

HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB



2013.....Meetings & Excursions.....2013



Meetings at H.I.R.L., 333 North Boundary Road, at 7.30 pm, mostly on **THIRD THURSDAY** of the month (except Dec).

When guest speakers from afar are only available on a Friday evening that date is highlighted below (in red).

Any change to a Special Meeting date or speaker will be noted in our Newsletter, email network, or Hamilton Spectator.

Special meetings –are devoted to a **guest speaker**, except for short reports on items of natural history and a notice about the forthcoming excursion on the weekend. We conclude with supper at about 9.30 pm, for an informal chat or an early night.

Excursions – on weekend after each monthly meeting. We leave from **Hamilton Visitor Information Centre (HVIC)**. We continue the **monthly Lake Hamilton ‘bird walk’** – start at 8 am at the beach, on the Thursday after a weekend excursion.

Club meetings deal with business & conservation issues. Members also give short reports of interesting natural history items.

Month	Day	Event	Speaker & topic or detail of excursion or working bee
Feb 2013	Thurs 21	Club meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Sun 24	Excursion	Birds, Linlithgow & near wetlands – 7.30 am, Cypress at lake, Chatsworth Rd
March	Thurs 21	Special mtg	Reto Zollinger/Yvonne Ingeme – ‘Travels in N & W Aust – the good, bad & ugly’
	Sat 23	Excursion	Mt Gambier Volcanics & Drajurk forest – meet 9 am HVIC
April	Thurs 18	Club meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Sun 21	Excursion	Hawkesdale – wetlands, grassland & giant Manna Gums – meet 9 am HVIC
	Sun 28 ?	Invitation	NGT/GHCMA/PV – sandbag Gooseneck Swamp-Bradys drain (date to be conf)
May	Tues 7 May	Mid-week	Check fauna nest boxes at Beear SF (date to be confirmed)
	Thurs 16	Special mtg	Heinz de Chelard & Rod Bird – ‘The future Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Trail’
	Sat 18	Excursion	Rail Reserve walk – Russells Rd, S Reeds Rd to Nigretta Rd - meet 9 am HVIC
June	Thurs 20	Club meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Sun 23	Excursion	Grampians National Park, southern ranges – meet HVIC 9.30 am
July	Fri 19	Special mtg	Ross Cayley – ‘Travels to Antarctica & Patagonia’.
	Sat 20	Excursion	Lower Glenelg National Park & Kentbruk fire area – meet HVIC 9 am
Aug	Thurs 15	Club meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Fri16-Wed 21	Excursion	Gluepot Station, SA campout – 2 days travel & 2 to 4 days camp
Sept	Thurs 19	Special mtg	Members present their best images of nature – fauna, flora, landscapes ...
	Sat-Sun 21-22	Camp	Fulham Reserve– Cape Tulip control & wildflower viewing – 10 am at river
Oct	Thurs 17	Club Meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Sat 19	Working Bee	Fulham Reserve – Sparaxis & Cape Tulip work – meet 10 am at the river
	Sun 20	Excursion	Mooralla Golf Course rough/Vic Lagoon & Red Rock Creek – meet 9 am HVIC
Nov	Sat 09	Working Bee	African Weed Orchid blitz at Nigretta Flora Res – meet at Nigretta 9.30 am
	Thurs 21	Special mtg	Ken Grimes – ‘Surveys of landforms & fauna of Cape York’
	Sat 23	Excursion	Glenthompson farm wetlands with Nature Glenelg Trust – meet HVIC 9 am
Dec	Thurs 12	AGM & Club	Sightings, AGM, club business & environmental issues
	Sun 15	Excursion	End-of-year party – meet 4 pm (venue to be announced in November)
Feb 2014	Thurs 20	Club meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Sun 23	Excursion	Birds, Linlithgow & near wetlands – 7.30 am at Cypress at lake, Chatsworth Rd

ENQUIRIES: P.O. Box 591, Hamilton, 3300 or hamiltonfnc@live.com.au or see
hamilton-field-naturalists-club-victoria.org.au – About us, Contact us, Activities, Background & Links, Publications/Information (fauna, flora, geology, local history, projects, submissions).

Office-bearers in 2012:

President.....John Cayley 55723737
 Vice President.....David Munro 55765485
 Correspondence Secretary.... Rod Bird 55723639
 Minutes Secretary.....Diane Luhrs 55723874
 Treasurer.....Glenys Cayley 55723737
 Publicity Officer.....David Munro 55765485
 Newsletter Editor.....Janeen Samuel

**New Members
Welcome**

Visitors Welcome to all Meetings & Excursions

The Hamilton Field Naturalists Club

This community group was formed in 1958 because members of the region had an interest in natural history and a growing concern for the conservation of native flora and fauna, geological features and Aborigine art and artefacts in the district.

In 1958 there were very few conservation reserves in SW Victoria, and none of any size. Agricultural expansion over 120 years had left few areas of native vegetation on the more fertile plains intact and protected. The planting of exotic pasture species and the increased use of fertilisers, herbicides and insecticides had emerged as major issues affecting conservation in the agricultural landscape. Much of the less-fertile remnant Crown Lands were also threatened by alienation for farms or pine plantations.

River frontages and other Crown Reserves were degraded through grazing leases, the volcanic hills that dominate the basalt plains were all subject to mining for scoria and the drainage of wetlands was proceeding apace after tentative efforts starting in 1880.

The knowledge of what was in the Crown Lands, and how to manage them to conserve the fauna and flora, was also very poor.

The founding HFNC members had a 10-point agenda in 1958 that is still relevant:

- To enjoy and respect the features of the natural environment,
- To respect the Aboriginal history and presence in our region,
- To learn about the geology, fauna and flora of the region,
- To survey and record the species of flora and fauna in our native forests, woodlands, grasslands and wetlands,
- To understand the principles of environmental management in those natural landscapes,
- To protect and promote the conservation of habitat, flora and fauna in those natural landscapes,
- To support submissions for long-term legislative protection of significant natural areas as National Parks, Flora Reserves or Wildlife Reserves,
- To restore degraded natural woodlands, grasslands and stream or wetland frontages through appropriate revegetation and management of pest plants and animals,
- To restore significant drained wetlands to their former pristine condition and function,
- To be advocates for the natural environment – to educate and persuade by means of science-based publications, articles in local papers, conducting excursions to significant natural areas, serving on committees of management, participating on government committees and reviews, and by assistance to schools and other groups.

We strive today to live up to those objectives.

We ask like-minded people to join with us in:

- Enjoying the scenic wonders of our natural world
- Helping to conserve and restore the remnants of the natural environment that now remain so that future generations may know and enjoy them
- Ensuring that every one of our native plant and animal species has a chance to exist.