

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. 31 Spring 2012

100 MEMBERS

We are very proud to announce that we now have achieved this wonderful milestone.

We would like to thank our current and past members for their amazing support which has allowed the transformation of this beautiful reserve.

A strong membership also bolsters our case when we apply for grants to undertake additional work in the reserve – See our Current Projects.

Glenfern Valley Bushlands is an inspiring place that attracts many people to its environs. Both locals and people from further afield.

Visiting the reserve makes us want to conserve and enhance this wonderful place. Our Volunteers and Committee are working very hard to bring additional recreational choices into the reserve without damaging its natural beauty.

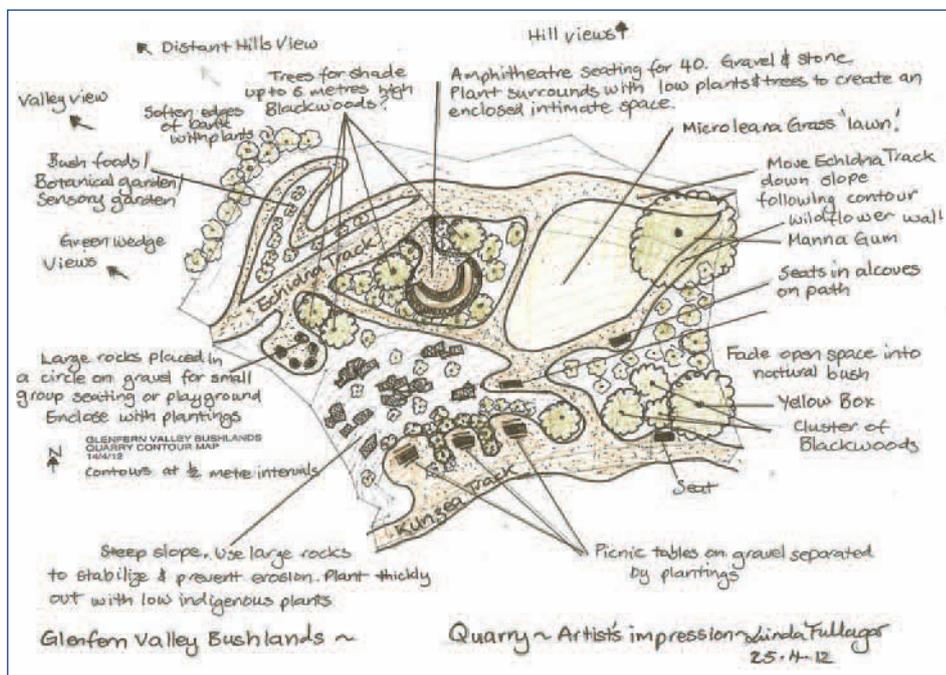
Many projects are underway to encourage people to come and enjoy this fantastic area. **COME OVER AND TAKE A LOOK.**

Quarry Rehabilitation Project Eye-sore to Oasis

As many are aware, there was a quarry in the middle of the site that is now Glenfern Valley Bushlands. It had been filled in with all sorts of soil, rubbish, and of course weeds. It really has been an eye-sore, and being in the centre of the reserve an active source of weed seeds, and a threat to the Valley Grassy and Herb Rich Foothill Forest that surrounded it. It is good rehabilitation practice to work from best to worst areas to ensure that the high quality areas are protected, so for the past ten years our management of the quarry site has been one of containment.

In 2010, we were fortunate enough to secure a grant through the Caring for Our Country Program. This triggered discussion about the long term plan for this site, and rather than attempting to totally rehabilitate it, our thoughts turned to taking advantage of its openness, its views, its central position and comparative quietness. We sought input from Council and a number of

landscape planners, as well as our own members. A draft plan was drawn, and after further discussion, a basic layout was determined, which included an amphitheatre for educational purposes, frog ponds, a kids activity and discovery area and a sensory interpretive indigenous garden. We're delighted that basic earthwork has been completed. The plan will continue to evolve over the several years it will take to complete as funds permit. If you would like to contribute in any way, you'd be most welcome.



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

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Quarry Project Stage 1

Soon after the earthworks, we organized two Tree Planting Days to replace the sprayed weeds around the perimeter of the site with indigenous varieties of ground covers and small shrubs. Chartis Insurance helped out with several volunteers, whilst Planet Ark's advertising provided several more.

The earthworks uncovered a great deal of rubbish including a dozen car tyres, couch cushions, bottles and wire. Jack and Will gave us a hand collecting armloads of trash

And of course a big thank-you to the fantastic members of the Friends of Glenfern Valley and local residents who braved the weather to complete the job. They were certainly enjoyable and gratifying days once again, with more than one thousand seedlings planted.



Don't miss Discovery Day

Sunday 21st October 10.00–1.00



Discovery Day is always a fantastic way to learn about our special place.

We have guided walks by expert Bird Watchers, Environmentalists and Local Volunteers who love to share their knowledge of the reserve

There is always a surprise or two in store.

Displays, give-aways, prizes and games for children!

Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due from 1st of October.

Please support Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands by renewing your membership or joining the group.

If you have paid a membership since 1st July – your membership will carry through to October 2013.

You can pay by direct deposit, to Upwey Shire Link, post to our Post Office Box or to a committee member.

Membership forms can be downloaded from our website.

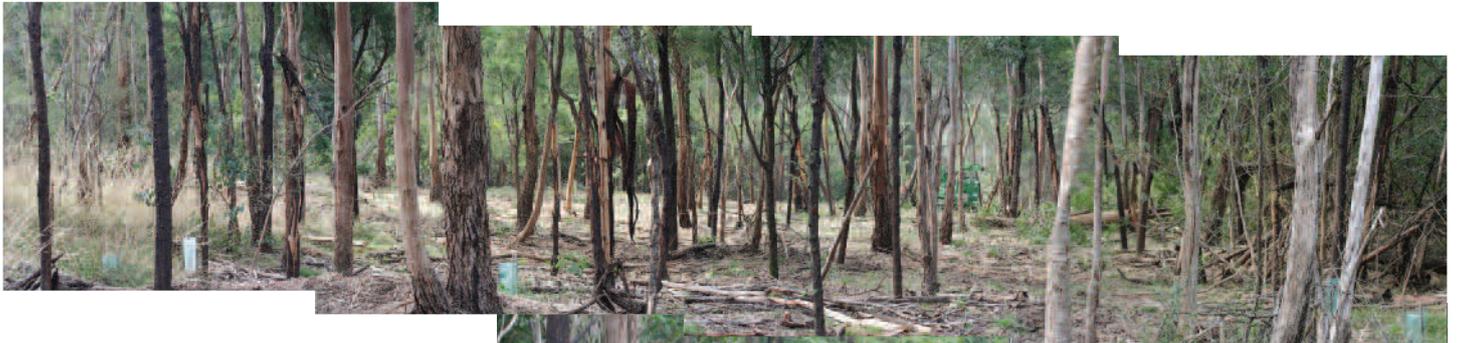
Annual General Meeting

*Thursday 11th
October 7.30p.m.*

*Upwey
Township Hall*



friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc.



President's Report

There has been a lot of activity in Glenfern in the last few months. It's been a busy time for volunteers and our Committee. Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands prides itself in taking on ambitious goals and sharing the outcomes with the community. I would like to report on some of these bold programs.

Between the Creekside Walk and Wallaby Walk at the Depot end, thousands of sweet pittosporums have been cut, poisoned and chipped. Over the last couple of years we have worked with a number of contractors trying to find a cost effective method to take out pitto thickets. This last campaign used a self-propelled tracked chipper with a crew of five from Yarra Ranges Fire Management to cut, treat, and chip the pittos as the machine was manoeuvred deep into the pitto infestation. The photo shows the tracked chipper and team pushing into the pitto forest near Wallaby Walk. The panorama photo was taken at the end of the first day, and literally shows how thousands of pittosporum can be completely cleared in a day.

You will have also seen the improvements near the main gate. In the next few months we expect to have our new casual off-street parking developed at the main entrance. Visitors will be able to pull their cars right off the road;



making visits to Glenfern so much safer. You may also have noticed the new front gate, which is fantastic.

Keep an eye out for some brilliant artwork that will appear in a few weeks.

For those walking in the park, we suggest you take a look at the old quarry area. After many years of neglect, Glenfern has now commenced a project to make this into a calm and restful bushland haven. It will take a few years – but we are here for the long haul. Several hundred small trees, shrubs and grasses have already been planted by a corporate volunteer group and visitors on National Tree day and our own members. New tracks have already been roughed around the old quarry area. The centrepiece intimate amphitheatre has also been shaped.

The wildlife in our reserve is wonderful – but we do not know for sure which animals are out and about at night. Over coming months we are going to use night cameras to see if we can pick out just what is using our bushlands at night. If you see something interesting in the reserve, be sure to let us know. I recently spoke to one of our members who can recall seeing a wombat in the reserve – some time ago that is – back in the 90's. We would love to collect all these remarkable observations to build up a more detailed history of the reserve's fauna.

We also want to hear from anyone who has concerns. Recently there was a report of cyclists careering along tracks endangering other visitors – we do not want this type of anti-social behaviour. Bike riders are always welcome but it is essential to remember our reserve etiquette is that pedestrians have right-of-way.

Glenfern Valley Bushlands has never looked so good, we say this often and it is true. It just seems to be getting better month by month. All our recent plantings are thriving and the bush is naturally regenerating, thanks to the regular weeding by volunteers and good rainfall. Thanks to all the volunteers and supporters for doing such a good job. Take a look for yourself – visit your wonderful Bushlands.

David

GATE SPIRITS – COMING SOON

Our main entrance is looking great. Yarra Ranges Council will shortly start work on off street parking outside the gate to allow easier access to the central area.



The Glenfern

WORKING BEE DIARY 2012

- * Sunday 19th August
Hill Track to Wildflower Walk
Lower Reach below Kunzea track
 - * Saturday 15th September
Serg's Track East to Depot Track
Follow up Caring for Country Grant
 - * Sunday 21st October
COMMUNITY DISCOVERY DAY
Celebrate the progress of work in the reserve. Discover the birds and plants
Meet Everyone!
 - * Saturday 25th November
Check Riparian area (Area 11)
Counter threat from quarry.
- 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: Melways 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

Awesome Ornithorhynkids Day



11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday 15th September

Fun and games for all the family, walks and talks, native animal display, craft, face painting, food.

ALL WELCOME.

Details at belgraveplatypus@gmail.com
or phone Vicki Boyle on 0437-465-642.



**An unfamiliar
plant in
Glenfern
Valley
Bushlands?**

Have you seen this?

Cassytha melantha Course or Large Dodder Laurel

A partly parasitic fast growing climber. Attaches to plant stems and becomes rootless at maturity. Forms a tangled mess of stems. It can grow to a large size strangling the host plant. It has tiny white flowers June to October. Butterfly attracting – food for caterpillars. Aboriginals ate the fruit raw.

Corporate Sponsors:

We would like to thank Aaron, Wayne and Pete from Vic Civil for their skilful machine work at the Quarry Site.

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