

Hello everybody

HFNC's activities and events in August 2023.

Diane and I will be absent from the forthcoming events; this early newsletter will let you know what is happening and who is managing our activities.

General Meeting on Thursday 17 July, 7.30 pm at HIRL – general club business matters. Wendy McDonald will be chairing the meeting.

Club Excursion on Sunday 20 August – Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Reserve walk from Wannon Station to Parkwood Station. We leave from the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 10.00 am

Peter Hocking (also a member of the Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Reserve Committee) will lead this walk. Peter will take you to a starting point near the Wannon Station Ground where most vehicles will be parked; some will go on to leave vehicles at the Parkwood Station, with drivers of those vehicles returning to the Wannon in other vehicles.

Overall, this is an easy walk of about 10 km. The first 1 km involves an interesting and considerable rise from the Wannon to the Dundas Tableland but the terrain is flat thereafter. Some may prefer to stop after 6 km at the crossing of the Glenelg Hwy (those doing that might like to explore the first 200 m of rail reserve across the road while waiting for their ride back to the Wannon). Sort that out with Peter on the day.

Report on previous activities

- **Excursion to Loreto Reserve Portland and Cape Nelson** Saturday 22 July – report to be prepared.
- **Work at Wannon Flora Reserve on 30 July** – 6 members pulled out seedlings or cut out *A. paradoxa* shrubs from trees cut down by the contractors. There was a mishap with one member spiking a leg with a small stake – we urge everyone to be vigilant and be acutely aware of risks when walking in bushland.
- **Kanawalla Rail Flora Reserve 30 July** – although listed on our program, we did not go there but worked instead on the Wannon project (see above). However, the track has been recently sprayed and many of the trees have been weeded, fallen limbs cut off the track and weeds sprayed or wiped. There have been serious outbreaks of weeds (especially *Galium*) in the last few years. That has required much work. The weeds include *Oxalis purpurea*, *Oxalis pes-caprae*, *Rosa rubiginosa* (Briar Rose), *Galium aperine* (Cleavers) *Fumaria capreolata*, *Sparaxis bulbifera* and *Gladiolus undulatus*. In the area near the Hensley Park Rd gate, *Phalaris aquatica*, *Kunzea ericoides* (Burgan), a mystery yellow-flowered crop weed and *Hypericum perforatum* (St John's Wort) are problems. The good news is that the trees we have planted in recent years are thriving and most have survived and now many are tall enough to escape the attention of wallabies and kangaroos!

Work activity at the Wannon Flora Reserve – Sunday 27 August, 9.30 am to about 12.30 pm.

Park on the bush track on the north side of the reserve (please don't veer off the track into the reserve); access off the Wannon-Nigretta Falls Rd. For those yet to visit this reserve, this is an opportunity to see what has been achieved with the project to remove invasive *Acacia paradoxa*.

The only task will be to remove very small *A. paradoxa* seedlings and small shrubs from the reserve. We will provide some leather gloves and loppers for any small shrubs that are too large to pull out. We would really appreciate help with this project – our voluntary hours are needed to match the funded labour component in the Landcare Project agreement. Information will be provided as to identification of the target species and possible non-target 'look-alikes'. Wendy McDonald will lead this activity.

Rod Bird,
Secretary, HFNC