



Eucryphia

ISSN 1037 – 2032

Number 115 – October 2011

Robertson Environment Protection Society – to promote the protection and enhancement of the Robertson Environment
PO Box 3045, Robertson NSW 2577 www.reps.org.au

OCTOBER REPS Walk

REPS Wildflower Walk at Barren Grounds on Saturday 8th October

Meet at the picnic parking area at 10.00am.

Instead of a Friday night talk in October we take the opportunity each year to go out on an easy walk. The wildflowers are always wonderful at this time of year with Boronia, heath and many others which can be seen along the Barren Grounds tracks. We will have a plant list for reference but bring a plant book, if you like, for further checking. There will be time for photography and bird watching so a camera and binoculars could also be a good idea.

Wear a hat, sensible shoes and clothes that allow for changeable weather; bring your lunch and a drink in a backpack to have out on the track if the day is fine.

Barren Grounds Nature Reserve is 14km along the Jamberoo Mountain Road from the Pie Shop and the picnic parking area is about 1km in from the entrance.

All Welcome. Further information, phone Helen Tranter 4885 1394.



Dampiera stricta

David Tranter

NOVEMBER REPS AGM and Talk

“The Southern Highlands Sustainability Hub” An exciting new Wingecarribee initiative

Guest speaker is Tim Edwards, project coordinator for the Wingecarribee Sustainability Hub
AGM Friday 11th November, 7.30pm

All welcome, open discussion, light refreshments, gold coin donation

Upcoming Events

Sat 8th October – REPS walk “*Wildflower walk at Barren Grounds*” 10.00am, Barren Grounds picnic area

Sun 9th October – CTC Cinema “*Genius Within – Glenn Gould*” 2pm at CTC@Robertson, see page 8

Fri 11th November – REPS AGM and Talk “*The Southern Highlands Sustainability Hub*” see above

Tue 15th November – NPA Talk “*The Land of the Thunder Dragon*” by Tony Hill, 7.30pm, CWA Hall Moss Vale, see page 7

Sat 29th October & 26th November – *Caalang Creek Working Bee* from 9.30 onwards, see page 8
NPA Walks – see page 5

President's Report

Allan Stiles

Our August meeting proved to be one of great interest and the very large attendance was gratifying. John Bradshaw's account of his experiences in the Kimberley solicited many questions and sales of his book quickly exhausted supply. The October bushwalk and the November meeting's speaker will doubtless be worthwhile too.

On Saturday, 3rd September a display was mounted at Mittagong as part of the Wingecarribee Shire Council's *Threatened Species Day* event. Thanks to Peter Glass and Leon Hall who helped to "fly the flag" by discussing REPS and its activities with enquirers.

At the Robertson Nature Reserve on the following Saturday, several people attended to learn about the beautiful and fascinating plants that can so easily be enjoyed there. Thanks to Helen Tranter and Leon Hall for sharing their knowledge then.

The committee has worked well this year but there is need for increased membership. Please contact me on 0415 309 760 if you are available.

Secretary's Report

Georgina Persse

REPS COMMITTEE MEETING - 9th September
Present: Allan Stiles (Chair), Peter Glass, David Mee, Georgina Persse, David Tranter, Helen Tranter. Apologies: Leon Hall, Chris Stevenson, Anne Wilson.

The November meeting details for the AGM and speaker were finalised, also those for the October Barren Grounds Walk. REPS presence at the Waratah Spring Fair was confirmed, and ideas put forward for DVDs to show at the December meeting. Helen Tranter reported that, with the full house and donations given, the August meeting was also a financial success. Leon Hall sent notice of continuing mulching and spraying at Caalang Creek with perhaps some planting in late September.

Allan Stiles reported work being done to strengthen membership numbers.

August REPS Talk Review

by Bob McInnes

Review of "Rock Art in the Kimberleys", presented by John Bradshaw to the Robertson Environment Protection Society on Friday 12th August 2011.

You may recently have heard on news radio that geneticists have ascertained that Australian Aborigine settlement of Australia goes back to the earliest of migrations of *Homo sapiens* out of Africa. That Aborigines have been custodians of this land for a long long time was also brought home to members of REPS when John Bradshaw gave us a wonderfully illustrated recount of his expedition, along with Adrian Parker and Chris Done, to see what are considered the country's most ancient Aboriginal artworks, the so-called 'Bradshaw Figures'. These are in caves of the remote Prince Regent's River of the Kimberleys, and were so called because they had been discovered by John's great uncle Joseph Bradshaw.

After Joseph's small syndicate had purchased a large holding in the area on spec from the Government, he had led an expedition in 1891 to inspect their 'prize'. The country turned out to be rugged, forbidding to agriculture and, long before GPS navigation, difficult to either map or determine boundaries. The legacy of that expedition and brief occupation was that Joseph who, like his great nephew John was an educated man, left a good account of things he saw, including comprehensive descriptions of that most ancient rock art that he had found. Testament to its age was the fact that present-day Aborigines, who regularly must re-touch their rock art, lay no claim to the 'Bradshaw Figures' which have survived un-retouched due to the remarkable environment and the peculiar chemical consolidation in the rock surface. How old? 20,000 years perhaps.

Well, as noted, navigational pinpointing was nigh impossible in 1891, and Joseph's descriptions of locations were not as good as the descriptions of the actual works – they became lost for a century. It is significant that it was great nephew John and his two determined colleagues who found them again in October 2003 after an arduous search in the rugged terrain, stifling weather and biting bugs. What has resulted has been documentation of newly discovered plant and animal species unique to the area and wonderful photos of the rock art. Many of the photos can be found in their highly commendable book *A KIMBERLEY ADVENTURE – REDISCOVERING THE BRADSHAW FIGURES* (Adrian Parker, John Bradshaw and Chris Done, published by Gecko Books) which gives a very readable account of the expedition and its background, and beautiful large (A4) photo reproductions.

What Price Risk?

by David Tranter

A carbon price or levy is a kind of premium to cover the risk of severe environmental impacts from fossil fuel emissions and to encourage a swift transition to renewable energy.

The earth is now in the warm phase of a natural climate cycle which recurs every 100,000 years - but there's something odd about the current trend. The concentration of the main greenhouse gas (CO₂) in the air (approx. 400 parts per million) is now the highest it has ever been in the past 800,000 years and rising fast in synch with fossil fuel emissions. During previous warming cycles, the ocean returned dissolved CO₂ to the air above like bubbles from a newly opened bottle of soda water.

This time, the ocean is getting more acid, indicating that both air and ocean have exceeded their capacity to absorb man-made CO₂. As a result, the best climatologists in the world are more than 90% certain that the natural warming trend is being reinforced by fossil fuel emissions - that we are faced with a double whammy which is causing arctic sea ice to recede, tundra permafrost to melt, climate patterns to destabilize, sea level to rise and, ultimately, millions of climate refugees to appear on our shores.

So what's to be done about this unprecedented problem? History provides a lead. Earth's primaeval, lifeless air was supercharged with volcanic CO₂ and practically devoid of oxygen. Now it's got loads of oxygen and little CO₂. How did that remarkable transformation come about? The magic molecule chlorophyll did the trick. Harnessing sunlight energy, chlorophyll-bearing organisms removed CO₂ from the air and hydrogen from water to make carbohydrates, releasing oxygen as a by-product. Step by step over the ages, blue-green algae and their plant successors decarbonized and oxygenated the primaeval air, producing a thin blue veil around the earth that was "just right" for many kinds of life. Too much CO₂ and earth would overheat, too little and it would freeze; too much oxygen and organic matter would spontaneously combust; too little, and air-breathers would suffocate- a "Goldilocks" atmosphere heralding a golden age for mankind.

Where did all that primaeval CO₂ go? - mostly to the underlying ocean which occupies 70% of the earth's surface and is in direct contact with the air

above. As greenhouse warming eased, the ocean cooled, allowing CO₂ gas to cross the air-sea interface and dissolve. Some became buried in the earth as coal and petroleum; some transformed into wood by old growth forests.

From time to time, this fine-tuned climate equilibrium has been upset by orbital forces that move the earth closer to the sun or farther away. As the warming earth emerged from the latest ice age, so much dissolved CO₂ returned to the air that Torres Strait and Bass Strait became inundated by rising seas. The bulk of the world's people that now live beside the sea are now faced with man-made inundation.

What's to be done about this nasty trend? An economic system that allows CO₂ emitting industries to ignore the environmental costs of their operations and let society foot the bill is intolerable. That malpractice is unreasonable, inequitable and inconsistent with best-practice free-market principles; it's a hidden subsidy. Industry should meet its own production costs in full and on time. The polluter pays! The proposed carbon premium addresses that inequity by persuading polluters to change their careless ways, fund households for consequent rising costs and develop renewable energy alternatives.

And if, as a result, exports can't compete with imports, then perhaps it would be wiser to level the playing field by means of a "Border Tax" that would encourage exporters and importers alike to be equally clean rather than equally dirty?

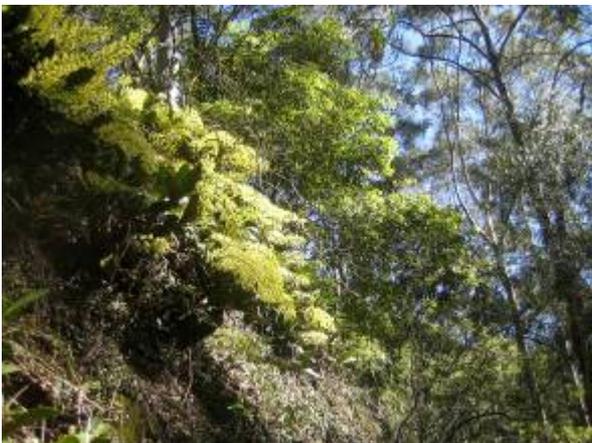
To make a donation to the Nature Conservation Council of NSW in aid of their campaign to demonstrate community support for action on climate change: By cheque to P O Box 137, Newtown. 2042; by phone at (02) 9516-1488; or www.nccnsw.org.au/support/cleaner-future



A Spectacular Local Orchid

by Allan Stiles

Many people are familiar with *Dendrobium speciosum*, the common Sydney Rock Orchid (also inappropriately called the Rock Lily) that blooms so magnificently in Spring. A huge number of species was once included in the genus *Dendrobium* but recently some taxonomists, employing modern techniques such as DNA analysis, have subdivided this genus and the Rock Orchid is now named *Thelychiton speciosus*. It can easily be identified because it grows almost always on rocks and has canes that are widest at the base and taper to the top. It is found from Bulahdelah to just over the Victorian border. Another widely grown orchid, *Thelychiton tarberi* (once known as *Dendrobium speciosum* variety *hillii*) has longer canes of almost uniform width and grows from the Hawkesbury to South Queensland. Imagine my surprise when I saw similar plants on Churnwood trees (*Citronella moorei*) at Foxground in 2003. A call to David Jones (an authoritative orchid botanist) informed me that my description agreed with plants of an undescribed other species he knew of from Cambewarra. In his book *A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia* (2006) this plant is included as *Thelychiton epiphyticus* and is reported to be found at Robertson and Cambewarra. Doubtless Robertson (rather than Foxground) was mentioned because David knew where I lived. Will it be found nearer to Robertson, certainly not on the plateau but in rainforests in the valleys below Carrington or Belmore Falls? I have certainly seen it on a Churnwood below the Minnamurra Falls. The naming of this new species leads one to wonder how many more novelties are yet to be identified in our region.



Thelychiton speciosus on rocks in the upper Kangaroo Valley
(Allan Stiles)



Thelychiton epiphyticus at Foxground (Bob McInnes)



Thelychiton epiphyticus full spray of flowers (Denis Wilson)



Thelychiton epiphyticus single flower (Denis Wilson)



Thelychiton epiphyticus in situ, Cambewarra (Denis Wilson)

Robertson Wind Turbine Workshop

by David Tranter

On rainy Sunday September 25th, about 60 people from the Southern Highlands and surrounding districts attended a well facilitated workshop on many aspects of wind power generation by small, medium and large wind turbines. The event was organised by Daniel Murphy of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. It was jointly facilitated by Craig Emery of the Alternative Energy Association, a Melbourne-based not-for-profit organisation, and Armidale's Nicky Isson. About 20 of the participants were particularly interested in the Hepburn Wind model, a community-owned wind co-operative in Daylesford, Victoria which is now supplying most of the district's household energy needs.



<http://sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au/2011-winner-community>

Ed: See page 8 for details of follow up workshop.

NPA Walks

For more walks and other activities go to <http://www.npansw.org.au> and click on the activities tab.

Sat-15-October Morton National Park - Lake Yarrunga

Grade: 3/4; Distance: 14 km;asc/desc 350m.

Description: Commencing at Meryla Pass we follow Griffin's Fire Trail for a couple of kms and branch off onto a disused 4WD track which winds down to Lake Yarrunga. Beautiful views and lovely bush are encountered until arriving at Lake Yarrunga which was formed by Tallowa Dam. Return is on the same track.

Leader: Joan Lowe 4861 2996

Limit: 12

Map: Bundanoon 8928 -1-S

Branch: Sthn Highlands shighlands@npansw.org.au

Sat-12-November Illawarra Coast

Grade: 3; Distance: 50 km;asc/desc 150m.

Description: Bike ride from Berkeley to Bass Point via Blackbutt Forest, Shellharbour. Return via direct route. Some moderate hills. Water, helmets required. Swimming.

Leader: Jennifer and Col Meharg

Branch: Illawarra illawarra@npansw.org.au

Sat-26-November to Sun-27-November

Bungonia SCA

Grade: 4; Distance: 12 km;asc/desc 400m.

Description: Beebox Spur - Shoalhaven River - Trestle's Track. A circuit walk with steep descent and steep climb. In between there's river walking with time for swimming, exploring, relaxing.

Leader: Greg Layman

Limit: 8

Map: Caoura 1: 25 000

Branch: Sydney anner@npansw.org.au

Sun-27-November Minnie Ha Ha Falls, Kangaroo Valley

Grade: Easy; Distance: 2.5 km;

Description: Drive to Kangaroo Valley, cross Hampden Bridge, turn right up Kangaroo River Road for 14.3km (some gravel). Follow footpads & creek to Minnie Ha Ha Falls. G & J Souter's 'Best Bush, Coast and Village Walks of the Shoalhaven.'

Leader: Ron Doughton

Map: Kangaroo Valley 1:25000

Branch: Milton milton@npansw.org.au

Sun-4-December Macquarie Pass, Morton NP

Grade: Medium/hard; Distance: 11 km;

Description: Circuit walk from RHS at base of Macquarie Pass via waterfall, stream, 4wd track, across main road, Clover Hill Rd to falls on Macquarie Rivulet. Then rock-hopping through magnificent rainforest with crystal clear pools to join track for return.

Leader: Herbert Fry & Leslie Reddacliff

Limit: 12 - Contact leaders essential

Map: Robertson 1:25000

Branch: Milton milton@npansw.org.au

Sun-4-December Macquarie Pass - Easy Option

Grade: Easy; Distance: 9 km;

Description: Walk on track to waterfall at base of pass, then drive up & walk to Rainbow Falls via Clover Hill Road. Some great rainforest!

Leader: Ron Doughton 4454 1358

Map: Robertson 1:25000

Branch: Milton milton@npansw.org.au

Sat-10-December Illawarra Escarpment

Grade: 3; Distance: 10 km;asc/desc 300m.

Description: Walk from Mt. Kembla Lookout around Ring Track and then the Summit. Variety of forest and rainforest, wide coastal views.

Leader: Jennifer and Col Meharg

Branch: Illawarra illawarra@npansw.org.au

Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

Gardens again (see issue no.97, August 2008)

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. (Cicero, 106-43 B.C.)

ANDREW MARVELL (1621 – 1678)

The Garden, stanza 5

What wondrous life in this I lead!
Ripe apples drop about my head;
The luscious clusters of the vine
Upon my mouth do crush their wine;
The nectarine and curious peach
Into my hands themselves do reach;
Stumbling on melons as I pass,
Ensnared with flowers, I fall on grass.

RUTH PITTER (1897 – 1992)

Pot-bound, stanza 1

O I am root-bound! In this earthen Pot
How many a strangling noose and writhing knot
Describe contorted misery! a tomb
Where one woe for another leaves not room!
A charnel-house of starved desires, whence all
Is gone of Humus and good Mineral,
Or anything on which a Plant might feed
Till it could blossom and produce a seed;
Where wretched Worms, to their own hurt, have got
In by mischance, and poison all the pot:
Where the poor roots, for want of object fit,
Embrace the Drainage-crock, make much of it,
And glide, and feel, and search all ways in vain,
Sick for the Food and Space they can't attain,
And to the pining Branches only send
A negative, a warning of the End;
For if a growing Plant's not potted-on,
Betimes, and given new soil, its hope is gone.

R. S. THOMAS (1913 - 2000)

The Garden

It is a gesture against the wild,
The ungovernable sea of grass;
A place to remember love in,
To be lonely for a while;
To forget the voices of children
Calling from a locked room;
To substitute for the care
Of one querulous human
Hundreds of dumb needs.

It is the old kingdom of man.
Answering to their names,
Out of the soil the buds come,
The silent detonations
Of power wielded without sin.

DAVID CAMPBELL (1915 – 1979)

To My Mother, stanza 2

Seedlings sprang from her fingers, cuttings
Pressed in, put down taproots,
A bed of dead gloves
In a week was rioting.
Roses, tiger-lilies bowed to the lady
With the green hands and loam
Under her fingernails,
Reserving their hour for her
Of scents and waterlights,
Intimacies. She'd little time
For humans after childhood. But children came
To eat her brandysnaps and hear
The lady call the thrush up.
Pearl grey from mountain creeks
The thrush came to her garden stump
And sang.

CAROL RUMENS (born 1944)

Weeds

In gardens, it's the unwanted
babies that grow best and biggest,
swarming our beds of frail
legitimate darlings with roots
like wire and crude, bright flower-heads.
They seem oblivious to the fury of steel prongs
earthquaking around them.
If they fall today, tomorrow
they'll stand all the greener.
Too soon, the beautiful lives
we've trembled over with sprays
of pesticide, friendly stakes,
and watering-cans at sunset,
give in, leaving us helpless.
The weeds, the unfavoured ones,
stare at us hungrily,
and since it is hard to live
empty of love, we try
to smile; we learn to forgive them.

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

Letter to the Editor

Dear REPS members,

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA) has commenced consultation with the community through three new community reference groups that align with the distinctly different landscapes of the catchment, namely the Warragamba, Blue Mountains and Western and the Hawkesbury Lower Nepean. The inaugural meeting of the Warragamba Landscape Community Reference Group (CRG) was held in Goulburn on Wednesday 14 September 2011. The CRG is a mix of people from Landcare, farming, aboriginal, community and environmental interests and backgrounds, representing the diverse networks in the landscape, which extends from south of Tarago, west to the border with the Upper Lachlan catchment and north to the Warragamba dam. In the east, it includes the special areas managed by the Sydney Catchment Authority and the majority of both the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly local government areas fall within the landscape. Visit the web site at www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au for more information and maps. The role of the CRG is to link government with community and more specifically to provide input to the review and development of the catchment action plan (CAP) that will guide investment over the next 5-10 years.

As your representative, I would love to hear from you, to listen to your vision for the Warragamba landscape, and to understand your priorities for action in the area. As a first step, the HNCMA is collecting and mapping using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), your favourite natural place. You can fill out a "What's your favourite place?" form and some will be available at the next REPS meeting, or alternatively, you should soon be able to put your favourite place directly on the map via the website.

My preferred communication method is email, and so you can write to me at klg@aapt.net.au, or you may contact my mobile on 0437260373.

Feedback is welcome at any time and I will keep you posted on the timing of the next meeting.

Regards

Karen Guymer

Karen Guymer (BScAgr, PhD, CPSS)

Environmental Consultant

Member: AIAST, ASSSI, OFA, NPA (NSW)

NPA Talk

The Land of the Thunder Dragon

Guest Speaker: Tony Hill, NPA Branch President.

15 November 2011 at 7.30pm at the Moss Vale CWA Hall (between Council Chambers and Fire Station)

Bhutan is a mountainous kingdom in the Himalayas sandwiched between the emerging economic and political giants of India and China. It was not accessible to most foreigners until 1960 and has since slowly accepted visitors under very controlled conditions. It is a world biodiversity hotspot and is the last refuge of many Himalayan species of plants and animals.

Tony and Karmen Hill took a tour, along with a group of National Parks and Wildlife Service officers and supporters, in April of this year which had an emphasis on the natural features of the country.

Tony will present an illustrated commentary on the geography, history, politics and religion of this fascinating country.

The meeting will be followed by a light supper.

Free Admission although a gold coin donation would be appreciated!

Ed: Thanks to John Dorman, who also writes - "Please let your friends know. You don't need to be a member, though we'd love to have you join."



Source: <http://18degreesnorthtours.com>



Caalang Creek Working Bees

Caalang Creek Working Bees are usually held on the last Saturday of each month from 9:30am onwards subject to the weather. Please come and join us for as long as you are able. Please note there is no working bee in December or January.

The next Working Bees will be on the 29th October and the 26th November

Meet at the footbridge in Hampden Park. Don't forget water, hat and gloves. We now have tools available, but bring your own if you can.

Leon reports the August working bee went well, most of the mulch was moved and Jen (from Council who is helping with our work on Caalang Creek) did some spraying. Unfortunately the September working bee was washed out due to the rain. We would really like some more volunteers for the planting day on October 29th, 9.30 onwards. Queries to Steve Douglas 4271 4957 or Leon Hall 4888 2222.

Help Care for Our Nature Reserve

**1st Wednesday of each month
9:00am to noon**

All welcome. Please bring garden gloves.
For further information, phone Ford Kristo (NPWS) during business hours: 4887 8244

Robertson Waratah Spring Fair Sunday 9th October 9am to 4pm.

REPS will have an information display in the big marquee so come along, maybe you could give a hand, or just to say hello, especially if you are one of those members who find it difficult to get to evening meetings. The waratah bushes will be in full bloom, there will be waratah flowers and native plants for sale; an exhibition of flower paintings as well as floral arrangements featuring waratahs in the Fettle's Shed Gallery.

Welcome New REPS Members

George Couri

CTC@Robertson 2pm Sunday Cinema Series -- *Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould*

Sunday 9th October 2011 at 2pm New release. "The most comprehensive and touching film portrait of the great Canadian pianist in all his glories and miseries" (David Denby, the New Yorker). Rated G. *Genius Within* will be introduced by composer and broadcaster Andrew Ford.

Café opens at 1.30pm tea and coffee available. Adults \$10 children \$5 (CTC fundraiser).

Bookings recommended.

Tel. 4885 2665 or info@robertsonctc.org.au

Clean Energy Wingecarribee

On Sunday November 20th. Afternoon Workshop: "A Clean Energy Future for Wingecarribee". To be held at Kazcare, Bowral, Cnr Centennial Drive & Kirkham Street. This will be an interactive event with invited speakers, breakout groups and a brilliant facilitator. Bring your friends and ideas. Contact David Tranter on 4885-1394 for more details.

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 – Georgina Persse

PO Box 3045,

Robertson NSW 2577

or President – Allan Stiles on 0415 309 760

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 the editors, Monica Engel or Sheila McInnes.

email: monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au

All contributions will be most welcome.

Visit the REPS website

www.reps.org.au