



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

OCTOBER REPS Walk

REPS Wildflower Walk - Budderoo National Park, Carrington Falls on Saturday 20th October

Meet at 10am at Nellies Glen car park

There will be a choice of walks along easy tracks, depending on the weather, but a maximum of 2kms to Missingham Lookouts. Bring a hat, drink, packed picnic lunch and wear shoes suitable for a bush track. Plant book, camera or binoculars could be useful.

Each year REPS has a Saturday walk in October instead of a guest speaker on the Friday night. This year the walk is a week later because on the 13th October everyone will be celebrating 10 years since REPS completed the Robertson Heritage Railway Station project, which also coincides with the 80th anniversary of the opening of the mountain railway.

REPS will have a stall in the marquee at the celebrations so please come along and say hello.

All Welcome. Further information, phone Helen Tranter 4885 1394.



Nellies Glen, Carrington

Alison Young

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/alegrya/4580629632/in/photostream/>

NOVEMBER REPS AGM and Talk

"A short illustrated talk about the local environment"
Guest speaker is Denis Wilson, amateur naturalist and REPS member.

AGM Friday 9th November, 7.30pm

All welcome, open discussion, light refreshments, gold coin donation

Upcoming Events

Sat 13th & Sun 14th October – Heritage Railway anniversary celebrations & open gardens, page 6

Sat 20th October – REPS walk "Wildflower walk at Carrington Falls" 10.00am, Nellies Glen car park

Sat 20th October – National Tree Day, see page 5 & 6

Sun 21st October – CTC Cinema "The Promise of Music" 3pm at CTC@Robertson, see page 8

Fri 9th November – REPS AGM and Talk - details next month

Thu 1st November - Australian Plants Society talk, 2.30pm CWA Hall, Moss Vale, see page 8

Wed 14th November – Book Launch "The Botanical Legacy of Janet Cosh" 2pm at Fitzroy Falls, page 6

Sat 27th October & 24th November – Caalang Creek Working Bee from 9.30 onwards, see page 8

NPA Walks – see page 8

President's Report

Allan Stiles

This has been another worthwhile year for REPS, with informative and interesting speakers at our meetings and continuing work on such projects as the Nature Reserve, Caalang Creek, Pinkwood Park, and, of course, the production of Eucryphia. As I have previously stated, a strength of this society is the opportunity our meetings present to chat with like-minded folk and share ideas, concerns, and aspirations.

The Committee has met regularly and worked enthusiastically to discuss, plan, and implement our activities as well as consider future strategies. With the AGM soon to take place, I wish to thank members of the Committee and the many others who have encouraged and supported me as president during the past two years. It has been a privilege to enjoy this leadership responsibility but I feel that it is time to step aside to work as an ordinary committee member.

The initial motivation to form REPS sprang from concerns for the preservation of the local rainforest remnants. We saw our role as educators to foster awareness of their special nature and fragility. In many ways this aim may have been met, but there surely remains a number of worthwhile endeavours that deserve our best efforts. I am confident that in the future REPS will continue to play a significant role in the life of this especially beautiful district, so richly endowed with fascinating flora and fauna.

August REPS Talk Review

by David Mee (who takes responsibility for all inaccuracies and bits left out).

Friday 10th August 2012 at Robertson Community Centre at 7:30pm. The presenter was Felicity Roos, NSW Department of Primary Industry, and her topic **"Soil: What, Where and Why?"**

Felicity Roos was introduced by committee member Dr. Karen Guymer, who had worked with Felicity previously in the Moss Vale Soil Group.

Karen noted that Felicity graduated with honours from the University of Sydney in Land and Water Science, and has been working for the past two years with the New South Wales Department of Primary Industry, looking at projects to increase farm efficiency as well as running workshops on soil biology and carbon.

Felicity began her talk noting that the word soil is derived from the Latin *solum* also called the *regolith* by geologists. In noting the significance of soil to life on earth and civilisation, she pointed out that the Mayan civilisation collapsed through bad soil management. She quoted Franklin D. Roosevelt who said (referring to the dustbowls of the mid west in the 1930's); "A nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself."

In the march of civilisation, Felicity said that in previous times 98% of the population supported the

other 2% by food production. Now, it is 2% (the farmers) supporting the other 98% in food.

We now have 10MHa of soil loss annually.

Why is soil so important? It is an energy source, a filter of pollution, an improver of water quality, an agent for climatic change and a store of nutrients, among others.

What is soil? It is a colloidal mix of around 45% minerals, 25% water, 25% air and 5% organic material. In describing a soil, we can look to the layers or horizons, the colour, texture and many other features.

Soil physics describes the structure and aggregate stability of soil. It includes porosity, water holding capacity and texture. Pedology represents a soil classification system, one aspect of soil science. There is the WRB (World Reference Base), and the ASC (Australian Soil Classification).

Under soil chemistry topics, such as the CEC (cation exchange capacity), the pH (acidity or alkalinity), the ESP (exchange sodium potential), and nutrient cycling are studied. These all affect pollution management and the mobility and toxicity of chemicals in the environment.

Soil biology looks at the living matter in soils, and the nitrogen cycle is all about biological reactions. Soil carbon, making up around 57% of organic matter, is made up of different types, including decomposing organic matter, microbial biomass, humus and char. There may be fast or slow turnover of organic matter in soils. Land management practices can have a significant effect on soil carbon. The carbon cycle describes the flow of carbon through soils over time.

Felicity concluded her survey of soil issues by describing a mystery, the "terra preta" of the Amazon rainforests. These are isolated small areas of rich dark soil more than a meter deep, clearly man made, in otherwise quite poor pale rainforest soil. We do not know how they were made, but they clearly had a huge influence in the survival of man in the Amazon before Columbus. If we could duplicate the technique to soil rejuvenation generally!

Felicity was thanked with the presentation of gift and flowers and all adjourned to supper.

The Botanical Legacy of Janet Cosh Book Launch and exhibition of botanical illustrations

Launch: 2pm Wednesday 14 November 2012.

Exhibition dates: 9 November - 25 November 2012.

Where: Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre

The exhibition will be opened by Patricia Clarke, the biographer of Janet Cosh's grandmother Louisa Atkinson.

Janet Cosh was a long time resident of the Southern Highlands living at Moss Vale. In the early 1970s, Janet (who was already in her 70s) began a systematic study of botany and for the next 20 years devoted her

time to applying this knowledge to a study of the identification and distribution of the native plants of the Wingecarribee Shire and nearby areas.

A collection of Janet's pressed specimens from Morton National Park are held at the Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre where the Janet Cosh Memorial Room was established with her bequest. The other specimens, together with her botanical illustrations were left to the University of Wollongong where they form the basis of the Janet Cosh Herbarium opened in 2005.

Some observations on the pecking order around here

by Judith Mee

Seeing a beautiful pair of king parrots in a tree just outside our bedroom window recently reminded me that the wonderful bird life was one of the things that first attracted us to the property in Robertson where my husband David and I have been living for over thirteen years now. I remember clearly the day we first came to look at this property, when a flock of red and blue rosellas flew off noisily at our approach, and the startlingly loud call of a whip bird came from close behind us as we were just about to step rather doubtfully inside the house that didn't look particularly attractive. We grinned at each other in delight. Then and there I thought to myself: houses can be altered, but a whip bird at the back door makes a place quite special.

We have not regretted our decision to buy the property, where we have enjoyed so many hours since then hearing and observing the richness, and some of the peculiarities, of the local bird life. The poems and photographs about birds in the last edition of *Eucryphia* have finally given me the nudge I needed to record some of these observations.

Let me make it clear from the outset that I am no ornithologist, nor even a dedicated bird watcher. In fact, I have virtually no expertise in identifying birds or their habits other than what my Dad taught me to observe and what I have been able to glean from our old copy of Neville Cayley's *What Bird Is That?* So I hope any expert reading this will make some allowances for my lack of expertise and offer any needed corrections to my comments on the 'pecking order' hereabouts.

One of the first things we noticed was that, although our valley was teeming with parrots, they were mostly flocks of the red and blue 'rosella' variety (what I was taught in school to call 'Blue Mountain parrots'), with much less common appearances of king parrots which always seem to be in pairs. We have never seen any lorikeets here. This came as a surprise, as we had previously been living in a part of Sydney where rainbow lorikeets are now so common as to be almost in pest proportions. Yet, just over the hill at Kangaloon, we saw beautiful lorikeets with brilliant bluish green (or was it greenish blue?) feathers (among

other colours) that we had not seen anywhere else, and that I am still not sure I can identify. Why didn't these ever come into our valley?

It didn't take us long to realise that other parrot and cockatoo species were also quite territorial. For example, galahs are common in High Street, along the southern side of the Robertson showground, yet I have never seen any of them venture around the corner into Lemmons Road. At our place we have frequent visits from the majestic yellow-tailed black cockatoos, with their distinctive child-like cries yet, to my relief the 'gangs' of sulphur-crested cockatoos from just up the hill, with their raucous calls and destructive habits, tend to stay away from our place. This is not for want of trying to muscle in, but on most occasions they are promptly seen off by the black cockatoos and the resident magpies.

There was a notable exception one spring, when a flock of the white cockatoos gave the black ones the slip and swooped in considerable numbers on our leucospermums which were all in flower and ready to be picked for delivery to florists. It must have provided a mystifying spectacle for any passers-by down our road to see me leaping down the hill, rain gear flapping, arms flailing and yelling at the top of my voice, trying to stop those flying thugs from ripping all the flowers to bits! However, the loss of dignity was worth it, as they all took off back up the hill and the flowers were saved.

Mind you, the black cockatoos aren't always benign either. They do have this disconcerting habit of chewing through tree branches and dropping them on unsuspecting people walking below. We discovered this to our cost one morning when one dropped a heavy fresh pine cone pointy-end down onto the windscreen of our car and shattered it. Providing a haven for wild life can sometimes be quite expensive.



Honeyeater lunching from leucospermums Sept 2012 Photo: J. Mee

The small birds are a delight, especially the blue fairy wrens with their darting movements and distinctive chirpy chatter. To my ear, they sound similar to fantails, and I often have to look twice to see whether I am hearing blue wrens or fantails. It is remarkable how much effort an adult fantail will put into trying to lead humans away from its nest! I remember when both

these lovely small birds were common in gardens throughout Sydney's North Shore, along with yellow robins and silver eyes. Sadly, the influx of bigger birds and the loss of sheltered habitat seem to have driven the small birds away, so that prior to moving to Robertson we had not seen any in our Sydney garden for many years.

Another small bird we have here in abundance is almost minuscule, and it is fascinating to watch quite large groups of them flitting about. I don't recall having seen any of these before we moved here. With Cayley's help I think I have identified them as thornbills, but I'm not really sure whether this is correct. On only a few occasions I have been surprised to see groups of very small finch-like birds, with flashes of bright red on their heads and tails, moving around at great speed. These were also in the previously unfamiliar category, so again I consulted my trusty Cayley, and came up with a provisional identification as firetails. If this is correct, it would explain why I have not seen them very often, as it seems that firetails are migratory.

As for silver eyes, on the odd occasion I have thought I had glimpsed some in our garden, but I'm not sure whether this is just wishful thinking, misidentification, or fact. Has anyone else seen any in Robertson? Also on the less common list are occasional visits from 'Willy Wagtails', which I have always loved. Slightly larger than the wagtails are the sooty black birds with bright orange/yellow beaks that appear to me to be identical with the ones that are actually known as 'blackbirds' in Melbourne. Does anyone know what these are?

Also, perhaps somebody could help us identify the raptors that we sometimes see hovering on the thermal currents over the valley below our house, then suddenly swooping down to snatch their prey. Are they eagles? Kites? Hawks? How can we tell the difference? Then there are the owls, which we have seen some evenings peering down at us from the rafters of our shed. We thought they may be tawny frogmouths, but here again we don't really know enough to be able to say for sure. (Might there be a topic for a future REPS talk somewhere in this paragraph?)

We get unexpected visitors too. The first time I saw a pelican sailing over our house I thought I must have imagined it. After all, don't we live in the highlands and they live on the coast? A few weeks later I saw a group of three, and it started to dawn on me that in fact Lake Illawarra isn't so very far away, and that the powerful thermal currents sweeping up the escarpment could be quite inviting to a bored pelican or three looking for a change of scenery. Since then, I think the biggest group has been a convoy of seven or eight of them flying in military style formation.

After spending a summer's night or two in Sydney, we have always been grateful to get home again to a place where we have not been wakened at four o'clock in the

morning by the squabbling of the Koel 'cuckoos'. That was until a few summers ago, when we first heard a distinctive early morning call that made us realise with dismay that the Koels had decided to extend their habitat. Come to think of it, I don't remember hearing any last summer – maybe it was too cold and wet for them. We can always hope they have finally decided that they don't really like the Robertson climate. With summer not far away, I guess we will soon know.

Much more friendly-sounding, and at a more civilised hour, is the daily dawn chorus of magpies, currawongs, peewits, butcher birds, parrots, kookaburras, not to mention all the others, that gives a special character to the Robertson environment. Speaking of kookaburras, on the infrequent occasions that we go down to the creek at the bottom of our place we love to see the kookaburra's jewel-coloured smaller relative, the little kingfisher, sitting on a branch watching the surface of a pool so intently, then diving in suddenly to catch something we didn't even know was there.

The birds here seem to have accepted us as part of their environment too. Almost all the types of bird I have mentioned (except the pelicans!), and many that I haven't, including bower birds, bronzewing and Wonga pigeons, have been regular visitors to drink from a bucket that was initially placed on our verandah under a hole in the guttering and ended up becoming a regular bird watering hole. We don't put food out for them though, as we think it better for them to forage for their own – but we don't mind helping them a bit. For example we have a resident magpie that gets excited when it sees us get the tractor out, or even just a mattock, and follows us closely in expectation that we are going to dig up grubs and worms especially for it and its family. At least two kinds of honeyeater regularly come into our shed and perch on the flower buckets for their free lunch during our weekly flower picking. Bower birds regularly swipe pen tops, pegs and assorted other blue objects to decorate their bowers, which we see on occasion in a hedge near the house. Swallows regularly nest in the shed, and when we finally got around to starting the house alterations that I first started to think about all those years ago when we first came here, we had to wait until the fledglings left the shrike-thrush nest near the old front door before beginning demolition work. And we still love to hear the crack of those whip birds!

Gang-Gang Cockatoos

This information was supplied by Beth Boughton from a WSC media release. Beth wanted to let us know that Peggy McDonald is still looking for volunteers for this project

National Threatened Species Day was on September 7, 2012. Wingecarribee Shire Council wanted to draw attention to the plight of the Gang-Gang Cockatoo, which is a threatened species in the Highlands.

How to identify a Gang-Gang

Sometimes confused with galahs because of their grey bodies, Gang-Gangs are a short, stocky cockatoo with a wispy crest, short tail and broad wings.

Males are easy to pick with their scarlet head, while females have a grey head and crest and feathers edged with salmon pink on the underbelly.

A sure give-away is the distinctive barring on both sexes – their upper body and wing feathers are faintly edged pale-grey, and females have additional yellow edging that increases this barred effect.

Vulnerable Species

Hear that sound in the trees, like a creaky gate? Look closely and you may be lucky enough to see a Gang-Gang Cockatoo. Unlike their boisterous relatives, Gang-Gangs are relatively quiet – in fact the only sign of their presence you may get is falling debris from their feeding.

Unfortunately these encounters are becoming rare: the Gang-Gang is now facing a high risk of extinction in New South Wales and is now being listed as “Vulnerable” under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act. In some locations they are even more endangered.

The Wingecarribee Shire is in the middle of the Gang-Gang’s range, which starts from around the Hunter region, extends as far west as the Central Tablelands, and as far south as the east coast of Victoria. There is also an isolated population in the Otway region of Victoria.

In summer the birds prefer tall mountain forests and woodlands, particularly heavily timbered and mature wet sclerophyll forests, while in winter they head to lower altitudes and drier, more open eucalypt forests and woodlands. Their diet includes the seeds of native and introduced trees and shrubs, with a preference for eucalypts, wattles and introduced hawthorns, as well as berries, fruits, nuts and insects and their larvae.

As with many cockatoos, old growth trees, and the hollows they contain, are favoured nesting spots. Pairs form a close, monogamous relationship, and favour a particular nesting site. Clearing these habitats poses a large threat to potential breeding.

The birds are also susceptible to *Psittacine cirovirus* disease which is spread through contaminated nest chambers and thought to be on the increase in the Highlands. Fewer nest sites increase the chance of infection.

Community and Council working to save the Gang-Gangs

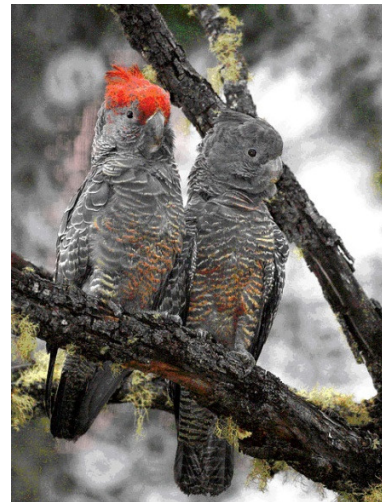
The Gang-Gangs are not facing these threats alone. Local resident Peggy McDonald, a volunteer wildlife carer with over 40 years experience, first started rehabilitating Gang-Gangs 20 years ago. Peggy aims to increase awareness of the birds uncertain future at every opportunity.

“When I first started as a carer for Gang-Gangs we used to take in up to 30 birds a year, but now it may only be a couple that are brought in. Usually they have been hit by a car while feeding on the hawthorns on the side of the road,” said Peggy.

“We are so lucky to have such a vulnerable species living in our backyards. I would like to make people aware of how precious these birds are, what the birds need to survive, and what to do when the birds need help.”

To this end, Peggy is keen to establish a working group to help the Gang-Gang and is keen to hear from anyone who is interested in assisting her. “Animals and birds give a lot of joy to people – look at the enjoyment we gain from watching native birds in the bush. It would be really nice as a community to give back by helping Gang-Gangs whenever we can, and the first step is to build awareness of their plight.”

Wingecarribee Shire Council is also taking steps to protect and manage the habitats of threatened species. Measures include ongoing enhancements to bush fire management planning so that impact on the Gang-Gang’s habitat is minimised, and using Environment Levy funds to restore and manage Council bushland reserves and support the conservation and management of high value native vegetation and fauna habitat on private lands (through programs such as Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreements). Important areas of habitat, and particularly those needed for threatened species, will also be identified as part of the Green Web Strategy which aims to connect fragmented habitat through Wingecarribee.



Gang-gang Cockatoos (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*)
Young Love - New Buildings, NSW, Australia.
Photo: David Cook Womboin <http://davidcook.com.au>

How you can help

- Should you see a sick or injured Gang-Gang, call the NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service (WIRES) on 02 4862 1788 or Parks and Wildlife Visitors Information Centre at 02 4887 7270. With numbers falling, it is vital that every bird receives the chance to rehabilitate and breed.

- While it may be tempting to attract these beautiful birds to your garden, it is better for their health and well-being if you don't feed them. Their natural foods provide all the nutrition they need, while ensuring they maintain their survival skills. Silvertop Ash (*Eucalyptus sieberi*) appears to be their favourite food in the Highlands.

- If you'd like to help Peggy and assist her by becoming actively involved in the recovery of Gang-Gangs, you can make contact through Council's Natural Resource Projects Co-ordinator on 4868 0750.

- For further information about Council's private land Voluntary Conservation Agreements and Land For Wildlife programs visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au or call Council's Bushland Project Officer on 4868 0819.

National Tree Day Wingecarribee

When: 20 October 2012 - 8.30am-1.30pm followed by a BBQ lunch.

Where: Centennial Park, Bowral, parking available.

Wingecarribee Shire Council, with the support of Planet Ark, local Bushcare groups, neighbours, Scouts, school students and other community groups are revegetating this section of Mittagong Rivulet to improve downstream water quality, improve habitat values and biodiversity, and improve civil amenity. Please join us and help protect and enhance the local environment. This project is supported by the Wingecarribee Shire Environment Levy.

Further information and registration at the Planet Ark website: <http://treeday.planetark.org/site/50888> or by contacting the Natural Resource Officer on 4868 0772.

Robertson Heritage Railway Station Anniversary Celebrations

Saturday, 13 October 9am – 4pm

- 10th anniversary of REPS handover of Robertson Railway Station to RHRS
- 80th anniversary of the 1932 opening of the Unanderra to Moss Vale Mountain Railway when school children from Robertson Primary School marched to the Station to catch the first train to Unanderra, among them Violet Lymbery, Gladys Fisk and the Bell sisters (from Bells Hill) who, this time, will arrive on a steam train hauled by iconic steam locomotives 3642 and 3265. Today's school children will march to the Station led by a Piper and Light Horsemen in full regalia.
- Invited guests Gareth Ward (State Member for Kiama), Stephen Jones (Federal Member), Mayor Juliet Arkwright and those who in one way or another helped REPS rehabilitate the site will assemble in the marquee where the School Choir will sing; and a school child and Violet will jointly cut the 80th Anniversary Cake.

- The Station grounds will be ablaze with stunning waratahs in full flower some of which will be on sale plus other native plant tube stock.
- Old-time working farm machinery will be on display, plus Vehicles from the 1930's.
- Kids' attractions include miniature steam-hauled train rides, jumping castle and model trains (Fettlers Shed).
- There will be information stands by REPS (support welcome) and Climate Action Wingecarribee (Canwin).
- Open elsewhere will be photographs of NSW railways (Fettlers Shed Gallery) and the History Museum (Parcel Room, Stationmaster's Office).
- Railway artefacts will be on show in the Perway Shed at the back of the Fettlers Shed compound.
- Second-hand books, hot sausages, drinks, ice cream and excellent coffee will be on sale.
- Proceeds will go towards maintaining the station and grounds (free admission).

Sunday, 14 October 9am – 4pm

Celebrations will continue with

- Waratah Open garden, flower and plant sale
- Flower and native plant sales
- Information stand by Australian Plants Society (APS) and Climate Action (Canwin)
- 'Aussie Ladies Tractor Run' on the common plus stationary displays
- Photographic and historic displays
- Model Railway (Fettlers Shed)

And on the Same Weekend - Robertson Open Gardens

www.robertsonopengardens.weebly.com

A Note on the Clean Energy Forum

You may remember we had a representative from Hydro Tasmania speak at the REPS recent "Clean Energy Forum". It may be of interest to have a look at the SBS *Dateline* programme which looked at dams that Hydro Tasmania has been contracted to build in Indonesia.

<http://news.sbs.com.au/dateline/story/related/aid/615/id/601522/n/The-Last-Frontier>

The journalist who covered this story is David O'Shea (Jim and Sonia's son). This story was taken offline for a time as there were complaints from Hydro Tasmania and Ta Ann; note the clarification tab on this page.

Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

Young people write about their environment

These poems come from four issues of *Youth Writes, a national anthology*, between 1994 and 2002.

The Rainforest Adam Walker (12)

Entangling vines like slithery cobras.
Trees as big as lamp posts.
Leaf litter that looks like a thick textured
carpet.
Bark hanging off like dangling string.
Roots as strong as concrete.

Autumn Bianca Sobotta (14)

Tiny little parachutes
Dropping through the air,
Fluffy seeds of thistle-down
Are flying everywhere.
Lots of little aeroplanes
Spinning down the sky—
Brownish seeds of sycamore
Are whirling, whirling by.
The air is full of Autumn things—
Leaves of red and brown,
Acorns, berries, nuts and seeds,
All tumbling, tumbling down.

Wind Valda Wilson (13)

Whistling through the crannies
In an old, forgotten home;
Raging across the desert,
For the wind is free to roam.
Tell me your secrets, wind,
For you have seen the earth,
Searching, roaring, dancing,
Since the day of your birth.
But where were you born, O wind?
And where in the end will you go?
You have the knowledge of many things
That I can never know.

Bushfire Kathryn Johnston (15)

The bushfire burns out of control,
Eating all in its path. Animals flee from
its roaring mouth,
Whilst plants and trees cower to its
craving stomach.
A cloud of swirling smoke
Hangs above it.
Ash floats to the ground like feathers.
It dances proudly,
Until its hunger dies.

Twenty-One Eucalyptus Trees Georgie Hamilton (14)

The big majestic eucalyptus trees stand upright, rigid and tall;
Their leaves swing and sway in the late autumn breeze;
Oh how many times have they seen their neighbours fall?

Spiders spin webs and rosellas cheerfully call.
Planes thunder in the sky above and trains charge along down
below, ruining the peace of the serene bush,
While all the while the sun darts in and out of trees, twenty-one
now left in all.

The oldest trees remember when there was not a single brick wall,
When there were wild wallabies sipping at a stream and koalas
contently munching their leaves.

Now they recall how all of this is being replaced by a huge, big
shopping mall.

The big majestic eucalyptus trees stand upright, rigid and tall;
Their leaves swing and sway in the late autumn breeze;
Oh how many more times will they see their neighbours fall?

Seagulls Holly Fraser (13)

Like a kite gracefully moving across the sky,
Flashes of white showing their beautiful tender wings,
Swooping down with wings apart to make for shore.
Then, like children fighting, they squabble over food,
Greedy, angry and territorial,
Like positive and negative.
Is this really the same bird?

Time Michael Clark (17)

Amidst the surf the swirling waves divide
Around a stranger, standing lone and grim.
With might and force against him they collide,
And with their flow he vows to never swim.
The world is changing endlessly around,
And we are eager to resist its flow,
To reach for permanence ne'er to be found,
To grasp fictitious gifts it would bestow.
Why does this stranger not give up his fight
So futile? Catch the waves, avoid this strife!
Then in your mind would dawn the brightest light;
Awakened, you would ride the wave of life.
Then would you see not foe but dearest friend,
For change alone is what will never end.



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 October and the 24th November

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.

Steve and Leon report that the plantings have gone well and that the landcare support from Council (Jen & Lizzie) has been very welcome. Control of the woody weeds (blackberries, hawthorns and the like) is now being done by the Council.

However more volunteers from REPS and the community would be appreciated. Queries to Steve Douglas 4271 4957 or Leon Hall 4888 2222.

Help Care for Our Nature Reserve 1st Wednesday of each month, 9:30am to noon

Next work days will be Wed 7th Nov & Wed 5th Dec, from 9.30am till noon or for however long you are able to stay. Please bring garden gloves. More volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Everyone is welcome. Details Helen Tranter 4885 1394 or Ford Kristo (NPWS) business hours: 4887 8244.

Australian Plants Society Talk

Thursday 1st November at 2.30pm, CWA Hall, Moss Vale. "Growing WA Native Plants in the East."

A talk presented by Karlo Taliano, Australian Plants Society member from East Hills, on his experiences in adapting his garden over the last 5 years to be able to grow many WA species successfully.

Plant table for discussion; afternoon tea for a chat, \$2 donation. All welcome.

CTC Cinema Talk Series 2012 – *The Promise of Music*

Sunday 21st October at 3pm Host of the ABC Music Show, composer and author, Andrew Ford will introduce the inspirational documentary *The Promise of Music*. This film features Venezuela's extraordinary and visionary music education system and its miraculous youth orchestra conducted by the acclaimed Gustavo Dudamel. We hear the stories of the young

musicians and watch them prepare for and perform at the 2007 Bonn Beethoven Festival where the concert was hailed as sensational ... a standing ovation after every piece (Süddeutsche Zeitung).

Wine, cheese and coffee included Adults \$20 children \$10 (CTC fundraiser). Bookings recommended
4885 2665 or info@robertsonctc.org.au

NPA Walks

There are 3 walks coming up later this year:

- Saturday 20 October - White Cat Mountain, Mount Alexander NR
- Saturday 17 November - Red Rocks Nature Reserve, Kangaroo Valley
- Saturday 15 December - Barren Grounds NR Griffiths Track

For further information contact:

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

Volunteers wanted for 13-14 Oct

Be part of the biggest weekend on Robertson Calendar. Anyone who can help either at the REPS stall, the railway, CTC or the open gardens please contact monicaengel@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 on 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 the editors, Monica Engel or Sheila McInnes.

email: monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au

All contributions will be most welcome.

Visit the REPS website

www.reps.org.au