



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

NEWSLETTER Spring Newsletter 2015

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Hi all,

Well 20 years for our entirely volunteer group has passed. FOLKLAW is a not for profit organisation run by kind volunteers, no politics and efficient money management. Even if I say so as treasurer. The amount of hours of help and money we have given and still continue to do so to other groups and people over the years is impressive. Four wildlife carers (Frankston, Blind Bight, Tyabb and Bittern) have been supported. Planting and management of the Somers Koala Reserve has been done and the Somers Foreshore and other assorted groups have benefited. FOLKLAW has also Re-vegetated 3 other council areas around Somers, sourced seed, propagated plants and donated them to the Somers Education camp, Somers Foreshore, Koala Reserve and private land owners. FOLKLAW has also Worked with the Somers Primary School and Kinder on various projects over the years.

October Stall at Somers School Art Fair:



This year the old guard stepped aside for new motivated volunteers to plan organise and run the stall, many thanks to Annie and Steve Ainsworth, Pam Bannister, Julie McInnes. and Roger Richards. This is a day once a year we have a very public face to show case wildlife and Indigenous plants and of cause the F.O.L.K.L.A.W. way.

November Community Planting Day Working Bee:

To celebrate to 20th anniversary of the forming of the group a Community Planting Day was organised on Sunday 29th November at the Koala Reserve. We planted staked and bagged 100 indigenous plant of various types . Weeding of other young plants was also done. A varied lunch and drinks was donated by a member to thank the hard working volunteers. Mind you lunch lasted for two and half hours - well you have to have a bit of a chat.

Wishing all our members a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Next Working Bees:

Sunday 28th February 2016 from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Meet in the Koala Reserve entry via the gate at the end of Campsie Court, Somers.

MELWAYS PAGE 193, K 9.

All Welcome. Refreshments provided.





Say a little prayer for me or looking for just the right place to plant.

.Superb Fairy-Wren (Goodie): (*Malurus cuaneus*)



The Superb Fairy-Wren or blue wren is approx 14cm long, including a very long tail. The male has a light blue crown, cheeks and back, dark blue nape, breast, rump and tail and whitish underparts. The male's plumage is similar to the female in the non breeding season but keeps it's blue tail. The female has brown underparts, including the tail and has a chestnut line through it's eyes. Blue wrens breed locally in a domed nest with a side entrance. They are commonly found in woodland with open space for feeding. Blue wrens require dense cover for breeding and protection against predators. The entire family helps feed nestlings. The superb fairy-wren is an active and restless feeder, particularly on open ground near shelter, but also through the lower foliage. Movement is a series of jaunty hops and bounces, with its balance assisted by a proportionally large tail, which is usually held upright, and rarely still. The short, rounded wings provide good initial lift and are useful for short flights, though not for extended jaunts. During spring and summer, birds are active in bursts through the day and accompany their foraging with song. Insects are numerous and easy to catch, which allows the birds to rest between forays. The group often shelters and rests together during the heat of the day. Food is harder to find during winter and they are required to spend the

day foraging continuously. Superb fairy-wrens are predominantly insectivorous. They eat a wide range of small creatures (mostly insects such as ants, grasshoppers, shield bugs, flies, weevils and various larvae) as well as small quantities of seeds, flowers and fruit. Their foraging, termed 'hop-searching', occurs on the ground or in shrubs that are less than two meters high. Because this foraging practice renders them vulnerable to predators, birds tend to stick fairly close to cover and forage in groups. During winter, when food may be scarce, ants are an important 'last resort' food, constituting a much higher proportion of the diet. Nestlings, in contrast to adult birds, are fed a diet of larger items such as caterpillars and grasshoppers. Several courtship displays by superb fairy-wren males have been recorded. The 'sea horse flight', named for its seahorse-like undulations, is one such display. During this exaggerated flight, the male - with his neck extended and his head feathers erect - tilts his body from horizontal to vertical, and descends slowly and springs upwards by rapidly beating his wings after alighting on the ground. The 'face fan' display may be seen as part of aggressive or sexual display behaviours; it involves the flaring of the blue ear tufts by erecting the feathers. During the reproductive season, males pluck yellow petals, which contrast with their plumage, and show them to female fairy-wrens. The petals often form part of a courtship display and are presented to a female in the male fairy-wren's own or another territory. Males sometimes show petals to females in other territories even outside the breeding season, presumably to promote themselves. Fairy-wrens are socially monogamous and sexually promiscuous: pairs will bond for life, though both males and females will regularly mate with other individuals; a proportion of young will have been fathered by males from outside the group. Young are often raised not by the pair alone, but with other males who also mated with the pair's female assisting.