

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. 22 Summer 2009

Ian Rainbow

Ian Rainbow, stalwart supporter and President of Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands is moving on. Ian has decided that it was time to step back from his dedication to the Bushlands, and refresh his interests in other directions, after serving for more than four years as President in the all consuming way that is Ian's hallmark.

Ian has provided critical leadership, enthusiasm and knowledge to our volunteers over the past eight years. He will be very much missed by all of us who value his friendship along with his love of the reserve.

Ian joined Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands as a bird watcher and has identified around one hundred bird species that live in, or migrate through the reserve. He has a particular passion for the Powerful Owls.

Ian has been a wonderfully inclusive President, encouraging all members of

the group. He has an outward focus and reached out to the broader community encouraging us to join in activities with many other local environmental and community groups including the Upwey Township Group and the Southern Dandenong Ranges Community Nursery. Ian promoted the opportunities for members to develop interests and skills through the educational programs available through the Shire. Members of FOGVB have completed courses in Plant Identification, Weed Management, Waterways, First Aid and OH&S.

Ian is a great communicator and has built strong relationships with group members, council and government bodies and other groups within the Shire. He was always promoting the Reserve and we thank him for his wonderful efforts. Ian was president of Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands from October 2004 until January 2009



Thank You Ian!



Melbourne Water Grant

We have just learned that the group has been successful in gaining a grant from Melbourne Water to assist with the rehabilitation works in the reserve.

This will go a long way toward planned work.

Volunteer Thanks

Special thanks to our very hard working members, Andrew, Linda and Richard and Tony, we now have two picnic tables and eight seats scattered around the reserve for the enjoyment of walkers and picnickers.

Three more seats are awaiting installation.



friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc.

Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc.

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Birds in the bushlands



Yellow-tailed
Black Cockatoo

A great benefit from the activities of the Friends group has been a growing awareness of the bird life that frequents Glen Fern. Among those attracted to watch and photograph birds has been Eduardo Garcia, whose enthusiasm, persistence and skill has seen him capture wonderful images of even the smaller bush birds whose frantic activity defeats the rest of us aspiring photographers! The small birds are important to control populations of many small insects, while the larger Black Cockatoos perform rough bush surgery on wattle trees to remove large borer grubs. All are important to maintain the health of the vegetation.

Here are some examples of Eduardo's images shown with his kind permission.
Article : Thank you to Ian Rainbow



White Browed Scrub Wren
with nesting material



Spotted Pardalote



Superb Blue Wren

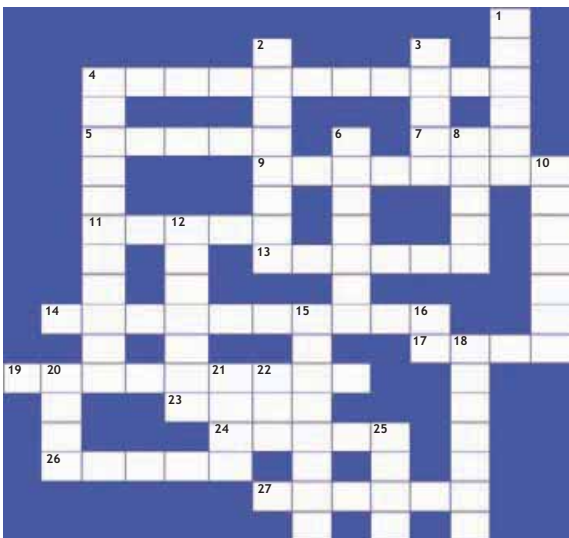


Mistletoe Bird



Varied Sittella

Crossword *Answers on last page*



23. Fireweed is not really a
24. These should be sharp on a pruning saw
26. Lots of these green beauties at GFVB
27. Possibly found under toadstools

Down

1. Fire risk is higher during the months
2. A weedy shrub we feel we're getting on top of.
3. How we feel at the start of a working bee.
4. The largest night bird in Australia

Across

4. Sweet is a major native weed species at Glen Fern Valley Bushlands
5. The colour of Kunzea flowers.
7. Some casuarinas are known as-Oaks
9. Dandenong Ranges Community Nursery has supplied many plants for us
11. Another name for Gorse
13. Nightshade is botanically related to Forest Nightshade
14. This occurs at 11.00 a.m. on Working Bee Days
17. The Friends are always in a good at Working Bees.
19. Eucalyptus Melliodora is commonly known as

6. Prickly Bush is regenerating strongly at GFVB
8. The car bodies that we removed were really
10.forms GFVB western boundary
12. Ian is the FoGFVB President
15. Hop is a common indigenous shrub at GFVB
16. Working bees start at 9.30 ...
18. Dogs are allowed in the Reserve if they are
20. Ferny Creek runs to West along GFVB boundary
21. Something rain does to the ground
22. We hold a Working every month
25. Hard rain

Gastrodia sesamoides (Family Orchidaceae)

*Common Name:
(Cinnamon Bells)
(Tall Potato
Orchid)*

One single specimen of Gastrodia was seen in the reserve in 2008 (in a riparian zone)

Gastrodia has distinctive pendulous bell-shaped flowers late spring to summer, with a sweet fragrance in warm weather.

Varying from 4–20 hanging cinnamon brown flowers, creamy white within and short yellow-orange labellum (lip)

The flower stem is 20–80mm tall.

Aboriginal Bush tucker – tuber eaten as a vegetable.



Community Discovery Day

On 19th October 52 people visited Glen Fern Valley Bushlands to join in Community Discovery Day.

We split into 3 groups : Birdwatchers with Laurie Living. Plant/Weed walk and talk with Brad and Marilyn. A second group of Reserve Discoverers was lead by Andrew. A Nature Hunt for Children was organised by Linda.

A pair of gardening gloves was given to each new member who joined on the day. Visitors were interested to watch a video presentation of work in the reserve over the year and a display board of photos of the flowering plants. They also enjoyed a delicious morning tea!



During 2008 Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands held 10 official planned working bees. Also several extraordinary working bees where seats and fence pickets (archery club boundary) were installed, track renaming, plant identification and meetings with council and contractors to plan future works.

Upwey South Primary School Essay Prize

Sponsored by the Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands, Upwey South Primary School students have won prizes for the best essays on environmental issues in Glen Fern Valley Bushlands. Students from Upwey South Primary often visit the reserve, and this year helped with tree planting. Liam Blewett won the first prize, a certificate and a \$100 voucher. Liam's entry covered the issue of rubbish left in the reserve. The prizes were presented by Andrew Fullagar, who congratulated the prize winners and all students who submitted entries.

Andrew spoke of the quality of all presentations and the understanding of environmental issues shown by the students.



**Report rubbish
dumping or graffiti
in the Reserve to Shire
of Yarra Ranges on
1300 368 333.**

The Glenfern

WORKING BEE DIARY for 2009

- * Sunday 15th February
- * Saturday 21st March
- * Sunday 19th April
- * Saturday 16th May –
NATIONAL TREE DAY
- * Sunday 21st June
- * Saturday 18th July
- * Sunday 16th August
- * Saturday 19th September
- * Thursday 8th October – AGM (TBC)
- * Sunday 18th October –
COMMUNITY AND
WEEDBUSTERS DAY
- * Saturday 21st November

9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Central car park, Glenfern Road, Upwey
Melways 74 G10

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Answers to the Crossword



“Friends of” Groups...

There are a huge amount of people working voluntarily to improve the environment and regenerate native bushland World wide, Australia wide and Shire wide:

During 2008 there were 51 environmental volunteer groups working on Shire of Yarra Ranges managed land including three new groups in Upwey, Monbulk and Selby.

These groups are supported by Bushland and Trails unit, Asset Maintenance and Services department, who help to plan and implement the programs of high conservation value vegetation restoration on 125 Reserves and 340 roadsides throughout the Shire.

52 reserve and 40 roadside projects in this program are supported by environmental volunteer groups.

We are grateful to the Shire of Yarra Ranges and their contractors for their help with our rehabilitation work in Glen Fern Valley Bushlands.

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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, rubbish removal and inspections of previously weeded areas. Everyone is welcome. Entry for cars is via the Parks Victoria (Fire Access) gate on Glenfern Road, 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.