a feature with 50% burnt annually, so management is important. Robert described indigenous fire management programs which offer CO₂ abatement, which have the potential of earning carbon credits. Feral animals are a problem

Robert described linked connectivity, whereby various smaller conservation areas are linked by corridors. He also discussed Conservation Action Planning (CAP), some derived from indigenous workshops.

The 2020 vision is for the forests, grasslands, deserts, rivers and oceans to be healthy over many Mha.

Robert quoted Margaret Thatcher who, in 1988, said that “no generation has a freehold on earth, but a life tenancy with a full repairing lease”.

Robert also gave credit to his wife Paula, who set up a nature writing prize, for which there were 136 entries, the prize this year being won by a WA woman for a topic “Strombolites in Mandura”. Copies were available at the meeting.

The audience were excited by the scale and ambition of these projects and had many questions and comments ranging from the use of language to motivate, fire management, the exploitation of the land by aboriginals living a traditional life, the removal of stock and sustainable grazing. David Tranter asked a question which I also wanted to ask, relating to the difficulty of managing a smallholding in Robertson compared with the scale of looking after such huge ecosystems, and there the questions ceased. Thinking big has a lot to do with the answer.

Robert and Paula were presented with a gift to thank them for sharing their vision with the members, and supper was taken by all, where the questions kept flowing.

REPS Committee Meeting - 8th July

Present: Allan Stiles (Chairman), Peter Glass, Leon Hall, David Mee, Georgina Persse, David Tranter, Helen Tranter. Apologies: Chris Stevenson, Anne Wilson.

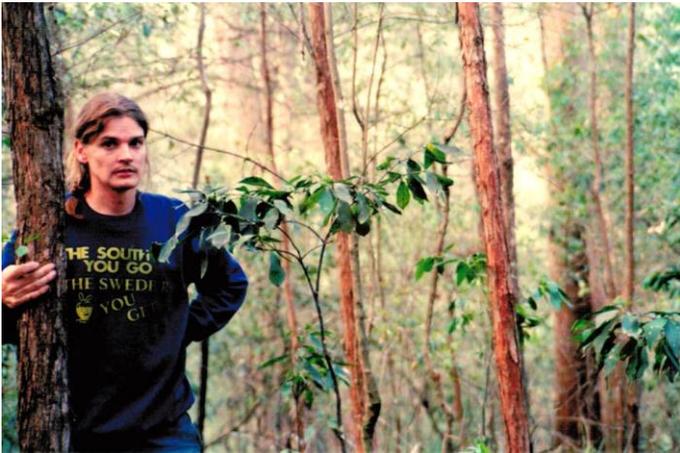
Arrangements for the August meeting were confirmed, as well as content for Eucryphia. Earlier mailouts are planned to give better notice of forthcoming talks.

It was decided that REPS would participate in the Nature Conservation Council's Festival of Nature throughout September by offering a Walk through the Robertson Reserve on Saturday 10th September; and further to donate \$100 to the Council, in answer to their request, towards protecting public health, farmland and the environment from the effects of mining and coal seam gas extraction. It was also decided that Allan Stiles and Peter Glass would represent REPS at the Threatened Species Day to be held by the Wingecarribee Council in Mittagong on 3rd September. Leon Hall reported that a large amount of mulch had been laid in the eastern section of Caalang Creek; and Allan Stiles reported he is having ongoing discussions about plans to issue an updated version of REPS' *A Guide to the Yarrawa Brush*, as well as building on the website.

Vale

ANDERS BOFELDT

1964-2011



REPS has lost an old friend in Anders Bofeldt, a friendship as old as REPS itself. The germination notes in the *Guide to the Yarrawa Brush* that we published 18 years ago are all Anders' work.

Anders died on June 30th 2011 of blood poisoning from a Canary Island date palm thorn, an infection that spread to his heart and brain. He was only 47. Born in Sweden in 1964, he came to Australia at the age of 5 with his family who settled at Wollongong, his adopted native place. A plant lover all his life, he soon became the foremost local native plant authority, his observations and species records widely acknowledged and acclaimed by professional botanists. It is said he knew no boundaries where plants were concerned. Mike Reilly, longtime Principal of Robertson School once accosted the curious, lanky youth examining one of the schoolyard plants and became entranced by Anders' enthusiasm. I like to think that may have contributed in some measure to the school's interest in native plants.

He roamed the Illawarra escarpment and the Highlands beyond and developed a love of rainforests that eventually extended to North Queensland and Southeast Asia. The photograph in this article of *Eucryphia* was taken by Bob McInnes on a joint botanizing ramble in the Macquarie Pass rainforest. His 1999 address to REPS was entitled "*Native Plants as Suitable Substitutes for Exotics*". Anders contributed a comprehensive article serialised in *Eucryphia* on *Rare Plants in Rainforests of the Robertson Plateau*: Part 1 - *The Nationally Threatened Species* in No.15 (Feb 1994) and in No.17 (May 1994). Part 2 - *The Regionally Rare Species* in No.18 (July 1994).

Anders was his own man, kind-hearted, long-haired, idiosyncratic and intolerant of bureaucracy. His professional home was the Wollongong Botanic Gardens. In recent years, he exchanged knowledge with Aboriginal youngsters on the South Coast on the medicinal properties of native plants. He had many friends in many places and many walks of life. He will be sorely missed. The poem below was written by his friend Kathy Arnold:

*The flowers are wilting and the trees start to die
And as you float to heaven, they come back to life.*

*From the moment we lost you, we began to cry
Then Mother Nature said, but he's still alive.*

*Just look at the flowers, the trees and the seeds,
Then you'll know that he's here with me*

*He's here in the plants, so just look around
And there he'll be, awaiting to be found.*

*So please don't be sad or even blue,
Just remember in nature, and he'll be there with
you.*

David Tranter

Watch out for Myrtle Rust

(*Uredo rangellii*)

by Jane Lemann

Detected first near Gosford in 2010, Myrtle Rust has now been confirmed in East Bowral.

It is a fungal rust that starts as small purple spots, and the spores mature to bright yellow.

It has been found on the new growth of plants in the Myrtaceae family: *Agonis*, *Eucalyptus*, *Melaleuca*, *Leptospermum*, *Callistemon*, *Syncarpia* (Turpentine), *Austromyrtus* and exotic myrtles.

It is notifiable, and is a potential threat to the forestry and tea tree oil industries and to the ornamental garden trade. If you suspect it anywhere, ring the 1800 084 881 Hotline, or the Council 4868 0888. **DO NOT TOUCH IT.** Take photographs and wash anything that may have been in contact.

**NSW Department of Primary Industry and
Investment – Biosecurity**

Note: For those who receive *Eucryphia* by email there is attached a copy of the factsheet "Preventing the Spread of Myrtle Rust". Copies are also available at the CTC.

Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve

A walk in the rainforest on the Qwerty track

- Start at 10.30am Sun. 25th September 2011
- At Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve
- 774 Jamberoo Mountain Road, Jamberoo
- Bookings and enquiries by email to qwerty@benricketts.org.au or by phone to (02) 9416 7334.
- Bookings essential as numbers are limited
- Payment of \$5 per adult on the day



Funds raised go towards the conservation work at Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve. This walk is a short walk of up to two hours through the rainforest of the Illawarra escarpment. Learn about rainforest plants and some of the history of the area.

You will need to be moderately agile as the track is unformed and it is wet in places. Wear good footwear and bring a raincoat if it is raining. Bring your own lunch to have it on the property with us after the walk. Tea and coffee provided.

If you wish to stay the weekend at Ben Ricketts Environmental Preserve see the website at www.benricketts.org.au for booking details. Walk is free for those who book a cabin.

Proud to be part of the Festival of Nature 2011 organised by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

www.nccnsw.org.au

NPA TALK: Voyage to the Kermadecs - New Zealand's Subtropical Islands

Speaker: Dr Kevin Mills

General Meeting Tuesday 16th August 2011

The Kermadec Islands are New Zealand's only subtropical islands, located over 800 kilometres to the northeast of New Zealand. Other than conservation staff, these remote islands are seldom visited. The islands are on an undersea volcanic

ridge stretching from the thermal area of Tongariro and Rotorua on the North Island in the south to Tonga in the far north. Raoul Island, the largest island and an active volcano, is covered in rainforest with plant affinities to New Zealand, Australia and Norfolk Island.

Kevin, as a student at Wollongong University in the 70's served on the State Council of the NPA for a time. He displayed a real interest in nature conservation and made a contribution to the discussions. For many years he has worked in the Illawarra, from the coast to the highlands, mainly in private practice as an ecologist doing Environmental Impact Studies and the like, along with his partner, Jacqueline. He has, for about 22 years now, served on the NPWS Advisory Committee for the South Coast; for several years as its Chairman

As botanist and recognised authority on the flora of Norfolk Island, he visited the Kermadecs on a ten day voyage from New Zealand in April 2011. He has kindly offered to give us a talk at Moss Vale CWA hall starting 7.30pm, Tuesday, 16th August next. We look forward to seeing you there. Please let your friends know. You don't need to be a member, though we'd love to have you join.

The meeting will be followed by supper. A gold coin donation would be appreciated.



SUSTAINABLEHOUSEDAY

September 11

Sustainable House Day, Sunday 11th September will be celebrating its 10th year. The event will continue to showcase some of Australia's most sustainable homes to the public as millions of Australians continue to embrace renewable energy, recycling, and other practices suitable to their lifestyles.

This year over 300 homes will open their doors for tours and give visitors opportunities to see firsthand the benefits and practicality of solar, ventilation, water harvesting, recycling, shading, thermal mass (materials that absorb and release heat), glazing and window treatments, gardens, and lifestyle products. Architects, builders and specialist service providers will also be on hand at many of the homes to provide expert tips. Check out the house locations pages to see if there is house open near you. This list will keep getting updated until the event, so be sure to check back in.

<http://www.sustainablehouseday.com/>

From the Editors Desk

We have received a contribution from Heather and Richard Chadwick:

“Your collection on “Trees” reminded us of a small piece seen on trees in Portugal by Heather’s great aunt the late Jean Christian (nee Campbell) while travelling in Europe possibly close to one hundred years ago and transcribed by her as shown on the copy...”

Seen on the trunk of a tree in a forest in Portugal – Great Aunt Jean Christian

Ye who pass by and would raise a hand to harm me.

Harken -

I am the heat of your hearth on a cold winter’s night.

My friendly shade shields you from the sun.

My refreshing fruits quench your thirst –

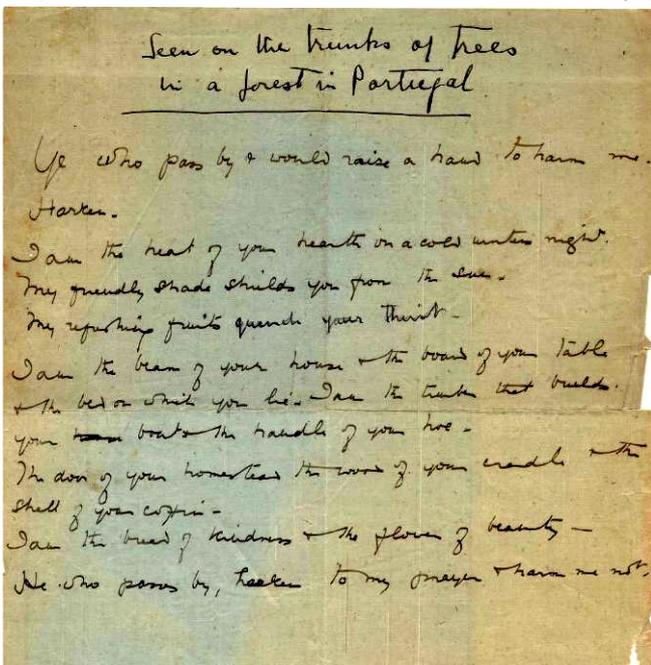
I am the beam of your house and the board of your table and the bed on which you lie.

I am the trunk that builds your boat and the handle of your hoe –

The door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle and the shell of your coffin –

I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty –
He who passes by, harken to my prayer and harm me not.

Anon.



Correction - issue #113, June 2011

Apologies from the editors: in the last issue we published a fungi photo along with the article from NewScientist. Joan Freere was most astute and noticed it was incorrectly labelled with the name of an orchid. Read on.....



The Stinkhorn Fungus, *Pseudocolus fusiformis* is a small fungus, which emerges from an egg-like sac. It is in a group of fungi known as "Stomach Fungi" - a reference to the round, soft, bag-like organ from which the mature fungus emerges. This was growing on an old rotting Pine branch in the Robertson Nature Reserve. It appears in a good (wet) season, in April. The name refers to the strong-smelling "gleba" (sticky mass of wet spores) which attract flies, because of the fetid smell. The spores dry onto the flies, which then spread the spores.



This photo is of an Orchid, *Mecopodium striatum*. It is a variant of a Leek Orchid (Prasophyllum). It has been re-classified away from the Prasophyllum genus, largely because of minor morphological differences from that group, and the autumn seasonality of its flowering. There is a closely related plant in Western Australia, which is also in the same genus. This local species grows on shallow moss beds over sandstone, in fully exposed locations, amongst low heath plants. This plant was found at Manning Lookout in mid-April. It is also found amongst low heath plants at Budderoo Plateau. It is a lovely small Orchid, barely 15 cm tall.

Photos and text supplied by Denis Wilson
"The Nature of Robertson"
www.peonyden.blogspot.com

Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

Rock Art, an Aboriginal Legacy Aboriginal Australians' rock carvings and rock paintings, like their songs and dances, their spiritual insights and stories, were, many of them, thousands, even tens of thousands, of years old before white settlement.

The paintings and carvings Douglas Stewart and David Campbell saw around Sydney are different from what we'll see at the meeting on 12th August.

Douglas Stewart: from "Rock Carving"

Shine the torch on the rock: we are not the first
Alone and lost in this world of water and stone.
See, though the maker's life has vanished like a leaf's,
The carvings living a hard strange life of their own
Above the water, beneath the tormented cliffs.
They glow with immortal being, as though the stone fish
May flap and slither to the tide, and the kangaroo
Bound from the rock and crash away through the bush.

Good-bye, old wraith, and good luck. You did what you could
To leave your mark on stone like a mark on time,
That the sky in the mind and the midnight sea in the blood
Should be less of a desolation for the men to come;
And who can do more than you? Gone, you are gone;
But, dark a moment in the moonlight, your hand hovers,
And moves like the shadow of a bird across the stone.

from "Cave Painting"

Look there are dark hands in the black rock,
Man's hands, woman's hands, child's hands hiding in a cave,
Shadows of hands, but with such a living look
They seem to waver and beckon, they seem to move
In a language of gesture startling and piercing as speech.
Up from the green water here we clambered
Say the hands and the bodies of the hands, to hold and to touch,
And here we camped, and here we shall be remembered.

David Campbell:

from "Ku-ring-gai Rock Carvings"

Lizards

Lizards are kin and can return to stone
At will. Transfixing a shield
Like a spear a lizard froze in the sun, a thing
Of bronze, yet quick. See the dart of his tongue!

Shields

A shield was the symbol of the tribe rather than the spear
Or boomerang. In caves
And on tessellated pavements, shields
Forbid the stranger, but hearth and heart are bare.

from "Devil's Rock and Other Carvings"

Footsteps

Seven footprints lead across the rock:
To a bora ring?
Did a god walk here? To nowhere,
Seven footprints lead across the rock.

Dolphin

Stingrays hug green sandstone, but ocean's juggler,
The dolphin, leaps out
Tossing a lost thinking, a mythology,
Like the blue firmament, on his snout.

from "Sydney Sandstone (Rock Carvings)"

Hermaphrodite

About the lovers, creatures of the chase
Crop lichen without fear
In an enchanted ring. Half man, half woman,
A figure like Tiresias broods apart.

Woman and Whale

A whale blows from the sandstone, and a girl
Dreams naked in those jaws
Where she is doubly lost, for see the whale
Is sinking through the rockface like a ghost.

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 30th July and the 27th 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

NPA Walk

Nattai National Park - Starlight's Track on Sat-17th September

Grade: 3/4; Distance: 18 km;asc/desc 450m.

The walk begins with walking the Wattle Ridge Fire Trail to and old unused 4WD track leading down to the Nattai River. We will follow the river along to Macarthurs Flat for lunch. After lunch we will make the steep climb up Starlight's Track to return to the carpark.

Leader: Joan Lowe 4861 2996

Limit: 12

Map: Hilltop 8929-2N

The Nature Conservancy Australia's Nature Writing Prize 2010-2011

Copies of the inaugural winning essay, *Threshold Country*, by Annamaria Weldon were handed out by Robert and Paula McLean after the June talk. The remaining copies will be available at the meeting on the 12th August.

Guided Walk in the Nature Reserve

As part of the Nature Conservation Council's Festival, REPS will contribute "An Introduction to the Robertson Nature Reserve." Plants, other wildlife, and some history will be discussed. Saturday 10th September at 10.30 am. Free to all.

Enquiries: Allan Stiles 0415 309 760.

REPS Meetings for 2011

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

Friday 12th August

Saturday 8th October Walk

Friday 11th November AGM

Friday 9th December Christmas Party

Threatened Species Day

REPS will mount a display about the Yarrawa Brush on Saturday, 3rd September from 10.00 am till 2.00 pm at the Highlands Market Place, Mittagong. This will be a part of Wingecarribee Shire Council's Threatened Species Day event. Members who are willing to attend to answer questions and publicise our activities should please contact Allan on 0415 309 760.

CTC@Robertson

The CTC now has new computers running windows 7 and the latest Microsoft programs. We offer computer help for a low rate of \$20.00 for up to 2 hours of assistance from a volunteer. We will be offering a workshop in using Picasa very soon; register your interest now.

There are two of our very popular workshop dates coming up. In August "How Movies are Made" with Tony Williams and Jan Kenny and in September "Illegal Harmonies" with Andrew Ford. For further information www.robertsonctc.org.au or 4885 2665

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 – Georgina Persse

PO Box 3045,

Robertson NSW 2577

or President – Allan Stiles 0415 309 760

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.

www.reps.org.au