

Hi everyone

This is the **HFNC Newsletter for September 2021**.

Welcome to Spring and, we hope, some release soon from Covid-19 restrictions on travel and meetings. We still have difficulties with excursions, work activities and meetings.

Postponed Sun 22 August Excursion - we had to postpone our scheduled excursion to Harrops Tk in the Gariwerd NP when the new Covid restrictions came in. I circulated an email suggesting that we consider re-scheduling that event to Sunday 5 September, if the travel/meetings restrictions were lifted by that date. That will not happen and so there will NOT be an excursion on the 5 September.

We have other options, depending upon when the Covid restrictions are eased (the Premier has indicated that there will be a review late next week):

1. Saturday 11 September – this day is potentially free
2. Saturday 18 September – this day is also potentially available.
3. Saturday or Sunday 25 or 26 September – this may be available if we cannot do the planned Anglesea trip (see comments below).

If the Covid restrictions are lifted late next week then we will proceed with Option 1. If you would like to go then just look out for the Premier's advice – we will assume that you are aware of the notice. We will leave from the Tourist Info Centre at 9.30 am Sat 11 September.

If we are still closed down then we will see if Option 2 might become a possibility for the following week or Option 3 for later. In that case we will contact you.

Work activity at Fulham Sunday 12 September – as with the excursion that weekend, this will depend on the Premier's ruling late next week. If we are still in lockdown we will not be going. We hope to be able to herbicide-wipe Cape Tulip, Sparaxis and other weeds on the block west of the entry track. If we can go we aim to meet at 10 am at the first bend in the river. All you need bring for the task is rubber gloves, hat, face mask and lunch.

Work activity at Fulham Sunday 19 September – ditto the comments above, but we hope that this weekend we will be free to continue our voluntary environmental works on conservation reserves. There should also be lots of wildflowers in bloom on the heath.

Special Meeting for Friday 17 September, 7.30 pm at HIRL – this meeting may not occur. Our speaker, Birgita Hansen, is not yet assured of being able to travel, due to Covid restrictions. Birgita is to talk on 'Latham's Snipe ecology' – Diane will contact Birgita on Monday and we will know later next week whether the meeting can proceed.

Weekend Excursion to Anglesea and Lorne Fri-Sun 24-26 Oct – Diane and Yvonne will be considering this situation next week. We may have to cancel our arrangements for this weekend, due to Covid complications. If we have to cancel that Anglesea excursion it may be possible to conduct the excursion planned for August (if we cannot hold it earlier), or one of the work activities, on the weekend of 25-26 September. We will be in touch about these matters later.

Rod Bird
Secretary
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club