



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2000

This is just a brief, cartoonless, newsletter to those of you who couldn't get to the last meeting, to let you know about:

(1) Field Nats' Christmas Break-up

Hilary Turner has kindly offered her place for our pre-Christmas get-together this year. It will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 9 December. Bring your own food and drink, including something to barbecue if you wish, plus something to sit on (e.g. folding chair, rug, shooting stick, elephant).

Those of us who like a little exercise before feasting are going to look at Giant Rock, just north of Hilary's place. This is on Fire Map 430 B (see Giant Rock Road turning west off the Balmoral Road just before the top of the page). We will meet at 4 o'clock at the stile (at the end of the road, just before the gate), and will probably spend about an hour there. Hilary has also suggested we might like to walk along the creek on her land and do a bit of bird-spotting.

If you can't make it to Giant Rock, come direct to Hilary's place. Her house is No. 16 on Fire Map 430 B; it is exactly 9 km from where the Balmoral road forks off from the Edenhope road: on the right just before the bridge over Hassall Creek. If you get to her woolshed you've turned off too soon; go back and try again.

(2) Canoeing on the Glenelg

For those who got a taste for canoeing on our October excursion, and for those who missed out, Penny Moon is organising a few days of canoeing along the Glenelg river, starting on 10 January. If you are interested, ring Penny on 5380 1523.

(3) February meeting and excursion

2001 is nearly upon us. Time to dust off your old vinyl record of "Also sprach Zarathustra" and to start thinking about nominating for a position on the Committee. The AGM, followed by the General Meeting, will be on Thursday 15 February. All positions will be vacant and a little new blood is always welcome. If the prospect of any of the major positions is too daunting, what about volunteering to be Minutes Secretary? (The current secretary is planning to move that this position be created!).

The February Excursion, on Saturday 17th, will involve bird counting at Lake Linlithgow as usual, meeting at 7 am at the Lake at the usual place - at the first clump of pines on the shore, approaching along Chatsworth Road. There is some water in the Lake again, and when a few of us visited it recently there were large numbers of water birds. Our Club is probably going to be involved in a CMA-initiated revegetation plan for the northern half of the lake shore, so the day may also involve some seed collection.

Hope to see you all on 9 December.

