

*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.*



# The Glenfern

The Official Newsletter of The Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.  
Edition No. 28 Winter 2011

## President's Report – Winter 2011

So much has happened! So much to do! One of the best things about our Reserve and its Friends Group is that there always seems to be a buzz. At the moment, the ground is sodden and though the temperatures are now cooler (there's an under-statement), the wet conditions continue. The air tingles with freshness, and our cooler climate plants are reveling. We are seeing plants with metres of new growth, and seedlings of all varieties springing into life. At our last working bee, we were staggered by the number of Boneseed that had germinated, hugely increasing our workload. Thank goodness we have such a strong team, or the task would feel overwhelming. Thousands were cleared, but it was a reminder that our task is long term, and that perseverance is essential.

As well as our volunteer contribution, the Reserve benefits from Yarra Ranges

Council maintenance works. Often their contractors will be seen marching through the Bushland seeking out blackberries and other nasties which are more difficult for volunteers to treat. We're indebted to Council for their support. As further evidence of ongoing help, Council has allocated \$35000 in the new budget for improvements to the Reserve including central car-park upgrade and surfacing of fire access tracks.

In addition, our group receives fantastic support from Melbourne Water and the Federal Government through their Community Grants programs. This allows important progress to be made on the larger scale projects. Large numbers of Pittosporum are currently being chipped along Serg's Track and Wallaby Walk. The natural revegetation that has occurred since the work there in October last year

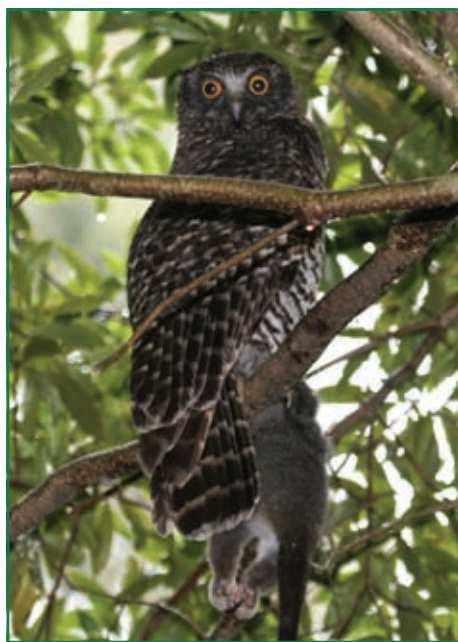
is simply stunning. In due course we will add indigenous varieties that have been eliminated over the years by clearing, grazing and competition from weeds.

The Committee is abuzz too with many projects in the planning stage. Front gates and walls, quarry site developments, educational days, tree-planting, and later in the year our tenth anniversary Discovery Day are keeping us busy. But it's a labour of love, and I can only encourage others to share the enjoyment we have in working together to achieve such worthwhile aims.

Linda and I are off to the Kimberley for seven weeks – lucky us. On a personal note, I'd just like to say how fortunate I am, to be part of such a good team. So much to do, but with so much support, continued progress is assured.

See you in August!

**Andrew**



### Residents of Glenfern Bushlands

Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands are fortunate to have so many supporters and people who are interested in the reserve and its inhabitants and plants.

One of our members, Mike Sverns has taken these wonderful photos of our Resident Powerful Owls raising their family last year.



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 friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

## Sun Orchid *Thelmitra Spp.*

Many people are fascinated to see Orchids growing in our local reserves and, on closer inspection in their own backyards. Take a look! I peeped through my own fence last year and to my surprise, saw Potato Orchids growing in a neighbouring back garden.

Terrestrial (growing in the ground) species outnumber the epiphytes 3 to 1 and grow over a wider range, including the southern parts of Australia. A few survive far inland in favourable habitats. The majority are deciduous and die down to an underground tuber in the dry season, which is summer in Southern Australia.

Terrestrial orchid seed is like fine dust and has no stored food source to aid germination and early growth. In the bush, orchid seed requires the help of a micorrhizal fungus for seedling development. Some species are dependent on the fungus association throughout their life cycle, whereas some adult plants can thrive without fungus.

Removing orchids from the bush usually results in their death and further depletes remaining wild orchid populations. Please enjoy looking and leave for others to admire.



Matt Law took this stunning photo of a Sun Orchid in Glenfern Valley Bushlands. These orchids flower October to December.



## If you go down in the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise.

We are now seeing lots of action using the "Caring for Country Grant". Our Contractor Yarra Ranges Fire Management has cut a swathe of Pittosporum from along Serg's Track and Wallaby Walk. Making use of a new articulated tractor, the Contractor can now position equipment and chip the downed Pittosporum. This will open out Serg's Track and Wallaby Walk for regeneration and provide access to tackle the remaining Pittosporum forest.

View looking down Serg's Track. Pittosporum for 10 metres on both sides of the track have been cut and prepared for chipping.

Friends of  
Glenfern Valley  
Bushlands

**10<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATION**

Sunday 16th October

Displays, Food, Guided Walks.  
Catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate all the hard work which has gone into 10 years of:

- Encouraging community involvement;
- Having this wonderful area reserved for public use;
- Clearing Rubbish, Weeding, Planting, Planning;
- Applying for Grants, Learning about the environment and animals;
- Making new friends and learning new skills.

## Planet ARK National Tree Day

Sunday 31st July 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Plant a tree!  
Help the environment and the Reserve!



We have 450 shrubs and trees to plant to give homes to the native wildlife and revegetate an area that has been cleared of woody weeds. This is a fun day where we welcome the community to the Reserve and a great opportunity to learn more about Glenfern Valley Bushlands

# Butterflies you may see in Glenfern Valley Bushlands



**Dainty Swallowtail** *Papilio anactus* × .80. ♀ and D similar. Common from Qld to Murray Valley. Often in gardens. Larva black and red on citrus etc. P.



**Cabbage White** *Pieris rapae*. ♀ yellowish, more heavily marked. Perth to Brisbane and Tasmania. A European pest of cabbages, introduced accidentally in 1939. P

**Caper White** *Anaphaeis java* × .90. ♀ may resemble ♂. Common throughout Australia, a strong migrant. Other races in Indonesia, Fiji, Samoa etc. Larva olive green with yellow dots and black head, on capers. P1.



**Wood White** *Delias aganippe* × .80. Southern half of the continent from Carnarvon in WA to near Brisbane. Larva dark brown with numerous white pimples and white hairs, on mistletoes. P1.



**Imperial White** *Delias harpalyce* × .80. ♂ greyish white above. Common on tablelands of NSW and Victoria. Larva brown with white hairs and black head, on mistletoes. P1.



**Painted Lady** *Cynthia vershaii* × .80. Common throughout Australia south of 20°. Also in Tasmania and N.Z. Migratory. Larva variable with many branched spines, on thistles. N.



**Meadow Argus** *Junonia villida* × .80. Common throughout Australia and Tasmania. Also in New Guinea etc. Migratory. Larva black with many branched spines on many herbs. N.



**Australian Admiral** *Bassaris itea* × .80. Southern Australia, from Perth to Brisbane; also Atherton Tableland, Tasmania, N.Z. Migratory. Larva variable, grey to black with branched spines, on nettles. N.



**Eastern Ringed Xenica** *Geitoneura acantha* × .85. Central Qld to SA, common. Larva green, occasionally brown with darker longitudinal lines and short horns, on kangaroo grass and other common grasses. S.



**Common Brown** *Heteronympha merope* × .85. One race from Rockhampton to SA, one in Tasmania, one in sw. WA. Larva variable, covered in short hairs, without horns, on grasses. S.



**Sword-grass Brown** *Tisiphone abeona* × .85. Very variable; several races from s. Qld to se. SA, never far from coast. Northern races marked with white, southern with orange. Larva green with pinkish forked tail, on sword-grass. S.



**Klug's Xenica** *Geitoneura klugi*. Southern Australia and Tasmania, from near Brisbane to Geraldton in WA. Larva with short hairs and rounded head, green, on grasses. S.



**Shouldered Brown** *Heteronympha penelope* × .85. ♀ paler. Mountains of NSW, Victoria and Tasmania, five races. Larva hornless, on grasses. S.



**Common Imperial Blue** *Falmenus evagoras*. ♀ duller, more rounded. Two races, from se. Qld to s. Victoria. Larva green to black, with many paired tubercles on back, on various wattles, attended by small black ants. L.



**Common Grass Blue** *Zizina otis*. Common throughout Australia, Tasmania, Asia and the Pacific. Larva on pea family flowers. L.

Illustrations from the Domino 'Australian Butterflies' Chart Published by Domino and Fontana Books 1980



# The Glenfern

## WORKING BEE DIARY 2011

- \* **Saturday 16th July Hill Track East**  
Prepare for Planting
  - \* **Sunday 31st July Planet ARK**  
**NATIONAL TREE DAY**
  - \* **Sunday 21st August Buckley's Farm**  
*Track to Manna Gum Track*  
Broom, Pittosporum, Fruit Trees, etc.
  - \* **Saturday 17th September**  
*Serg's Track East to Depot Track*  
Follow up Caring for Country Grant work. Expand grassy patches. Work above and around depot
  - \* **Sunday 16th October**  
**OUR 10th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**
  - \* **Sunday 20th November Riparian Area**  
*between Wildflower and Sarah's Tracks*
- 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 third 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 weed ID.

### Everyone is welcome!

Entry for cars is via the Parks Victoria (Fire Access) gate on Glenfern Road, Upwey (about ½ way along the reserve) Site reference is Melways 74 G10.

Bring a water bottle 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.

## What's On

### Bushland Birds

Darren Wallace will lead a walk through Selby Conservation Reserve  
*Saturday 25th June*  
Belgrave South Community House  
Bookings Ph: 9754 2274

### Australian Ferns

Manningham Council Environmental Seminars  
*Wednesday 3 August 7.30 p.m.*  
Warrandyte Community Centre  
168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

### Awesome Ornothorinkids Day

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

### Corporate Sponsor:

### UniPrint Pty Ltd

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### OUR BILLABONG FULL OF FROGS!



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

