



# HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

PO Box 591, Hamilton, 3300



## NEWSLETTER, March 2004

### SNAPS AND SEALS AND TREASURER'S TALES

Our first Special Meeting for 2004 will be a **Members' Picture Night**, when everyone is encouraged to bring along a few of their best or most interesting nature slides or prints (or sketches?). We hope to have a good representation of local flora, fauna and landforms, but don't let that inhibit you if you've taken a really good shot of polar bears in Greenland or the Ravenous Bugblatter Beast of Traal. It's not a competition, so don't be inhibited by the idea that everybody else's slides are better. On the other hand, please try to keep your selection down to a maximum of 10 or a dozen. The meeting will be on **Thursday March 18** at HIRL, starting at 8 pm.



On the following **Saturday March 20** our excursion will be a **coastal walk**, east from **Discovery Bay**. This is a chance to see seals, springs, sea-birds, cliffs, coastal vegetation, and our treasurer with steam coming out of his ears as he reads the interpretive signs' version of the origin of the "Petrified Forest". We will do a car-shuffle, leaving cars at the Blow-Holes and/or Bridgewater Bay depending on the participants' level of fitness and energy. We'll meet at the Visitor Information Centre at 9 am.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

Enclosed is the program for the rest of this year. As always, there may be unavoidable late changes. If in doubt, ask a committee member (see below).



At the **April excursion to Byaduk Caves** (Saturday 17th) we should be able to cater for both those who wish to explore the caves and those who prefer to keep their heads above ground. If you're one of the former, bring a torch or headlight, and wear stout shoes.

At our **May meeting** we'll sample "**Meals on eels**": Heather Builtl will tell us about the Koori harvesting of eels and how discoveries about the past can be used for planning future development on the Mt Eccles lava flow. Heather completed a PhD study of the archaeology of the Lake Condah region in 2002, and is

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Name: .....	
Address: .....	
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currently working as Indigenous Protected Area Manager for the Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation.

As a follow-up to Heather's talk, on **Sunday 23 May** we will visit Fred Wilson's farm on Darlot Creek to look at fish traps and other constructions. This was one of Heather's study areas and we hope she will be able to accompany us.

Over the following weekend, May 28 to 31, the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria will be holding a **Cryptogamic Extravaganza** at Hall's Gap: a chance to learn "from like-minded naturalists and experts" about fungi, mosses, liverworts, lichens and fresh-water algae. Single day registration costs \$50. For more details ring Dave Munro (5577 2268) or visit [www.vicnet.net.au/~fncv](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~fncv). This would be an excellent lead-in to....

... our symbiotic **June meeting**, where we will have two speakers: **Teresa Lebel** on **Australian Truffles** and **Sharon Morley** on **Lichens**. Teresa is one of the few experts on Australian native truffles: underground fungal fruiting bodies which are the preferred food of many marsupials. Sharon works with DSE as a lichenologist; she will bring examples with her and is willing to identify any specimens or photos we bring along.

Note that this meeting will be on **Friday 18 June** and NOT on Thursday. It will be followed by a weekend excursion, with camp-out, to the **Ralph Illidge Sanctuary** at Naringal East, where we will not only look for the plants but also try to examine the use of truffles by the local potoroos. Details of this excursion have yet to be finalised.

## RECENT EVENTS

The committee for 2004 was elected at the AGM on 19 February. Careful observers will see that there has been a slight change: we welcome Reto Zollinger to the "top job" and thank John for his sterling efforts over the past two years. We have decided to hold the next AGM in December (see program) so as to lessen the amount of business to be got through next February.

Also decided at the AGM were the **membership fees** for 2004, which have been held at the **AMAZING VALUE** of \$15 individual or \$20 family. Fees are now due, so please tear off the bottom strip and send it in or bring it to the March meeting.

Our annual visit to **Lake Linlithgow** saw literally thousands of black swans on the water. The bushes we'd planted last spring on the north shore were nearly all doing well. Unfortunately also doing well on the eastern shore were numerous clumps of tall wheat grass. From the Lake we went on to visit the Volcanoes Discovery Centre at Peshurst. This is thoroughly recommended to anyone who hasn't yet seen it.

## Committee for 2004

President	Reto Zollinger	Ph. (03) 5571 2544
Vice-President	John Cayley	Ph. (03) 5572 3737
Treasurer	Ken Grimes	Ph. (03) 5573 4503
Newsletter Editor	Janeen Samuel	Ph. (03) 5573 4503
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Secretary: Correspondence	Glenys Cayley	Ph. (03) 5572 3737
& while Glenys is away:	Janeen Samuel	Ph. (03) 5573 4503
Secretary: Minutes	Diane Luhrs	Ph. (03) 5572 3874

## A NARROW ESCAPE

Finally, a note of warning to all bird-watchers; this pastime can be dangerous. Recently our illustrious treasurer, while trying to see a bird's nest, stood on the lid of the septic tank which promptly tilted and disappeared from under him. Fortunately, being a nimble lad, he managed to leap clear and avoid a dreadful fate.