

To conserve and enhance the diversity of native flora and fauna of the Glen Fern 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 Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc.  
Edition No.15 Autumn 2006

## AUTUMN IN GLEN FERN RESERVE

friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc.



Autumn is a wonderful time in the hills. Cool crisp mornings, warm sunny days. Misty mornings especially lend a magical feel to our bushland reserve. The commonplace takes on a different look and with the dew on the grass under your feet Glen Fern Reserve is a marvellous place to start your day. Autumn migratory wildlife has returned while the last of the summer visitors start their annual journey again. In the last month Gang-gang Cockatoos have arrived in numbers, a sure sign that Autumn is upon us. Their 'creaky door' calls can be heard everywhere at the moment. They are marvellous birds indeed. Meanwhile birds like the Rufous Whistler, Rufous Fantail and Satin Flycatcher leave us until next summer. So why not step out and explore your Reserve. With the passing of each season new wonders are there to discover.

*photo by Mark Fanthorpe.*

Help reduce damage by 4WD vehicles and trail bikes and dumping of rubbish within the Reserve by reporting illegal activities to the **Shire of Yarra Ranges Ranger** on **1300 368 333** 24hours/7 days a week.

Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc. PO Box 1283, Upwey Vic 3158  
Phone: AH 9754 8425 (Ian) E-mail:[glenfernbushlands@hotmail.com](mailto:glenfernbushlands@hotmail.com) Website: [www.glenfernbushlands.org.au](http://www.glenfernbushlands.org.au)

## President's Message Autumn 2006

I would like to express our gratitude to some of the less visible individual contributors to the efforts of the Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands. While they are not always available for working bees, we all benefit greatly from their contributions. They include our web page editor, Roger Vize, and newsletter editor, Mark Fanthorpe, both of whom are so very important to communicating our message and creating our image in the community. Rob Correa provides important support with extra first aid training.

You may have noticed the mesh fence and gate along Glenfern Road is now considerably neater, and more secure, giving the Reserve that "cared for" look. This is largely thanks to the efforts & skill of Andrew & Linda Fullagar, who have given generously of their time to make this very important contribution to our Reserve.

Our gratitude also goes to the Sherbrooke Archery Club that has kindly agreed to our members using their toilets during Sunday morning working bees. This should greatly increase the comfort of members. To use the facilities please use the correct approach track along the creek (ask the working bee supervisor) and remember to sign the Archery Club's visitors book.

We are now including our activity calendar on the back page. It is also at our website. Why not plan ahead a little and note one or two of the future dates to join in? You too can contribute to our goal of removing all the large Boneseed plants in the central 10 hectares this year, and all of them by the end of 2007. This will simplify control of Boneseed considerably as we will be able to remove easily handled seedlings before they in turn produce seeds in 3 years time.

Ian Rainbow,

President Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands

## Glen Fern Timelines



*photo: Doug Moncrieff*

### Tracking our ever changing Reserve throughout the seasons

- ❑ Rose Hyacinth orchids in greater numbers than usual in January
- ❑ Gang-gang Cockatoos return
- ❑ New lizard species seen in the reserve (see photo opposite) Does anyone know the species?
- ❑ Satin Flycatchers, Rufous Whistlers and Rufous Fantails (summer visitors) leave the Reserve.
- ❑ Kangaroo Grass going to seed in February, showing its reddish-orange head.

## What's been happening?

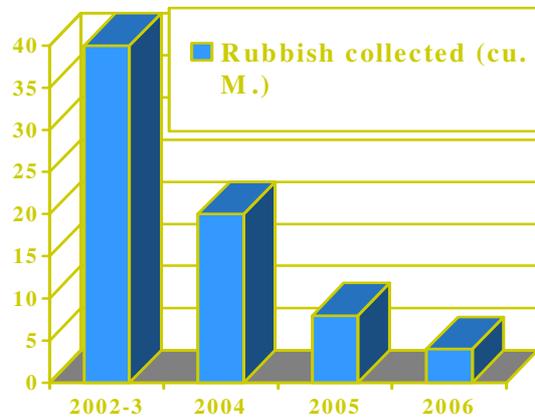
You may have noticed some of the woody weeds have died back in considerable numbers along the creek. Our thanks to Melbourne Water who have extended some of their work in Gilmour Park to include the riparian strip. Already there are signs of indigenous regrowth where once only Sweet Pittosporum reigned.

On the higher slopes you may have noticed that Blackberry and Boneseed are also dying back as a result of the annual spraying campaign arranged by the Shire of Yarra Ranges. This is a huge extension of the weeding work by the Friends and will help us toward the goal of removing all large Boneseed by the end of 2007.

Three car bodies were hauled out to the car park and have now been removed by the Shire soon after Clean Up Australia Day. This leaves only 1 accessible "carcass" to remove!

# Clean Up Australia Day 2006 at Glen Fern Valley Bushlands

On a warm and sunny Sunday morning a small group of volunteers from the Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands set about filling a 4 metre skip with rubbish. Well done to Dianne, Richard, Michael, Ian, Katherine and at the end Travis and James (2 passing walkers press ganged for the last half hour for some heavy sawing and lifting!). Along with the last 3 car bodies dragged from the bush by Andrew, Robert, Trevor & Richard, this marks a very



significant milestone in the development of the reserve. **We have now removed all the serious rubbish from the reserve**, a total of 72 cubic metres since 2002, not including approximately 25 car bodies. The graph shows that no new rubbish is accumulating, a real benefit of the new fence. This leaves us free to concentrate on weed control, finishing the fence and planning new tracks. Thanks to SoYR for the skip and the trailer and to Clean Up Australia for collection gear and bags.

## Our Reserve Birds

### The New Holland Honeyeater

*Phylidonyris novahollandiae*

Streaked with white, yellow and black, this small bird (16-19cm) is a permanent resident of the reserve and a common visitor to gardens. A variety of calls can be heard from weak whistling to loud chattering. The bird opposite, photographed by Mark Fanthorpe, was seen feeding in a hibiscus tree.



## Garden Weed Removal Hints

from Marilyn Thomas

**Watsonia** – Bulb plant with long gladiolus-style leaves and a spray of orange to red flowers in early summer. Cut back with a brushcutter or clippers in autumn. The plants will put out single leaves during winter, which can be pulled out when about 10-15 cms long. This starves the bulb, and eventually kills the plant. Remains can be dug out and dumped, as the bulbs and their fibrous coating are particularly resistant to composting. Native nurseries can provide plants that are indigenous to the area, most of which thrive and reproduce on very little care. Enjoy your garden!

## First Aid Refresher Group Session held at Glen Fern Bushlands Reserve.

Very recently an informal First Aid refresher session was held at GFVB under the able tutelage of long-term member Rob Correa. The small group, drawn from a network of Friends and Landcare groups in the SoYR, really appreciated the graphic scenarios of

potential injuries set up by Rob. It was a good reminder that we should work in groups and look out for each other when on working in the remoter areas of the park. It was a great opportunity to practice some of our previous learnings and served to remind us to check the book every so often to keep fresh! After the blood & broken bones were fixed we all tucked into chocolate mudcake & coffee. Our hearty gratitude to Rob for making himself available at such a busy time of the year for the benefit of the Friends, and showing one of the many ways to participate with the group and advance the cause of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands.

## The Glenfern

### DIARY for 2006

- **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February**
- **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March –**  
**Clean Up Australia Day**
- **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March**
- **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**
- **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May**
- **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June**
- **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July**
- **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July –**  
**National Tree Day**
- **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August**
- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September**
- **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October –**  
**Community & Weedbusters Day**
- **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**  
  
**9:30 – 12:30 am**  
**Central car park**  
**Glenfern Road, Upwey**  
**Melways 74 G10**

### First Aid after a 'Chain Saw Incident'!!

(photo by Rob Correa)



### Working Bees

Working bees are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> alternating Saturday or Sunday morning of the month. Members, Committee and interested supporters meet on-site to take part in weeding, rubbish removal and inspections of previously weeded areas. Everyone is welcome. Entry for cars is via the Parks Victoria (Fire Access) gate on Glenfern Rd, Upwey (about ½ way along the land) The site reference is Melways 74G10. Please bring gloves, hand tools, water, and, depending on the weather, a hat or wet weather gear. In the event of a Fire Ban or inclement weather the working bee will be cancelled.

**See Diary box opposite for working bee dates.**

### Corporate Sponsors

- **Wormhole Books**

Shop 4/60-68 Colby Drive, Belgrave Heights Phone 9754 5440. Visit Sandy at her new location [www.wormhole.com.au](http://www.wormhole.com.au)

- **Bell Real Estate**

1689 Burwood Highway, Belgrave Phone 9754 6888 [www.bellrealestate.com.au](http://www.bellrealestate.com.au)

- **Blitz Graphics**

Designer of and Maintains our Website. Phone Roger Vize on 9754 6910 for your website needs. <http://blitzgrapfx.tripod.com>

- **Phil Heenan Consulting P/L**

Specialising in integrated business planning Phone 9752 5355 [www.heenan.com.au](http://www.heenan.com.au)

As a business you can sponsor our newsletter for as little as \$50 per edition (4 per year). Newsletter distribution is 200 local homes. Let us know if we can help you with your business