

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. 23 Winter 2009

Melbourne Water Works along Ferny Creek

Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands have received a community grant from Melbourne Water for removal of invasive weeds along Ferny Creek.

During January/February, Melbourne Water contractors worked along both sides of the creek, poisoning the pittosporums which are overtaking the indigenous vegetation.

Natural regeneration and future planting works will see the riparian areas returning to a more natural environment for the local birds and animals.

Paul, Gill, Linda and Richard at the new sign



The new surface on Ridge Track

Ridge Track work carried out by Shire of Yarra Ranges



Come and take a walk from New Road to Depot Road along the Ridge Track, which is now graded and gravelled for the whole distance.

We are very appreciative of the work that the Shire of Yarra Ranges does to help make the reserve a more pleasant place for all visitors.

Why not come along to a working bee once or twice a year and see how you can help to make Glen Fern Valley Bushlands "Your special place"

Volunteer Thanks:

11 seats and 2 picnic tables are now installed around the reserve for your enjoyment!

 friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc.

Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands Inc.

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Fungi in Glen Fern Valley Bushlands



Plate or Rainbow fungi

Trametes Versicolour



Nargan's Bonnet

Mycena Nargan



Lawyers Wig

Coprinus comatus



Coral Fungi

Species in three orders & several families are regarded as "coral fungi"

Apologies to Fungi Enthusiasts—the Editor had very little knowledge of these fascinating organisms

Thanks to Ian Rainbow and Gillian Anderson for the photos above



New Map of Reserve

Sample of new maps which are shortly to be installed in Glenfern Valley Bushlands by Shire of Yarra Ranges.

Special thanks to Paul Derezyckj and Steve Powell for their time and efforts in making this map.

Some tracks have been renamed with more appropriate names.

Winning Essay from Upwey South Primary School Competition

—Prizes sponsored by Friends of Glen Fern Valley Bushlands

It is important to rehabilitate neglected bushland By Liam Blewett 25/11/2008

We need to rehabilitate neglected bushland because we live by the Glen Fern Valley Bushlands.

Animals environments are important for them to survive and if we rehabilitate neglected bushland we will be repairing and making new homes for all the animals that live in the bushlands. It also provides food for them and more animals will be able to stay alive and less animals will go extinct.

If we do we will also be filtering the water of all the bad things that wash into the creek. We will be doing this because the trees with catch all the lumps of dirt and rubbish

It also keeps weeds from growing in those areas where there is no bushland. It will kill things like blackberry bushes, ivy and many many more.

It also slows down erosion by capturing some of the water and sucking it away so

the erosion will be able to decrease but we must keep doing this so it will keep decreasing.

It slows down pollution in the air and puts more nutrients out. That will help a lot of animals so they breathe in good air not any bad air.

If we and Friends of GlenFern Valley Bushlands do these things I think a lot of the need to rehabilitate will slow down and there will be more flora and fauna.



Meet Andrew Fullagar

Our new president

How long have you lived in the area?

I have lived in Upwey for 29 years and grew up in Ferntree Gully.

Family

Married to Linda with two adult children, Robert and Katherine.

Previous Occupations

For 22 years I was kept very busy managing and owning two businesses in the newsagency, stationery and book trades. Before that I worked in the mines in W.A., Swan Brewery and helped with geological surveys in the outback.

Hobbies

Exploring, 4wding, walking, the outdoors, bike riding, new challenges, adventures, bee-keeping, Sudoku, crosswords.

Other interests

I am on the committee of Upwey Township Group and Dry Creek Co-op, and have spent 7 months during the last 3 years as a volunteer ranger at Australian Wildlife Conservancy Buckaringa Wildlife Sanctuary in the Flinders Ranges.

We also have a small property at Murrindindi.

How long have you been a member of the Friend's group?

Since the groups' inception in 2001 as a member, and on the committee for around 6 years.

What are your highlights of being part of the Friends group?

I have really enjoyed some of the bigger projects such as taking down the internal fence, removing the rubbish and seeing the improvements. Working together as a team you can accomplish so much and it gives you a buzz to see the changes.

What would you like to see happen in the reserve?

Well, in the short term I am looking forward to the resurfacing of the major tracks to make it more user friendly. We have just been advised of our successful grant application for an information shelter. So I am looking forward to building that with the team. In the longer term, I see the reserve as being an attractive destination for a wide cross section of the community. The reserve's variety has appeal to walkers and environmentalists, and for all age groups.

President's Report

They say that time stands still for no man. This can equally be applied to Reserves and Friends Groups. Since our last newsletter, so much seems to have happened.

From the Reserve's point of view, we have come through one of the most shocking summers on record. Many shrubs and trees that were so carefully planted over the past few years did not withstand the sustained extreme temperatures nor the blistering winds. Hundreds of Peppermints and Mint Bushes have at best, shed many leaves and at worst succumbed to the drought. As Friends of the Reserve, we held our breath as several bushfires in the area were bravely and quickly extinguished. On Black Saturday, conditions were at their worst and we join the community in shock and sorrow for the losses of so many.

But for all the doom, gloom and destruction, our Reserve has shown remarkable resilience. As we keep reminding ourselves, "if we could only have one good season of rain". Many Peppermints have sprouted new growth

from trunks and branches, Maiden Hair Fern somehow survives, wallabies are being seen more regularly, and our new plantings sprout afresh from the ground.

How powerful Mother Nature is, if we can only help her along. Positive signs of revegetation, a few less weeds to smother our indigenous plants, and the enjoyment that comes from making a difference with like minded people, keep our Friends Group strong, enthused and motivated.

We always welcome new members. Assistance in whatever form, is always much appreciated. Make a note on your calendar now of our next Bushland Day.

Recently we have noticed more visitors to our reserve. I wonder if it's the new surface on the Glenfern Ridge Track, the new seats and tables placed throughout, or perhaps more people are just finding our local oasis for the first time. Whatever the reason, we're delighted. See YOU in the Reserve soon

Andrew Fullagar

Recently, visiting grass experts have noticed a previously undocumented (in Glenfern Valley Bushlands) grass "Hemarthria uncinata" — Mat Grass. A rigid matting perennial grass spreading from underground stems. Flower stems scrambling to upright, sometimes branched. —see the *Yarra Ranges Local Plant Directory* for full description.



"Forest nightshade"
Solanum prinophyllum
Local Indigenous Plant



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

The Glenfern

WORKING BEE DIARY

June to December 2009

- * Sunday 21st June
 - * Saturday 18th July
 - * Sunday 16th August
 - * Saturday 19th September
 - * (Thursday 8th October – AGM [TBC])
 - * Sunday 18th October – COMMUNITY DISCOVERY AND WEEDBUSTERS DAY
 - * Saturday 21st November
- 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Central car park,
Glenfern Road, Upwey
Melways 74 G10

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 and inspections of previously weeded areas.

Talks about plants and weeds occurring in the reserve/area. 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 74 G10.

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

Yarra Ranges Local Plant Directory

This describes 909 plants occurring within the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

It is not a definitive list as it is expected that new plants in our Shire may be located in the future. Some plants have been omitted, as they have not been definitely collected from within the Shire. More than 800 plants include photographs. <http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Directory/s2.asp?S1key=7&h=0>

Local Indigenous plants available from:

Southern Dandenongs Community Nursery
"Birdsland", McNicol Road
Belgrave South.

Tuesday and Sunday 9.30 to 12.00



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