



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

## NEWSLETTER Winter Newsletter 2014

PO BOX 28 SOMERS 3927  
Ritehie's CB Card Number 92591  
<http://www.folklaw.org.au>  
Editor: Karin Cooper

Hi all,



Major repairs have been carried out to the F.O.L.K.L.A.W equipment trailer after 7 years of work and being kept in the open had take it's toil, rust had eaten away the front open decking area and one side of the wheel arch as well as numerous rust areas all over the box area. A new front timber decking has been fitted with allowance for water drainage, the wheel arch area was cut out and replaced and all the rust spots on the box area were cleaned back to bare steel treated and primed then all the trailer was

repainted with 2 coats of finish.

For this arduous task of repairing and working so hard to restore the trailer we wish to thank Hans Fortuyn for the welding and Gilbert Hogarth for the rust cleaning and repainting. Repair material costs were donated anonymously.

This will now allow our group to continue with the restoration and revegetation of areas in and around Somers.



Financial Annual income /expenditure return to Dept of Justice (consumer affairs) has been completed to cover our yearly legal requirement.

Our annual report to council which covers expenditure, insurance, income, budget, volunteer legal requirements and ongoing works has been sent.

**June Working Bee:** It was a wet and windy winter's day, (sounds just like the start of a novel) two hardy volunteers turned up but cancelled due to the extreme weather conditions and safety issues.

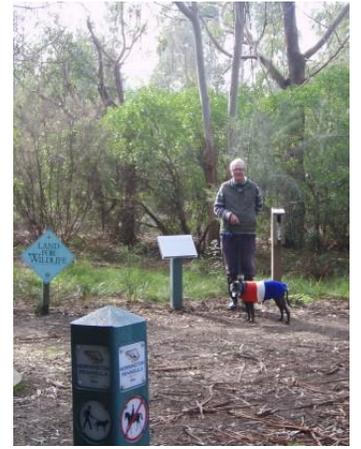
**July Working Bee:** Storm debris removed and bushes cut back from walking tracks, hand weeding and new Banksia area plant guards removed or resecured.

**August Working Bee:** Six brave and hardy volunteers carried out weeding in two areas and also cut back braches over hanging the paths due to severe storms.

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



Folklaw arranged for two new bench seats and two interpretive signs made from recycled plastic to be installed in the Koala Reserve for future use and benefit all. Thanks to Mornington Shire Council.



### **Black Anther Flax Lily (Goodie):** (*Dianella revoluta*)



*Dianella revoluta*, commonly known as blueberry lily, blue flax-lily, black anther flax-lily or spreading flax-lily is widely distributed within Australia and grows in extremely variable conditions, predominantly in sclerophyll, woodland and mallee forests. Black anther flax lily is a robust spreading tufted perennial with strap-like leaves. It is widely used in revegetation work and is a very useful and attractive drought tolerant plant for the garden. It grows to 0.3-1m high x 0.5-2.5m wide. Leaves are Linear, dark green strap-like up to 70cm long. The leaf margins are re-curved and finely serrated. Blue flowers with yellow stamen are held in a loose to dense panicle on branching stems to 1m in height. Black anther flax lily flowers from August to May. Aborigines ate the berries

when ripe and also used them to make a dye. The leaves were made into string. Birds including parrots are also attracted by its fruit which consists of small, shiny dark blue berries. Propagation can be either from the ripe seed collected by hand and sown in spring or by the division of rhizomes which can be struck in moist shady conditions in light soil during cooler months in later winter.



### **Sweet Vernal Grass (Baddie):** (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)

*Anthoxanthum odoratum*, known as sweet vernal grass, holy grass, vanilla grass or buffalo grass, is a short-lived grass found wild in acidic grasslands in Eurasia. It is also grown as a lawn grass and a house plant, due to its sweet scent, and can also be found on unimproved pastures and meadows. This grass grows in tufts and can grow up to 100 cm. The stems are 25-40 centimetres tall, with short but broad green leaves 3-5 millimetres wide, which are slightly hairy. It flowers from April until June,



i.e. quite early in the season, with flower spikes of 4-6 centimetres long and crowded spikelets of 6-10 millimetres oblong shaped, which can be quite dark when young. The seed head is bright yellow in colour. It is grown by scattering seed on tilled ground in the spring through fall, germinating in 4 to 5 days. The seed is spread in mud on machinery and vehicles, and can adhere to animals and clothing. Wind and water may also spread seed. Isolated plants should be removed before they seed or if they have already begun to produce seed then bagged for careful disposal. Spraying with grass selective herbicides will kill large infestations, though blanket removal of grass cover may be inadvisable, as it is likely to be replaced with more weeds. Fire may help manage sweet vernal grass populations, particularly the use of a hot fire in spring, when the plant is preparing to flower.

