



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

NEWSLETTER Autumn Newsletter 2014

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Hi all,



A new project:

Nine new possum nesting /rehabilitation boxes were made and donated to Clarissa the local wildlife carer who lives in Balnarring. The boxes were made to a specific design and painted green by FOLKLAW volunteer Gilbert Hogarth. Delivery of the boxes was arranged by Peter Cooper.

March Working Bee:

10 Volunteers gave up their valuable time on a lovely sunny day, cutting back pathways, collecting five bags of weeds, collecting rubbish

and removing plant guards and bamboo stakes.

April Working Bee:

7 volunteers collected 5 bags of weeds and planted the expansion of the ongoing Banksia revegetation area.

May Working bee:

14 volunteers collected 3 bags of weeds and half a trailer load of branch cuttings. The day started with a horrendous rain down pour but sun appeared as the volunteers turned up.

The FOLKLAW equipment trailer was borrowed by Somers Foreshore Committee for an evening planting by the local cubs group. The Friends of Coastal Banksias and Woodland also used the trailer for a morning working bee. On both occasions the trailer was delivered and collected by one of our volunteers. The trailer is lent out by FOLKLAW free of any charges.



A.G.M.

The FOLKLAW AGM was held on 4TH May 2014 for the 2013 financial year. 15 people attended which is a good result for our A.G.M. Thanks to all who gave up their valuable time.

Moved Website:

In January we lost the use of the government library free hosting site due to cost cutting measure by the library. We have tried various other organisations for free use, but to no avail.

Folklaw now has been registered as a domain name for the next 2 years and we have paid for the use of a host website for 2 years.

Our new website is located at <http://www.folklaw.org.au>.

NEXT W/BEE. Sunday 29TH June 9.30-11.30 meet at the end of Campsie Court.

Last Sunday of every month - Meet 9.30am at Campsie Court entry to the Koala Reserve, Somers.

White Correa (Goodie): (*Correa alba*)



It grows to 1.5 metres in height and 2 meters in width, has reddish-brown hairy new growth. The leaves are near circular to ovate and have a round base and a rounded tip. They are 1.5 to 3.5 cm long 1 to 2.7 cm wide with a hairless or (nearly hairless) upper surface and tomentose lower surface. The white or occasionally light pink four-petalled flowers usually appear between mid autumn and early winter (April to June). The species occurs in sandy or rocky areas in coastal areas of south-eastern Australia namely Coastal NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and

South Australia. *Correa alba* is a hardy species in well-drained situations that withstands coastal exposure. A position in full sun is best for flowering, but it can also be grown in part shade. It may be used to create an informal hedge or as a container plant. It can flower for most of the year depending on the climate. It is very resistant to salt spray and is tolerant of at least moderate frosts. Once established it is tolerant of extended dry periods.

Sweet pittosporum (Baddie): (*Pittosporum undulatum*)

Sweet Pittosporum is a tall evergreen shrub or small tree growing to a height of around 14 m and a spread of 6 m. Its foliage is very dense creating areas of deep shade beneath its canopy. The oval leaves are shiny and dark green, paler beneath and have wavy edges. New growth in winter and spring is a lighter green. The creamy white flowers are found in clusters of 4-5 at the end of stems. They are 2cm long and bell-shaped with a sweet scent. The berries are hard and green, turning yellow then orange.



When ripe they split open revealing 20-30 sticky orange seeds. Sweet Pittosporum is native to coastal areas of southern Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. It is now a weed problem both within and outside its natural range in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia. It is present on King, Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands and many countries overseas including Jamaica, the Azores and South Africa. It is already a serious weed in the Sydney area and the New South Wales mid-north coast. Sweet Pittosporum reproduces by seeds and suckers. Spread has been encouraged by gardeners who praise its hardiness and sweet perfume. Seeds are dispersed by fruit eating birds and other animals including foxes and possums. It also spreads in dumped garden waste and contaminated soil and seeds stick to animals and footwear. Sweet Pittosporum is very adaptable invading gardens, roadsides, coastal areas, healthland, grassland, woodland, wet and dry sclerophyll forests, rainforest as well as temperate, subtropical and tropical zones. It is most problematic in areas with greater than 700 mm rainfall.

Sweet Pittosporum is widely planted as a hardy garden shrub and used for hedges, windbreaks and firewood. It has impacts on natural environments through shading, competition and changes in soil nutrients due to their nutrient rich leaf litter. This has effects on ground flora and has contributed to changes in native lizard and bird populations. Changes to fire regimes have allowed it to out-compete fire-adapted species and change fuel loads, even though it is fire-sensitive.

Sweet Pittosporum can be removed by hand digging them when they are small. Drill and fill sweet pittosporum at the exposed crown of the tree or cut and paste with an appropriate herbicide if the shrub is large. Cut material can be mulched when fresh as long as there are no seeds. Sweet pittosporum can also be disposed of in regular green waste collections or burned in a hot fire.

Sweet bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*), blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*) are all suitable alternatives to sweet pittosporum.