

Hi everyone

This is the **HFNC Newsletter for June & July 2022.**

Diane and I will be away for a few weeks in July so I have also posted here details for that month.

JUNE

General Meeting Thursday 16 June, 7.30 pm at HIRL – general business (see attached Agenda and Minutes of previous meeting). Please note that we will be discussing a possible motion to alter our constitution to simplify our reporting to Aust Charities & Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC).

Excursion on Saturday 18 June – Byaduk Caves and the Great Barrier (leave Visitor Centre at 9.30 am or meet at the caves at about 9.50 am). There will be a walk of about 1.5 km east through the caves area to the Great Barrier in the Manna Gum forest. Parts are quite rough and much has a cover of bracken, so wear suitable footwear and clothes. Yvonne & Reto will be the guides.

Report on work at Wannon Flora Reserve on Saturday 28 May – 6 volunteers (DL, RB, RZ, YI, PH, SS) & RT at other times, spent a total of 20 hours pulling up seedlings of the invasive *Acacia paradoxa* along the cleared edges of the reserve. Bushes remaining in the inner eastern half were also tackled and *A. longifolia* was removed from the road reserve on the east edge. Whilst clearing cut acacia away from the bases of old Manna Gums (to reduce possible loss from wildfire) a Sugar Glider was seen to glide from one old dead tree with hollows to a live tree 25 m distant. That is our first record of the species at the Wannon Reserve (we have a record of Feathertail Gliders in 1978).

Report on the May excursion to Mullinger Swamp near Kybybolite – after a foggy start this was a beautiful sunny day enjoyed by the party of 13 members – see attached report for a photo of the spectacular ‘Big Red’ River Red Gum and other attractions.

Planting at Kanawalla Rail Flora Res on Sunday 26 June – POSTPONED to Sunday 31 July

JULY

Special Meeting Thursday 21 July, 7.30 pm at HIRL – Paul Callander’s presentation will be on Volcanic Geology & Landscapes. A brief outline of Paul’s proposed talk is given below.

Hamilton lies within the Newer Volcanic Province of SE Australia. The province has been active for the past 5 million years, with the latest activity about 5,000 years ago. As a result all of the volcanic features of the area are strongly weathered.

In the USA the Craters of the Moon National Monument has similar volcanic features to the NVP. That area was active up to about 2,000 years ago. The area has a desert climate so weathering has been limited and the volcanic features look quite recent. This talk will show volcanic features from the Craters of the Moon that are similar to what existed across the NVP when eruptions occurred.

This part of the USA also contains the Columbia River Flood Basalts, the Washington Scablands and Yellowstone so the talk will address these interesting features as well.

Excursion on Sunday 24 July to Northern Gariwerd NP (Pohlner’s Tk or Peaks Trail) – leave Visitor Centre at 9.30 am sharp.

Planting at Kanawalla Rail Flora Res on Sunday 31 July – meet 9.30 am at the parking area on Hensley Park Rd/Forts Rd intersection. This will be a relaxed morning because we have only a couple of dozen trees to replace, plus a little weeding of some trees.

Members of HFNC – short biographies

Several new members have recently joined our group and Diane has suggested that our long-term members provide a short introduction to themselves. That may help newcomers get to know us and understand which members have particular environmental interests and knowledge. Diane and I will start the introductions. We may be able to persuade others to contribute in later newsletters.

Diane Luhrs – President HFNC

My early years were spent on a family farm at Mooralla. I left the district after finishing my secondary schooling in 1970 to do a science degree (majoring in zoology) and then to take up secondary teaching. I returned to Hamilton in 1987 to teach at the High School. I joined HFNC in 1998, took on the role of Minutes Secretary in 2000 and became the President in 2017. I have thoroughly enjoyed the varied annual programs of excursions, presentations and working bees. Since joining the Club, I have particularly enjoyed the opportunity to learn from others – especially more of the geology, flora and fauna of our region.

Rod Bird – Secretary HFNC

My early years were spent on a farm at Arthur River and school at Wagin in WA. I came to Hamilton with my 3-yr-old daughter Rebecca in 1973, having completed a PhD in Animal Science in UWA, to work on beef cattle systems (and later on farm forestry and shelter mechanics) at the Pastoral & Veterinary Institute. Lionel Elmore, Murray Gunn, John Cayley and Cliff Beaglehole introduced me to the geology, birds, mammals and flora of this region. I had 2 spells as president and now about 12 years as secretary. Current interests are in developing our web site, wetland restoration, controlling environmental weeds and waterbird surveys. I am about to publish a pictorial book on ancient (and other) River Red Gums of Vic & SA (free to look at or download from our website – 35 mbytes!).

Rod Bird

Secretary

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club