



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

## NEWSLETTER Winter Newsletter 2012

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Ritehie's CB Card Number 92591  
Editor: Karin Cooper

Hi all,



25<sup>th</sup> September 2011 - one of the pathways in the Koala Reserve.

During the May working bee FOLKLAW volunteers planted 150 flowering plants to brighten up the Koala Reserve on such a wet dismal day. In the June, July and August working bees we carried on planting and continued the never ending task of weeding.



25<sup>th</sup> September 2011 - some of the FOLKLAW volunteers.

During the months of April and May, reports of intentional destruction of plants to areas of the Koala Reserve were brought to our attention. The culprit is a Somers resident who lives near the Koala reserve and is being monitored.



or sick koalas.  
29<sup>th</sup> July 2012 - view across the flooded basin from the viewing platform.

We are continuing to support the Banskia Square residents who are restoring the area to its former glory. FOLKLAW has donated plants and lent equipment to help this worthwhile cause.

We also have been called out to rescue a very unhappy sick Koala from the Somers Foreshore. We took her to Jennie Bryant, our local wildlife carer but sadly the koala did not survive. A number of koalas in Somers have been hit by cars. Please take extra care on our roads and report any injured

FOLKLAW sourced, grew and donated a number of plants to the Friends of the South Sea Foreshore Reserve.



29<sup>th</sup> July 2012 - part of the flooded creek bed in the Koala Reserve.



29<sup>th</sup> July 2012 - FOLKLAW equipment trailer in use.

A new project to finance and build a wildlife treatment building for a Frankston carer has been agreed to. The money will come from subscriptions, donations and money raised from when you shop at RITCHIES via their Community Benefits Card scheme. This will be the third large project undertaken by FOLKLAW. Volunteers will put in about 170 hours and material costs are approx \$2,000.00. If you wish to help in any way please contact Peter on 59832849.

The Somers Koala Reserve is looking the best it has ever been thanks to the amount of rain that we have been having. The basin in the center of the reserve is full of frogs, birds and other wildlife. After the years of drought, it is heartening to see such an abundance of life in the reserve and the growth of the plant life is also a joy to see. If you have not walked through the reserve lately, it is worth a visit. It is hard to imagine that the area was originally grassland and paddocks before volunteers started to transform the site.



29<sup>th</sup> July 2012 - Campsie Court entry to Koala Reserve.

### **Hop Goodenia (Goodie):** (*Goodenia ovata*)



*Goodenia ovata* is a flowering plant endemic to Australia. It grows in most states except Western Australia and the Northern Territory, near the coast as well as in drier inland areas. The plant usually behaves like a fast-growing groundcover, and upright shrubby forms also exist. As a shrub it grows to about 2 m high. *Goodenia ovata* has glossy green, serrated oval shaped leaves about 5-10 cm long and yellow flowers that attract butterflies. It flowers for most of the year, but especially from October till March.

In cultivation, the species prefers a situation in part shade and with some moisture. It copes with a range of soil types and tolerates moderate frost. It can cope with compacted soils and can colonise disturbed areas quickly so is often used for highway planting.

### **Cape Ivy (Baddie):** (*Delairea odorata*)

Cape Ivy is a perennial plant that grows as a ground cover or climber up to 10 meters. Leaves are bright green, fleshy and shiny, ivy-shaped with 5-7 lobes. Leaves are arranged singly on alternate sides of the stem and are variable in size. Flowers are conspicuous clusters of small, unpleasantly scented yellow, daisy-like flower heads. Cape Ivy flowers from July to September. Cape Ivy forms a thick mat smothering out native plants. It is used as a ground cover and on fences. It quickly climbs up trees and overtakes the garden and bush. It spreads by climbing over other plants and by seeds which are spread by birds, wind, water, soil and dumped garden waste. Plant fragments will grow into new plants. Not widely available in nurseries but common at markets. Cape Ivy is poisonous to mammals, spiders and aquatic creatures.

