

# FOLKLAW

**Friends Of Local Koalas, Land And Wildlife inc**

WINTER NEWSLETTER 1999

## Membership renewals!!!

Due to a frazzled and over committed committee, membership renewals were not sent out for 1999. To encourage our past members to renew we have reduced our subscriptions to \$10 for general members and \$5 for students. For paid up members your subscription will be extended to Dec 2000.

**Please show your support by renewing your subscription to FOLKLAW.**

**Donations are also welcome !!**

Not only do we need your money we need a little bit or a lot of your time, what ever you can spare.

For FOLKLAW to be a more effective organisation we need you to volunteer for tasks such as community awareness, newsletters, fundraising, wildlife care, koala counts etc. We encourage new members with enthusiasm and fresh ideas.

## HELP FOR WILDLIFE

Help for wildlife was established 5 years ago by wildlife activist Denise Garratt. Since that time many "wildlife crossing" road signs have been erected Victoria wide. These signs have the Help for wildlife number 0147 380 687 to contact for assistance in the case of injured, sick or orphaned wildlife.

Help for Wildlife collection tins have recently been distributed in the Hastings, Somers and Balnarring areas to help raise funds for local volunteer Wildlife carers.

Keep a look out for the tins and top it up with your loose change. The tins will soon fill up and funds can then be distributed to carers to cover the cost of medications and vet expenses.

If you are willing to help with the distribution and collection of the tins, our already hard working committee and carers would be grateful.

Contact Michelle on 5983 0219

## NEW COMMITTEE ELECTED

As of the recent AGM, the FOLKLAW committee has a few new faces. Thankyou to Helen Dickson, Peter Cooper and Sally Allet for your willingness to commit your time to achieve FOLKLAW's aims. Thank you also to Michelle Wood, Jennie Bryant, Alan Lim Joon, Judy Jack and Phillip Birchall for continuing on the committee.

Many thanks to Chris Dodd, Trish Birchall and Alison Kain, retiring committee members, for their contribution over the past few years. Thankyou also to Roger Richards for his enthusiasm and work on the committee. Roger is away at the moment and we are unsure if he will be available as a committee member.

There is still room for more people. If you could help out, phone Judy on 5983 1034



Dylan Jay

Somers Primary School

Grade 4

# Jennie's Corner

Over the last few months numerous lactating females died on our roads. In January I was called out to a number of injured koalas on Frankston-Flinders Road, Merricks.

One of them was an adult female who had a 3-4 week old pouch young (dead). She was found crouched on the side of the road, head injured and her tongue extended. I was unable to work out why her tongue wouldn't pull back in and eventually found it was wedged over her bottom teeth. The pain would have been shocking. I was able to rectify this easily but her unseen injuries took her life soon after.

Another adult female hit and left to die in the middle of the same area, was moved from her pool of blood to the side of the road by a kind couple who then waited for me to arrive. On removal of the blanket her face revealed a shocking sight. Top teeth an inch to the left of her nose, broken jaws - a mess, yet she was alive and aware of her dilemma. I had her put down immediately.

A young adult male in Balnarring (shopping Centre side) was attacked by dogs - a Heeler X and Staffordshire Bull terrier when he entered the back yard where they resided. He remained up a tree there until I arranged his rescue. The owner of the dogs was not at home, but promised to have them locked up so there would be no problems for us entering the yard and removing the koala. Mick Douglas noosed him and I assisted from the ground, eased him down and was in the process of lowering him into a container when - all hell broke loose. The dogs had escaped & both were lunging at the koala while it was noosed & Mick was holding him up. The next 10 minutes were indescribable. Trying to fight off the dogs while hoping they wouldn't attack us as well. It was a nightmare. However - unbelievably we succeeded thanks to the strength & perseverance of Mick. I released this lucky koala 2 weeks later. Due to his trauma, he was almost impossible to handle. I had never seen anyone fight so desperately to save an animal.

Thanks again Mick!

An elderly male was seen sitting in an outdoor spa and had been swimming and drinking alot. Sounds like he was having fun and I wished I'd been able to photograph him, but when I arrived he'd got out. He was suffering from kidney disease as well as old age - his coat was dull & he was very thin & lethargic. He was put down.

One of my Long term patients is an adult female who was bought to me in the middle of the night back in March. The man had hit her doing 100 km and she looked bad. Very head injured, semi conscious, hardly moving. I gave her a warm bed and sedated her but I didn't think she'd last until morning. It turned out she had a break in her left femur, usually fatal due to koalas inability to cope with pain & capture. However something made me feel she had a chance, then while under anaesthetic the vet rang to say she had found another serious problem

- her tongue was severely torn open all over the back of it. The vet wondered if it was worthwhile pinning the leg if the tongue was so damaged. But - I thought - I'll feed her until it heals.

So, as I write this, she's doing very well, eating lots of leaves. The pin will be removed in a week or 2, then she must build up strength.

Thanks to a dedicated vet, Kate, and the Hastings Veterinary Clinic.

-Jennie Bryant, Koala Wildlife Carer

## Koala Death Tally TALLY

Figures for July 26, 1996  
to May 17, 1999:

**89** DEATHS

**68** injured/released

These are only the koalas that we know about - and for each of these there is another somewhere that we haven't heard of. Often injured koalas will crawl into the bush and die.

**Take Care On Our Roads and  
Restrain Dogs At Night**





by CHARLIE,

Somers Primary School: Grade 4.

# INSPIRATION FOR CARERS OF WILDLIFE

On Sunday May 23rd, Folklaw (Friends Of Local Koalas, Land And Wildlife) had the pleasure of listening to guest speaker Denise Garratt at their third annual general meeting. The meeting was held at the R. W. Stone Reserve, Camphill Road, Somers.

Denise has more than 20 years experience in caring for wildlife and is a founder of 'Help for Wildlife', a network of community volunteers who devote countless hours to caring for injured and orphaned wildlife.

For the past nine years Denise has attended the opening of duck shooting in Victoria and along with Hurstbridge vet Dr Chris Andrews has tended injured wildlife including protected species such as swans, pelicans, tortoises and even the occasional hunting dog.

Folklaw encourages people in the community with an interest in our wonderfully diverse wildlife and its habitat to join FOLKLAW to make a difference.

For anyone who would like to become involved locally, Folklaw is desperately seeking people wishing to contribute in areas such as community awareness, revegetation, koala counts or raising funds to support wildlife carers. You will be welcomed with enthusiasm.

Phone 5983 1034 for more information or if you are willing to join our committee.

## Thank You Alison

At FOLKLAW'S recent Annual general meeting, founding member Alison Kain retired from the committee. Alison has worn many hats in her four years on the committee - secretary, newsletter editor, education officer and has represented FOLKLAW at several interstate conferences. Thankyou Alison and good luck for your future endeavours.

## Koala Brochure & Fridge Magnet

In her role as education officer Alison Kain has visited many local primary schools and was frustrated by the lack of a simple brochure to hand out to the children.

As always Alison rose to the challenge and successfully applied to Parks Victoria for funding and with the help of fellow FOLKLAW members Ilma Hackett and Phillip Wright produced our new brochure and fridge magnet.

For those who received a brochure and magnet in our recent mail out I'm sure you will agree that our team did a great job. Thank to Phillip for your photo's and ideas, to Ilma for your delightful illustrations and to Alison for co ordinating the project.



## Save the Koala Day July 30

FOLKLAW will once again have Lulu and Arnie tattoos for sale as part of Save the Koala Day. Proceeds from the sale of these stickers are divided between local wildlife carers and the Australian Koala Foundation. The stickers cost \$2.00 each. Why don't you by a few and sell them on to your friends? Ours carers and Koalas would be thankful.

Way back in September 1997 Phil and Trish Birchall reported to us the availability of a device that can be attached to your car/ motorbike to minimize collisions with wildlife. At speeds of over 50km/h it transmits a high frequency ultrasonic sound that alerts most wildlife of an oncoming vehicle. There are no switches to turn on, and nothing is heard by people or pets inside the vehicle. Wildlife can hear you up to 400m away. This device comes highly recommended by Denise Garratt from Help for Wildlife. Denise is able to supply FOLKLAW with these alarms for a cost of \$20. Ring Judy on 5983 1034 if you would like to purchase one

Help!!!! Can anybody out there help me set up a data base  
Phone Judy 59831034

## FOLKLAW

FRIENDS OF LOCAL KOALAS,  
LAND AND WILDLIFE  
INC.

FOLKLAW  
Post Office Box 28  
SOMERS VIC 3927

Phone: (03)5983 5010  
E-mail: [rwwood@alphalink.com.au](mailto:rwwood@alphalink.com.au)  
Website: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~folklaw/>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 PM

HABITAT DAYS  
LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, FROM 9:30 TO  
11:30 AM AT KOALA NATURE RESERVE MELWAY  
REFERENCE 193 K9

AUSTRALIAN KOALA FOUNDATION  
GPO Box 9899, Brisbane QLD 4001  
Phone (07)3229 7233

HELP FOR WILDLIFE 0417 380 687  
P.O. Box 181, Coldstream 3770

WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK 0500 540 000  
Website: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~wv/wildnet/>

# Judy's Jottings

## KOALA RESERVE

The Koala Nature Reserve in Somers is looking great. Plantings done for 'Save the Koala Day' in June and the 'Spring Planting Festival' last year have put on fantastic growth. Groups such as the Somers Brownies, Somers Primary School and Folklaw volunteers can be proud of their achievement in the restoration of wildlife habitat at the reserve.

Although working bees were put on hold during the hot summer months, track work, weed control and pruning continued with paid workers.

Working bees have a great social atmosphere and are followed up by a delicious morning tea provided by a neighbour of the reserve, Sue Holland. If you have been intending to come but just haven't made it yet, call me on 5983 1034 and I will let you know what projects we have got coming up. Attendance at one or two working bees a year can make a big difference to the reserve and the morale of other volunteers.

The next working bee is on Sunday 30th May, & then 27th June will be a planting day. Save the Koala Day 1999 will be Friday 30 July.

-Judy Jack, FOLKLAW President

## HONARARY MEMBER

Jennie Bryant was nominated as Folklaws first honorary member at our third Annual general meeting. Jennie who has been a wild life carer of nineteen years undoubtedly qualifies for this recognition. She has sacrificed many a good nights sleep to rescue and care for possums, wombats, native birds and koalas. Jennie has known the heartbreak of her losses and the joy of releasing her successes back to the wild. She gets angry and frustrated with the thoughtlessness of careless dog owners and speeding drivers. But most of all Jennie is known for her compassion and composure when confronted with horrible injuries suffered by wildlife.

LEFT: DENISE GARRATT - HELP FOR WILDLIFE (LEFT) AND JENNIE BRYANT (RIGHT) AT THE FOLKLAW AGM RECENTLY, HOLDING SOME OF JENNIE'S COLLECTION OF CUDDLY KOALAS.





THE  
 'AUSTRALIAN KOALA FOUNDATION'  
 PRESENTS

## "A CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF THE KOALA IN 1999"

THE CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF THE KOALA IN 1999 WILL BE HELD AT  
 PHILLIP ISLAND, VICTORIA ON  
 THE FOLLOWING DATES:

MONDAY 6TH, TUESDAY 7TH, WEDNESDAY 8TH  
 SEPTEMBER, 1999

WITH AN OPTIONAL FOURTH DAY ON  
 THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1999

THIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE AKF BRINGS TOGETHER  
 ANYONE CONCERNED WITH THE CONSERVATION OF THE KOALA AND IS OPEN  
 TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.

PARTICIPANTS USUALLY INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND RE-  
 SEARCH COMMUNITY, KOALA CARERS, LANDOWNERS AND  
 DEVELOPERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, PLANNERS, REPRESENTA-  
 TIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WITH CONSERVATION,  
 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, FORESTRY; MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION,  
 ACTIVISTS, EDUCATORS, ZOO PROFESSIONALS, JOURNALISTS, CONSULTANTS,  
 STUDENTS, TOURIST OPERATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS ON A NUMBER OF THEMES INCLUDING:

- MANAGEMENT OF ISOLATED KOALA POPULATIONS
- LEGISLATION
- LOGGING AND ITS EFFECT ON KOALA POPULATIONS
- HABITAT IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING
- KOALA BIOLOGY AND HABITAT UTILISATION
- CARERS AND EDUCATION
- RESTORATION OF DEGRADED HABITATS

PAPERS, GENERAL DISCUSSION AND FIELD TRIPS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE  
 FIRST THREE DAYS WITH AN OPTION TO JOIN THE AKF TEAM FOR KOALA  
 HABITAT ATLAS FIELDWORK ON FRENCH ISLAND ON DAY  
 FOUR.

THE AKF ARE NOW REQUESTING SUBMISSIONS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES  
 TO PRESENT 20 MINUTE PAPERS AT THE CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF  
 THE KOALA IN 1999.

### FRIENDS NETWORK SEMINAR

SATURDAY JULY 10TH  
 'INTO 2000'

VENUE: BURNLEY

\$10 PER PERSON

CONTACT MARION TAYLOR  
 (03) 59831580



## SOMERS KOALA RESERVE

10 MARCH 1999

11:00 - 12 NOON

I searched the reserve extensively for birds during this pe-  
 riod. I recorded only one bird, a single starling, flying  
 overhead.

7:00 - 7:30 P.M.

I repeated the exercise, and again recorded no birds in the  
 reserve.

However, in the historic flowering coastal banksias along  
 The Boulevard, numerous Brush Wattlebirds and a few  
 Red Wattlebirds, Magpies, Ravens, Mudlarks, Indian My-  
 nahs and Masked Plovers were heard in the vicinity.

The absence of native birds within the reserve is possibly  
 due to the lack of water and food. Also, the late Summer  
 to early Spring is usually a lull time for birds as many  
 breeding species move out of the southern areas. As food  
 stocks diminish, the birds move north - some to the Great  
 Divide - to Winter. These birds return in late August -  
 early September to take up breeding territories.

- Brent Hall

(It should be noted the prolific amount of lorikeets (Musk and Rain-  
 bow) and galahs feeding in the area over the Summer months)

# FOLKLAW

Post Office Box 28  
SOMERS 3927

## Membership Form

### Membership Fees are:

General Fee \$10

Students: \$5

Renewal date is January 1st

NOTE: -Fees for existing members were due 1/1/99. If you have already paid the old fee, your membership will be extended.

-New members joining now will receive membership for 1999 & 2000.

Please enroll me / us as  
members of FOLKLAW  
Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

Date: .....

I enclose cash / cheque / money  
order \$ .....