



F.O.L.K.L.A.W

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NEWSLETTER *spring 2004*

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Spring is here and the rains and sunshine have brought life to the plants. There is signs of new live everywhere. The bronze and yellow of new leaves colour the tips of our trees. The birds are courting and nesting. Frogs have been putting on a daily concert, what a fabulous time spring is.

It also brings the however new vigorous growth to the weeds and new ones seem to appear from nowhere. Weed control has to happen now before the weeds have flowers and set seed.

At Kennedy road plantings, Peter and Karen have been kept busy with the weeds, but are pleased how all the plants are coming along.

Folklaw has started a new program to grow some indigenous plants, to educate and encourage interest in the community. Karen is in charge of the project but if you can provide any help don't hesitate to contact her as she will no doubt have something for you to do. (phone 9690 1774)

ENJOY SPRING BUT DON'T FORGET TO PULL OUT THEM WEEDS.



OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

Birds in our area sing their songs all day long for us

Take the Superb Blue wren, I saw one just yesterday in my own garden.

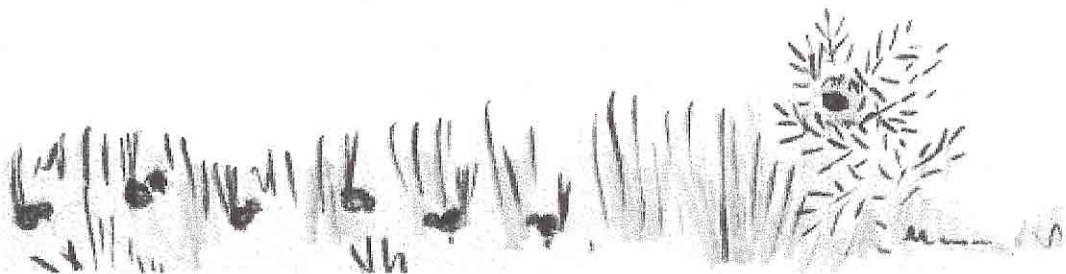
It is of course the male in its breeding colours that attracts our attention. From now till March it has it's best suit on, after that it will go back to it's more subdued colours of shades of brown.

A pair may breed several times in succession during the season with members of earlier broods helping in feeding the young, that is what you call having an extended family.

They love a variety of insects for their dinner which they catch while hopping over a clearing or flying low above the ground.

They love to be in places with a dense low cover but with an open area nearby.

They build their nest usually in dense tussock or foliage near the ground. They construct their nest mostly of grass moss, rootlets and twigs, it is domed shaped often with a slight porch over the entrance Very sophisticated indeed.



I found in the backyard, quite high in the tree on an almost horizontal branch a neat bowl shaped bird nest. It is the nest of the Australian Magpie Lark or mudlark, some people call it the peewee. It likes to have a constant supply of water. It feeds on insects foraging on the ground and it likes to puddle in shallow water.

In the breeding season especially, they will get into aerial skirmishes with neighbouring pairs

And Willy Wagtail, who doesn't know him.

Constantly moving about, flits about restlessly after insects, and feeding on spiders and occasionally worms. They get quite aggressive when breeding and will drive away birds much larger than itself.

Their nest is built on a horizontal branch, a shallow cup shape of fine grass, bark shreds and rootlets, felted on the outside with spiders' web until grey and smooth.

As you can see it is good to have birds about as an effective insect control.

Plant your garden to encourage them nesting at your place and you will be rewarded with their song and courting antics.



Update on the Stone reserve planting day's

The planting days were a great success and thanks goes to all the volunteers who helped on the two days. Without them it would not have been possible to get all the plants planted. The plaque that South East Water has presented to the community and to the Shire, has now been installed on a granite rock near the plantings. This is so future visitors to the reserve are aware of the goodwill gesture of South East Water.

This is however not the end of the project as follow up to guarantee the success of the project.

The wheels have been set in motion to have the planted area sprayed with weed killer once that has been done, the area will have to be mulched the mulch is already at the reserve. But as always it needs volunteer power to get it barrowed to where it is needed.

We will have to also keep an eye on the growth of the plants and remove the plastic bags before the plants get to big.

The bags and stakes can then be recycled at other projects, which no doubt we will have.

