

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.

Edition No. 25 Autumn 2010

## President's Report Autumn 2010

I know it's a cliché, but I can't help being over-awed by the power of Mother Nature. Around the world we've had droughts, floods earthquakes, tsunamis and cyclones. In Australia, little more than twelve months ago, we had devastating bushfires which seems hard to believe when we see how green most of the country is now. This time last year, we were concerned about the dryness of the reserve, with many Peppermints stressed by the lack of rain. Much hard work put

into planting near the creek was wasted due to seedlings succumbing to the adverse conditions. Look now and our Bushlands brim with life. Native grasses have had their best season for years, while many Peppermints have somehow survived and sprout with fresh epicormic growth. Birdlife is plentiful, especially in the more fertile areas, and sightings of lizards and echidna are more common.

During the harder times, it is easy to lose sight of the long-term goal of restoring

and beautifying the reserve. But to the team of Friends who have come through a tough year I say thank you for maintaining the passion. Sometimes, as Kermit would say, it's not easy being green. Ignorance and misconceptions are often our greatest challenges to overcome. We mean well; we work hard for the community; we volunteer our time. Thank goodness Mother Nature is on our side.

See you soon.

*Andrew Fullagar*

### Welcome to New and Renewed Members!

Ricki Kroon, Luke Selleck, Pat Whittington, Ed deRocheffort, Ivan and Rochelle Dennis, Ed Formosa, Andrew and Karla Whiteley, Anne Kyzor, Carolyn Ebdon, Anita Kemp, Margaret Wills, de Visser Family, Kirsten Haynes, Stewart Robinson, Ana Castillo, Brad Curtis, Peter and Therese Staff, Upwey Garden Club, Shelly Tank, Jenny Hill, Monika Andrews, Paul and Gillian Derezyckij, Andrew and Linda Fullagar, Foda Family, Sandra Cory and Roger Mazzolini, Cox Family, Moncrieff Family, Richard Homersham, Rob Correa, Paul McKenzie, Michael and Sharon Twining, Nell Stewart, Greg Leeder, Davidson Family, Llanah Atherton, Matt Mills, Julia Brough and Lincoln Hobkey, Colin and Barbara Benson, Marilyn Thomas, Graham Tew, Daniel Long, Clive Vernon

### Visitors to Glenfern Valley Bushlands



At our Christmas break up picnic, we were joined by the Southern Dandenongs Landcare group and Ian and Julie from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria-Bat Group. They gave us a chance to learn about the local bat populations, with a brief informative talk about the many species of Australian Bats. There was an opportunity for those present, to view close up, two orphaned flying foxes, that they were hand rearing ("Rocky" is pictured)

We plan to install some bat boxes in the future, under the guidance of Ian.



In February, we were visited by members of the Upwey Garden Club for a guided walk and talk, followed by a picnic dinner in the reserve. We very much enjoyed sharing our knowledge of the reserve, plants and work that has been carried out to date.



friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc.

Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc.

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[www.glenfernbushlands.org.au](http://www.glenfernbushlands.org.au)

## Alisma plantago-aquatic Water Plantain



- Erect Tufted Emergent perennial herb. Long Stalked to 80cm, egg-shaped oblong-elliptic leaves 10–28cm x 5.5–10cm with prominent network of veins. Base rounded to heart shaped
- Tall, rigid, leafless many-branched flowering stem with single, small long-stalked, 3-petalled flowers clustered in rings towards the ends of branches. Each flower lasts one day. Fruit like a mandarin.
- Flowers: Pale Pink. Flowering November to March
- Aquatic plant grows in and near creeks, lakes and swamps, or above the water-line in drying mud. Full sun, semi-shade. May become dormant during very hot dry weather.
- Attractive water plant, for shallow ponds and bog gardens. Will regenerate from seed. Dies back after flowering, to rootstock.

## NEWS – NEWS – NEWS



We would like to apologise for our website being out of action recently.

Our fantastic new Website will be up and running very soon. Thank you to Katherine and Linda Fullagar for many hours spent collecting and collating information and designing a wonderful view of the development of Glenfern Valley Bushlands.

A huge THANK YOU to Roger Vize for the wonderful job he has done being our Voluntary webmaster over the past years. The website has given us a Public "Front Door" for visitors to gain information on the reserve and its happenings.

We have received another grant from Melbourne Water for contractors to remove more of the pittosporums close to Ferny Creek.

Special thanks to Mike Gatehouse for the donation of 50 Lomandra Longifolia for planting in the reserve.

Another successful grant application (from the Department of Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) has enabled us to purchase the tools trailer that we have had on loan from Richard.

## The Fact is...

- The Friends Group is nine years old → The Reserve is (40 hectares) 100 acres
- 25 Car bodies have been removed → More than 72 cubic metres of rubbish has been removed → We have planted more than 800 grasses, shrubs and trees
- We have poisoned or removed over fifty thousand woody weeds substantially reducing the fire fuel load → More than five thousand volunteer hours have been contributed → We have built and installed two tables, eleven seats and Information Shelter → We'd love more help



## Working Bees aren't all Work!

- I wish we could come up with a better name for the time we spend together at the Reserve each month. Working bees sound like hard work. Well, we do work, but at an easy pace, and the time seems to just go.
- We start at 9.30, and by the time we've signed in, had a chat and walked to the work-site, it's about 9.45.
- At 11-ish we stop for our famous morning tea, chat and informative talks. After one more easy hour, we're packing up and admiring how much can be achieved by a cheery, willing team.
- We all know that it's more comfortable in bed, but the warm fuzzy feeling one gets after a job well done is worth so much more.
- We have one hundred acres to improve. We have come so far, but have so much to do. If you could spare a few hours a month, we'd love you to share our [Warming Bees](#).





# From the eyes and heart of a volunteer

by Paul Derezycky

I have been a volunteer at Glenfern Bushlands since I moved to Upwey in recent years, alongside my wife Gillian, a long term resident of Upwey. For many years I lived in the Yarra Valley, before moving to a foothills suburb in 1997. I was involved with and interested in conservation of remnant bushland for many years prior to this, as an employee in the Parks dept of the former Shire of Lillydale I am a qualified horticulturalist with a love of the environment

There are many benefits of being a member of a volunteer group, such as the Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands. I have made many new friends and learned a lot in the 4 years I have been involved here, done numerous courses, and built a good understanding of all the things involved in being part of a volunteer group.

*"Why do you do it?"* is a question passes many a strangers lips, when I have an opportunity to share my experience of being a member as well as a committee member.

Well *"Why Not"*. It is a great opportunity to meet like minded and friendly people across the whole community.

I have previously studied in the area of Community Development, and saw being a volunteer/committee member, an extension of where I stood as a community member. So volunteering seemed like the way to go,

I have learned the fundamental and hands on, to being part of a friendly Group/Team in the management of the indigenous plants and weeds in the Glenfern Valley Bushlands. It is difficult to appreciate just what it takes behind the scenes, in the role of committee member and volunteer.

Being involved with a dynamic community group such as Friends of Glenfern Bushlands has been of great benefit to my personal health and well being and boosting my confidence, as well as being given an opportunity to make a difference for future generations. I have also made/met a wonderful group of new friends. It is also a great opportunity to share my photos taken in the Reserve ☺



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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"**!

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# The Glenfern

## WORKING BEE DIARY 2010

- \* 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

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

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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 ½ 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.

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](http://www.glenfernbushlands.org.au)

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

## STOP PRESS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### OUR INFORMATION SHELTER IS NOW COMPLETE.

MANY THANKS TO SHIRE OF YARRA RANGES  
— COMMUNITY GRANT. NOEL CLIFF — WARD FUND,  
MELBOURNE WATER, GREG RICKETTS — H. & A. PROUCTS  
(FABRICATOR) AND OUR HARD WORKING COMMITTEE  
WHO DESIGNED AND ERECTED THIS STRUCTURE.



### COURSES AVAILABLE TO YOU

Organised by: Southern Dandenongs Landcare  
and Belgrave South Community House:

- Sat 17 April : Fascinating Fungi
- Sun 16 May: In touch with the bush
- Sat 29 May: The Supurb Lyrebird
- Sun 27 June: What Weed?

Contact Belgrave South Community House Ph: 9754 2274

## Corporate Sponsors

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