



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

Next REPS Meeting

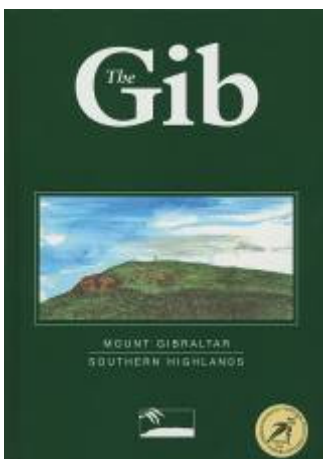
Friday 11th June 2010 at 7:30pm
at the Robertson Community Centre
Caalong Street, Robertson

"Our Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Conservation"

presented by

Jane Lemann OAM, Dip Ed. SKTC, Hort. &
Bush Regen. Cert.

Jane Lemann was born in Sydney. However for the past 50 years she has lived the Southern Highlands and has observed first-hand the changes that have led to her becoming an active conservationist and Landcare volunteer. She lived firstly at Milton Park, working for King Ranch Australia (Santa Gertrudis cattle and Quarter Horse stud), then ran an outdoor equipment shop in Bowral and now manages a conservation block at Glenquarry with her husband Martin. She has been involved with raising environmental issues with the Council, State and Federal Government, agencies and schools and has led the weekly bush regeneration work in the Mount Gibraltar Reserve. She is a mother of three and also a proud granny with a long term vision.



Simon Kneebone

Jane intends to talk about the remaining natural environment in the Robertson area; about some of the bio-diversity and the inter-relationships that are often hidden, some of the threats and the importance of all of our combined efforts for timely conservation to retain the eco-systems.

All Welcome - Gold Coin Donation - Light Supper

Upcoming Events

Fri 11 June – REPS Speaker Jane Lemann, 7:30pm, Community Centre, Robertson.

NPA Bushwalks – June 5 & 19, July 3 & 17, see page 5.

Wed 16 June – NPA AGM, Dr Steven Douglas on 'The threatened vegetation communities of the Southern Highlands - their location, character, and conservation status' at 7.30pm, CWA Hall, Elizabeth St, MV

Sat 26 June – Caalang Creek Working Bee – 9:30am, at the footbridge Hampden Park, page 8.

Department of Industry and Investment Agricultural courses, see page 7.

Sat 3 July – Aust. Plants Society, Jerrara Dam Aboretum & Wetland, see page 8.

April Talk Review

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

Leon Hall

Debbie Andrew's talk about Tiger Quolls gave us an insight into these rarely seen and little understood animals. The topic was also of extra interest to many at the meeting as these animals are occasionally seen around the Robertson area.

Little was known about these elusive marsupials before Debbie started her study at Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve on the mid-north coast of NSW. Her field work (1992 to 1995) included trapping and radio tracking Tiger Quolls for approximately a week every month of the study period.

Her talk focused on their spatial and social organisation and also introduced us to other elements of their ecology. Nineteen different Tiger Quolls were tracked over the study period. Each were given a personal name and we were led through the changing lives of these individuals. Debbie's talk imparted a large amount of information in a short period of time. I will summarize a few interesting points.

Tiger Quolls generally move to a new den each day. These are mainly hollow logs but can also be tree hollows or burrows and even under small buildings, in log piles and one den was located in a rock crevice. They do not share dens except the mother with young. Up to 8 young can be reared (8 teats). At 12 months old they can give birth but the animals may only live for 3 to 4 years in the wild.

They are predominately nocturnal but there is more chance of seeing them in daylight in winter. They are fairly territorial with large home ranges. Examples given from this study had the male home range of between 2303 and 3401 hectares and the female between 509 and 1511 ha with the male covering several female home ranges. A recent example of a Quoll's movement was also given where one was caught at Narrabeen in northern Sydney and a short time later the same animal was found near Granville over 35 kilometres away!

Examples of their carnivorous diet included rabbits, possums and greater gliders taken out of the tops of trees. The Quoll is an excellent climber and they can also be attracted to chook houses and have been known to eat through ordinary chicken wire so heavier wire may be needed for your chook house!

Debbie finished her talk explaining some of the threats to the Quoll as their numbers have diminished dramatically over the years. These are summarised here as clearing, roadways, proximity to human habitation, logging, frequent fire and grazing, predation and competition (foxes), '1080' poisoning programs, expansion of the range of the cane toad and diseases and parasites when

under stressed environmental conditions.

The interest in these animals was also shown by the number of questions asked at the conclusion of the talk.

Thank you, Debbie Andrew for an enlightening talk on this elusive animal and for giving your time freely to our society with your extensive knowledge.

REPS Submission to Wingecarribee Shire Council

This submission has been sent to all members via email. However for those who may not have received it, it was decided to reprint it in the newsletter.

18/03/2010

ROBERTSON DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

Mark Pepping,
Strategic Planner, Wingecarribee Shire Council

Dear Mark,

REPS has studied the Draft DCP and supports its general content, particularly the existing village boundary and historic grid, the emphasis on solar orientation and energy efficiency, and the protection of heritage and remnant vegetation. Other issues we commend to your attention for further consideration are as follows:

1. Aims

REPS distinguishes between "development" and "growth". To our mind, development is concerned with quality (unfolding of potential) and growth with quantity (more of the same), so to ensure a better quality of life for its residents the aim of the DCP, in this era of impending Peak Oil and Global Warming, should be self-sufficiency. We submit that the DCP should make living and working in Robertson a pleasant and rewarding experience, serve the needs of Robertson residents and surrounding farming community, and encourage rural tourism in what is one of the most beautiful parts of Australia. We see little point in Robertson copying the example of under-developed Burrawang or over-developed Bowral.

2. Village Limits.

We agree that the existing boundary of the village should be maintained. It benefits neither the village nor the tourism and food production potential of the district to have its rural surrounds alienated for village overgrowth. Past intrusions beyond the village boundaries, particularly in the east, have arguably delayed the sewerage of the village and added appreciably to its cost. In our opinion, the following amendments would make the businesses that service the day-to-day needs of Robertson more viable and the village more self-sufficient.

3. Business Development

REPS believes that it is the rural atmosphere of Robertson that draws tourists to the area and that it would

be counter-productive for Robertson to follow the example of suburbs like East Bowral or Burradoo. The village needs to cater both for those shops that service the residents of Robertson and surrounding district and for visitors from Sydney, Wollongong and Canberra. We agree that the area zoned for business development is appropriate, there being several empty shops and blocks at present and scope for market-driven re-location.

However, because the creek and railway line cut across most of the roads, there are few direct routes for people to reach the existing shops, which are scattered along the mile-long main street. The fact that the land rises both to the north and south and that the main street has been appropriated as a regional highway has added to the problem. This is due in part to its topography, nested as it is within a little valley bisected by a stream, a railway line and a highway.

As a result, shops have tended to develop in a linear fashion along Hoddle Street with housing along the northern and southern foothills and little access, except by car, between the two living areas or between either living area and the main street where the shops are located. There is only one road (Caalong Street) across the axial barrier that divides Robertson North from Robertson South; the axial divide is a mile long which means that a shopping walk from houses on the northern and southern slopes is more arduous than most people can manage; and there are few public footpaths and cycle ways across the creek or Railway Line and only one pedestrian crossing on the Highway. Robertson is a "village divided" and the DCP needs to address this problem.

4. Housing Choice

When Robertson is sewered, the population of Robertson will probably increase as existing subdivision lots are occupied and the Dual Occupancy Provisions of the DCP are utilized, trends that will enhance business viability. We would recommend it should also provide for a variety of denser housing options suitable for diverse age groups and life-styles, for example single people and elderly couples with neither the need nor desire to live in "McMansions", or even 1,000 m² lots, but prefer to live in smaller houses and smaller premises. Perhaps some forms of cluster housing should also be permitted, provided they are consistent with stated requirements for solar access; compatibility with heritage buildings, streetscape limitations and protection of remnant vegetation. If so, they should be located within walking distance of the village centre.

5. Mobility

The access problem is destined to become more acute with the onset of "Peak Oil" and global warming. In any event it is not in character with the rural ambience that most Robertson people cherish to have the main street cluttered up with traffic, as in Bowral and Moss Vale. This is a particular problem for children walking to school or sport or for mothers with strollers. Mobility is

an essential component of self-sufficiency which, to our mind is one of the main ingredients of sustainability, particularly in the future when petrol costs will become prohibitive.

Fortunately, there are ready solutions and we recommend that they be included in the DCP. These include an extensive suite of footpaths, cycle ways (not necessarily of concrete) and rustic bridges across Caalong Creek, linking North and south Robertson and both ends of Hoddle Street with each other and the Village Centre. Hoddle Street, for example, is exceptionally broad and could easily accommodate cycle ways on both sides of the street as well as a footpath on the Northern side, where there are none.

It is also necessary to have a second pedestrian crossing across Hoddle Street at the Country Rail Bus Stop and a footbridge across the railway line at Wallagunda Street. Such initiatives are essential if the residents of Robertson are to source most of their domestic needs from Robertson shops, rather than from Moss Vale, Bowral, Mittagong or the Illawarra. They would also facilitate rural tourism, providing safe access to the many quiet country lanes around Robertson leading to points of scenic interest.

6. Social Centre

A social and recreational centre is developing in and around Hampden Park, with the Community Centre, Community Technology Centre (CTC) and Church to the north and the School of Arts and Public School opposite. Footpaths to this area, together with some of the developments proposed in the Hampden Plan of Management could see this come to pass.

7. Heritage

REPS agrees with the emphasis in the DCP of preserving Robertson's historic heritage. However we do note that the Californian Redwood in the Lawrence Langley Memorial Reserve is not included in the Draft DCP Heritage Map and we recommend that this be so.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Robertson draft DCP.

Yours sincerely, Leon Hall, President
Robertson Environment Protection Society

Impact of the Robertson Development Control Plan (DCP) on Infill Development

David and Helen Tranter

In this era of democracy, the way villages develop is a blend of their history, the aspirations of their residents and constraints by government agencies with statutory responsibilities for issues such as catchment management. Although consultation takes time it is better than ad hoc "spot zoning" in response to vested interests. As a result, planning and development have a cyclical character like elections where voters get a chance

every few years to influence the course of events. The planning cycle is rather long (5-10 years) and frustrating, but it does provide a desirable measure of certainty for everyone concerned. Residents exert the most influence at the outset (the “strategic plan” stage) and least influence later on when constraints have been imposed from “above”. So, timing is paramount.

The next opportunity to influence the course of events is this year and next as a new Strategic Plan is prepared. Those who have lived in the Shire for the past 10 years may have participated in developing the last Strategic Plan (WOFE) which shaped the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) that will be gazetted within the next few weeks and the current Robertson DCP, which was recently approved by Council and then delayed to allow more public consultation. That will take place at a meeting in Robertson on 17th May 2010. Although there is still some flexibility with respect to possible amendments, they must by law be consistent with the LEP. There is no option at this stage to amend the draft LEP and proposed changes must await the Local Planning Strategy review later this year.

A source of particular concern has been the clause that denies development consent for detached dwellings on lots less than 2,000 m² in area. In 1996, Wingecarribee Shire Council had commissioned a consultant to report on the capability of Robertson soil to handle surface effluent from Robertson septic trenches and the chances of eventual surface runoff across adjacent properties into Caalang Creek at times of continuous heavy rain. The consultant’s report recommended that the minimum lot size for future development be 2,000 m², 1,000 for the house and 1,000 for the associated septic trenches. Council immediately implemented that provision in the planning process, backed up by a costly and rather unpopular pump-out regime for existing houses on small lots, a requirement that has continued and is likely to continue until the sewerage system is up and running. (See the chronology further down).

The continuity of that constraint was influenced by the 1998 collapse of Wingecarribee Swamp when its natural peat bed ruptured allowing Caalang Creek to flow directly into Wingecarribee Reservoir, the transfer station for catchment water to metropolitan Sydney and Wollongong. The resultant concern and perceived contamination of other catchment areas led to the formation of the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA), whose responsibility included the entire Wingecarribee River Catchment (including Caalang Creek) and, consequently, the associated initiative to sewer Robertson Village. The Shire Engineer was soon hard at work, in collaboration with the Department of Works, SCA and village representatives, designing an appropriate Sewerage Scheme. This was not an easy task because there were so many constraints. It has been said that if a greenfields site were to be chosen for a village in this area, the last place to choose would be the present site. But that, as they say, is history. The engineer’s job was

to reconcile the aspirations of Robertson residents with the likely funds, the topographic constraints of the village and the urgency of the situation. This resulted in the decision to meet the needs of the anticipated population, with built-in flexibility to upgrade the system should the population increase. Alternatives proposed by Robertson residents with the best intentions had the unfortunate result of delaying the process and increasing the cost.

It is now time for residents to work together to develop a new vision for Robertson that will influence the next Strategic Plan - one that will allow more housing choice and withstand State pressures for greenfields housing beyond the village limits that would have the unfortunate effect of compromising its agricultural potential in the coming era of Peak Oil and Global Warming when self-sufficiency will become paramount.

CHRONOLOGY

1996

- NSW Environment & Health Guidelines recommend a minimum lot size of 1,000 m² for “*unsewered areas with reticulated water*”. Council commissions consultants Martens & Associates to “*determine the capability of land in Robertson to accommodate effluent on-site*”.
- Consultants recommend a minimum lot size of 2,000m² on the basis of their proximity to Caalang Creek, their poor soil capability and because they receive more rain on the whole than they can evaporate; secondly, that systems with poor effluent capability be offered pump-out.
- Both recommendations are endorsed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Sydney Water.
- Council assesses the on-site sewage treatment efficiency of all small lots (1,000m² and less) and introduces pump-out where required.
- Undeveloped lots without development consent are denied permission to build.

1998

- Wingecarribee Swamp collapses allowing Wingecarribee River and its tributary Caalang Creek to discharge directly into Wingecarribee Reservoir, which supplies Sydney Wollongong, Bowral and Robertson with drinking water.
- Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) is established to maintain water quality in all catchment areas including Caalang Creek.

1999

- Wingecarribee Shire LEP is amended to place a minimum lot size of 2,000m² on residential development in Robertson Village, thus meeting the requirements of State Environmental Planning Provision (SEPP) 58.

2002

- Council’s Strategic Plan “*Wingecarribee Our Future*”, retains the above provisions, drawing

attention to the fact that, should they be relaxed when Robertson is sewered, there will be a significant loss of open space between dwellings.

2010:

- Because Robertson is not yet sewered the current Local Environment Plan (LEP) retains the above provisions.
- Because the DCP is a document to support the LEP and cannot contravene its provisions, it too retains the 2,000m² provisions.
- The new Strategic Plan consultations, which are expected to begin later this year, will review the issue of lot size constraints in the eventual context of an operational sewerage system.

David & Helen Tranter
May 12, 2010

NPA Walks

Saturday 5 June

Forty Foot Falls and the Incline

Medium grade walk with very steep ascent of 400m. Walk commences at the Box Vale Track Picnic Area. Walk out along the track to 40 Forty Foot Falls and then along the Nattai. Follow the Nattai to Box Vale Creek and then ascend the very steep 400 m old skip loading track.

Liz Thompson 48691483 : 0400493312:
ethompson5@vtown.com.au (contact by Thurs 3 June)

Saturday 19 June Budderoo NP

Gerringong Falls

This is a fairly flat walk following the Budderoo Track until an old fire trail leads off to the right. There are some muddy sections and the last 300 metres is off track.

Joan Lowe 48612996 or 0417492981 or
joan.lowe@bigpond.com

No public transport. Car pooling will be arranged from Bowral.

Saturday 3 July 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.

Liz Thompson 48691483 : 0400493312:
ethompson5@vtown.com.au (contact by Thurs 1 July)
Meet at Hill Top General Store for group travel to start of the track.

Map: Hill Top 1:250000

Saturday 17 July Red Rocks Nature Reserve

Medium walk, 14 km, 50 m asc/desc. Access is from the top of Cambewarra Pass. Walk includes Browns Mountain with views of the coast, Kangaroo Valley and Bendeela Pondage.

Joan Lowe 48612996 or 0417492981 or

joan.lowe@bigpond.com (contact by Thurs 15 July).
No public transport. Car pooling will be arranged from Bowral.

Map: Berry 9028-3-N. Limit 12

NPA Talk and AGM

Wednesday 16th June, 2010 at 7:30 at the CWA Rooms, Moss Vale. Dr Steven Douglas will present a talk titled: 'The threatened vegetation communities of the Southern Highlands - their location, character, and conservation status.'

Dr Steven Douglas is a consultant ecologist and environmental planner, a part-time academic, and a PhD graduate of the ANU's Human Ecology program. His ecological work has been primarily in the Sydney Basin, but has extended to the ACT and Southern Tablelands, Victoria, and eastern South Australia. He has specialised in the recognition and management of threatened plant species, populations and ecological communities, and has successfully nominated numerous such biota for listing under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act and the Commonwealth Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act. He has worked for all tiers of government as either an employee or consultant, for NGOs, and the private sector. His publications and conference papers include topics such as fire ecology, ecological offsets, the conservation status of various threatened flora, environmental law and policy, and the emergent field of religious environmentalism / religion & ecology. He relocated to the Southern Highlands in mid-2009.

Bird Banding at West Wyalong

Blog entries from Denis Wilson

Many of you may know that I have always had an interest in Birdwatching. In fact it led to many years of assisting my father, who was one of Australia's first "Bird Banders", under the Bird Banding Scheme which was then administered by CSIRO.

I went out to West Wyalong last year, as a guest, on a Bird Banding trip, and again in May.

It is a wonderful opportunity for me to present photographs of Australian birds up-close, in a way that is seldom possible.

<http://peonyden.blogspot.com/2010/05/birds-of-west-wyalong-nsw.html>

This first post links to the previous years postings, with many more images of different bird species.

<http://peonyden.blogspot.com/2010/05/more-images-from-west-wyalong.html>

<http://peonyden.blogspot.com/2010/05/processes-of-bird-banding.html>

The last post explains more of the historical (and regulatory) background to what I was doing out there last weekend.

Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

Poems for the season, a time when, in the words of Coleridge, "The Frost performs its secret ministry".

WINTER

WHEN icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When blood is nipped, and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who – a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all around the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw,
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who – a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.
William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)

THE WINTER EVENING (the beginning)

Now stir the fire, and close the shutters fast,
Let fall the curtains, wheel the sofa round,
And, while the bubbling and loud-hissing urn
Throws up a steamy column, and the cups,
That cheer but not inebriate, wait on each,
So let us welcome peaceful evening in.
William Cowper (1731 – 1800)

WINTER

WHEN winter chills your aged bones
As by the fire you sit and nod,
You'll hear a passing wind that moans,
And think of one beneath the sod.
You'll feebly sleek your hair of grey,
And mutter words that none may know,
And dream you touch the sodden clay
That laps the dream of long ago.
The shrinking ash may fall apart
And show a gleam that lingers yet.
A moment in your cooling heart
May shine a sparkle of regret.
And where the pit is chill and deep,
And bones are mouldering in the clay,
A thrill of buried love will creep
And shudder aimlessly away.
John Le Gay Brereton (1871 – 1933)

COUNTRY of WINTER (last 3 stanzas)

Look, there were sally-gums, coming home late I remember,
White in a grove on the slope - how black it is now -
That stood up locked with the moonlight like lover and lover,
Such misty radiance flooding on bole and bough
They might have been trees of moonlight and danced together
Across the dim paddocks where shadows and moonrays flow.
Cold is the moon that now goes walking on the river
And each white tree crouches on the hill like a ghost,
Twisting away from the touch of stone and its taste.

All things withdraw, contract, retreat to their sources,
The snake to his hole, the wood-duck thuds to escape;
The creatures of winter come close to the lonely houses,
The dingo's shadow runs with the huddling sheep
And out with withering tea-tree and bleaching tussocks
When lamps are lit at the farms and log fires leap
Redder than fire on Andy's Flat are the foxes;
Winter comes down from the hills in a freezing mist,
Whiteness is over all and all is lost.

And how with the leaping foxes I have exulted
For all is driven, sent down in itself to endure;
And not to flourish in summer was this land moulded
But deep among snow and granite to hold its fire
Or blaze if it can before the ice has melted;
O soon at the spawning the trout will go mad with desire
Burning together, down in the dimness folded;
And fold upon fold, like the country clenching its fist,
Ridge in the river glitters to ridge in the mist.

Douglas Stewart (1913 – 1985)

ARIEL

Frost and snow, frost and snow:
The old ram scratches with a frozen toe
At silver tussocks in the payable mist
And stuffs his belly like a treasure chest.
His tracks run green up the mountainside
Where he throws a shadow like a storm-cloud's hide;
He has tossed the sun in a fire of thorns,
And a little bird whistles between his horns.
"Sweet-pretty-creature!" sings the matchstick bird,
And on height and in chasm his voice is heard;
Like a bell of ice or the crack of the frost
It rings in the ears of his grazing host.
"Sweet-pretty-creature!" While all is as still
As the bird on the ram on the frozen hill,
O the wagtail warms to his tiny art
And glaciers move through the great beast's heart.
David Campbell (1915 – 1979)

Please send a poem on the environment to Jonathan Persse, Sallyhill, Burrawang 2577

Paddock Plants

Friday 18 June or Wednesday 30 June 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?

Cost? FREE. (normally \$55.00)



Industry &
Investment

PROGRAZE™

Friday 11 June

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 \$620). Cost includes two free pasture quality tests. Course commences on 27th of April.

LANDSCAN™

Landscape and Soil Test Interpretation for Sustainable Farm Management

Friday 25 June

- Skills to assess farm landscapes, land capability and soils.
- Learn how to conduct representative soil sampling.

- Understand soil testing and soil test results.
- Make informed decisions about nutrient inputs.
- Learn how to prevent or manage soil erosion, soil acidity, salinity and other soil degradation issues.

Cost: \$100 per property (normally \$420). Includes two free pasture quality tests valued at \$120. LANDSCAN™ is a six session on-farm course delivered over a six month period.

For further information about the courses and field day, or to enrol contact:

James Cornwell on 4828 6600 or send an email to:
james.cornwell@industry.nsw.gov.au

U3A Forum on Climate Change Science

Five weekly sessions from June 3

Thursdays 2-4pm

East Bowral Community Centre

A joint project of CANWin and U3A, it will be presented as a series of five consecutive lectures, each to include an hour-long presentation, tea break and question and answer session. The lectures will focus on some basic scientific concepts and data behind the physical, chemical and biological influences controlling climate change.

- The first lecture, by Bill Buykx will serve as an introductory review of the Philosophy of Science and the Scientific Method.
- Then Lou Flower will present some basic scientific principles and mechanisms controlling the temperature of the atmosphere.
- Lecture 3 by Dr. David Tranter will focus on the influence of the oceans and the interaction of the ocean and the atmosphere, including some positive feedback processes.
- The next lecture by Dr. Ken McCracken, the well-known solar phenomenon expert, will examine the varying amounts of solar energy impacting on the earth due to variations of solar activity and earth orbital effects.
- The final presentation by Graeme Sanders will discuss some practical solutions involving alternative energy sources to minimise carbon dioxide emissions.

The presentations will be geared to an audience with minimal scientific, mathematical or technical background. The purpose of the series is to provide the average person with sufficient factual data to better understand the heated debate which is taking place in the media, as well as political and business arenas and which largely ignores the science itself. This will be an expanded version of the two-session forum presented in Nov 2009, which was well received by some 40-50 attendees. Current enrolment is 56 persons with several more on the waiting list. The course organiser and convenor is CANWin member Lou Flower.



Caalang Creek Working Bees

Caalang Creek Working Bees are held on the last Saturday of each month from 9:30 am onwards subject to the weather. Please come and join us for as long as you are able.

Next Working Bee

Saturday the 26th of June

Meet at the footbridge in Hampden Park from 9:30am onwards. We will have 'WSC Bush Regenerators' coming to this working bee to help and give advice. It would be great to have a good number of REPS members there!

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.

The hard workers have been having a coffee at the CTC afterwards.

Help Care for Our Nature Reserve

1st Wednesday of each month

10:00am to noon

Over the last two months most of the small leaf privet trees on the western side of the Reserve, which were full of fruit, have been drilled and poisoned by Joe Petre with another member of NPWS staff. This will make a great difference for now we will be able to get in underneath and pull out the smaller privet. Joe Petre has recently retired from the NPWS but he will continue to help as a REPS volunteer. However, we do need more helpers. So why not come along on the first Wednesday of any month (10am – noon) see what we are doing, learn to identify the rainforest plants, bring garden gloves and help for a while.

For further information phone Helen 4885 1394

Australian Plants Society

Saturday 3rd of July

Jerrara Dam Arboretum and Wetland

Easy walking to see many species of rainforest trees. Past Jamberoo take the Jerrara Rd then Mount Brandon Rd.

Meet at the carpark at 10.30am.

Bring lunch and wear waterproof shoes.

Further details Helen 4885 1394.

Highlands FM 107.1

every Tuesday evening, 6-8pm

Tune in to 'Eco Matters', an exciting new show about all things environmental in the Wingecarribee with presenters Claire Burniston and Annabel Brown, on our community radio station.

REPS Meetings for 2010

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

Friday 13th August

Saturday 9th October – walk, TBA

Friday 12th November – AGM

Friday 10th December – Christmas Party

Did You Know - Correction

Sheila McInnes

Last month's note that 2 Google searches generates as much carbon dioxide as boiling water was based on a Sunday Times of London story. Seems that this is very much "Press hyperbole" using incorrect comparisons.

Google's answer from

<http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2009/01/powering-google-search.html> contains this statement:

"...in the time it takes to do a Google search, your own personal computer will use more energy than Google uses to answer your query".

Presumably the boiling water comparison was based on ALL the energy used, including having your own computer on, Google having all of its computers on whether fully used or not, Google's staff's energy use etc. From Google, "...we do believe we have the most energy efficient data centers." – probably true. They have an interesting table of comparisons on the above web page. Here is the first one: Activity - CO₂ emissions of an average [daily newspaper](#) (PDF) (100% recycled paper) = 850 Google Searches. Obviously we are not counting the emissions caused by driving to the Newsagents! Or turning our computers on 850 separate times!

Welcome New REPS Members

Val Fox and Patti Lee and family

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 – Lynn Stevenson

PO Box 3045,

Robertson NSW 2577

President – Leon Hall on 4888 2222

Editors – Monica Engel, Sheila McInnes

monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au