



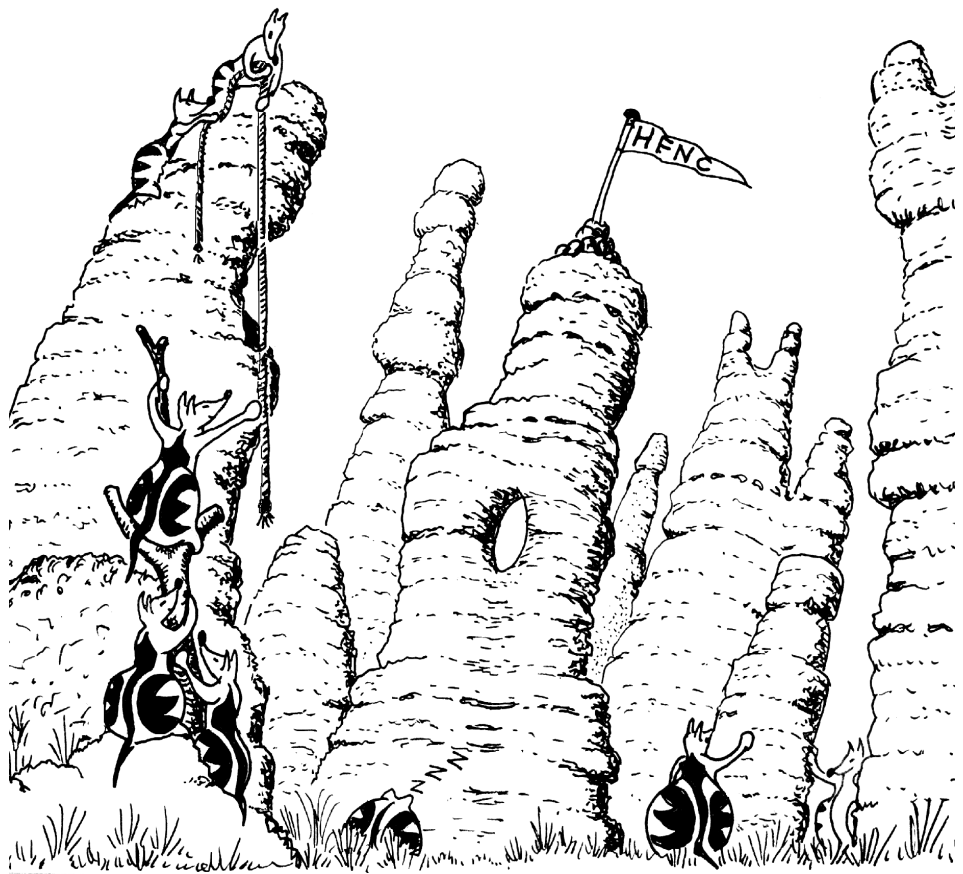
## NEWSLETTER, August 2009

### PROGRAM CHANGES IN SEPTEMBER

As usual “things” have cropped up and we have had to make some changes to the advertised Program:

The **General Meeting** for September will now be held on **Friday 4 September** not on the advertised Thursday. At this meeting, **Ken Grimes** will be talking about “**Stone Cities: sandstone formations of tropical Australia**” following his two months’ expedition “across the Top” last year. There will be a little science and some spectacular pictures of pinnacles and arches and “ruined cities” plus the odd smiling crocodile. The meeting will begin as usual at 7.30 pm, in the Bandicoot Room at HIRL.

The **excursion** on the following weekend has been changed as to both date and destination. It will now be on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>** not Saturday, and we’ll go to the **Grampians** adjacent to Dunkeld. This is so we can check out the best places for excursions for the coming combined Camp-Out in October (see below) and we will be splitting into smaller “reconnaissance” parties: for example Ken Grimes will be climbing Mount Sturgeon looking for interesting sandstone formations. So there will be a choice of ultimate destinations, but we will all meet at the Hamilton Visitor Information Centre in Lonsdale Street, at 9.30 am.



We are also holding **two Working Bees** in September. Both aim to control introduced weeds in native grasslands; we will spot-spray and wick-wipe weeds such as Sparaxis, Cape Tulip, St John’s Wort and Phalaris. The first will be on the weekend of **12 and 13 September** (Saturday and/or Sunday depending on weather). This is under a DSE Bush Guardians Grant, on two sites containing endangered Grassland and Plains Grassy Woodland: **Vasey Siding Rail Reserve** (intersection of Melville Forest-Vasey Road and Vasey-Gatum Road) and **Gringegalgon Settlers Reserve** (corner of Gringe Dip Road and Coleraine-Balmoral Road.) We will meet at the Information Centre at 9.00 am; if you can help contact Reto Zollinger on 5571 2544.

The second working bee is the following weekend, as listed in the program, **Friday 18 to Sunday 20 September** at the **Fulham Stream-Side Reserve**. It is a pleasant spot for camping and some people will be staying the whole weekend, but volunteers who can only spare one day will be welcome. For details contact Rod Bird on 5572 3639.

## GETTING TOGETHER IN OCTOBER

Don't get caught out by the fact that the **General Meeting** for October is on the **first** day of the month.

The following weekend will see one of our major events for this year. On **Friday 2 to Sunday 4 October** our Club is hosting the **Spring Camp-Out** for **SEANA** (South-East Australian Naturalists Association). This will involve naturalists from all over Victoria and South Australia coming together at the **Grampians Retreat and Field Studies Centre**, Dunkeld, for a program of field trips and talks.

All members should have received a flyer about this event, with a registration form. We already have over a hundred people registered and we are approaching the limit of the number that the Centre can cater for. So if you can come please send in your form and money as soon as possible. If you have lost/didn't receive a form, ring Reto Zollinger on 5571 2544 (evenings) or email the Club address: [hamiltonfnc@live.com.au](mailto:hamiltonfnc@live.com.au).

If you are unable to get to this event, don't despair. You can join us instead a fortnight later, on **Sunday 18 October**, for our final **Working Bee** of the year, this time at **Kanawalla**. This will involve weeding the young trees we have planted and surveying – and admiring – the flowering plants of the grassland. Contact Rod Bird for details of time and meeting place.

## REST OF THE YEAR

The program for the rest of the year should be as advertised. At the **Special Meeting** on **5<sup>th</sup> November** there will be a presentation on the **Simpson Desert** by John and Glenys Cayley, Rod Bird and Diane Luhrs. The **November excursion** on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>** will be a camp-out at **Mount Thackeray**; we will meet at the Information Centre at 9.00 am on the Saturday and pack everyone into four-wheel-drive vehicles for the weekend (so if you are a two-wheel-driver please pack compactly.)

This year we have decided to separate the AGM from the Christmas celebrations. So we will have an **AGM** plus ordinary General Meeting on **3<sup>rd</sup> December** at HIRL as usual at 7.30 pm. We will also have a **December excursion**, on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>** visiting **local grasslands**. This will leave the Information Centre at 9.00 am.

And that only leaves our...

## CHRISTMAS BREAKUP...

...which will be on **Friday 11 December**. This year Diane Luhrs has kindly offered her place, which is on the corner of Digby Road and Wedge Road (enter off Wedge Road). We will begin at **6 pm** but if you can't get away that early feel free to join us at any time. We may include a stroll and bird-watch around the adjacent wetlands but will probably spend most of our time relaxing and conversing around the barbecue. Bring your own food and drink and maybe a chair.

The 2009 committee is as follows:

President	Reto Zollinger	Ph. (03) 5571 2544
Vice-President	Dave Munro	Ph. (03) 5576 5485
Secretary: Correspondence	Rod Bird	Ph. (03) 5572 3639
Secretary: Minutes	Diane Luhrs	Ph. (03) 5572 3874
Treasurer	Ken Grimes	Ph. (03) 5573 4503
Newsletter Editor	Janeen Samuel	Ph. (03) 5573 4503

The Club's address is: **PO Box 591, Hamilton 3300**; email address: [hamiltonfnc@live.com.au](mailto:hamiltonfnc@live.com.au)