



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

NEWSLETTER Autumn 2010

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Hi all,

During April, a dog poo box that had been vandalised in the Koala Reserve was repaired. A Fox control program was undertaken in the Reserve. One fox was caught. A dead koala was found in the Reserve. It appeared to have died of natural causes associated with old age. It was buried in the Reserve. This brings the number of dead koalas found in the Reserve in the last year to 3. The Balnarring Koala notice board had been cleaned of graffiti and updated.

Thanks to Brian Evans for filling up the dog poo boxes with plastic bags on a regular basis during the year.

Thanks to Jeremy Grant for auditing the FOLKLAW annual accounts.

Thanks to the Somers Foreshore Committee of Management for arranging the fox control program in the Koala Reserve free of charge.



Special Note: FOLKLAW is looking for people to assist in running our independent organisation. No knowledge is required, just some time and enthusiasm. We are a non-political and friendly and social group of volunteers.

The FOLKLAW AGM was held on Sunday 2nd May at the Balnarring Community Hall, 3041 Frankston-Flinders Rd. Two new committee members joined. The financial accounts were passed. Our president gave a report of the years activities. Thanks to all those who attended the meeting.

The above picture is an example of volunteers' dedication in building a new Beach Hill entrance to the Koala Reserve.

Reminder: FOLKLAW working bees Sunday 31st October. Meet at the end of Campsie Court at 9.30 am. Refreshments are provided.

If you wish to support FOLKLAW you can get a Ritchies benefit card 92951. The money is automatically sent to us. Thank you for your support.

The picture to the right is the newly cleared Victoria Ave entrance to the Koala Reserve.

Somers School Art Fair. As usual we will have a stall so come and say hello. The event will be held on Sunday 24th October.



Arum Lily (Baddie): (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

Arum lily is a robust, dark green, succulent herb, sometimes also known as Calla or White arum lily. It grows to 1.5 meters high and has tuberous underground stems (rhizomes) and fleshy white roots. Its leaves are blades 15-50 cm long and 8-25 cm wide, on fleshy stalks 40-110 cm long. The flower stem about as high as the tops of the leaves. Upper half to three quarters of flower spike (spadix) is male and lower part female. Arum Lily flowers late winter to summer. Its fruit is green or yellow, about 1 cm wide and seeds yellow-orange, about 3 mm wide. It spreads by seed and movement of rhizomes.



Arum Lily was introduced to Australia from South Africa as a garden plant and subsequently escaped to become established as a weed. It is found in creeks, irrigation ditches and areas of summer-moist land often forming large dense clumps. Arum lily has fleshy roots and forms extensive tubers. The roots when boiled provide a starchy food for some South African tribes; however, they are poisonous when eaten raw. It is toxic to stock and humans with fatalities in both recorded. It is frequently sold in the cut flower trade. Seeds germinate readily, but do not remain viable from year to year.



Sweet Bursaria (Goodie): (*Bursaria spinosa*)

Bursaria spinosa is a small tree or shrub in the family Pittosporaceae. The species occurs in all Australian states except Western Australia and the Northern Territory. It is an erect, prickly shrub to about 3-4 metres tall. The leaves are an elongated oval shape 20-45 mm long and up to 12 mm wide, green above and hairy beneath. The flowers are creamy-white, sweetly scented, about 7-10 mm in diameter and borne in dense terminal clusters. Flowers are usually seen in mid-summer, around Christmas time, which gives rise to the common name of 'Christmas Bush' in Tasmania and South Australia. Flowers are followed by flattened, purse-shaped seed capsules about 10 mm x 10 mm. It will tolerate a wide range of soils except very wet areas. The variety in Somers has dense, prickly

branches which provide protection for smaller birds against predators. The flowers are also an important source of nectar for butterflies. Plants can become 'leggy' and annual pruning is desirable to promote a more bushy habit. *Bursaria* will often colonise cleared land. Propagation is from seed, which germinates readily, or cuttings. *Bursaria spinosa* plays host to a small wasp, a limited distance flyer which helps control the Christmas Beetle by parasitising the larvae. (Christmas Beetle causes great devastation to Eucalypt species).

