



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

NEWSLETTER *Summer Newsletter 2015*

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Hi all,

Renewing your membership supports us, so if you haven't renewed give it a go. All money either from subs or donations is spent on habitat or Wildlife Carers. Your support keeps us going. We need your silent support to encourage us to continue in our endeavours.

Six possum nesting boxes have been made and delivered to our local Balnarring wildlife carer. The money was raised at the Somers arts fair as mentioned in the last newsletter.

The annual A.G.M. for F.O.L.K.L.A.W. as required by law is being held on at 1 pm Sunday 22nd March 2015 at the Somers Fire Brigade Station. We do need members to come to make it legal and maybe you can have a say as there is always allocated time. Anybody who is a member can be on the Committee - no skills are required and we only hold 4 meetings a year. Do as much or as little as you want.

No working bees were held in December and January.

***February Working Bee:** 8 people braved the heat of 34 degrees to carry out weeding, pruning and cutting long grass. Chilled drinks luckily were at hand for the brave souls.*

All past and present committee members as well as people who have helped in one way or another during the past year were invited to a B.B.Q. held and funded by two committee members to thank very one for helping in some way, we rely on entirely on volunteers to help run this group.

The 3rd of January heralded 40 degrees and a very strong North wind. The day after two of our lovely volunteers Pam and Ray Bannister went around the Somers Koala Reserve clearing branches and debris from the paths to make it safe and enjoyable.

On the 10th of January we had a stall at the S.R.A. open day. It was manned by Peter Cooper to inform the public about F.O.L.K.L.A.W.

We are pleased to announce that Jeremy Grant has audited our 2014 financial accounts and it seems that we have passed his tests. Thank you Jeremy for giving up your time to voluntarily audit the treasury accounts.

Next working Bee:

29th March 2015, 9.30 am to 11.30 am.

Meet at the end of Campsie Court, Somers. MELWAYS PAGE 193, K 9.

All Welcome

Refreshments provided.

Desert Ash (Baddie): (*Fraxinus angustifolia*)

Desert Ash was once a popular deciduous tree used commonly in streetscapes and gardens. It establishes in bushland and grasslands and also along stream banks and drainage lines. It out-competes native plants for moisture, light and nutrients and takes over these areas. Desert Ash is a deciduous tree, is very dense with a rounded crown and can grow to around 20 metres in height. The bark is a grey-brown colour with prominent ridges. The leaves are opposite and around 14-20 cm long. Each leaf contains around 5-7 leaflets although sometimes can contain up to 13. The seeds form in large, drooping clusters and are flat, winged at the top and slightly twisted. Desert ash flowers are inconspicuous, green or purple in colour and appear in spring. It spreads by seeds that are dispersed mainly by wind and water and root suckers, can form dense stands when established this way. Unfortunately Desert Ash is also readily available from nurseries and garden centres. With smaller plants and seedlings removing by hand is the best option as it removes all roots. Ensure that the disturbed area is covered up to reduce further weed generation. For trees that cannot be hand pulled or dug out, cut them off at ground level and paint the stump immediately with an undiluted glyphosate-based product. An alternative is to drill several shallow holes (around 2-3cm deep) around the base of the trunk. Fill each hole immediately with an undiluted glyphosate-based product. The tree will then slowly die and may need to be removed later. This is useful when you do not want to open a hole in the canopy by removing a large tree.



Common Everlasting (Goodie): (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*)



A plant originating from grass and woodland communities across Australia, the Common Everlasting (alternative name is Yellow Buttons) is a low, spreading perennial, growing up to 50cm in height. From spring to autumn it produces masses of small, yellow, button heads of flowers. Regular pruning encourages a better form and flowering. This plant is a food source and shelter spot for butterflies. Some pests have been noted on *C. apiculatum*. These are chiefly caterpillars which attack the flower buds and leaves. When

planted at 70 cm centres, plants grow quickly to cover the ground and form a compact mat, however, this is seldom enough to smother the more vigorous weeds. The stems occasionally form roots where they touch the ground, though only in the most favourable conditions, and the plant is unlikely to become a nuisance. Control may be affected by the use of Dipel, a bio-insecticide specific to caterpillars. Aphids are also found on new shoots and the decumbent habit of this plant makes it an ideal hiding place for slugs and snails. Propagation is easy from cuttings taken at any time of the year. Seed should not be used for propagation since it may not produce plants which are true to form.

