



# 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)

**Next REPS Meeting**  
**Friday 9th April 2010 at 7:30pm**  
**at the Robertson Community Centre**

**Speaker: Debbie Andrew**

**The Spatial and Social Organisation  
of the Tiger Quoll - *Dasyurus  
maculatus maculatus* - in Coastal New  
South Wales.**

Debbie Andrew has worked for the National Parks and Wildlife Service (now Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water) since 1983, first as a Ranger and then as a Natural Heritage Officer in the area of reserve investigation and establishment specialising in the area of fauna survey and conservation assessment. Debbie undertook the Tiger Quoll study at Wollongong University as a part-time Masters by research student. Her interest in Dasyurid marsupials arose at the University of NSW when she did her Honours on the behaviour of Planigales, one of the smallest of the carnivorous marsupials which inhabit the cracking clay soils of inland Australia.

The Tiger Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*) is the largest surviving marsupial carnivore on mainland Australia reaching weights of over 6 kg. At the commencement of this study in December 1990 little was known of the biology and ecology of the Tiger Quoll. Radio tracking was used to help



Photo: Debbie Andrew

elucidate something of the spatial and social organisation and habitat-use of the Tiger Quoll in the coastal sand plain habitats of Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve on the mid-north coast of New South Wales. Individual Tiger Quolls were radio-tracked for periods of 6-18 months to discover something of their home-range size and location, sheltering sites, social behaviour and longevity in the wild and the implications for their conservation.

**All welcome. Active discussion. Light supper  
(Gold coin donation)**

## Upcoming Events

- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> April – REPS Talk – Debbie Andrew - The Tiger Quoll - 7:30pm, Community Centre.
- Sat 24<sup>th</sup> April/Sat 29<sup>th</sup> May – Caalang Creek Working Bee – 9:30am onwards. Page 6
- Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Australian Plants Society outing **Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli**. Page 6
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup> May – Four Seasons Sustainable Housing Lecture- 10am to 5pm, Bowral memorial Hall. Page 2
- Sun 11<sup>th</sup> April – Vintage Car Day – 11:00am at Fettle's Shed Gallery and Railway Station. Page 6
- Fri 16<sup>th</sup> April – Paddock Plants, **free course**, Industry & Investment NSW (Primary Industries) Page 3
- Sun 18<sup>th</sup> and Mon 26<sup>th</sup> April – Heritage steam train visit, Robertson Station. Page 6
- NPA Bushwalks – April 10, May 1. Page 6

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## February Talk Review

### Sustainable Living Without the Hot Air

by Bruce Clarke and Monica Engel

This was the title of the REPS/Council public meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February featuring two excellent speakers.

Ben van der Wijngaart presented the first part of this talk. He highlighted the reasons we need to be rethinking the way we live. Ben began his talk with a dedication “To those who will not have the benefit of two billion years’ accumulated energy reserves”.

Graphs were used to illustrate climate change. When carbon concentrations are graphed over a 600,000 year period the results are spectacular. Average temperature variations graphed over the last 10,000 years also demonstrates a steep incline in the current period. The environmental risks to our planet with an average increase in temperature of just 5 degrees are enormous.

A map of the Arctic ice melt showed the reduction of ice since 1979. The prediction is that the Arctic will be ice-free by 2020. Earlier estimates stated 2050.

Ben also explained the concept of Peak Oil. The emphasis was on the need to change our behaviour now to make the change to using less energy less cataclysmic. Average energy use in the UK is 195kW hours per person per day, and Ben surmised Australian consumption would be the same or even a little higher. Transport is a big energy consumer. Motor cars use 80 kilowatt hours to transport one person 100 kilometres, whereas a bus uses only 7.

Consumption and waste was another topic close to Ben’s heart (a little like Miles Lochhead from the Resource Recovery Centre). The stuff we buy (and then dispose of comprises approximately 33% of our daily carbon emissions.

Lastly, Ben showed us two pictures, one of a family from Germany and their food consumption for one week and one of a family from Darfur and their weekly ration. ‘Food for thought’.

Deny Christian is a sustainable Housing Architectural and Garden Design Consultant. She also coordinates the Four Seasons Sustainable Housing Forums.

Anybody interested in making his or her House/Lifestyle more sustainable and better able to deal with climate change would have found her presentation very useful.

Deny gave examples of houses that she had retrofitted, at a competitive price that used much less energy to heat and cool afterwards. One such house

located in Berry was almost unliveable in summer due to poor design. After such changes as ceiling vents, fans and properly installed insulation the house became an enjoyable place to live year round. One thing that was crucial in the house retrofit was the use of ceiling fans which do not just circulate air but draw up and expel hot air through the vents in summer and draw down warm air from the ceiling in winter (I thought fans just pushed hot air around). Anyone interested in ideas for building or retrofitting a sustainable house should get along to the next Four Seasons Sustainable Forum at Bowral Memorial Hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

## Wild Endurance 2010

Tegyn Angel

Do the words “The Kimberley, Franklin River, Daintree, Kakadu or Ningaloo Reef” mean anything to you? Whether yes or no, these are surely some of Australia’s most spectacular wild places. That they are still wild places is largely due to the efforts of The Wilderness Society (TWS) and thousands of dedicated volunteers.

This year The Wilderness Society is again running a fundraiser called *Wild Endurance* (<http://www.wildendurance.org.au>). Similar in format to the more famous *Oxfam Trailwalker* events, Wild Endurance is a 100km team event held over the first weekend of May (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of May) in the Blue Mountains, NSW. Each team raises a minimum of between \$1600.00 and \$2400.00 depending on the number of participants (\$400.00 each). The event is completed either by one team completing the full 100km, or by splitting the team and distance in half to complete two 50km sections.

Last year Moss Vale based Outdoor Education Group employee and Robertson Resident, Tegyn Angel, joined a team of four and completed the full 100km in a rather leisurely (albeit painful) 28hrs. This year Tegyn has again taken up the challenge and has formed a team, *Born to Walk*, of 6 (mostly) willing walkers to strut, stumble and limp their stuff in support of the TWS.



Tegyn (second from left) and team at Wild Endurance 2009

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Please take some time to check out Wild Endurance and consider donating some of your hard earned cash to a very worthwhile cause – The Wilderness Society.

You can find our fundraising page at:

<http://events.wildendurance.org.au/Born+to+Walk>

Are you interested in joining a team? We are currently trying to form a second team and as of the 21<sup>st</sup> of March still need to fill 4 places. Please contact Tegyn Angel on [tegyna@gmail.com](mailto:tegyna@gmail.com) or 0402 681 017 if you have any questions, concerns or queries!

## REPS will be 20 years old in November

REPS has been involved in many projects, plantings and publications over the years and it seemed a good idea to gather it all together this year as a history of the Society. Helen Tranter is going through all the Minutes and back issues of “Eucryphia” to get the main time line and description of projects.

A REPS Friday night talk at the community centre



It would, however, be good to include some personal accounts, written by members, of their own involvement at various times.

What about Streamwatch, Landcare, retrofitting the Community Centre, field days and many others? What do you remember? Do you have photos?

Helen would like to hear from you. ph.4885 1394; 12 McGuinness Drive, Robertson, or bring to the next meeting.

## Invitation to enrol in a Paddock Plants field day - Friday, 16 April 2010

Paddock Plants – Learn to identify and recognise common paddock plants, including useful pasture species (native and introduced), weeds and other plants.

- Identify and name the important plants in your paddock.
- Identify which plants are useful and which are weeds.

- Tell the difference between native and introduced grasses and understand the strengths and weaknesses of each.
- Understand what plants tell you about your paddock or landscape eg. why do some plants grow where they do and others do not? What is this telling you about the soils? i.e. what do these plants indicate about fertility or other characteristics of the landscape?

**How long is the course?** Paddock Plants is a half-day session, and will run from 10am to 1pm.

**What materials are provided:** A colour A4 folder is provided with colour photographs and descriptions of the plants.

**Who should attend?** The course is designed to suit the needs of those who are new to the management of rural land as well as experienced farmers.

**Where?** Details of the venue and directions will be provided when you register for the course.

**How much does the course cost?** FREE.

**Places are limited so please register your interest by no later than Friday, 9 April 2010.**

**Register by contacting Industry & Investment NSW (Primary Industries) on 02 4828 6600 or send an email to: [james.cornwell@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:james.cornwell@industry.nsw.gov.au)**



Industry & Investment

## PROGRAZE™

Training course in pasture and grazing management – learn how to rejuvenate your pastures using grazing animals

- PROGRAZE™ is an eight session course run by NSW Department of Industry and Investment over a twelve month period.
- PROGRAZE™ will provide you with the skills and tools to increase the persistence, sustainability and profitability of your pastures and livestock enterprises.
- Experienced advisory staff will develop your understanding of pasture growth and management to match the requirements of your livestock.
- PROGRAZE™ is subsidised for landholders in the Sydney drinking water catchments and costs only \$200 (normally \$570). Cost includes \$120 worth of free pasture quality testing. Course commences on 27<sup>th</sup> of April.

For further information or to enrol contact James Cornwell on 4828 6600 or Email: [james.cornwell@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:james.cornwell@industry.nsw.gov.au)

## Snippets

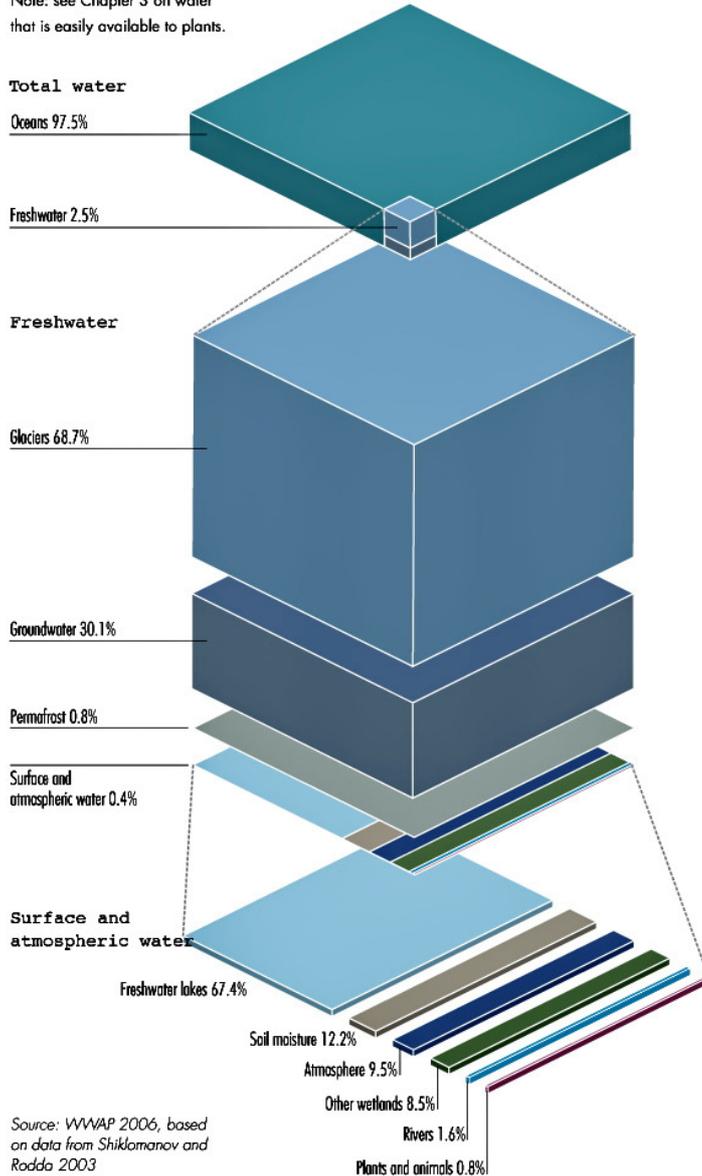
from Sheila McInnes

### Of the world's water supply, how much is available for drinking?

Less than one per cent. Approximately, 97 per cent of the total amount of water on earth is in our oceans, two percent is frozen.

Figure 4.1 Global distribution of the world's water

Note: see Chapter 3 on water that is easily available to plants.



### Did you know?

During the fur trade in Australia's history, at least 3 million koala skins were sold and about three times that many might have been shot. Today, according to the Australian Koala Foundation, as few as 100,000 remain in the wild.

### Did you know?

Performing just two searches using the search engine 'Google' emits the same amount of CO2 as boiling a kettle of water.

### Did you know?

The average Australian basket of groceries has travelled over 70,000km in 'food miles' from paddock to your plate.

## Seed Supply Register and Seed Bank

Many years ago the Robertson Nursery offered to sell trees grown from local seed by REPS members. The stall operated successfully within the nursery for a number of years. Jill Keft has kindly agreed to reinstate the REPS stall at Robertson Nursery.

The society is keen to undertake this project as it is one way to supply local plants to those who wish to plant local natives but are not experienced in propagation. As part of this project we would like to establish a register of seed bearing trees in our area as well as a seed bank. If you would like to participate in this project please fill out the form below and return to REPS or hand it in at the next meeting.

### Robertson District Seed Supply Register

NAME: .....

PROPERTY NAME: .....

PROPERTY ADDRESS: .....

TELEPHONE: .....

EMAIL: .....

Seed bearing trees on my property are:

.....  
 .....  
 .....

- Would you be willing to contact REPS when seed is ripe on your property?
- Would you be willing to collect seed on your property?
- Would you allow a group of members to collect seed on your property?
- Do you have trees which you would like identified on your property?
- Would you be willing to propagate seeds?

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## Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

We might be lucky enough, just occasionally, to feel the magic in nature. These four poets catch that magic.

### LOVE'S PHILOSOPHY

The fountains mingle with the river  
And the rivers with the Ocean,  
The winds of heaven mix for ever  
With a sweet emotion;  
Nothing in the world is single;  
All things by a law divine  
In one spirit meet and mingle.  
Why not I with thine ? -

See the mountains kiss high heaven  
And the waves clasp one another;  
No sister-flower would be forgiven  
If it disdained its brother;  
And the sunlight clasps the earth,  
And the moonbeams kiss the sea;  
What is all this sweet work worth,  
If thou kiss not me ?

P.B.Shelley

### FIREWHEEL TREE

Round and round, those wheels of fire,  
My hurt, my fear, delight, desire,  
Hung whirling in that dark-green tree.  
I could not tell, so fast they spun  
Like scarlet star and crimson sun  
In all the leaves' intricacy,  
What incandescence clear or sombre  
Might light one flower from another,  
Delight or fear or agony;  
But all in that same shape they blazed  
Of flame whirled into symmetry.  
And round they went—I stood amazed  
In hurt, in fear, delight, desire,  
To see my life in wheels of fire  
Go round that dark and silent tree.

Douglas Stewart

### SPEAK WITH THE SUN

From a wreck of tree in the wash of night  
Glory, glory, sings the bird;  
Across ten thousand years of light  
His creative voice is heard.

Wide on a tide of wind are set  
Warp and woof of silvered air;  
But the song slips through the net  
To where the myriad galaxies are.

And to the heartbeats of the light,  
Now from the deepness of the glade  
Well up the bubbles of delight:  
Of such stuff the stars were made.

David Campbell

### THE ORANGE TREE

The young girl stood beside me. I  
Saw not what her young eyes could see:  
- A light, she said, not of the sky  
Lives somewhere in the Orange Tree.

- Is it, I said, of east or west?  
The heartbeat of a luminous boy  
Who with his faltering flute confessed  
Only the edges of his joy?

Was he, I said, borne to the blue  
In a mad escapade of Spring  
Ere he could make a fond adieu  
To his love in the blossoming?

- Listen! the young girl said. There calls  
No voice, no music beats on me;  
But it is almost sound: it falls  
This evening on the Orange Tree.

- Does he, I said, so fear the Spring  
Ere the white sap too far can climb?  
See in the full gold evening  
All happenings of the olden time?

Is he so goaded by the green?  
Does the compulsion of the dew  
Make him unknowable but keen  
Asking with beauty of the blue?

- Listen! the young girl said. For all  
Your hapless talk you fail to see  
There is a light, a step, a call  
This evening on the Orange Tree.

- Is it, I said, a waste of love  
Imperishably old in pain,  
Moving as an affrighted dove  
Under the sunlight or the rain?

Is it a fluttering heart that gave  
Too willingly and was reviled?  
Is it the stammering at a grave,  
The last word of a little child?

- Silence! the young girl said. Oh, why,  
Why will you talk to weary me?  
Plague me no longer now, for I  
Am listening like the Orange Tree.

J Shaw Neilson

Please send a poem on the environment, written by yourself or another person, to Jonathan Persse, Sallyhill, Burrawang 2577

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## **Australian Plants Society**

Australian Plants Society outing on **Sunday 2nd May** to the **Illawarra Grevillea Park at Bulli**.

Meet 10am in the car park; bring drink, picnic lunch etc. Park entry \$5.

Further information ph. Helen Tranter 4885 1394

## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April from 11.00am Vintage Car Day at Robertson Railway**

- Historic Working machinery on display
- Kiosk open
- 2010 Annual Fettle's Shed Heritage Art Prize
- Railway and history exhibition.

## **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April Heritage Steam Train Visit**

The steam loco 3237 is scheduled to arrive at Robertson Station at 12.20pm. You can book a ticket on the trip to Moss Vale and return leaving at 12.30pm and returning at 3.30pm. Tickets will be available from Robertson Station on the day.

Further information, phone: 4885 2823.

## **Next REPS Working Bees Saturday 24th April, Saturday 29th May**

9:30am onwards. Meet at the walking bridge, near the mulch. Bring a wheel barrow, shovel or rake etc. or just bring yourself. You may need gloves, hat, and water. All Welcome. Any queries, Steve Douglas 4271 4957 or Leon Hall 4888 2222.

## **CTC@Robertson**

### **Make your own food workshops**

Sunday April 11 – Raising Poultry with David Sampson. Places available.

Sunday May 2 – Selection, Care and Pruning of Fruit Trees with Jill Keft. Places available.

Sunday May 16 – Introduction to Cheesemaking with Mark Williams. Booked Out

All workshops from 2pm - 4pm. **Bookings essential.**

4885 2665 or [monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au)

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

## **CanWin Quarterly Lecture Series**

Dr Janette Lindesay, Deputy Director, ANU Climate Change Institute. Council Theatre, Moss Vale on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> of May at 7.30pm

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

## **Permaculture Southern Highlands**

Local seed network , autumn seedsaving meeting is on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am – 2.30pm. meeting held in Burradoo.

Contact Jill Cockram: [jillaroo53@hotmail.com](mailto:jillaroo53@hotmail.com)

## **Illawarra Bird Observers Club**

**Wednesday 7 April 2010 – Puckeys Estate** - Meet at the Fairy Meadow Surf Club car park, Elliots Road, Fairy Meadow. This part of Elliots Road is right off Squires Way if coming north. **Meet at this car park at 8.30am.** Bring morning tea and hope to see some small birds!!

Contact Alan Cousins 4283 3197 or 0413 869 534.

## **NPA Walks**

### **Saturday 10 April Nattai NP Bonnum Pic**

14km, 300m asc/desc. Rough, steep and rocky. Walk out on a plateau to Bonnum Pic. Magnificent views, spectacular rock formations and usually some wildflowers. The first part of the track is through some very steep gullies and then follows a disused fire trail out to the edge of the escarpment.

Contact: Joan Lowe: 4861 2996 or 0417 492 981  
[joan.lowe@bigpond.com](mailto:joan.lowe@bigpond.com)

Map: Hilltop 8929-2N

### **Saturday 1 May Nattai NP Starlights Track Circuit Walk**

Hard day walk, rough track with steep slippery sections. Walk out on Nattai Ridge Road from the locked gate and descend to the Nattai down a disused fire trail. A short walk along the Nattai to McArthur's Flat for a lunch break before ascending Starlights Track which joins the Nattai Ridge Road to return to the cars.

Contact Liz Thompson: 4869 1483.

[ethompson5@vtown.com.au](mailto:ethompson5@vtown.com.au) (by Thur 29 April)

## **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 – Lynn Stevenson  
PO Box 3045, Robertson NSW 2577

President – Leon Hall on 4888 2222

Editors – Monica Engel and Sheila McInnes on 4885 2665 or [monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au)