

1. Hamilton Community Parklands

Location: North Boundary Rd, Hamilton, adjacent to Pedrina Park. Access is through gates in Pedrina Park or through gates in the north-western corner of the Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning (HIRL).

These Parklands (pictured below, RB) are what remain of the original area reserved in 1883 as a Park and Gathering Ground for Water Supply, to supply water for Hamilton. Pedrina Park was excised from the reserve in 1959 and other areas were set aside for a golf course, motor cycle scramble track and scout hall in 1972, and the HIRL buildings in 1985. About 90 ha of the remaining area have been fenced to exclude predators such as foxes and cats.



Landform and geology: The area is basaltic grassland/woodland. Inside the wildlife enclosure are a reservoir and associated silt trap and wildlife dams near North Boundary Rd.

Flora: HFNC has identified 100 native species on the Parklands. The important trees include Silver Banksia, Drooping Sheoak, River Red Gum, Swamp Gum, Cherry Ballart, Blackwood, Black Wattle, Sweet Bursaria, and Tree Everlasting. The stand of Sheoak is the largest remnant in the Hamilton area. Significant herbaceous flora include Blue Pincushions, Western

Golden-tip, Cut-leaf Goodenia, Curved Rice-flower and Candles. In the 1980s, there was a substantial planting of trees in the Parklands, although many were not from local seed. There are also many weeds, including Bent Grass and Phalaris that are derived from 100 years of grazing by sheep and cattle prior to 1980; grazing ceased after 1980. A Nature Trail including signboards around the Old Reservoir was designed and set up by HFNC in the mid-1980s. The signboards were illustrated by the late Susan McInnes. HFNC supported the restoration of the nature trail and the reprinting of these boards, with the re-opening of the trail being celebrated in December 2009.

Fauna: The wildlife enclosure is one of several release areas for the endangered Eastern Barred Bandicoot (pictured below, RB) produced from a captive breeding program. Hamilton was the last mainland refuge for a wild population of this insectivorous marsupial. The Parklands also has Common Brushtail and Common Ringtail Possums, Swamp Rat, Black Wallaby and Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Birds listed for the Parklands by HFNC number 106 species, with waterbirds figuring prominently.

