

Hello everybody

HFNC's activities and events in November 2023.

Work activity at Nigretta Flora Reserve, Sunday 12 November – we will leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am. Our access will be from the northern side, courtesy of the adjacent landholder. This is our second (and last) visit there this year – after our visit 2 weeks ago we do not expect to that it will take too much time to clean up any AWOs missed then.

Special Meeting at 7.30 pm on Thursday 16 November at HIRL – Dr Greg Kerr from NGT will talk on the ecology of River Red Gums and a way to monitor their condition.

Greg will discuss the ecology of the River Red Gum community and describe a method of how to assess tree condition, scoring both decline and recovery of individual trees and the community overall. That can give insights into the range of threats they are subject to across the region. He will look at the changes in the red gum community in the Walker Swamp area recorded over four years since more natural water levels and inundation patterns were restored to the wetland complex.

Excursion to Wannon and Nigretta Falls Rock pools on Saturday 18 November – Bruce McInnes will show us some fish and invertebrates of the Wannon waters. We will leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am and go first to the Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve. This will be a good opportunity to learn more about our local environment.

Bear State Forest fauna nest box inspection on Sunday 26 November – we will leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00am, with our first stop on Hallams Tk in the Bear forest. This will be our 11th year of survey and one that is always enjoyable – the spectacle of the massed display of Blue Pincushions in late November near Lookout Hill is another attraction.

Report on previous activities

- **Excursion to 'Brie Brie' and Scrubby Hill on Sun 22 October** – despite the odd shower, this was a most interesting day at this Manna Gum woodland remnant. We managed to see some 50 species of native flora, including several orchids, Silver Banksia, Blackwood and one area of Messmate – a Draft Report is attached. We thank Ted Mann and Lou for the opportunity to visit Scrubby Hill.

Rod Bird,

Secretary, HFNC