



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

NEWSLETTER July 2000

Changes to Program

The main reason for this newsletter is to tell you about changes to the program for the Special Meetings in September and November.

Rod Bird will be giving his talk on "**Birds and Art of the Western Desert**", which was originally scheduled for November, at the September meeting. Note that this will be on a Thursday evening as usual, 21 September, not Friday 22nd as listed on the program. (The Western Desert referred to is the Australian one and not the scene of World War II tank warfare.)

In November there will be a talk on "**The Ecology and Management of Powerful Owls**" by Rob Wallis. Rob is Head of the School of Ecology and Environment at Deakin University, and a member of the Warrnambool Field Naturalists. His talk will be on Thursday 16 November, 8pm at HIRL as usual.

Events in July

To prove that not *all* the plans of mice, men and mushrooms gang a-gley, the July meeting will be exactly as advertised:- Dave Munro will be sharing his love of "**Fascinating Fungi**" with us. If you've never been out in the bush with Dave and seen the sort of thing he plucks from under damp logs, then here's your chance to blow your mind with fungi without actually having to eat them. July 20, 8pm at HIRL.



KGG 7-2000

The Fascinating Fun-Guy in Action

For the excursion on the following weekend (22-23 July) we shall once again be taking part in the **Orange Bellied Parrot Count** - contributing valuable negative data as to where the birds **aren't** on the critical day. But who knows?...perhaps this year they will vary their flight plan to take in Discovery Bay. Arrangements will be similar to last year; we'll camp at Lake Mombeong (Fire Map 506, Region 4) on Saturday night so as to get an early(ish) start on Sunday morning. This is a pleasant area, with walks through bush and along lake and sea shore to compensate for any absence of OBPs. If you are coming please let Janeen or Ken know as soon as possible (phone 5573 4503) as we shall need to book campsites. We'll meet at the Lake campsite mid-afternoon (3-ish?) on Saturday. Any problems with transport or other queries, ring one of the committee or come along to the meeting.

Further Excursions

There have - so far - been no changes to plans for excursions for the rest of the year. In case you've lost your program, these are: August - Stockyard Creed to Mitchell Plateau in the Grampians; September - orchids at Poolaijelo; October - campout on the Lower Glenelg; November - Mt Napier. As starting times and other arrangements may depend on weather, number of people etc, please contact one of the committee for details a few days ahead of the excursion if you can't get to the preceding meeting.

Absent Friends

Yvonne and Reto have returned from Switzerland and are now embarked on their "round Australia" trip. Their latest despatch - via cyberspace - reports that they came to a "sloshy halt" in the Diamantina National Park owing to some Queensland-style rain. "The ranger kept us busy sanding and painting sheds until he started to run out of sandpaper and paint." Eventually the floods went down and they were able to continue through Queensland in search of dinosaur footprints, sapphires, and the Olympic torch.

