

The Glenfern

The Official Newsletter of Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

Edition No. 48 Spring 2023

GROWING WITH THE COMMUNITY

As the year matures we can see in our calendar a series of accomplishments worthy of celebration. Our routine and special events both in the bushlands and in the community are continuing to generate interest and nourish growth.

After some disruption to our working bee schedule earlier in the year thanks to the persistent wet weather caused by the lingering La Niña system, we have enjoyed some glorious mornings in the reserve shared with new and returning volunteers. With stimulating mid-morning talks and frequent interactions with our resident wildlife, it shouldn't be any surprise to see our attendance numbers on the rise. New faces are always welcome, and there's always plenty of delicious morning tea to go around.

A community educational event held in April this year provided an opportunity to learn from Brooke Wandin—local Wurunjderi woman and Woiwurrung language researcher. Brooke's enlightening presentation gave an insight into the First Nations languages local to our region, commonly

used Woiwurrung words such as in place names, and the importance of preserving and utilising the Woiwurrung language to acknowledge traditional owners. The curiosity in the room was sincere and displayed how eager the community is to develop their understanding for Indigenous culture. More details about this on the back page.

Our friends from Fairhills High School joined us again on a Wednesday in June to complete the planting of the bank below the depot carpark. The energetic group of year 9 students, with the help of some of our volunteers, planted 200 shrubs and grasses supplied by Southern Dandenong Community Nursery and funded by Yarra Ranges Council. These plants will provide a needed screen between this entrance to the reserve and the depot infrastructure. Both the weather and students kept us entertained during the morning, and we trust the class left with some inspiration for conservation, along with their muddy shoes.

Jackson Ellis (President)



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

P.O. Box 1283, Upwey, Victoria 3158 • glenfernvalleybushlands@hotmail.com • www.glenfernvalleybushlands.org.au



@glenfernvalleybushlands



@FriendsOfGlenfernValleyBushlands

FRIEND OR FOE?

Can you identify which plants are **weeds** and which are indigenous to Glenfern Valley Bushlands?

Photos and information from
Yarra Ranges Council Local Plant Directory



1. *Agapanthus praecox*
2. Blackberry - *Rubus fruticosus*
3. Blackwood - *Acacia melanoxylon*
4. Desert Ash - *Fraxinus angustifolia*
5. Elderberry Panax - *Polyscias sambucifolia*
6. Forest Hound's-tongue - *Austrocynoglossum latifolium*
7. Forest Nightshade - *Solanum prinophyllum*
8. Hop wattle - *Acacia stricta*
9. Native Raspberry - *Rubus parvifolius*
10. Sallow Wattle - *Acacia longifolia*
11. Spanish Heath - *Erica lusitanica*
12. Sweet Pittosporum - *Pittosporum undulatum*
13. Tasman flax-lily - *Dianella tasmanica*
14. Wandering Trad - *Tradescantia fluminensis*

Answers: A-14, B-2, C-5, D-10, E-11, F-1, G-7, H-4, I-3, J-12, K-13, L-7, M-9 N-8



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GANG-GANGS AT GLENFERN VALLEY BUSHLANDS

Since early March 2023, Glenfernians, local birders and residents who live on the edge of our bushlands reserve have been treated with the arrival and continued presence of the sounds of the 'creaky door' from the small, grey Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), sadly now endangered.

Birds in pairs, threes, fours, and small flocks up to twenty individuals, can still be heard and seen near our bushland reserve. It's heartening to see that several adult pairs are accompanied by single or twin first-year juveniles. It appears that due to several wet seasons, the Messmates in the reserve, along Ferny Creek and in neighbouring properties are providing a good seed production and providing the Gang-gangs a local and ongoing harvest.

The appearance of ripening fruit on the weedy roadside Hawthorn Bush (*Crataegus rosaceae*) heralds the autumn arrival of the Gang-gang to Melbourne's outer urban area from the mountains of the Great Dividing Range. Linda, local resident and long-time member of the FoGFVB, has been noting the Gang-gangs' arrival since 2018. Over five years these birds have visited her backyard Port Jackson Pine '*Callitris rhomboidea*'. Sharon and Mike, also long-time members, have also had birds visit their backyard '*Callitris*'.

Some birds have arrived as early as February, where traditionally they arrive in early March and April. This year, the Gang-gangs have continued to enjoy the local abundance of fruit of the Hawthorn Bush. But for the first (known) time since at least 2018, the Gang-gangs have enjoyed foraging in the reserve's mature Manna Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) and the Messmates (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) to this day. They have been observed feeding on the fresh leaf shoots, lerps and the fruits.

These cockatoos also enjoy a drink before roosting, especially after a day of consuming seeds. Ferny Creek,



especially the newly reinstated creek crossing near the depot, was a popular destination for these birds, along with fresh water provided in nearby livestock troughs. A key observation and comfort with this year's Gang-gangs visit has been the value in local property backyards with bird baths and feed trees (exotic and native).

It has been a great experience for all to see these small grey cockatoos and is a testament to everyone involved in the caretaking of the Glenfern Valley Bushlands Reserve.

*Mike Sverns, member of
Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands*



Bush restoration work is fun and rewarding.
Join the group and become involved.

glenfernvalleybushlands.org.au



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WORKING BEE SCHEDULE SPRING 2023

Conservation Conversation • Wed 6th Sept, 9.00 am

Restoration Morning • Sun 17th Sept, 9.30 am

Conservation Conversation • Wed 4th Oct, 9.00 am

Member's Day Morning • Sun 15th Oct, 9.30 am

Conservation Conversation • Wed 1st Nov, 9.00 am

Restoration Morning • Sun 19th Nov, 9.30 am

Conservation Conversation • Wed 6th Dec, 9.00 am

Activities resume in February 2024
with Twilight Picnic & Possum Prowl — TBA

Sunday working bee 9:30 am–12:30 pm,
Mid week 9.00–11.00 am.

Meet at the central car park, Glenfern Road,
Upwey. Bring a water bottle, strong shoes, and
gloves. Tools and morning tea provided.

Come and join us to help restore the bushlands
while learning more about local flora and fauna.
See our Facebook page for more info about
working bees and tree planting days.

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AS
SCHEDULING DEPENDS ON WEATHER
AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS.**

By being a financial member of Friends
of Glenfern Valley Bushlands, you enable
the group to gain valuable Funding Grants
to finance works in the reserve.

If you would like to become a financial
member, please download the membership
form from our website at:
www.glenfernvalleybushlands.org.au

MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY:

\$5 Concession, \$10 Individual, \$15 Family or
\$50 for a business sponsor.

Three year memberships are now also available.

Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.
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www.glenfernvalleybushlands.org.au

A NEW NAME FOR THE QUARRY

Thanks to a community educational event held in April this year hosted by Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands, Upwey Community Group and Hills Walking Together we have had an opportunity to learn from Brooke Wandin—local Wurundjeri woman and Woiwurrung language researcher.

The Woiwurrung Language Education Session has been integral in the recent discussions and choice of our committee to adopt a First Nations name for the amphitheatre in the restored quarry area of the reserve. This beautiful meeting place enjoyed by visitors has been offered a Woiwurrung name by Brooke, and with thanks to the education session and many meaningful conversations, we are excited to be adopting the new name **Bagungga-djirri**, loosely translating to *Gather together*. An official naming ceremony will be held in due course to greet this new name into the bushlands.



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Forest to Foreshore, Kallista

Bushland Management and Ecological Restoration

**And thanks to Melbourne Water and
Shire of Yarra Ranges for their services**

We continue to welcome a high number of visitors
to the reserve, please remember to take your
rubbish home and have your dogs on leads to keep
all our animals happy. Thank you.



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