

2018-11-HFNC-activities-events

Special Meeting Friday 16 November (7.30 pm at HIRL) – NOT Thursday 15th!

Our speaker is **Ross Cayley** “**Geology of the Gariwerd Ranges - part of a world-class geological model being developed for Eastern Australia**”.

It is 20 years since geologists Ross Cayley and David Taylor from Geological Survey of Victoria investigated the geology of the Grampians/Gariwerd Ranges, upgrading studies undertaken in the 1960s. They found that the geological evolution was more complex than previously recognized.

The Grampians sandstone and mudstone deposited along an ancient coastline appears to be cut by numerous ancient fault-lines. In some places, giant sheets of rock are stacked across faults, like cards in a giant deck. In other places the 'deck of cards' has been folded and torn apart along networks of younger faults. These structures result from geological forces active over 400 million years ago here and over the rest of Victoria and the Australian Alps.

In 1997 Ross and Dave could never fully understand this geological story – the missing pieces lay in even older rocks hidden beneath the Grampians Ranges. Getting that information has taken another 20 years of research, including using a huge portable X-Ray Fluorescence analyser to image the older bedrock, thereby allowing detailed 4-dimensional (3d + time) models of geology to be made.

The new information has revealing geological features within the Grampians that were hiding in plain sight and has shown us how the Grampians Ranges geology came to look the way it does. These results are at the heart of an emerging, unifying 'Plate tectonic' theory for the formation of the geology of the whole of Eastern Australia 450 to 400 million years ago.

Excursion on Saturday 17 November – Grampians Geology Tour with Ross Cayley.

We will leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9 am – destination to be discovered!

Visit to Bear State Forest (on Hallams Rd) to check fauna nest boxes – Sunday 18 November

This is our annual visit to check occupancy of 10 nest boxes that we installed in the woodland several years ago. This is always a pleasant outing. We leave from the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.30 am.

Working Bee at Nigretta Flora Reserve on Saturday 24 November – meet at the Nigretta Falls swimming hole car park at 9.15 am.

Our earlier working bees have greatly reduced the numbers and this visit is to mop up any small African Weed Orchids (AWO) that have become conspicuous since our last visit on 27 October. If only a few AWO we will dig them up, using stout screwdrivers. If you have one please bring it. If there are too many to dig up we will just pull up the plants and remove them from the reserve.

Reports of Past excursions – I am way behind in posting the reports. I have attached the August and September excursion reports. The October and November reports will come in December.

Past working Bees –

- 5 August – Tree planting at our Kanawalla Rail Flora Reserve: 6 members planted 60 Drooping Sheoak (Old Reservoir source) and 80 Silver Banksia (Yatchaw and Pierrepont)
- 9 & 23 September – Fulham weed control: a few members tackled Cape Tulip & Sparaxis
- 14 & 27 October – Nigretta Flora Reserve: a few members tackled AWO and other weeds

Other events

- John Delprat on native grasslands restoration, SGAP at HIRL Fri 9 November
- Woorndoo Grassland Community day Fri 16 Nov (9am-3.30pm) - Jodie.leskie@bigpond.com
- **HFNC 60th Birthday – this will be at HIRL, Sunday 16 Dec from 4 pm.** More info later.

Cheers
Rod Bird