



F.O.L.K.L.A.W po box 28 Somers 392
NEWSLETTER spring 2003

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Editor: Anneke Fortuyn

Since our last newsletter we have had a major change happen.

Our long time President , Judy Jack has for personal reason resigned from the committee.

Judy was one of the founding members of our group and has worked very hard for many years for FOLKLAW, without her passion FOLKLAW wouldn't be where it is today.

We will miss her, but wish her well in the future

An appropriate gift will be presented to Judy.



KENNEDY ROAD PLANTINGS

Coming soon Food and Habitat for local wildlife

Last years planting was very successful nearly all plants survived the drought, mountains of watering and weeding was carried out through the year so please go and have a look at what we can do together. The second round of replanting the bare track of Kennedy Road from Sandy Point Rd to the start of road outside 17 Kennedy rd is SUNDAY the 2ND of NOVEMBER Here is hoping that we will see you on the day to help us put in manna and peppermint gums and all things nice for the koala's, birds and animals of Somers.

PLEASE CONTACT PETER COOPER ON 96901774 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP US.

Living with the birds.

Text: Rosemary Birney



Any day now the handsome male Blue Wren will begin fighting with his reflection in the window while his harem hop busily about the garden. The Scrub Wrens, who have been chattering in the bushes for months, will soon be building nests. Pardalotes are busy finding nesting sites. Treecreepers, Thornbills and Whistlers are all busy in the bushes.

You can bring the birds into your garden by creating a patch of indigenous scrub. Dedicate ten per cent of your garden to a prickly patch and you will be rewarded with arrays of beautiful foliage and flowers and you will have the privilege of living with many small birds.

With cooperation between neighbours in planning the dedicated parts of private gardens fauna and flora corridors could be created throughout Somers. You could help return "Indigenous Title" to the small, original inhabitants of Somers.

Prickly and dense vegetation is an ideal nesting site for tiny birds as well as a sanctuary against the neighbour's cat and the Wattle and Butcher Birds. Open areas within short flight distance of these sanctuaries are feeding grounds for many of our small native birds. Your garden is just perfect!

Hedge Wattles [*Acacia pardoxa*] and Prickly Moses [*Acacia verticillata*] trimmed when young to a compact shape, are wonderful safety zones and also provide a magnificent display when flowering.

You could plant a band of Prickly Teatree [*Leptospermum continentale*] on the back of your patch and a group of Silky or Heath Teatree [*Leptospermum myrsinoides*] towards the front. Teatree is very pretty all the year around and especially when in flower.

Groups of Sweet Bursaria [*Bursaria spinosa*] and of Dagger Hakea [*Hakea teretifolia*] will make a good prickly habitat. The Hakea will eventually provide a nesting place for Blue Wrens.

Dagger Hakea are slow growing and difficult to get going but their spikiness and creamy white flowers will eventually reward you for your efforts.

You could plant some Twiggy Daisy-bush [*Olearia ramulosa*] and Coastal Daisy-bush [*Olearia axillaries*]. They will bear many white flowers - once again it is good to keep them trimmed when they are young.

Hop Goodenia [*Goodenia ovata*] kept trimmed to the desired height and shape is, inside the external ball of green foliage and cheery yellow flowers, a positive apartment block for birds.

At the front of your patch you could plant Native Raspberry [*Rubus parvifolius*]. Let them scramble over logs. They are easy to keep in control with a yearly trimming.

Finish off your creation with grasses, rushes and sedges and when they are established seek out the many lilies and flowering herbs that once were common in this area - their subtle beauty will amaze you.

Once you are hooked you may want to expand your patch.

With the devastation that the sewerage works have made in many gardens and on many nature strips this would seem is a perfect time to reclaim some areas for indigenous flora and fauna.

Garden for the birds and bring on the revolution !!!!!!!!!!!!!



THE FRIENDS OF WAYSIDE ROAD FORESHORE GROUP

Thanks to great enthusiasm and support from members of FOLKLAW, Bill Mallinson and Virginia Carter, the friends of wayside road foreshore group is alive and well. Our working bees on the first Sunday of the month at 9.30 since the beginning of February have been well most of the time. We have planted about 400 plants, most of which are growing well and looking very happy in their plastic sleeves, and we are making a great impact with ongoing weed control.

The idea to re vegetate the foreshore is catching on, as I hoped it would. Several other Wayside Rd residents have indicated that they would like to start similar projects below their properties. I have a dream that some day, the whole Wayside Road Foreshore Reserve will be free of weeds and densely covered in indigenous vegetation.

I applied to DSE for a grant to cover the cost of ongoing weed control for the coming year and we have verbal acceptance from Dennis Cox for about \$900.. We will of course, need to match that with our volunteer labour, so anyone who is interested in joining in our working bees will be warmly welcomed.

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