



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

NEWSLETTER Winter 2009

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

Hi all,

On Sunday 31st May at our work Bee, volunteers planted 66 Manna Gums, Prickly Moses, Black She Oaks and Black Anther Flax Lilies near the pumping station end of the Koala Reserve to replace plants that have died and to infill the areas already planted. The plants were grown and donated by our group.

We have also grown and donated 175 more plants to the Somers Foreshore Committee for their planting schedule.

For the National Tree Planting day on 26th July, 455 more plants put in the Koala reserve by FOLKLAW volunteers. The area planted was at the North-eastern end of the ephemeral wet lands. Many thanks to all those involved in these working bees.



We have received a donation for Jennie Bryant (Wildlife carer) from the Birchall family of \$250.00. Instead of their friends giving presents at their youngest son's birthday party the guests were invited to donate money to Jennie. Thank you. The donation was presented to Jennie on Saturday 1/8/9.

Jennie has had a autopsy carried out on a koala due to the large number of recent koala deaths. The aim is to find out if there is a underlying factor in all these sudden deaths. FOLKLAW is funding the autopsy.

On Saturday 1/8/9 FOLKLAW made a donation of 80 indigenous plants to David Wakley of Bittern to assist him in creating a wildlife friendly garden. An addition 30 manor gums were delivered on 7/8/9.

NEXT WORKING BEE SUNDAY 30th AUGUST. Meet in the Campsie Court end of the Koala Reserve, Somers.

Overleaf is some information on weeds and indigenous flora and fauna which may interest you.

Myrtle Wattle (Goodie): (*Acacia myrtifolia*)

Myrtle Wattle belongs to a group of *Acacias* with 3-5 globular flower heads borne in racemes. It is commonly found in heaths on poor soils derived from sandstone. It grows up to 1.5 m high, with smooth angular branches. New growth is often red.



The tough phyllodes (leaf-like structures) are 2-5 cm long and 5-12 mm wide, usually with thickened red margins and a red stem. There is a small gland prominent on the upper edge.

The pale yellow flower heads usually begin flowering in late winter.

They can be propagated from scarified seed or boiling water treatment.

Myrtle Wattle is generally adaptable in cultivation, responds to sunny, reasonably well drained positions in most soils. Suitable for areas of low maintenance and is frost hardy.



Myrtle-leaf milkwort (Baddie): (*Polygala myrtifolia*)

Polygala originated from South Africa. It is a leafy, evergreen shrub up to 3 m high. Its leaves are spirally arranged, smooth, dull, pale-green leaves, 1-4 cm long, with rounded or blunt tips. Yellowing leaves are sometimes retained on the bush. It has purple almost pea-like flowers with a white 'Brush' emerging from the central folded petals. A few flowers occur at the end of branch tips. It flowers any time, but mainly from September to October. It has flattened, green pods which, when ripe, turn brown and split open to release two hard, dark-coloured seeds, attached to fine hairs.

Polygala is a particularly invasive weed in coastal sandy soils and has recently spread inland. Despite its exposure to harsh salt-laden winds, it flourishes and has been observed to flower year round. It seeds prolifically, probably spread by a combination of wind, birds and dumped garden waste. It can be controlled by hand pulling seedlings and digging out mature plants. On steep slopes, large specimens should be cut and the stumps treated with herbicide. If pods are present, stack and burn plants in a hot fire, or seal in strong bags and take to the tip. Other plants can be left to decompose on the ground with their roots in the air.

If anyone would like to become an active member of FOLKLAW, please contact us at the above address, or phone Peter on 9690 1774. We have many interesting and educational opportunities such as growing and learning about indigenous plants.

Please use and ask your friends to support our Ritchies CB card 92591 to assist us in raising funds for future projects. This money is used for growing indigenous plants and in supporting Jennie Bryant, our wildlife carer.