

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. 34 Autumn 2014

President's Report

Today I took a walk to the Bushlands and sat at the new picnic table in the old quarry. I contemplated how bushlands and the supporters have changed over time. Our group's history began in 2001; it was a time of ambitious dreams and a 40 hectare reserve full of challenges from one end to the other. For just about everyone active in the group it was something new. But that pioneering group put together a foundation and set out a purpose that has served us well. Has the reserve changed much? "Yes it has" and wow what a difference. We now have a Bushlands free of the industrial

scale rubbish dumping and more than half of the reserve has been rehabilitated to a bushlands landscape. In fact I suspect that many people now visiting Glenfern Valley Bushlands will have no memory of the mess and chaos; the weeds and rubbish that the Friends confronted in 2001 is no more. From the Entrance of Significance, nicely framed by the new rock wall signage, you can take a walk on safe tracks and enjoy a healthy bushland remnant that is really quite rare. The group has changed also, although we still have a hard core of members that have been around ever since the first

public meeting was called to defend the reserve from development. We will go on transforming the reserve too, but we need capable folk to 'skill up' on how to manage the reserve and keep our group strong and focussed for the decades to come. We need and appreciate volunteers on the ground to do the work. Put another way, we always need new supporters, we always need new members and we definitely need new volunteers joining the team to keep up the momentum. We cannot take the Bushlands for granted we all must look after it.



The First Working Bee for 2014

Sunday February 16th saw a good turnout for the start of the new year's management of the reserve. The group worked in Area 9 and targeted reshooting Pittos. The area is looking good with some Blackberry and Boneseed sneaking in amongst the Pittos.



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc. • P.O. Box 1283, Upwey Victoria 3158
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Our Powerful Owls welcome new supporters and members



The reserve has much to offer. We ask that you take a few minutes to check to ensure your membership is up to date and/or to join the Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands. And please pass on the invitation to family and friends. Membership is inexpensive but is a powerful signal to Government agencies that the community is supportive and participating in the Glenfern project. The larger the membership the more we can do. Thank you to the many of you that are members already. It is worth it, take a look for yourself—visit your wonderful Bushlands. You may just want to join to show your support or you may want to become an active volunteer—we don't mind—we just want you to be part of it. Check out our website for more details.

<http://www.glenfernbushlands.org.au>

A table with a view

Next time you are wandering down Echidna Track admiring the bushlands, walk a little further to the old quarry site. In this open area, which we are rehabilitating, we have installed a picnic table. Built by and erected by our members from salvaged 100 year old cypress, the table is situated so you can admire the beautiful treed views up and down the valley. Nearby we have planted indigenous Eucalypts and Blackwoods which will eventually give some shade but won't block out the vista.

With seating for ten it came in handy at our working bee morning tea. We hope you will enjoy it too.



The Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoos

These can be seen at various times during the summer in our bushland reserve. They fly in small flocks with slow measured wing beats, calling frequently. They are a welcome sight and are far less intrusive than their frequently observed Sulphur-crested cousins.



There's something about Glenfern...

The reserve that is Glenfern Valley appeals to its many supporters and visitors in different ways. The quality and significance of its grassy forests, its variety, its quiet captivating hidden corners, the creek imposing its short-lived freedom before succumbing to man's piped prison, the changes we volunteers have achieved with assistance from Nature's powerful resilience, its importance as a buffer between our precious hills and sprawling Melbourne, or perhaps just a place to relax with friends or Fido.

I think it's valuable and enlightening to reflect occasionally on the past eleven years or so. In the early days of formal reservation, a large chunk of our initial

funding was dedicated to a Management Plan—slightly controversial considering how much needed to be done, and how obvious the priorities. Build a fence, remove the rubbish and clear the weeds. In hindsight, it is money well spent, and an excellent report with visionary thinking. You will find it easy to read on our website.

Our Plan's key goals, just as relevant today as in 2004:

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

These goals provide the bases for our decisions, and help us prioritise the allocation of our limited resources. Two more questions help focus our minds:

- Will it help the reserve?
- Will we enjoy doing it?

These questions also help to personalise and connect our group and efforts, so that every task is a valuable and enjoyable experience. Though our backgrounds are diverse, and the appeal of Glenfern differs from person to person, how fortunate we all are to enjoy its special features. There really is something about Glenfern.

Andrew

Frog Pond for the Bushlands

All round the world frogs are in serious trouble and loss of clean habitats is the big reason why. The Bushlands presents a perfect opportunity to build a modest frog pond in a natural setting. We can help our local frogs survive by building an ideal frog pond free of chemicals and pesticides. Over the last year we have identified the spot to build the pond. We have carefully observed the run-off of water and know that a small pond will be filled quite easily with each decent rain. We would like to give the frogs a helping hand and in addition add an educational feature to our reserve. We do have a couple other spots in the reserve that support frog breeding every few years and we have identified two frog species in the Bushlands so we know that if we build the right habitat we will definitely attract frogs. The quarry project sketch, showing the tracks put in last year (the old quarry area is the centre of the reserve) shows a happy frog at the place where we will build the frog pond. To help fund and share this project we are seeking donations from the public. If you can help please drop your donation into the Yarra Ranges Community Link in Upwey or send a donation through the membership form on our website <http://www.glenfernbushlands.org.au>



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WORKING BEE DIARY 2014

- * Sunday 13th April
North West Boundary with Archery Club
(Areas 1 and 12)
- * Saturday 17th May
Area 6—Checking planting on Serg's Track
Removing more Pittosporums!
- * Sunday 15th June
Area 3—Above and below Pardalote Path
- * Saturday 19th July
Hill Track Eastwards—Area 5
- * Sunday 17th August
Areas 10 and 11—Sweep through prime
areas to remove weed seedlings

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 Road
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.



Another interesting discovery
during the February working
bee in Area 9. This specimen
was a magnificent size as
indicated by the mobile
phone comparison.

Corporate Sponsors:

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Printer of this newsletter

Call 9543 7677 for all your printing needs.

Native Vegetation Management

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Or: armin@weedsmart.com.au

*Photos By: Mike Sverns, David Moncrieff, Linda Fullagar,
Sharon Twining and Katharine Brodie.*



Visit our Facebook page for up-to-date
information and befriend us!

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

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

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