

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. 30 Summer/Autumn 2012

Meet David Moncrieff

At our AGM in October, David Moncrieff took on the Presidency of Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands. David has been a member of FOGVB since the outset and a Committee Member for four years.

As his property adjoins Glenfern Valley Bushlands, David has an extremely large backyard to take care of. He is doing a wonderful job of liaising with our contractors, Melbourne Water and council staff to advance the work being undertaken in the reserve. Since our last newsletter so many things have happened that we are struggling to find space to tell you all about everything. Please have a look at the website to catch up on some of the other news and items of interest.

March Night Walks – Friday 23 and Friday 30 March

The Committee have purchased a spotlight to enable us to explore Glenfern Valley Bushlands by night and see the nocturnal inhabitants.

We are planning two night walks in March, but it is necessary to limit numbers to 15 people per walk, due to safety precautions. Please email or ring Gillian to book a place – we would like to give preference to the people who missed out last year.



Andrew Fullagar and David Moncrieff

Discovery Day/10th Birthday

After the morning drizzle cleared and the sun came out – our 10th Birthday Celebration was a huge success attracting over 100 people to take part in Walks, Talks, and entertaining education from “The Connies”. The Melbourne Water Frog Trailer was well received, with everyone being able to learn the calls of our local frog populations. Yarra Ranges Council Staff joined us with a tent of information on plants and weeds and giveaways. Our committee and members worked hard to make it a fantastic day, with a fabulous morning tea and BBQ lunch.

Visitors at our celebration

Roberto “The Connie” and friends

Melbourne Water Frog Trailer



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

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End of the Road for Old Rover



Over the last ten years dozens of old car bodies have been removed from Glenfern Valley Bushlands.

Each rust bucket removed spawns a number of curious questions. What sort of cars were they? What were they doing there? Who owned them? When did they get into the reserve? Who drove them there and why? And how come some are so completely boxed in by trees? As this is our last derelict car, this is our final chance to muse and speculate on such questions. Although a rusted hulk now, it was certainly someones treasured car in its heyday.

Our best guess is as follows:

The car was a Rover from the early fifties made in the UK. It sported; a straight six cylinder engine, column gear shift,

aluminium alloy doors, suicide rear doors (hinged at the rear) and a quirky third headlight mounted mid grille, hence its nickname of Cyclopes. The 2.1 litre motor was a bit on the thirsty side but could power the luxury sedan to 135kph. The cost in 1950 was about £1,200 or about A\$50,000 plus in today's dollars. A posh car by any standard, in its day it was about twice the cost of more modest new cars like an Austin A40 or FX Holden which would have been a stretch for most families. The photos show a similar restored model matched up with the wreck.

We will probably never know who owned the car, but it was probably in poor condition at the time it was dumped in the bush by joy riders perhaps 30 to 40 years ago. At that time the Glenfern

Valley Bushlands was an open grazing paddock and not infested with pittosporum which had trapped this car in the reserve for the last 20 years.

The last car hulk was retrieved from the bush by volunteers in December 2011. This housekeeping only became an option after The Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands used a \$20,000 Community Action Grant to fund clearing of Pittosporum from around tracks at the western end of the 40 Hectare reserve. Community Action Grants are a small grants component of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative that aims to help local community groups take action to conserve and protect their natural environment.

David Moncrieff



Upwey South Primary Environmental Essay Award 2011

Friends of Glenfern are proud to continue their sponsorship of this award. Last year the theme was to provide a plausible news story or report regarding Glenfern Valley Bushlands. Late last year, about thirty young students delighted us with their imaginative ideas. All are to be commended for putting in the effort to produce such a diverse mix of possibilities. The First Prize contribution described the harrowing adventures of a man who disappeared into the Glenfern Wilds for several years, but miraculously walked out. The second gave an account of Queen Elizabeth's recent return visit to Glenfern. Her Majesty was very pleased with the progress and hard work of the Friends Group. You can read the full stories on our web-site or at the Glenfern Valley information shelter.

Hearty congratulations to the winners: ① Morgan Haynes ② Carl Dingfelder ③ Jai Rawlings

President's Report

We have looked back with pride on the achievements of our first decade. It is now time to look at a new year and a new decade in front of us. To deliver the dream, we must think in terms of decades – we need to imagine how Glenfern Valley Bushlands will look and be used in 10 years – we need patience to wait for natural regrowth and the return of more wildlife – we need staying power to work at it for another decade – and we need our organisation to evolve to match the needs and threats of future decades.

The Committee is about to revisit our Management Plan. This is the working document that clarifies our long term goals, sets up our priorities and guides our annual and monthly activity. The Management Plan forces us to step back and look at all aspects of the project – what are we doing? – where are we up to? – what has gone well? – what we might we do differently?. It deals with the big picture and long term goals – getting an overall view of the project and the organisation is a little hard if you are on your hand and knees cutting and dabbing pittos at a working bee. It is a job for our hardworking committee. We only need to revisit the plan every five years or so, but it is important to make it a strong working document to keep the Glenfern project on course over the longer term. If you have ideas for Glenfern Bushlands, please make them

known or come to a Committee meeting and share them.

As you would have seen in the local newspapers and on our Website, Andrew Fullagar is the Yarra Ranges Council Citizen of the Year 2012. This well deserved recognition was awarded to Andrew at the Australia Day celebrations held at Burringa theatre in Upwey. The role played by Andrew with Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands is just one of his community activities. Congratulations Andrew.

Over summer we have made our first attempt to outsmart invasive pasture grasses. The target area is the slashed

strip running next to the Ridge Track. This area is routinely slashed over summer as part of the fire risk work. The notion is that if we can avoid the build up of soil fertility, resulting from the mulching of slashed grass, we can favour our native grasses over the introduced species. The lack of grazing or frequent burning also contributes to the continuous build up of biomass and soil nutrients. As you walk uphill along the Ridge Track from the main gate you will see where this experiment is taking place.

David

WeedSmart's Foraging Machine



A Special Plant in Glenfern Valley Bushlands



Yellow Star

Hypoxis vaginata

This tiny plant is a member of the lily family. Growing 6–35cm high – the ones in the reserve are the smaller variety. It grows in moist well drained soils in lower grasslands and grassy woodlands and enjoys full sun to partial shade. Dies down after flowering, regenerating after autumn rain. Yellow Star has a scattered distribution in the Yarra Ranges Shire.

You can see them growing on Sarah's Track and also recently seen on the Eastern side of Serges Track toward Wallaby Track.

If you would like it for your garden it can be purchased from the Southern Dandenong Community Nursery.



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WORKING BEE DIARY 2012

(SEE WEBSITE)

- * Friday 23rd and Friday 30th March
Night Walk in Glenfern Valley Bushlands. Limited numbers – please book (see article).
- * Sunday 15th April *Echidna Track to Hill Track.* Enjoy one of the best areas in the reserve! Maintain quality of this prime area.
- * Saturday 12th May *Ridge Track Serg's Track.* Continue progress on Pitto Jungle. Remove Sallow Wattle, Hawthorn and Boneseed.
- * Sunday 17th June *Manna Gum Track – west side.* Working above and below Pardalote Path.

9.30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Morning Tea 11-ish)
Central car park, Glenfern Road, Upwey
Melway Map 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, planting and talks about indigenous plants, animals and weed ID.

Everyone is welcome!

Entry for cars is via the Central gate on Glenfern Road, Upwey (about ½ way along the reserve). Site reference: Melway Map 74 G10.

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 help us with 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.

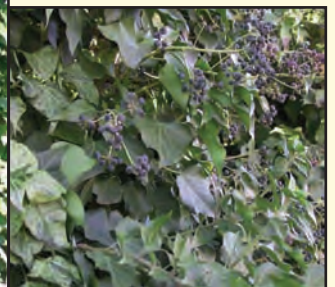
Be kind to your Bushland

Please dead-head your Agapanthus before they set seed, to stop them spreading into Bushland. The seed is spread by birds and it also disperses down drains and from there into creeks and settles on creek banks.



Cut the Ivy off trees and do not let it seed. – Birds love the sweet seeds and help it to proliferate.

Volunteers have spent many hours removing these pest plants that escape from home gardens and spread to our beautiful forests and bushlands.



(For eradication methods refer to Council weed removal leaflet, or ask your local Environmental Volunteers for advice.)

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Report rubbish dumping to: Shire of
Yarra Ranges Ph: 1300 368 333



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