



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

SPEAKER FOR JULY MEETING

In our program list for the year, the speaker for the July meeting was left as "to be announced". At the June meeting we discussed this and after *slight* pressure Dave Munro has agreed to talk about whatever slides of orchids Kaye Aldridge could produce. It is amazing the way a small group of humans can gang up on one of their friends once he has been identified as a suitable scapegoat.

NEWS

Red Rock Creek (19 May, 1996)

On the Saturday afternoon we drove up to Bob & Karolee Wolcott's property, *Talgarno Park*, near Glen Isla. We had a drive around their place and then went to the Fire Lookout on nearby Mt. Bepcha. a very interesting little outlier of Grampians sandstone with a 360° view. Well worth a return visit. After an enjoyable BBQ and supper at *Talgarno Park* the visitors retired for the night to the palatial shearer's quarters.

On Sunday morning we met Dave & Lyn Munro at the road below Red Rock and all made a rapid ascent in the wake of Rod Bird to the headwaters of the creek: well worth the exertions and hostile vegetation. We descended equally rapidly as Rod had to return to Hamilton for a rehearsal of *A Man For All Seasons*. The rest of us, following his directions, made a more leisurely ascent of a cliff face where some aboriginal rock-art remains, "faded, but intricate": apparently showing people with arms raised and huge fingers.

Thanks to the Wolcotts for their hospitality.

Bailey's Rocks (22 June, 1996)

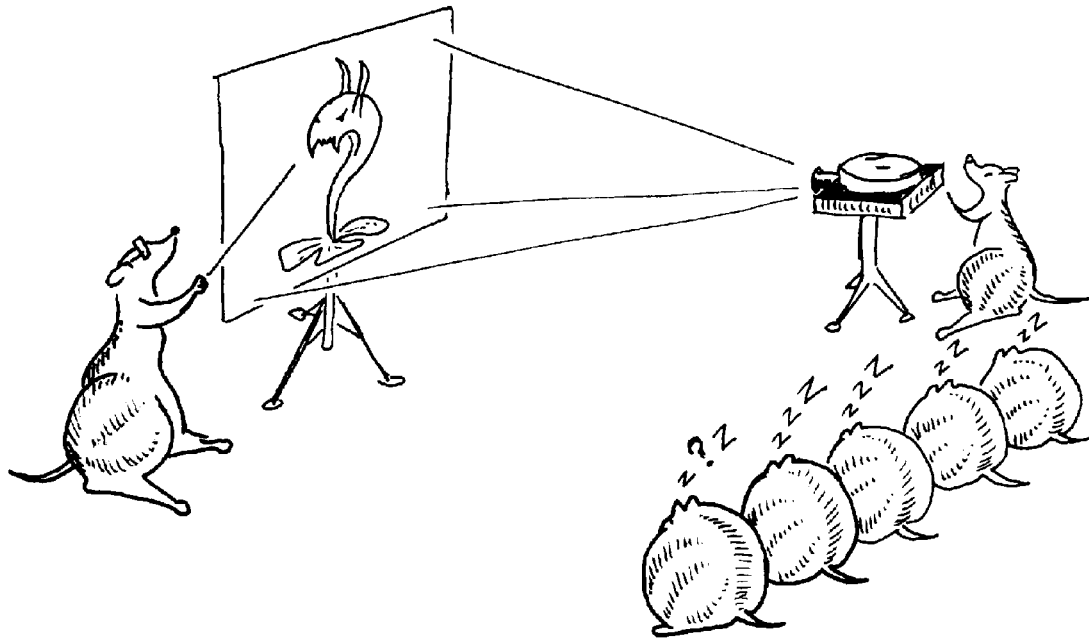
We ended up all packed into two intrepid Superoos, which was just as well as Rod B then lead us on a high speed Cook's tour of the forest tracks of outer Nolan Creek. This included his 'scrub block' where we admired the variety of vegetation types, of faunal faeces, of soils and prospectors pits, the creek, the horticultural habits of the previous inhabitants and some early artefacts (billy and Salvador Dali-an tea cups, circa 1960). We then continued past Bilsons big Red-Gum, and also puzzled over a nearby red-gum that seemed to be turning into a banyan. Eventually, we reached Bailey's Rocks for a late lunch, and marvelled equally at the sculptured formations of the granite, and at the folly of mankind (evidenced by the rocks shattered by blasting). The route home was not only circuitous but circular, demonstrating both the folly of believing the lines shown on a fire map, and that of carrying said map in the rearmost car.

News from Scotland.

The leaders of the HFNC Down-Under expedition to Up-Over have sent back several brief dispatches which were tabled at the last meeting.

Friends of Eccles & Napier, AGM.

On Sunday 7th July, the Friends will have their (informal) AGM at the picnic area at Mt. Eccles, starting with lunch at about 12:30pm. Afterwards, depending on time, weather and inclinations, they may go for a walk down the canal. All welcome.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

Thursday July 18. An Orchid Evening.

Dave Munro, our resident orchidologist, will talk to slides of orchids presented by Kaye Aldridge.

Sunday July 21. Mt Schank Outing.

Meet 8:30 am at the Tourist Office. This young volcano (currently thought to be about 5,000 years old) lies to the south of Mt. Gambier (which recently had its age pushed back to greater than 20,000 - time is moving faster than you thought!!). Unfortunately, the leader will NOT be our resident volcanologist, who will be in Adelaide at the time.

Weekend of the 27-28 July. Orange-Bellied Parrots.

The RAOU is mounting a nation-wide study of the status of the Orange-Bellied and Blue-Winged Parrots this weekend. HFNC has volunteered to help by making observations in the coastal areas between Nelson and Port Fairy. Not all of it, as other groups may also be involved. We hope to hear final details in the first week of July and will announce these at the next meeting. Presumably, we would spend a day bird-watching in one or more coastal sites that are considered suitable habitat for these rare parrots.

