

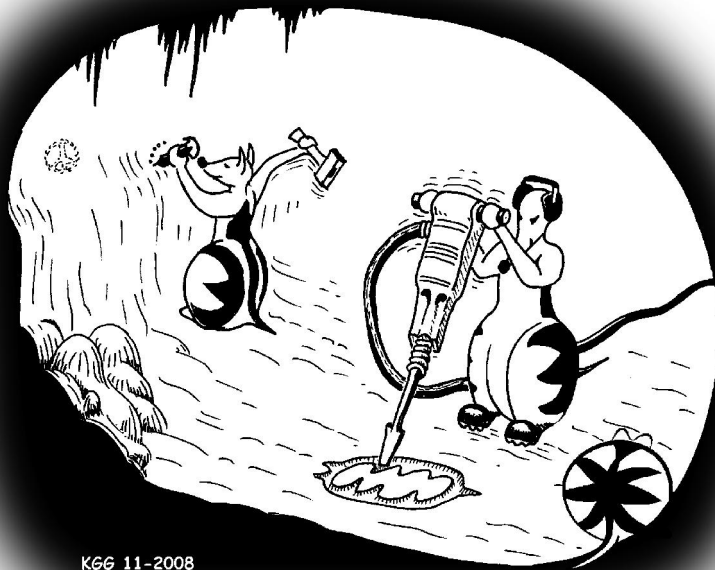


## NEWSLETTER, November 2008

### ROCK ART IN NOVEMBER

Remember! remember! the twenty-**FIRST** of November! Our November meeting will be on **Friday 21 November instead of the usual Thursday**. As usual it will be at HIRL, starting at 7.30 pm, but it will be in the Bandicoot Room (turn right from the front door). Our guest speaker will be Robert Bednarik, who will talk about the **petroglyphs and rock art of Australia**, with special focus on those south of the Murray River. Robert is a self-taught, self-funded expert in rock art around the world and has studied petroglyphs and rock art sites in the Portland and Mount Gambier regions.

Over the following **weekend, 22-23 November**, we hope to visit several features in the Mount Gambier area, including a cave with petroglyphs, a reclaimed swamp, and a butterfly walk. We are still finalising arrangements, but at this stage the program is to visit the cave on Saturday morning and the swamp in the afternoon, camp overnight and do the butterfly walk on Sunday morning. The cave will involve a short climb down a ladder (i.e. a few metres) and you will need sturdy boots and a torch. We hope that the wetland ecologist who has been working on the swamp will be able to meet us there and give us a short talk. The camping will probably be "bush camping": no toilets or tap water close at hand. People who don't want to camp could come for the day or maybe overnight at Mt Gambier or Port MacDonnell. We will leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre in Lonsdale Street on Saturday morning at 8.30 am (Eastern Summer Time).



KEG 11-2008

### CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER and AGM

This will be on **Thursday 11 December** and once again will be under a gum tree at the Grimes' place at Morgiana (795 Morgiana Road; E37 on Fire Map 431). All members are urged to attend – and if you have friends or relations staying for Christmas then you are welcome to bring them along. BYO everything except Christmas pud, including something to barbecue if you like as we will have a fire, weather permitting, and/or a gas barbecue.

The evening will start **from 6 pm**, and as soon as we have enough people we will have a short AGM. This is just to elect the Committee for next year and put together some suggestions for the 2009 program of excursions and talks. So please come armed not only with your sausages or soyburgers but also with ideas about who you'd like to hear and where you'd like to go. Also, please consider whether you are able to offer yourself for a committee position, and don't be shy.

## AFTER THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

As most of you will know, our **50th birthday celebrations** in August went off very happily and we have since received many messages of thanks and congratulation from former members and guests. The event was a credit to the many people who worked to make it a success. At the birthday dinner we launched the book Diane Luhrs has prepared on the **history of the Hamilton Field Naturalists**. If you would like to know almost anything about what the Club has done over the last 50 years, or just to reminisce about the old days, then you need this book. You probably also need some of the publications Rod Bird has prepared about the various sites the Club has worked on. An order form for all these is enclosed with this newsletter.

Also launched on the night were the **new HFNC pins**. These nifty little enamelled brass badges show our symbol, the Eastern Barred Bandicoot and come in a choice of four colours (green, blue, red & gray): – one each, maybe, for the orchid-hunting hat, the birdwatching woolly, the campfire blanket and the conference lapel? If you would like to buy one (or a set) contact Jane Hayes on 5572 4946. The badges cost \$8 each.

## A PAT ON THE BACK

Still on the good news, the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club has been named the winner of the **Glenelg Hopkins CMA Environmental Champions Award** for 2008. The announcement was made on 28 October at Port Fairy, and Diane Luhrs was there to accept the Award on our behalf. It carries a prize of \$1,000, which we will be able to put to good use, but even more than the money it is welcome as a recognition of all the work that so many members have put in over so many years. So congratulations to all of you who have ever wielded a tree-planter or a pen or a weed-sprayer on behalf of the Club.



## COMING UP

The **Victorian Volcanic Plains Biosphere Project Group** is holding a public meeting on the evening of 20th November, in the lecture theatre of the Warrnambool TAFE. The meeting is to discuss the creation of a UNESCO biosphere for the Victorian Volcanic Plain. It is hoped that this would "help raise the profile of this important area, gain further help to conserve and restore its ecosystems, help recognise the needs of its human population and complement the work already being done to prevent the extinction of species." For more information email ...

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