

Hello everybody

HFNC's activities and events in December 2023.

Annual General Meeting/Club Meeting at 7.30 pm on Thursday 14 December at HIRL – we will elect a new committee for 2024, deal with any correspondence and business matters arising since our last meeting, and perhaps look for suggestions for excursions and speakers for 2024.

Attached: Agenda AGM, Agenda Club Meeting, Minutes previous AGM, Minutes Oct Club Meeting.

End-of-year evening picnic: Sunday 17th December from 5 pm in the garden of Jenni Mitchell and Mervyn Hannan at 107 Petschels Lane. BYO a platter to share – savoury and/or dessert – and drinks, chairs, camera, binoculars...

If the weather is unkind, then Jenni has offered our group the shelter of the extensive verandahs around the house.

If you would like to visit the art gallery, then Jenni will have this open for us from **4 pm**.

Report on previous activities

- Excursion to Weecurra & Wilkin 30 September –see attached
- Wannon Flora Reserve control of *Acacia paradoxa* – the acquittal report on this massive Landcare project has been submitted to GHCMA and SGSC. Thanks to the Landmate crew from Ararat, and especially Andrew Levings and his team, the entire reserve has been cleared of large pest shrubs. HFNC volunteers and students from Baimbridge College have worked on removal of seedlings and small shrubs. We have the job before us to remove emerging seedlings in coming years.
- Weed work at Nigretta Flora Res on Sunday 12 November – 3 members completed the removal of African Weed Orchid (and worked on Cleavers and Phalaris), with the surprisingly low total for the year of 835 AWO (compared with many thousands in previous years). What will next year bring?
- Excursion to Wannon and Nigretta Falls Rock pools on Saturday 18 November – see attached
- Bear State Forest fauna nest box inspection on Sunday 26 November – 4 members and 2 visitors enjoyed a fine day at Bear. We found Sugar gliders in 2 of our 7 functional boxes. Twelve years ago we set up 10 boxes but now most are showing signs of decline; 2 have collapsed and bees have taken over one. Where to with that project?

First meeting in 2024 – Club Meeting 7.30 pm at HIRL on Thursday 14 February 2024.

For those whom we will not see at our last events in December, all the best for 2024. We hope to see you and all of our members and friends at our future activities that are focussed on the enjoyment and conservation of our precious natural environment.

Rod Bird

Secretary, HFNC