



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

NEWSLETTER *Autumn Newsletter 2012*

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

Hi all,

The F.O.L.K.L.A.W. notice board located at the Somers store will be moved to allow space for a new community notice board. The new site will be next to the stores red front doors.

A.G.M. RESULTS. All 8 existing committee members were re-elected. The years audited treasury figures were presented, summary of 2011 and future works /projects were presented and any queries or questions from people present were answered.

Many thanks to Trudi Oldis for her following contribution to this Newsletter.

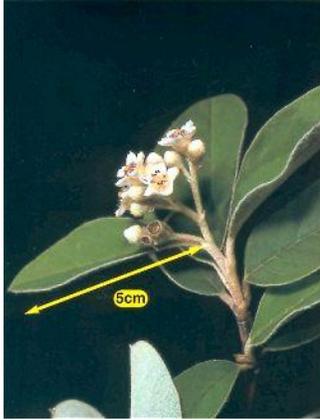
CARING FOR CORRIDORS

*It's so difficult to understand and overcome the deep disconnection to nature that has been fostered in people. In Australia before European arrival, this country had a whopping 80% MORE forest cover than today. Science has proven that the more species of life there are the greater chance of survival for all of us. Species diversity is the key to the continuation of life on Earth. Healthy functioning Eco-systems must be retained restored and where we can, re-vegetate. AKA the 3 R's. *RETAIN, RESTORE, RE-VEGETATE*.*

Some years ago I had the privilege of working with a Botanist. As we walked through bushland he would be pulling out weeds. I said that it was futile and his reply was ANY weeding is doing something productive. The Bradley sisters started a method of beginning with small patches of indigenous vegetation and gradually weeding outward to restore the integrity of the area. This inspired me to work as a volunteer bush re-generator which I have been doing for a frustrating and rewarding 30 years. Over the last 5 years I have had the joy of maintaining FOLKLAW's plantings on the Kennedy road bush track and have restored patches of Weeping grass and Wallaby grass, Spear grass, Spiny Headed Mat Rush, Themada, Lomandra, Chocolate lilies, Dichondra (kidney weed) and Black Anther Flax Lilies by selectively mowing and hand weeding Cape Weed, Watsonia and pasture grasses. Dragonflies, butterflies, skinks, blue-tongue lizards all sorts of native beetles and tiny birds have returned and breed in this restored corridor and recently I saw an old Echidna moseying on down the track to a hidey spot. My friend Rhonda and I have been weeding the roadside vegetation next to paved track along Sandy Point Road from Kennedy road down to Camp Hill road. Spraying gorse for 3 years and hand weeding has resulted in an Eco-system providing thicket of hedge wattles and swamp paperbark for tiny birds and other species to breed in.

When I see a healthy Koala or hear the trilling of the thumb size big voiced wrens and other tiny birds I feel like I have received the best pay packet ever - gifts from Nature. I say WELL DONE to everyone who gets in and helps Nature. You will feel the benefits straight away...promise.

Cotoneaster (Baddie): (*Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*)



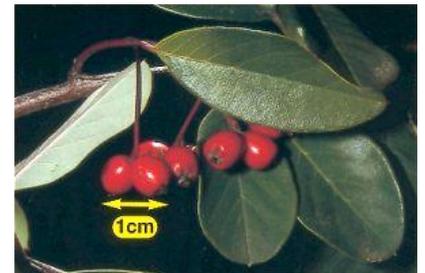
Cotoneaster is a shrub which is native to China. It is an upright or arching shrub (usually growing 3-5 m tall) with many branching stems. Its younger branches are reddish-brown and finely hairy, older branches become hairless and turn grey or dark brown. Its leaves are moderately large (2-8 cm long and 1.5-4.0 cm wide) with smooth and dark green upper surfaces. It has small white flowers (about 5 mm across) which are borne in large dense clusters and have five small spreading petals. Flowering occurs mostly during late spring and summer. Its rounded or egg-shaped 'berries' (6-8 mm across) turn bright red as they mature. The fruit may be present from autumn through to late winter (i.e. February to August).

The plant reproduces by seed, which are commonly spread by birds that eat the brightly coloured fruit. Seeds are also dispersed by other animals (e.g. foxes) and in dumped garden waste. The fruit may also be disbursed by being washed along watercourses. If plants are cut down they will produce suckers from the base (i.e. crown).

Cotoneaster glaucophyllus is a significant environmental weed in Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT, and a moderately important environmental weed in New South Wales, Western Australia and on Lord Howe Island.

This species is commonly found on the fringes of urban bushland and along roadsides in southern Australia. It also invades heathlands, lowland grasslands, open woodlands, dry sclerophyll forests, wet sclerophyll forests, coastal habitats, riparian vegetation, freshwater wetlands and rocky outcrop vegetation. This species, like the other cotoneasters, forms thickets under tall trees and dense infestations will shade out the native ground flora and impede the regeneration of overstorey plants.

Its fruit is poisonous to humans and this species can also act as a host for bacterial fireblight, a disease of orchards.



Cushion Bush, Snow Bush, Silver Nugget (Goodie): (*Leucophyta brownii*)



Leucophyta brownii is a small, rounded shrub with tangled tomentose branchlets that give it a silvery appearance. It commonly occurs on the exposed faces of cliffs and dunes on the south coast of Australia. Although it can grow up to 1 metre high, it is more usually 0.2 to 0.7 metres high. It produces flowers during summer (December to February in Australia). These are white - yellow globular heads and about 1 cm in diameter. It is abundant on

coastal dunes and sea-cliffs along the whole coastline. . It is wind, drought, salt and frost tolerant and thrives in all soil types . It becomes wind-pruned in exposed positions. Cushion Bush is often used in coastal town park, roadside and median strip plantings and new varieties have been developed by the horticultural industry.

