



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

## NEWSLETTER Autumn Newsletter 2013

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

Hi all,



The FOLKLAW A.G.M was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April at the Somers Fire Brigade Rooms. 14 people attended, all matters were passed. We would like to thank all who turned up for this thankless task which is required by law. All existing 9 members of the committee were re-elected - no new nominations were received. We are always open to more committee members - no special talents or aptitude needed. Committee meetings are held 3 to 4 times a year.

Above photo: FOLKLAW Committee Members are from left to right: Pam Bannister, Peter Cooper, Phil Birchall, Karin Cooper, Allan Lim Joon, Gilbert Hogarth, Henry Broadbent, Sophie Beiers.

APRIL WORKING BEE: 7 People attended we cut back the overhanging bushes along the foot paths and carried out weeding.

MAY WORKING BEE: 12 People attended, 126 plants planted in the new Banksia areas

NEXT W/BEE: 30<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am to 11.30 am meet Koala Reserve end of Campsie Court, Somers.



MAINTENANCE WORKS. 100 metres of existing foot path has been raised and storm water drainage pipes have been laid underneath to stop the problem of the path flooding. The Beach Hill vehicle barrier has been repaired. Grass slashed along paths and boundary - mid May

**FoCBAW:** Friends of Coastal Banksia Woodlands is a new Landcare Friends Group dedicated to preserving and restoring areas of the Somers Foreshore. Help us to preserve and maintain the Somers Foreshore now and for the future by becoming a FoCBAW volunteer.

WORKING BEES are held on either Monday or Thursday between 9.30 am and 12.30 am.

June working bees - Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> meet at Lower car park in the picnic area, opposite the SYC boat yard. Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> - meet Upper car park picnic area, opposite Somers General Store.

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> - meet Upper car park.

### **Pale Vanilla Lily (Goodie):** (*Arthropodium milleflorum*)



Pale Vanilla Lily is a species of herbaceous perennial plants native to Australia. It occurs in various habitats including alpine areas and grows to between 0.3 and 1.3 metres high and 0.3 metres wide. The plant has a strong vanilla fragrance, especially noticeable on warm days. Flowering stems appear in late spring and summer, with two or more pendulous white, pale blue

or pink flowers at each node. The tubers are 20-30 mm long and 3-5 mm in diameter. Plants may be propagated from seed or by dividing the tubers. It is a tufted plant with grass-like leaves up to 40 cm long and 1-15 cm wide. It has fibrous roots which end in tubers some distance from the plant which were eaten by Aborigines. Vanilla Lily flowers from November to February and is common on moist sheltered slopes from sea level to montane sites. It tolerates most soils but likes to be damp. It can be successfully grown in sheltered areas of the garden. It is propagated from seed.



### **Gorse (Baddie):** (*Ulex europaeus*)

Gorse is also known as furze, whin, common gorse and golden gorse. It is a very dense spiny evergreen shrub that grows 2-7 meters tall with an equal spread. It is highly inflammable and greatly increases fire risk. It is used as an ornamental shrub, hedge plant and windbreak. It is also used in medicine, for dye and as food for livestock. Gorse forms dense thickets, especially after fires, which shade out indigenous plants and prevent access. Gorse originated in Western Europe including the British Isles. It tolerates many soil types, frost to -20degrees Celsius, salt laden wind and drought.



It does not tolerate heavy shade.

Gorse spreads by seed which are flung out up to 5 meters by explosive pods. Seeds can also be carried by water, wind, birds, ants, vehicles, gravel graders, mud on animals and humans, dumped garden waste and contaminated soil. Germination takes place mostly in autumn and spring to mid-summer when the temperature is 15-19 degrees Celsius. Early seedling growth can be rapid and plants may flower first when 18 months old.

Gorse burns readily but is not killed - it re-sprouts and seeds germinate. Plants can live to at least 29 years. Seeds may stay dormant to at least 30 years. Seeds are hard coated and heat is usually required to break dormancy. Burnt areas are usually covered with dense seedling carpet after rain. Seed that is 25 years old is 85% viable. Up to 6 million seeds per hectare may be produced annually and as many as 100 million per hectare are in soil seed bank. Gorse fixes nitrogen and may cause an increase in acidification of the soil. Gorse has been declared a weed of national significance.