



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

## NEWSLETTER *Spring Newsletter 2013*

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*Hi all,*

*One of our members Anne has made and donated a lovely Christmas Koala themed advent quilt and cloth bunting. Many thanks for the thought and surprise donation.*

*We have given all of our working bee volunteers each a personal back pack containing hat, fluoro-vest, leather gloves, special weeding gloves, eye protector glasses, sun glasses and water proof gloves for their use at working bees.*

*We supported the Somers Foreshore Committee with a working bee where they had 20 Monash University students carrying out voluntary work. Three of our volunteers attended and the FOLKLAW equipment trailer was provided on the day.*

*The new private insurance policy has been taken out to cover your committee and volunteers. 100 Bulbine Lilies, 100 Old Mans Beard, 140 Coastal Manor Gums and 6 Coastal Banksias all grown by volunteers have been donated to various people and other voluntary groups. Each plant would cost \$2.50 if bought from a nursery.*

*On 27th August a special working bee of 5 Monash University students and three FOLKLAW members planted 110 plants and carried out weeding in the new Banksia Revegetation Areas of the Somers Koala Reserve.*

*On 27th September a working bee was held where six of our volunteers removed 7 bags of weeds and two weed bushes.*

*On 27th October the stall at the Somers Arts fair was run by 4 volunteers who signed up 9 new members and 2 lapsed members rejoined. 10 people took Ritchie's C.B cards. Total money raised on the day was \$258.55. Many thanks to Steve & Anne Ainsworth, Pam Bannister and Peter Cooper for all the hard work and effort they contributed for FOLKLAW. Three other volunteers attended the monthly working bee on the same day and removed weeds from the Reserve.*

*On 24th November a working bee was held where 9 people collected 8 bags of weeds this is the last w/bee for the year.*

*On 29th November the FOLKLAW tools trailer was delivered to the Friends of South Seas Rd for their use during the day at no cost. The trailer was also picked up thanks to a FOLKLAW volunteer.*

*Other Works carried in the Koala Reserve:*

*Campsie Court pedestrian entry barrier repaired.*

*Weed spraying of paths, new and old planting areas have been continually carried out during the spring season. The work is now being done on a different basis - we now respond to the actual growth of weeds instead of the past system of the time of year. The growth of weeds no longer appears to be tied into the seasons of the year as in the past.*

To all our readers, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

**Bower Spinach (Goodie):** (*Tetragonia implexicoma*)



Bower Spinach is native to Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania.

It occupies a variety of habitats from sand and shingle beaches through coastal woodland, shrubland, grassland, and ravaged salt vegetation on cliffs. It may also be found well inland, in farmland where it grows in hedges, or on sandstone or limestone outcrops in dense forest.

It is a prostrate, trailing or climbing plant with branches to 3 m long or more and sometimes forming mounds. The stems are long and trailing, often succulent and coloured red or pink when young, maturing to dark green to brown-black and becoming woody. The leaves are alternate, clustered and fleshy. The yellow flowers are strongly scented and solitary. The fruits are 5-8 millimetres long, pink to dark red, succulent berries which are eaten by birds and lizards. These berries were also used as a source of red dye. It is used as a valuable leaf vegetable by indigenous Australians and by early European sailors and settlers as a source of vitamin C to ward off scurvy.

**Angled Onion (Baddie):** (*Allium triquentrum*)

Angled Onion is native to south-western Europe, north-western Africa, Madeira and the Canary Islands, where it grows in meadows, woodland clearings, on river banks and roadside verges from sea level to an altitude of 850 metres. It has also been introduced to the British Isles, Turkey, Australia, North America and South America.

All parts of the plant, from the bulb to the flowers, are edible fresh or cooked and have a flavour like leek or spring onion.

Bulbs and seeds spread in contaminated soil and garden refuse. Seeds also spread by water and ants.

Leaves are bright green, limp, fleshy, pointed leaves up to 30cm with a strong onion smell when crushed.

Flowers are small, white, bell-shaped, clustered at end of long, triangular stems. Each petal has a middle green line.

Fruit consists of rounded green capsules, 4- 6mm diameter, with black, oblong seeds.

Angled Onion can be eradicated by the following methods:

Remove small and scattered plants first and then target outer edges of larger infestations. It is best removed prior to seed when plants are fully grown and parent bulb exhausted.

Angled Onion has bulbous, fibrous roots.

For Large Infestations Remove flower heads prior to seed set, using either lawn mower or brush cutter or cover infested area with dense mulch matting (eg. Old carpet, thick newspaper) topped with appropriate mulch after active growth and leave to rot down. Alternatively, cover with black plastic prior to seed set. Leave plants to 'cook' for several weeks or longer if possible before hand removing or spot spraying the weakened plants. As a last resort spray plants with herbicide during active growth. Do not spray near streams or waterways.

Disposal can be by either burning in a very hot fire or sealing in strong bags and take to the tip. It may take several years to exhaust the bulb food supply. Continue cutting new growth and maintaining dense mulch.

