

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. 33 Winter/Spring 2013



As usual there is so much activity at Glenfern Valley Bushlands that it is hard to keep track of all of the things that are happening and in the pipeline. This is such a dedicated group with wonderful ideas that are seen through to fruition. I have been proud to be part of this group and see all of the improvements that have happened over the years.

One of our latest projects is the completion of our "Entrance of Significance". The rock

wall being constructed on Glenfern Road will soon proudly bear the name of Glenfern Valley Bushlands. Our stonemason is doing a magnificent job!

Our Interpretive signs should arrive soon and be installed at our entrance gates.

Someone asked me recently "What is happening in the old Quarry?" I replied "Why don't you come down and see what we are doing?" Two new picnic tables are planned to enable visitors to enjoy the

peaceful outlook and enjoy the local birdlife.

A small water drainage pond has been installed in the lower section which has attracted frogs.



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc. • P.O. Box 1283, Upwey Victoria 3158
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"It's a FROGS life" ...our reserve continues to be an important place for various wildlife, especially frogs. The "frog bog" on Manna Gum track has been topped up with this winters persistent rain. Future investments in our quarry area, such as developing another small wetland, will ensure our local frog species will flourish. There are thirteen species of frog listed as occurring in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges region. The main species we have in our reserve are: Southern Brown Tree Frog, Eastern Common Froglet, Victorian Small Froglet, Southern Region Toadlet and Eastern Banjo Frog (Pobbleponk).

Photos: 1, 2, 3 – Mike Sverns. Photo 4 – David Moncrieff.

My time with Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands

Paul Derezycky

I moved from the Yarra Valley in the late 90's and met Gillian my wife in 2004, and not long after I became an active member and subsequent committee member of Glenfern Valley Bushlands.

I have to say it has been a very positive experience. I have made a lot of friends that I shall sorely miss when Gill and I make our move to the country later this year. We have both shared the great times at working Bees as well as our extra curricular working forays at Glenfern. I as a 'newby' to the Dandenongs after many years on the other side (of the hills ☺). I have become a hills community member, it is hard to put into words but I have made many alliances sharing my passion for the Australian native bushlands.

I have been privileged to be part of the very dynamic and proactive diverse group at Glenfern, and also the whole hills community of Weedbusters, including supporting other Friends Groups through a strong connection with the Southern Dandenongs Landcare Group. We have been able to attend a number of courses thorough involvement with Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands and our ongoing alliances with Melbourne Water, Yarra Ranges Council, Swinburne Lilydale and many more.

I was already a qualified Horticulturalist, who dabbled for many years into Conservation and Land Management. A big eye opener was my advancement from a Horticulturalist (35 years+) to now being a proud holder of Cert 111 in Conservation and Land Management – and all down to active involvement with Glenfern valley Bushlands.

Gill and I have travelled within Australia as often as we can, and even manage to holiday for a few days before honing in on local weed problems (we cant even go on holidays without recognising and pulling out a few weeds!)

It has been a personal transition from Horticulture to Conservation, revegetation in our fantastic natural environment; the many issues small and large, especially the 'tread lightly approach' in weed management and subsequent removal. With much thought and consideration required, to not only remove the enemy from our midst, but to doing it with all the due consideration required for habitat management. And as many amongst us have learned at can be a painstakingly slow process from the outset, but as each piece of the puzzle falls into place it all starts to come together. For every nasty we remove, mother nature and others sends a few more to challenge our thinking and at

times our energy. I have seen Glenfern grow and change as one watches a child grow up and Glenfern has moved both forward and upward, all down to a great committee, leadership, membership and each individual bringing with them their skills and knowledge in so many areas.

I am very hands on 'get it done' as are many in the group, we have some terrific movers and shakers, so no time to sit and ponder, but to get the job done and share it all with the local Community. I feel that Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands has become an important part of the community, and has made its mark on the landscape. I will miss Glenfern and the friends I have made, but thanks to technology I only have to Google or visit on Facebook as well as perhaps travelling the 300km to some working bees in the future – after we have dealt with the weeds in the Warby Ranges of course!



President's Report



With winter fast disappearing it's time for another report. Welcome to our Winter/Spring Newsletter.

We can look back at some very successful tree planting activities in the reserve during autumn. It may seem strange to some, but we do not need to plant many more trees across our reserve – in fact we need a special reason to plant. We must avoid haphazard planting, or just planting for the sake of it, or thinking that conserving the environment is just about planting trees. In our case we wish to regain the original open forest landscape in much of the reserve, as it would have been pre-European arrival. Our remnant vegetation is intact so our intervention is essentially to encourage the native vegetation to self re-establish. Our main task now and for the years ahead is to control the weeds that never did belong on our patch – weeds that choke our native flora and fauna.

One special reason to plant is when we clear a significant area of woody weeds thickets. This autumn we did just that! With funding support from Melbourne Water we hired a contractor to clear thousands of Sweet Pittosporum plants between Wallaby Walk and Creek Side Track. This was followed up with volunteers planting 500 carefully selected trees and shrubs to return this section back to a typical landscape for this area before the onset of grazing 50 to 100 years ago. Sweet Pittosporum thickets and weeds like Boneseed and Blackberries hit us 30 to 40 years ago. The accompanying map of the reserve captures the sheer scale of our progress to deal with the menace of Pittosporum. While Sweet Pittosporum is an Australian native it is a weed in our reserve and across the Dandenong ranges – and as such it should be removed from everyone's land in this Shire.

Referring to the map, the area shaded in green is the approximate perimeter of the Sweet Pittosporum thicket at the

time the Friends Group formed. There were also other scattered areas of Sweet Pittosporum all across the reserve. The area below the Creek Side Walk was cleared by Melbourne Water; elsewhere it has been undertaken by our Friends Group with a series of Grants and working bees over 10 years. Two thickets remain. The orange area will be our next priority, probably in two or three year's time after regeneration in area 9 is well established. The red area is a potential burn area for DEPI and will be the last area tackled. It's been a mighty job – you should all be proud.

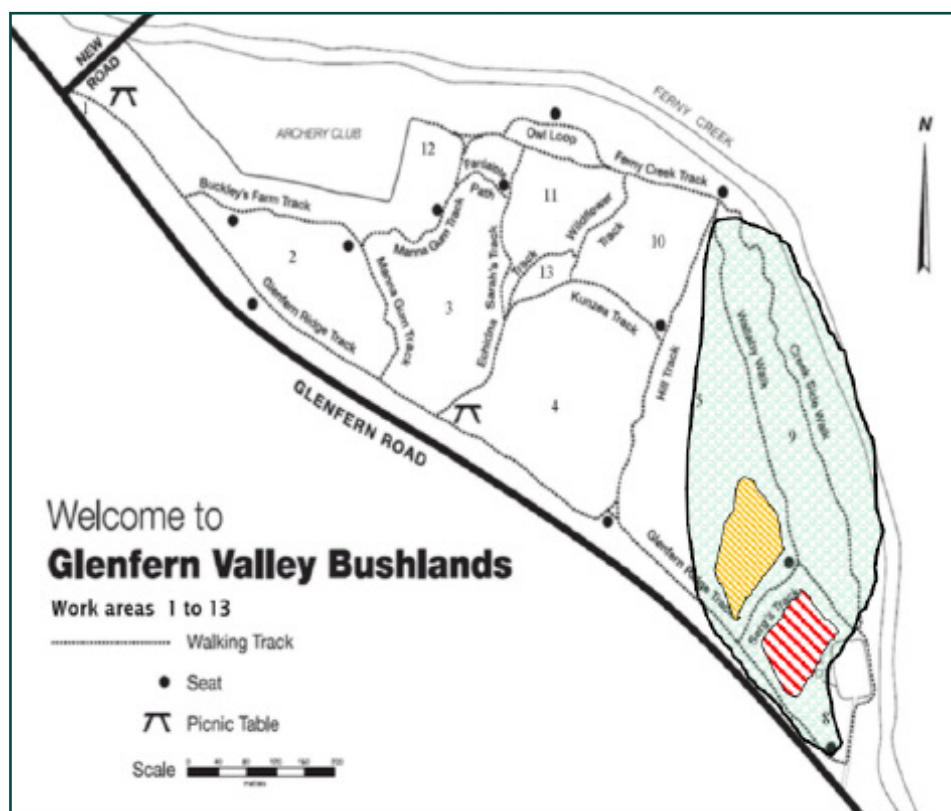
Our Annual General Meeting is coming up in October. We have a few roles opening up, as our long serving Committee couple Gill and Paul are moving up country and will be acutely missed. Gill has been our Secretary for many years and has driven the membership campaigns, the Newsletter and so much more. Paul has been our Safety Officer, and key practical hands-on man with special knowledge of tools, horticulture and safety issues – what more can I say – as volunteers go they have done it all. Step up and let us know how you would like to help. The Committee is a supportive lot that forge ahead by learning and achieving as a team.

We recently had a mid week working bee. It was for a particular purpose – to plant some trees that were already positioned in area 9 but could not be planted due to the cancellation of a school visit because of rain. It was a small group effort but a great success and people dropped in who rarely or never have the chance to join in. It has given us food for thought; ***“Could we have a monthly mid week Working Bee?”*** Just a couple of hours, say from 10 to 12 where we might do a light work task or small activity and then enjoy a cuppa together. Not too arduous but fulfilling time, where we can meet, do something useful and then go home refreshed and happy. Are you interested? Please let us know.

Once again I invite everyone to join and support Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands. The reserve has much to offer and depends on members and volunteers. Membership is inexpensive but powerful in gaining support for our local reserve. Together we have achieved an outcome that once seemed beyond our wildest dreams. And as is often said *“look for yourself – visit your wonderful Bushlands”*.

David

P.S. Check out our main gate entry and discover our latest upgrade.



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WORKING BEE DIARY 2013

- * Sunday 18th August – *Hill Track to Sarahs Track Lower section*. Light weeding and wildflower spotting
 - * Saturday 21st September – *Serg's Track East to Depot*. Expand grassy patches. Work above and around depot!
 - * Sunday 20th October
COMMUNITY DISCOVERY DAY
Open Day with Guided Tours, Displays and Visitor Activities
 - * Saturday 16th November – *Old Quarry– New Visitor Area*. Weed plantings. Repair Paths. Check Regeneration. Discuss next stage works.
 - * Saturday 7th December – Christmas Break Up – Picnic in the Park (Time TBA)
- 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, animals and weed ID.

Everyone is welcome.

Entry for cars is via the Central gate on Glenfern Rd Upwey (about ½ way along the reserve)

Site reference: Melways 74 G10.

Bring a water bottle and depending on the weather, a hat or wet weather gear. Please wear long pants and sensible shoes/boots.

In the event of a Fire Ban or inclement weather the working bee will be cancelled.

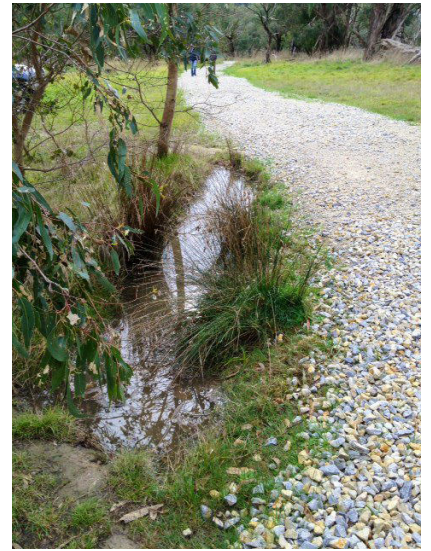
By being a financial member of Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands, you enable the group to gain valuable Funding Grants to help us with works in the reserve.

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

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

Top of Hill Track

Frog Hollow and
view of newly graded
and gravel-topped
fire access track



Thank you Daniel Jackson for the photos at recent working bees, it is great to be able to share your view of the reserve with our members.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 10th October 8.00p.m. at the Upwey RSL

**We are troubled by the amount
of rubbish being dumped on the
perimeter of the reserve recently.**

PLEASE report rubbish dumping to:
Yarra Ranges Council
Ph: 1300 368 333

Corporate Sponsors:

UniPrint Pty Ltd

13 Edinburgh Street, Oakleigh South 3167

Printer of this newsletter

Call 9543 7677 for all your printing needs.

Native Vegetation Management

Armin Korchan Ph 59683297

Or: armin@weedsmart.com.au

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