



NEWSLETTER, March 2008

Well, we made it to 2008. This newsletter is to remind you that we have some changes on the **Committee** this year, to fill you in about upcoming **meetings** and **excursions**, and hint that **annual membership fees** are due – still only \$15 single or \$20 for a family. Please fill in or copy the form.

The **program** for the year is enclosed. Note the later dates for the March meeting and excursion, the switch-around of Special and General meetings for May-June, and the fact that the November meeting will be on a Friday. As always, we have not yet been able to finalise some arrangements and some speakers are not 100 per cent certain that they can make it, so it is possible that we may have to make late changes.

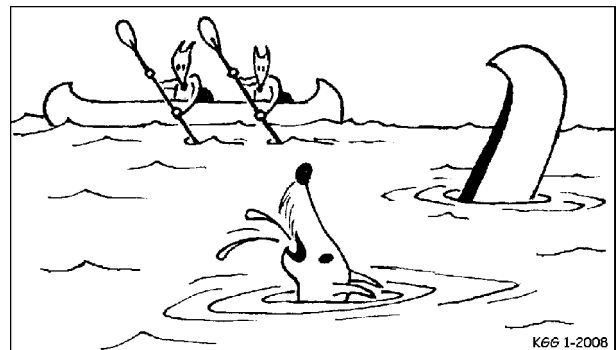
LATER MARCH MEETING

In order not to clash with Easter, our **March Special Meeting and Excursion will be a week later than usual**. Appropriately, we will hear about some slow and steady creatures: **Turtles on Ningaloo Reef**. **Genai Roberts** is going to tell us about her experiences as a volunteer at Ningaloo, helping to monitor the turtles' egg-laying and track their movements. This will be on **Thursday 27 March**: i.e. the week after Easter. As usual the meeting will be at HIRL at 7.30pm with the talk to start by eight. The Hamilton Wetlands bird count will be that same Thursday morning.

The following **Saturday 29 March** we will have another go at the excursion we had scheduled for April last year, which was cancelled owing to various absences and illnesses. We will meet at the Tourist Information Centre in Lonsdale Street at 9.00am and go to **Tower Hill** to look at flora and fauna, views and vulcanology. According to time and inclination, we may then go on to Port Fairy for a walk around the Island.

APRIL PADDLE or PLOD (or POTTER)

For April we have planned a more adventurous excursion: a weekend on the Glenelg River. Yvonne has booked canoes for hire (cost per canoe approximately \$40 per day) and the Forest Camp South campsite for the Friday and Saturday nights (camping fees will be a few dollars, depending on numbers.) Members can come for the weekend or just a day and either canoe or walk, or just amble gently. It is hoped that some new (and slightly younger) potential members will join us. If you are intending to come, particularly if you want a canoe, let Yvonne know soon (Ph home 55712544; email: hamiltonfnc@live.com.au).



Here is Yvonne's outline of the program:

Friday night, 18th: 6pm onwards: Camp at "Forest Camp South".

Saturday 19th: Canoeists meet at "Pritchards" at 9am to collect canoes and canoe approx 10km back to camp.

Walkers meet at "Forest Camp South" at 9am and walk about 10km along Great SW Walk to Pritchards (collect cars)

Sunday 20th: Canoeists and Walkers meet at "Forest Camp South" at 9am.

MAY-JUNE SWITCH

Many members will be familiar with "Gariwerd": the book of Grampians photographs published a few years ago. The photographer, Alison Pouliot, will be the guest speaker at our **Special Meeting on 19 June**. Alison, a naturalist (and photographer) with a special interest in fungi, spent long periods camping out in the Grampians to obtain her photographs. Her topic will be: **A Photographer's reflections on the Grampians**.

Normally we would have a General Meeting in June, but because Alison can only make it to Hamilton in that month we have switched things around. Our **May** meeting, on **Thursday 15**, will consist of a **SHORT** general meeting followed by **members' photographs**. So bring along a small selection of your most interesting prints or slides (real or virtual).

For our **May excursion on Sunday 18**, we will hold a working bee in the Bandicoot Enclosure on North Boundary Road. The work will be removing weeds including briar rose and *Pittosporum* so bring gloves, secateurs, saws, trowels, spades and large rubbish bags. We will meet at the **Pedrina Park Gate at 10.00 am.**

On **Saturday 21 June**, as a follow-up to Alison's talk, we will go to the Grampians. We hope to visit Noel Gunn's block in the **Bullawin Road area**. This block has not been burned for many years and it will be interesting to compare it with adjacent burned areas. We may need 4-wheel-drive for access, so would anyone who has 4WD vehicles please bring them and be prepared to ferry people in and out (and 2WD drivers be prepared to trans-ship.)

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Hamilton Field Naturalists' Club will turn fifty in May! We will be celebrating this anniversary a few months late, over the weekend of **23 to 24 August**. All former (and current) members are invited to attend. There will be a **dinner** on the evening of **Saturday 23rd**, and on both **Saturday and Sunday** we will have **excursions** to some of the local places the Club visited in its early days. We will be sending out more information later, but in the meantime if you know of any former members please let them know so that they can start making plans to attend.

Diane Luhrs has been busy compiling the history of the Club from the minute books and other records. If anyone has recollections from the "early days" (the 60's, 70's and even 80's) Diane would love to hear from them.

Also on the subject of birthdays, congratulations and best wishes to Grace James who has just celebrated her ninetieth! Grace is (so far as we know!) our oldest current member. She now lives in Melbourne but most people will remember her and the many contributions she has made to the Club over many years.

COMMITTEE FOR 2008

John and Glenys Cayley have stepped down from the positions of President and Secretary after several years of giving service far above and beyond the call of duty. We are very grateful for all the time and trouble they have put in over so long.

The new committee is as follows:

President	Reto Zollinger	Ph. (03) 5571 2544
Vice-President	Dave Munro	Ph. (03) 5576 5485
Secretary: Correspondence	Jane Hayes	Ph. (03) 5572 4946
Secretary: Minutes	Diane Luhrs	Ph. (03) 5572 3874
Treasurer	Ken Grimes	Ph. (03) 5573 4503
Newsletter Editor	Janeen Samuel	Ph. (03) 5573 4503

In spite of being over fifty the Club is moving with the times and now has an email address: hamiltonfnc@live.com.au

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club.

Subscription for year:

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