

Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc. Newsletter

No.1 April 2002


Our Mission Statement as it applies to Glen Fern Valley Bushlands:

*To conserve and enhance the diversity of native flora and fauna while preserving community access and encouraging education and compatible
s for the enjoyment of current and future generations.*

Contact Us

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About Us

Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands are a 'Friends Of' community group dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of the 100 acre area of land in the Lysterfield Valley bounded by New Road, Glenfern Road and Ferny Creek.

Friends of Glen Fern Valley began when Serg Zaccaria and Sarah Tebbutt held a public meeting on the 26th September 2001. Over 100 people attended this meeting, and many present expressed interest in doing all they could to ensure this land was preserved for the appropriate use and enjoyment of all. Out of this initial energy and enthusiasm was born a group committed to the land we call Glen Fern Valley Bushlands. The group now has over 200 people on its mailing list and over 50 paid up members and is growing steadily.

The Committee

President: Serg Zaccaria.

Secretary: Sarah Tebbutt. **Assistant:** Linda Taylor. **Treasurer:** Marilyn Thomas.

Communicators: Jason Glasson, Danni Underwood, Dylan Stevenson, Marilyn Thomas.

Fauna group: Mark Fanthorpe, Ian rainbow, Linda Taylor.

Flora group: Glenn Barber, Brad Curtis, Serge Sapozhnikov, Vanessa Peck, Saffron Blue, Jayne Alexander.

Lobby group: Serg Zaccaria, Sarah Tebbutt.

Funding group: David Mackay, Vanessa Peck, Danni Underwood.

Our Aims

Presently the land is 'unreserved' Crown Land, managed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DNRE). That means it is not safe from inappropriate uses and development. The 'Friends Of' group is working to ensure the land is made safe from such things. The only way to do this is to have the land reserved for the enjoyment of all as a bushland Reserve. As a Reserve, the land would need a Committee of Management. The 'Friends Of' group, although very keen and active, does not have the resources to take on the management of such a Reserve. Our aims then are:

- To have the land reserved
- To establish a joint Committee of Management between the Shire of Yarra Ranges, DNRE and Melbourne Water
- To conserve the land, encouraging natural regeneration where possible

What's been happening?

- In March 2002 we finally became incorporated. This means that we are now officially recognised as a 'Friends Of' group. Also we can now hold a bank account, & have 50 fully paid members.
- Our last community Planning and Information Day was a fantastic success with approximately 100 people attending. We are looking forward to continuing support at the Public Working days on the site.
- On 8th April a small delegation met with officials from DNRE. (Department of Natural Resources & Environment). Unfortunately the representative that we were hoping to meet was called away so we were not able to put a submission as planned, however we were invited to arrange a further meeting with them. This may lead to a possible meeting with the Environment minister in the near future. The lobbying is continuing!!!
- Both our flora and fauna group have been very busy surveying the plant and animal life in the reserve. So far the flora group has identified approx 105 native species and 50 weed species. This is still a work in progress.

The fauna group has identified 76 species of bird, including the brush bronzewing. Koalas, wallabies, and signs of wombat activity have also been found.

These surveys have been invaluable in determining how best to control unwanted non-indigenous plants, and help us plan the best way of revegetating and regenerating the land whilst keeping the impact on the native flora and fauna to a minimum.

- Some people have asked why we have not held a large scale working bee to remove as much of the blackberry, bone seed and other weeds as possible?

The answer is that to remove large areas of vegetation may destroy wildlife habitat, look unsightly, can create erosion, and may encourage further weed growth. We are hoping to operate using an established system that prescribes weed removal in small non-adjointing areas.

- Once all surveys have been completed and analysed a structured program that members can participate in will be arranged so that the year will be planned according to the best times for weed removal of each type with as little impact on the wildlife as possible.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, 15 May 2002 7:30 PM: Committee meeting (Members and guests welcome). Venue: Ruby's (downstairs in the "Library"), Burwood Hwy, Belgrave.

Sunday, 19 May 2002 9:30 AM: Flora Survey and weeding day. (Committee & Members welcome) Non-committee members please ring 03 9754 7669 if you would like to attend. Venue: on site.

The Benefits of becoming a Member

As a concerned member of the community you would like to see the Glen Fern Valley Bushlands area reserved for the use and enjoyment of the local community and its very considerable natural beauty and environmental values safeguarded and enhanced. Becoming a Member helps make that desire a reality.

The more Members we have, the greater our power to ensure the Glen Fern Valley Bushlands is adequately cared for and protected. We need a strong Membership base in order to lobby Council and other decision-making bodies effectively. Increased Membership also helps in our applications for Grants.

Membership Form

Paid up members are an important part of any friends group. Your membership enables us to do basic administration and helps to cover the costs for projects on site. Most importantly, it also makes us stronger as a group and more able to achieve our aims. If you have already joined, we thank you for your contribution. If you wish to show your support for our group consider joining as a member! Members really do make the difference.

FRIENDS OF GLEN FERN VALLEY BUSHLANDS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Group/Org

Address

Postcode.....Phone

E-Mail.....

Office Use Only:

Date Joined

Member#

Member Type

Annual Membership Fees for 2002

Individuals \$10

Families \$15

Businesses \$50+

Student/Concession/Community Groups/ Schools - \$By donation

PAID: CASH CHEQUE MONEY ORDER

Send cheque or money order made out to Friends of Glen Fern Valley
Bushlands to:

PO Box 1283

Upwey VIC 3158