

To conserve and enhance the diversity of native flora and fauna of the Glen Fern Valley Bushlands while preserving community access and encouraging education and compatible uses for the enjoyment of current and future generations.



The Glenfern

The Official Newsletter of The Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc.
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Information Shelter Coming Soon

In 2010 with the assistance of a community grant from Shire of Yarra Ranges and additional public donations, we will be erecting an information board near the central car park. This will showcase the reserve, plants, wildlife, volunteer activities and work progress to our visitors



MEMBERSHIP

By being a financial member of Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands, you enable the group to gain valuable Funding Grants to help us with works in the reserve.

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

Membership is only: \$5 Concession, \$10 Individual, \$15 Family or \$50 for a business sponsor

Over the next 2 years we will be lobbying to have an off road parallel parking area in the central area to enable visitors to access the reserve easily and safely.

Community Day

On Sunday 18th October we held our Community Day to introduce Friends of Glen Fern Valley bushlands to the local Community and show our members the progress that has been made recently.

We were very proud to lead over 40 visitors on guided walks around the bushlands introducing them to our indigenous plants and the birds which live there—32 bird species were sighted. A huge thank you to Don Teese for giving up his time to share his love of birds with us.

The Shire of Yarra Ranges loaned us the "ONE" Trailer (Our Natural Environment) which carries a huge range of resources to educate the public about weeds and indigenous plants



 friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc.

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Thank you Stephen Powell Wildlife Artist, for his photograph of Female Golden Whistler

Echidna visiting Upwey South garden adjacent to Glen Fern Bushlands Reserve



Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC'S) in Glen Fern Bushlands Reserve

“extract from our Management Plan”

The 40 hectares (100 acres) covered by Glen Fern Bushlands has three different EVC's, namely Valley Grassy Forest, Herb Rich Foothill Forest and Riparian Forest. There is also a small area of Wetland Formation near the Archery Club which has been dry for the past several years of drought, but is now moist after the recent heavy rains.

Valley Grassy Forest (which is of State significance)

“Woodland to open forest on well-drained colluvial soils, with a diverse ground layer of grasses and herbs. The over-storey is characterised by Bundy *Eucalyptus gonicalyx*, Narrow Leaf Peppermint *E. radiata* and Yellow Box *E. melliodora* in association with Black Wattle *Acacia mernsii* and Cherry Ballart *Exocarpos cupressiformis*. The shrub layer is sparse, while the ground layer is characterised by Weeping Grass *Microlaena stipoides*, Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*, Soft Tussock Grass *Poa morrisii*, Veined Spear Grass *Austrostipa rudis*, Bidgee Widgee *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, Creeping Bossiaea *Bossiaea prostrata*, Kidney weed *Dichondra repens*, Pale Sundew *Drosera peltata*, Cranesbill Geranium spp, Pennywort *Hydrocotyle* spp, small St John's Wort *Hypericum gramineum* and Wattle Matrush *Lomandra filiformis*”

A good example of Valley Grassy Forest lies between Kunzea and Glenfern Ridge Tracks.

Herb-rich Foothill Forest

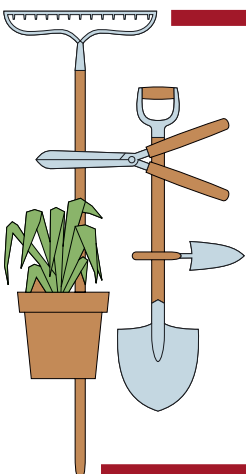
“Woodland on well-drained soils in foothill areas, with a ground layer rich in herbaceous species. At the site, this EVC is dominated by a very sparse canopy layer of Swamp Gum *Eucalyptus ovata* and Narrow Leaf Peppermint, with smaller trees, Black Wattle and Cherry Ballart common. The understory is characterised by a range of grasses and herbs including Weeping Grass, Kangaroo Grass, Maidenhair fern and kidney weed.”

This EVC can be seen in the Reserve between Kunzea and Ferny Creek Tracks

Riparian Forest

“Tall forest to 40 metres on deep fertile soils. The overstorey is dominated by Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis*, over a secondary tree layer of Blackwood *Acacia melanoxylon*, Silver Wattle *A. dealbata* and Hazel Pomaderris *Pomaderris aspera*. The shrub layer is characterised by Snow Daisy *Oleria lirata*, Prickly Currant Bush *Coprosma quadrifida* Victorian Christmas bush *Prostanthera lisianthos*, while the ground layer is dominated by Sword Tussock grass *Poa ensiformis*, Weeping grass, Common maidenhair and Stinking Pennywort.”

We can see this EVC along Ferny Creek.



Why not come along to a working bee once or twice a year and find out how you can help to make Glen Fern Valley Bushlands “YOUR Special Place”!

President's Report 2009

It's been another remarkable year for the Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands. Our beautiful Reserve continues to be transformed through our regular working bees, maintenance works of the Shire, specialist contractor weeding works funded by a Melbourne Water Grant and countless extra hours contributed by our hard working committee.

Behind the scenes, we have continued to build the community network that Ian Rainbow initiated in his time as president. Our stronger relationships with the Shire and its representatives, Landcare, Southern Dandenong Ranges Environmental Alliance and Melbourne Water, to name a few, have allowed us to push forward at a difficult time. We thank them all.

Our major achievements this year include:



- Running very successful Community Discovery and Trinity College Educational Days
- Presenting the first Environmental Essay Award at Upwey South Primary School
- Removing and poisoning untold thousands of weeds
- Installing ten seats strategically throughout the reserve
- Completing the resurfacing of Glenfern Ridge Track
- Installing track signage and maps
- A major assault on the woody weeds along Ferny Creek
- Increasing our financial membership by 40%

I think it's fair to say we've been busy AND successful in achieving our goals. The Reserve now has fewer weeds (but plenty remain!), more people are visiting, it looks inviting and there are more animal sightings. Our people have benefited too. We gain satisfaction from seeing the improvements after a hard job done well; we gain knowledge from the courses subsidized by the Shire and from our morning tea talks; we enjoy working with like-minded, generous, positive people; and we form new friendships in the wider community.

Where to from here? Well, another action packed year lies ahead:

- We must maintain the momentum.
- We wish to improve the main car-park and road-opening
- Web-site overhaul and updating
- Build an information shelter near the central table
- Award another Environmental Essay and Project
- Run more Discovery and Educational Days
- Continue the track resurfacing
- Spread the word, strengthen the network
- Enjoy the challenge
- More weeding (now there's a shock!)

It's been a privilege to be President this year, and I am indebted to the Committee team, and it is a team. I thank them for their loyalty, their hard work and their enthusiasm in difficult times. I am also indebted to so many supporters that I daren't risk naming people, for fear of omitting someone. You know who you are. Thank you all, and I look forward to seeing you at the Reserve soon.

Andrew



The Glenfern

WORKING BEE DIARY 2010

- * Sunday 21st February
- * Saturday 20th March
- * Sunday 18th April
- * Saturday 15th May
- * Sunday 20th June
- * Saturday 17th July
- * Sunday 15th August
- * Saturday 18th September
- * Saturday 23rd October (TBC)
Community Discovery Day
- * Saturday 20th November

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Morning Tea 11-ish)
Central car park
Glenfern Road, Upwey
Melway Map 74 G10

Working bees are held every 3rd alternating Saturday or Sunday morning of the month.

Members, Committee and interested supporters meet on-site to take part in weeding, planting and talks about indigenous plants and weeds. Everyone is welcome.

Entry for cars is via the Parks Victoria (Fire Access) gate on Glenfern Rd, Upwey (about way along the reserve) The site reference is Melways 74 G10.

Please bring gloves, hand tools, water, and, depending on the weather, a hat or wet weather gear. In the event of a Fire Ban or inclement weather the working bee will be cancelled.

Local Indigenous plants available from:

Southern Dandenongs
Community Nursery
"Birdsland", McNicol Road
Belgrave South.

Tues and Sun 9.30 to 12.00



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(for your website needs)

Phone Roger Vize on 9754 6910

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Coffee vouchers to working bee participants from

BLUE MOUNTAIN COFFEE LOUNGE

Ferntree Plaza, Upper Ferntree Gully

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