



# *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)

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

**Friday 21 April 7.30pm**

**Robertson Community Centre  
Caalong Street**

## **ARTIFICIAL FEEDING OF HONEY BEES**

Presented by **Dr John Black** AM, FTSE, FAIAST  
Nutritionist and Research Management  
Consultant



REPS members enjoyed John's talk on animal methane in April 2016 and warmly welcome him back this year when he will enlighten us with more of his stellar research. John specializes in comparative physiology and nutrition across animal species as these factors are critical for agricultural production.

This time John's talk will focus on the nutritional needs of European honey bees. John will explain how European honey bees need supplemental feeding primarily because of our very different Australian flora.

The low nutritional status of bees affects productivity and profitability through reduced:

- brood rearing and survival ,
- larval growth (resulting in smaller bees),
- foraging distances and payloads,
- longevity (from 40 to 20 days) and
- disease and parasite resistance.



## **All welcome**

Please join us for supper and a chat after the talk.  
A gold coin donation is appreciated.

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## THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS KOALA CONSERVATION PROJECT

by Joe Stammers REPS Public Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

Report by David and Judith Mee

President Peter Glass invited Committee member Mike Meldrum to introduce Joe Stammers, who is currently Environmental Project Officer with the Wingecarribee Shire Council. Joe is working on the Koala Conservation project with Kylie Madden, who is based in Wollongong.



Mike Meldrum introducing the speaker.

Joe began by giving a brief overview of the history of European encounters with koalas. The first sighting was in 1798 near Bargo. The word koala came from the aboriginal word 'Colo', meaning "no drink". In 1802, a Francis Luiz Berallio was recorded as having traded with his aboriginal guide for 2 Koala feet. In May 1893, the heir to the Austrian Imperial Throne, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was on a visit to Australia and went on a hunting trip. His remark on the koalas he saw was recorded as: "By Golly, these Australian bears don't put up much of a fight. Shot eight anyway!"



Joe Stammers

By the 1930s, koalas had been hunted to near extinction for their pelts, and in the late 1930s they became protected as a species, but unfortunately not their habitat, which continued to

be reduced by logging and agriculture. There are many threats to koalas today. One is bushfire. In October 2013 about one third of the water catchment north of the Highlands was burnt in a very hot fire. Another threat is disease. Koalas are very susceptible to chlamydia, especially if stressed. Other threats include the urban ones of highways, cars, and dogs. On the North coast, there is funding to include floppy fences and koala overpasses as new sections of highway are built, but it is more difficult in our area to add this kind of wildlife protection to existing roads.



Some of the capacity audience before the meeting.

Joe noted that the koala was effectively extinct in Victoria until plantings of manna gums ('lollypops for koalas') were made for timber under an incentive scheme. The koala was then re-introduced and a population explosion took place, which required culling for sustainability.

The current Southern Highlands koala conservation project has a number of aims:

- To have a healthy, thriving, connected, population of koalas in the area
- To take our population of koalas from being one of the least understood to one of the most understood
- To discover how best to protect koalas from disease, especially chlamydia.

Koalas in the Upper Nepean Conservation Area were tested for chlamydia and 67% tested positive. Around Canyonleigh it was 78%.

The area under consideration is about the same size as greater Sydney. Of this about 45% is either national park or water catchment. Another 5% is state forest, around Penrose, and another 5% is crown land. The remainder is private property, ranging from farmland to residential.

Koala monitoring now covers 460 sites, and sightings have increased from 2013 to 2017. There is a large population around Kangaloon, especially in the Kirkland Road area. Tracking of koalas has been introduced using radio collars, with 20 such collars in use.

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Their range depends on the vegetation density, with males traveling further than females. Over a period of 6 months, position signals were received every 6 hours.

Many species of eucalypts are suitable as food sources, with definite preferences being shown by some populations, but these are not necessarily the same universally. For the past 20 years, the NSW state planning department, under SEPP 44 has listed 10 species as suitable for koala food and habitat, but it is now updating the list to include up to 65 species. The Robertson brown barrel *Eucalyptus fastigata* is on the list. Some of the results of the study have already led to better knowledge of koala populations. To the known ones in Nattai and Yerrinbool, we can now add populations in Canyonleigh, Belanglo, East Kangaloon and Wingello. Numbers (higher than might have been expected) will be released soon.

New initiatives including the impending release of a fine scale vegetation map, a recovery strategy document and an updated SEPP 44 are being reviewed, and extra funding is being provided to allow the study to expand into the Wollondilly Shire.

Joe said that the community can help by:

- Joining Habitat for Wildlife,
- Growing habitat and planting preferred trees,
- Getting involved with wildlife care organisations,
- Joining a Bushcare group,
- Reporting koala sightings on the koala hotline ph. 4868 0888.



Peter Glass thanking Joe.

A question and answer session followed, and then a vote of thanks from Peter Glass. A cup of tea, a sandwich or a piece of cake and plenty of lively conversation ensued.

*(see also update p4)*

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## POETRY CORNER

edited by Peter Glass

### **The Australian Sunrise**

by James L Cuthbertson

The Morning Star paled slowly, the Cross hung low to the sea  
And down the shadowy reaches the tide came swirling free.  
The lustrous purple blackness of the soft Australian night  
Waned in the grey awakening that heralded the light;  
Still in the dying darkness, still in the forest dim  
The pearly dew of the dawning clung to each giant limb,  
Till the sun came up from ocean, red with the cold sea mist,  
And smote on the limestone ridges, and the shining tree-tops kissed;  
Then the fiery Scorpion vanished, the magpie's note was heard,  
And the wind in the she-oak wavered and the honeysuckles stirred;  
The airy golden vapour rose from the river breast,  
The kingfisher came darting out of his crannied nest,  
And the bulrushes and reed-beds put off their sallow grey  
And burnt with cloudy crimson at the dawning of the day.

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If you have a poem we would welcome your contribution. Send to Peter Glass, 65 Vandenburg Road, Robertson 2577.

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## REPS MEETINGS - 2017

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April** Artificial Feeding of Honey Bees

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** AGM and presentation.

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### A MOST SUCCESSFUL WORKING BEE

It was very encouraging to have 12 people turn up for the working bee at the Nature Reserve on 1<sup>st</sup> March, to help deal with the privet on the western border. As well as the 8 recruited by REPS there was Chris and Juliet from NPWS and 2 volunteers from the Minnamurra Rainforest Group, invited by Juliet.

A great deal was achieved, including hundreds of small privets pulled up, larger ones drilled or cut and poisoned and branches with young fruit cut and bagged. Dead privet branches were lopped up and compacted and young plants of rainforest species identified and caged.

At the end, those who could stay enjoyed a cup of tea and a slice of Juliet's homemade cake before they left. Thanks to all for the good work. Next weeding day will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, starting at 9.30am. Helen Tranter

### HELP CARE FOR OUR NATURE RESERVE

1st Wednesday of each month from 9:30am till noon or so. More volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Please bring garden gloves

**Everyone is welcome**

Details: Helen Tranter 4885 1394 or NPWS in business hours: 4887 8253

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### CONTACT REPS

Those who are interested in supporting our aims 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:

President – Peter Glass on 4885 1921,

Vice-President – David Mee on 4885 1483 or PO Box 3045, Robertson 2577

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## CAALANG CREEK WORKING BEES

The last Saturday of every month at 9:30am onwards, subject to the weather.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April is the next working bee.

Please come and join us for as long as you are able. Don't forget water, hat and gloves. We have tools available, but bring your own if you can. Caalang Creek volunteers meet at the footbridge in Hampden Park.

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

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### KOALA CONSERVATION UPDATE!



Recent studies are showing the preferred habitat and feed trees for the Koala, which in our area include:

*E. punctata*, *E. cypellocarpa*, *E. seiberi*,  
*E. radiata*, *E. oblonga*, *E. quadrangulata*, *E. mannifera*, *E. sclerophylla*, *E. globoidea*,  
*E. viminalis*, *E. cinerea*, *E. tereticornis*,

It remains important for residents to continue reporting all koala sightings via the Koala Hotline on 02 4868 0888 or via the [Facebook page](#). Happy koala spotting!

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### REPS MEMBERSHIP

Membership is from November to November and we are having another great year. If you are not yet a member, please consider becoming one. Helen Tranter ph.4885 1394

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This newsletter is named for the beautiful local tree, *Eucryphia moorei*, known as Pinkwood or Plumwood. Articles for *Eucryphia* may be sent to the editors, Allan Stiles, Sheila McInnes and Lynn Stevenson.

[eucryphia@reps.org.au](mailto:eucryphia@reps.org.au)

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### VISIT THE REPS WEBSITE

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

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