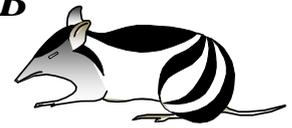




HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB



2014.....Meetings & Excursions.....2014

Meetings at H.I.R.L., 333 North Boundary Road, at 7.30 pm, on **THIRD THURSDAY** of the month, except Dec.

Any change to meeting dates, excursions or speakers will be noted in our Newsletter, Email network, or Hamilton Spectator.

Special Meetings – these are devoted to a guest speaker, except for short reports on nature sightings and a reminder about the forthcoming weekend excursion or working bee. We conclude with supper at about 9.30 pm for an informal chat.

Club Meetings – begin with ‘nature sightings’, some club business and then a 30-minute break for ‘nature show’ (photos from excursions, projects & other items) and supper. Other business is then dealt with and we finish before 10 pm.

Excursions – on the weekend after each meeting. We mostly start from **Hamilton Visitor Centre (HVC), Lonsdale St.**

Monthly Lake Hamilton ‘bird walk’ – start at 8 am at the beach, on a Thursday, a week after the monthly evening meeting.

Mth	Day	Event	Speaker & topic or detail of excursion, camp or working bee
Feb 2014	Thurs 20	Club meeting	Sightings, ‘nature show’, club business & environmental matters
	Sun 23	Excursion	Birds, Linlithgow area wetlands – 7.30 am, The Point, off Chatsworth Rd (RB)
March	mid-week	Working bee	Nature Glenelg Trust sandbagging at Bradys Swamp – date & details TBA
	Thurs 20	Special mtg	Dave & Lyn Munro – Nature of New Zealand
	Sat 22	Excursion	Pt MacDonnell coast & birds – meet 8.30 am HVC (KG & RB)
April	Thurs 17	Club meeting	Sightings, ‘nature show’, club business & environmental matters
	Sat 19	Excursion	Bear SForest – remote cameras & nest boxes fauna study – meet 9 am HVC
May	Thurs 15	Special mtg	Ivor & Ruth Graney (PFNC) – Wildlife, flora and landscapes in Canada
	Sat 17	Excursion	Mt Napier SPark volcanic caves, craters & cones – meet 9.30 am HVC (JC/RB)
June	Tues 11	Fauna survey	Bear SF check remote cameras (date to be confirmed). Meet 9.30 am HVC
	Thurs 19	Club meeting	Sightings, ‘nature show’, club business & environmental matters
	Sun 22	Excursion	Grampians NP Yarram Gap hike – meet HVC 9.30 am (DM)
July	Thurs 17	Special mtg	Ben Church & Mary Johnson - Yarns on Farms (Gunditjmirring land managemt)
	Sat 19	Excursion	Cape Nelson coastal park, with PFNC – meet HVC 9 am (JC)
Aug	Thurs 21	Club meeting	Sightings, ‘nature show’, club business & environmental matters
	Sun 24	Excursion	Black Range SP wildflowers – meet 9.30 am HVC (JC)
Sept	Sat-Sun 13-14	Camp/WBee	Fulham Reserve – Cape Tulip control, wildflowers & birds – 10 am at river (RB)
	Thurs 18	Special mtg	Peter Hocking – Star-tracking for mapping (surveying arid Australia, mid-1900s)
	Sat 20	Working Bee	Fulham Res. Glenelg River – Cape Tulip & wildflowers – 10 am at river (RB)
	Sat 27	Working Bee	African Weed Orchid blitz at Nigretta Flora Res – meet HVC 9 am (RB)
Oct	Sat 04	Excursion	Doughboys Rd, Wilken – spring wildflower spectacular (YI)
	Thurs 16	Club meeting	Sightings, ‘nature show’, club business & environmental matters
	Sun 19	Excursion	Grampians NP Serra Range wildflowers – meet 9 am HVC (DM)
Nov	Sat 08	Working Bee	African Weed Orchids at Nigretta Falls– meet Nigretta Falls pool 9.30 am (RB)
	Thurs 20	Special mtg	Members present their best images of nature – fauna, flora, landscapes
	Sat 22	Excursion	Cobboboonee NP with PFNC – meet HVC 9 am (RB)
Dec	Tues 02	Fauna survey	Bear SF check fauna nest boxes (date to be confirmed). Meet 9 am HVC
	Thurs 11	AGM & Club	Short Annual GM then Club Meeting (sightings, ‘nature show’, business)
	Sun 14	Excursion	End-of-year party – afternoon (details TBA in Nov)
Feb 2015	Thurs 19	Club meeting	Sightings, ‘nature show’, club business & environmental matters
	Sun 22	Excursion	Birds, Linlithgow area wetlands – 7.30 am at The Point, off Chatsworth Rd (RB)

ENQUIRIES: P.O. Box 591, Hamilton, 3300 or hamiltonfnc@live.com.au or see hamilton-field-naturalists-club-victoria.org.au – ‘About us’, ‘Contact us’, ‘Activities’, ‘Background & Links’, ‘Publications/Information’ (fauna, flora, geology, local history, projects, submissions).

Office-bearers in 2014:

President.....John Cayley 55723737
Vice President & Publicity Officer....David Munro 55765485
Correspondence Secretary.....Rod Bird 55723639
Minutes Secretary.....Diane Luhrs 55723874
Treasurer.....Glenys Cayley 55723737

**New Members
Welcome**

**Visitors Welcome to all Meetings &
Excursions**

The Hamilton Field Naturalists Club

This community group was formed in 1958 because members of the region had an interest in natural history and a growing concern for the conservation of native flora and fauna, geological features and Aborigine art and artefacts in the district.

In 1958 there were very few conservation reserves in SW Victoria, and none of any size. Agricultural expansion over 120 years had left few areas of native vegetation on the more fertile plains intact and protected. The planting of exotic pasture species and the increased use of fertilisers, herbicides and insecticides had emerged as major issues affecting conservation in the agricultural landscape. Much of the less-fertile remnant Crown Lands were also threatened by alienation for farms or pine plantations.

River frontages and other Crown Reserves were degraded through grazing leases, the volcanic hills that dominate the basalt plains were all subject to mining for scoria and the drainage of wetlands was proceeding apace after tentative efforts starting in 1880.

The knowledge of what was in the Crown Lands, and how to manage them to conserve the fauna and flora, was also very poor.

The founding HFNC members had a 10-point agenda in 1958 that is still relevant:

- To enjoy and respect the features of the natural environment,
- To respect the Aboriginal history and presence in our region,
- To learn about the geology, fauna and flora of the region,
- To survey and record the species of flora and fauna in our native forests, woodlands, grasslands and wetlands,
- To understand the principles of environmental management in those natural landscapes,
- To protect and promote the conservation of habitat, flora and fauna in those natural landscapes,
- To make or support submissions for long-term legislative protection of significant natural areas as National Parks, Flora Reserves or Wildlife Reserves,
- To restore degraded natural woodlands, grasslands and stream or wetland frontages through appropriate revegetation and management of pest plants and animals,
- To restore significant drained wetlands to their former pristine condition and function,
- To be advocates for the natural environment – to educate and persuade by means of science-based publications, articles in local papers, conducting excursions to significant natural areas, serving on committees of management, participating on government committees and reviews, and by assistance to schools and other groups.

We strive today to live up to those objectives.

We ask like-minded people to join with us in:

- Enjoying the scenic wonders of our natural world
- Helping to conserve and restore the remnants of the natural environment (landscapes, fauna and flora) so that every species has a chance to survive and our future generations may know and enjoy them too.