



Eucryphia

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

Next REPS Meeting
Friday 10th November at 7:30pm
at the Robertson Community Centre

Annual General Meeting
+ a talk by Mike Jupp
“Reptiles of the Southern Highlands”

Australia is noted for the amazing number and diversity of its reptiles. The good news for those of us living in the countryside is that the vast majority are also easy to live with. This myth-busting presentation from Wingecarribee WIRES will cover the identification, behaviour and lifestyles of all the frequently encountered local reptiles, plus some species that are common but rarely seen.

Preserved specimens will be available for inspection, and live animals for those who just have to touch. The talk will include rescue procedures for injured reptiles as well as first aid for snake bite.

Mike Jupp emigrated to Australia in 1995 to work for a computer company. I have a degree in Biological Sciences and have been a member of WIRES for four years. I am the Wingecarribee WIRES Reptile Coordinator for the Southern Highlands, and Training Officer for the state-wide WIRES Reptile team.

All are welcome – please bring friends and family. A light supper will be provided. Entry with a gold coin donation.



Photo: Red-bellied black snake

Upcoming Events

- Sat 4th November – Climate Change Day, 2:00pm CWA Hall Bowral
- Fri. 10th November – **REPS Annual General Meeting**, Robertson Community Centre
- Fri. 8th December – REPS Christmas Party, Robertson Community Centre

REPS AGM

In advance of the REPS AGM (on Friday 10th November) office bearers' reports for 2006 are published in this volume of Eucryphia.

President's Report 2006 by Leon Hall, REPS President

It has been a challenging year for REPS with representation at the Australian Landcare Awards and water issues both local and regional.

The International Landcare Conference, held in Melbourne, included the National Landcare Awards with state nominees coming from all over the country (REPS NSW Landcare winner, Bushcare - Nature Conservation 2005). REPS was represented by Sandy Morse and I on the day and I feel we came a close second but had stiff competition with an excellent project by Birds Australia with the Glue Pot Reserve (see article in newsletter).

More close to home REPS are involved with Sydney Water water issues and the NSW Governments (Sydney Catchment Authority -SCA) plans to modify their water supply. We have made submissions about the; Kangaloon Borefields Proposal, the Shoalhaven Transfers proposal, the draft Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management (2006) and the draft Wingecarribee Swamp and Special Area Plan of Management (2006). Recently REPS has shown their concern regarding earth work affecting Caalang Creek.

Both Caalang Creek reserve and Pinkwood Park have been improved over the year. Mulching and planting has helped consolidate these areas for easier long term maintenance with good turn ups to working bees (or what ever you want to call them). The Nature Reserve is also still being looked after (mainly due to Helen Tranter).

The talks have been excellent throughout the year and have been well attended. Our newsletter Eucryphia has been edited and produced, over the last 3 years, by Lyndon Stanley who has excelled in his skills (and his patience with us), producing a high quality newsletter (about 20 issues) helping communication between members of REPS and others. Lyndon and Maria also distribute the newsletter. On behalf of REPS I would like to thank you for your great contribution (including

working on the newsletter while you were busy working in Asia). Thanks from us all.

To the committee and all our members thank you for your support of this society.

REPS Positions for re-election

Position	Current Office Bearer
President	Leon Hall
Vice-President	Sandy Morse
Treasurer	Anne Wilson
Secretary	Jill Keft
General Committee 1	Helen Tranter
General Committee 2	Denis Wilson
General Committee 3	Joe Petre
General Committee 4	Beth Boughton
Publicity Officer	Monica Engel
Eucryphia Editor	Lyndon Stanley
Talks Convenor	David Tranter
Librarian	Vacant
Supper Convenor	Jane Maxwell
Public Officer	Helen Tranter

REPS Membership Renewals now due

It is that time of year again when REPS Membership renewals are due. Included with this final edition of Eucryphia for the year is the Annual Membership Renewal/Application form. Please complete this form as soon as possible and return it with your membership fees to:

REPS
PO Box 45,
Robertson NSW 2577

Your ongoing membership and support of this organisation is really appreciated.

If you have any friends or neighbours interested in joining REPS, please photocopy the Application form and pass it on to them. Alternatively new forms can be obtained from the Secretary, or from Lyndon Stanley via email (lyndon@hinet.net.au).

Treasurer's Report 2006
by Anne Wilson, REPS Treasurer

ROBERTSON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION SOCIETY INC

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

These statements have been prepared in accordance with section 26(6) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 and Rule 17 of the Association's Rules.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

		\$
Current Assets		
Balance per Bank Passbook	General Account	4,205.99
	Grants Account	<u>1,395.74</u>
		5,601.73
Current liabilities		
Unpresented cheque		<u>149.00</u>
Net Assets		<u><u>5,452.73</u></u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM 01-10-05 TO 30-9-06

GENERAL ACCOUNT

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Memberships	1,790.00	Dept of Fair Trading	42.00
Interest	3.94	PO Box Rental	60.00
Donations	749.60	Hall hire and meeting costs	266.00
		Audit fees	121.00
		Other costs	100.00
		Printing/Postage/Stationery	1,005.71
		Internet Web hosting	144.00
		Membership subscriptions	168.25
		Transaction charges	44.25
TOTAL INCOME	<u>2,543.54</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>1,951.21</u>
		Excess Income to Expenditure	<u>592.33</u>

Bank Reconciliation at 30-9-06

Opening Balance per Cash Book	3,613.66	Balance per Bank Passbook	4,279.99
Plus Excess Income to Expend	592.33	Less unpresented cheques # 14715013,18	149.00
		Plus late deposits	75.00
Closing Balance	<u>4,205.99</u>	Balance to cash book	<u>4,205.99</u>

GRANTS ACCOUNT

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Wingecarribee Community grant	500.00	SCA Caalang Ck	1,499.10
Interest	2.72		
TOTAL INCOME	<u>502.72</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>1,499.10</u>
		Excess Expenditure to Income	<u>996.38</u>

Bank Reconciliation at 30-9-06

Opening Balance per Cash Book	2,392.12	Balance per Bank Passbook	1,395.74
Less Excess Expend to Income	996.38		
Closing Balance	<u>1,395.74</u>	Balance to cash book	<u>1,395.74</u>

Bushcare Nature Conservation winner – Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve SA

For the past nine years, the Gluepot Reserve's management committee has had a major challenge: an operating budget of less than \$50,000 a year, 54,000 hectares to manage and 18 nationally threatened species of birds to protect (not to mention reptiles and bats) in the South Australian Riverland region.



The reserve has just become the subject of a fifth doctoral study. Visitors are encouraged, where practical, to help the research and monitoring project.

It was bought in 1997 for \$360,000, which was raised over just 10 weeks from members

and supporters of Birds Australia. No government funding was involved, making it Australia's largest community owned and managed conservation reserve. It is run entirely by volunteers. In 2004 it was protected in perpetuity under SA law by signing of a SA Heritage Agreement, which made it the largest area of land in the State under such an agreement.

The reserve is the largest block of intact mallee left in Australia and had extraordinarily diverse vegetation communities. Parts of it have not been burnt since the last major fire in 1950 while other parts have escaped fire for even longer, so it contains a huge variety of habitats for birds and animals.

Many trees in the reserve's mallee and casuarina woodlands are hundreds of years old, providing essential old-growth habitat. In addition to the 18 species of threatened birds, there are 53 species of

reptiles and 12 species of bats, some nationally threatened. There are few areas in the world that support such a concentration of threatened species. The 14-person volunteer management committee is highly skilled in a huge range of resource management areas and business acumen needed to effectively run the reserve on a shoestring. The committee has successfully combined land management, scientific research, environmental education and sustainable ecotourism to achieve biodiversity conservation.

When assessing how it performed in its 1999-2004 action plan, the committee found 90% of its 80 intended actions had been finished, or two-thirds completed. This is impressive, given some larger infrastructure tasks could only be carried out if funds were raised.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the reserve and come from all States of Australia as well as overseas. In the first six years of operation, volunteers donated more than 140,000 hours and more than 900,000 kilometres of mileage, which the committee has valued at more than \$2.5 million.

The reserve is staffed on a continuous basis by volunteer rangers and assistant rangers. It has developed as a centre for scientific research, with 11 Australian universities and research institutions running ongoing projects on-site.

2006 Bushcare Awards Finalists

ACT : Gale Grassy Box Woodland Project

NSW: Robertson Environment Protection Society Inc.

NT: Tiwi Land Council

QLD: Desert Uplands Committee

TAS: Friends of French's Road Nature Reserve

VIC: Yarriamblack Vegetation Enhancement Project

WA: Yelverton Brook Eco Spa Retreat and Conservation Sanctuary

Eucalyptus Identification Workshop **Saturday 9th December, 8:45am – 4:00pm**

- Learn to identify local Eucalypt Species
- Field trip for hands on experience
- Lunch and morning tea provided

The morning session is to be held at the Theatre – Wingecarribee Shire Council Civic Centre, corner Donkin Ave and Elizabeth St Moss Vale. The afternoon session will be at Mt Alexandra Reserve Mittagong. The presenter will be Greg Stone and the cost is free. Please RSVP by 29th November 2006 to Belinda Rowe at Wingecarribee Shire Council on telephone 48681466.

New Editor needed for REPS

We are currently looking for any body interested in taking on the job (or job-share) of Editor for REPS' Eucryphia newsletter.

This is a great way to make your contribution to the environment.

Usually six newsletters are published and posted each year. These are currently being created using Microsoft Word.

Anybody interested in helping, please contact Leon Hall on 4888 2222.



**Fight
Global
Warming**

**International Day
of Action on
Climate Change**

Saturday Nov 4th 2006

2.00pm CWA Hall, Wingecarribee St, Bowral



**Come and join the inaugural
Southern Highlands
Group on
Climate Change**

www.walkagainstawarming.org



Can we save our small birds?

**Tuesday 7th November, 7:30pm
CWA Hall Moss Vale – entry with
gold coin donation**

All of us have delighted at the sound and sight of the beautiful small birds the Fairy Wrens, the Thornbills, and the Golden Whistlers that grace our gardens. Or used to, because many of these birds are disappearing. Australia could lose half its small bird species by the end of 2006.

A big reason for this loss is a native Australian honeyeater, the Noisy Miner. Noisy Miners are spreading into corridors, small bushland remnants, and suburban gardens; and are chasing away or killing any small bird that previously occupied them. Instead of helping small birds, some revegetation projects might actually be harming them, by helping the spread of Noisy Miners.

What should we plant in our gardens to help small birds and hinder the domination of Noisy Miners? Richard Hastings examined this question in a four-year Master of Science research project, and this talk presents the results of his research. He is revegetating his Canyonleigh property and looking forward to the day he sees his first small bird on his property.



Photo: Noisy Miner

If you like small birds and want to help them survive, then don't miss this illustrated talk. You'll get practical advice on what to plant to lower the Noisy Miner threat and make your garden, farm, or revegetation safe for small birds.

REPS Christmas Party 2006

**Friday 8th December
Community Hall, Caalang St., Robertson**

Time:

6:00pm: Meet at the Community Hall for a ramble along creek to admire all the hard work done throughout the year.

7.30pm: Christmas Party

Food and Entertainment:

Those attending are asked to bring a plate (with food on it – therein lies a story) plus any alcoholic beverages they are likely to need.

This food will be augmented by hot dishes from local take-aways. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided.

At this stage it is envisaged that entertainment will be provided by members, i.e. party games probably involving singing, recitations, etc.

Ideas and suggestions are invited and can be conveyed to Geoff or Robin Tassell at the next REPS meeting.

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 – Jill Keft
PO Box 45, Robertson NSW 2577
or President – Leon Hall on 4888 2222
or Editor – Lyndon Stanley on 4885 1322
Email: lyndon@hinet.net.au