



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

## NEWSLETTER Winter Newsletter 2011

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Hi all,

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, Folklaw held our AGM at the Somers Fire Brigade Rooms, Camp Hill Rd, Somers. Our Committee was elected and its members are listed below:

Position	Name
President	Phil Birchall
Treasurer	Peter Cooper
Secretary	Karin Cooper
Committee Member	Allan Lim Joon
Committee Member	Henry Broadbent
Committee Member	Sophie Beiers
Committee Member	Gilbert Hogarth
Committee Member	Pam Bannister
Committee Member	Trudi Oldis

Many thanks to all those who attended and of course all the Committee members who volunteer their time. Our end of year financial report which had been kindly audited by Jeremy Grant was passed by all those present.

We also had an additional end of year Council Report and financial return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010 passed by Matt Stahmer our Council Conservation Officer. This report solely concerns the Somers Koala Reserve.

The Koala Reserve is now being mowed on a regular basis. We have recently upgraded all the bridges and viewing platforms by making the flooring less slippery. Regular managed contractor weed spraying is also being carried out. All our wonderful volunteers turn up on a regular monthly basis to weed, clean up rubbish, cut back bushes, plant and undertake any other necessary work.

If you are interested in the following events being organised please attend at no cost to yourself!

Planting Day: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30 am at the Koala Reserve. Meet Campsie Court entry. Refreshments provided.

Somers Arts Fair Stall: Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, all day event at the Somers Primary School. Come and meet some of the FOLKLAW volunteers.

## Mirror Bush (Baddie): (*Coprosma repens*)



The Mirror Bush, also known as Taupata, Mirror Bush, Looking-glass Bush, New Zealand Laurel and Shiny Leaf originated in New Zealand. The looking glass bush is a shrub to small tree up to 8 meters tall. Branches spread prostrate sometimes self-layering. Leaves are broadly oblong 8- x 50 mm, glossy green above and pale beneath. Flowers are white and arranged in clusters. The male flowers appearing in dense, compound clusters, the female flowers in smaller clusters. Female plants produce orange-red ovoid fruit which are around 8 mm in diameter and 10 mm in length and dispersed by birds. Flowering time is in late Spring to early Summer. Seeding time is in late Summer to early Autumn. Mirror bush smothers other plants. Mirror bush is primarily a coastal weed, as it is mainly planted in coastal gardens due to its high salt tolerance. It grows on coastal headlands and heath land and tolerates drought, fire and

most soil types. It is resistant to salt spray and often grown in coastal gardens because of its hardiness. Mirror bush can be removed by digging out, cutting the stem and painting with herbicide or by drilling and filling with herbicide.



Female flower

Male flower

## Coastal Banksia (Goodie): (*Banksia integrifolia*)



*Banksia integrifolia*, commonly known as Coast Banksia or White Honeysuckle, is a species of tree that grows along the east coast of Australia. It is one of the most widely distributed *Banksia* species which occurs between Victoria and Central Queensland in a broad range of habitats, from coastal dunes to mountains. It is highly variable in form, but can grow up to 15 meters with grey or brown, semi-smooth bark. Its smooth leaves have dark green upper surfaces and white undersides, a contrast that can be striking on windy days. It is one of the four original *Banksia* species collected by Sir Joseph Banks in 1770. A hardy and versatile garden plant, *B. integrifolia* is widely planted in Australian gardens. It has golden yellow flower spikes which grow to 15cm high during January to September and are suitable in flower arrangements. It is a popular choice for parks and streetscapes, and has been used for bush revegetation and stabilisation of dunes. It is a bird attracting plant. *B. integrifolia* is frost resistant and prefers full sun. Its hardiness has prompted research into its suitability for use as a rootstock in the cut flower trade, but has also caused concerns about its potential to become a weed outside its natural habitat. Nectar from the cones was used by Koories to make sweet drinks.