

# HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB CONSTITUTION & INCORPORATION

## Background

The Hamilton Field Naturalists Club (HFNC) is a community group devoted to the study, conservation, protection and restoration of the natural environment.

The HFNC was formed in 1958 out of interest in natural history by members of the Hamilton community, and because of their concern for the conservation of unalienated Crown land in the district. They saw that unless action was taken, most of the remnant native vegetation, wetlands and associated fauna would be lost, due to pre-emptive action for farming, plantation forestry and other uses. The objects of HFNC listed below are a restatement of the aims of the founding members who set the agenda for the Club's activities.

## The objects of the HFNC

- To enjoy, appreciate and respect the features of the natural environment.
- To respect the Aboriginal history and presence in our region.
- To learn about the geology, fauna and flora of the region.
- To record the species of flora and fauna in our native forests, woodlands, grasslands and wetlands.
- To protect and promote the conservation of habitat, flora and fauna in natural landscapes.
- To gain long-term legislative protection of significant natural areas as National Parks, State Parks, Flora Reserves, Streamside Reserves or Wildlife Reserves.
- To understand the principles and practice of environmental management, including the use of fire, control of pathogens and pest plants and animals.
- To restore degraded natural areas through appropriate revegetation, control of pest plants and animals, or restoration of water regimes in wetlands.
- To be advocates for the natural environment – to educate and persuade by means of scientific publications, articles in local newspapers, conducted excursions to natural areas, serving on committees of management, participating on government committees and reviews, and by giving assistance to schools and other groups.

## Non-profit clause

HFNC is a not-for-profit organisation. That is, the assets and income of the HFNC shall be applied solely in furtherance of its above-mentioned objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the organisation except as *bona fide* compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.

## Dissolution clause

In the event of the organisation being dissolved, the funds and associated goods that remain after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to another organisation with similar purposes which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.

## Rules for the Incorporated Association

HFNC is a member group (No. A0011936S) of the Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) and, as a member of the Association, is covered by LVI under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. The Model Rules are known as the Landcare Victoria Incorporated (LVI) Rules. These can be found at <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/state/lvi/landcare-victoria-inc-rules/>

HFNC has adopted the Model Rules for an Incorporated Association, with modifications as follows:

- (1) Membership of HFNC is open to a person who pays the annual fee – there is no requirement to apply in writing.
- (2) HFNC business affairs are generally dealt with at Club Meetings (General Meetings, held 5 or 6 times each year).
- (3) The Committee of HFNC is the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer; Committee Meetings may be held from time-to-time to deal with club business.

## Australian Business Number (ABN) and Tax File Number (TFN)

ABN issued 1 Nov 1999: 96 579 225 743.

TFN issued 30 Nov 2004: 818 942 866

## Certification of the Constitution

The first HFNC Constitution was passed at a General Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

Signed on behalf of the HFNC by:

President (Reto Zollinger) ..... Dated ....02 December 2010.

Secretary (Dr Rod Bird) .....Dated ...02 December 2010

**Modification of the Constitution**

The original committee structure requiring eight members proved to be cumbersome and unnecessary. Hence, Club members suggested following the Model Rules regarding numbers of Committee members. A draft amendment was presented for discussion at the General Meetings of HFNC on 16 June 2022 and 18 August 2022. Notice was then given in August by email to all HFNC members on the proposed changes to the committee of HFNC and the motion to be voted on at a Special Meeting on the 20 October 2022. The motion for the revision of the HFNC Committee from eight to four members was passed at this meeting.

Signed on behalf of the HFNC by:

President (Dr Diane Luhrs) ..... Dated ....14 November 2022

Secretary (Dr Rod Bird) ..... Dated ...14 November 2022