



F.O.L.K.L.A.W. po box 28 Somers 3927

NEWSLETTER winter 2003

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Editor: Anneke Fortuyn

Thank you to all of you for the renewal of your memberships, and the donations.



The AGM was very well attended and thanks go Malcolm and Brent for their most informative talk.

Working bees are still on every last Sunday of the month.

This newsletter features an article by Rosemary about Identifying Koalas

The Wayside group has had 4 successful working bees.

The Kennedy road plantings have suffered somewhat because of the sewerage diggings, but restoration will commence as soon as practical

Koala Reserve

At the moment there is research happening in the installing of nest boxes (e.g. what kind how many etc.)



WHICH KOALA IS THAT

By Rosemary Birney

Have you ever looked at the Koala's that live around your place and noticed how individual they are?

And have you ever noticed that the ones that live a few streets away are much darker or lighter and may have more or less white in their coats or other differences?

And at the end of winter have you noticed that the new little baby held so tightly in its mother's arm looks remarkable like its dad or mum?

If you could keep an 'Identikit' record of your visitors you might be able to work out, with the involvement of people living about you, in what area your Koalas move and you could keep a record of births and the success rate of the Koala's breeding.

You might get to know the koala families that live on the next 'block' and the one further away again

Is he charcoal gray or a soft gray? Has he white on his ears and face,

has he a white chest, except for the stain of the gland, or a nicotine chest?

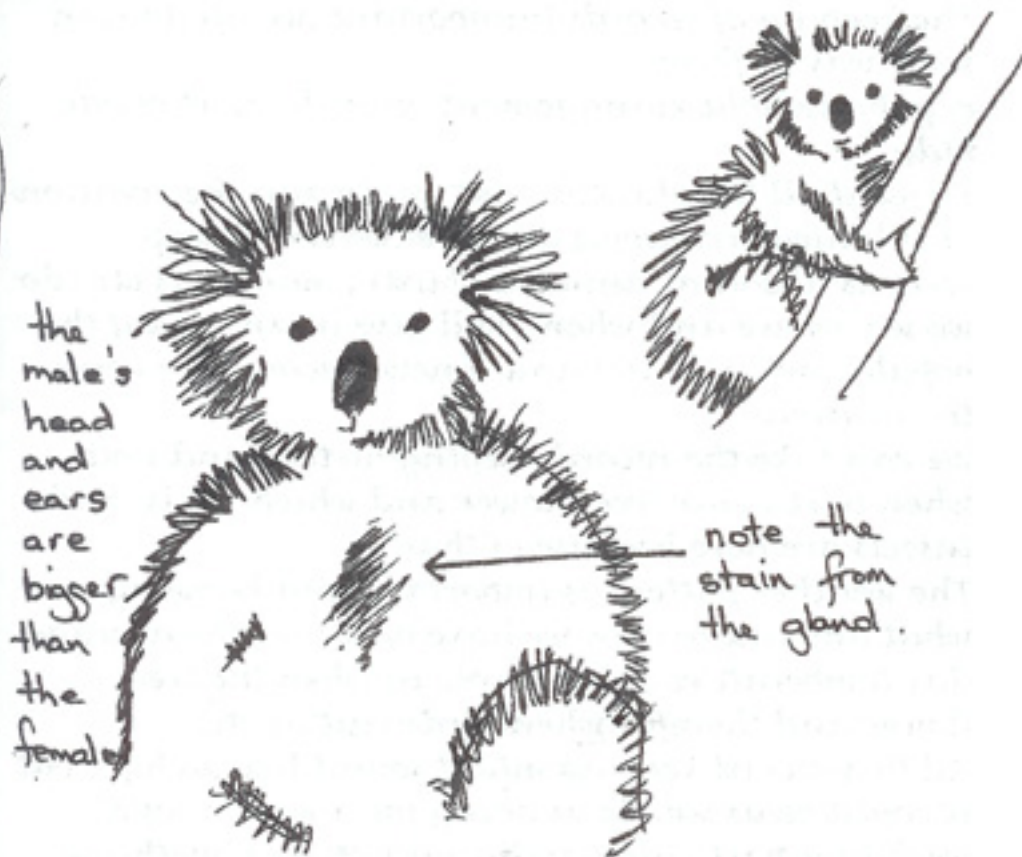
Being a male he will have a big head and big ears but is his face narrow or broad?

Some of Somers Koalas have quite a bit of brown in their coats, some none at all. Some have pink patches on their noses. They are as individual as you are yourself!



TRY THIS IDENTIKIT FROM MEMORY

Here is the old male that comes to your house



Use the 'Identikit' to get to know all your visitors. Gradually fill in the 'special' features even take some photos. The Koalas will not mind and you will find it fun.

Become a 'Tree Lump' expert and astound your friends! And can you smell the Koala? It makes finding them much easier.

Keeping records



The keeping of records is important, we all do it in some way or form.

e. g household management, growth chart of our kids.

To see if all the planting out we do and the creation of wildlife corridors is effective, we could keep records like what animals (birds, mammals etc) do we see, where and when., will give us an idea if the population increases and if new species have come to our area.

We can take the record keeping further and note when particular trees flower and which birds and insects are here because of that.

The weather pattern is important and knowing what amount of rain we have had and the average day temperature, play a role in when the trees flower and therefor when birds visit us etc.

All this record keeping might sound like a chore but it could be as simple as going for a walk ones a week in a particular area and noting something new.



Or even just when your at home in your garden to make a note of a different bird you see and at dusk that the little bats are fluttering about.

The Gould League timelines program has forms to make the record keeping easier for those that are interested contact us or the Gould League Their address is Genoa street Moorabbin, 3189 Ph 03 95320909