



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

## NEWSLETTER Summer 2009

PO BOX 28 SOMERS 3927  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~folklaw/>  
Ritchie's CB Card Number 92591  
Editor: Karin Cooper

Hi all,

FOLKLAW would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeremy Grant who voluntarily carried out the audit for both FOLKLAW accounts for the year ending 2008.

AGM - Please note that FOLKLAW is required to have an Annual General Meeting. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided. Our AGM will be held at 1.00 pm on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 at the Somers Fire Brigade on Camp Hill Rd, Somers (Melways ref page 194 C9).

We have included a number of Indigenous plants and weeds for you to familiar yourself with. They can all be found around Somers.



### **Chocolate Lily (Goodie):** (*Arthropodium strictum*)

Chocolate Lilies require well-drained soils. They grow in full sun or partial shade but do not tolerate salt winds. They can be found in grassy open forests and woodlands. They grow to 30-60 cm high by 20-80 cm wide. Chocolate Lilies have violet/blue chocolate-scented flowers which can be seen from October to December and they can be planted in groups or singly. They die back to a tuberous rootstock after flowering and then re-shoot in the autumn. During this time they are susceptible to snails and slugs. The

white tubers used be cooked and eaten by the Aborigines. The oval capsule is packed with black seeds and the plant can easily be grown from these. They can be propagated from seed or plant division.

### **Quaking Grass (Baddie):** (*Briza maxima*)

This grass is often used in dried flower arrangements or as a garden ornamental. It originally came from the Mediterranean and has invaded a variety of areas including dry coastal vegetation. It tolerates frost, full sun and drought. Quaking grass grows to 60 cm tall and has flowers which droop on very fine stalks and rattle in the wind. The flowers are pale green with darker veins which change to straw coloured when mature. The seeds are spread by water, wind, animals and in dumped garden waste and contaminated soil and hay. Slashers and mowers also assist in its dispersal. The seeds regenerate profusely after autumn burning grow slowly over the winter months and then rapidly and flower in spring. The seeds are viable for up to 3 years but viability decreases rapidly after the first year.



## **Running Postman (Goodie):** (*Kennedia prostrata*)



This plant is a prostrate or twining shrub which can spread to a width of 1.5 meters and has light green leaves that comprise 3 rounded leaflets with undulating edges. Scarlet pea flowers are produced singly or in pairs between April and November. These are followed by cylindrical pods that are 3 to 5 cm in length. Running Postman is naturally adapted to sandy or lighter soils and prefers a sunny position. It can be found on plains grasslands, red gum forests, scrubland, dry and valley forests, tea-tree heath, grassy open forest land. It is resistant to drought and has some frost tolerance. Plants can be

propagated by scarified seed and cuttings. The aborigines sucked the nectar and also used the stems as a twine. It recolonises in disturbed areas after fire. Running Postman is a butterfly attracting plant.

## **Bridal Creeper (Baddie):** (*Asparagus asparagoides*)

Bridal creeper is a plant native from Southern Africa. It is sometimes grown as an ornamental plant. It is a major weed species in southern Australia. It was introduced to Australia from South Africa around 1857, for use as a foliage plant, especially in bridal bouquets (hence the common name). It has escaped into the bush and smothers the native vegetation with the thick foliage and thick underground mat of tubers which restrict root growth of other species. It is recognized as one of the 20 "weeds of national significance". The plant flowers in late winter, producing numerous red berries in late spring. The seeds are then readily spread in the droppings of birds, rabbits and foxes, as well as the plant extending its root system. Unlike many other weeds, bridal creeper is capable of colonising undisturbed ecosystems and therefore conventional control methods can be problematic. For example, the use of herbicides can affect non-target species and infestations can be difficult to access due to the habitats this weed invades. The CSIRO has introduced several biological controls including rust fungus from South Africa in an attempt to reduce the spread and impact of the weed.



For those who would like to help us maintain the Koala Reserve, our working bees are held on the last Sunday of each Month at 9.30 am. Meet at the end of Campsie Court end of the Reserve. Refreshments provided.

If anyone would like to become an active member of FOLKLAW, please contact us at the above address. We have many interesting and educational opportunities for you to immerse yourself in! See top of first page for website details.

Please use Ritchies CB cards to assist us in raising funds for future projects. This money is used in growing indigenous plants and in supporting Jennie Bryant, our wildlife carer.