

## 2018-04-HFNC-activities-events

Hi everyone

First, a reminder that the **Cavendish Red Gum Festival** is coming up, on 13-14-15 April. Diane will be operating the **HFNC stand** from 10 am to 4 pm on the Saturday, providing information, selling our Hamilton Region Nature Guide and talking with attendees. If anyone can spare some time to assist Diane it would be greatly appreciated. I will be able to provide some help but have another function to perform at the forum. Please let Diane know if you can help (diane.luhrs @bigpond.com). For those who are not aware of the Red Gum Festival I attach some information from Lisa McIntyre – you can find more on the website ([www.cavendishredgumfestival.com](http://www.cavendishredgumfestival.com))

**Next Meeting Thursday 19 April** – Mark Bachmann will take a few minutes at the start of our business meeting to give us an update on the Nature Glenelg Trust acquisition of the freehold portion of Walkers Swamp and wetland adjacent to Gooseneck Swamp. HFNC have made a modest contribution to that project.

**Next Excursion Sunday 22 April** – our destination is Mt Shadwell where we might see some olivine and then tour adjacent wetlands. We will be leaving the Visitor Centre at Hamilton at 9 am.

**Last excursion** (17 March) – this was to Drajurk SF and we think it well worth visiting for spring wildflowers – please see the attached report

**Lake Linlithgow and ducks** – as you know, we found hundreds of Blue-billed Ducks and Freckled Ducks on the lake prior to the duck hunting open-season and the lake was closed. Last Friday we counted 1050 Blue-billed Ducks, 850 Freckled Duck and 640 Australian Shoveler on the lake, the latter two mostly at Boonawah Creek. These are extraordinary numbers of threatened species, not seen before on this lake. Another interesting sighting on Monday was a pair of Singing Honeyeaters in the Silver Banksia grove that we planted in 2003 on the north bank of the lake. This species is regarded as a vagrant here and is the first sighting at the lake – probably there because all of the banksia are flowering and growing beautifully.

**HFNC Program** – despite checking for errors in dates, we missed one and Ross Simpson found it – the excursion for June is not on the 18 but is on Sunday 24 June. Please correct that on your copy.

Cheers

Rod Bird  
Secretary,  
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club