

Hello everybody

HFNC's activities and events in March 2023.

Annual Program for 2023

Our program of activities for the year are set out in the attached file.

Special Club Meeting on Thursday 16 March, 7.30 pm at HIRL. Botanist **Trevor Whiffin** will address the meeting on the topic *Australian Tropical Rain Forest Plants*.

Australia, the “dry continent”, has a small component of tropical rain forest. While originally seen as “alien” and intrusive, it is now recognised as being of international significance, integral to the development of tropical rain forests world-wide. Although occupying less than 1% of the land area of the continent, it is extremely rich and diverse, with more than 10% of the species of Australian plants.

Trevor has been studying the Australian tropical rain forest for some 50 years. With colleagues from CSIRO, he developed a computer-based key for the identification of Australian tropical rain forest plants. This was the first such key to any large group of plants.

Trevor will provide an overview of the plants of Australian tropical rain forests, with an emphasis on those plants that are of significance in both a national and an international botanical context. A focus will be on the “Wet Tropics” of north-east Queensland, where there is a concentration of important plants of great significance to the development of the general Australian flora. The primitive plants there are important in the evolution of tropical rain forest plants world-wide, as well as the primitive members of more typically Australian plants, such as eucalypts and heaths.

Club Excursion – Saturday 18 March to Dry Creek Reserve on the Lower Glenelg River. We leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am and will proceed to **Nelson** where we will re-group and then leave for Dry Creek. Details may be found in the attachment provided by the leader, Steve Martinich.

Next work activity – Sunday 26 March, 10 am at the Wannon Flora Reserve. We meet on Powells Rd, on the west side of the reserve. The aim will be to pull up hundreds of very small Hedge Wattles that have germinated since the shrubs were removed from the outer edges of the reserve, on west and north sides. You should bring leather gloves to handle the spiny seedlings. You will be given a description of somewhat similar plants that you must avoid pulling up.

Report on previous activities – I have attached two reports on past excursions:

- Nov 2022 excursion to Gariwerd NP Wurgarri (Mt Sturgeon) circuit of the Peaks Trail
- Feb 2023 excursion to Jenawarra (Lake Linlithgow) and associated swamps

Annual Reports of our various environmental projects in 2002 are available on our web site, for those who would like to know what was achieved in 2002 and what we do. The projects include:

- Nigretta Flora Reserve – control of African Weed Orchids and other weeds
- Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve – control of African Weed Orchids
- Four Posts Streamside Reserve – control of African Weed Orchids
- Fulham Streamside Reserve – control of Cape Tulip & Sparaxis
- Kanawalla Rail Flora Reserve – tree planting and weed control
- Wannon Flora Reserve – control of Hedge Wattle and other weeds
- Shorebird surveys in Feb and July for Hamilton, Willaura and Killarney areas

Annual Membership subscriptions

Subscriptions remain at \$25 for a family or \$20 for an individual. This is a reminder for the few who have yet to register. The most convenient ways to subscribe are as follows:

- Attending a meeting – pay with cash to the treasurer (Steve Martinich)
- Bank BPAY to CBA BSB 063 513, to HFNC's A/C No. 00901086. Please print your name and 'HFNC subs' in the descriptive part of the banking form.

Rod Bird, Secretary, HFNC