



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

PO Box 591, Hamilton, 3300



NEWSLETTER, October 2003

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Yes, we are already planning our Christmas celebration but before we get to that here is a bit of **tedious but necessary** business. Please do not skip over it but **READ THIS** and respond immediately, before you forget...

After putting it off for a number of years, we have reluctantly agreed that the Club needs to become "incorporated". This not only gives some protection to individuals in the (unlikely we hope) event of legal action, but is also necessary if we are to receive grants or payment for activities such as tree-planting. To proceed with incorporation we need someone, designated a "Public Officer", to act for us and to provide a street address rather than a post office box number. John Cayley, our president, is happy to do this, but we need to obtain the approval of a majority of our members for his appointment.

Please therefore, if you are a financial member, could you fill in the form below, and return it to PO Box 591, Hamilton, as soon as possible. (If you aren't financial, you could send it in along with your membership of \$15. If you're not sure if you're paid up, send it in anyway and we will check the records.) Note that this isn't the final vote on whether to become incorporated: if all goes well then that, and the details of the constitution, will be voted on at the AGM in February. This is just a vote endorsing John as the Public Officer to deal with the boring paperwork.

Thank you. Now for....

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

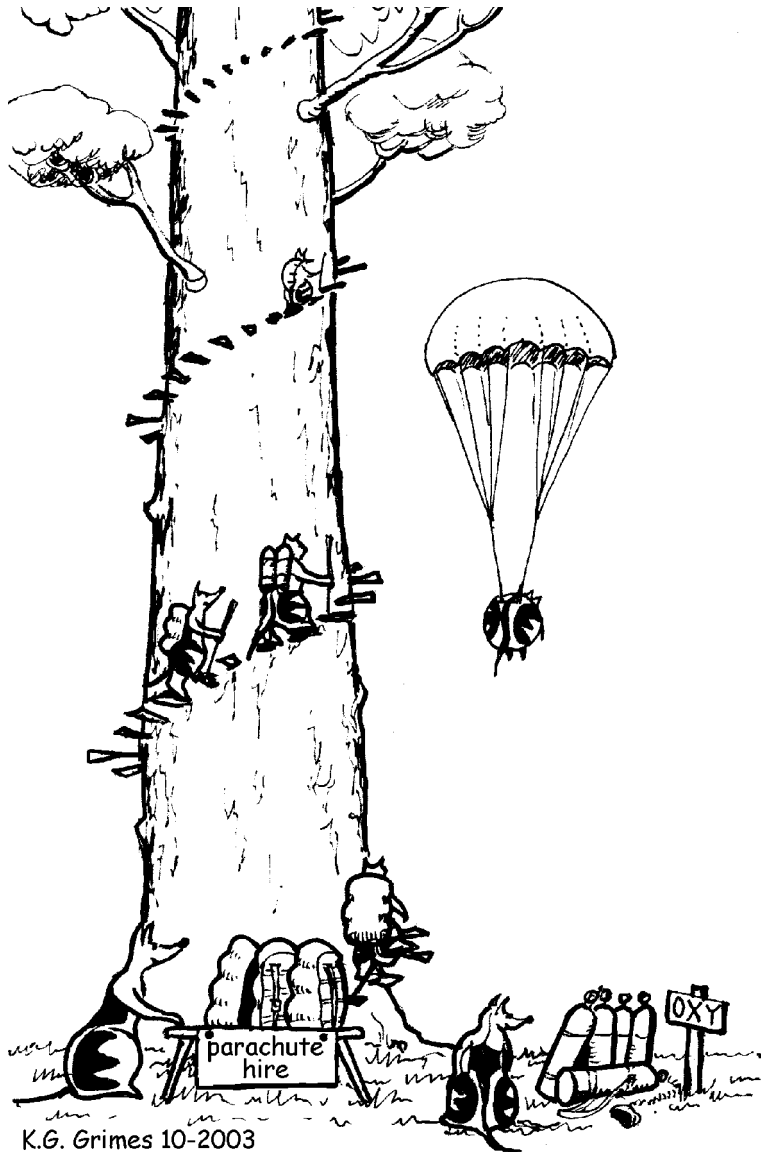
This will be at the **Wannon Falls Reserve** on **Thursday 11 December**, from 6pm. Bring your own food and drink, and a preferably a bit of wood if you plan to barbecue, and turn up whenever you can. We will be at one of the picnic tables/barbecues upstream from where "the grassy sward drops without warning into the titanic abyss" (see the "*Spectator*", Oct 25, p.19). Note, we may not be visible from the road; park near the rotunda and walk in the direction of the ford. It will be an informal get-together; all members, friends and relations are welcome. Towards dusk - or earlier if the weather is inclement - we will repair to the Grimes' (on Morgiana Road) for coffee, and also pudding if the Editor gets around to making it. Ring Janeen and Ken for any further details, such as how to find their place if you are going to be very late.

I.....,
being a financial member of the Hamilton Field Naturalists' Club, am/am not willing for John Cayley to act as Public Officer for the Hamilton Field Naturalists' Club in the process of the Club's incorporation.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

At our next Special Meeting on **Thursday 20 November** (not Friday as printed in the Program), John and Glenys will be showing us slides from their trip last spring across the **Nullabor to South-West Western Australia**. This will include a range of vegetation to suit all tastes, from treeless semi-desert to tall karri forests (including a climb up The Big Tree), and the famous wild flowers of the West. The meeting will be at HIRL as usual, starting at 8 pm.

Then, still in floral mood, our excursion on **Sunday 23 November** will be to the **Claude Austin Reserve**. We will meet at 9 am outside the Visitor Information Centre in Lonsdale Street.



NEXT FEBRUARY

Our **AGM** will be on **Thursday 19 February**, at 8pm at HIRL. Please turn up ready and eager to take on a committee position!

Our first excursion of the year, on the following **Saturday, 21 February**, will be as always to **Lake Linlithgow** but this year it will have an animal, vegetable and mineral theme. It will begin with our annual bird-count from 7 am, meeting at the cypress trees on the southern side near the road. If you sleep in and arrive late, you can catch up with us somewhere on our anti-clockwise progress around the lake, remembering that we detour briefly along Linlithgow Lane to Krausey's Swamp to the east. This year, as well as birds we will be able to check on the progress of the trees we planted in September on the north shore.

After the bird-count, which usually finishes about mid-day, we will go to Penshurst to look at the new Volcanoes Discovery Centre, which opened on 16 October.

(see form on other side)