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NEWSLETTER *Spring Newsletter 2011*

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Hi all,

Somers Arts Fair

On Sunday 23rd October FOLKLAW had a stall at the Somers Arts Fair. We raised over \$100 which will be used to propagate plants and for support wildlife carers etc. A baby possum that had fallen out of a tree was handed to us by a concerned member of the public. We cared for it until a local wild life carer could come to pick it up for rehabilitation.

Working Bees

FOLKLAW has put in 140 plants in the Koala Reserve during the September working bee and 250 plants in the Koala Reserve during the October working bee.

Many thanks for our volunteers for their hard work and for donating extra time to complete the planting. We are continually weeding and have a new project to create a Coastal Banksia woodland area in part of the Koala Reserve. This project is already well under way.

Friends of Banksia Square

FOLKLAW donated 200 plants to Friends of Banksia Square and lent them equipment during September.

Private Land Owners

FOLKLAW donated 110 plants consisting of Manna Gums, Peppermint Gums, large Black Anther Flax Lilies and Running Postman to a private landowner in Somers and gave him use of our equipment. We have also assisted private land owners abutting on the Koala Reserve with weed eradication and planting of indigenous plants.

All the donated plants were sourced and grown by FOLKLAW volunteers.

Somers Foreshore Committee of Management

We are continuing our year long support of the SFCoM by arranging the use of the FOLKLAW trailer and all the on-board equipment. This assistance enables them to continue their fantastic work in eradicating weeds and revegetation of the Somers foreshore.

FOLKLAW Subscription Renewals

We will be sending out subscription renewal reminders in December. The money raised by these subscriptions and donations enables us to carry out our environmental work for the next year.

Somers Post Office and General Store

We would like to thank Sue and Greg for their support in selling the 'No Tree No Me' stickers at the Post Office. We would also like to thank the General Store for allowing us to have our notice board on their wall.

Watsonia (Baddie): (*Watsonia bulbifera*)



Watsonia bulbifera is a perennial weed from South Africa. It was accidentally introduced among ornamental gladioli and other watsonias in the 19th century because of its hardiness and bright flowers and has spread from former garden plantings to become a weed in southern Australia. Six species of *Watsonia* have been recorded as naturalised in conservation reserves and state forests in Western Australia including Kings Park. They are all believed to be garden escapes. Because they are of garden origin it is often difficult to determine the exact

species. *Watsonia aletroides* was first recorded as naturalised in Western Australia in 1981 and in Victoria in 1989. *Watsonia bulbifera* is a serious weed in the wetter south coast and south-west of Western Australia where it colonises roadsides. *Watsonia marginata*, which has open pale lilac flowers, occurs around old settlements from the Darling Range to Albany. *Watsonia bulbifera* is slow to spread but forms permanent populations once established. It is most abundant on acidic soils with poor drainage but can grow on a wide range of soils. The dormant corms formed in the previous year germinate rapidly at the first autumn rains and new corms already begin to form before the flowers appear in October to early December. The leaves and stems die back by late December. Up to three corms are produced alongside the main corm each year and cormlets are produced in the axils of the leaves. It spreads by corms and bulbils being moved by earth-moving equipment and by water.



Corm with outer fibrous layers and bulbils on flower stem.

Pobblebonk Frog or Southern Banjo Frog (Goodie): (*Limnodynastes dumerilii insularis*)



Limnodynastes dumerilii is a frog species from the family Myobatrachidae. The informal names for this species, and its subspecies, include Eastern or Southern Banjo Frog and Bull frog. The frog is also called the pobblebonk after its distinctive "bonk" call, which is similar to a banjo string being plucked. It is native to eastern Australia and has been introduced to New Zealand. There are five subspecies of *L. dumerilii*, each with different skin coloration. This subspecies occurs south of Jervis Bay, along the south coast of New South Wales, in eastern Victoria

and throughout Tasmania. It is a large species up to 85 mm long and is readily identified by a prominent tibial gland on each hind leg and a pale raised stripe from below the eye to the top of the front leg. It is characterised and distinguished by blue coloration present on the flank. There is often a pale mid-dorsal stripe. Males call from a concealed position in water during spring, summer and autumn. Tadpoles are up to 65 mm long. Eggs are laid in a large, white floating raft in permanent still water in swamps, streams, dams and lakes.