

Hello everybody

HFNC's activities and events in September 2023.

Special Meeting on Friday, 22 September, 7.30 pm at HIRL – our speaker is Bruce McInnis, on the breeding of native fish. Older members of HFNC know that Bruce is a son of Sue and Ivan McInnis, esteemed members active in the club in the 1970s to early 1990s.

Bruce developed a fascination with aquatic life during his primary school years. In the early to mid-1970s he collected aquatic life in his lunch box after school. During his high school years he started keeping endemic and introduced fish species in aquaria and he worked with Murray-Darling large-bodied fish during the school holidays at a native fish farm near Violet Town.

In 1982 Bruce had work experience in the Ichthyology Department at the Victorian Museum, with the curator, Dr. Martin Gomon, as his mentor.

In 1983 he worked in Queensland on a prawn trawler, where he collected fish species from salt and fresh waters, for the Victorian museum. From there he worked in Queensland on the first native fish hatchery at Mullet Creek and later at the Abbington Fish Hatchery, breeding tropical and temperate fish species.

In 1992 Bruce returned to Victoria and set up his *Wartook Native Fish Culture* enterprise, breeding Murray River and estuarine perch species.

Bruce has been with the Wimmera CMA as a facilitator since 2005. In 2008 he helped found the *Native Fish Australia (Wimmera)* branch.

Bruce will attend our HFNC excursion to the Wannon River on November 18th, to look for fish and freshwater invertebrates in the pools at Nigretta and Wannon Falls Reserves.

Work activity at Fulham Streamside Reserve – Sunday 24 September. Meet along the track off Edgewood Rd at 10 am. This year may be the last of our annual efforts since 2006 to control Cape Tulip and Sparaxis on the western third of the reserve. On Sunday we will concentrate on weed-wiping a small, lightly infested area but also spend some time looking at the spring-flowering spectacle across the reserve. Our last visit will be on **Saturday, 07 October**.

Club Excursion on Sunday 30 September – Weecurra and Wilkin wildflowers. Please note that we are holding this excursion a week later than usual, with the hope of seeing more orchids in flower. We leave from the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am.

Report on previous activities

- **Excursion to Loreto Reserve Portland and Cape Nelson** Saturday 22 July – see attached draft pdf.
- **Excursion to Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Reserve** Sunday 20 August – see attached draft pdf.
- **Work at Wannon Flora Reserve on Sunday 27 August** – from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm 6 members pulled out seedlings or cut out larger *A. paradoxa* regeneration from the mass of shrubs cut down by the contractors. Wendy reported that it was a sunny morning, with a number of flowering plants. These included: Pink Bells, Guinea-flower, masses of Greenhoods (*Pterostylis nutans* & *P. striata*), *Platylobium*, Running Postman, Love Creeper, a Beard-heath, Prickly Moses and *Clematis microphylla*.

Rod Bird,
Secretary, HFNC