



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

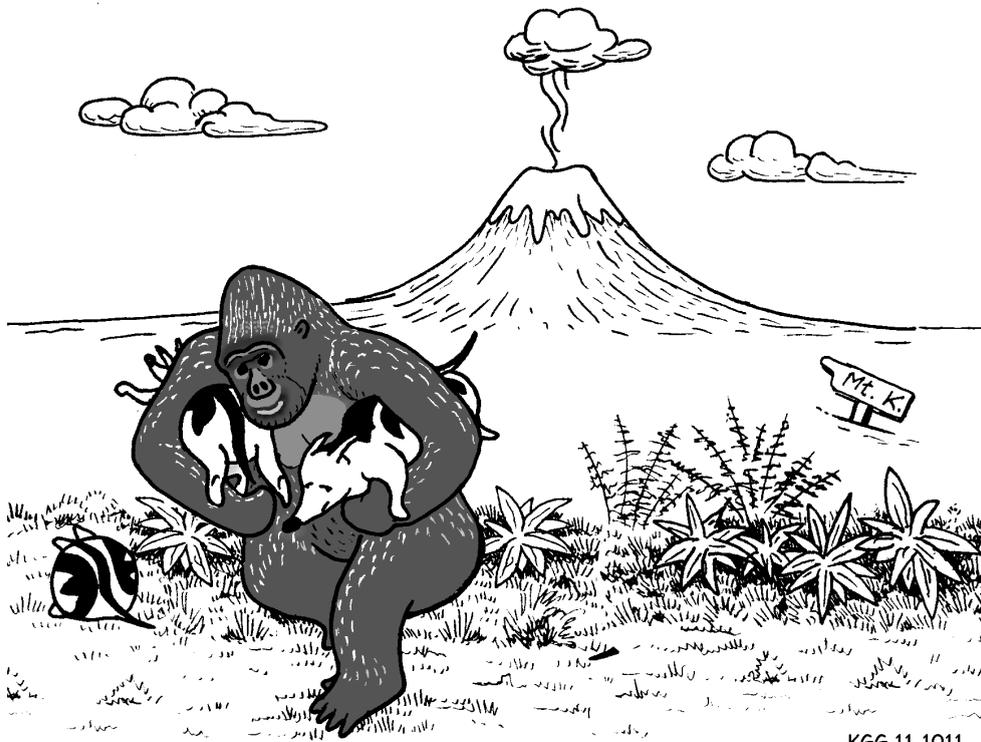


NEWSLETTER, November 2011

This Newsletter is mainly to remind you that our **November meeting is on a Friday**, and to tell you about a **change to our December excursion** to incorporate the **Christmas get-together**.

NOVEMBER – VOLCANOS and JUNGLES and LAKES

Our Special Meeting for November will be on **Friday 11 November** (as advertised in the program) as our speaker, Ross Cayley, will be coming from Melbourne. Ross will be talking about the **landscapes, animals and people of the central part of the East African Rift System** – Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. This is a part of the world where, as he says, "huge glacier-clad volcanoes rise out of the tropical rainforest and steaming caldera craters are filled with wildlife." Ross went there last year and, among other things, climbed Mt Kenya and Mt Kilimanjaro and visited the mountain gorillas. We can expect lots of stunning photographs accompanied by some great stories. The meeting will be at HIRL as usual, beginning at 7.30 pm.



KGG 11-1011

Our excursion on the following day, **Saturday 12 November**, will be to another landscape that has been shaped by volcanic activity: **Lake Condah**. This lake was originally formed when lava flowing from Mt Eccles dammed rivers. In the last two centuries it was drained for agriculture but, following representations by the Gunditjmara people and others, the drainage has now been partially reversed, and with all the rain we've had over the last year the Lake has filled again. The excursion will be our chance to see the landscape looking a little more as it once did, complete with a wide array of waterbirds. If we have time, we may also visit the recently restored Sheep-Wash at Bessiebelle. We shall leave from the Hamilton Visitor Centre in Lonsdale Street at 9 am.

The day after the excursion, on **Sunday 13 November**, there will be another Working Bee at the **Nigretta Reserve**. This will be largely a mopping-up operation, to find and destroy South African Weed Orchids that were missed in October. Rod Bird reports that the battle against the Orchid at Nigretta is being won: numbers there this year were less than half those of last year, which in turn were

less than the year before. He says the River should be low enough to cross, and on the far side the grassland should include lots of Blue Pincushions in flower. If anyone can spare a couple of hours this will be useful. Meet upstream of the Nigretta Falls, at the swimming hole, at **10 am**. If you have any questions, please contact Rod Bird on 5572 3639.

DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS – at KANAWALLA

We have decided to combine our Christmas Get-together with our scheduled excursion to the **Kanawalla Rail Reserve** on **Sunday 11 December**. Instead of the listed time of 1 pm, we will meet at the **Visitor Centre at 3 pm**. Most members will recall the work the Club did at the Kanawalla Reserve a few years ago, removing feral pine trees and planting indigenous trees and shrubs. We'll be able to admire our plants, and whatever is flowering in the areas of grassland, and maybe some moths and butterflies, before settling down to the business of eating and drinking and making (decorously!) merry. Bring your own chairs and food and drink – including things to barbecue if the weather is suitable because some people will be bringing gas barbecues.



We'd love to see as many members as possible, including people who don't manage to get to many of our other events, and any guests or prospective members you might like to bring along. If you can't make it by 3 pm, please join us later. To get there, drive out of town on Hensley Park Road; about 6 km north of North Boundary Road you will pass McFarlanes Road on the right, and a few hundred metres further on you will find the gate into the Rail Reserve on the right and a parking area on the left.

Our **AGM** will be a few days before the Christmas party, on **Thursday 8 December**, at HIRL at 7.30 pm. This should be short as it will consist mainly of electing committee members for 2012, hearing reports from the 2011 committee, and setting the membership fees for next year. After that, we hope to have time to feature slides from members so if you have some good ones (actual or virtual) please bring them along. Also, please think about whether you can stand for one of the committee positions. No previous experience required – the outgoing members will be only too pleased to train up their replacements. To jog your memory, the positions and present incumbents are listed below. And if you have some ideas for next year's speakers and excursions, please bring them along too.

Also at the AGM we'll review the weather forecast for the day of the Christmas party, and if necessary make contingency plans. But let's hope this summer will be one without either fire or flood!

COMMITTEE for 2011

President	John Cayley	5572 3737
Vice President	David Munro	5576 5485
Correspondence Secretary	Rod Bird	5572 3639
Minutes Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	Glenys Cayley	5572 3737
Newsletter Editor	Janeen Samuel	
Publicity Officer	David Munro	

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