



Eucryphia

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

PO Box 45, Robertson NSW 2577

www.reps.org.au

REPS Meeting

Friday 13 April at 7:30pm

at the Robertson Community Centre

Everything you've always wanted to know about WOMBATS

A talk by Gaylene Parker

Gaylene Parker of Wingello will be addressing REPS on the whims and ways of wombats.

The first wombat came into her care in 1986 and, as a founding member of WIRES, she has almost lost count of the number of native animals that have passed through her door and are still coming.

As Wombat/Koala Coordinator, she has rescued and rehabilitated injured and orphaned wombats, koalas and other native wildlife.

Recently, with the assistance of Sydney University, she began a research study of the survival of hand-raised wombats in the wild using radio-telemetry. She is gathering interesting information on how to live with animals so often regarded as pests.



All welcome- bring family and friends. Lively discussion, light refreshments.

Entry with a gold coin. Donations will assist WIRES in their valuable work.

Upcoming Events

Fri 13 April – REPS Public Meeting including talk ‘*Everything you’ve always wanted to know about WOMBATS*’ by WIRES member Gaylene Parker, 7:30pm, Robertson Community Centre

NPA Bushwalks - 11 April, 21 April (Details Page 4.)

Tues 1 May – NPA talk ‘*Creatures of the Deep and Not So Deep*’ by Pia Winberg, 7:30 pm CWA Hall, Moss Vale

Sat 28 April – Calaang Creek Working Bee –Planting Day, 9:00am, meet at Community Centre

An Update on the Kangaloon Borefield Project and the EPBC Act

A delegation of REPS, Save Water Alliance (SWA) and the NSW Farmers Federation were invited to meet with the Commonwealth Government on 13 February 2007. The invitation was extended after these three groups made submissions in regard to the Sydney Catchment Authority's (SCA) Referral to the Commonwealth Government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) re: the Kangaloon Groundwater Borefield proposal.

The delegation met with the Assistant Secretary (Environment Assessment Branch), the Director (EPBC Act) and the Project Officer from the Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW). The meeting went well - over two hours in duration. The government representatives appeared to share our concerns, being well informed and open to discussion. REPS and the SWA also tabled new submissions about the proposal.

We put forward that this proposal should be declared a "Controlled Action" under Commonwealth Law. The controlling provision could include a five year moratorium on pumping and a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

We also put forward that the test pumping (6 months trial with 7 bores) should be included in the Referral. This is in regard to whether the proposal (and test pumping) is likely to have a significant impact on species and communities protected under the EPBC Act.

DEW had already met with SCA and had 'stopped the clock' on a decision about the proposal, asking for more information which was supplied by the SCA effectively 'starting the clock' again for a decision to be made. We were told this decision would be made by the Minister, Malcolm Turnbull (DEW).

The SCA wrote to DEW on 20 and 22 February requesting that DEW 'stop the clock' on a decision and advised that they wish to undertake an initial one month test pumping (as part of their 6 month

trial pumping) to test the interconnection between the sandstone aquifer and Butlers Swamp (protected under the EPBC Act).

DEW have agreed to the request, provided pumping immediately ceases if there is a statistically significant drop in the perched aquifer of Butlers Swamp that can reasonably be attributed to the pumping.

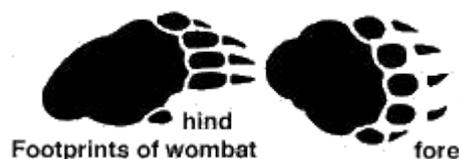
DEW will review the data after one month and will take into account the monitoring outcomes up to that point of time and likely risks to the listed swamp communities.

A report may be available early in May. It will be peer reviewed and the interested parties could be given five days to respond.

REPS most recent submission to DEW (13 February 2007) will soon be available on our website. www.reps.org.au

Leon Hall

4888 2222



Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

Please send a poem- your own, or one by someone else which you have enjoyed reading- on the environment, to me, Jonathan Persse, Sallyhill, Burrawang 2577.

It is here, in this land, that we “live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). What does this mean, now, for the oldest inhabitants of Australia?

THE WARADGERY TRIBE

Harried we were, and spent,
Broken and falling,
Ere as the cranes we went,
Crying and calling.

Summer shall see the bird
Backward returning;
Never shall there be heard
Those, who went yearning.

Emptied of us the land;
Ghostly our going;
Fallen, like spears the hand
Dropped in the throwing.

We are the lost who went,
Like the cranes, crying;
Hunted, lonely and spent,
Broken and dying.

Mary Gilmore (1865-1962)

BLACK CHILDREN

Where now uninterrupted sun
Is shrivelling the sheaves,
Black children leap and laugh and run
Beneath a sky of leaves;
And where the farmer threshes wheat
With steel machinery,
Go glimmerings of their little feet,
If only he could see.

Rex Ingamells (1913-1955)

WE ARE GOING

For Grannie Coolwell

They came into the little town
A semi-naked band subdued and silent,
All that remained of their tribe.
They came here to the place
of their old bora ground
Where now the many white men
hurry about like ants.
Notice of estate agent reads:
‘Rubbish May Be Tipped Here’.
Now it half covers the traces of the old bora ring.
They sit and are confused,
they cannot say their thoughts:
‘We are as strangers here now,
but the white tribe are the strangers.
We belong here, we are of the old ways.
We are the corroboree and the bora ground,
We are the old sacred ceremonies,
the laws of the elders.
We are the wonder tales of Dream Time,
the tribal legends told.
We are the past, the hunts and the laughing games,
the wandering camp fires.
We are the lightning-bolt over Gaphembah Hill
Quick and terrible,
And the Thunder after him, that loud fellow.
We are the quiet daybreak paling the dark lagoon.
We are the shadow-ghosts creeping back as the
camp fires burn low.
We are nature and the past, all the old ways
Gone now and scattered.
The scrubs are gone, the hunting and the laughter.
The eagle is gone, the emu and the kangaroo are
gone from this place.
The bora ring is gone.
The corroboree is gone.
And we are going.’

*Oodgeroo of the tribe Noonuccal
(Kath Walker) (1920-1993)*

National Parks Association (NPA)

Bushwalks

Wednesday 11 April Weird Fungi

Robertson Nature Reserve

Easy 2-hour walk on flat track. Denis and local mycologist Roy Freere will lead an exploration of the local rainforest reserve, rich in unusual fungal specimens. The group will adjourn to the Robertson Community Technology Centre to pore over specimens and cappuccinos. Bring your magnifying glass. Spaces limited, bookings essential. **Denis Wilson** 4885 2725 or 0413 056 431 or peonyden@bigpond.com

Saturday 21 April Choice of two walks:

1. Hindmarsh Pass, Yarrowa State Forest
Medium day walk, steep descent, minimum 12 km on track. **Liz Thompson 4869 1483**. Contact by 19 April. Car shuffle involved.

Exploratory walk for the proposed Highlands to Coast Track going from Belmore Falls Road to Kangaroo Valley via Hindmarsh Pass. If you know this area, your participation would be especially welcome. Map: Kangaroo Valley.

2. Budderoo National Park
A walk in the upper Kangaroo River Valley, 6 km but suitable only for those with rock-hopping experience. **David Carmichael 4822 2466**, email to carglbn@goulburn.net.au.

Enter via side creek of Dtharowal Creek, then follow Dtharowal Creek to the Kangaroo River. Several superb swimming holes including, if time permits, the pool directly below the falls; and scenic rain forest. Exit via an unnamed pass approximately 400 metres downstream from Carrington Falls. Limit: 8. Maps: Robertson, Kangaroo Valley.

Kimberley Fly & Drive

Songsri & Jim Foran invite 2-3 other persons to join them in a shared-cost fly-and-drive visit to the Kimberley June-July 2007. To ask questions and/or express interest, please ring Jim on 4885 1081 or email him at Jim.Foran@ThaiLang.com.au.

NPA Talk

Creatures of the Deep and Not So Deep by Pia Winberg

What's changed since the Jervis Bay Marine Park was established? -- Pia Winberg, the next speaker in the National Parks Association's guest lecture series, is especially qualified to answer that question. Pia is the research project officer at the Jervis Bay Marine Park, where she is studying the biodiversity of Jervis Bay estuaries.

Pia will present an overview of NSW marine protected area research and illustrate the results of her own Jervis Bay work, including some exquisite tiny creatures. Some of her work shows that certain species and habitats are in the early stages of recovery – a good news story for a change!

**7:30 pm Tuesday 1 May 2007 CWA Hall,
Elizabeth St, Moss Vale (next to Fire Station).
Refreshments. Gold coin donation.**

Australian Plants Society

The Grevillea Study Group is holding its annual fund raising plant sale on Saturday 21 April and Sunday 22 April at 'Silky Oaks', 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale. Entry \$5, seniors half price.

Speakers on both days include Don Burke and Angus Stewart.

More information

<http://asgap.org.au/whatson.html>

Events at Robertson

Vintage car day Easter Sunday 8 April, Loop train to Moss Vale & return also on Easter Sunday.

Fettlers Shed Gallery: April weekends 10am-4pm
Penny Levett exhibition "Paintings for the Birds"
(for further Fettlers Shed Gallery information see www.fettlers.blogspot.com)

Acronychia oblongifolia.

Denis Wilson

On the second day of the Robertson Show, I was invited to inspect a property up high on the Mittagong Range in Kangaloon. I was invited there for reasons to do with monitoring of springs and creek flows from the basalt hillsides. It was a bright morning, and I enjoyed looking around this beautiful place.

Just before I left the property I noticed two unfamiliar trees, growing out in the open, but close to a small stand of Lilly Pilly trees (*Acmena smithii*). These medium-sized trees were in flower, which is what first attracted my attention. They had large clumps of flowers, just beneath the leaf clusters, towards the end of the branches. So, the large clumps of creamy white flowers were quite prominent. Also, I realized that it was early March; I could not think of which local trees would be expected to be in flower at this stage of the year.

With a quick look at the flowers, I knew that what I was looking at was fairly unusual. Certainly I had not seen this species of tree before. Fortunately the flowers are quite distinctive in shape, with 4 prominent petals, each prominently curved in (or hooked) at the tip. This “claw shape” is apparently the origin of the name of this genus – *Acronychia*. The species name is *oblongifolia*, for the oblong leaf shape. The stamens are unusual, in that each second stamen is on a short stem, alternating with a longer stemmed stamen. There are 4 petals with 8 stamens.

This species is listed in “A guide to the Yarrawa Brush”, published by REPS. However, it is not illustrated, as this species is recorded amongst the less common rainforest plants in the district. That fits with my having not seen this species before.

These plants were growing high on the range in Kangaloon, at about 760m altitude in an open position. Obviously it was once a rainforest patch, but these few trees had survived the clearing process. Their position was north-facing, and the soil was deep, rich red basalt.

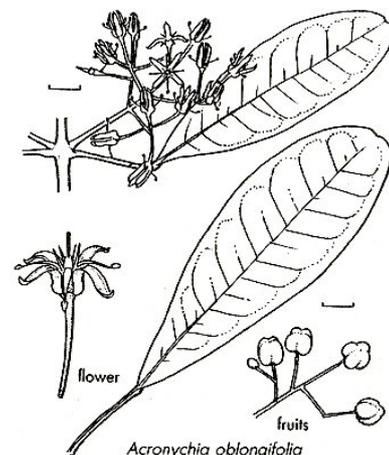


Photos:

Close-up. *Acronychia oblongifolia*. DJW 10.3.07

Leaves and flowers. *A. oblongifolia*. DJW 10.3.07

Below is a sketch of the flowers and leaves from Les Robinson's “Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney” (P. 375). Revised 2nd Edition, 1994. Kangaroo Press, Sydney.





REPS Membership Renewals now overdue

If you have received a REPS Membership renewal form with this Eucryphia, our records show that your REPS Membership fees are now overdue. Please complete this form as soon as possible and return it with your membership fees to:

REPS
PO Box 45,
Robertson NSW 2577

Please note that for simplicity, REPS Membership runs from November to November. Your ongoing membership and support of this organisation is really appreciated.

Caalang Creek Working Bees

The Caalang Creek area is looking wonderful! Come along to a Working Bee and check out all the new growth!

Working Bees are held on the last Saturday of each month from 9:00 am onwards subject to the weather. Please come and join us for as long as you are able.

The next Working Bee on Saturday 28th April will be a planting day.

Meet at the Community Centre. If in doubt due to inclement weather or for more details, contact Sandy Morse on telephone 4885 1905. Please bring along a hat, gloves, shovels, watering cans etc.

Help Care for Our Nature Reserve

**First Wednesday of each month
10:00 am to noon**

All welcome. Please bring garden gloves. For further information, phone Helen: 4885-1394

REPS Meetings for 2007

Please make a note in your diary of the following dates for this year's REPS Public Meetings. These meetings will include a talk that will be publicised in the Eucryphia prior to each meeting.

Friday 13 April
Friday 8 June
Friday 10 August
Friday 12 October
Friday 9 November (Annual General Meeting)

New REPS Member

A warm welcome to new REPS Member Grant Burke.

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 – Jill Keft
PO Box 45,
Robertson NSW 2577

or President – Leon Hall on 4888 2222

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 contact Lynn Stevenson on 4885 2902 or email: ponto2@optusnet.com.au
All contributions will be most welcome.

Visit the REPS website

www.reps.org.au