



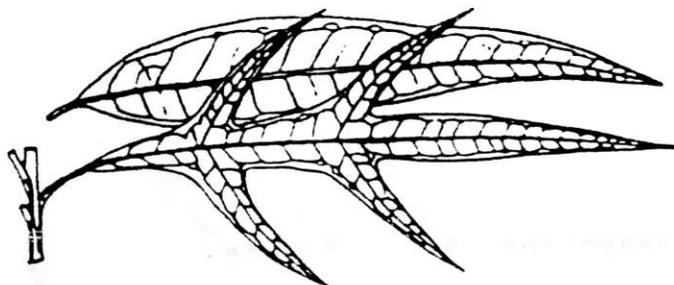
# Robertson Environment Protection Society

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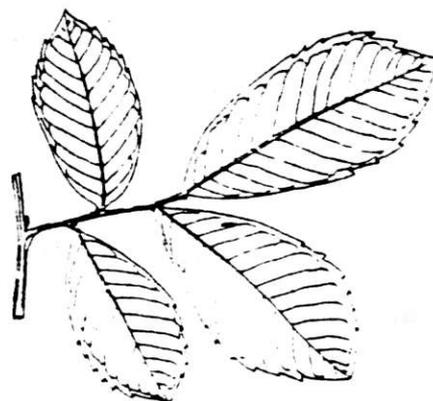
## EUCRYPHIA

NUMBER 10

MAY 1993



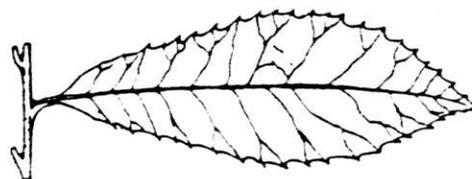
**KANGAROO APPLE**  
*Solanum aviculare*



**NATIVE QUINCE**  
*Alectryon subcinereus*



**SCENTLESS ROSEWOOD**  
*Synoum glandulosum*



**BLACK OLIVEBERRY**  
*Elaeocarpus holopetalus*

## NOTICE OF MEETING

### HOW TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

The Robertson Environment Protection Society (REPS) extends a cordial invitation to you to an interesting talk on:

#### *Ways to make existing houses more energy-efficient*

by Mr Andrew Paterson of Natural Home Builders Pty Ltd, Bowral

on Friday night, 14th May at the Robertson Community Centre

at 7.30pm

Andrew's company builds passive\* solar houses in the Southern Highlands, using natural products, such as wool, for insulation and other environmentally friendly technologies, some of which will be on display.

The venue for the talk will be a meeting room that has just been "retro-fitted" by local volunteers to make it warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

REPS is involved in a wide range of activities including bush regeneration, seed-collecting, street-tree planting, park protection, wildlife observation, recycling, streamwatch, etc. Membership enquiries: Helen Tranter 048-851-394.

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 \* *Passive solar design* means designing the shell of the building to store heat energy from the sun inside the house in winter and, in summer, to exclude heat energy to keep the inside cool.  
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#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of this Society is invited. Why not be part of an active, friendly and concerned community organisation in your district?

Public meetings with speakers on varied topics are held every two months in the Robertson Community Hall.

Business meetings to which any members are welcome take place on intervening months.

Members are actively committed to several worthwhile projects in which participation is needed and welcomed.

Please contact the Secretary, Helen Tranter, 12 McGuinness Drive, Mount Murray 2577. Phone 048 851 394.

## REPORT

This year so far has been one of considerable achievement for the Society.

The launch of the book, A Guide to the Yarra Brush, in the School of Arts on 20th February was well attended and included refreshments, displays of live plants and herbarium specimens, books, maps, old photos of the district, schoolchildren's artworks and potted plants for sale. A great deal of work was done by members to ensure that it was the success which it undoubtedly was. Speeches were made by Mr Colin Hollis, member for Throsby representing the Federal Minister for the Environment and the Save The Bush Fund; Mr Graeme Worboys from the National Parks and Wildlife Service representing the State Minister for the Environment; Mr Robert Harrison, the State member for Kiama; the Shire President, Councillor David Wood; Dr. Kevin Mills, environmental consultant; and a senior local resident, Mr. Gordon Missingham.

A display was mounted and literature given away at the Robertson Show on 5th and 6th March.

Many people worked at a tree planting day beside the Illawarra Highway west of the village on 13th March. Seedlings of local trees had been propagated by the RTA from seeds collected by members.

Much has been done on the Caalang Creek project and part of a report is included in this issue.

The retrofitting of the Community Hall, part of the Energy Efficiency Project overseen by Robyn Williams has drawn very favourable comment and is proving to be very worthwhile.

At the March meeting Catherine Dunstan spoke of her study of small mammals in rainforest remnants and showed slides of cute and cuddly rats. Great interest was expressed in her work. She will continue trapping in the district this year and next to complete her master's degree from the University of NSW. We await her findings with interest.

Allan Stiles

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO EUCRYPHIA

Do you have anything to say? Have you a talent for drawing? Articles and illustrations for publication in this newsletter may be submitted to the editor, Allan Stiles, 40 Beecroft Road, Beecroft 2119.

# CAALANG CREEK RESERVE PROJECT

## FULL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

### ●OUTLINE

The project selected by the Robertson Environment Protection Society for consideration for funding is Caalang creek and the reserve through which it runs. It is of major importance that this reserve is in a water catchment area. It is of relevance also that the creek passes through potato and dairy farming land though the reserve itself is not bounded by farmland. The reserve itself comprises an area of approximately 2.5 hectares. This is part of a much larger park area (approximately 8 hectares) which consists mainly of passive recreation areas. It is situated within the Robertson village boundaries. Part of the reserve is also a natural wetlands area. The reserve is now overgrown with pasture grasses and infested with weeds and introduced plants i.e. hawthorn, blackberry, privet, pampas grass, and honeysuckle. It is felt that with immediate and ongoing work the reserve could become a model for this area for watercourse and wetlands management and urban reforestation.

The prime foci for the project would be:-

a) The cleaning up and management of Caalang creek which runs through the reserve.

Since the reserve is in a water catchment area and Caalang creek flows firstly into the Wingecarribee Reservoir and then on into the Nepean system, the water quality of this creek is of major concern. This Creek is in fact one of the headwaters of the Nepean system which supplies water to the Sydney region. At this time there is much siltation of the creek and also a lot of non-indigenous plant material on its banks.

Although new development in the area requires Bio-cycle type septic systems, older developments still have seep-away systems. Local Water Board staff have expressed concern at the effect both this and normal domestic run-off may be having on the creek and a monitoring system would be of benefit to both the community and the Water Board. The problem of urban run-off may be exacerbated by a general growth in residential development now being seen in the area.

We have become part of the Streamwatch program, so the results of management strategies to be implemented with funding will be made available through their computer network to anyone attempting a similar project elsewhere.

b) The cleaning up and management of the wetlands area situated within the reserve

The rehabilitation of the wetlands area would aid its ability to filter urban run-off before it enters the creek.

c) The reserve itself.

This would entail:

- the removal of non-indigenous plant material from the area.
- initially slashing the overgrown grass and the subsequent maintenance of it.
- the preparation for, and planting of local tree species and other vegetation as a reforestation model.

### ●PLAN OF PROPOSED MEASURES AND WORKS

- 1) A detailed plan will be drawn up for the overall site.
- 2) A specific plan will be drawn up using Water Board catchment management strategies and advice from the Department of Water Resources, for the management of the creek, creek banks and the wetlands area.
- 3) Equipment and labour will be hired to remove inappropriate material from the creek and banks as specified by the plan in (2).
- 4) Hired equipment and labour and Society members along with voluntary workers from the community will carry out work required to rehabilitate the overall reserve site.

## JUSTIFICATION

### ●SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 1) To remove non-indigenous plant material from the site.
- 2) To remove non-appropriate materials from creek and creek banks.
- 3) To rehabilitate creek, creek banks and wetlands area using Water Board catchment management strategies and advice from the Department of Water Resources.
- 4) To rehabilitate the reserve site through revegetation and reforestation processes.

### ●BENEFITS

The immediate benefit to the community would be the gaining of two model plans - the creek management plan and the reforestation plan which would be highly visible and readily adaptable to other situations e.g. farms and schools.

The local primary school is situated near by so the students would have a readily accessible area for environmental studies

In the long term the well documented benefits of an urban forest would be obtained.

The community would gain the undoubted benefits of a cleaner water source leading to water storage systems.

The rehabilitation of the wetlands area would aid its ability to filter urban run-off before it enters the creek.

There is an ever increasing demand on the little remaining publicly owned remnant rainforest vegetation (Yarrawa Brush) in this area, so it would be of great benefit to both the present small area of Brush and to residents and visitors to create more for future use and for study purposes.

### ●IMPORTANCE

It is considered that without the proposed works the site will continue to deteriorate. The need to eliminate, and thus help stem the spread, of introduced species is vital. Rehabilitation, revegetation and ongoing maintenance will ensure they do not become a problem again. If the creek is not cleaned up major problems could develop as residential development in the area continues and weed and plant infestation spreads. An effective creek management program now will prevent major problems as urban development continues within the creek catchment area.

### ●RELEVANCE

The project will enable the community to see how effective management of our watercourses and wetlands can prevent the development of problems.

Widespread educational benefits will ensue.

The watercourse involved in this project is part of a major water catchment scheme, so improvements made to the quality of this water source will benefit the greater community. The major tree planting scheme which will be used to facilitate the creek cleaning process will have major educational and environmental benefits.

### ●MEASURABILITY

- 1) Weekly checks will be made of the site to monitor regrowth of inappropriate materials.
- 2) The creek will be monitored by Streamwatch to measure water quality.
- 3) Visual checks will monitor creek bank stabilisation.
- 4) Detailed planting records will be made then visual checks will monitor progress of trees and other vegetation planted, and further records kept of relative growth rates.
- 5) There will be an ongoing photographic record of the project.

### ●FEASIBILITY

We appreciate that this is a both 'now' and 'future' project. The long term viability of the project will be ensured by society members with their many and varied areas of expertise and the 'drawing in' of the wider community to participate in the maintenance of the project.

It is also anticipated there will be less maintenance required as the reforestation takes effect.

METHODOLOGY

●PROJECT PLAN

August 1993

- Caalang Creek Reserve detailed plan drawn up.
- Caalang Creek management plan drawn up.
- Wetlands area management plan drawn up

Initial Site Works

Sept. '93 - Jan. '94

- Slashing grass
- Commence weed and non-indigenous plant eradication
- Commence creek works.

Ongoing Site Works

Aug. '93 - Aug. 95

- Grass control
- Weed and non-indigenous plant control
- Creek monitoring
- Preparation for planting
- Care and maintenance of plantings.

Milestones

March 1994

-Initial planting in higher areas of reserve not affected by frost .

Oct. '94 - Nov. '94

-Major planting in reserve

March 1995

-Further tree planting in higher areas of reserve.

