

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. 38 Autumn/Winter 2016

THE QUARRY SITE TRANSFORMATION

At last we now have a significant stone amphitheatre right in the middle of the old quarry. The quarry was filled in decades ago but left a scarred and weedy area in the heart of our beautiful bushland reserve. The Friends have been working towards transforming this eyesore into a jewel for our reserve for many years.

The rockwork is on a scale that fits perfectly with the quarry area. The amphitheatre rocks are all quite large with some of them weighing around three tonne. Five truck loads of mudstone rocks were used to construct the amphitheatre. Our skilled and artistic contractor Ben Callow used his ten tonne excavator to carefully arrange the rocks into an amphitheatre with an interior diameter of about seven metres. The rock work was started on Tuesday 15th March and was completed in three days.

The amphitheatre opens to the north, giving a clear view to the bushlands and the valley below. The rocks are layered up to provide seating for 50 or more people but the space also works perfectly with just a handful of people.



Aerial View of the Quarry and Amphitheatre

A second frog pond and the children's playground were also shaped. The next task is to complete the construction of the second frog pond by installing a rubber membrane to stop water draining away, and then adding rocks, branches and plantings to make it an attractive and suitable habitat.

Completion of the play area and planting around the amphitheatre will take place later in the year when weather

conditions are suitable. The fenced off area, that you see in the aerial photo, will be planted out with additional shrubs as well, and the fencing will eventually be removed.

We invite you to take a five minute walk and see it for yourself. Go to the main gate entrance on Glenfern Rd then take the Echidna Track that starts just behind the information shelter, leading down the slope.
Rory Cox



The Amphitheatre



Earthworks for Second Frog Pond



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

P.O. Box 1283, Upwey, Victoria 3158 • glenfernvalleybushlands@hotmail.com • www.glenfernvalleybushlands.org.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

It is a great privilege to be a part of the effective team at Glenfern Valley Bushlands. It is a group that gets things done. The last six months has been an exciting time for our reserve. I would like to report on just three items that deserve special mention.

The first is our new Management Plan which will guide our work over the next ten years. This is fully drafted and will now be taken through Council for approval. The new plan builds on and replaces our 2004 Management Plan which has served us so well. These tasks always take great chunks of time and effort to deliver. Special thanks to Robin Crocker, our lead consultant and to Andrew and Linda for their inspiring contributions.

Our second item of note is that Glenfern Valley Bushlands now has an amazing

stone amphitheatre. After many years of refining ideas for a meeting place of significance at the heart of our Bushlands, the amphitheatre is here and looks like it was always meant to be. It was designed to be sympathetic to our bushland setting, and to its location on the old quarry site. This structure is truly unique to Glenfern. We plan to use it as a restful and peaceful social meeting place for our volunteers and visitors and as an outdoor class room for our educational activities. Many thanks go to the Yarra Ranges Council for funding the project and in particular Gavin Prentice for his valuable support. Ben Callow from BS Callow Earthworks did a fantastic job with the construction. Our Committee, volunteers and the quarry project sub group of Rory, Andrew, Linda and David have worked together for several years to achieve this brilliant outcome. It will be a top feature of our reserve for decades.

The final item of special interest is that the Glenfern conservation area is going to be enlarged. The plan is to include Forest Park Reserve with Glenfern Valley Bushlands so we can look after both reserves together. Forest Park Reserve is the small riparian area, of about three hectares, on the southern end of Glenfern, on the eastern side of Ferny Creek. These two reserves face each other across Ferny Creek for about half a kilometre. The additional area is in need of essential conservation work. However when this work is completed it will add to the environmental security of Ferny Creek and Glenfern.

Glenfern Valley Bushlands is going from strength to strength. Thank you to our volunteers, our supporters and to the many visitors who look after our wonderful bush area. Take a walk any day—it's a wonderful community space.

David Moncrieff



View of Forest Park Reserve



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

THE GREY FANTAIL HAS TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN THE RESERVE



Although it is quite difficult to spot in the photograph, a Grey Fantail is sitting on the nest. It is huddled down snugly in the beautifully constructed conical nest that is made up of fine grasses and bound together with large amounts of spider web. It seems to hang precariously over the creek but this provides a safe haven from predators. Inside the nest there is a good clutch of eggs that will be cared for by both parents. Both male and female Grey Fantails share in the nest building, incubation and the feeding of the young hatchlings.



2016 GOT OFF TO A GREAT START...

The First Working Bee on 2016 was blessed with the largest turnout of volunteers since the working bees began back in 2005. The weather was perfect and everyone was keen to get stuck into Area 9. The group set out from Hill track checking and removing weeds. During the morning tea break the workers were rewarded with a delicious selection refreshments and while resting enjoyed listening to the updates of the quarry work and gained an understanding of the flora and fauna that inhabits the reserve.



TRININTY COLLAGE ENJOYED ANOTHER VISIT TO THE RESERVE AT THE END OF LAST YEAR



On the 14th November a large group of overseas students arrived at the reserve to participate in discovering what a natural bush environment has to offer. Over the pass few years Glenfern Valley Bushlands has provided an excellent site for these students to gain an understanding and appreciation of what it means to return and maintain the original vegetation on the reserve. They also can see what a dedicated group of volunteers can achieve and what a valuable asset the reserve is to the community as a whole.



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

The Glenfern

WORKING BEE and EVENTS DIARY

until November 2016

- * **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.
- * **Saturday July 16th**
Area 10 & 11—Check for woody weed seedlings, blackberry etc. Plant selective trees below quarry site.
- * **Sunday August 21st**
Area 9—Follow up Melb. Water Grant works below Wallaby Walk starting from Depot end.
- * **Saturday September 17th**
Area 13—Weed plantings and Frog Pond.
- * **Sunday October 16th**
MEMBERS DAY—Informative walks and talks.
- * **Saturday November 19th**
Area 7—Check Caring for Country and Melb. Water Grant work. Expand grassy patches.

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...



The Giant Green Slantface grasshopper.
Botanical name: *Acrida conica*.

MID WEEK INITIATIVE CONSERVATION AND CONVERSATION

First WEDNESDAY of the month, 9–11am.
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: David and Douglas Moncrieff, Rory Cox, Mike Sverns,
Linda Fullagar and Rachel Wotherspoon.*



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.

- P.O. Box 1283, Upwey, Victoria 3158
- glenfernvalleybushlands@hotmail.com
- www.glenfernvalleybushlands.org.au



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.