



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

NEWSLETTER Winter/Spring Newsletter 2010

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Hi all,

On 31st October at 9am the rain finally ceased after almost 24 hours and 65mm, so our working bee started at 9.30am. Five volunteers planted 247 plants in the Koala Reserve as well as carrying out weeding. Light rain and showers didn't deter this hardy bunch of volunteers.



The stall at the Somers school art fair was busier than usual with people showing a renewed interest. A free raffle for new and existing members who visited our stall was won by a new member from the suburb of Casey. The prize of pond/garden lights was donated.

Weed control in the Koala Reserve is continually being implemented. We are focusing on protecting the ephemeral wet lands area in the centre of the reserve and up to the surrounding pathways. Weed control is also continually being carried out in the other revegetated zones.

Volunteers come to the working Bees every month, unselfishly giving up their valuable time to look after this reserve that was once a gorse and blackberry infested paddock. Two people, Phil Birchall and Allan Lim Joon have been on our Committee for over 15 years and also involved in maintaining and helping to carry out the tasks involved in managing the Koala Reserve since its conception. Now that's what I call a commitment!

On Saturday 13th November 3 FOLKLAW members attended a Workshop held by the Mornington Peninsula Shire at The Briars, Mt Martha. The presentation was called 'Plant Identification in your patch' and covered such topics as basic botany, tools for plant identification and common native and introduced species that can be confused. A field trip around the grounds of The Briars was also included. Cameron Cross from Seeds Bushland Restoration Company and Jo-Anne Tetteroo, a Shire Conservation Officer held the workshop. Approximately 20 attended the presentation from many different Friends groups around the Mornington Peninsula. Some books that were recommended at the workshop that may be of use are:

Costemans, L. (1994) Native Trees & Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia, New Holland Publishers, Sydney.

Scott, R. et al. (2002) Indigenous Plants of the Sandbelt. A Gardening guide for South-eastern Melbourne. Earthcare, Melbourne.

Richardson, F.J. et al (2007) Weeds of the South East. An Identification guide for Australia, R.G. And F.J. Richardson, Meredith.

(2003) Foothills to Foreshore, A Field Guide to Selected Indigenous Plants of Southern Victoria Suitable for Cultivation by Kathie and Peter Strickland.

FOLKLAW will be involved in supplying materials and building 10 possum boxes for a local wildlife carer in Balnarring.

Our major new project will be to supply materials and build a large wallaby compound with a large purpose built attached enclosure. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Agapanthus (Baddie): (*Agapanthus praecox ssp. orientalis*)

Agapanthus praecox subspecies *orientalis* is a native of the eastern part of the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. They reproduce by both seeds and rhizomes. They are dispersed by water, garden waste, garden waste, wind and contaminated soil. They have up to 20 poisonous strap-like leaves per plant. These leaves are arching and are not leathery and range in length from 20 to 70 cm long and 3 to 5 cm wide. The roots and sap are also poisonous and can irritate and cause mouth ulceration. Flowers range from blue to white. Numerous shiny black seeds are produced in three-sided capsules which contain segments which are less than 50 mm in length towards the end of summer into autumn. The rhizomes are dense, fleshy, crowded, strong and aggressive and form large continually extending clumps. *Agapanthus* invades forest edges, open forest and woodland. They form dense stands which can dominate and displace groundcover vegetation, prevent regeneration of native plant species and reduce habitat for native fauna. They can change fire regimes in natural areas since these plants are likely to be fire retardant, making heavily infested areas of bushland difficult to burn. *Agapanthus* shed old outer leaves every year, replacing them with new leaves from the apex of the growing shoot. They survive in poor soils, but must receive some water in summer. *Agapanthus* spreads rapidly along drainage lines, but will also gradually spread in dry areas. Small infestations of *Agapanthus* can be controlled by digging them out. All of the rhizome must be removed and destroyed off-site, as any remaining rhizomes will re-grow even if up turned upside down. Small younger plants should be removed as early as possible. Flower heads should be cut to prevent seed set. They are moderately resistant to herbicides. Surfactants may help improve penetration into the waxy-coated leaves. Use cut and paint treatment. Alternatively spray with 1% Grazon® just before flowering. Try cutting leaves off to stimulate new growth then spray re-growth. Follow-up weeding of seedlings and shoots from rhizomes will be necessary.



Snowy Daisy-bush (Goodie): (*Olearia lirata*)



Olearia lirata is a soft open shrub 2.5 meters by 2.3 meters. Its slender branches are covered with whitish short wooly hairs. Its leaves are dark green with whitish underneath. It flowers in spring through summer and has small white daisy-like flowers in large loose panicles at or near the end of its branches. Snowy Daisy-bush can be propagated by seed or cuttings. It grows in most soils and tolerates full sun or shade. It is a great showy garden and bushland plant. It grows in moist forest and scrub land in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

We take this opportunity to wish all our members a happy Christmas and New Year.