

2018-05-HFNC-activities-events

Special Meeting at HIRL at 7.30 pm Thursday 17 May: Guest speaker will be Steve Clark, “**Birds and other wildlife of Uganda**”

Steve Clark is an amateur ornithologist who lives in Hamilton and works as an agronomist at DEDJTR (the former Pastoral Research Institute). His talk will be a summary of a year that he and his wife spent recently in rural Uganda. While there the couple visited a variety of national parks and other wild places where Steve made good use of his photographic skills. Best known for his knowledge of birds, Steve also has other interests in the natural world and, apart from birds, his presentation will include gorillas and other mammals, bugs, scenery and aspects of rural life in Uganda.

Steve's wife Jenny was in Uganda as an educational advisor for the Australian School for Life Foundation. This is an organisation which is working to improve the educational standards of children in rural Uganda. It also provides training for local people in health and other occupations. Steve and Jenny were inspired by the enthusiasm and friendliness of the local staff and students.

The only thing they didn't like in Uganda was driving on the roads. Every day dreadful drivers seemed to be intent on running into them.

This event promises to be another exceptional presentation, in keeping with those that Steve has given in years past.

Excursion: Our ‘campout’ this year is to Beachport, SA. Some of us have booked accommodation for Fri & Saturday night (18-19 May) at *Southern Ocean Tourist Park on Somerville St*. No program has been hatched yet – that will be decided on Friday evening in Beachport. It will obviously include some coastal birdwatching and scenic viewing. At this stage anyone else wishing to join us will need to arrange their own accommodation, or make a day visit to join us. We will be returning on Sunday afternoon.

Report of excursion on 22 April to Lake Keilambete and Mount Shadwell at Mortlake. – we met members of the Timboon FNC at Noorat and drove first to Lake Keilambete, which was ‘new’ to all HFNC members. Then on to Mt Shadwell at Mortlake, where most of us looked for the first time for olivine crystals in the volcanic ‘bombs’. Please see the attachment for details and photos.

SEANA meeting: Diane & Rod, Lyn & Dave, Yvonne & Reto attended the weekend SEANA ‘camp’ at Healesville (27-29 April) and enjoyed a variety of tours into the Mountain Ash and Alpine Ash forests. Some took the tour of Healesville Sanctuary and were most impressed with the displays and organisation. At the meeting we were asked whether we could host an autumn meeting in our region in 2019 but we suggested we might perhaps contribute to a more informal Port Fairy meeting in 2019 rather than at Hamilton. In 2020 we may be able to host a meeting at/near Hamilton.

Cheers

Rod Bird
Secretary
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club