

## ***Summary of HFNC Presidents' AGM Reports and Minutes 1958-2008***

The following dot-point summaries of the Presidents' Reports for the Annual General Meetings (AGM) and HFNC Minutes provide a comprehensive overview of major activities undertaken and issues addressed each year. They also show the continuing projects and concerns that were current in particular years.

### **1959 May – President Mr Dewar Goode – report for 1958-59**

Mr Goode presented the first annual report, expressing the philosophy of the HFNC:

- Informal friendly cooperation within the Club, with each contributing to the pool of knowledge.
- The need to have established National Parks within the region – the Grampians and the Glenelg River – indeed to establish a series of National Parks from the coast to the northern arid regions that could be of great importance to science, and to preserve for posterity the remnants of our lovely and fascinating natural features.
- To monitor and reduce the number, intensity and extent of fires that threaten native plants and animals.
- That the HFNC should act to ensure that important ecological areas are established under a planned program that will preserve their plant and animal wildlife and special features for the enjoyment of this and future generations.
- It is better and cheaper to preserve a natural feature than to try and replace it after it has been removed or destroyed.
- Field Naturalists are *the watchdogs of the environment – our cause is indeed worthy.*

The Secretary/Treasurer, Mr Don Adams, presented his report.

- The Club has been fortunate to have distinguished speakers – Dr Smith (Director of National Parks), Dr Kneebone (presented a film on Grampian wildflowers), Mr G Thompson (Chairman of the Soil Conservation Authority), Mr B Jennings (Forests Commission of Victoria) and Mr Turner (snakes of the district).
- Speakers at the inaugural meeting included Mr O Lightbody (wildflowers of Portland area) Mr N Learmonth (Byaduk caves), Mr CF Kurtze (shells from Muddy Creek), Mr C Austin (bird banding) and Mr D Goode (forest reserves).
- Speakers at other HFNC meetings - Mr B Jennings (forestry), Mr H Bakker (geology of western district, notably volcanism), Mr LK Elmore (North America trip), Mr LK Elmore & Mr Swaby (local native plants), Mr Swaby & Mr Sebire (native plants), Mr D Adams (role of insects - information supplied by Mr G Stephens), Mr R Dunbar (Budgerigar life-cycle), Dr Smith (Lyrebirds), Mr Thompson (National Parks in Victoria & New Zealand), Dr Kneebone (Grampians flowers). Other members to provide natural history specimens and information during meetings included Mr A Dempster, Father Power, Miss C Rippon, Mr D Goode and Mr G Stephens.
- Excursions – Byaduk Caves, Four Posts Quarry, Nigretta Reserve, Halls Gap, Mt Eccles, Portland Caves and Wilkin area.
- HFNC account balance – £1.0.6

Mr Goode presented Mr Don Adams with a copy of *What Bird is That* by Neville Cayley, on behalf of HFNC members, to wish him well as he moves from the district.

Mr Hugh Wilson (President of National Parks Association) addressed the meeting on the need for and methods of conservation.

### **1960 May – President Mr Dewar Goode – report for 1959-60**

Mr Dewar Goode discussed in detail conservation issues in the last year.

- Proclamation of 3 National Parks (Mt Richmond, Mt Eccles and Hattah).
- Advice that the areas of Dorodong, Wilkin and Lower Glenelg are soon to be proclaimed as reserves.
- Problems that should be addressed are the destructive fires that occur in the parks and reserves around the State of Victoria.
- Mr Goode appealed to members to take places on Mt Eccles Committee of management.

Mr Lionel Elmore presented the Secretary/Treasurer's report.

- Club membership – down to 39, a drop from 70 in the previous year.
- Speakers – the Club had developed a good range of speakers, including members Mr C Austin (Arnhem Land & Kimberley), Father Power (local geology & botany and geology films), Mr J Fenton (Central Australia), Mr LK Elmore (Willie Wagtails, Wilson's Promontory & need for classification and cataloguing); and guest speakers Miss I Watson (Dept of Fisheries & Game – the need to study life histories), Mr AC Beaglehole (PFNC – making collections).
- Excursions – 4 interesting trips to the Grange and Muddy Creeks fossil beds, Billywing, Mr Goode's property "Denhills" and the Wannan Falls.
- 18-Acre Reserve at the Wannan – undertaking to assist the management of this area of native flora; 2 working bees held there.
- Tree planting – Nigretta Reserve.
- The secretary urged members to adopt a particular line of study.
- The secretary congratulated Mr Goode for his work with the National Parks Authority in proclaiming 3 new National parks in Western Victoria.
- The secretary paid tribute to teacher members of HFNC who taught nature study in their schools.
- HFNC account balance – 16/-.

Fees were set at 10/- for adults and 1/- for juniors.

The evening concluded with a talk by Mr Morris (Fisheries & Game Officer) where he described the activities of the officer, including protection of birds and native animals.

### **1961 May – President Mr Harry Bishop – report for 1960-61**

- Speakers – HFNC enjoyed entertaining and informative talks given by Mr NA Wakefield (mammals and birds), Mr H Bakker (New Zealand Birds & recordings of NZ bird songs), Mr E Tucker (Grampians Aboriginal rock shelters), Mr G Stephens (astronomical measurements), Mr K Walker (Broken Hill & Menindee Lakes).
- Members specimens night.
- Excursions – HFNC enjoyed a wide variety of activities, regular club excursions and the useful results that ensued.
- Commended individual members who were achieving success in their own independent projects.
- Communication – members gave talks to other clubs and contributed articles to *The Victorian Naturalist*.
- Members had also spent considerable time in packing and removing specimens from the Old Mechanics Institute museum.

The Secretary, Mr Lionel Elmore also gave a report:

- Club membership – a further drop in paid-up members, now 26. However, the Club was in a better position to attract new members.
- Records – Mr Elmore praised the decisions to enter, in a log-book, records of excursions and members nature notes.
- Committee of Management – commended 2 members who joined the Wannan & Nigretta committee and the 4 who had joined the Mt Eccles Committee.

The Treasurer, Miss Ruth Abbott reported the HFNC account balance – £10.17.10

The evening concluded with a talk and movie presentation by Mr Ralph Illidge on the subject of coastal birds and plant life. He also explained the possible restoration of Tower Hill and the contribution of Warrnambool FNC towards this program.

### **1962 May – President Mr Harry Bishop – report for 1961-62**

- Speakers – Mr R Illidge (Warrnambool photography), Mr AJ Swaby (botany), Mr O Lightbody (ornithology), Mr G Muir (ecology of the Western Wimmera) and Mr R Backhouse (Grampians geology – recorded talk), Mr E Tucker (Mutawintji & Gunderbooka), Mr J Cayley (Tasmanian highlands), Miss N Pedrina (the sea shore), Mr K Walker (Swan Lake & Grampians) and Mr LK Elmore (geology).
- Members slide nights.

- Excursions – Lakes Kennedy & Linlithgow, Bryans Swamp, Victoria Valley, Billywing, 18-Acre Reserve at Wannon, Chimney Pot Gap and Grange Creek.
- Natural history projects:
  - Aboriginal rock art – finding of 6 new rock shelters by Mr E Tucker.
  - Life cycle of the Emperor Gum Moth – Miss N Pedrina’s study was also particularly noteworthy.
  - Studies of bird life and measurement of trees throughout the district provide valuable reference data.
- Committees of management – 6 members served on various committees.
- Plants – members growing over 100 native plants for areas of revegetation.

The Treasurer, Miss Ruth Abbott also reported the HFNC account balance – £2.4.6

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Messrs E & H Tucker who described tours of the Snowy mountains hydro-electric scheme. In addition to slides of the engineering works, they showed slides depicting magnificent alpine scenery.

### **1963 May – President Mr Harry Bishop – report for 1962-63**

- Mr Walker & Mr Tucker gave talks and showed slides at Hamilton Arts Festival
- The club participated in the Rotary-sponsored “Wonders of Western Victoria”.
- Excursions – Chimney Pot Gap & Bullawin Rd, Wando Gorge at Casterton, Mt Eccles (twice), Black Range, Grange Burn & Muddy Creeks, Mt Baimbridge, Lake Linlithgow and 18-Acre Reserve (2 visits).
- HFNC provided leaders for non-HFNC excursions.
- HFNC hosted the first General Meeting of the WVFNC Association and arranged excursions and entertainment for the visitors.
- Speakers – Mr K Walker (Mutawintji & Gunderbooka), Mr E Tucker (NSW travels), Mr A Kelly (geology), Mr H Tucker (local orchids), Miss N Pedrina (Emperor Gum Moth life-cycle), Mr B Fuhrer (structure & growth of fungi), Mr I McCallum & Mr Pink (birds).
- Members slide nights.
- Natural history projects:
  - Aboriginal rock art – HFNC excursions to Black Range had discovered new sites. (Mr E Tucker also reported finding 2 unrecorded Aboriginal rock art shelters in the Cultivation Creek area).
  - Bird surveys – Mr M Gunn had compiled a list of 160 bird species sighted within about 20 miles of Hamilton. He was praised for this important and time-consuming work. (Murray also reported on the Lake Linlithgow excursion, where Double Banded Dotterels were seen, along with 25 other species).
  - Plant collections – HFNC added to the list of plants recorded at 18-Acre reserve (now ~ 60).

The Treasurer, Miss Ruth Abbott also reported the HFNC account balance - £20.12.0

The meeting concluded with an address by Mr AH Bishop entitled “Man and Nature”. His contention that animals and birds would adapt (“the thread of evolution”) to changes associated with modern agriculture was not shared by all members.

### **1964 May– President Mr Ellis Tucker – report for 1963-64**

- Club membership – remained steady
- Excursions – well-attended: Cheviot Hills (exploring a lava tunnel) & Mt Rouse, Swan Lake (Discovery Bay), Mt Zero & Mt Sturgeon, Mt William, Black Range.
- Speakers – Miss Huissman (Aztec monuments and buildings & Ecuador, Andes and Incas), Mr C Austin (climate change and effects on birds – Western Whipbird & banding), Mr J Morris (Possum and Koala culls), Mr E Tucker (inland Australia – Coopers Creek after rain), Mr K Walker (Lord Howe Island), Mr M Gunn (Sunset Country – ecological survey), Miss N Pedrina (Emperor Gum Moth life-cycle).
- Members slide night.
- Working Bees – at 18-Acre Reserve (3,000 *A. paradoxa* pulled) and Cave of Hands (removing graffiti and placing a notice there for visitors).

- Natural history projects:
  - Aboriginal rock art – new Grampians sites were found, one near Cave of Hands found by Mr K Walker and Mr R Pelchen, and two new sites in the Black Range in November 1963.

### **1965 May – President Mr Ellis Tucker – report for 1964-65**

- Club membership – maintained and the financial situation had improved.
- Speakers – Mr I McCallum & Mr Pink (British bird expedition – Queensland), Mr C Austin (need for habitat reserves for birds), Mr Ebbs (soil conditions – effects of fires, erosion & salt), Mr G Stephens (insect classification), Mr E Tucker (Lamington Plateau, Queensland), Miss S Tucker (teaching in New Guinea), Miss N Pedrina (the seashore).
- Members slide night
- Film night – *Brolga & Sunset Country*
- Excursions – increased attendance at the Club's excursions: Grampians – Billywing, Victoria Point, Browns Creek, Bullawin Rd; Mt Napier, Muddy Creek fossil beds.
- Assistance to other FNCs – Portland (excavation of Death-trap Cave) and Warrnambool (tree-planting at Tower Hill).
- Natural history projects:
  - Bird-banding – congratulations to Mr Murray Gunn becoming an official bird-bander
  - Botanical surveys – thanks to Cliff Beaglehole for his help in making a survey of Browns Creek and South Victoria Range flora (350 species)
  - Aboriginal campsites – Mr LK Elmore's progress in collecting specimens from, and in mapping, Aboriginal campsites at Buckley Swamp is commended.
  - Aboriginal rock art site discovery
  - Collections of sea-weeds
  - Collections of pea-flowered plants
  - Collections of specimens from the Wannon 18-Acre Reserve for the Herbarium (100-120 species collected to date).

HFNC members were informed of the death of Mr HL Tucker. He was a valued HFNC member who shared his knowledge and interest in orchids with others.

### **1966 May– President Mr Bill (AC) Corrick – report for 1965-66**

- Club membership – small number of financial members.
- Attendance at monthly meetings has been good.
- Speakers – difficulty in obtaining speakers but those who were available included Messrs Lightbody & Streeter from Portland (birds of the south-west), Mr F Pelchen (local gemstones – collecting and exhibits), Mr A Gilmour (DFWL – Westernport Bay), Mr C Austin (Queensland Gulf country & drought effect in NSW and Qld), Mrs. KW Edgar & Mr H Ross (Victoria's original vegetation – protecting and raising native plants). An extra meeting was held in October 1965 to hear Mr Roy Wheeler, Secretary of Bird Observers Club of Victoria.
- Excursions – a slight drop in participation on excursions: Byaduk Caves, Grampians – Browns Creek, Chimney Pot, Victoria Range, Red Rock areas; 18-Acre Reserve, Flora specimen collection, Lake Linlithgow, Port Fairy rock shelves.
- Working bees – a good attendance and a start was made on the rabbit-proof fence around the 18-Acre Reserve.
- Photoflora – HFNC sponsored a successful showing of nature slides.
- Plant collections – National Herbarium endorsed HFNC's plant collection – Mr R Smith of Melbourne Herbarium and Mr AC Beaglehole visited Mr LK Elmore in June 1965 and named the plants. A duplicate set was sent to the herbarium.
- WVFNCA meetings – HFNC hosted the AGM and conducted the weekend excursions in Oct. 1965.
- HFNC received many donations from well-wishers.
- Natural history projects – studies by several members were noteworthy:
  - Mr E Tucker and family for exploration of the Grampians in search of Aboriginal rock art
  - Mr LK Elmore for his continued search for Aboriginal campsites in the Buckley Swamp area
  - Mr M Gunn for his individual pursuit of bird-banding and his reports and observations about birds during HFNC meetings.

The films *Brolga* and *Menura* were shown at the end of the meeting.

## 1967 May – President Mr Bill (AC) Corrick – report for 1966-67

- Speakers – Dr Warwicke (locusts), Miss N Pedrina (rock pools), Mr Swaby (Grampians pea flowers), Mr LK Elmore (Otway region), Mr AC Corrick (plant name derivations), Mrs M Corrick (book review), Mr M Gunn (birds in Northern Australia), Dr SE Csordas (Wildlife on Macquarie Island), Miss S Flynn (snakes), Miss G Bowker (Mutton Birds), Mr E Tucker (spring in WA), Mr Fred Davies (The Red Centre) and Rev. Burt from Willaura (Western Victorian birds), Mr F Davies & Mr AC Beauglehole (the Red Centre, during drought & after rain).
- Excursions – Muddy Creek fossil beds, Bullawin Rd-Chimney Pots-Waterworks Track, McDonalds Creek waterfall, Mt Zero (Cave of Ghosts), fern gully behind Strachans Hut, Buckley swamp (plant survey), Lake Linlithgow, BOC campout at Brung Brungle, Discovery Bay.
- Working bees – 2 held at 18-Acre Reserve (fencing)
- Melbourne Nature Show – collection of plants to exhibit at the show.
- Support for establishment of Lower Glenelg NP, protection of Whipstick forest near Bendigo and Aboriginal rock art sites.
- Submissions – to Forests Commission regarding their methods of burning of Victoria Range; to Mt Rouse Shire regarding quarrying at Mt Sturgeon; opposition to sale of Crown land at Brown's Creek.
- Children's nights – 140 people attended the second night in 1966 and 120 at another evening in 1967 at Art Gallery Auditorium.
- Assistance to schools – classroom talks, leading school excursions and providing specimens for classes.
- Natural history projects:
  - Dr Warwicke's butterfly project near Edenhope, Balmoral and Hamilton (12 species banded).
  - Aboriginal rock art – Mr E Tucker reported finding 2 more shelters in the Cultivation Creek area of the Grampians.
- WVFNCA meetings – HFNC members have attended as delegates to all meetings.
- Membership subscriptions – set at \$2 for adults and 20c per child
- Meeting schedules – resolved that meeting nights should remain at the third Thursday in each month and that the AGM should be changed to February to avoid the clash with school holidays and possibly ensure better attendance.
- Program of activities – to be developed 3 months in advance of excursions and speakers.

The film *Where the Pelican Builds its Nest* was shown after the meeting.

## 1968 February– President Mr Bill (AC) Corrick – report for 1967

- Club membership – fewer financial members for the year.
- Marked decline in attendances at General Meetings and excursions.
- Speakers – Dr D Warwicke (National Parks of Canada), Mr M Gunn (Central Australia – Everard & Musgrave Ranges), Mrs M Corrick (botany for the Field Naturalist), Mrs I Watson (the life of birds and marsupials), Mr E Tucker (the Flinders Ranges – rocks and minerals)
- Members slide night.
- Special Events
  - Yulunga week activities – slide and specimen night in the Library Auditorium (profit of \$69.90).
  - Secured Mr L Robinson to speak about wildlife around Australia. \$25 collected from the door at 30c admission).
  - HFNC sponsored a lecture by Dr I Hiscock, Lecturer in Zoology, Monash University.
- Excursions – Bullawin Rd, Black Range, Discovery Bay, Grange Burn fossil beds, Lake Linlithgow, Mt Napier.
- Campout – joint with PFNC to Glenelg River - Little Moleside/Kentbruck area.
- WVFNCA meetings – delegates sent to all meetings.
- Working bees
  - 18 Acre Reserve (2,000 *A. armata* pulled)
  - Mounting specimens for the Grampians Floral Survey
- HFNC joined the Australian Conservation Foundation.
- Children's nights – good attendances at the 5 nights, but that age range did present problems in catering for the audience.

- Natural history projects – individual club members continued their own studies. The President recommends that more times at meetings be given to sharing of members knowledge in their areas of interest.
  - Aboriginal rock art – Mr E Tucker reported a new site in the Honeysuckle Creek area.

Mr M Gunn followed the meeting with a presentation on birds of Tweed Heads and Green Mountain.

### 1969 February – President Mr Murray Gunn – report for 1968

- Club membership – stable.
- Speakers – club members Mr W Larmour (birds of Wannan and Hamilton districts), Mr AC. Corrick & Mr E Tucker (Central Australia), Mr LK Elmore (Mt Napier geology); and visitors Mr AC Beaglehole (Tabulating Vic. Flora on a grid system), Mr G Cerini (Glenelg Regional Survey & Tower Hill), Mr. K Morrison (controlled burning), Mr C Kroker (Horsham FNC president - slides on natural history), Mrs Hope (cultivation of native plants & projects around Coleraine).
- Excursions – interesting and varied excursions were held but the President thought that “*some, at least, of our excursions should achieve something more than a pleasant afternoon drive*”: Bryans Swamp, Grange Burn fossils, Kentbruck heath, Mt Napier, Nigretta plant survey, Shire of Follet plant survey, Victoria Point collecting plant specimens,
- Working bee – 18-Acre Reserve removing *A. armata* seedlings.
- Fauna survey – good start to the Glenelg Regional Survey but lapsed during the year. Also, we did not do the proposed bandicoot survey, partly due to lack of response from DFWL and preoccupation with other projects.
- Children’s nights – did not continue in 1968.
- Photoflora – HFNC sponsored a successful showing in March 1968, with about 200 people attending (nett \$67-90).
- Hosting WVFNCA weekend – Mr Elmore and the Corrick family conducted the excursions, including visits to Victoria Point and Byaduk Caves, and Mr C Austin was the guest speaker on Saturday evening.
- Members visited and addressed other FNCs at Portland and Horsham.
- Natural history projects:
  - Mrs Corrick (plants)
  - Mr LK Elmore (investigations of Mt Napier)
  - Mr M Gunn (bird-banding)
  - Mr E Tucker and Mr AC Corrick (flora and birdlife of Central Australia).

### 1970 February – President Mr Murray Gunn – report for 1969

- Mr Gunn stated that the club fulfilled its purpose *as a meeting place for those interested in the various aspects of the natural history; a place where a wide range of information and knowledge can be both given and gained.*
- Club membership – increased, now 37 adults and 7 juniors.
- Fluctuations in attendance at the monthly excursions.
- Speakers – Mr R McKenzie (Antarctica), Mr C Hutchinson (Mammal Survey Group), Mr D Taylor (bird movies – Blue-winged Parrots), Mr J Morris (routine of Fisheries & Wildlife Officer), Mrs M Corrick (plant identification – *Epacridaceae*, *Proteaceae*, *Rutaceae*), Mr G Stephens (Hamilton insect life cycles), Mr E Tucker (Central Queensland – opals and plants), Miss N Pedrina (*Nephila* the Golden Web Spider), Miss Forsythe (Little Desert), Mr LK Elmore (Hamilton region Aboriginal campsites), Mr K Walker (Australian travels).
- Successful Yulunga evening with Len Robinson showing first-class bird photography to a packed audience.
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Southern Victoria Range, Mt Eccles, Black Range, Mt William, Kentbruck and Mt Sturgeon.
- Working bees – 18-Acre Reserve and at Bryant’s Swamp (planting 180 trees).
- Fauna survey – started the Mt Eccles NP mammal survey with the services of Mr Noel Coller (who later transferred from Hamilton) and his senior scouts.
- Interested the Hamilton City Council in planting native species by the Town Hall.
- WFNVCA meetings – HFNC delegates attended all meetings and campouts.
- Land Development Schemes –welcome and notable victories in preventing the clearing of Kentbruck heath and the Little Desert for land settlement.

- Departing members – the Corrick family – Margaret became a competent botanist under Cliff Beaglehole’s tutelage, and her collection of Grampians and local plants (with those of Cliff Beaglehole) form the major part of the HFNC herbarium [stored in the cabinet made by Mr M Gunn]. Bill served as President for three years and assisted in bird-banding activities. Son Andrew was a keen junior member and participated as a committee representative.

HFNC submitted a case to Hamilton City Council (HCC) to make the Grampians area a National Park. A meeting in August 1966 of the Grampians District Tourist Association rejected a motion, proposed by HCC delegate (Cr. Kevin Thomas) and seconded by Mt Rouse Shire delegate (Cr John Myers), for the Grampians to be designated as a National Park. Mr Jennings (Forests Commission Victoria) opposed the motion, suggesting 10 reasons why it was “impractical”.

### 1971 February – President Mr Murray Gunn – report for 1970

- Club membership – up on last year, now 39 adults & 9 juniors, and attendances fluctuated between 20 and 36.
- Speakers – Mr R Illidge (movie of seals on Lady Julia Percy Is.), Mr D Taylor from Timboon (movies of Aboriginal settlement in NT & Mallee birdlife), Father Flanagan & Mr B Donald (rocks & minerals), Mr M Gunn (six years bird-banding), Mr S Margetts (grasses of the district), Mr E Tucker (northern Queensland), Mr J Gillespie, (Regional Forester - Multiple Uses of Public lands).
- Mr R Wheeler (BOC) address at Art Gallery Auditorium 26 February 1970 *In the Footsteps of Captain James Cook. Mr Wheeler was impressed by local birdlife and with Lake Linlithgow in particular (second to none in Victoria for recording a variety of species of birds).*
- Member’s evenings
  - Slides and reports nights, including 3-minute presentations by members.
  - Film evening with films hired from the State Film Centre: *Birds & Billabongs, Egretta, Wild Flowers of WA.*
  - Pressing and sorting plant specimens.
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, 18-Acre Reserve working bee, Grange Burn in Hamilton, Victoria Point (Brewis waterhole), Muline Creek (search for Rock Wallaby presence), Morgiana, Hotspur Bridge on Smokey River (with Portland FNC), Mt Richmond (WVFNCA) and Mt Napier (Portland FNC & Dr E Gill from the Museum), Wannon River - Morgiana.
- *Photoflora – successful hosting of this exhibition.*
- Issues
  - Mt Napier – HFNC were encouraged by the work of Mr Lionel Elmore to develop a proposal to proclaim this area a National Park. Letter sent to VNPA seeking support.
  - Lake Linlithgow – investigation into grazing leases
  - Wannon River – investigation of proposed drainage of swampland.
- Natural history projects
  - Bird-banding continued all year in the Southern Victoria Range.
  - *Misses C Merlin and R Abbott spent much time in preparing a summary of information about our local swamps, particularly in relation to birdlife.*
  - *Mr E Tucker collected and sent specimens of land and freshwater molluscs to the Museum, discovered many Aboriginal rock shelters in the Grampians and extended the known range of the Rufous-crowned Emu Wren into Queensland.*
- *Grange Burn – HFNC participated in the Grange development investigations.*
- Tree-planting – HFNC assisted the HCC in planting native plants near the Town Hall.
- Moves for a historical museum in Hamilton.
- Club program – need for HFNC to develop a syllabus of both excursions and special presentations so that members can be informed of planned events.

### 1972 February – President Mr Murray Gunn – report for 1971

- Speakers – Mr G Cerini (DFWL projects in Western Victoria), Mr Griffin from FCV Heywood (control burning), Mr C Austin (Land Conservation Council), Mr Keith Walker (NW NSW), Mr AC Beaglehole (survey of flora of East Gippsland), Mr LK Elmore (Mt Napier), Mr E Tucker (Flinders Ranges), Mr I McCann (Stawell Tourist Office - flora & fauna of the Grampians), Mr C Baulch (Flinders Ranges).
- Members evenings
  - 3-minute presentations by 9 members on flora, fauna and geology.

- Film night – *Birds of Swamps* (TV program), *Australian Wildlife*.
- Slide night
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Naracoorte Caves, Kentbruck Sand Dunes, Wannon 18-Acre Reserve, Wannon & Nigretta Falls & 18-Acre Reserve, Mt Napier, Chimney Pots, Hamilton gardens (Gunn & Elmore), Mt Rouse, Strachans Huts.
- FNCV visit to Hamilton area over Easter period – HFNC hosted field trips to Byaduk Caves, Mt Napier and Mt Eccles.
- WVFNCA meeting – visit in August 1971, with excursion to ‘Blackfella Rock’ [Glenisla Shelter] area of western Victoria Range.
- Working bees
  - Tree-planting at Bryans Swamp with Mr G Cerini & Field & Game.
  - 18-Acre Reserve removal of *A. armata* seedlings.
- Melbourne Nature Show – home garden-grown natives forwarded to Melbourne.
- Issues
  - Natural history projects: Rock Wallabies at Muline Creek – Mr E Tucker reported that they were short of feed (Spear Grass sparse) and Fisheries & Wildlife were to supplement with Lucerne hay.
  - Lower Crawford River – HFNC submitted proposal to FCV for a Forest Park there.
  - Mt Napier – Mr Elmore reported a meeting with Dundas Shire about the mining of scoria.
  - Cobobboonee forest – HFNC wrote to Minister for Lands over the FCV plan to bulldoze 6,000 acres of forest there to plant pines.
- Projects
  - Aboriginal rock art – Mr & Mrs Tucker found a site between Red Rock and Glenisla Rock.
  - Mr Elmore had obtained samples of peat from Buckley Swamp, for carbon-dating, as an indication of the age of Mt Napier.
- Yulunga Festival – Mr LK Elmore produced a pamphlet on bandicoots and other members assisted with a display of native plants.
- Lake Linlithgow Reserve – Mr C Baulch elected to Committee of Management.
- Members departing – a farewell to Mr John & Mrs Mary Smith and to Mr John James.

### 1973 February – President Rev. Mr Chris Baulch – report for 1972

- Speakers – Mr Randle (Aborigines of Northern Territory mission station), Miss D Foster & Mrs Bick (Flora of SE South Australia), Father Flanagan (rocks), Mr M Greiner (birds), Mr I McCallum (birds), Mr J Bucknell (Arnhem Land), Mr & Mrs Tucker (SW Queensland), Mr M Streeter from PFNC (life-cycle of birds).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Mt Eccles, Bryans Swamp, Wannon Falls Reserve, Byaduk Caves, Victoria Point (Water Reserve), Victoria Valley (Cassidy Gap), Kentbruck heath (with Mr F Davies, PFNC), Strachans Huts area.
- Members night
  - Slide nights February & July,
  - Film night – CSIRO films – *Birth of the Red Kangaroo*, *Mallee Hen*, *The Echidna*.
- Photoflora – exhibition held by HFNC did not cover costs on this showing.
- Natural history projects:
  - Aboriginal rock art – Mr E Tucker reported a site with paintings in a 4-ft-wide cave in Honeysuckle Creek area. Also a shelter SE of Red Rock Creek – stick figures with outstretched arms. Query whether the art could be re-touched.
  - Mt Napier – Mr LK Elmore guided 4 parties to Mt Napier and 2 new caves were found.
- Local Issue – members inspected area of rock blasted from Wannon Falls by someone seeking vivianite crystals.
- Representation – Mr M Gunn nominated for proposed Lake-Grange Burn committee.
- WVFNCA meeting – April 1972.
- LCC report on SW Region District 1 released. HFNC then made submissions on:
  - Kanawinka
  - Bogalara (heath areas around Bailey’s Rocks, Dergholm; wombat habitat)
  - Youpayang (east of Glenelg River)
  - Roseneath (northern woodlands and wetlands)
  - Tooloy (swamps and woodlands)
  - Grajurk
  - Wilkin

- Weecurra (wet heath in SE corner and blocks fronting Glenelg River)
- Strathdownie (wet areas need to be retained)
- Hotspur (potential National Park, frontages to Smokey River)
- Anya (river frontage and hardwood forest need to be retained).

### **1974 February – President Rev. Mr Chris Baulch – report for 1973**

- Financial members numbered 26, and 4 juniors.
- Speakers – Mrs S McInnes (illustrator, Gould League Birds), Mr LK Elmore (Mt Napier), Mr I Smith (FCV role in conservation of Grampians), Mr K Gittens (LCC officer – need for HFNC support for Crown Lands conservation), Miss K Aldridge (Surrey Ridge & Jackass Gully ferns), Mr J Seebeck (ARI – Serendip conservation area), Mr E Tucker (New South Wales trip), Mr M Gunn (Western Australian wildflowers).
- Members nights
  - Film night - *Fairy penguins, Bird Banding in Australia, Nectar Eaters.*
  - Library night
  - Slide night and tapes of bird calls
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Nelson/Long Swamp, Grampians - Hines Track (Roses creek), Byaduk Caves, Hotspur (with BOC), Cassidy Gap, Wilkin area (Wildflower Show), Fern Gully at Strachans Huts.
- Working bee –18-Acre Reserve (16,000 *A. armata* pulled).
- Issues
  - Lake Pedder – support given to the movement opposing flooding of Lake Pedder.
  - Byaduk Caves – Dundas Shire signs opposed by HFNC because there is no supervision at the site. That could be remedied when the Mt Napier-Byaduk Caves complex comes under National Park management.
  - Wildlife poisoning – letter to Minister for Conservation about Revision of Poisons Act, to protect birds from insecticides.
  - Lake Linlithgow – approach to Lands Department about banning boats on the lake, as it was an important sanctuary for birds.
  - Mt Rouse – approach to Mt Rouse Shire to stop scoria quarrying on the Peshurst side.
- Projects
  - Mt Napier – Mr LK Elmore reported completing a plant list for the area and sending bones collected from caves to the National Museum for identification.
  - Hamilton Cemetery Bandicoot Reserve – Mr M Gunn proposed that a member be nominated to organise tree planting on the cemetery project.
- New Member – HFNC welcomed Miss Kay Aldridge to the club.
- Members departing – a farewell to Mr Ellis & Mrs Bobby Tucker who were moving to Halls Gap. Their friendship, abundant knowledge and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.
- Treasurers report – a balance of \$54.50.

### **1975 February – President Dr Rod Bird – report for 1974**

- Speakers – Miss E Arthur (Africa), Mr I McCallum (Ranger at Lower Glenelg NP), Mr F Davies of PFNC (travels north), Mr R McKenzie (Heard Is., Macquarie Is. & Antarctica), Mrs Hope (propagation of native trees & shrubs), Cr J Myers (Grampians District Tourist Association), Mr M Gunn (travels in North Queensland)
- Members night
  - Slide night
  - Film night – ABC films *Wildlife Australia, Arnhem Land, Mutton Birds, Above the Gorge*
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Dundas Ranges (with WCS), Glenisla Shelter, Roses Creek Falls & Black Range, Heywood Forest and Lower Glenelg NP, Mt Napier & Byaduk Caves (with Warrnambool FNC), Yambuk (Roberts property, to view Ibis, Egrets & Night Herons nesting in pines).
- Campouts
  - Little Desert NP & Kaniva campout (17 adults plus children attended – September).
  - WVFNCA weekend – Mt Richmond NP (October).
- Working bees

- 18-Acre Reserve (pines and more than 2,700 *A. paradoxa* were pulled). Bulbs (Freisia?) found in the SW corner, with Cootamundra Wattle & *A. longifolia*. One plant, a new species – *Hybanthus floribundus* (a nickel accumulator)<sup>i</sup> – was found in the reserve centre.
- Bryans Swamp – 12 members assisted Mr G. Cerini (DFWL) tree-planting.
- Wannan Falls – removal of regenerating pine from the reserve.
- Issues
  - Roadside conservation issues (herbicide and road-widening impacts on vegetation).
  - Wannan River “Improvement” Scheme – HFNC supported Wannan Conservation Society at a public meeting at Coleraine on 17 July 1974, opposing de-snagging and tree removal from the river at Sandford and beyond.
  - Mt Napier – meeting held with Lands Department, FCV and HFNC to discuss control burns.
- Representation
  - Mt Napier – Lands Department requested 3 members to serve on the Mt Napier Reserve Committee of Management (Dr R Bird, Mr J Cayley & Miss K Aldridge agreed to serve). HFNC advised the Lands Department that it regarded this as an interim step only until the LCC determination was made over the entire area of Crown land, including Byaduk Caves.
  - Lake Linlithgow – Mt Rouse Shire called for new Lake Linlithgow Committee of Management. HFNC members Dr R Bird, Mr M Greiner, Mrs P Thomas and Dr H Watson were subsequently elected. Mr C Baulch had served on the previous committee.
- Photoflora – conducted by HFNC in April and well attended with a profit of \$104.
- Reporting – request that more detailed excursion reports and sightings of significant species be written up and logged in the reference book.
- Mr M Gunn reported 78 bird species seen at Little Desert over Easter, including Gilberts Whistler and Malleefowl.
- LCC – representations to LCC over Wilkin area reserve extension.
- Club business – HFNC to continue affiliations and subscriptions to conservation organisations.
- Membership subscriptions for 1975 set at \$3 adults and \$0.50 for juniors.
- Departing member – a presentation was made to Rev Chris Baulch in appreciation for his service to the club.

## 1976 February – President Dr Rod Bird – report for 1975

- Speakers – Dr R Bird (Wildflowers of a West Australian summer), Mr G Cerini (local wetlands revegetation), Mr E Tucker (Aboriginal cave paintings), Mr B Middleton (birds and vegetation), Mr A Arnold (role as Crown Lands Management Officer), Mr P Rawlinson (forestry, wood-chipping & *Phytophthora*).
- Members evening
  - Slides nights – Mr T & Mrs Bilston (Northern Territory), Mr LK Elmore (frogs on his property), Dr R Bird (Bailey’s Rocks vandalism)
  - Film night - “*To the Island*”, “*At the Edge of the Salt Plain*”, “*Beyond the Dune*”
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Wannan River (Nigretta to Wannan Falls), Surrey Ridge, Wannan Four Posts to Nigretta Falls, Wannan River (Sawpit Ck to Ballintubber), Wyperfeld, Tower Hill, Mt Napier (with Wannan Conservation Society), Glendinning (with WCS and Mr Neil Douglas), Mafeking & Major Mitchell Plateau.
- Campout – Mt Arapiles campout (6 adults plus children).
- Working bees
  - 18-Acre Reserve (July – removal of 1,570 seedlings *A. armata*)
  - Lake Linlithgow (August, September & November – fencing, planting & weeding).
- Issues
  - Bandicoot Reserve (adjacent to cemetery) – suggested a post-and-rail fence on perimeter, with mown, meandering path through. Submission prepared for HCC.
  - Grange Burn – submission to HCC for 6 fenced bandicoot refuge areas on each side upstream from Portland Rd, with local shrubs to be planted by HFNC. HCC requested 2 members join a committee to expedite the work (Mr J Cayley & Dr R Bird proposed).
  - Lake Linlithgow – suggested planting and protection at Boonawah Creek for long-term bandicoot habitat.
  - Dundas Planning Scheme – HFNC submitted a list (on request from the Dundas Shire) of public and private land for special conservation status.

- Submission to “Drainage of Land Bill”, supporting amendments. Mr Elmore stated that *there is a need to keep remaining swamps and perhaps create more, to maintain bird life that will control pests such as crickets.*
- Woodchip – Submission to Senate Standing Committee Woodchip enquiry, opposing export of woodchips from our hardwood forests.
- Bailey Rocks – submission to Minister for Conservation about Glenelg Shire’s gravel extraction from areas nearby.
- Baileys Rocks – Dr R Bird & Mr LK Elmore met with Mr R Johnson (CCV) and locals at Baileys Rocks, about blasting of green granite rocks by miners granted a licence from Mines Department.
- Lake Linlithgow – concern about proposed ‘weed’ control in the Lake – letter to DFWL.
- Wannan River – letter to DCLS requesting cancellation of grazing licences at Four Posts and 30 acres on the north bank of Nigretta.
- Natural history projects:
  - Fauna survey of Mt Napier-Byaduk Crown land area by Dr R Bird.
  - Miss C Merlin & Miss R Abbott provided BOC a report of sightings of Rainbow Bee-eaters and White-faced Herons in the district, as part of a BOC study on migration.
  - John Seebeck (ARI) requested data on Barred Bandicoot sightings in last 10 years (Dr R Bird compiled a list of 60 and Mr LK Elmore another 20).
  - Mr M Gunn reported banding 183 birds (60 Silvereyes) in one winter day, the largest number at any time in 10 years. *E. ovata* was flowering at the site.
- Mrs Dempster thanked Dr Bird *for his fine leadership and work during the year.*
- Treasurer’s report – not presented. Membership for 1976 \$4 for adults & juniors \$0.50.

### 1977 February – President Dr Rod Bird – report for 1976

- Speakers – Mr J Cayley (Cradle Mountain), Mr M Gunn (Central Australia), Mr P Mewett (life in water in Portland area), Mr F Rogers (an introduction to *Acacias*).
- Members evening
  - Slide nights – Photoflora slides, Mr LK Elmore (Red Gums), Dr R Bird (Mt Arapiles flora), Dr D Robson (National Parks in NSW, Qld & NT).
  - Film night - *Kangaroo Island, Arnhem Land Aborigines, Jungles of India.*
  - Planning WVFNCA Rocklands campout
- Photoflora – held in March 1976) when 109 adults & 29 juniors attended.
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Byaduk Caves (with WCS), Rocklands (WVFNCA), Mt Arapiles, Bailey’s Rocks, Major Mitchell Plateau trek, Mt Clay-Bats Ridge, Victoria Range (Strachans area), Black Range, Mt Napier,
- Campout – HFNC hosted the WVFNCA campout at Rocklands in Anglican Hall & Hostel. Mr Claude Austin was our speaker. At least 137 adults attended.
- Working bees
  - 18-Acre Reserve weeding *A. armata*.
  - Lake Linlithgow weed control.
- Issues
  - LCC Mallee Study Area report released – HFNC made a submission.
  - LCC SW No. 2 Area, Corangamite – Dr R. Bird prepared a submission for HFNC on the Otway NP, Lake Linlithgow wetlands, Hexham 30-ha common, Yambuk and others.
  - HFNC attended a FCV Public Forum on Grampians at Stawell about their proposed zoning and multiple use management plan (a ploy to pre-empt LCC determination).
  - Four Posts – HFNC objection to Hamilton High School planting Pines on the gravel-stripped Four Posts area (west bank – now Hewett Park) owned by HCC.
  - Mt Napier – HFNC protested at Mines Department granting quarrying on the boundary of the mount that actually entered the reserve.
  - Wannan & Nigretta – contact with Mr H Fry, Secretary of the Wannan & Nigretta Committee of Management, suggesting their planting should be of indigenous species, and offering our help and advice.
  - Cats – HCC asked to provide a free service for disposal of unwanted cats & dogs.
  - Wannan & Nigretta – Secretary Dr P Milne (with Mr LK Elmore) wrote a *masterly letter* to the Wannan & Nigretta Committee, outlining HFNC management of the 18-Acre Reserve and seeking their co-operation.
- HFNC operations

- Club books & magazines – these were lodged with the Hamilton Library. Mr Bolodis was happy to make them available to others (the items were discarded later without informing us)
- HFNC filing system to be improved.
- Club business – Miss E Arthur made the bandicoot emblem for use on HFNC stationary and advertisements.
- Club funds – proposed propagation of indigenous plants for sale to HCC and other bodies for revegetation projects to support the club.
- Club membership and attendance – discussion on reasons for long-term decline in attendance at meetings and excursions, and ways to reverse that trend. A review of subscriptions to organisations and magazines also required, to reduce expenditure.
- Feather-tailed glider captured by a cat from a house adjacent to 18-Acre Reserve was photographed (July 1976) – this species is rarely seen.
- Dr Peter Milne congratulated Dr Bird for the *drive and impetus with which he led the club*.
- Club membership fees – set at \$4 for adults, \$6 for families & free for juniors.

## 1978 February – President Mr John Cayley – report for 1977

- Speakers – Miss N Pedrina (life cycle of Emperor Gum Moth), Mr M Gunn (chasing birds in Arnhem Land), Mr LK Elmore (a trip to Queensland; A National Park for Mt Napier), Mr M McDougal FCV (Current forestry practices in the Heywood district), Dr R Bird (Wannon River), Mr E Quinlan VNPA (policy on National Parks), Mr J McHugh NPS (potential for NPS to manage areas near Hamilton), Mr B Birch from National Museum (Mt Napier & Byaduk Caves), Mr J Gillespie FCV (Management Plans for Grampians).
- Members evening
  - Slide nights – Dr P Milne (Major Mitchell plateau), Miss N Pedrina (life-cycles of 2 species of Emperor Gum Moths & Naracoorte Caves), Dr R Bird (*Phytophthora* in Victoria Valley & Byaduk Caves), Miss C Merlin (Red-capped Dotterel nest with eggs & Spur-winged Plovers nest with eggs), Mr LK Elmore (spring fires at Mt Napier)
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow; Naracoorte Caves; The Craggs & Port Fairy; Byaduk Caves, Great Barrier & Wallacedale Tumuli; Surrey Ridge & Jackass Gully; Black Range (with Horsham FNC); Points Reserve & Langleys Gorge; Yarram Gap; Glendinning area; Wannon River (Four Posts and upstream, botanic survey); Mt William/Major Mitchell Plateau/Stockyard Creek walk.
- Campouts
  - Little Desert.
  - Colac area with WVFNCA.
- Working bee – 18-Acre Reserve (July & October) – last of large *A. paradoxa* (*A. armata*) cut.
- Issues
  - Meeting with Dr Stephen Davies (President of RAOU).
  - LCC Report for SW Area 2
    - Mr LK Elmore & Dr R Bird assisted LCC reporters Mr J Taylor and Mr R Youl in their investigations of Mt Napier and Wannon areas.
    - HFNC supplied VNPA with suggestions on Mt Napier-Byaduk Caves, Mt Eccles and extensions, Black Range, Grampians and Wannon River.
    - Dr R Bird provided HFNC with a submission on Wannon River.
  - Hamilton Water Reserve – Mr A Windust outlined proposals for developing the reserve (including the Old Reservoir) for conservation, recreation and education.
  - Wannon Falls – Mr B Larmour drafted a letter to DCLS to request cancelling the grazing licences between the railway bridge and Wannon Falls. Problems at other sites too, and no action from local officials. Dr R Bird drafted a letter to Minister for Lands.
  - Lake Linlithgow – HFNC wrote to DCLS over illegal large-scale removal of sand at Boonawah Ck by the Yacht Club for the “beach” at the boat ramp. Mt Rouse Shire was aware of the project but had not realized it was an Aborigine burial area.
  - Cats – HCC reject HFNC request for control of unwanted cats, but would act on dogs.
- Significant fauna
  - Feather-tailed glider captured by a cat from Rutters’ house near 18 Acre Reserve was photographed by Dr R Bird (June 1977) – the third such – it was returned to the reserve.
  - Common Dunnart photographed at Stockyard Creek during excursion – rare sighting.
- HFNC operations
  - Club funds – Crown Lands Management Officer (Mr A Arnold) offered HFNC job removing rubbish and supplying firewood to 3 picnic areas at 6-week intervals (\$85 per time).

- Volunteers were Miss E. Arthur, Mr LK Elmore & Dr P Milne (Byaduk Caves), Mr B Larmour, Mr M Gunn & Mr M Greiner (Four Posts), Mr J Cayley & Dr R Bird (Mt Napier).
- HFNC raised plants for HCC for Lake Hamilton project – Dr P Milne collected local seed of *E. ovata*, *E. viminalis*, *E. camaldulensis*, *L. lanigerum*, *L. juniperinum*, *C. stricta* & *B. marginata* (about 400 of each). Members potted up seedlings.
  - HFNC wrote to schools, offering services of field naturalists for excursions, camps.
  - Club program – for the first time, HFNC presented a printed the program for the year (in two 6-monthly editions), incorporating the bandicoot emblem (drawn by Miss E Arthur) in the letterhead, Spectator advertisements and stationary.
  - Treasurers report – a balance of \$213.27. Membership subscriptions were unchanged.

## 1979 February – President Mr John Cayley – report for 1978

- Speakers – Mr J Langford (Soil Conservation Authority, work on lower Wannon), Mr B Lacy (propagating native plants), Messrs G & J Hadden & Mr C Keyes (fossils), Mr R Clappen (Aboriginal artefacts), Dr & Mrs I Nunn (a 250-mile walk in Nepal, Kashmir & Tibet), Mr RD Walter (American National Parks), Mrs M Corrick (*Pultenaeas* - Bush Peas), Dr P Milne (flora of Browns Creek and Wannon area) and Mr M Gunn (bird studies in Hamilton district), Mrs S McInnes (illustrating birds and orchids for the Gould League).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Wannon Falls & Brung Brungle swamps, Grange Fossil beds (3 sites near McVickers – 61 people attended), Byaduk Caves, MacDonald Falls, Brown's Creek & Waterworks Tracks (with Mrs M & Mr A Corrick, about 60 people attended), Wannon Rapids, 18-Acre Reserve, Chimney Pots.
- Campout – Warrnambool & Tower Hill with WVFNCA
- Members evening – film nights - Mrs Grace MacGugan (“A film of Mt Napier”), Mr M Greiner (showed hired films)
- Public exhibition – Photoflora – small loss made.
- Working bees
  - 18-Acre Reserve (1,700 *A. paradoxa* seedlings pulled).
  - Sorting out Club literature.
- Issues
  - Lake Linlithgow – concern over sheep breaking into HFNC tree block – the Committee of Management asked to resolve the issue, since it issued the grazing lease.
  - Lake Linlithgow – 140 dead eels along the shore after 2,4-D used to spray thistles.
  - Byaduk Caves – grazing at Byaduk Caves – problem not resolved 3 months after report to DCLS.
  - Byaduk Caves – inspection of damage to ferns at Byaduk Caves with Mr I Brown (DCLS) who suggested a catwalk over the slippery fern area at the lower level of Harmans No. 1.
  - Roadside flora – Brian Lacy expressed concern over burning on Glenelg Highway but others thought that a much better practice than ploughing or use of herbicide.
- Surveys
  - Wannon River flora survey – Dr R Bird's draft report “*Indigenous vascular flora of the Wannon River frontages (Wannon Falls Reserve to Red Rd Bridge)*” handed in. The native species total was 332; more surveys needed for each of the 44 sectors assessed. Significant species include *Aristida ramosa*, *Pimelea stricta*, *Myoporum viscosum*, *Gahnia clarkei*, *Eriostemon angustifolius*, *Glycine latrobeana* and *Dodonaea cuneata*.
  - Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Reserve – HFNC wrote to Secretary for Railways, stating the value of this land as a flora reserve and stating our willingness to manage it.
  - Kanawalla Rail Reserve – Dr P Milne & Dr R Bird made a flora survey, finding at least 45 native species and concluded that the section needed to be preserved.
- Significant flora – Miss G Merlin found *Calytrix tetragona* on the railway reserve east of the Wannon Bridge (the species is not known locally) and *Triodia bunicola* still exists either side of the Wannon-Nigretta road near the railway crossing.
- Significant fauna – Mr M Gunn & Mr A Corrick saw a Square-tailed Kite on the excursion to SW Victoria Range. This was the first record for Hamilton.
- HFNC operations
  - HCC – letter suggesting that local Aborigine artefacts and fossils could be displayed.
  - HCC – to buy 600 of the trees raised by HFNC.
  - SGAP Native Plant Flower Show – HFNC supported this with a display of local wildflowers and posters on Mt Napier and Barred Bandicoot.

- AC Beaglehole Publishing Fund – HFNC made a contribution of \$100 to this fund.
- LCC Report Alpine Area – submission drafted by Dr R Bird submitted.
- Mrs M Corrick (Melbourne Herbarium), made a plea for detailed studies on particular species because little information is available for most natives.
- HFNC 20-year anniversary – noted that Mr LK Elmore, Mr G Stephens, Mr M Gunn, Mrs R Dempster and Miss R Abbott were members from the first year and are still involved.
- Departing member – Mr LK Elmore left Hamilton to live at Hastings – Mr M Gunn presented Lionel with a gift of books from HFNC and remarked that he had been a committee member for the last 19 years, and praised his wide knowledge, his interest in communicating knowledge, and especially the effort expended in preserving the Mt Napier volcanic complex. Life Membership was conferred on Lionel, for an outstanding contribution to HFNC.
- Treasurer's report – Mr M Greiner reported a balance of \$637.86. Membership fees for 1979 were restructured to \$3 for individuals and \$5 for families.

## 1980 February – President Mr John Cayley – report for 1979

- Speakers – Mr G Cerini, DFWL, (fauna in LCC local study areas), Mr A Arnold (regeneration of coastal vegetation), Dr M Watson (China), Mr J Falkenberg (the Wannon River of old times), Mr J Fenton (trekking in Nepal), Mr M Gunn (the Kalahari & Okavango Delta in Botswana), Miss E Arthur/Dr R Bird/Mr J Cayley (scenes in Britain and Straits of Magellan).
- Members evenings –
  - Slide nights – Dr P Milne (Brown's Creek & Wannon Rapids), Dr R Bird (Mt Napier & the Craggs/Yambuk),
  - Film nights - Support for Tasmanian Wilderness Society *The Franklin River* film evening & wildlife films.
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Byaduk Caves, ACF Picnic at Black Range (June), Fulham (Kanagulk) with WCS, Mt Abrupt & Signal Peak, Stones Faunal Reserve, Deep Creek & Castle Rock, Yambuk coast.
- Campouts
  - Dundas Range campout (fauna survey)
  - Big Desert.
  - WVFNCA – at Halls Gap and Nelson. Masses of Red-beaks & Green-comb Spider orchids in Lower Glenelg NP in after February fire.
- Working bees
  - Potting up seedlings.
  - 18-Acre Reserve (~ 600 A, *armata* removed – very dry conditions but *Banksia marginata* stand has expanded)
- Issues
  - LCC submissions for SW No. 2 area:
    - Mt Napier – Lionel Elmore stressed the need for an interpretive centre at Mt Napier. Another suggestion was to combine the volcanic features into a Western District Volcanic Plains NP.
    - Mt Eccles – Miss Merlin recommended reverting to the original Mt Eeles.
    - Grampians – Dr P Milne's very comprehensive draft was submitted
    - Kanagulk [Fulham] – Dr R Bird's draft was submitted.
  - Grange Burn and bandicoot habitat – approaches to HCC.
  - Railway reserves – submission to Dundas Shire re. possible lease of 3 sections of line:
    - 500 m from Wannon Bridge to Wannon-Nigretta Rd.
    - 1300 m from Kanawalla Siding to McFarlanes Rd.
    - 300 m on Penshurst line, east from crossing on Mt Napier Rd.
  - Mt Eccles – HFNC supported government decision not to extend a quarrying licence.
  - Mirranatwa hobby farms – Dundas Shire considered allowing 12.5 to 50 acre subdivision over 5,000 acres north of Mirranatwa and HFNC opposed that.
  - Grange Burn – a comprehensive submission for the development of the Grange Burn had been given to HCC but they seemed unaware of that.
- HFNC operations
  - Parklands Committee – Dr R Bird, as HFNC representative, advised that our views on the use of that area (100 ha or more) should be made known to that committee.
  - Picnic areas – with Mr LK Elmore's departure, Mr G & Mrs R McGregor would share the task at Byaduk caves with Mrs Neaves, Mrs R Dempster & Dr P Milne.
  - Natural history projects:

- Dr R Bird occupied with a survey of bats in the Mt Napier area.
  - HFNC Dundas Range fauna survey – *Antechinus flavipes* trapped.
- SGAP flower show – Mrs S Bailey and Misses Merlin obtained flowers for the Wannon River Wildflower stand.
- Significant fauna – in October, Dr P Milne saw a Brown Bandicoot near the Golf Course, Serra Range.
- The committee was very active and gave considerable support to the President.
- The Treasurer’s report for 1979 was presented by Mr M Greiner. Donations of \$100 were made to Kampuchean appeal and to TWS. The balance in February was \$623.32. Membership fees were set at \$3 for individuals; \$5 for families.

*At a subsequent meeting Dr P Milne paid special tribute to Mr J Cayley for his 3 years of enthusiastic and able leadership of the Club. He also praised Mr M Greiner for his years of willing stewardship as Treasurer of HFNC. Each was presented with a gift plant for their outstanding service to the club.*

## **1981 February – President Dr Peter Milne– report for 1980**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> President’s report was presented by Mr J Cayley who was standing in as Chairman for Dr P Milne. The report was received with commendations for its excellent descriptions of the Club’s achievements throughout the year and for its recommendations for future development of HFNC activities.

*“...we need...to realise as a club we have achieved a great deal...we have a responsibility to publicize what we are doing far more, because much of it is interesting, newsworthy, worthwhile, and needs to be brought to our local community’s attention”.*

Role of the club:

*To promote the awareness, study and conservation of our natural environment*

- Club membership and attendance:
  - Meetings averaged 20
  - Excursions – attendances on excursions was varied (from a few to more than 40)
  - Membership – mailing list shows increase in the number of people associated with the Club (60-70 names)
- Speakers – Mr B Golding (use of artificial hollows by fauna), Dr R Bird (native mammals of Western Victoria), Mr I Temby (mammals of South Africa), Mr T Stone (geology of Western Victoria.), Mr G Cornwall (arid lands of South Australia), Mr R Brouillette (educational work of Ministry of Conservation), Mr A Arnold (interpretation works in NPs), Mr M Greiner (Hattah and Wyperfeld NPs), Mr J Cayley (Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair NP).
- Members evening
  - Slide nights – Miss K Aldridge (native mammals/ Eastern Barred Bandicoot & Photoflora contributions), Mr M Greiner (Purple Diuris).
  - Film night – *Edge of the Forest, Carnivorous Plants*.
- Public exhibition – hosted Photoflora at Hamilton.
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Dundas Range campout, 18-Acre Reserve, Geology of local area, Natural Bridge at Mt Napier, Cape Nelson heath land, orchids near Cavendish, Victoria Range, Golton Gorge (with Horsham FNC), Dunkeld Environment Centre
- Campouts
  - Port Campbell with WVFNCA
  - Dundas Ranges – mammal survey
  - Maryborough with WVFNCA
- Working bee
  - 18-Acre Reserve
- Projects
  - Mammal survey work at Mt Napier (Dr R Bird)
  - Mammal survey of the Dundas Ranges (HFNC campout with Peter Milne & Rod Bird)
  - Involvement in Australian Bird Atlas (Mr M Gunn, Dr R Bird & others)
  - Recorded detailed lists of native plants along railway lines (Dr P Milne).
  - Growing native plants and shrubs for local planting.
- Issues
  - Continued to support opposition for the flooding of the Franklin River
- HFNC operations

- Record-keeping of EBB distribution around Hamilton
- Advising HCC on conservation measures for EBB
- Representation on the Community Parkland Committee (Dr R Bird)
- Representation on the Art Gallery Committee for housing geological/Aboriginal material (Miss E Arthur)
- Maintenance of the HFNC herbarium (Dr R Bird)
- Support for Mr Cliff Beaglehole (in collecting specimens and for his books)
- Donated *Habitat* and *The Victorian Naturalist* to the Glenelg Regional Library
- Membership of WVFNCA, ACF, NPA, CCV
- Maintenance of picnic sites at Mt Napier, Four Posts, Byaduk Caves on contract with DCLS
- Assisted HCC in the regeneration of Hewett Park at Four Posts.
- Conducted adult education course on natural history (geology/birds/mammals/flora)
- Treasurer's Report – presented by Miss K Aldridge. The Club has a balance of \$825.66. Fees for 1981 were retained at \$3 for individuals, \$5 for families.

*People such as Lionel Elmore, Ellis Tucker, Margaret Corrick, Murray Gunn and Rod Bird have of course made a very substantial contribution to the work the Club has done but many other club members have also helped, participated and contributed in many ways....*

Recommendations for the next year:

- Educate the community – press releases and articles
- Influence political decision-making – we need to connect and remain persistent
- Improve our research work – get better records of seasonal distribution of EBBs
- That more people take on specific duties for the Club to spread the load – less waffle, more action.

## **1982 February – President Mrs Susan McInnes – report for 1981**

*I used to cringe if people were derogatory about conservation and conservationists, now I know that we can all be very proud of our efforts. To conserve is synonymous with caring and the mere fact that we are prepared to be labelled a Field Naturalist aligns us with the other people in the world who care for their environment and its preservation.*

1981 was a very busy and focused year with new activities undertaken; many hours were devoted to preparing the submissions to the LCC for the Grampians NP; and yet there was time to enjoy a variety of excursions and to hear excellent speakers present strong arguments for conservation.

- Speakers – Dr R Bird (Wild flowers of a Western Australian Spring), Mr I McCann (wildlife photography), Mr P Brown (Barred Bandicoot survey), Mrs M Robson (Aboriginal sites at Lake Condah), Mr G Edwards (roadside conservation), Mr L Gordon (role of the National Trust in Western Victoria.).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow & Victoria Valley, Sea Cliff Nature Walk, Mt Stapleton, remnant roadside flora around Coleraine, Giant Rock & Langleys Gorge, Mooralla Smoky Quartz, Lake Condah eel traps, Little Desert NP campout.
- Communication – a major change in HFNC focus – the club has *gone public*:
  - Press statements and talks on radio.
  - Open Forum evening about the Grampians management, with FCV and NP speakers.
  - A forum on establishing trees on farms.
  - Hosting a film night (*Rain Forests of New South Wales, Endangered Rivers of SW Tasmania*) – \$117 profit.
  - Mid-week nature walks for a different group (organised by Mrs M Bird).
  - Bandicoot exhibit at the SGAP display during the Hamilton Festival.
- Implementation of suggestions made by Dr P Milne:
  - Publicity – Mrs R McGregor has advertised the Club's activities and Mrs G James wrote articles for the Spectator
  - Picnic site maintenance – provides funds for the club (Mt Napier, Byaduk Caves & Four Posts Reserve).
  - CAE classes – enthusiastically supported (Dr R Bird, Mr J Cayley, Dr P Milne, Mr T Stone)
  - Eastern Barred Bandicoot – Mr PR Brown continued to survey the habits and locations & HFNC has continued to advise the HCC on preservation measures
  - The Committee – met regularly to deal with the huge amount of material (thanks to Mrs R McGregor, Miss E Arthur, Dr P Milne and Mr J Cayley for hosting meetings in their homes)
- Special thanks to

- Mrs R Dempster, who gave tremendous help as minutes secretary
- Mrs R McGregor, for her work sorting through the piles of correspondence
- Miss K Aldridge, for her work as Treasurer.
- Treasurers report – a balance of \$236.70. Membership fees for 1982 remain at \$3 for individuals and \$5 for families.

### **1983 February – President Mrs Susan McInnes – report for 1982**

- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, volcanics including the tumuli at Wallacedale (Mr LK Elmore returned to lead this excursion), South West Track, Mt Abrupt fern gullies, Wannan Rapids & Nigretta Flora Reserve (newly created), Major Mitchell Plateau via Stockyard Ck, Bear campout near Rocklands.
- Mid-week Bush Walks – Mrs M Bird's mid-week walks were a tremendous success with many young people attending.
- Speakers – Dr P Milne (DCLS), Mr J Cayley (New Zealand), Mr R Rawson (fire research), Mr M Godfrey (Aboriginal Middens at Discovery Bay), Mr C & Mrs D Woolcock (flowers of the Portland District), Mr I Temby (mammals of South Africa), Mr A Reid (environmental education), Dr D Robson (the Gun Barrel Highway).
- Projects
  - Grange Burn – re-planting part of the Police Paddock near the Grange Burn (however, hares, frost, and drought have taken their toll).
  - Barred Bandicoot – shelters were constructed beside the Municipal Tip (hopefully the HCC will do something about feral cats now).
  - Significant roadside vegetation sites – Dr R Bird and Dr P Milne identified 31 sites for the Shire of Dundas's Planning Scheme (conservation signs for roadside vegetation were placed at 5 sites by the Shire of Dundas and 2 by the Road Construction Authority).
- Public meetings and displays:
  - Nature Through the Lens (HFNC nature slide presentation)
  - Dr Bob Brown – Tasmanian Wilderness Society public meeting in the Town Hall with 200 people.
  - HFNC members walked with Mr David Bellamy in Melbourne and attended a demonstration in the Town Hall; also participated in the Year of the Tree Environment Day.
  - Mr A McEvey, Curator of Birds, gave a talk on John Gould and other artists.
- Issues: Grampians – the fight for the Grampians National Park and the reduction of logging is not over – more work to be done.
- HFNC operations
  - Club funds – maintenance of picnic sites raised funds for the Club.
  - Club business – committed executive committee met many times to deal with the masses of correspondence (thanks to Miss E Arthur, and the Cayley, Lakeman, Milne and Davis families for hosting these meetings in their homes).
  - Membership fees for 1983 remain at \$3.00 for individuals, \$5.00 for families.

### **1984 February – President Mrs Susan McInnes – report for 1983**

1983 was a very successful year for the environment; the Franklin and Gordon Rivers in Tasmania were saved from damming by the HEC. However, the Grampians has not yet been declared a National Park.

- Speakers – a variety of interesting, informative and worthwhile presentations: Mr T Stone (local geology), Mr K Cumming (rafting down the Franklin), Mr G Cornwall (coastal landforms & habitats), Mr G Jameson (bee-keeping & honey flora), Mr S Gregory (Cocos-Keeling Islands), Mr N Lawrence (dryland salting in Western Victoria & North America), Mr R Walter (trekking in Nepal).
- Excursions – well-planned and provided excellent opportunities to experience the nature within our region: Freshwater Lake (Linlithgow was dry), gorges near Mt Abrupt, Bailey's Rocks (Alistair Roper reported wombats on his adjacent farm), Mt Talbot (with Horsham FNC), South Serra Range, Wilkin wildflowers, and Deep Creek.
- Campout – Mt Eccles – a very successful campout was held in April, with the first recorded sighting of the Swamp Wallaby there (we made the first record for Grampians in March 1980) and 4 species of bats were trapped, identified and released.
- Issues
  - Barred Bandicoot – HFNC is concerned that the local community and HCC have not responded to the need to control cats and to prevent predation of the EBB. HFNC has

agitated for many years, by way of articles in *The Spectator*, public meetings, and letters to the HCC, but little has been done so far to protect this endangered species.

- The public forum on tourism revealed the local disparities within the community on attitudes to the environment, its conservation and the tourist industry.
- Projects
  - 18-acre Flora Reserve – HFNC continued to remove introduced vegetation. We were disappointed to see that sheep were let into the reserve and to see the grazing of vegetation of the Reserve (a drought response by a nearby farmer).
- HFNC operations
  - Club funds – HFNC members continued the contract to maintain the picnic sites at Mt Napier, Byaduk Caves and Four Posts Reserves.
  - The HFNC committee again worked well on the many continuing conservation issues; many members hosted meetings in their own homes.
  - Communication – public awareness of conservation has been raised and much of significance has been done, but there is still much to be done and small clubs such as ours must continue to generate ideas and raise issues.
  - Membership subscriptions remain at \$3.00 for individuals and \$5.00 for families

### **1985 February – President Mr Keith Cumming – report for 1984**

- Speakers – Dr R Bird (landscape, flora & fauna of Central Australia), Dr P Milne & Mr J Chin (flora of SW Western Australia), Mr S Kelly (artwork with *Eucalypts* and fungi), Mr J Sherwood (ecology of Glenelg River), Dr N Scarlett (protection of rare & endangered flora) and Mr J Cayley (Lord Howe Island).
- “Nature Through the Lens” – a very successful public showing of the HFNC version of “Photoflora”, with a high standard of slides on local landscape, flora and fauna.
- Members evening – slides shown on local vegetation
- Excursions – interesting and varied, to Lake Linlithgow, Moora Moora Reservoir, Black Range, Crown Lands near Rocklands, Bandicoot spotlighting night, Wannon Rapids, and Major Mitchell Plateau.
- Campouts
  - Lake Mombeong with Portland FNC.
  - Hall’s Gap with WVFNCA.
- Working bees
  - Nature Trail in the Community Parklands (pulling weeds).
  - Revegetation for bandicoot habitat (HCC Tip & Police Paddock).
  - Tree-planting with 100 HHS students at Mt Napier (500 Manna Gums & 100 Blackwoods), Community Parklands (1100 trees) and along the Grange Burn (including 450 Woolly Tea-tree & some Swamp Gum, Red Gum, Blackwood & Black Wattle). All seedlings were grown by HFNC from local seed sources.
- Issues and projects
  - Grampians – the State Forest was finally declared a National Park.
  - Parklands Nature Trail – opened by Hon Rod McKenzie. HFNC thanks to Mrs S McInnes for her most informative illustrations and Mrs R Dempster and Dr R Bird for their time given to this project.
  - Disused Rail Reserves – V-line’s proposal to sell-off disused railway lines. Dr P Milne has surveyed the flora on these lines and pressed for their retention as areas of significant native-grassland flora reserves.
- HFNC operations
  - In 1985 HFNC may be able to establish a natural history section in the Mechanics Institute, in conjunction with the Hamilton Historical Society.
  - Treasurer’s Report – presented by Mr P Beers, showing a balance of \$555.60. Membership remained at \$3 for individuals and \$5 for families.
- HFNC notes with regret the death of Miss Ruth Abbott, a foundation member.

### **1986 February – President Mr Keith Cumming – report for 1985**

- Speakers – Mr M Gunn (Atlas of Australian Birds project), Mr P Brown (Eastern Barred Bandicoot (EBB) survey), Mr B Sherwin (EBB population genetics), Mr T Stone (Volcanoes), Mr A McMahon (fire ecology in Little Desert, Otways & East Gippsland), Mr T Cox (Australian. Trust for

Conservation Volunteers), Mr G Baker (Nature photography), Mr G Law from ACF (Wood-chipping), Dr R Bird (Wannon River flora).

- Members evening – film night – screened by Mr M Greiner.
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Muddy Creek fossil beds, Grange Burn (from Portland Rd Bridge), Mt Napier, Billywing & Red Rock, Dartmoor Forest (with PFNC), Wannon River.
- Working bees
  - Tree-planting at Mt Napier with ATCV help (600 Manna Gums & 400 Blackwoods grown by HFNC from seed collected there).
  - Tree-planting along the Grange Burn.
  - Transplanting of Silver Tussock to the Tip and the new wildlife dam in the Community Parklands, also with ACTV help).
  - 18-Acre Reserve – weeding *A armata*.
- Issues
  - Roadside conservation – Dundas Shire agreed to 5 signs for significant flora sites (South of Cavendish, adjacent to Wannon 18-Acre Reserve, Glendinning Rd Sheoaks, Mill Rd *Banksia* area, and Yatchaw Twomey’s Bridge Rd *Banksia* area).
- HFNC operations
  - Bandicoot Park – drafting of a Management Plan for the Cemetery Trust.
  - Committee – thanks to all members for their fine work in their roles for the year.
  - Treasurer’s report – a balance of \$782.61 but no further funds available from picnic site maintenance. Membership fees were raised to \$5 for singles and \$8 for families.

A tribute was paid to Dr P Milne, who was shifting residence to Bendigo, by Dr R Bird who praised Peter for being a tireless worker for HFNC over many years and a great environmental advocate.

### **1987 February – President Mr John Cayley – report for 1986**

- Speakers – Mr J Cayley (climbing in New Zealand), Mr B McInnes (Tamboon Inlet), Dr R Bird (rafting the Franklin River; flora & fauna of Kangaroo Island), Mr B Golding (artificial hollows for fauna), Mr M Gunn (Iron Range in Queensland), Miss K Aldridge (Central & Northern Australia).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (opening day duck-shooting), Byaduk Caves (~30 attended), Lake Mombeong, Billywing area (with Stawell FNC & Ben Gunn), Parklands Nature Trail, Mt Richmond NP, Grampians/Glenelg River Rd (checking artificial hollows)
- Members evening – slide night with Mr J Cayley (New Zealand climbing), Mr S Clark (Lord Howe Island birds) & Mr K Cumming (Grampians and other SW Victorian areas)
- Special events
  - Bandicoot Awareness Day – arranged by HIRL, opened by Honourable Joan Kirner
  - Aboriginal rock art – Mr K Cumming re-discovered a site at Billywing “lost” for 26 years.
- Issues
  - Grange Burn – concern over impact on EBB of HCC proposal to slash all of the grass from Portland Rd to Kennedy St.
  - Lutheran Cemetery Reserve – concern over Lutheran Cemetery Trust burning fallen timber in the reserve and impact on EBB and birds.
  - Parklands Nature Trail – problem with trail bikes on the track.
- Significant fauna
  - Barred Bandicoots – reported present at Mr J Nagorecka’s property in Tarrington.
  - Koalas – Mr B McInnes noted ~100 Koalas near Lake Bellfield, many diseased.
  - Budgerigars and Rainbow Lorikeets reported at North Boundary Rd, Hamilton.
  - Little Penguins – two with tags found dead, among large numbers of others, on beach at Mombeong. Tags sent to ARI. The RVL Hamilton found the birds infested with liver fluke.
- HFNC acknowledgement – *The Resourceful Community – Local Environmental Projects in Victoria*, Ministry for Planning and the Environment, 1986, pp 16-17. (For work of Dr R Bird and Dr P Milne in identifying 31 significant roadside vegetation sites and the placement of conservation signs at 5 sites in the Shire of Dundas).
- Treasurers report – a balance of \$625.24. Membership fees were retained at \$5 for individuals and \$8 for families.

### **1988 February – President Mr John Cayley – report for 1987**

- Speakers – the excellent quality of talks was the outstanding feature of the year – Miss E Arthur (train journey through China, Mongolia & Siberia), Mr & Mrs R & M Miller (African wildlife), Mr

- D Reid (DCFL policies of land management), Mr R Davies (mammals of the Portland area), Mr G Miller (wildlife management in the Grampians), Mr J Sherwood (geology of the Western District), Mr J French (termites) and Mr L Costermans (geological origins of the flora of SW Victoria).
- Excursions – enjoyable visits to Lake Linlithgow, Tower Hill, Mt Bepcha, Langley’s Gorge, Cape Nelson, 18-Acre Reserve at the Wannan and the new Claude Austin State Forest at Glendinning.
  - Projects
    - “Nature Through the Lens” – another successful show; and we took it to Portland where it was also well-received.
    - Barred Bandicoots – Draft Management Plan released by DCFL. HFNC devoted a lot of work towards preserving the EBB and conserving remaining local habitat (including heaping the fallen timber among the gums in the Lutheran Cemetery Trust area, to provide shelter).
  - HFNC operations
    - Submissions – much work was done by the committee on submissions and responses to draft management plans. The committee also planned the programs for special events.
    - Club meeting format – a new approach is suggested for 1988, to have alternating business meetings and special presentation meetings devoted to that purpose. This should allow the business to be dealt with during every second month. Nature sightings by members would still be featured at every meeting. The new arrangement would enable greater input into, and understanding of, conservation issues by all members of the club.
    - Treasurer’s report – balance for the year stood at \$444.39. Membership was increased to \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families.

### **1989 February – President Dr Rod Bird – report for 1988**

- Speakers – Mr M Gunn (Northern Australia), Mrs S McInnes (Kakadu, Kimberley and beyond), Mr A Brewis (Himalayan Trek), Mr B Middleton (conservation covenants on private land) and Mr A Dufty (home-range studies of the Eastern Barred Bandicoot).
- Excursions – walks to Mt Rosea, Borough Huts, Mt Stapleton-Hollow Mountain in the Grampians, and Great South West from Bridgewater Lakes to Bridgewater Bay (a testing 20-km hike). Other excursions were bird-watching at Lake Linlithgow, and a visit to Claude Austin State Forest at Glendinning (with WCS and Casterton FNC).
- Continuing conservation projects
  - Bandicoot conservation
  - Railway lines – retention of remnant vegetation (possibility of managing sections, including the Hamilton-Coleraine line)
  - Roadsides – retention of remnant vegetation
  - Weed control in small reserves
  - Management of Grampians – fire issues (spring-burning of extensive areas and lack of patch-burning)
  - Management of Mt Napier – controlling vehicles (4WDs driving to summit) and weed infestation
  - LCC submission – submission to Mallee Area review.
- HFNC operations
  - Club meeting format – 5 advertised meetings devoted exclusively to guest speakers and five meetings confined mainly to Club business was easier on the office-bearers. It was perhaps not as good for general members because there was a lack of items of interest presented at the business meetings. Business meetings should in future also provide an opportunity for members to present interesting natural history items.
  - Club business – a good working committee kept the club informed of issues and up-to-date with its responsibilities.
  - Treasurers report – a balance of \$202.02. Membership fees were retained at \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families.

Mr Kevin Lakeman was farewelled in February 1988. Kevin was an enthusiastic member of the club for nearly 10 years and served on HFNC committees.

### **1990 February – President Dr Rod Bird– report for 1989**

- Speakers – Mr D Venn (Corella research), Mr G Hayes (Flora & Fauna Guarantee), Mr P Cunningham & Mr J Chin (rafting the Franklin River), Mr R & Mrs M Miller (mountains of East Africa), Mr S Clark (Film “Ducks in Focus”), Mr J Chin (Video – *Slimbridge*), Mr R Cayley

(volcanoes of New Zealand), Mr P Stevens (Greening Australia) and Mr J Cayley (Pink Lakes State Park).

- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow, Mt Napier forest, Serra Range orchids and walk up Mt Abrupt.
- Working bee
  - Mt Napier – tree-planting with 15 helpers on the day; Mr J Cayley had grown the trees from seed and back-packed 800 trees up the mountain. These added to those planted in 1982.
- Submissions and issues:
  - Disused railway lines (Hamilton/Coleraine, Branxholme/Casterton)
  - Fire protection plan (Horsham region)
  - LCC report (rivers and streams)
  - Roadside vegetation protection (use of herbicides by CFA on roadsides)
  - Off-road vehicle damage to Mt Napier.
- HFNC operations
  - Club meeting format – the format of the previous two years is workable and very successful in attracting people to the special presentation meetings. These meetings are for public enjoyment and education, beginning with a short session of nature sightings, before focusing on a public speaker or a film, and then supper. The business meetings begin in the same way but including a short session of members slides or talks and the rest of the business evening is devoted to correspondence and attending to other conservation issues in which all members can be involved.
  - Contributions to other environmental organizations – HIRL, W/Victorian Conservation Committee, Grampians National Park Advisory Committee and Horsham Region Land Protection Committee
  - Production of bandicoot postcards to present the conservation focus and to provide some funds for the Club.
  - A committed team of HFNC executive who attended to the workings of the Club, led excursions and prepared special presentations.
  - Treasurer’s report – not submitted at the meeting (the balance in March 1990 was \$426.70). Membership fees remained at \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families.

Dr Bird commented on the regret felt with the death of two supporters and naturalists in Mr Peter Francis of Coleraine and Mr Colin Woolcock of Portland. The Points Arboretum, Coleraine, is a fine memorial to Peter’s work, while the illustrated works on orchids and bush peas are testament to Colin’s talent.

### **1991 February – President Dr Rod Bird – report for 1990**

- Speakers – Mr S Clark (birds of Lake Linlithgow), Dr R Bird (Hamilton Community Parklands, 1980-1990), Mr N Bonney (Mutton-bird industry), Mr P Stevens (Platypus of Emu Creek), Mr A Bennett (small mammals of SW Victoria), Mr J Nicholson (roadside flora conservation), Mr B Mitchell (effects of salinity on aquatic life) and Mr J Cayley (bushwalking in Tasmania – 30 years ago).
- Excursions – Port Fairy Mutton-birds, Byaduk Caves, Mafeking Gullies, and Tullich near Casterton.
- Working bees
  - Lake Linlithgow – 490 trees were planted in August on the eastern bank adjacent to the 180 planted in 1975; the plants were germinated from seed collected locally. The species were Blackwood, Black Wattle, Prickly Moses, Sweet Bursaria, Drooping Sheoak, Manna Gum, Swamp Gum and Woolly Tea-tree.
- “Nature Through the Lens” – Mr J & Mrs G Cayley also presented the exhibition for the Portland FNC. This was an exceptional exhibition, and the Cayleys and Mr J Kiely are to be commended for their commitment to the success of the project.
- Representation on other environmental committees
  - Western Victorian Conservation Committee (Dr R Bird).
  - HIRL environment sub-committee (Dr R Bird).
  - Grampians National Park Advisory Committee (Mrs S McInnes).
  - Mt Eccles & Mt Napier State Park Advisory Committee (Miss K Aldridge).
  - Horsham Region Land Protection Committee (Mrs S McInnes).
- Projects
  - Mt Napier SP – members put in much time providing biological data and comment to the DCE’s proposed plan for the park. Mr Lionel Elmore returned to provide his input to the production of an ecologically sound fire management plan.

- Eastern Barred Bandicoots enclosure – the highlight for the year was the completion of the wildlife (fox/cat-proof) fence for the protection of bandicoot at HIRL.
- Club business – thanks to the elected members whose work kept the club running.
- Treasurers report – a balance of \$339-44. Membership fees were retained at \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families.

### **1992 February – President Dr Rod Bird – report for 1991**

- Speakers – Mr J Cayley (bushwalking in Tasmania), Mr K McDougal (management and conservation of native grasslands), Miss E Arthur (Voyage to Antarctica), Mr K Grimes & Dr J Samuel (geology, flora & fauna of parts of Queensland), Mr J Glazebrook (biology of the Great Barrier Reef), and Mr G Carr (environmental weeds & orchids of Victoria).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), Deep Creek (Aboriginal shelters), Flat Rock (Mt Stapleton/Pohlner's Track walk), Mt Eccles (lava caves), Crawford River & Cobobboonee (Kentbruck heath).
- Working bee
  - Lake Linlithgow – tree-planting in September (100 trees to replace those lost from last year's planting).
- Significant fauna – the widespread appearance of Black Wallabies (*Wallabia bicolor*) in and around Hamilton – this is a recent phenomenon, the species mostly being seen in eastern Victoria and the Otways. We made the first report of this species in the Grampians in 1980, Mt Eccles in 1985, Mt Napier 1986 and Fulham 1987.
- HFNC operations
  - Continued involvement with other environmental organizations.
    - Western Victorian Conservation Committee.
    - HIRL environment sub-committee.
    - Grampians National Park Advisory Committee.
    - Friends of the Grampians.
    - Mt Eccles & Mt Napier State Park Advisory Committee.
    - Horsham Region Land Protection Committee.
    - Eastern Barred Bandicoot rescue program.
  - 18-Acre Wannan Reserve – an inspection with Portland DCE made us aware of the need for a burn in this area – planned for autumn 1992 in the hope of encouraging more orchids and a greater variety of native plants. It hasn't been burnt for 25 years.
  - Club business – thanks for the work of the executive who kept the Club running, especially since I was away from Hamilton for a significant portion of 1991.
  - Treasurer's report – none available, but the balance in May 1992 was \$242.24. Membership fees were set at \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families.

### **1993 March – President Dr Rod Bird– report for 1992**

- Speakers – Mr G McCarthy, Geelong FNC (memories of a wandering naturalist photographer), Dr R Bird (Summer Trek in Canada & Alaska – the Chilcoot Trail, Kluane & Denali), Mr L Herrmann (Canning Stock Route & Mitchell Falls – video highlights), Mr P Cunningham (hiking on Mt Kenya) and Ken Grimes (caves and karst formations)
- Members evenings
  - Slide shows at the business meetings – Mr J Chin (walking in SW Tasmania), Dr R Bird (birds & mammals in northern Qld), Mr S Clark (Dorrigo National Park).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), Cape Bridgewater (coastal walk), Grampians (walk to the Fortress) and Wannan 18-Acre Reserve (working bee & orchid spotting).
- Campout : WVFNCA – HFNC hosted this event at Mt Eccles NP in October, with a talk on Friday evening in Macarthur by ranger Andy Carmichael. Saturday was very wet but walks were made to volcanic features (lava caves & crater walks). The evening meeting was in the new (but incomplete) Visitor Centre, with the aid of a portable generator. Mr K Grimes presented an excellent evening address, appropriately on volcanology of the area. Sunday excursions were to Byaduk caves, Wallacedale tumuli and Mt Napier SP. Some walked up to the crater of Mt Napier with Mr J Cayley while others walked west with Dr R Bird to Elmore's cone and natural bridge. Mr K Grimes & Dr J Samuel and Mr J & Mrs G Cayley contributed greatly to the running of the weekend.
- Projects and issues
  - Pallister's Reserve – HFNC offered to donate 1/3 of its profits from its commissions to undertake planting on areas disturbed by the laying of the Telecom fibre optic cable.

- Mt Napier SP – still no draft management plan and damage continues from sheep and feral goats. HFNC has had some success in addressing the blackberry infestation. However, little seems to be being done to protect and enhance the area.
- Wannon Falls Reserve – extensive damage by contractors who logged the pines in the Gray St State School plantation area. HFNC offered to re-establish indigenous flora.
- 18-Acre Reserve – need to have a burn plan to encourage diversity of plants.
- HFNC operations
  - Club business – many thanks again to all members of the executive for attending to all the matters that make the club function successfully.
  - Clubs records and reference material – sorting through HFNC literature and files to completely reorganise the maintenance of this material. An old wardrobe was purchased (\$6 – thanks Mr K Grimes) and refitted to become a lockable cupboard with shelves (thanks Mr J Cayley). This will be kept at HIRL as a reference resource.
  - Club funds – Telecom optic fibre cable – HFNC tendered for a project on Streatham-Hamilton line, planting trees to replace those lost during the installation. HFNC will grow and plant selected indigenous trees for the various sites.
  - Treasurers report – a balance of \$102.95. Membership fees for 1993 were set at \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families.

### **1994 February – President Mr John Cayley – report for 1993**

- Speakers – Ms S White ( Chinese perception of natural Australian features), Mr R Cayley (climbing in the Himalayas), Mr I Graney (frogs), Mr J Cayley (Central Australia), Dr R Bird (Canada in the Fall), Mr E Meulmann (Grampians Heath Mouse), Mr K Cumming (revegetation of Tower Hill).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird watching), Hamilton (Bandicoot spotlight night), Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve, Mt Difficult to Briggs Bluff, Dundas Range, Wannon River/the Rapids.
- Project – revegetation Glenelg Highway (Hamilton – Lake Bolac)
- Treasurer’s report – the total income for the year included a once only payment of \$2,375 from Telecom for the revegetation along the road reserves of the Glenelg highway. The balance after payment of accounts was \$2,454 in March 1994. Membership fees remained at \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families.

Mr Peter Novotny (DCNR) addressed the AGM on the Draft Management Plan for Mt Eccles & Mt Napier.

### **1995 February – President Mr John Cayley – report for 1994**

- Speakers – Mr P Novotny (management of Mt Eccles & Mt Napier), Dr R Bird (Aboriginal Rock Art – Kimberleys), Mr J Kiely (spiders) and Mr P Cunningham (Morocco’s Atlas Mountains).
- Excursions– Lake Linlithgow (bird watching), “Mooramong” at Skipton (Eastern Barred Bandicoot Reserve), Bridgewater (lakes and blowholes), Pallister’s Reserve (birds, bushland and wildflowers), Mt Cole State Park, Black Range.
- Campout – Bool Lagoon with Naracoorte FNC (bird watching and Naracoorte caves).
- Formation of the Friends of Mt Eccles and Mt Napier Group (FEN)
- Working bees
  - Tree-planting – Wannon Falls Highway Park
  - Cleanup activities and Koala count with FEN.
- HFNC operations
  - Christmas wind-up at Mr Kelvin Roger’s property on Chatsworth Rd - remnant basalt plains Swamp Gum and other flora
  - Thanks were expressed to the members of the executive who attended to the club business
  - The Treasurer’s report showed a balance at the start of 1995 of \$792.97. Membership fees were retained at \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families.

### **1996 February – President Mr John Cayley – report for 1995**

- Speakers – Ms J Edwards (geology of Lady Julia Percy Island), Mr R Woods (breeding and rescue of endangered species), Mr B McInnes (fish-farming), Mr P Cunningham (New Zealand bushwalking) and Mr J Cayley (mountaineering at Mt Cook, New Zealand)
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), Byaduk Caves (Theatre Cave), Eastern Black Range (with Stawell FNC), Mt Langi Ghiran (granite slabs), Tower Hill (over-population of koalas was evident), Mt Stapylton (new circuit track).

- Campouts
  - Glenelg River canoe trip
  - Mt Arapiles & Lake Wyn Wyn.
- Tree-planting – Wannon Falls Highway Reserve.
- Christmas picnic at Ms E Fenton’s property “Larapinta”.
- The executive worked well to ensure the smooth running of the Club.
- The Treasurer, Mr K Grimes, reported a balance of \$569.77. Membership fees remained at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

### **1997 February – President Mr John Cayley – report for 1996**

- Speakers – Mr M Gunn (Broome to Cape York), Mr K Grimes (volcanoes in Hawaii and Victoria), Mr R Cayley (geology of the Grampians), Mr D Munro (orchids with epidiascope).
- Film night – *Emus and Echidnas*
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), McInnes’ fish farm, Bailey’s Rocks & Dr R Bird’s *Trust for Nature* block at Dergholm, Grampians (geology), Wilkins reserve (orchids & birds), Cape Nelson (along the cliff), Mt Schank (crater rim).
- Campouts
  - Red Rock Creek & Mt Bepcha (Aboriginal rock art).
  - Nelson area (Orange-bellied Parrot survey).
  - Wyperfeld NP.
  - Glenelg River (canoeing and walking).
- Tree-planting – Wannon Falls Highway Reserve.
- HFNC operations
  - Submissions – against development at Mt Stirling and Wilson’s Promontory NP
  - Draft Management Plan – prepared for the Grampians.
  - End-of-year Picnic – hosted by Mr D and Mrs L Munro in Dunkeld.
  - Mr Cayley thanked members of the committee for their work during the year and a special thanks to Dr Janeen Samuel for *holding the fort* while the Cayleys were absent and for also producing an interesting and amusing newsletter.
  - The Treasurer, Mr Ken Grimes, reported that the balance was \$576.88 – a loss of \$25 over the year. The fees remained at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

### **1998 February – President Mr John Cayley – report for 1997**

- Speakers – Mr K Grimes & Dr J Samuel (Kangaroo Island), Ms R Plowright (Antarctica – Crab-eater Seals research), Mr I Graney (nature in your backyard), Mr J Chin & Mr R Thompson (Franklin rafting and other Tasmanian adventures), Dr R Bird (Cradle Mountain; Western Simpson Desert), Mr B Wolcott (Glenisla fossil tracks)
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), Brim Springs (Aboriginal Rock Art), Glenelg River/Fern Cave (mapped), Claude Austin Reserve (wild-flowers), Griffith Island/Port Fairy.
- Walks – Victoria Range (Hollow Cave), Grampians (Tower Hill – a first visit for the club)
- Campouts – Hattah-Kulkyne NP (birds & lakeside views), Canunda NP (dune scenery and wombats)
- Survey – Orange-bellied Parrots near Nelson (none seen)
- Christmas picnic at Wannon Falls & supper at Grime’s home
- HFNC operations
  - Achievements – the pile of road-making material dump was removed from the remnant native grassland on Forrest Lane
  - Newletters – excellent work by Mr J Grimes and Dr J Samuel
  - Members of the executive changed positions; Mr David Munro becoming President.
  - Ms Yvonne Ingeme was welcomed to the committee as assistant secretary, and Mr Ken Grimes was thanked for his many years of service as Treasurer.
  - The Treasurer, Mr Ken Grimes, reported that the balance was \$566.19 – a loss of \$9.80 over the year. The fees remained at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

### **1999 February – President Mr David Munro – report for 1998**

Mr Munro spoke of the club’s activity as an environmental advocate, and the disappointments in not having government agencies whose responsibility is to care for the environment actually placing the environment as

a high priority. Much time in 1998 was spent in reading and drafting amendments to Management Plans for areas of HFNC concern.

- Speakers – Mr C Reid (rock wallabies), Mr R Zollinger (caves of Europe), Mr B Hawkes (Orange-bellied Parrots), Ms Y Ingeme (native grassland plants), Mr J Koutsky (Alaska), Mr E Meulman (mammal research in the Grampians),
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird watching), Victoria Valley, Mt Byron in Black Range, Discovery Bay/Mombeong, Ralph Illidge Sanctuary, Grasslands tour.
- Campout – Little Desert (October).
- Working bees
  - Tree-planting – Wannon Falls Reserve.
  - Forest Lane – weeding Capeweed from native grassland vegetation.
- Surveys
  - Grampians – mammal hair-tube survey - a joint activity with Friends of the Grampians.
  - Lake Mombeong – Orange-bellied Parrot.
- HFNC operations
  - Representation on committees – Ms D Luhrs, SGSC Grange Burn Advisory Committee
  - Drafting submissions – Grampians NP, Black Range SP, Dergholm SP, SGSC roadside, Regional Forest Agreement, Lake Linlithgow foreshore, Alpine NP, 18-Acre Reserve.
  - Mr Munro thanked the members of the committee and all other members for their work during the year, and made particular mention for the enormous effort of Dr J Samuel in dealing with all the paperwork of the correspondence, writing minutes and preparing the newsletter.
  - The Treasurer, Mr Ken Grimes, reported that the balance was \$613.83. The fees remained at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

Dr R Bird moved a vote of thanks to the President for all his work over the past year, for his able chairmanship and for his introductions to the guest speakers.

## **2000 February– President Mr David Munro – report for 1999**

- Speakers – Dr R Bird & Ms D Luhrs (Incas and natural history in Peru), Mr R Cayley (hiking in Borneo), Mr K Grimes (Christmas Island natural history), Mr T Burnard (Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo), Mr R Drummond (experiences of a bird photographer), Mrs S Gregory (Alaska through Australian eyes).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird watching), Naracoorte Caves (bats and fossils), Grampians/Piccaninny, Loch Ard Gorge (geology), Mt Eccles, Mt Stapylton, Lake Fyans & Deep Lead (orchids), Rocklands Reservoir (in drought).
- Workshop – mammal identification by hair analysis with Mr H Brunner – Halls Gap.
- Working bee – Wannon Falls Reserve tree-planting.
- Surveys
  - Tullich Swamp & Cameron Island Swamp - Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.
  - Mombeong – Orange-bellied Parrot.
- Issues
  - The biggest issue has been the Regional Forest Agreement with many workshops, meetings and conferences taking place during the year. Members Ms K Aldridge, Dr R Bird, Mr J & Mrs G Cayley and Mr D & Mrs L Munro have given a lot of time to consistently represent the HFNC arguments for retention and conservation of native forests and for reduced logging in these areas.
  - Local issues on clearing old growth Red Gums at Yarramiljup Rd and Clutterbuck Rd for road-widening involved a lot of negotiation ending with an acceptable compromise.
- HFNC operations
  - HFNC provided an interesting and varied program of meetings, excursions and special presentations that attracted good-sized audiences.
  - HFNC membership has remained stable for many years.
  - HFNC representation on the Grange Burn Advisory Committee (Ms D Luhrs, Ms Y Ingeme, Ms K Aldridge) continues to be important with SGSC not yet undertaking the recommendations of previous representations for managing the area for bandicoot habitat.
  - The Treasurer, Mr Ken Grimes, reported a balance of \$847.87. The Club membership fees remain at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

## 2001 February– President Mr David Munro – report for 2000

- Speakers – Mr K Cunliffe (Zimbabwean conservation strategies), Dr S White (Indochinese limestone landscapes), Mr D Munro (Fungi), Dr R Bird (Western Desert – Bird and Rock Art), Professor R Wallis (Powerful Owl).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), Cape Bridgewater (exposed volcano), Cobboboonee Forest (with PFNC), Poolajelo (orchids), Mt Napier (Lava Caves), Mt Richmond, Grampians (Jimmy’s Creek to Mafeking).
- Survey – Lake Mombeong (Orange-bellied Parrot survey).
- Campouts – Lower Glenelg – Wild Dog Bend (orchids & Ground Parrot),
- Working bee - tree-planting – Wannon Reserve (Bursaria).
- Christmas wind- up – Giant Rock and BBQ at Mrs H Turner’s property.
- Shared activities – with Friends of Grampians, Portland FNC, DRNE survey.
- Issues
  - Road-widening – Yarramyllup Rd (tree loss).
  - Herbicide spraying on roadsides.
  - Mining at Big Hill Stawell.
  - Ploughing roadsides – Hynes Rd.
- HFNC operations
  - Submissions on draft management plans
    - Grange Burn, GHCMA native vegetation.
    - Marine National Parks.
    - Box-Ironbark Study.
    - Regional Forest Agreement.
  - Attended extra meetings
    - Socio-economic Impact of Changing Land Use.
    - Wannon Reserve.
    - Legless Lizard Survey.
    - Launch of “Great SW System of Parks and Reserves”.
  - Committee membership
    - Roadside Management Advisory Committee (Mrs H Turner).
    - Grange Burn Advisory Committee (Ms D Luhrs).
  - The Treasurer, Mr K Grimes, reported a balance of \$835.29 – a profit of \$5.58 for the year. The fees remained at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

## 2002 February– President Mr David Munro – report for 2001

Mr Munro reported the sad news that two very special people of HFNC, Mr Ivan & Mrs Susan McInnes, had drowned on a fishing trip near Croajingalong NP on 11-02-2002. Many members spoke of their great contributions as friends and committed naturalists.

HFNC members were also informed of the death of Mr Cliff Beaglehole. Mr Beaglehole is remembered for his identifying and extensive mapping of plant species in Western Victoria. His generous and valuable assistance and inspiration to discover what exists in nature continues in the work of current members.

- Speakers – Dr R Bird (Cape York – birds and landscape), Mr R Zollinger & Ms Y Ingeme (northern Australia travels), Mr A Pritchard (rare plants of the “Green Triangle”), Mr J Cook (State Forests and RFA), Dr J Samuel (marsupials).
- Members evening – members selection of best nature slides.
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (dry this year), Port Fairy pelagic trip (Albatrosses), Mt Gambier and Mt Schank (volcanic craters), tumuli & Mt Eccles (archaeology and geology), Lake Mombeong (Orange-bellied Parrot survey), Hotspur/Crawford River (orchids), Hopkins Falls & Framlingham and koalas (plenty), Lake Repose (submerged grassland), Grampians (Square Hole).
- HFNC Operations:
  - submissions: Mr Munro especially thanked Dr R Bird, Mr J Cayley and Mrs H Turner for their contributions in writing submissions
    - Douglas sand-mining.
    - Box Ironbark Conservation Study.
    - Portland Wood Utilization Plan 2001.
    - Wind-farm near Bridgewater.

- Tree-clearing on the Henty Highway.
- Marine National Parks.
- Revegetation on Lake Linlithgow.
- Committee membership
  - Grange Burn Advisory Committee (Ms D Luhrs).
  - Rocklands Reservoir Management Plan Advisory Group (Mrs P Moon).
- The Treasurer, Mr K Grimes, reported a balance of \$859.04. The fees remained at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

### **2003 February– President Mr John Cayley – report for 2002**

- Speakers – Dr R Bird (Great Victoria Desert), Dr R Raleigh (Spider Orchids), Ms J Gould (underwater photography), Mr C Grant (Rock Dragons of SA), Mr R Cayley (Hamersley/Ningaloo).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), The Temple (Grampians), Willaura (Brolgas), Mt Talbot, Princess Margaret Rose Caves, Lake Mombeong (Orange-bellied Parrot survey), Mt Rosea, Mt Napier, Crawford River (orchid hunt), Bryan’s Swamp, Mt Clay.
- Campout – Young’s Forest (mammal and bird survey).
- Issues
  - Youngs Forest and Little Young’s Forest (undertaking mammal surveys ahead of the proposed sand-mining – found Yellow-footed Antechinus).
  - Fox-baiting (where brolgas were nesting).
  - Henty Highway (investigated the proposed tree-clearing – succeeded in the retention of half that were tagged for clearing).
  - Opposed the proposed helipad near Mt Abrupt viewing area.
  - Lake Linlithgow (success in the phasing out of grazing).
  - Lake Condah Restoration project of Gunditjmara began in Feb. (Dr R Bird on committee)
- The Treasurer, Mr K Grimes, reported a balance of \$1162. Finances were helped with a grant of \$250 from Glenelg Region Water. The fees remained at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

Esteemed founding member Mr Lionel Elmore was remembered in the launch of his book *Trees of the Basalt Plains*, by his nephew Mr Chris Elmore, 21-09-2002. (Dr R Bird wrote the foreword to the book and gave the commemorative speech at the launch).

### **2004 February– President Mr John Cayley – report for 2003**

HFNC’s founding President, Dewar Goode, died on 28-06-2002. Older members remember his noteworthy advocacy for conservation when development and unfettered land clearing in Australia was rampant.

Members also learned of the death of Mr Ian McCann – a greatly respected person with an enormous wealth of knowledge of birds, fungi, orchids and native flora in general.

- Speakers – Mr M Scuffins (Birds of Prey), Dr R Bird & Ms D Luhrs (Southern African safari), Mr B Gunn (Aboriginal people of the Grampians), Mr K Grimes & Dr J Samuel (Scotland, Orkney Islands, Iceland, Slovenia geology), Mr J & Mrs G Cayley (Nullarbor Plain & SW WA).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), Muddy Creek and Grange Burn (fossil beds), Red Hill & Jilpanger (flora and fauna reserves), Black Range (with Horsham bird watchers), Boronia Peak, Claude Austin State forest.
- Walks – Nigretta Falls to Wannan Falls, Mt Richmond with PFNC
- Campout – Mt Difficult, with trips to Mt Dryden and Deep Lead
- Working bee – tree-planting at Lake Linlithgow (North Lakes Rd site).
- Surveys
  - Swift Parrot – Jilpanger.
  - Legless Lizard.
  - Bandicoot monitoring.
- Issues
  - Roadside management for remnant vegetation.
  - Planning for cat traps for the city of Hamilton.
  - Developing a weed-eradication strategy.
  - Regional Forest Agreements and Management Plans for forests from Horsham to Portland.
- HFNC operations
  - Preparation of a Hamilton Region Nature Guide – mooted.

- Dr Bird commented that we must concentrate efforts where we can be most effective and not be distracted by things that are both beyond our capacity and time-consuming.
- The Treasurer, Mr K Grimes, reported that after all the transactions for the year the Club was ahead by 89 cents, with a credit balance of \$1162.89. He also stated that the donations from visitors to our special meetings added to our funds appreciably. Mr Grimes thought that HFNC should implement an asset register to note who looks after each item of equipment for the club. The fees remained at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

## **2004 December - President Mr Reto Zollinger – report for 2004**

The AGM and picnic dinner was held at the Wannan Falls Reserve and followed by supper of “flaming” Christmas pudding at the Grime’s residence, Morgiana.

The new month for the AGMs was adopted to coincide with the end-of-year celebrations to allow for reflection on the year just passed and to give time to consider and consolidate plans for the next year’s special presentation meetings and excursions program.

- Speakers – Dr H Builth (Koori eel-farming at Condah), Dr T Lebel & Dr S Morley (truffles and lichens), Dr R Bird & Ms D Luhrs (New Haven Reserve & Davenport Ranges), Mr K Grimes & Mr R Zollinger (caves of northern Australia).
- Members evening – film night *The Conquest of Everest* organised by Dr E Arthur to coincide with the Alfred Gregory photographic exhibition at Elizabeth’s art gallery.
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), Darlots Creek (Aboriginal fish-traps), Grampians – Mt Abrupt area (reclaimed farmland), Mafeking (remnants of gold-mining era), Horsham (storm-water wetlands), Claude Austin State Forest (spring flowers), Bailey’s Rocks, Dergholm SP (geology, flora and fauna), Discovery Bay to Cape Bridgewater walk.
- Campout – Ralph Illidge Sanctuary (fungi survey) with Timboon and Warrnambool FNC.
- Working bees
  - Tree-planting – Lake Linlithgow (North Lakes Rd and West Lakes Rd sites).
  - Grange Burn Wetlands (as part of community planting).
  - Spraying Tall Wheat Grass, South African Weed Orchid; special thanks to Dr R Bird and Mr J Cayley for their efforts to attend to weeds in and near Wannan and Nigretta Reserves.
  - Fencing Kanawalla Rail Reserve in December (Dr R Bird, Mr J Cayley & Mr R Zollinger).
- Conservation committees – members involvement in:
  - Portland Horsham Regional Forest Management Plan Community Consultative Committee (Dr R Bird, Mr. J Cayley, Mrs G Cayley, Mr D Munro, Mrs J Hayes, Mr R Zollinger)
  - Grange Burn Stakeholder Advisory Committee (Ms. D Luhrs)
  - Hamilton Lake Users Group (Mr J Cayley & Mr R Zollinger)
  - Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Reserve Committee (Dr R Bird)
  - Iluka Processing Plant Environmental Advisory group (Mr K Grimes)
  - Lake Condah Restoration Group (Dr R Bird & Mr K Grimes).
- Issues
  - Submissions – on fire management plans; Harman Valley rock crushing.
  - Frustrations – at not being able to secure funds for the work to be done at the Kanawalla Rail Reserve.
  - Environmental awareness raising – Mr D Munro suggested a series of *Nature Notes* to the *Hamilton Spectator*.
- HFNC operations
  - Raising funds
    - Successful grant applications (Ms Y Ingeme – \$1,800 Parks Victoria – to protect unique fern community in Harman Cave, Byaduk; & \$6,900 Threatened Species Network – feral cat control to protect the Eastern Barred Bandicoot)
    - Payments for – supplying plants for Lake Linlithgow (Dr R Bird and Ms E Fenton), relocating orchids from new water-pipeline area (Mr D & Mrs L Munro), conducting flora surveys (Dr R Bird & Mr J Cayley).
  - Purchases – 50 hair funnels (for mammal surveys).
  - The Treasurer, Mr K Grimes, reported a very successful financial year with a net increase of \$999.95. Total assets add up to \$2161.68. This will enable the Club to conduct further conservation activities and meet commitments for insurance, affiliation and incorporation. New accounting regulations require HFNC to have an ABN before it can accept grants.

- The fees remained at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families. Mr Cayley was elected as president for 2005.

## **2005 December – President Mr John Cayley – report for 2005**

A picnic dinner at the Wannan Falls Reserve was followed by the warm hospitality at the Grime's residence, Morgiana, for supper of "flaming" Christmas pudding, and discussion of the 2006 program and issue.

- Speakers – attracted good crowds thanks to advertisements (Mr D Munro) – Mrs J Frawley (her mother's, Mrs Grace MacGugan's films), Ms R Sheldon (Brolga flocking habits), Ms M Casanova (freshwater wetlands), Dr R Bird & Ms D Luhrs (Travels in Mongolia & China), Mr D Cook (wetland vegetation).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), Byaduk Caves (caving), Black Range, Bool Lagoon, Cape Bridgewater (springs), Rocklands/Ferguson's (Spiral Sun Orchid), Lake Doling Doling & Jackson's farm (wetland flora and fauna).
- Survey – Kanawalla-Kyup (vegetation on the railway reserve) north of Kanawalla Reserve.
- Working bees
  - Revegetation programs – Hamilton Community Parklands (Ms Y Ingeme – co-ordinated school groups, community volunteers & prison inmates), supply of local provenance plants (Ms E Fenton).
  - Tree-planting – Lake Linlithgow (North Lakes Rd and West Lakes Rd sites).
  - Weed-control – Kanawalla Rail Reserve, Wannan & Nigretta Reserves, Hamilton Community Parklands, Lake Linlithgow & Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Trail.
  - 18-Acre Reserve – spotting Freesia and Sparaxis.
- Projects – Kanawalla Rail Reserve restoration project is well underway with removal of pines, repairing gates and fences, and spraying weeds (incl. Sparaxis) – ready for revegetation next year.
- HFNC Operations.
  - Nature Notes – regular contributions to the Hamilton Spectator (Mr K Grimes, Mr D Munro, Mrs L Munro, Dr J Samuel, Dr R Bird).
  - The Treasurer, Mr K Grimes, reported a very successful financial year with a net increase of \$310.82, resulting in a net balance of \$3853.45. He attributed the financial success to payments for one-off jobs for Parks Victoria and Glenelg Region Water. Mr Grimes divided the account into two sections; one general and one specifically for the Kanawalla Project.
  - The fees were set at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

## **2006 December – President Mr John Cayley – report for 2006**

A picnic dinner and AGM at the Nigretta Reserve (Mr Reto Zollinger presiding), followed by the warm hospitality at the Grime's residence and Janeen's Christmas pudding.

- Speakers – Mr J Kiely (the Canning Stock Route), Dr R Bird (birds and plants of the Qld Corner Country), Mr D Crawford (nature photography – insects), Mr D Nicholls (Freshwater Crayfish – with live specimens), Mrs H Anderson & Mrs H Dixon (orchids and photography).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), Tyrendarra (Indigenous Protected Area – post-fires with PFNC), Four Posts (Wannan River), Mt Napier (summit walk), Black Range (Aboriginal rock art), Victoria Valley (flora reconnaissance), Grampians (fire effects), Cape Nelson (coast & Gannet colony).
- Working bee and campout – Fulham (weed-spraying and orchid spotting).
- Major events – Grassy woodland tour with "Friends of Grasslands" (Ms Y Ingeme organised a 3-day event for visitors from nearby and from Canberra).
- Projects
  - Kanawalla Rail Reserve project at Hensley Park – established, with the combined efforts of Mr J Cayley (diplomacy), Dr R Bird (persistence) and 14 willing helpers for planting 385 trees and 50 Poa tussocks in Sep.
  - Publication – HFNC members provided photographs and information for the two brochures on flora and fauna of grasslands (congratulations to Ms Y Ingeme for this DSE publication)
- Issues
  - Fire prevention strategies for the Grampians with the fear-driven program of extensive fuel-reduction burns causing major destruction to habitats and consequent loss of flora and fauna.

- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club in 2008 – discussion on possible ways of celebrating this event. Ms D Luhrs was commended for her work in reviewing the Club's history (the Club's first five years history was a part of her Community History Unit with Monash University).
- HFNC operations
  - The Treasurer, Mr K Grimes, reported another very successful financial year with a net balance of \$5464. He attributed the financial success to major grants for the Kanawalla project and Parks Victoria payments for weed-spraying work at Fulham by Club members (the major source of general funds is through the weed-control program). Mr Grimes stated that there were sizeable expenses ahead that would account for much of this balance.
  - The fees remained at \$15 for singles and \$25 for families

## **2007 December – President Mr John Cayley – report for 2007**

Dinner around the large table in the Grimes residence at “Galmahra” (Mr Reto Zollinger presiding)

- Speakers – Mr J & Mrs G Cayley (Central Australia), Mr R Draper (frogs of Western Victoria), Mr R Farnes (Steep Peru), Mr A Govenstone (Gannets and Orange-bellied Parrots), Dr R Bird & Ms D Luhrs (Coongie Lakes & Scotia Sanctuary).
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird-watching), Griffith Island/Tower Hill (volcanic and coastal interest), Cavendish (Settler's Walk), Wannon Falls & beyond, Wartook (Cydelia Sanctuary), Jilpanger (orchids and other spring flowers), Wannon Rapids, Mt Sturgeon and Piccaninny (orchids).
- Working bees
  - Campout at Fulham Streamside Reserve (spraying weeds on contract for Parks Victoria)
  - Tree-planting (448 trees) at 3 sites at Kanawalla Rail Reserve in Sep., plus weed control.
- Issues – This year's activities have put the Club before public bodies more than previously and should help to enable to Club to exert some influence on conservation decision-makers.
  - HFNC invited to comment on the Land and Biodiversity White Paper at a time of Climate change.
  - HFNC invited to draft a Flora and Fauna Action Statement on inappropriate fire regimes.
  - HFNC invited to attend GHCMA workshop to examine a draft Regional Weed Plan.
  - Further discussion of the possible format of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations occurred – an evening event in August – to coincide with the August excursion weekend.
- Submissions
  - Fire Operations Plans for Portland and the Wimmera regions.
  - Wind-farm at Glenthompson.
  - Proposed boundaries at Cobboboonee National Park.
  - Parliamentary Enquiry into Public Land Management Practices on bushfires in Victoria.
  - Special working meetings – many members contributed many hours to the preparation of these submissions covering the range of issues involved.
- Club expertise
  - Invited to conduct a vegetation survey of the Glenelg River before GHCMA restoration work begins (Dr R Bird).
  - Production of an excellent booklet on Lake Linlithgow (Dr R Bird).
- Project – Kanawalla – the final major works of felling and disposing of the remaining huge pines have been completed.
- HFNC operations
  - Mr David Munro moved a vote of thanks for Mr and Mrs Cayley for the incredible jobs that they have both done during their terms of office as President and Correspondence Secretary. This was supported by all and carried unanimously.
  - The Treasurer, Mr K Grimes, reported another very active year with much of the club's finances going to pay for the work done by the contractor, Mr F Tarrant, at Kanawalla. HFNC grants and payments for activities this year have increased the total assets to \$9928. This money is tagged for on-going conservation activities and for the general running costs of the Club.
  - The fees were set at \$15 for singles and \$20 for families.

## **2008 December – Mr Reto Zollinger – President – report for 2008 (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year)**

A barbecue dinner followed by the meeting and supper of Christmas pudding around the large table in the Grimes residence at “Galmahra”.

- Speakers – Ms G Roberts (Ningaloo Reef turtles), Mr C Roycroft (Madagascar), Dr R Bird & Mr J Cayley (Lionel Elmore retrospective), Dr J de Stefano & Mr T Duff (fire ecology), Mr R Bednarik (Australian Aboriginal petroglyphs)
- Excursions – Lake Linlithgow (bird watching), Bullawin Rd/Grampians (Noel Gunn's property), Victoria Point/Grampians, Digby/Weecurra State Forest, Wilkin Flora Reserve.
- Campouts
  - Glenelg River canoe and walking trip.
  - South-east South Australia – restored wetlands/butterflies and caves/petroglyphs.
- Working bees – with special thanks to Dr R Bird and Mr J Cayley for their considerable efforts.
  - Fulham campout weed-spraying – Sparaxis & Cape Tulip.
  - Hamilton Eastern Barred Bandicoot enclosure – survey of weeds/signs and paths.
  - Grange Burn.
  - Kanawalla Rail Reserve – 15 Tree Everlastings planted, trees weeded and wire guards fitted.
  - Wannon & Nigretta Reserves – spraying Sparaxis, Angled Onion and Vinca (Nigretta).
  - Forest Lane Road Reserve – removing pasture weeds on an old Shire dump site.
- Celebrations
  - Declaration of Cobobboonee National Park (celebrated with PFNC).
  - Return of Lake Condah to its traditional owners and progress with lake restoration.
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner and tours<sup>#</sup>
    - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner, speeches and awarding Life Membership to Mrs Grace James, Mrs Rae Dempster and Mr Murray Gunn for valued services to the club.
    - Volcanic landscapes tour – Mr K Grimes.
    - HFNC special projects tour – Dr R Bird.
- Issues
  - Clearing of high conservation roadside reserves (Dunkeld/Moyston Rd).
  - Clearing of significant site of Purple Diuris in Victoria Valley.
  - Inappropriate fire regimes/fuel reduction burns in high conservation areas (Grampians & Cobboboonee NPs).
  - Restoration of wetlands.
- HFNC operations
  - Advertising events in the *Hamilton Spectator*.
  - Articles and letters published in the *Hamilton Spectator* on HFNC opinions about fire management and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.
  - Submissions
    - Fire Operation Plans.
    - Land and Biodiversity Green Paper.
  - The Treasurer, Mr K Grimes, reported an increase in funds to \$11,386 (due to Kanawalla and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations). A lap-top computer and data projector was bought through a Small Equipment Grant. Some members covered the costs of printing and stationery as donations, thus contributing to the Clubs healthy financial position. Ken was concerned at falling membership, which remains at \$15 singles and \$20 for families.
  - Change of meeting dates to the first Thursday of each month with excursions held on the weekend following each meeting. This should permit a full AGM in December to be followed by a General Meeting to facilitate Club business and enable the Christmas party to be free of formal business.

President Reto urged members to maintain *a strong voice for the preservation of our natural environment.*

<sup>#</sup> In 2009, Ms. Diane Luhrs edited and published a hardbound book (pp. 273), amply illustrated with colour photos, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club. Nine other members of the club provided input to the various chapters, but the major part of the onerous (sometimes frustrating) work of trawling through the Minute Books and other records, then presenting them in a way that gave life, substance and justice to the work of so many committed environmentalists over those 50 years, was done by Diane.

**Hamilton Field Naturalists Club**  
Environmental Advocacy and Action  
1958-2008

Diane E Luhrs