



Eucryphia

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Hedge repair late
Number 81 – November 2005

Robertson Environment Protection Society – to promote the protection and enhancement of the Robertson Environment

REPS Annual General Meeting **Friday 11th November at 7:30pm** **at the Robertson Community Centre**

Waratah Dreaming **A talk by David Tranter**

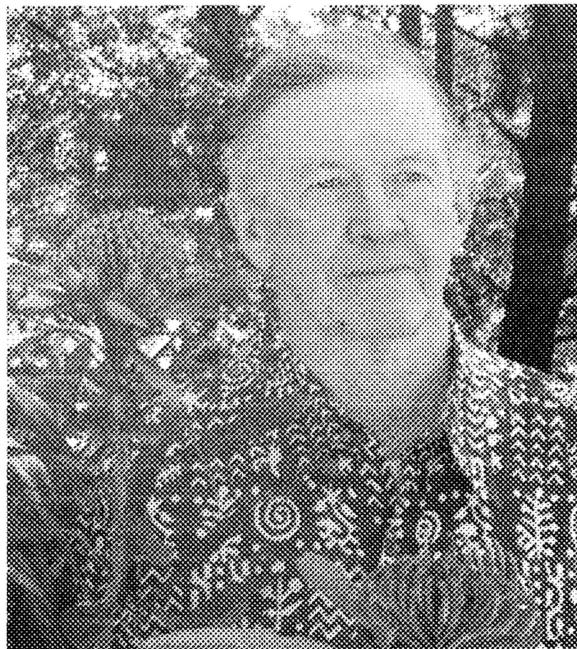
This talk will be about the waratah, its origin, cultivation, and mythology. It will be illustrated with named specimens of the various species and their relatives, enlivened with some audience input theatre.

Helen and David grow waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*) on Blackwoods Farm on the edge of a hillside overlooking the Illawarra Coast and open ocean where David worked all his professional life as a marine ecologist.

On his retirement from research, David began to grow waratah and protea on a few acres of cleared land previously covered in cool temperate rainforest. To his surprise, the NSW waratah grew well on the deep red basalt soil. By chance he obtained some seedling Dorrigo waratah (*Alloxylon pinnata*) from the North Coast and found that they also flourished in the same conditions.

For about five years, operating as *Austraflora Exports*, he exported Australian flowers for other growers, helping to set up the Flower Export Council of Australia and, as its Honorary Secretary, he travelled to Japan and North America to promote and market Australian flowers. On his retirement, he was made an Honorary Life Member.

David and Helen are responsible for the upkeep of the Railway precinct gardens which are ablaze with waratah every October. The flowering season of the NSW varieties is nearly over, however the Dorrigo waratah on the embankment opposite the station will be in flower for Christmas and New Year.



David has just completed a book entitled "Nature and Society", which has been designed by Ian Foster with line drawings by Penny Osterhaus and typesetting by Anni Heino (all members of REPS). The book will come out early in the New Year (Price \$25) and may be obtained either from David or from Robertson CTC.

***All are welcome – please bring friends and family. A light supper will be provided.
Entry with a gold coin donation.***

Upcoming Events

Fri. 11th November – REPS Annual General Meeting + Waratah Dreaming Talk, 7:30pm, Robertson Community Centre

Fri. 9th December – Final REPS Meeting for 2005. 7:30pm. Robertson Community Centre

REPS AGM

In advance of the REPS AGM (on Friday 11th November) office bearers' reports for 2005 are published in this volume of Eucryphia.

President's Report

by Leon Hall

Recently it appears we are getting back to normal Robertson weather. Its wet!

Sydney's water supplies have been at record lows. This has an impact locally with the planned raising of the Tallowa Dam wall to supply Sydney with more water including building a pipeline. One effect of this will be the flooding of parts of the Kangaroo and Shoalhaven rivers near Kangaroo Valley.

Another effect being a pipeline through the Southern Highlands.

Bores have also been drilled on Sydney Catchment Authority land along Tourist road and elsewhere recently. This Sydney water issue or any other environmental issues or projects can be discussed at our December meeting. Please contact the committee with any agenda items.

A highlight for REPS this year was winning the NSW Landcare gold award in the category of "Bushcare Nature Conservation" at Wagga Wagga in August.

This award is a tribute to the many people who, over the years, have helped create and run the society as well as organising talks, producing the Eucryphia newsletters, doing environmental projects etc. Congratulations to you all.

REPS achievements this year included;

Caalang Creek (monthly - last Sat.)

Environmental weeds removed, pruning, mulching and maintenance. A small scale planting of mainly Blackwoods was done in October involving the primary school with propagation and planting.

A further larger scale planting has been planned for early next year.

Pinkwood Park

A few working bees, mainly weeding and moving soil. Both Saturday morning working bees were well attended throughout the year.

Robertson Nature Reserve

This weekday working bee (monthly) is successful in removing exotic weeds and maintaining the integrity of the rainforest

Talks given:

February - Tree Planting in the Southern Highlands by John Stowar

April - Sustainable Land-Use for Small Landholders & New Landholders by Mike Keys Department of Primary Industries

June - The Geology, Regolith and Groundwater of the Robertson Area by Kristy Bewert, HNCMA.

August -The Janet Cosh Herbarium by Belinda Pellow

October - Twin Desert Challenge by Keith Williams

All talks were well attended, generally filling the Community Centre.

Eucryphia Newsletters:

6 issues printed (Numbers 76 to 81)

1 Plants of the Yarrawa Brush fact sheet (3 pages)

Kangaroo Apple

Bushrock brochure- Thinking of building a rock wall?

REPS helped instigate and develop this brochure produced by the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), Queanbeyan.

REPS Stalls:

Environment Expo

Bowral Primary School November 2004

World Environment Day

Corbett plaza August 2005

Robertson Village Fair

3 days October 2005.

Forum - Helen Tranter and I attended the 5th Landcare/Catchment Management Forum at Wagga Wagga in August representing REPS as a finalist in the Bushcare Nature Conservation Award for NSW. Being the winner of our category, REPS is now an entrant in the 2006 National Landcare Awards.

On behalf of REPS I would like to thank our committee members for their greatly valued work during the year and thanks to all our members for your continued support of the society.

Leon Hall

President

The Twin Desert Challenge

Report by Leon Hall

This October REPS talk was exhilarating stuff with some spectacular slides and interesting facts. Keith Williams walked us through his two expeditions, starting with crossing the Simpson Desert from south to north as a warm up for the main expedition walking unaided across the Antarctic to the South Pole!

The group of 3 took 59 days to reach the pole climbing in altitude as they went over different terrains. We got a feeling for the harsh conditions experienced while being warm and comfortable in the community centre.

Keith described this remote and spectacular landscape and the trek to the South Pole where they met an American research base before being flown out by the one pilot who flies to the South Pole. Also of interest was the extensive preparation needed for the journey including the types of food taken, and the carbohydrate requirements needed for survival.

A great night, thanks Keith, and a great opportunity for us to get a glimpse of these fascinating and challenging landscapes. Also congratulations on successfully completing both expeditions.

(modified leaves) which surround the seeds. It is the plant known as "Ornamental Ginger" (*Hedychium gardnerianum*).



Photo courtesy of David Carmichael

This plant was close to, but not on, the Robertson plateau. It was found in a patch of rainforest, at lower altitude, and milder climate than Robertson. However, I have seen this species growing wild along Vandenberg Road, off the Jamberoo Mountain Road. There it grows in a moist, dark patch of cool-temperate rainforest, which is probably just a little milder, and certainly wetter than, the main part of Robertson.

My quandary, as a newcomer to Robertson, is should I continue to grow this plant, if it is capable of becoming a garden escapee? Being a former Canberra resident, Where I could never grow this "tropical-looking" plant, I was enjoying being able to grow it in Robertson, despite our occasional snow storms.

So my question to you all is - *do you regard this species as a potential weed plant in Robertson? If so, should we stop growing it locally?* I would appreciate your comments.

Unusual Orange Flowers

Article by Denis Wilson

Recently, I was asked by a bushwalker friend of mine to identify some "unusual orange flowers" seen growing in a patch of rainforest which he had visited. The challenge was to identify the plants - courtesy of digital photography, and the Internet. I often have trouble with less familiar flowers "up close and personal", so I was unsure if I would be up to this task.

However, when the photo arrived, it took only a few seconds to realise that the plant was not a native, as I had assumed it to be. It was clearly a garden escapee, of a plant variety which I have growing in my own garden in Robertson. In fact the leaves are a dead give-away to its identity. The "unusual orange flowers" are not flowers at all, but colourful bracts

Janet Cosh Herbarium

Request for help from Jean Clarke

The Janet Cosh Herbarium is located in Biological Sciences at the University of Wollongong. Janet Cosh's specimen collection, botanical drawings and library are stored in the Herbarium. Also there are notebooks, maps, letters and photos.

We are hoping to secure funding to write Janet's story with a focus on her specimen collection and botanical illustrations. This project may include the publication of a book and art exhibition, depending on funds available.

We are interested to hear from anyone who knew Janet and may have books, letters, drawings or photographs that could be borrowed for the project. Or perhaps you would like to share some stories about Janet in which case Belinda Pellow or Jean Clarke could arrange a visit to the Highlands.

If you can assist, please contact either:

Jean Clarke

Telephone: 02 42214340

jclarke@uow.edu.au

or

Belina Pellow

Telephone: 02 42214340

bpellow@uow.edu.au

Our postal address is:

**University of Wollongong
Northfields Avenue,
Wollongong NSW 2522**

To address this very issue many community nurseries have been set up in a number of other shires, for example Picton Community Nursery (in Wollondilly shire), Lithgow Community Nursery, Windsor Community Nursery and Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery and Bushcare.

Currently, plants for revegetation and rehabilitation projects occurring within the Wingecarribee Shire are sourced from a regional commercial nursery. While the nursery can provide the correct species the seed source is not of local provenance. The problem is that there is genetic variation between species. These genetic differences can have a variety of effects. Species occurring in different areas may be adapted to different soil conditions, flower at different times or grow at different rates, for example. Using non-local seed may mean that the plant may be less adapted to the environment or it may be an inferior food source for native fauna, also it may pose a threat of genetic contamination. Genetic diversity is conserved through using provenance species for revegetation.

PROPOSAL

We are interested in establishing a community nursery for the Wingecarribee Shire in order to address the problem outlined above. It is envisaged that a volunteer community nursery group would be established. This group would be part of the Landcare/Bushcare network and will propagate and grow local provenance plants for local bushcare and landcare projects. In addition, a number of seed collecting working bees would be held each year to collect seed for the nursery to use.

We have been fortunate in meeting a local landholder who has kindly offered the use of the nursery on his Robertson property for a very modest rent. We have looked at that nursery and it is very well set up.

Before progressing further with arrangements to secure the rent for a community nursery and funding to cover various nursery costs, we need to determine the level of interest in the community for such a nursery. If you would like to help by filling in a questionnaire please contact:

Kristy Bewert, HNCMA

Email: Kristy.Bewert@cma.nsw.gov.au

Telephone: (02) 4868 3829

Eucryphia 81 - Nov 05

REPS Membership Renewals now due

It is that time of year again when REPS Membership renewals are due. Included with this final edition of Eucryphia for the year is the Annual Membership Renewal/Application form. Please complete this form as soon as possible and return it with your membership fees to:

REPS
PO Box 45,
Robertson NSW 2577

Your ongoing membership and support of this organisation is really appreciated.

If you have any friends or neighbours interested in joining REPS, please photocopy the Application form and pass it on to them. Alternatively new forms can be obtained from the Secretary, or from Lyndon Stanley via email (lyndon@hinet.net.au).

NPA Bushwalk **Wednesday 22nd February, 2006**

REPS members are invited to join David Tranter on Wednesday, 22nd February for an NPA walk to the newly gazetted Wollondilly Nature Reserve. Highlights will include a midsummer swim and a visit to the Gundungurra Dreaming Site at the confluence of the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly rivers where the creation beings Mirragang and Gurangatch began the epic battle that raged along the river valleys of what we know today as the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Please contact David on 4885 1394 for details

REPS December Meeting

The December Meeting will be held on the 9th and will be a "Discussion Meeting".

We will not have a guest speaker for this meeting but will start with a walk through the Caalang creek reserve at Hampden Park (weather permitting) starting at 7.30 at the Community Centre. A discussion meeting will then follow at about 8pm.

This will involve REPS plans for 2006 (with the new committee) and any environmental issues needing attention. Members with local or shire wide issues are encouraged to add these to the agenda.

All welcome. Please come along to what should be an informative and interesting meeting.

Supper Provided.

For more details please contact Leon Hall.
Telephone: 48882222.

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 – Beth Boughton
PO Box 45, Robertson NSW 2577
or President – Leon Hall on 4888 2222

Also, 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 Lyndon Stanley.

Telephone: 4885 1322
Or email: lyndon@hinet.net.au
All contributions will be most welcome.

Treasurer's Report

by Anne Wilson

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

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 2005

		\$
Current Assets		
Balance per Bank Passbook	General Account	3,613.66
	Grants Account	2,392.12
		<hr/> 6,005.78
Current Liabilities		
Net Assets		0.00
		<hr/> 6,005.78

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM 01-10-04 TO 30-9-05

GENERAL ACCOUNT

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Memberships	1,795.00	Dept of Fair Trading	41.00
Interest	3.48	PO Box Rental	56.00
Donations	708.80	Insurance	300.00
		Audit fees	121.00
		Other meeting costs	72.17
		Printing/Postage/Stationery	797.32
		Internet Web hosting	144.00
		Park projects	374.00
		Transaction charges	39.50
TOTAL INCOME	2,507.28	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,944.99
		Excess Income to Expenditure	562.29

Bank Reconciliation at 30-9-05

Opening Balance per Cash Book	3,051.37	Balance per Bank Passbook	3,613.66
Plus Excess Income to Expend	562.29		
Closing Balance	3,613.66	Balance to cash book	3,613.66

GRANTS ACCOUNT

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Interest	3.39	SCA Caalang Ck	1,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	3.39	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,000.00
		Excess Expenditure to Income	996.61

Bank Reconciliation at 30-9-05

Opening Balance per Cash Book	3,388.73	Balance per Bank Passbook	2,392.12
Less Excess Expend to Income	996.61		
Closing Balance	2,392.12	Balance to cash book	2,392.12