



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 Annual General Meeting and Talk

Friday Evening November 8th

Robertson Community Centre, Caalong Street
REPS AGM at 7:30pm and Interactive Event 8pm

"Climate Play"

Hosted by David Tranter

This year, instead of a Guest Speaker for the AGM, REPS will stage an impromptu, light-hearted play on the history and geography of climate, drawing on the collective knowledge of those present, an exciting journey in the imagination through the corridors of space and time.

Imagine you are relaxing in your hammock on a sunny cloudless sky. That arch of blue which stretches from horizon to horizon is the base of the atmosphere that nourishes the earth keeping it warmer than the cosmos, protecting it from meteorite impact and filtering out harmful ultraviolet radiation.

The sunlight that streams through the atmosphere contains the colours of the rainbow, as well as some we cannot see. Bits of which are removed by gases in the atmosphere en route back to space leaving gaps in the spectrum that an intelligent alien in a faraway planet could detect, just as we can do when we examine the lights from planets in the night sky.

Should that Alien consult its Inter-Galactic History Library, it would be astonished to find that the atmosphere of Planet Earth had evolved over time as if it had shaped itself. The composition of the primeval atmosphere that had filled with carbon dioxide of volcanic origin and contained little if any oxygen had changed progressively over time to one that was now 20% oxygen and little carbon dioxide as if the two processes had marched in step with each other over the past few billion years.

Had that Alien the equivalent of a Royal Society in his home planet it might have commissioned an Intergalactic Spaceship to explore Planet Earth a bit closer. Entering our solar system it would see Planet Earth as a dappled sapphire hanging in the infinity of space, ocean-blue and cloud-white, its poles capped in white that, in fast-forward mode, expanded and contracted as if the planet was breathing. Consulting its Intergalactic History Archive, it would find that the pulse of Planet Earth beats not only at a seasonal rate but also at a millennial rate, at least over the past million years, a pattern that we Earthlings know as the "Ice Ages".

Continued on page 2.

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

Christmas Time Gathering

Friday 13th December 2013 at the home of our President, David Mee and his wife Judith.
From 6.30pm at 23 Lemmons Road Robertson.

Upcoming Events

Fri 8th November – REPS AGM and Public Meeting, "Climate Play". An interactive event hosted by David Tranter. 7:30pm, Community Centre

Sat 30th November – Caalang Creek Working Bee from 9.30 onwards, pg 10

Fri 13th December – Christmas Time Gathering, from 6.30pm, 23 Lemmons Road, pg 10

Unknown to that Alien Spaceship, Planet Earth had been shaped not only by its orbit around the sun but by life itself, animate and inanimate in tandem. The first organisms on Earth were bacteria that could harvest chemical energy for their livelihood releasing methane as a by-product. Then the chlorophyll molecule appeared on the scene, drawing energy from sunlight to harvest carbon dioxide from the air and hydrogen from water to make carbohydrates, the process we call photosynthesis, which produces oxygen as by-product.

The first oxygen that algae and their plant successors produced was removed from the air by the raw-red rocks that littered the earth's surface, until they became oxidised, after which the oxygen excess accumulated in the air, which is now 20% oxygen.

So, more or less by happenstance, Earth and its inhabitants evolved in tandem, each modifying the other until a planet evolved that was neither too warm for comfort nor too cold; enough carbon dioxide for vegetation and algae but no more than needed; enough oxygen for air-breathers but not so much that they would spontaneously combust in times of drought – a kind of Goldilocks planet, the only one to their knowledge in the whole Universe. “Beauty bottler!” as they say, “Beauty bottler!”



About 100,000 years ago, during the latest glaciation, as sea levels fell restless Africans found that they could now walk across the straits that had previously separated them from Asia, Australasia and the Americas, and so they did. The first Australians reached continental Australia via Torres Strait about 50,000 to 80,000 years ago, hugging existing coastlines where food was plentiful, occupying the inland as fast as they could adapt to this land of “droughts and flooding rains”. Beauty bottler!

It was only in the last 10,000 years that agriculture developed, in such places as the Tigris-Euphrates, China and New Guinea Highlands. With food in excess, came trade; and from trade ports; and from ports came cities built on shorelines that advance and retreat in synch with the pulse beat of the Ice Age Cycle, inundating pre-existing coastlines each warm phase like now.

So, a very merry Christmas to you all on Spaceship Earth, and a Happy New Year. Be alert but not alarmed. Do not despair. Remember the old Greek fable of Pandora's Box*.

*When Pandora opened the bejewelled box that the devious Zeus had given her to punish her father for stealing the Fire from Heaven, all the evil spirits that now plague the world, such as War, Starvation and Disease, escaped. All but one - the Spirit of Hope, which remains with mankind to counteract all these evils.

REPS AGM

In advance of the REPS AGM (on Friday 8th November) office bearers' reports for 2013 are published below in this issue of *Eucryphia*.

President's Report

Dear Members,

As I write this, bushfires are raging in the Blue Mountains and near Balmoral and Yanderra in our own Southern Highlands. We extend our deepest sympathy to those who have lost their homes and property and also our warmest regards for those valiant men and women of the Rural Fire Service and county fire brigades who are doing their absolute best to alleviate the fire situation.

The bush can be a frightening place when hot dry winds are active, but it can also be a great joy for the spirit when conditions are benign, as they were last Saturday at Barren Grounds. Helen Tranter led a small party of members and friends through the reserve to the lookout over the Jamberoo Valley. In spite of the smoke haze the view was impressive, as always. The bush along the way was in flower, and identifying species was very satisfying. The bush was full of melaleuca, tea tree, boronia, epacris and grass trees in flower. Please consider attending next year. It is a great time to be there and enjoy not only the bushland but the company.

Congratulations to the garden club for a great weekend of open gardens. Also congratulations and thanks to those who worked very hard to open their

gardens to the public. The combination of gardens at their peak with the rolling hills and rain-forested gullies of our local environment as backdrop was absolutely stunning.

This year we have had a very interesting and varied speaker program. In February, we were privileged to have Dr. Martijn Wilders, an eminent lawyer and environmental specialist, give a talk on the political issues and world response to the science of climate change. This of course was before the recent election, which has presented a new political landscape. Martijn's presentation was very well attended and received, and set a high standard for future REPS meetings.

In April, Dr. Stephen Brown, a Highland's medical practitioner, gave a very interesting talk on his passion: butterflies. His expertise is such that he has been able to contribute to research on the subject alongside the professionals. His images of butterflies were superb. Especially interesting was his discussion of a gynandromorph. Who remembers what that is?

In June we were given a very timely talk by members of the local rural fire service, Two senior personnel, David Bartlett, Inspector of Operational Services in the Southern Highlands and our own Robertson Fire Brigade captain, Brendhan Waters. These two provided a thought provoking presentation on fires in the Wingecarribee Shire and Robertson district in particular, making comparisons with the recent Victorian bushfires and also the history of fires in the Eastern Wingecarribee. Brendhan's photo images of Robertson, now and years ago made an excellent point that we have now many more trees and gardens than in the past, and this can contribute to greater potential for fire. We thank all in the RFS who attended and support their ongoing effort to protect us all. All door donations were passed on to the Robertson Fire Brigade.

In August, local retired nuclear scientist William Gemmell presented a talk on the history and development of nuclear power. His experience both overseas and in Australia uniquely qualifies him to speak on this subject, which he did dispassionately as a scientist. Some of the audience expressed strong feelings on the subject, and Bill was in his element, enjoying the to and fro of opinions expressed. Fortunately, the new amplifier system that the REPS committee purchased helped with the audibility.

As well as the speaker program, REPS members have been active in the local parks and reserves.

Pinkwood Park has had some recent renovation. Poor drainage in parts had led to the demise of some of the original waratah plantings and, with council help, the drainage has been improved and new plantings and mulching have been done. We look forward to a great display of waratahs and pinkwoods in a few years. There is no doubt that Robertson is a top spot for waratahs which grow so well here and are so touchy elsewhere. Look at the heritage station garden if you want confirmation of this.

Leon Hall and Steve Douglas and their helpers have been doing a great job along Caalong Creek on the last Saturday of each month, weeding, planting, mulching and generally looking after the creek and its banks. It was with great disappointment to this team that, during the construction of the sewerage system, trenching was used to put pipes across the creek, instead of the promised under-boring. This not only caused big silting problems, but led to a lot of distress for those residents whose properties bordered the bank and who had planted gardens of indigenous species, which were dug up and destroyed in the process. Leon has taken on this issue and hopefully some redress will come from his efforts.

Notwithstanding the above, the opening of the Robertson Sewerage Scheme for the village will no doubt add to the improvement of the environment of Robertson.

Consider standing for the committee at the November meeting, which incorporates the Annual General Meeting and committee elections. As I noted in my last report, the REPS committee could do with more help, especially in filling the position of secretary which has been vacant for some months. This has been putting pressure on others who are trying to do their job and a secretarial function as well. We could also do with an injection of some youthful (i.e. below the age of 70) energy. The more that are there the more the jobs can be shared. Would someone like to take on the editorship of *Eucryphia*? What about organising the speaker program? The program of rainforest reserve weeding? There is a lot more we could do, but we need willing workers. After the AGM formalities, which will be quick, David Tranter will lead the rest of the evening to assist our understanding of the world's climate. See his article in this edition of *Eucryphia*. Renewals of membership are due from the AGM. Please help the committee by renewing promptly.

I must acknowledge the work of the committee members this year. They have been excellent, shouldering extra tasks and making things run smoothly. I would especially like to acknowledge Karen Guymer, our vice president, who took on extra jobs to make the committee work flow. I am especially grateful for the support she has given me as president. Monica Engel and Sheila McInnes have continued to be absolutely wonderful in producing the *Eucryphia* newsletter like magic every two months without fail. I know Monica is planning to leave Robertson and move to Orange to be with her mother there. We will all miss Monica, whose shoes in all her Robertson activities with the CTC, will be particularly hard to fill. Thank you from all of us.

Allan Stiles is working on a new edition of the rainforest book, and he is researching the subject to add more history and species. We hope to publish it in colour, with photos by Denis Wilson. David and Helen Tranter have been the backbone of the society in so many ways, it is hard to list them, but you all know what a debt REPS owes. Anne Wilson has done the accounts for many years and I would like to acknowledge her efforts.

Special thanks to Georgina and Jonathan Persse for their work and support of REPS over many years. We are especially grateful for Georgina's contribution as secretary, and Jonathan's as the editor of the Poetry Corner in *Eucryphia*. They both wish to retire from their activities for REPS and we all wish them a well deserved more relaxed time of it. Thanks to Peter Glass for volunteering to look after Poetry Corner, but I am sure he would appreciate input from others.

Thanks also to Peter and Lyn Glass, who hosted a very enjoyable Christmas social last December.

Please put aside Friday December 13th in your diaries for this year's REPS Christmas social, which will be at my home at 23 Lemmons Road, Robertson, starting at 6:30pm. This will allow people to get home not too late. Please plan on coming, and bring a plate and/or drinks to share. We hope that Bob will again bring his fiddle. We have a piano, but no pianist, so if anyone can oblige that would add to the party mood. Parking in the loop drive is probably the best, but space is limited, so consider car pooling if you can.

Thanks for supporting our REPS this year and we look forward to your continuation in 2014.

David Mee November 2013

Minutes from the Robertson Environment Protection Society Inc Annual General Meeting held on Friday 9th November 2012 at 7.30 pm will be handed out at the AGM on Friday 8th November, 2013.

Agenda for REPS AGM 2013

Present

Apologies

Opening Remarks / Announcements

Minutes from previous AGM, 9th November, 2012

Reports: i) President's Report

ii) Treasurer's Report

Election of Office Bearers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee members.

Other positions: Talks Convenor, Publicity Officer, Librarian, Supper Convenor, Caalang Creek Project Group, *Eucryphia* editor.

NEXT MEETING: TBA

REPS Positions for re-election

Position	Current Office Bearer
President	David Mee
Vice President	Karen Guymer
Secretary	Vacant filled by KG
Treasurer	Anne Wilson
General Committee	Helen Tranter, David Tranter, Leon Hall, Peter Glass, Monica Engel, Allan Stiles, Erica Longhurst.

Caalang Creek Report

REPS members may not be aware of the amount of rejuvenation work being done at Caalang Creek mainly by Leon Hall and Steve Douglas with the ongoing support of the Wingecarribee BushCare program. Last Saturday, 26th October, Leon and Steve were extremely pleased to have the assistance of 17 young women and men from Colgate University, New York State, in planting another 103 rainforest trees and shrubs. Some of us will remember Ellen Kraly, Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, who was our Speaker at REPS some good few years ago. Thank you to Trish Tindall for suggesting to her that the planting of trees might be a satisfying on-ground activity during the final weeks at Wollongong University of her students' 4 month visit to Australia. The students at Colgate come from all over the United States, as far as California and Alaska. Our thanks go to them all. Check page 10 for details of our regular Working Bees. All help is very welcome.

Treasurer's Report 2012
 Anne Wilson, Treasurer

ROBERTSON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION SOCIETY INC

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

These statements have been prepared in accordance with section 26(6) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 and Rule 17 of the Association's Rules.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2013

			\$
Current Assets			
Balance per Bank Passbook	General Account	2,560.63	
	Grants Account	145.01	
	Investment Account	6,000.00	
		8,705.64	
Current liabilities			0.00
Net Assets			8,705.64

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM 01-10-12 TO 30-9-13

GENERAL ACCOUNT

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Memberships	1,115.00	Dept of Fair Trading	51.00
Interest	6.54	Hall hire/PA	459.00
Donations with memberships	385.00	Printing/postage/PO Box	422.88
Donations at meetings	397.20	Other meeting costs	56.95
		Donation to RFS (Robertson)	87.60
		Internet Web hosting/domain	131.00
		Membership subscriptions	338.00
		Transaction charges	15.25
TOTAL INCOME	1,903.74	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,561.68
		Excess Income to Expenditure	342.06

Bank Reconciliation at 30-9-13 (Incl Investment A/C)

Opening Balance per Cash Book	8,218.57	Balance per Bank Statement	8,560.63
Plus Excess Income to Expend	342.06	Less unrepresented cheques (none)	0.00
Closing Balance	8,560.63	Balance to cash book	8,560.63

GRANTS ACCOUNT

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Interest	0.10		0.00
TOTAL INCOME	0.10	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
		Excess Income to Expenditure	0.10

Bank Reconciliation at 30-9-13

Opening Balance per Cash Book	144.91	Balance per Bank Passbook	145.01
Plus Excess Income to Expend	0.10		
Closing Balance	145.01	Balance to cash book	145.01

Anne Wilson, Hon. Treasurer

Note to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2013

The financial report is prepared, on a cash basis whereby items are brought into account as money is paid or received, from the records of the association.

REPS Wildflower Walk

by Helen Tranter

This year the REPS walk to Barren Grounds was a week later than usual, and since the warmer weather brought flowers out a week or so earlier we saw several different species on the walk to the lookout as well as many of the usual favourites.



Eleven of us started from the picnic area on a cool morning but with the air filled with smoke from the bushfires. The tall *Boronia thujona* with its pale pink flowers was fading but we were delighted to see the smaller, dark pink flowered *Boronia barkeriana* quite commonly along the track, standing out among the white flowers of large patches of the Coral Heath (*Epacris microphylla*). Along most of the track, in the swampy soils, the Scented Paperbark (*Melaleuca squarrosa*) was full of flowers, while some bushes covered with pretty white flowers hid the needle-like leaves and dagger shaped fruit of the Dagger Hakea (*Hakea teretifolia*).



Other delights were the bushes of yellow Drumstick (*Isopogon*) flowers and the cheerful

little Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*) scattered along the track. Unfortunately the smoke haze meant there was no view to see from the lookout, but we had seen plenty of flowers. A few stayed after lunch for a short walk along the start of the western track and were rewarded with the sight of one early Christmas Bell.

Photos taken on the day by David Mee

Woodswallows

text and photo Denis Wilson

In the opposite to the old American phrase: "Go west, Young Man" on a hot, windy day in October 2013, I observed a small flock of White-browed Woodswallows circling high in the air, and being blown east on strong north-westerly winds.

Date 17 October, 12:30 PM.

The Robertson Fire Brigade's Automatic Weather station reports, wind gusting to 40 Km/hour. <http://robertson.rfsa.org.au/weather/>



These birds normally are found west of the Divide, in places like Cowra and Grenfell, but they travel on the winds for reasons which elude me. They are terrific fliers. Perhaps they just enjoy "riding the winds"?

I once found myself surrounded by a group of these birds, in similar hot, north-westerly winds, at Long Reef, north from Manly, NSW. See photo of two birds resting on a wooden fence rail beside the steps leading to Long Reef headland. Unless they had pulled out of their "ride", the next landfall for them would have been in New Zealand.

For more stories you can read Denis's Blog

"The Nature of Robertson"

www.peonyden.blogspot.com.au

Poetry Corner

Edited by Peter Glass

Spring is here and we start with another of Alan Stephenson's orchid poems

SARCOCHILUS FALCATUS

Easily the pick of this generic crop
A plant in flower always sees me stop
To admire the glistening texture
Classic white flowers with yellow centre
In spring our rainforest is alive with these
The falcate leaves attached to trees
By trailing roots seeking food and sustenance
On Casuarina trunk and Coachwood branch
Road widening, farm clearing puts them under threat
And I trust they do not disappear from view
For they will never start anew
Nature would be loath to trust us
To save this gem, *Sarcochilus falcatus*

*Yes I am in love with this species, although that should have been obvious by now. Still locally common, its existence is occasionally strained each time road widening is undertaken on our mountain roads. Also with the break-up of some farming properties, land clearing is always a problem. Almost always found on trees but in two locations I have seen plants seemingly content on rock faces, usually among *Pyrrosia rupestris*. (Rock felt fern) Local plants vary from 25mm to 40mm and are not endowed with the long racemes of those from other areas.*



QANTAS



First RFDS aircraft
Victory QLD

Did you know that the sign of the flying "Roo"
Symbolises a dream come true?
That the wistful hopes of a few young men
Surged into joy in that moment when
A fragile biplane of wood and wire
Became their own, slaked their hearts` desire?

That when they touched down in the vast outback
It was often the Flying Doctor`s hack
That this lone plane`s family grew and grew
Till over the whole wide world they flew
Now QANTAS is famous and esteemed
Because some eager young men dreamed.

Clover F Nolan, Winton

Winton, in far western Qld near Longreach, is where QANTAS began in 1920. This poem was published in a collection of poems in 1970 celebrating 50 yrs of QANTAS, and 75 yrs of *Waltzing Matilda* by Andrew (Banjo) Patterson.

This poem of Christine`s seems relevant today with spring bringing on so many allergies and so much bushfire smoke in the air.

NOSES

Stuffy, runny, blockey nose
Autumn brings those awful woes....
So bright and rosy goodness knows
If I bend down to touch my toes
The tide comes in and away it goes
My tissue pile is getting high
Could toss my head into the sky
The wind would clear it through no doubt
I`d stick it on and then go out
For a meal that I could taste once more
And the sweet aroma of outdoors
I`m starting to feel almost sane
Fresh thoughts are running through my brain
No time to waste I must be off
Before the dreaded winter cough!

Christine Robertson.

Christine is a Moss Vale local and has family living in Robertson

If you have a poem, we would welcome your contribution - send to Peter Glass, 65 Vandenberg Rd, Robertson, 2577

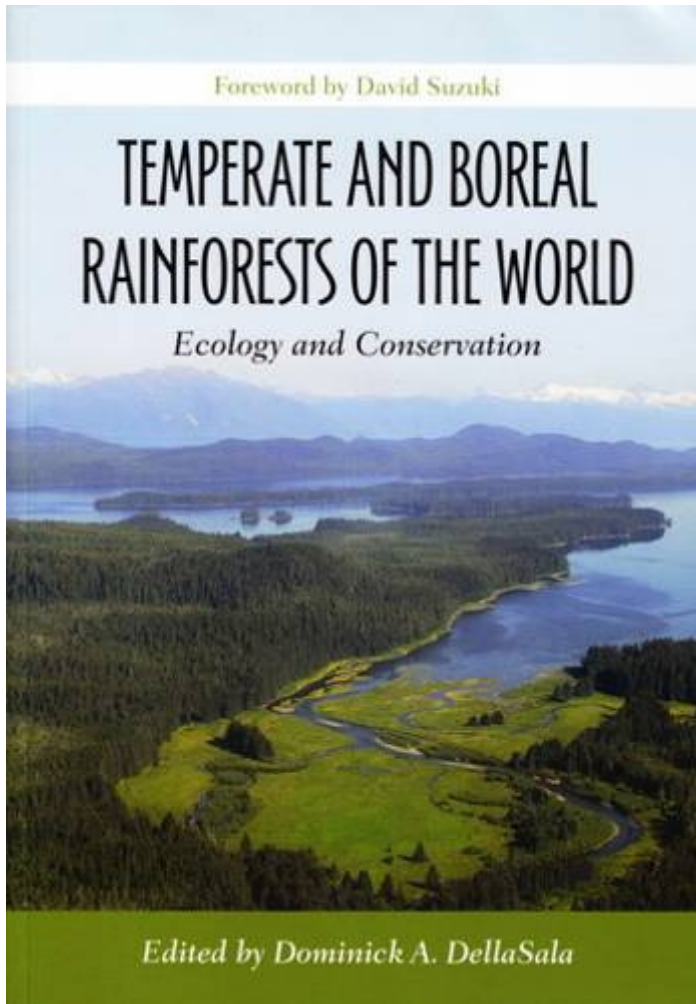
Book Review

by Allan Stiles

Temperate and Boreal Rainforests of the World / Ecology and Conservation

Edited by Dominick A. DellaSala

Island Press, Washington D. C., 2011



For residents and visitors to the Robertson district one of the most attractive features must be the rainforest remnants that are what remains of one of the most extensive examples of higher-altitude rainforest in the state. Rainforests in NSW have been classified by several Australian botanists as subtropical (with a large variety of species such as seen locally at Minamurra where temperatures are mild, rainfall is high, and soils are rich), littoral (close to the ocean such as Bass Point), dry (in generally fire-free lower rainfall zones), and temperate (where temperatures are lower due to higher altitudes or latitudes). Temperate rainforests can be either warm-temperate or cool-temperate, the former having fewer species than subtropical rainforests and lacking such features as giant figs, palms, and trees supported by buttresses. Cool temperate rainforests in NSW are usually

dominated by one or a few tree species such as *Nothofagus* in the north or *Eucryphia* in the south. In rainforests near Robertson features of both types can be observed, leading to their classification as warm/cool temperate rainforest. Rainforests in Australia are easily identified because they are closed forests (with an evergreen canopy that blocks most sunlight) with mesomorphic plants rather than sclerophyllous plants such as *Eucalyptus*. Such forest classification, while appropriate here, is obviously not the case worldwide, as revealed by the fascinating volume under review.

This book is claimed to be the first to give a worldwide account of rainforests in temperate zones. In the foreword by David Suzuki he states that:

In spite of their global significance, temperate and boreal [northern] rainforests and their ecological importance are poorly appreciated. For example, nearly all these rainforests have been eliminated from Europe. Just half of the original rainforest cover persists in North America and Chile and only a 'guts and feathers' of a once-expansive ecosystem survives elsewhere on the planet...This book includes the contributions of leading scientific experts from around the globe.

The opening chapter defines temperate and boreal rainforest based on climate data that includes: annual minimum and maximum temperatures and precipitation, significant precipitation during the driest quarter, low annual temperature fluctuation, and summer temperatures. Considering latitude, climate, and plant associations, a Rainforest Distribution Model was constructed that "was useful in establishing an objective upper range of potential rainforest." It is interesting that soil fertility, a significant limiting criterion in Australia, is neglected. Maps of these predictions are compared with ones based on local observations to show what remains of previous possibilities. The distinction between southern temperate rainforests that feature broad-leaved trees and those in the north that are dominated by conifers and deciduous trees is noted. The statement that "Examples from around the world include towering *Eucalyptus* forests in southern Australia..." seems to require a redefinition on our part. Because suitable land does not exist far enough south, boreal rainforest is not found in the Southern Hemisphere.

In chapters 2-9 regional experts discuss rainforests in the Pacific Coast of North America, inland North-western North America, Eastern Canada, Chile and Argentina, Europe, Japan, and Australasia, as well as outliers in the Western Eurasian Caucasus, Russian Far-east, Korea, Inland Southern Siberia, and South Africa.

Of particular interest to Australians who study and enjoy temperate rainforests are those in Valdivia (southern Chile) and Argentina. These have the same Gondwanan origin as those in southern Australia and include many common genera with some species that are so closely related to those here that they appear almost identical, even after many millions of years of separation. They are also home to a number of marsupials.

New Zealand rainforests, also closely floristically related to ours, are different in that they lack mammals except those that have flown or swum in or were introduced by man. It has been suggested that those islands were at some time submerged and later repopulated.

However fascinating descriptions of the rainforests elsewhere may be, further discussion will be restricted to the account of those in Australasia. The two maps in chapter 1 comparing regional mapping and the predictive distribution model are acknowledged to be problematic. From the predictive model, temperate rainforest would occur only in New Zealand (mostly in the South Island), in Tasmania, and in a small part of Victoria. On the other hand, the regional mapping (by Kirkpatrick and Dickerson in 1984) shows differing amounts in New Zealand, Tasmania, and Victoria, and includes many patches in NSW and sub-tropical Queensland.

Chapter 8, *Temperate Rainforests of Australasia*, is by James Kirkpatrick (then professor of geography and environmental studies at the University of Tasmania, Hobart) and Dominick DellaSala of the Geos Institute in Ashland, Oregon. It is stated that Australasian temperate rainforests “are restricted primarily to coastal areas of latitudes 39.5 to 43.5 degrees South.” A map of temperate rainforests in Australasia confusingly shows more patches in NSW and sub-tropical Queensland than the one in Chapter 1 and seems to include all the types of rainforest there. Distinctions “by some authors” between rainforest classifications on mainland Australia (tropical, subtropical, warm-temperate,

and cool-temperate) are discussed and the point made that:

subtropical rainforest includes extensive areas of forest in the warm-temperate zone, forests that closely resemble much of the more complex New Zealand rainforest. This [classification] problem does not arise in most parts of the globe, where deserts, savannahs, or grasslands conveniently separate the “tropical” from the “temperate” rainforests.

Does this imply that a revision of the classification of Australian rainforests should be conducted?

It is explained that the classification of Tasmanian rainforests (all of which are said to be cool-temperate) divides them into four structural/floristic types: callidendrous (cathedral-like), thalamic (with many shrubs in the understory), implicate (with a tangled mass of non-vertical tree stems), and montane (of moist, cool, upland slopes). On the mainland it is claimed that warm-temperate rainforest is “associated more with poor soils than a particular climatic zone.” This is difficult to concede when high-altitude rainforest on rich soils in districts such as Robertson, Mount Wilson, and elsewhere are observed. An obvious negative criticism of this chapter is that the author repeatedly and consistently refers to “Tasmania” and “Australia” (rather than “the mainland”) as though the former were not part of the latter. It is also curious that both the photos of Australian forest show mixed forest dominated by Eucalypts and that almost all the literature cited is about Tasmanian rainforest.

An interesting account of ancient affinities with other southern rainforests due to continental drift is given and the fact that most of the Australian continent once was covered by rainforest is mentioned. It is postulated that Aboriginal land management may have diminished the extent of those rainforests, as, of course, did subsequent clearing for agriculture by Europeans.

While research on this topic is described as “a work in progress”, this book must be considered as a highly significant attempt to describe non-tropical rainforests globally and to advocate their adequate conservation.



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 will be no working bees in December or January.

The next Working Bees will be on the 30th November and the 22nd February

Meet at the footbridge in Hampden Park. Don't forget water, hat and gloves. We now have tools available, but bring your own if you can.

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

Help Care for Our Nature Reserve

1st Wednesday of each month

9:30am to noon

All welcome. Please bring garden gloves. More volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Everyone is welcome. Details: Helen Tranter 4885 1394 or NPWS business hours: 4887 8253.

REPS Membership Renewals now due

It is that time of year again when REPS Membership renewals are due. Please find the 2013-14 Annual Membership Renewal/Application form with this edition of *Eucryphia*. Please complete this form as soon as possible and return it with your membership fees to REPS, POBox 3045, Robertson NSW 2577, or at the 8th Nov meeting.

Your ongoing membership and support is much appreciated.

If you have any friends or neighbours interested in joining REPS pass a copy of the application form on to them. Alternatively new forms can be obtained from the Secretary, or via email: reps99@outlook.com.

Welcome New REPS Members

McCabe & McCabe-Wilson Family
Lyndy Scott
Penelope Williams

REPS Meetings for 2014

The dates for next year's public meetings are as listed below. Each meeting will include a talk that will be publicised in the *Eucryphia* prior to the meeting.

Friday 14th February

Friday 11th April

Friday 13th June

Friday 8th August

Saturday 11th or 18th October Bushwalk

(Depending on railway activities)

Friday 14th November (Annual General Meeting)

Christmas Time Gathering

Friday 13th December 2013 at the home of REPS President, David Mee and his wife Judith.

Members and their families are invited to bring drinks and a snack to celebrate Christmas and enjoy meeting and catching up with fellow members of REPS at the home of David and Judith Mee at **23 Lemmons Road, Robertson, from 6.30pm**

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 – Karen Guymer

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 would like to share with other REPS members please email:

reps99@outlook.com

All contributions will be most welcome.

Visit the REPS website

www.reps.org.au