



# Eucryphia

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Robertson Environment Protection Society – to promote the protection and enhancement of the Robertson Environment  
PO Box 3045, Robertson NSW 2577 [www.reps.org.au](http://www.reps.org.au)

## Next REPS Meeting Friday 12th April 2013 at 7:30pm at the Robertson Community Centre

### Dr Stephen Brown B.Sc, MDS *Butterflies: the Field Adventures and Scientific Work involved in naming new species*

Dr Brown became interested in butterflies at an early age due to a friendship with a Wollongong lad, Robert Lachlan, leading to a lifelong friendship and a shared interest of more than 50 years. This interest started as adventure, and became science as Dr Brown spent more time and learned more: it became the detective work required to discover some of the more cryptic species.

*Hypochrysops theon johnsoni* – Brown, Meyer and Weir



Dr Brown on top of The Rock, near Wagga Wagga

He learned, for example, that a butterfly could develop a symbiotic relationship with a specific ant species – the destroyer of butterfly larvae, and not only a specific ant but also in a specific ecosystem.

Along with development of his expertise, Dr Brown has made firm friends with whom to share this knowledge in what can, at times, be a highly competitive field. This has culminated in being privileged, with them, to describe three species of butterfly new to science.

Dr Brown's deep commitment to his hobby has led to travel in amazing and exotic country. He will show photos taken on some of these trips and probably some of gorillas too!

**All welcome - \$2 donation  
Light supper towards which members  
might like to add**

## Upcoming Events

Thu 11th April – CANWin Talk, Benefits & Risks of Exploiting Coal Seam Gas, Dr Peter Stone from CSIRO. Page 5

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> April – REPS Talk – Dr Stephen Brown B.Sc, MDS-*Butterflies: the Field Adventures and Scientific Work involved in naming new species*

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> April – Vintage Car Day, 11:00am at Fettle's Shed Gallery and Railway Station. Page 7

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 18 May & 1 June – NPA Bushwalks. Page 5

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April, 25<sup>th</sup> May – Caalang Creek Working Bee – 9:30am onwards. Page 7

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## President's Report

By now many members will have seen the wonderful movie made by Anna and Tony Williams entitled *A Place called Robertson*. Some of you have speaking parts in it, many others like me, are in the crowd scenes. If you ever needed a reason to be supportive of the Robertson environment, in all its aspects, this film gives you plenty of food for thought as to what is worth preserving and supporting.

It always surprises me how much talent and wisdom there is in the Robertson district. Our speaker last month, Martijn Wilder, was a case in point, with many members and visitors travelling to hear him speak on his unique perspective of Climate Change and the Australian political debate. I believe attendance was close to a record for a REPS meeting, thanks especially to the extra effort made by committee members in publicising the event far and wide.

I hope you will continue your support by attending the next meeting in April, where a talk on the researching and discovering of new species of butterflies will be given by Dr Stephen Brown.

On your visits to the Robertson Post Office, I hope you will notice improvements to "Pinkwood Park". Thanks to those REPS volunteers who placed mulch around the lovely *Eucryphia* trees (pinkwoods) which have been flowering beautifully of late. Unfortunately many of the waratahs that also adorned the park have died because of poor drainage and waterlogging. However, new plants will be put in better drained spots and we can look forward to a blaze of colour in spring in a few years time.

David Mee

## February Talk Review

### Demystifying Australia's Response to Climate Change

by David Mee

Our speaker, and recently joined REPS member, Dr Martijn Wilder AM, was introduced by Dr David Tranter OAM, who acknowledged attendance of Dr Wilder's aunt and uncle, living in the Southern Highlands, where Dr Martijn and family also now have a property. His qualifications and responsibilities are listed in the last issue of *Eucryphia*. They are many and significant.

Dr Wilder began his talk by emphasising that he was not a scientist, but a lawyer, and it was the legal

perspective that he wished to talk about. Martijn began by outlining the history of international moves to bring the climate change issues into an action agreement. He raised the issue of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases being introduced to the atmosphere and reaching a point where there is too much. Climate change is happening as evidenced by:

- once in 100 year weather events now occurring every 5 years
- the predictions of scientists happening much more quickly than even they thought
- the melting of the Arctic ice cap
- the acidification of oceans
- the increase in pollution levels, especially in China

The global response has been slow. In 1992 a UN convention on climate change was initiated leading to scientific research, and in 1997 the Kyoto Protocol was produced, to which many signed up, but not the USA or Australia. Attempts to renegotiate this Protocol led to a meeting in Doha.

Under the Rudd Labor government, Australia signed up to the Kyoto protocols and the Gillard government introduced a carbon price as a lead-in to a future trading scheme. The concept that Australia has been "going it alone", and economically suffering accordingly, has been put forward, but Martijn listed international efforts by others to come to grips with the problem, including:

- European Union trading scheme since 2005
- The US state of California has an emissions trading scheme (ETS), as do 3 other US regions
- South Korea has an ETS
- Thailand has an ETS
- New Zealand has an ETS
- South Africa has a carbon tax
- Norway and Indonesia have a deal not to cut Indonesian forests
- China has more emissions than anyone else and has a 5 year plan to produce 90% of the world's solar technology, 70% of wind technology and reduce its own usage of coal

In Australia, Martijn noted that cyclones are moving further south and are more intense. Insurance is no longer available in many areas. South Australia has 40% of its power from renewables.

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Why should Australia, which only produces 1% of the world's emissions, bother doing anything? Martijn put it down to the desire to provide an example, leadership and beliefs. NSW has had an ETS for 8 years.

When Malcolm Turnbull was Liberal leader, he was very close to agreeing with the Rudd government on climate change action, but when he lost the leadership, politics separated widely on action plans. Martijn made the point that nowhere else in the world is the debate so split. The current system introduced by the Gillard government requires big polluters to purchase permits, the price of which is fixed for the first 3 years, thus being a tax. After that, trading of these permits will be in a free market. Activities which mitigate carbon pollution can generate carbon credits, which can be sold to the market. This legislation can only be repealed by a new government if it controls both Houses of Parliament.

The difficulty with such firms as Bluescope Steel suffering economically has nothing to do with the carbon tax, but the high Australian dollar.

Immediately following the presentation, many hands were raised for questions. These ranged from a question about the Clean Energy Corporation and whether it would go under a coalition government, how would renewables in Australia contribute to base load and how to fund renewable energy options. Informal questions continued well after our REPS Vice President, Dr Karen Guymer, formally thanked Dr Wilder, presenting him with a gift as a memento of his talk. This was greeted with much applause and appreciation by the audience. Tea and cake followed.

## What's That Frog Doing in the CANWin Climate Column?

(Southern Highlands News)  
by David Tranter

"What's the point of the frog in the cartoon?" you ask, "Why is he in a saucepan over a fire? Why does he look so smug as if he was crooning to himself? - -

*"The clever men at Oxford*

*Know all that there is to be knowned.*

*But none of them know half as much*

*As intelligent Mr. Toad."* (Kenneth Grahame),

when the frogs I know don't take kindly to being parboiled?

Some would say he would flake out before he becomes aware of his plight, like those kids who drown by trying with one breath to swim a pool length or two underwater. But in real life, frogs are clever enough to become aware of their plight and clamber out of the overheated saucepan at the last moment. Phew!! That's a relief. I rather like frogs. Please don't try it or I'll be in trouble.



Drawing by Penny Osterhaus

"So, what's the point of the cartoon?" you repeat.

Well, Earth is now overheating at an alarming rate as thousands of daily measurements by land, sea and air confirm, and we are the frogs in the overheating saucepan.

"But it's only warming by a few degrees," you say.

"Surely we can put up with that."

Well no, not quite.

You see, the capacity of the Earth to regulate its temperature is as limited as the human body, whose early warning signal that something's amiss is fever. I bet you would see your family doctor quick smart if your body temperature rose 4 degrees.

How many degrees do you think it takes to temperature drive our drought cycle?

Why, an ocean-wide difference of only 2 degrees.

So what can be done to minimize the risk?

Well you'll find some answers each fortnight in the Wednesday edition of the Southern Highlands News. Just look for the "CANWin Climate Column". Don't miss it.

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## Orchid Ramble

by Alan Stephenson, and Denis Wilson

Alan Stephenson, the Conservation Officer with the Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS), who lives in Nowra, is a regular visitor to the Southern Highlands. He came here early in March and wrote the following notes with a view to me submitting them to Eucryphia. I (Denis) have added a few notes of my own from 16 March 2013.

The day began in Robertson the same as many others with a starter at the Café Pirouette, followed by the usual, where do we go from here? The summer had been dry with the best rain falling late in January, which for the many “summer-flowering” orchids was later than they prefer. These plants flower well only after a good rainfall event of 15 mm - 20 mm four to six weeks earlier and Christmas and New Year lacked such an event.

Due to a lack of summer rain the Kangaroo River (at Carrington Falls) and Barrengarry Creek (at Belmore Falls) had all but stopped flowing in January, but fortunately both streams were saved by torrential rain in late January. This rainfall is exactly what the local orchids needed.

So we drove to Belmore Falls and were pleasantly surprised to see several plants of *Diplodium pulchellum* (Escarpment or Waterfall Greenhood), albeit almost flat to the ground from the pressure of a strong flow of water across the ford. We also located several plants well away from the waterfall and these were considered well out of their normal habitat.



Waterfall Greenhood (*Diplodium pulchellum*)

Their flowers are striking by any standards and the labellum, forked like a snake's tongue, is a feature.

This time last year the ford had been flooded by one metre of water on three occasions and it's a wonder any plants remain but I (Alan) expect the tubers, lodged in small rock crevices or under thick moss sheets, are adapted to occasional inundation, given the common name they have.

Today I (Denis) have added the following notes, after a further visit to Belmore Falls.

The orchid season is now looking good, if somewhat compressed in flowering time.

These summer-flowering orchids now have to rush to get flowers opened, pollinated, and seed capsules ripened, while the warm weather holds.

My friend Kirsten and I inspected the *Diplodium pulchellum* plants at Belmore Falls.



One was growing right up on the edge of the road. An unusual location for this species, which normally favours damp moss beds on rock. It is in terrific condition and is easy to access.

The other plants down the slope, closer to the river are also “going off”. And lots of non-flowering rosettes (immature plants) are evident along that right-hand side bank, which bodes well for this colony for next year too.



Rosettes of non-flowering plants of the Waterfall Greenhood

To me it is amazing how they have suddenly invaded that side of the road/creek when I have never found them before, despite regular searches (a story confirmed independently with other ANOS orchid experts).

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## NPA Bushwalks

### 6 Apr Sat Meryla State Forest

Grade: 2; Distance: 10 km; asc/desc 100m.

Description: The walk circles the pine forest and explores tracks which provide some spectacular views over Bundanoon Gorge.

Leader: Joan Lowe

Branch: Southern Highlands

Notes: Rough firetrails and some short steep sections.

### 7 Apr Sun - 9 Apr Tue Morton NP – Budawangs

Grade: 3; Distance: 30 km; asc/desc 200m.

Description: Beginners pack walk in the northern Budawangs. A great chance to experience full pack walking in a wilderness area. Two night base camp and a day of exploring Quitys Mt, Hidden Valley, The Vines.

Leader: Graham Burgess

Limit: 8 Map: Endrick Branch: Illawarra

Notes: Be quick only 3 spots left.

### 14 Apr Sun Illawarra Escarpment

Grade: 3; Distance: 12 km; asc/desc 250m.

Description: Walk from Byarong Park to Robertsons Lookout on tracks then offtrack to Staffords Farm then tracks to Mount Nebo. Rainforest and coastal views.

Leader: Jennifer and Col Meharg Branch: Illawarra

Notes: Some off track, steep and loose underfoot.

### 18 May Sat Starlights Circuit Nattai NP

Grade: 4 Distance: 18km asc/desc: 500m

The walk is along the Nattai Road fire trail until reaching a disused fire trail plunging down towards the Nattai River. On reaching the river at Emmetts Flat we follow along to Macarthurs Flat for a lunch break. It is then a steep and rough climb up Starlights Track to rejoin Nattai Road fire trail. Great views of surrounding peaks. Rough track, very steep sections, fallen trees and thick scrub.

Leader: Joan Lowe, contact by 16th May Limit: 12.

### 1 June Sat Gerringong Falls Budderoo NP

Grade: 3 Distance: 17km asc/desc: 140m

The walk follows the Budderoo Fire Trail through varying types of forest to Hershey Fire Trail. We follow this trail until reaching a creek crossing where we will follow the creek down to the falls for a lunch break. If water levels permit we can take a circuit track back to Budderoo Fire trail or may return the same way.

Rough track, creek crossings, swampy ground and slippery rocks.

Leader: Joan Lowe, contact by 30th May, Limit: 12.

Joan Lowe: [joan.lowe@bigpond.com](mailto:joan.lowe@bigpond.com)

4861 2996 or 0417 492 981.

NPA members can access the Southern Highlands EPIRB by contacting Joan Lowe 0417492981 or Tony Hill 48844564

## Land for Wildlife

from Karen Guymer

If you have more than 0.5 hectares of native bush that is in reasonable condition and has some habitat values, such as bush rock, structural diversity, wet areas or good biodiversity, you may want to consider joining Land for Wildlife, registering your property and become part of a network of like-minded people. Land for Wildlife is an entry-level conservation programme coordinated by Wingecarribee Shire Council, which is a regional provider for the Community Environment Network. Visit the [council's website](#) for more information at <http://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/services/environment/get-involved/land-for-wildlife> or contact Karen Guymer, Bushland Project Officer on 4868 0819 on Thursdays and Fridays.

## Exploiting Coal Seam Gas: Benefits and Risks – CANWin Talk

Dr Peter Stone has worked in farm management, food industry consulting, grain marketing, and agricultural research. For much of the last 10 years, his research has focused on the use of contested land-based resources, “seeking to understand the intersection of a range of scientific, community and industry perspectives”.

Peter is Deputy Director of CSIRO's Sustainable Agriculture Flagship and Director of GISERA, the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance.

GISERA was founded by CSIRO and Australia Pacific LNG “to foster public good research into the social and environmental challenges and opportunities associated with Australia's growing coal seam gas industry”. GISERA's research focuses on water, land management, social and economic issues, biodiversity, and the marine environment.

Dr Stone will present his talk on Thursday, 11 April, 6.00pm – 9.00pm at Gibraltar Hotel, Bowral Country Club Golf Course, Boronia Street, Bowral (Opposite Boronia street).

Admission: \$15 for non members, \$5 for CANWin members and students. Light supper included.

You can [register and pay online](#) now to secure your place (30 cents registration fee).

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## Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

## Trees

From **Trees**

Joyce Kilmer (1888-1918)

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.

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Poems are made by fools like me  
But only God can make a tree.

### Scribbly-Gum

Judith Wright

The cold spring falls from the stone.  
I passed and heard  
the mountain, palm and fern  
spoken in one strange word.  
The gum-tree stands by the spring.  
I peeled its splitting bark  
and found the written track  
of a life I could not read.

### The Flame-Tree Blooms

Judith Wright

It was you planted it;  
and it grew high and put on crops of leaves,  
extravagant fans; sheltered in it the spider weaves  
and birds move through it.

For all it grew so well  
it never bloomed, though we watched patiently,  
having chosen its place where we could see  
it from our window-sill.

Now, in its eighteenth spring,  
suddenly, wholly, ceremoniously  
it puts off every leaf and stands up nakedly,  
calling and gathering,

every capacity in it, every power,  
drawing up from the very roots of being  
this pulse of total red that shocks my seeing  
into an agony of flower.

It was you planted it;  
and I lean on the sill to see it stand  
in its dry shuffle of leaves, just as we planned,  
these past years feeding it.

### Willows, part 1: Good-bye

Rosemary Dobson

Breaking off a piece of the willow  
I say good-bye to my friend.  
He will take it and plant it.

A tree will grow by the river  
And the river will flow away to the ocean,  
Will carry the leaves fallen from the willow.

Small important messages they are for the future  
Telling of times past, and the conversations of friendship,  
Telling the ocean all about the willow.

### Snow-Gums

David Campbell

Moonlight and snow and snow-gums:  
After much living turn, return  
To the soul's climate, to cold forms  
Wind cuts in ice and stone.

There stand like Socrates  
Barefoot through the winter's night;  
Burn in snowbound silences  
As the trees hold the moonlight.

The powdered bloom along the bough  
Wavers like a candle's breath;  
Where snow falls softly into snow  
Iris and rivers have their birth.

### Spider-Gums, stanzas 8-10

Douglas Stewart

As though, as though—but now I see  
The white clouds covering the blue,  
A chill breeze beating on the tree  
That hardly shakes as it goes through.

And know how earth took deepest thought  
In this cold kingdom of the winter  
To make some shape of grace to float  
On high while snow-gums crack and splinter,

And made this phantom tree at last,  
A thing more air than leaf or bough,  
That slips clean through the killing blast  
And dances clear from all the snow.

### The Silence of Trees, stanza 1

David Campbell

Sometimes walking amongst  
Trees I sense strange presences,  
Hands, arms, torsos, inch  
Inch by inch from the earth.  
*In a time not our time* giant  
Forms reach for sunlight  
Leaning over us, benevolent  
Or as now watchful  
For the man with the axe.  
Pause and the  
Silence is worse than stillness,  
Nature has withdrawn.

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



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## **Caalang Creek - REPS Working Bees Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April & 25<sup>th</sup> May**

Working Bees are usually held on the last Saturday of each month from 9.30am subject to the weather. Please come and join us for as long as you are able. Meet at the footbridge in Hampden Park from 9:30am onwards. Don't forget water, hat and gloves. We now have tools available, but if you can, bring your own.

Queries to Steve Douglas 4271 4957 or Leon Hall 4888 2222.

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## **Help Care for Our Nature Reserve 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month 9:30am to noon**

Everyone welcome; please bring garden gloves; work sites are chosen according to the weather; stay only as long as you choose.

Details: Helen Tranter 4885 1394 or Ford Kristo (NPWS) business hours 4887 8244.

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## **Want to Study Online?**

CTC@Robertson is showcasing a range of free courses offered online from TAFE NSW, including short courses designed to allow you to choose whether a career will suit you. For example, you can do introductions to the construction trades, hospitality, or business. You can also brush up on your maths skills to get ready for an apprenticeship or traineeship, or just to manage life better. The courses are free. Call in to 58-60 Hoddle Street, Robertson (opp. Murray Tractors), phone 4885 2665 or email [info@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:info@robertsonctc.org.au) for more information. An Australian Government Initiative

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## **Vintage Car Day - DON'T MISS OUT! Sunday, 14 April 2013**

Commences: 11.00am

Venue: Robertson Heritage Railway Station  
Yarranga Street, Robertson

Features pre-war to classical and collectable cars of all makes and models.

- People's Choice trophies for vintage cars
- Historic Working Machinery
- 2013 Fettle's Heritage Art Prize – exhibition open 10.30am to 3.30pm
- "Cockatoo Run" Heritage Diesel locomotive
- 'Loop train' tickets available on the day - Robertson/Moss Vale return approx. 12.30pm departure/return approx. 3.30pm
- Food and Drink and Souvenirs
- Free entry to the public

<http://www.robertsonrailway.com.au/cars/>

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## **Environmental Weeds Brochure**

Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) has produced an easy-to-read colour brochure on the environmental weeds of the shire with clear pictures of the worst weeds. Here is the link to the document on council's website: [Environmental Weeds](#).

Contact WSC for further information on 4868 0888. Hard copies of the brochure will be available to REPS members at the next talk at the Community Centre on Friday 12th April 2013.

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## **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

PO Box 3045, Robertson NSW 2577

or President – David Mee on 4885 1483

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

All contributions will be most welcome.

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## **Visit the REPS website**

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