



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

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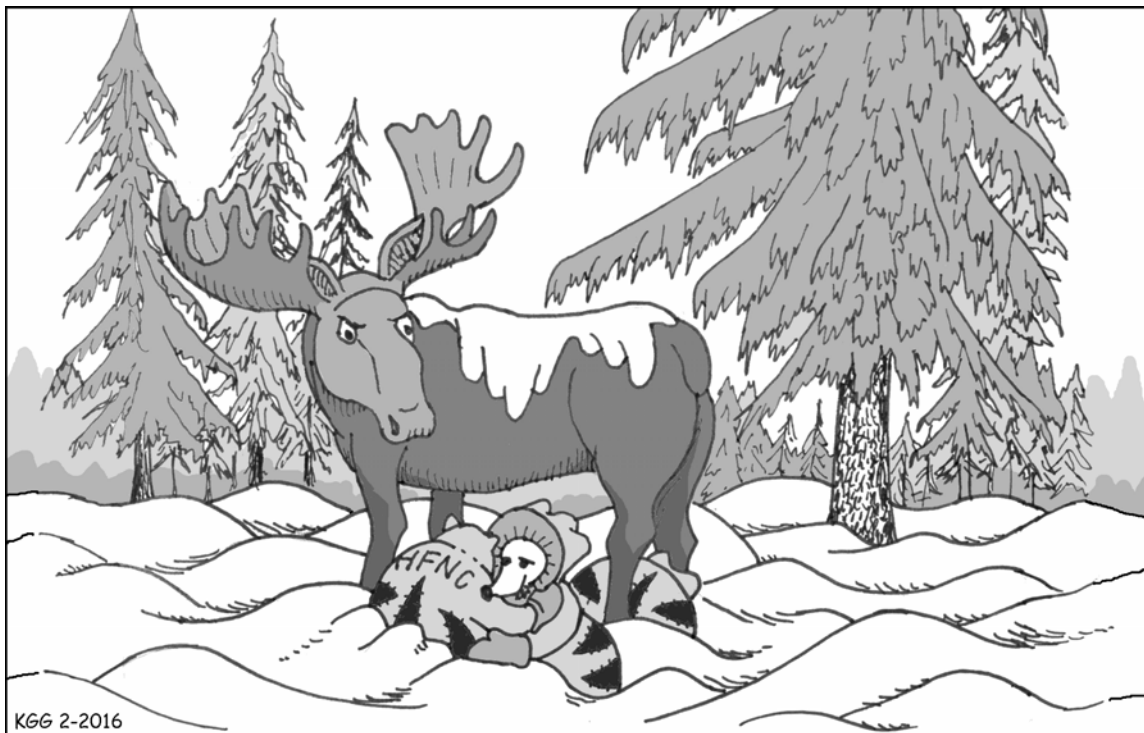


NEWSLETTER, March 2016

Enclosed is our program for 2016. We've tried to include something for everyone – whether you like your Nature near or far, wet or dry, round and furry or long and slithery.

MARCH – Moose and Mountaineering

Next Thursday we can take a bit of break from the hot weather with a virtual trip to Alaska. Our guest speaker will be **Marcel Hoog Antink**, a member of the Portland Field Naturalists. Marcel has visited Alaska twice, first in 2009, then again last September when he spent six weeks travelling around South-East Alaska by car, boat and plane. He will be showing photographs of many landscapes and wild animals, including bears, moose, sea otters, squirrels, owls, whales and bald eagles. His presentation, which he has called "**Moose on the Loose**", will be on **Thursday 17 March** at our first Special Meeting for the year, which will start as usual at 7.30pm.



Continued ...

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club.

Subscription for year:

Name:

Address:

Email:

I enclose payment of (\$15 single, \$20 family): \$

Our excursion on the following **Saturday 19 March** will be to **Mount Napier**. Some people may climb to the crater at the top (not really "mountaineering" – just an uphill walk) while a few will be relocating the remote cameras we have been using to try to detect the local wildlife. So far the animals we have "snapped" include kangaroos, wallabies, possums, koalas, rats, foxes and an owl, but we are still hoping that at the new camera positions we might find rarer species such as the yellow-bellied glider or brush-tailed phascogale. We'll meet as usual at 9am at the Visitor Information Centre in Lonsdale Street, or you may wish to arrange to meet us at the entrance to the Park.

The cameras will be monitored on bi-monthly trips from May onwards, generally on the fourth Tuesday of the month. These are listed in the Program, or contact Rod Bird for more information.

Excursions in Search of Water

Maybe it's because we've been having such a long dry spell that the rest of our **excursions from April to August** will all (we hope) involve water – Kalymna Falls in the Grampians in April, the shores of the Koonongwootong Reservoir in May, portions of the Wannon River in June and August, and Kelly Swamp near Warrnambool in July.

Our first excursion for the year, in February, was also a watery one: Mark Bachmann from Nature Glenelg Trust showed us some of the great work his organisation has been doing restoring previously drained wetlands behind coastal dunes on both sides of the border. Our Club has contributed to the Trust's work, both in labour (at Gooseneck and Brady Swamps) and by donations. Our **September excursion** to the Little Desert will include an optional overnight camp at a property owned by the Trust, "Eaglehawk" near Frances in South Australia (non-campers will be able to join us for a day trip.)

If you have queries about any of the excursions, and can't get to the preceding meeting, then you can contact a member of the committee (listed on the bottom of the Program). Please remember it's always possible that excursions will have to be changed or cancelled owing to unforeseen circumstances such as weather. The same goes for...

Speakers

Guest speakers lined up for later in the year will take us to **Tanzania**, the **Galapagos Islands** and **Ecuador**, as well as dealing with subjects close to home – **reptiles** and **indigenous foods** (no overlap there, we hope). Note that the November Special Meeting will be on a Friday to allow the speaker, Ross Cayley, to get to Hamilton.

All Welcome

We look forward to seeing many of you at our meetings and excursions and, when spring brings on the weeds, our working bees. And we are ready to receive your membership subscriptions for the year please – \$15 per person or \$20 for a family – as these help to cover our costs.

You can find lots more information at our website: hamilton-field-naturalists-club-victoria.org.au

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club.

There are three ways to pay:

- * by posting a cheque made out to "Hamilton Field Naturalists Club," along with this cut-off slip, to PO Box 591 Hamilton,
- * by direct deposit to CBA A/c 00901086, BSB 06 3513 (put your name and "subs" in the description section of the input form) or –
- * the most enjoyable way – come along to the next meeting and pay in person.