



# 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)

## REPS Meeting Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm Robertson Community Centre Caalong Street, Robertson

"Bugman" Stephen Fellenberg, Entomologist  
<http://www.insektus.com>



Stephen has always been interested in insects and other invertebrates developing a number of different skills over the years. He has been preparing and giving presentations and demonstrations to students from Playgroups to Universities since 1992.

Studying sheep blowflies has equipped him with the basic knowledge on which to continue his own entomological research and development of educational programs.

In his spare time Stephen has assisted the National Parks Association (NPA) as team leader on a number of biodiversity surveys. His main area of interest is with the fascinating group of insects known as Stick Insects (Phasmatids). This group first caught his attention when doing some volunteer work at the Australian Museum. By starting to sort the collection he found that two females were carrying identical eggs (6 each). So after publication of the eggs' description Stephen was hooked!



Long Lost Phasmid (Stick Insect) *Dryococelus australis*

This strange Lord Howe Island insect was abundant until 1918, when a ship sank nearby allowing rats to swim ashore. Within the space of 20 years it had been wiped out. Then, in 2003, it was rediscovered on Ball's Pyramid, a rocky islet 23km away.

Stephen will describe how he came to obtain two specimens of this critically endangered species and has rescued them from extinction by breeding more of them ever since, assisted by "Friends of the Long-Lost Phasmid", a group of dedicated volunteers. He may even bring some live specimens for you to see and admire. His talk will also include many other interesting facts about the life history of insects.

**All welcome, informal discussion, light refreshment, gold coin donation**

### Upcoming Events

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> February** – REPS Public Meeting, Guest speaker Stephen Fellenberg, Bugman. 7:30pm, Community Centre

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Feb & 31<sup>st</sup> Mar** – Caalang Creek Working Bees from 9.30 onwards, see pg 6

**Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** – "Power of Community" film screening, Empire Cinema 6pm, see pg 4

**NPA Walks** – Southern Highlands Branch, February and March, see pp 3&4

**Feb tba** – Bread Making Workshop, Moss Vale Community Garden, contact Jill Cockram pg 4

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## President's Report

This year promises to be one of continuing achievement for REPS. The committee has met in December and again in January to discuss and plan our activities for 2012, especially looking forward to our public meetings with their interesting and informative presentations by visiting speakers and opportunities to share ideas with like-minded folk. Work at Hampden Park and the Nature Reserve will continue, the revision of the book on rainforest plants will proceed, and it is intended to include in the website many worthwhile articles from past issues of *Eucryphia*

Allan Stiles

## REPS COMMITTEE MEETINGS – REPORT

The last Committee meeting for 2011 was held on 1st December and the first for 2012 on 19th January when Dr. Karen Guymer was welcomed as a new member.

As well as matters noted by the President (above), the Committee discussed ideas for expanding use of the web site, noted work to be carried out at Hampden Park to accommodate a soccer field (Helen Tranter is the REPS representative on the Park Committee), and reported the successful viewing of wildflowers on the spring walk in Barren Grounds.

Following discussions at Committee a letter was sent to Council supporting the Environment Levy in perpetuity and this was accompanied by a completed Survey Form.

Georgina Persse, Secretary

## November Talk Report “The Southern Highlands Sustainability Hub”

by David Mee

Tim Edwards was introduced by David Tranter, and given a warm welcome by members present. Tim is a Canadian by birth and Australian by choice. He and his family have lived in Australia for more than 20 years. After an MBA and a commercial career in North America, he moved to Australia where he has expanded his work to the needs of sustainability and the environment. His involvement with CANWin (Climate Action Now Winge-carribee) has allowed him to present the Sustainability Hub proposal from that organisation.

Tim first of all set the stage, by defining sustainable development as that which “meets the needs of the present generation, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

To make this point he showed family photos where the younger members have life expectancies to take them beyond 2100.

He noted the geopolitical expectation of 9.2 billion global population by 2050 and predicted economic growth at

about 3% pa. Tim questioned whether the resultant per capita consumption growth was sustainable, and that civil security was possible.

To the question “What do future generations need?” Tim listed climate stability, resources (water, oil, land and soil among others), and preservation of the ecosystem. Failing to allow for this had the possible consequences of environmental degradation, rising sea levels, severe weather events, reduced food production, famine and mass migration of tens of millions. The threats are global, national, local, personal, and current. There has been however little global consensus or action from governments.

Tim made some observations on his experience with the Building Products Innovation Council (BPIC). This included representation from many heavy industrial groups. Carbon disclosure was one of the aims. The built environment consumes 30% of the world's resources, and assessment of buildings is also one of BPIC's aims. Tim gave a partial list of industry “buzz words”, which describe benign products, including re-used, recycled, recycled content, carbon neutral, non-toxic, natural, renewable, durable, long-lived etc, none of which really describes their impact on the environment. The difficulty of providing life cycle assessment of building materials was discussed, but lack of legal requirements and local data may not provide sufficient motivation for local industry.

The CANWin Sustainability Hub is a proposal to assist people to make changes in their use of resources for better environmental sustainability by helping to reduce risk and providing information. “Promote” and “facilitate” are two words used. Change is scary and hard. It applies to energy use and generation, building and transportation. The energy scope, for example, includes heating and cooling, lighting, refrigeration and security.

The Hub itself would be an information centre, and a website, initially using volunteer labour, and members to pay a membership fee.

Lively questions from members ensued, including topics such as the relationship with growth and employment, the necessity for volunteers and the lack of government enforcement of standards in overseas products. Tim's answer to some of the issues is the necessity for more government, not less.

## Bush Care Volunteer Awards

Three members of REPS were among those who received awards for bush care volunteers when the announcement was made at a morning tea held at Fitzroy Falls National Park: Helen Tranter for 20 years service, and Jane Lemann and Joe Petre each for 10 years service.

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## ***Thelychiton epiphyticus***

by Allan Stiles



*Thelychiton epiphyticus*  
(Denis Wilson)

Since writing about this orchid in the last issue of *Eucryphia* and expressing curiosity about whether its range really includes the Robertson district, a further sighting has been made on a large Churnwood tree (*Citronella moorei*) in forest on a bench below Belmore Falls. It may well be that more plants will be seen and reported, extending the range of this species.

## **A Closer Look At Potato Orchids**

photos and text by Denis Wilson

Potato Orchids (*Gastrodia sesamoides*) grow in the Robertson Nature Reserve, but to the best of my knowledge, they have not been formally reported as growing there. I have only found them in association with some old massive, introduced *Pinus radiata* trees. That does not mean these Orchids are not naturally occurring in the Nature Reserve, it may simply indicate a preference for growing in the deep leaf litter which is found at the base of 120 year old Pine Trees. The Potato Orchids may be found close to the gateway on South Street, and also at the base of some of the huge old Pines growing in that front section of the Nature Reserve.



These Orchids are very different from the normal idea of what an Orchid ought look like. They are growing on a thin brown stem, about knee-height, and the flowers are cream and white. The flowers

are tubular in shape, but quite rounded at the top, and the lower end has a flared white lip.



These Potato Orchids do not produce chlorophyll, and are known to live in association with certain fungi, which themselves are living in what is termed a "mycorrhizal association" with plants. In other words, the fungi live off the plants, and the leaf litter, and the orchids live off the fungi. It is interesting to speculate on whether the "host fungus" of these Potato Orchids is the Red "Fairy Toadstools" (*Amanita muscaria*) which grow in Robertson in association with old Pine Trees. But there are so many species of fungi growing in the Nature Reserve, it would require detailed scientific examination to determine if there is a particular "host species" of fungi for these Potato Orchids.

## **NPA Walks**

### **4 Feb Sat Barren Grounds, Cooks Nose**

Grade: 3; Distance: 8 km; asc/desc 50m.

Description: Starting from Barren Grounds Car Park the track proceeds through forest to a high point giving spectacular views over Kangaroo Valley. Lunch at the lookout and return by the same route.

Leader: Joan Lowe Phone: 02 4861 2996

Limit: 12

Map: Kangaroo Valley 9028-4-S

Branch: Southern Highlands

Notes: Rough track.

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## 14 Feb Tue Royal National Park

Grade: 2; Distance: 8 km;

Description: Garie Beach - Thelma Ridge - Garawarra - Burning Palms and return. A delightful combination of beach and rock, open grass and woodland scenery cooled by a lunchtime swim at Burning Palms Beach.

Leader: Bill Holland

Branch: Illawarra Email: [illawarra@npansw.org.au](mailto:illawarra@npansw.org.au)

## 3 Mar Sat Morton NP - Wombat Hill Look Out

Grade: 3; Distance: 13 km; asc/desc 50m.

Description: The walk commences at Meryla Pass and follows the ridge giving wonderful views of Wombat Hill. On the return a detour leads off to Rebecca's View which gives spectacular views to the other side of the ridge.

Leader: Joan Lowe Phone: 02 4861 2996

Limit: 12 Branch: Southern Highlands

Map: Bundanoon 8928 -I-S

Notes: Rough track and unfenced cliff edges.

## 11 Mar Sun Kiama Area

Grade: 3; Distance: 15 km; asc/desc 100m.

Description: Walk from Minnamurra railway station to Kiama via the coast. Fish and chips lunch at Kiama Harbour.

Leader: Des Towne

Branch: Illawarra Email: [illawarra@npansw.org.au](mailto:illawarra@npansw.org.au)

Notes: Day walk on tracks, beaches and rock platforms.

## 18 Mar Sun Tahmoor Gorge

Grade: 2; Distance: 12 km;

Description: A very interesting walk following the Bargo River. Great pools and waterfalls. May be chance for a swim.

Leader: Graham Burgess

Limit: 15 Map: Picton

Branch: Illawarra Email: [illawarra@npansw.org.au](mailto:illawarra@npansw.org.au)

## Warragamba Landscape Community Reference Group Update

by Karen Guymer

Please visit [myfavouriteplace.org.au](http://myfavouriteplace.org.au) to nominate your favourite place on the map of the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment.

The next meeting for the Warragamba Landscape Community Reference Group is scheduled for **Tuesday 7 February 2012, and so if anyone has any information, feedback or input for this meeting, please get in contact with me, prior to that date.** The focus of the group is to guide investment in natural resources management through the development of the next catchment action plan.

To contact Karen please email: [klg@aapt.net.au](mailto:klg@aapt.net.au).

## Bread Making Workshop by the Moss Vale Community Garden

February - date and time to be confirmed.

Contact Jill Cockram on 4883 4399 for more information.

## Permaculture Design Certificate Commencing Tuesday 7th February, 7-9.30pm. At the Old Principal's Residence at Berrima Public School.

Course Outline: The course will cover the background knowledge, design skills and practical techniques of the Permaculture Institute's 72-hour Permaculture Design Certificate Course. This PDC course will run over a full year, giving participants plenty of time to absorb the concepts, develop designs, and relate the ideas to the real world.

Designs will be developed to cover the range of situations a designer might meet, including backyard town/urban/suburban blocks, larger semi-rural acreage, broadacre farm design, and community planning. Assessment is based on presented group and individual designs.

For more information and an application form, call David 4884 4214 or Jill 4883 4399.

Class size is limited to a maximum of 18, to ensure individual attention.

Please ring to secure your place before sending a deposit. **APPLY NOW**, applications closed on Friday 20th Jan but late applications may be considered if numbers permit.

## Power of Community - film screening Empire Cinema, Bowral 28th February, 6pm for 6.30 start.

This film is one of the Catch the Health Bug film series and funds raised from the evening will go to support the Bundanoon Community Garden. Contact Frank on 0413 344 955, Joan on 0417 819 428, or email [joanandfrancisco@gmail.com](mailto:joanandfrancisco@gmail.com) for your tickets.

**Southern Highlands Community Health Film Seminar**  
**"Catch the Health Bug"** Monthly Series  
NEW EMPIRE CINEMA  
1 hr screening + 1hr discussion with MC  
Guest Speaker + Lucky door prizes  
ABN 74 337531472  
Claim Your Seat To Health!  
To benefit the Bundanoon Community Garden

**Tuesday**  
28 February 2012  
@ 6pm for 6:30pm start  
Let thy Food be thy Medicine and  
thy Medicine be thy Food - Hippocrates  
**POWER OF**  
HOW CUBA SURVIVED PEAK OIL  
**COMMUNITY**  
Frank 0413 344 955 Joan 0417 819 428  
email: [joanandfrancisco@gmail.com](mailto:joanandfrancisco@gmail.com)

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## Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

Joy and revelation in tiny flowers – a snowdrop in England, and three Australian orchids.

**William Wordsworth:**        *To a Snowdrop*

Lone flower, hemmed in with snows, and white as they  
But hardier far, once more I see thee bend  
Thy forehead, as if fearful to offend,  
Like an unbidden guest. Though day by day,  
Storms, sallying from the mountain-tops, waylay  
The rising sun, and on the plains descend;  
Yet art thou welcome, welcome as a friend  
Whose zeal outruns his promise! Blue-eyed May  
Shall soon behold this border thickly set  
With bright jonquils, their odours lavishing  
On the soft west-wind and his frolic peers;  
Nor will I then thy modest grace forget,  
Chaste Snowdrop, venturous harbinger of Spring,  
And pensive monitor of fleeting years!

**Douglas Stewart:**        *Sun Orchids*

Again next spring when the heath blows white and pink  
And ants come out of their holes and run on the rock  
Those clear blue flowers will stand on the blue sky's brink  
And close in rain and open in sun and look  
Except for the cup at the centre, some flecks like sand,  
More like a distillation of sapphire air  
Than anything out of the earth; and when they stand,  
So clear, so candid, somebody else can peer  
As I once did in that deep silky cup  
Whose seed of light would drown in a drop of rain,  
For there's no orchid of gully or mountain top  
But holds some secret knowledge best left alone;  
And small as it was, blue on that sandstone spur,  
Once was enough: it held the sun in there.

**David Campbell:**        *Caladenia Orchids*  
   *Stanzas 1,2 & 5*

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| In the white sally wood   | On a green stem in spring    |
| They wait all winter      | Thought opens its hand:      |
| Under a white moon        | There are four white fingers |
| Holding one thought only, | And the thumb opposing,      |
| Not remotely human.       | Like the first hand.         |

In the white wood  
Under a daylight moon  
White temple flowers,  
*Caladenia carnea*,  
Lift tiny hands.

**Douglas Stewart:**        *Helmet Orchid*

Oh such a tiny colony  
Set amongst all eternity  
Where the great bloodwoods stand!  
It is the helmet orchid  
That will not lift itself  
Higher than a fallen leaf  
But waits intent and secret  
Leaning its ear to the ground.

What could it hear but silence?  
Yet where the orchid listens  
Low in its purple hood  
Among the trees' immensity,  
Out of the depth of the world  
Dark and rainy and wild  
Sounding through all eternity  
Silence like music flowed.

**Judith Wright:**        *Sun-Orchid*

Sun-orchid, *Thelymitra*,  
what a blue of blues you've chosen  
to remind this sullen season  
that still the sky is there.

Its tender cherishing colour  
is like the hills in summer  
when a eucalyptine vapour  
dreams up in windless air.

Another poet, staring,  
saw the sun in your centre, burning  
core of fire, and, dazzled,  
closed eyes upon that secret.

Wrapped in your Mary-blue,  
veined with a flush like roses,  
you stand in contemplation  
of a spring as cold as winter,

but, blessed from your creation,  
the calm of your robe encloses  
a gold like revelation.



### **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.

#### **The next Working Bees will be on the 25th February and the 31st March**

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. Queries to Steve Douglas 4271 4957 or Leon Hall 4888 2222.

### **Help Care for Our Nature Reserve**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

### **Reminder REPS Membership**

**Renewals: Your support for REPS is very much appreciated. Have you overlooked the renewal of your REPS membership for 2012?**

If you have received a REPS membership renewal form with this *Eucryphia*, our records show that your REPS membership fees are now overdue. Please refer to the form enclosed for information about the ways in which you can renew.

### **Farewell to Ian Foster and Anne Williams**

REPS would like to acknowledge the contribution and membership of both Ian Foster and Anne Williams over the years. They are moving to Tasmania later this year. Ian and Anne have been involved in REPS activities, both keen bush regenerators. They also regularly attend REPS public meetings. They have both made significant contributions to the Robertson Heritage Railway Station and to the Robertson Community Technology Centre (where they will be sorely missed as founding members of the Southern Highlands Ukulele Group). Farewell Ian and Anne, stay in touch.

### **REPS Meetings for 2012**

The dates for this year's public meetings are as listed below. Each meeting will include a talk that will be publicised in the *Eucryphia* prior to the meeting.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August

Saturday 6 or 13<sup>th</sup> October - Walk

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November (Annual General Meeting)

### **REPS Committee List 2012**

President – Allan Stiles

Vice President – David Mee

Secretary – Georgina Persse

Treasurer – Anne Wilson

Committee Members – Monica Engel, Peter Glass, Karen Guymer, Leon Hall, David Tranter, Helen Tranter.

Public Officer and Publicity Officer – Helen Tranter

Talks Convenor – David Tranter

*Eucryphia* Editors – Monica Engel, Sheila McInnes

Supper Convenor – Jane Maxwell

Caalang Creek Project Group – Steve Douglas

### **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 Monica Engel or Sheila McInnes

email: [monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au](mailto:monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au)

All contributions will be most welcome.

**Visit the REPS website**

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