



NEWSLETTER, October 2004

First, an **apology** to any members who turned up at HIRL on 16 September and couldn't find a General Meeting. So many of our committee members and other stalwarts were away, that on the Thursday morning we decided to cancel the meeting. We tried to contact members from out of town, but didn't manage to warn all the Hamiltonians. Ironically, we probably would have had enough members for a meeting, as we know of at least three people who came looking for us. (Rod Bird went to HIRL at 8 pm to tell people, but somehow all three missed him.) Our next meeting really will happen (see below)...

We were nevertheless far from inactive in September. Several of us met representatives from Parks Victoria and DSE to discuss fire policy for forests and native vegetation: - a very cordial and worthwhile meeting. The excursion to the Horsham wetlands and Mount Arapiles went ahead as planned; a highlight was seeing thousands of Banded Stilts and Avocets at Whyte Lake near Douglas. And on the last weekend of the month, we planted banksias and casuarinas at Lake Linlithgow. The plants put in last year are nearly all doing well (unfortunately so are the weeds!)

TROPICAL LIMESTONE AND LOCAL WILDFLOWERS

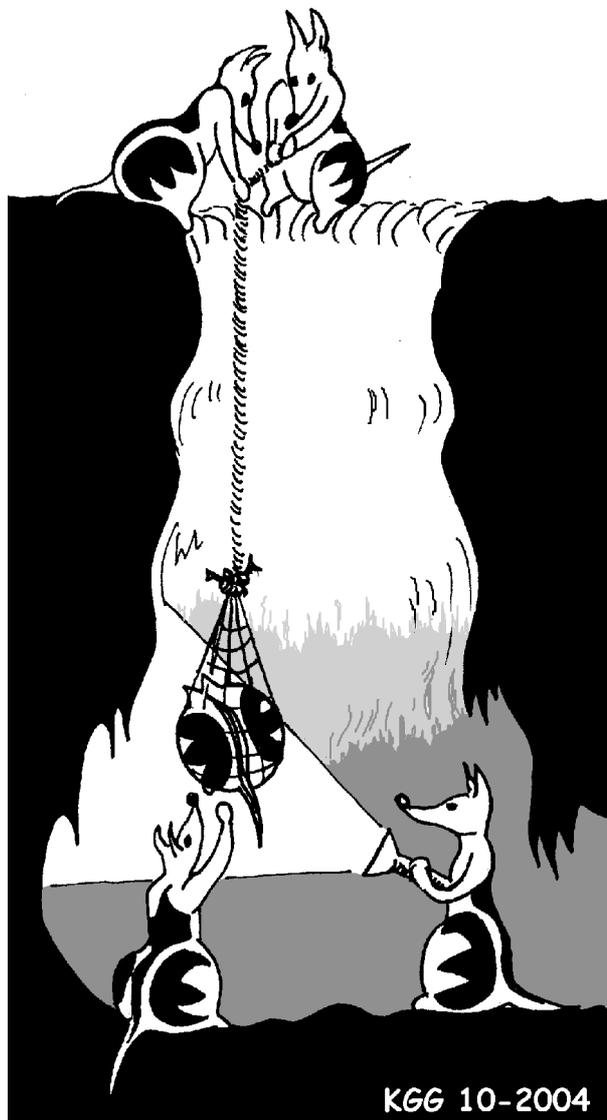
The **October Special Meeting** will have a gently geological flavour with Ken Grimes and Reto Zollinger talking - and showing slides - on the topic "**Caves and Karst of North Australia**".

("Karst" is the term for the distinctive landscapes that form on limestone; in the tropics these can be spectacular.)

Ken will be taking the eastern part of Australia, and Reto the west, and presumably they will meet somewhere along the Queensland border.

The meeting will be at HIRL on Thursday 21 October, starting at 8 pm.

On the following Sunday, 24 October, our **excursion** will take us to the **Claud Austin Reserve**, near Rocklands, to look at wildflowers. We will meet at the Tourist Information Centre in Lonsdale Street at 9 am as usual.



NOVEMBER

The **November** meeting will be a **General Meeting**, on Thursday 18th, and it will be followed by an **excursion**, on Saturday 20th, to **Baileys Rocks** near Dergholm. We planned an excursion there last year in August, but it had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Let's hope we are luckier this time. Again, we'll meet at the Info Centre at 9 am.

ONLY 75 BIRD-WATCHING DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS !

Our **Christmas get-together** will be on **Thursday 9 December** at the Wannan Reserve. Last year we met near the Falls; this year we will meet at the picnic shelter next to the oval (reached most easily by entering through the boomerang gates) armed with food, drink, wood for the barbecue and Christmas spirit. We will gather at **6 pm**, and as soon as we have enough people (by 6.30 ?) we will have our **Annual General Meeting**. **DO NOT BE ALARMED**, this will be **BRIEF**. It should involve only presentation of (brief) reports, election of the Committee for 2005, and collection of ideas for next year's speakers and excursions. After that we can get down to the serious business of eating, drinking, talking and wandering through the Reserve. Towards dusk we shall migrate down the road to the Grimeses' for coffee and (with luck!) Christmas pud.

We hope to see as many as possible of our members at this get-together, including people who haven't managed to get to any events during the year. The idea of holding the AGM in December is to avoid a late night in February, when we have traditionally held an AGM followed by a General Meeting with 3 or 4 months' business to discuss. So please come prepared with ideas for places you would like to visit, or subjects you would like to hear about, in 2005. If you possibly can, please also come prepared to stand for a position on the Committee; we are always ready for some new blood. Speaking of which....

CONGRATULATIONS TO AGGIE STEVENSON AND JULIAN COOK on producing our youngest member. Ruby was born in August and we are looking forward to seeing her at meetings and excursions very soon.

