

HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB CONSTITUTION & INCORPORATION

Background

The Hamilton Field Naturalists Club (HFNC) is a community group devoted to the study, conservation, protection and restoration of the natural environment.

The HFNC was formed in 1958 out of interest in natural history by members of the Hamilton community, and because of their concern for the conservation of unalienated Crown land in the district. They saw that unless action was taken, most of the remnant native vegetation, wetlands and associated fauna would be lost, due to pre-emptive action for farming, plantation forestry and other uses. The objects of HFNC listed below is a restatement of the aims of the founding members.

The founding members of HFNC set the agenda for the next 50 years of the Club's activities; to visit, record and promote the conservation of Aboriginal art and occupation sites, geological features and the native fauna and flora of the region.

The objects of the HFNC

- To enjoy, appreciate and respect the features of the natural environment.
- To respect the Aboriginal history and presence in our region.
- To learn about the geology, fauna and flora of the region.
- To record the species of flora and fauna in our native forests, woodlands, grasslands and wetlands.
- To protect and promote the conservation of habitat, flora and fauna in natural landscapes.
- To gain long-term legislative protection of significant natural areas as National Parks, State Parks, Flora Reserves, Streamside Reserves or Wildlife Reserves.
- To understand the principles and practice of environmental management, including the use of fire, control of pathogens and pest plants and animals.
- To restore degraded natural areas through appropriate revegetation, control of pest plants and animals, or restoration of water regimes in wetlands.
- To be advocates for the natural environment – to educate and persuade by means of scientific publications, articles in local newspapers, conducted excursions to natural areas, serving on committees of management, participating on government committees and reviews, and by giving assistance to schools and other groups.

Non-profit clause

HFNC is a not-for-profit organisation. That is, the assets and income of the HFNC shall be applied solely in furtherance of its above-mentioned objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the organisation except as *bona fide* compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.

Dissolution clause

In the event of the organisation being dissolved, the funds and associated goods that remain after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to another organisation with similar purposes which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.

Rules for the Incorporated Association

HFNC is a member group (No. A0011936S) of the VFF Farm Tree & Landcare Association Inc. and, as a member of the Association, is covered by VFF under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

HFNC has adopted the Model Rules for an Incorporated Association, with modifications as follows:

- (1) Membership of HFNC is open to a person who pays the annual fee – there is no requirement to apply in writing.
- (2) HFNC business affairs are generally dealt with at Club Meetings (General Meetings, held 5 or 6 times each year).
- (3) The Committee of HFNC is the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus Minutes Secretary, Publicity Officer and two ordinary members; Committee Meetings may be held from time-to-time to deal with club business.

Australian Business Number (ABN) and Tax File Number (TFN)

ABN issued 1 Nov 1999: 96 579 225 743.

TFN issued 30 Nov 2004: 818 942 866

Certification of the Constitution

A draft Constitution was presented for discussion at the General Meeting of HFNC on 3 June 2010. Notice was then given in the July 2010 HFNC Newsletter, sent to all HFNC members, of the intention to present a revised draft of the proposed constitution at the General Meeting on 7 October 2010, for members to discuss and vote on. This Constitution was passed at that meeting.

Signed on behalf of the HFNC by:

President (Mr Reto Zollinger) Dated2 December 2010.....

Secretary (Dr Rod Bird) Dated2 December 2010.....