



# The Glenfern

The Official Newsletter of The Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

Edition No. 25 Winter-Spring 2010

## President's Report Winter 2010

Recently, Linda and I walked through the Reserve in preparation for our annual works review with the Shire. These reviews provide important milestones on our continuing journey of rehabilitation. We are forced to take a step back, objectively view our progress, and to perhaps re-prioritize our plans. What did we find this year?

- ★ We have made excellent progress in the past twelve months. Through the commitment of our volunteers at working bees (and a dose of good luck with the weather), our efforts **have** made a difference to the natural appearance of the place.
- ★ Many dead trees have fallen due to the softer rain-soaked ground and strong winds. This allows more rapid breakdown as lichens, fungi and microbes set to work on the rotting timber. It also means reduced fire risk in summer.
- ★ The wetter conditions this year have noticeably aided the breakdown of many woody weeds that we have cut and poisoned over the past ten years.

The rains have also boosted growth of native plants at all levels, from grasses to trees. Unfortunately, weeds also love rain, so we have seen a huge surge in the germination of Boneseed and Rats-tail Grass for example.

- ★ Overall, we remain on track. If we can continue to attract volunteers to help at the working bees, we'll be able to maintain our progress. Our job will slowly turn from trying to make inroads into the weed infestations, to selectively removing re-emergent outbreaks. However, we still have about ten hectares of Pittosporum jungle to deal with!

The last two working bees provided an interesting insight to our progress. At the June working bee, we were working in an area east of Hill Track. Literally thousands of Boneseed seedlings welcomed us. With thirteen people working solidly for about three hours, we conservatively estimated that we'd removed about fifteen thousand. At the end of the working bee, we felt we had not returned the area to

the standard we had left it twelve months ago. We felt slightly depressed. Last month, for the first time in two years, we worked in the area to the west of Hill Track. After an hour or so, we'd pretty much selectively weeded the whole area. We were delighted to see so much natural revegetation. This reinforced the notion that we must keep chipping away, and that our efforts eventually pay off.

We look forward to an exuberant Spring, and to all the surprises our beautiful Reserve will bring.

See you soon

*Andrew*

### Annual General Meeting Thursday 14th October 7.30pm

Our AGM will be held at Upwey Township Hall, Rear of Main Street Upwey (between Guide and Scout Halls.)

*Feel free to come and meet the committee, and hear what's happened and happening with the rehabilitation work in the Reserve*



### Community Discovery Day

Saturday 23rd October 10.00am to 1.00pm Guided walks and talks

*This is a fun day where we welcome the community to the Reserve and a great opportunity to learn more about Glenfern Valley Bushlands Guided walks with Local people who are knowledgeable about the plants, birds and animals in the area.*

- Learn about your local bushland • Get to know the indigenous plants
- Meet Like minded people • Learn to identify weeds
- Take a walk in the park • Children's Activities



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

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## FUNGI

Glenfern Valley Bushlands has many varieties of fungi. Something that is often overlooked is that just how important fungi are to the ongoing health and biodiversity of the reserve. There is not a lot known about Fungi in Australia, and only a handful of locally written material.

If there were no fungi in the forest all over the continent, there would in all probability be enough material on the forest floors to reach the moon. Much of the work done by fungi is out of view in the soil. The mushrooms we see growing around us, are but a fraction of the area that the fungi covers. These are the fruiting bodies of the fungi, and under the ground quietly working away at breaking down the materials on the forest floor are the minute threads of the mycorrhiza that are spread throughout the soil.

## The New Info Shelter...

After many hours of effort from the hard working Committee, our information shelter now has pride of place in the reserve near the main entrance, beside the central carpark. The shelter has been officially opened by our Local Councillor Noel Cliff and Gavin Prentice from the Environment Department of the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Many thanks to everyone, who braved the inclement weather on the day, to thank Councilor Cliff and The Shire for funding towards the purchase of the shelter. We are also grateful to Melbourne Water who also provided funding toward the information boards.



*Look at our website!*  
[www.glenfernvalleybushlands.org.au](http://www.glenfernvalleybushlands.org.au)



## Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands

CONSERVING OUR LOCAL BUSH

August 18, 2010

home

our reserve

our community

projects

feedback

how to join

### WELCOME...

Descending down through the trees, the noises of human activity recede and are replaced by the sounds of nature. A feeling of peace envelops you.

Your biggest problem is now deciding whether to continue ambling through this beautiful untouched hide-away, or to sit for a while and breathe in the tranquility...

### Our Mission

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

### Key Goals

- Protect and enhance natural values
- Provide safe and compatible recreation opportunities
- Involve the community in the reserve
- Ensure sound and sustainable management



### EVENTS CALENDAR

#### WHAT'S ON?

Our next working bee will be on Sunday 15th August. Find out more [here](#).

Discovery Day will be on Saturday 23rd October.

#### WHAT'S NEW?

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in securing a Caring for Our Country grant from the Federal Government which will enable us to clear and chip woody weeds and replant with indigenous species!

### NEWSLETTER

### NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE



# FLORA & FAUNA CALENDAR



## JULY

Hop Wattles flowering  
Oxalis Growing  
Watsonia shooting  
First call of Fantail Cuckoos  
Magpies and Ravens are collecting nesting material  
Red Box flowering

Brushtails have joeys in their pouch  
First flower of Chocolate Lillies and many Wattles  
Weeds such as Hawthorn, Sweet Pittosporum and Privet fruiting  
Activity level of bats drop  
Red Wattlebirds and Currawongs calling

## AUGUST

New growth on Eucalypts  
Austral Grasstrees begin to flower  
Magpie Larks begin to make their mud nests  
Silver Wattles, Purple Coral Pea, Donkey Orchids are in full flower  
Owls are nesting  
Spotted Pardalotes build nesting tunnels, the male heard calling nearby  
Boobook Owls calling  
Spawning season for freshwater fish such as Mountain Galaxia



Many species of frogs begin to call including the Pobblebonk Frog

Panic Veldt Grass flowering

Tongue Orchids begin flowering

## SEPTEMBER



Celebrate the end of winter with a walk through your local bushland

Adult Platypus males become aggressive and equipped with poison glands in it's spurs

Common Bird, Spider and Sun Orchids are in flower

Purple Hovea, Silver Banksia, Showy Parrot Pea and Running Postman are in flower

Ringtail Possums are carrying young

Willy Wagtails start to nest

Magpie Lark feed young

Admiral Butterflies on paddock grass

Wood White Butterflies in Native Cherry

Rufous Fantails are moving down the Great Dividing Range to Victoria

Reptile and amphibians become more active, small skinks emerge

Victorian Copperheads usually found in swampy areas, they eat other cold blooded vertebrates

Yellow Box in flower

Watsonia flowering



## New Road Corner

The entrance to the car park at the New Road corner has had a well deserved makeover, funded jointly by the Shire of Yarra Ranges and City of Knox.

Students from Fairhills Secondary College will be assisting in planting the area north of the New Road car park, along the post and rail fence line

This forms part of their SOSE studies to learn more about the environment, reserve management and about volunteering generally in groups such as Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands.

# The Glenfern

## WORKING BEE DIARY 2010

- \* Sunday 15th August  
*Buckley's Farm and  
Manna Gum Tracks.*
- \* Saturday 18th September  
*Eastern Grasslands*
- \* **Saturday 23rd October**  
***Community Discovery Day***
- \* Sunday 21st November  
*Final working Bee. Prepare for  
Summer!*  
*Herb Rich Foothills Forest and  
Riparian Zone.*

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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 Glenfern 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.glenfernvalleybushlands.org.au](http://www.glenfernvalleybushlands.org.au)

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

### \* **Awesome Ornithorhynchids Day**

Platypus Information and  
Fun Day for Children  
(and Big Kids) at  
Belgrave Lake Park  
Sunday 12th September

### \* **Mosses and Liverworts**

Manningham Council  
Environmental Seminars  
Wednesday  
1st September  
7.30 p.m.  
Currawong Bush Park  
277 Reynolds Road Doncaster East

### \* **Native Orchid Walk**

Baluk Willam Nature Reserve  
Belgrave South  
Saturdays 12th and 18th September 10–12 a.m.  
Contact Belgrave South  
Community House

## Corporate Sponsors

### UNIPRINT PTY LTD (NEWSLETTER)

13 Edinburgh Street, Oakleigh South 3167

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### TRIO RUGS – HORSE RUGS MADE AND REPAIRED

*Embroidery of Tee shirts and Hats*

Graeme Strahan 0428 883338

Report rubbish dumping  
and vandalism to  
Shire of Yarra Ranges  
Ph: 1300 368 333