

**Hello Members of HFNC**

**HFNC's update September 2020 Newsletter for Activities in September:**

Hi everyone

This is an update on the planned HFNC excursion to the Dundas Range on Saturday 19 September.

According to the DHHS website on Covid Roadmap for Regional Victoria, as we are in Step 2 of our Stage 3 process we cannot have more than 5 in a party and they must be from only 2 households. Step 3 will permit 10 people in a group – and that will happen when there is a 14-day period when there is a daily average of <5 new cases AND there is no new case with an unknown source. Step 3 might happen during the next few days.

If we do have Step 3 then we can easily go ahead with the excursion. We will meet at Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9 am. We need to wear a mask, keep social distancing and have no more than 10 people in the group. As for our earlier excursions when we were in Stage 2, if there are more than 10 people present we will form 2 independent groups.

If nothing changes this week (i.e. no Step 3) then the suggestion is that any group of 5 or less (comprised of no more than 2 households) can arrange their own visit to the area on that day or the next. We would like you to send us a brief report of interesting observations if you do that. We will NOT be meeting at the Visitor Centre.

We will rely on you to check for any change in the Covid-19 action plan and do not anticipate sending another message regarding the excursion.

Whatever the case is we will have to modify what we had intended to do on the excursion and, instead, concentrate on the more southerly parts, including the area affected by fire in summer. That area is south of the Dundas Gap Rd. There may be a flowering of orchids there this spring in response to the fire. Peter Hocking attended that fire and will provide us with a map as to how one gets access. If you wish to go there then contact me or Peter for details.

The other main attraction is Mt Dundas itself, and the surrounding forest. We envisage a walk through the bush to the summit from Dundas Gap Rd and a return along the access track to the Dundas Gap Rd (we think that car-pooling may not be allowed so no provision can be made for car-shuffles, hence our abandonment of the original plan to walk the entire ridge line from the northern end).

As previously stated, there is no Special Meeting on Fri 18 September but we hope that some members will be able to attend our weed control work on Sat 26 of September at the Fulham Streamside Reserve. From 10 am we will be herbicide-wiping Cape Tulip on the floristically-rich heathland part of the reserve near the western boundary.

Cheers

Rod Bird

Secretary,  
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club