



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

PO BOX 28 SOMERS 3927

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2005

Artwork :Rosemary Birney

Editor: Anneke Fortuyn

All members and friends of FOLKLAW are cordially invited to **FOLKLAW's Annual General Meeting**, to be held on **Sunday 10 April 2005 at 2pm.**

The meeting will be held in the **R.W.Stone Pavilion**, Camp Hill Road Somers.

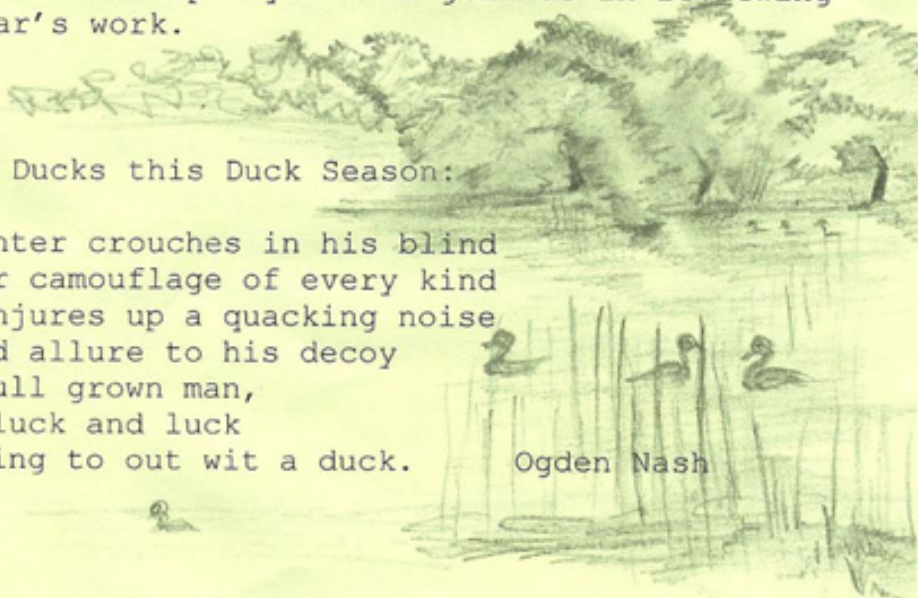
There will be no guest speaker this year as a special 'Bat' event is planned for later in the year. See page two of this News Letter for more information.

The Committee hopes you will join us in reviewing the year's work.

To the Ducks this Duck Season:

The hunter crouches in his blind
Neither camouflage of every kind
And conjures up a quacking noise
To lend allure to his decoy
This full grown man,
With pluck and luck
Is hoping to out wit a duck.

Ogden Nash





Would you like to go batty???

An exciting forthcoming event, organised by your FOLKLAW committee, will give you a chance to become a 'Bat Fanatic'. A presentation about Bats, both local bats and bats from all over the world, is in the planning stage. To be held at Coolart in the next few months, the presentation will be free of charge and there will even be a real bat to get to know! Watch the FOLKLAW Notice board, on the outside of the Somers Store, for the advertised details of the 'Bat Chat'.

Keep watching the FOLKLAW Notice Board situated on the outside wall of the Somers General Store for dates and times.

The Koala Reserve.

The FOLKLAW committee has employed contractors to carry out extensive weeding of the ephemeral water basin.

All the gravel paths have been sprayed.

All fire access tracks have been widened to 4 meters after consultation with the CFA.

Help is always welcome.

If you would like to help FOLKLAW in anyway... Do not be shy Give us a try!

Phone Peter on 96901774 or contact us through the post office at

Post Office Box 28

Somers

Vic 3927.

Commemorative Planting Program to Be Conducted In June/July In the Koala Reserve.

A commemorative planting program is planned for the Koala Reserve.

Come and plant a tree, or a number of trees, to create a living memorial for a special person or a loved pet.

Or plant a tree or trees to mark an event that has special importance to you or to the world.

Keep watching the FOLKLAW Notice Board situated on the outside wall of the Somers General Store for dates and times.

BRACKEN (PTERIDIUM ESCULENTUM)

The fronds are dark green, glossy and hard, on stiff stalks joined to hairy rhizomes (underground root like stems). These rhizomes contain slimy white starch.

Bracken grows up to about waist height on an adult; it grows in forests, heaths and paddocks, and is often the dominant groundcover.

In south eastern Australia, bracken starch was an important Aboriginal food.

The roasted rhizomes were staple foods and eaten in large quantities when fish were scarce

The stems beneath emerging bracken shoots appear to contain the most starch, which is slimy and tasteless. Older rhizomes are fibrous and insubstantial.

Aborigines also ate the slimy young shoots emerging from the ground.

Overseas, bracken was a staple food of the New Zealand Maori, and European bracken was an emergency food during the Irish potato famine. Boiled fern shoots, are often cited in survival manuals as emergency foods. These taste bitter, and, as the fronds are known to contain toxins, including carcinogens, they should not be eaten in quantity.



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