



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

## NEWSLETTER Summer Newsletter 2016

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Hi all,

### **Secretary ---- New Position.**

The secretary of our little group is resigning after a 10 year stint at the helm.

We are now looking for a new secretary. Don't hold up you arms in 'I can't undertake such a job'.

What is the job requirements? Attend 3 Committee Meetings and an A.G.M. a year and write up the minutes. Write up of the 'in' and 'out' post and E-mails, write an occasional email or letter. If you are interested in the position either phone 59 832849 or E mail [karin.and.peter.cooper@gmail.com](mailto:karin.and.peter.cooper@gmail.com)

Many thanks to Karin for carrying out such a good job for a such a length of time - it's time for a rest.

### **A.G..M. Date for your diary. Friends Of Local Koalas Land And Wildlife.**

3<sup>rd</sup> April at 2pm in the Somers Fire Brigade building. This is your chance to see your volunteer group and meet and have a say in what happens. Remember your committee is just ordinary people who volunteer, like you and me, no special traits or requirements. So at the A.G.M. Nominations for positions on the Committee are put forward from the people attending the A.G.M.

F.O.L.K.L.A.W. is not involved in anyway shape or form in politics or environmental agitation.

We wish to thank the Somers Fire Brigade for allowing our group to use their building for our A.G.M.

### **Renewal Of Membership for 2016 year**

If you haven't already paid your subs for the year 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 31 Dec could you please. It's one of only 2 ways we raise money for the things we do. You can pay \$10.00 and if possible a donation direct into the bank account with your name as reference. Our details are below.

ANZ Branch code 013-658      Account 4942-44928      Name F.O.L.K.L.A.W.

Otherwise send a cheque made payable to FOLKLAW to P.O. Box 28, Somers. 3927 with your name and E Mail address. Thanks.

### **Possum Boxes**

David Wakley, one of our volunteers has been kindly continuing to make orphan Possum recovery boxes for the local wildlife carer in Balnarring. All materials --- wood, hinges, catches and screws have been kindly donated by a another member. This is a very worth while project as the carer is in desperate need of homes for her charges. The orphan possums are raised in their own home and then they and their home are relocated to a safe area.

### **WATER WATER DESPERATE TO BE FOUND.**

It's dry and our wildlife is in need of water. Please put out water for the wildlife and ask friends and neighbours to do the same. A local Koala was spotted on the 4/3/16 being hand fed water by the road side in Somers. It must have been desperate to let some body come that close.

Please turn over for more.

### **Koala Research.**

Unfortunately the research had been halted due for 2 months due to personal circumstances in the researcher life. But as of the last week in February the research has resumed. Up to 30 Koalas, from certain areas on the Mornington Peninsula are to be fitted with special radio collars and GPS loggers. If you have a Koala regularly visiting, or sight one on your walk, then note whereabouts and please share that information on Dr Desley's MP Koala Research Project----- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MPKoalas/>

### **Working Bee Feb.**

Removal of building materials forming a structure and brick fire pit from densely wooded area of retarding basin. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in two year structures have been built in the same spot. A full unused box of Redhead matches was found and fires had been lit which in its self could have caused a very dangerous situation for Somers. 6 volunteers took 2 hours to dismantle the structure and cart all the materials away - not the sort of thing volunteers want to do. Weeding and cutting back of a path was also carried out.

### **End of year Treasury Reports.**

The government end of year treasury report ending 31<sup>st</sup> December for 2015 has been completed and audited by Jeremy Grant. Hopefully it will be approved and presented at the A.G.M. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April at 2pm this year at the Somers Fire Brigade station. We wish to thank Jeremy for volunteering his time in auditing the accounts.

Have you noticed a different style in this newsletter? It's because the writer and editor has changed.

### **Next Working Bee:**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30am to 11.30am.

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

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All Welcome. Refreshments provided.

### **Blackberry (Baddie): (*Rubus fruticosus*)**



**Family:** Rosaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Origin:** Native to Europe and adjacent areas.

**Flowers/Seedhead:** Flowers: To 3cm wide with 5 white or pink petals. Flowers late spring to summer.

**Description:** Semi-deciduous scrambler to 2 meters high with canes to about 7 meters long. Stems mostly arching, green, reddish or purple, ribbed, angled or concave, with or without hairs. Prickles straight or curved. Leaves usually comprise 3 or 5 ovate leaflets, are dark green on the upper surface and with many to no hairs underneath.

Fruit is globe-shaped, 1-3 cm across, initially green ripening through red to black. Seeds are pitted, to 3mm long,

**Dispersal:** Spread by seed, rooting of cane tips and lateral roots producing suckers. The latter two means of spread result in large clumps over time. Fruit is eaten by birds and mammals (especially foxes) that may transport seeds some distance.

Blackberry was first introduced to Australia in the early 1800s. It is one of the worst weeds of moist temperate Australia. Plants are not readily eaten by cattle, but goats will graze on them. Shrubs harbour feral animals but help prevent erosion. The Rust, *Phragmidium violaceurr*, has been introduced for biological control of blackberry.