

The Glenfern

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

Edition No. 376 Spring/Summer 2015

President's Report

Two of the critical tasks the start-up Committee identified in 2001 were the need for a clear mission statement and a long term management plan for the reserve.

In due course Yarra Ranges Council commissioned an experienced consultant, Robin Crocker to lead the development of the Management Plan. The comprehensive Plan was released in February 2004 and subsequently adopted by the Yarra Ranges Council. That Management Plan has served Glenfern well. Much of the plan has been accomplished. However the reality is that initial Management Plan has passed its use by date and it is in need a major overhaul to take us through the next decade.

Two things that we like most about the first Management Plan is that it was had great insight and that it captured our mission perfectly. We are happy to report that Robin Crocker will again be the leading consultant. See the article in this newsletter for an updated report.

As a Friends group we do have some challenges. One challenge that we are still wrestling with is to how to convert the high level of activity in the reserve to more active volunteering within our Friends group, so that we can continue to drive our cherished bushlands project. A somewhat related challenge is to have the next generation take on the key positions of leadership, so the baby boomers amongst us can take a break.

This year we have had some noteworthy projects and successes. We had an outstanding Community Tree Planting Day, with some 400 screening plants being established along the boundary

with the Sherbrooke Archers. We have also worked with Council to secure an allocation of \$30,000 dollars to press on with our project in the old quarry area to make it a focus point of the reserve. In the last 12 months we have introduced our monthly mid week "Conservation and Conversation" meetings to do additional tasks around the reserve like removing litter from the creek. A new butterfly group, led by Jenny, has documented 15 butterfly species living in the reserve. Our core monthly working bees continue to be well supported and carry out vital weed control and conservation work across the reserve.

There are some organisations and special people that we, the Committee, would like to thank. UniPrint Pty Ltd prints our Newsletter for free—a very generous and practical donation. Cr Noel Cliff has been a long time supporter of our bushlands, and we thank him for his ongoing encouragement. We thank Yarra Ranges Council, and in particular Gavin Prentice for his frequent help. Melbourne Water continues to be a generous sponsor of the reserve. We especially thank all our volunteers, members and the local supporters for their endless time, skills, enthusiasm and loyalty.

The 2014–2015 Committee has done a sterling job and I thank each of you for your contributions and commitment to the bushlands. Our organisation is strong with a 100 financial members. Our group remains financially strong and the governance is in good order. I thank Andrew for his support and for outstanding contributions on so many occasions. I thank Linda for her dedication

continued on page 2...

Glenfern Management Plan Time for review

Back in 2003, Glenfern Valley Bushlands was formally reserved. Initial funding of \$50,000 was secured to initiate planning and works. Most of this was expended on two items, namely our perimeter fence and a Management Plan (2004). At the time it seemed a lot of money for a plan when there were so many other pressing needs. However, in hindsight it was well spent. It proposed our Vision and Goals, and on many occasions has provided a logical pathway for the rehabilitation and development of the Reserve. Along the way, decisions and compromises must be made and the Plan has been a grounding document for our thoughts.

Eleven years on, many of the Plan's goals and priorities have been achieved through the Friends hard work in close co-operation with Council. It's now time for review, and to that end we have raised funds through donations and memberships, bolstered by a Council Grant and Environment Dept funds.

What's the new ten year vision? How will the Reserve cope with added pressure from visitors and climate change? How will the Friends Group stay motivated and relevant? How will we prioritise activities with increased pressure for funding? What is most important to you?

Please have your say by emailing or talking to us. As always, your input guides our path.



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The photos below are proof of what good planning and management can achieve.



View from New Rd looking east in 2005.



Same view in 2014.

A wonderful turnout for Members Day...

The day provided the opportunity for members and their families to visit the reserve and see what has been happening throughout the year. The highlight for the children was the construction of some very creative 'nature' creatures using colourful play dough and leaves, seeds and flowers from the environment.



... continued from page 1

to the Secretary's tasks that keeps our group together and organised. To Sharon, our minutes recorder and Newsletter editor, thanks for a job well done, and I would also like to thank Michael our Treasurer, for keeping our finances in excellent shape. In fact, I thank everyone on the committee; everyone provided input and had a role. It has been a wonderful team to work with.

We can all be proud of Glenfern Valley Bushlands.

(Extracts from the President's Report given to the AGM on the 8th October 2015)

David Moncrieff
President



Some wonderful creations by the children.



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Three walks in the reserve

New Road Walk

Beginning at the New Road car park on the western corner of the reserve, follow the main track, Glenfern Ridge Track for about 200 meters, to where there is a track on your left leading off down the slope to the right. This goes past some of the remains of a farm that used to occupy the reserve, then past the Archery Club fence, into open woodland. At the junction with Manna Gum Track, take the left-hand branch downhill. The bush here is mainly mature black wattles, and is home to small birds such as blue wrens and fantails. The track leads to the wetlands corner at the bottom of the hill. This area was historically badly damaged by four wheel drives. Turn right into Ferny Creek Track, through the riparian (creek side) zone. Follow the path along to Sara's Track on the right, which leads up to the old quarry side. Look for the frog pond at the base of the quarry. The Echidna Track will take you back up to the central car park and Glenfern Rd. You can return to the New Road car park via the Glenfern Ridge Track.

Time: 30 mins.

Quarry Walk

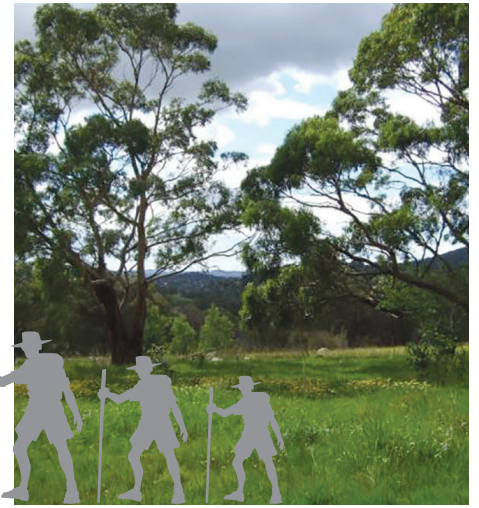
Starting at the central car park, take Echidna Track, which starts just behind information shelter to the left of the car park. Just before the quarry, take the track leading down the bank on the left, through open treed grasslands. At the bottom on the hill, turn right into Creek Track. In this area, you can see blue tongue lizards, black cockatoos and kookaburras. For a shorter walk, take Wildflower Track back up to the quarry, and back to the car park. Otherwise, follow the creek down to the bottom corner, and turn right into Hill Track. (Caution—this track is very steep and rocky in places.) Halfway up the hill, turn right into Kunzea Track, through peppermint gums and tea trees. Kunzea Track goes along the top of the quarry, and back to the car park.

Time: 30 mins


















Depot Road Walk

Starting at the Depot Rd corner, walk up Glenfern Ridge Track for about 200 meters, and then turn right into Serge's Track, opposite a large, gnarled peppermint gum. This goes through what used to be dense pittosporum forest, with a few eucalypts emerging through the canopy. Pittosporums are native to Gippsland, but unfortunately have become a weed in the Dandenongs.

Due to their toxic sap, and high water consumption, very little can grow underneath them. After clearing, the native vegetation is beginning to grow back. At the junction with Wallaby Walk, turn left along the hill towards Hill Track. In this area, away from the houses and roads, there is a wide variety of native grasses and small shrubs that between the Wallaby Walk and the creek. This is a revegetation area once also covered in pittosporum. Hill Track will take you back the Glenfern Ridge Track, along the top of the reserve.



Butterflies seen and identified at Glenfern Valley Bushlands 2014–2015

1. Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i> 	2. Caper White <i>Belenois java teutonia</i> 	3. Common Grass-blue <i>Zizina otis labradus</i> 	4. Blotched Dusky-blue <i>Candalides acasta</i> 
5. Long-tailed Pea-blue <i>Lampides boeticus</i> 	6. Green Grass-dart <i>Ocybadistes walkeri sothis</i> 	7. Lilac Grass Skipper <i>Toxidia doubledayi</i> 	8. Barred Skipper <i>Dispar compacta</i> 
9. Marbled Xenica <i>Geitoneura klugii</i> 	10. Ringed Xenica <i>Geitoneura acantha</i> 	11. Australian Painted Lady <i>Vanessa kershawi</i> 	12. Common Brown <i>Heteronympha merope merope</i>  
13. Shouldered Brown <i>Heteronympha penelope penelope</i> 	14. Banks' Brown <i>Heteronympha banksii banksii</i> 	15. Forest Brown <i>Argynnis cyrila</i> 	16. Meadow Argus <i>Junonia villida calybe</i> 

Due to the efforts of a group of dedicated butterfly watches the follow specimens have been discovered in the reserve. The group gathers at the reserve when the conditions are just right for spotting these elusive creatures. Any members interested in being involved please don't hesitate to contact the group or check the web site for more detailed information.

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WORKING BEE & EVENTS DIARY

November 2015 – June 2016

Saturday 28th November

Area 7—Expand grassy patches and area around Yellow Boxes

Sunday February 21st

Area 9—Working below Wallaby Walk starting from Hill Track checking and removing weeds.

Saturday March 19th

Area 4 and 5—Maintain quality of prime areas. Check on Kikuyu and Montbretia spread.

Sunday April 17th

Area 1, 2 and 12—Revisit Archery Club boundary. Check New Rd area. Area 2 check results of grass foraging.

Saturday May 21st

Area 6—Sweep improved areas and push into Pittosporum jungle. Create path through jungle.

Sunday June 19th

Area 3—Tackle areas below Pardalote Path. Ivy and Bridal Creeper near Ferny Creek Track.

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.
Three year memberships are now also available.



Another interesting discovery in the Reserve...

This quite eye catching fungus belongs to the Lepiota genus and is commonly known as a 'Freckled Dapperling'. It is poisonous.

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

Armin Korchan Ph 5968 3297

Or: armin@weedsmart.com.au

Photos: Andrew and Linda Fullagar; David Moncrieff, Jenny Scott and Mike Sverns.



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

Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

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