

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. 36 Autumn/Winter 2015



President's Report

Hello Glenfermians and welcome to latest edition of *The Glenfern*.

Glenfern Valley Bushlands continues to conserve and protect our environment and diversify into additional activities. On the conservation front we now have our regular monthly Restoration meetings as well as a monthly midweek Conservation and Conversation meeting. The additional session has opened up new activities for the group and new members. Our most recent sessions have concentrated on litter reduction along the creek. Most of Ferny Creek has now been cleaned up giving it that pristine appearance that it deserves. The creek is a vein of environmental wealth for Glenfern. The Riparian Forest along the creek line provides wonderful habitat for many of our birds while the contrasting Grassy Forest areas running up the slope provide a change in vegetation that makes walking in Glenfern such a rich experience.

I would like to thank all our volunteers for the wonderful work they have contributed to the bushlands in recent months and years for some. The health of the bushlands is a great reward but we also told by experts that volunteers are healthier, fitter, more mentally alert

and more socially connected than people who do not volunteer. I know that our volunteers and members value the social aspects of working together.

In early April we had a preschool playgroup spend the morning at the frog pond in the quarry. Not only does the pond look natural in the quarry, the young families seem at home there too. Common Froglets are frequently calling. That is a pretty good outcome considering we only begun constructing the pond in April last year. What better purpose could you imagine for our bushlands than toddlers learning to love the bush and environment?

You will see elsewhere in this Newsletter that our Butterfly group has also found a great deal of satisfaction and butterflies from their butterfly walks. We also have a University student using the Glenfern as a site for his environmental project. Our reserve Environmental Volunteers E-Newsletter – March 2015 is an ideal home for a variety of interests. We continue to look forward to your ideas and participation to increase this range of activity in our bushlands.

We have had some very good news from the Council. They have committed

to providing a mowing service for special areas and tracks. We eagerly anticipate this support getting underway as it has been a big commitment for those resolute volunteers that mow and whipper snip.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to invite you, your family and friends to come along to the Bushlands on the 24th May to our community planting day. The purpose of the planting is to add to the great work recently done on the Archery Club grounds to clear it of woody weeds. Glenfern has undertaken to plant a 'green screen' along our side of the boundary between the Archery Club and Glenfern Valley Bushlands as part of the revegetation of the area. Naturally it will not be a simple hedge but a thickening up of the current vegetation, particularly with mid-storey plantings to give this boundary a more natural bushy and denser look. We have 400 plants to be placed for this event.

You all should be very proud of our Bushlands. Take a look and a walk – you will be well rewarded.

David Moncrieff
President



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

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Trinity College Field Trip

In November 86 international tertiary students and 4 teachers from Trinity College made a fieldtrip to Glenfern to give their students an introduction to the Australian environment. Trinity has been coming to Glenfern for a number of years but this year was the biggest by far. For many international students this is their first introduction to a bushland setting. To walk deep into the reserve, with not a building in sight, is a novel if not disturbing experience for some students. Glenfern is so different to the manicured lawns and paths found in the city parks that they have experienced in their home cities.

The students were broken into four groups and taken through the reserve, led by Glenfern volunteers. The questions and photo taking start from the moment they arrive until the last student boards the bus. Students gain insight in the physical characteristics of the reserve, our landscapes, flora and fauna. They learn how we control weeds and revegetate and conduct other activities within Glenfern. They build an understanding of how the reserve is used and managed, the issues we encounter and the role the volunteers and Council play. Indeed most of the students are astonished to find that most of the work is done by unpaid volunteers.



It is fun morning for the students, their teachers and the Glenfern volunteers. Thank you to the Glenfern volunteers for giving up your morning to help out; Linda, Serg, David, Michael, Sharon, Marilyn, Mike S, Marleen and Andrew.

A Wonderful Discovery in the Reserve

The Hyacinth Orchid

During the February working bee, while weeding off Hill Track, this beautiful orchid caught our eye. This particular plant is endemic to the Dandenong Ranges; they flower over summer but being a small plant, hidden amongst the grasses, they are not easy to spot. They are usually found on dry slopes of open forests where Stringybarks are common.



Same Track...



...Different Time

The photo on the left was taken quite a while ago. The area was thick with pittosporum and after a persistent effort on behalf of the members and contractors the area was cleared. The photo on the right has been taken at the same place this year and the difference is breathtaking. The Spear grass has come back amazingly well and it is a delight to walk through and see the vast expanse of grass shimmering in the sunlight.



Archery Club Bush Transformed

The picturesque bushland surrounding the Sherbrooke Archers property has undergone quite a transformation recently. Their venue borders Glenfern to the north, and has for many years been impacted by woody weeds. Melbourne Water, who manages the land, has dedicated many resources and funds to remove those weeds so that indigenous varieties can revegetate and prosper. For Glenfern, removing the weed seed source is a huge plus, and as the bush recovers, the boundary should appear as a seamless transition. To further accelerate that process, we are planning a Community Planting Day at the end of May (details on back page), to provide a buffer along the fence-line.

Friends of Glenfern appreciate the large commitment by Melbourne Water, and the co-operation by Sherbrooke Archers during what must have been a disruptive time.



Glenfern Butterflies

Late in 2014, an enthusiastic band of members met together and decided to regularly meet up at Glenfern to catch, identify and photograph any butterflies which were found fluttering by.

It has been a fascinating time for all the members who were involved...learning how to use the amazing butterfly nets, cleverly made by David; sitting down on the tracks and trying to identify each

butterfly using our new butterfly field guide; trying to get good clear photographs of each new species and thoroughly enjoying the amazing patterning of each one we caught. To date we have found fourteen different species and we look forward to seeing many more as the year progresses.

Below is a list of the species found so far.



- Cabbage White
- Forest Brown
- Ringed Xenica
- Caper White
- Blotched Dusky Blue
- Long-tailed Pea Blue
- Australian Painted Lady
- Common Brown
- Shouldered Brown
- Common Grass Blue
- Lilac Grass Skipper
- Barred Skipper
- Green Grass Dart
- Marbled Xenica

Jenny Scott

The Glenfern

WORKING BEE & EVENTS DIARY 2015

Saturday 16th May

Area 6—Checking plantings on Serg's Track.
Removing more Pittosporums!

Sunday 21st June

Area 3—Above and below Pardalote Path

Saturday 18th July

Area 2—Check the results of grass foraging
below Wallaby Walk

Sunday 16th August

Area 9—Sweep through prime areas to
remove weed seedlings

Saturday 19th September

Area 13—Weeding and planting around
Frog Pond

Sunday 18th October

MEMBERS DAY—Informative walks and talks.
Picnic BBQ lunch

Saturday 21st November

Area 7—Expand grassy patches and area
around Yellow Boxes

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

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.

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 finance 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.

SPECIAL EVENT COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY

Sunday May 24th • 10am till 1pm

Join us for an hour or two or just drop by to
say hello. We have 400 plants to place along
the Archery Club boundary.

Go to the main car park and follow the
signs. The aim of the planting is to provide a
buffer between the reserve boundary and
the archery club.



NEW MID WEEK INITIATIVE CONSERVATION AND CONVERSATION

First WEDNESDAY of the month 9–11 a.m.
Meet at the central car park on Glenfern Road.

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

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Or: armin@weedsmart.com.au

*Photos: Linda Fullagar, David Moncrieff, Jenny Scott and
Michael Twining.*



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 of Yarra Ranges

Ph: 1300 368 333

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