

Hello everybody

HFNC's activities and events in June 2023.

General Meeting on Thursday 15 June, 7.30 pm at HIRL – this is a general meeting to present/discuss club business and any other relevant matters.

Club Excursion – Sunday 18 June, to Wild Mans Shelter in Burrunj/Black Range.

We leave from the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am. We will stop briefly on the Henty Highway at Djarabul/Cherry pool and then proceed to the HGH corner, to go 5.6 km south to the Muirfoot Track. The track to Wild Mans Cave is 4 km along that track. The 0.4 km track to the range is eroded and has to be walked. The Muirfoot Track to the west is also badly eroded. Depending on time, we may drive back to the northern area of Burrunj to check out the wildflowers there.

Report on previous activities

- I have attached a report of the last excursion on the Gariwerd Peaks Trail (Yarram Gap to Griffin Trailhead) – we were very lucky with the (mostly) fine weather and enjoyed the 10-km walk.
- Our work activity at Wannon Flora Reserve has continued and the work conducted by Ararat LandMate crew and Woodrowe mulching crew from Heywood have completed their work on the removal of *A. paradoxa* from the western side of the reserve. Five HFNC members assisted at various times over the 3 weeks of that work. As well, for an hour or so on 5 Tuesday mornings, Diane supervised a group of Baimbridge students to remove seedlings and trim branches from the large acacias in the eastern area of the reserve. We will follow up to deal with the large shrubs. There is much still to be done for this significant LandCare project (see below).

Work activity at the Wannon Flora Reserve – Saturday 24 June, 9.30 am to about 12.30 pm
Park on the bush track on the north side of the reserve; access off the Wannon-Nigretta Falls Rd.

The main task will be to remove small *A. paradoxa* seedlings and shrubs from the eastern half of the reserve. We can provide leather gloves and 4 loppers for the small shrubs that are too large to pull out. Two members may use light electric chainsaws to handle larger shrubs (protective gear will be used). We would really appreciate some help with this project. Our tasks range from very easy to moderate. Information will be provided as to identification of the target species and possible non-target 'look-alikes'.

HFNC fenced this bushland in 1960 and carted away tonnes of rubbish. We surveyed the flora there and managed it for a long period and had it declared a Flora Reserve in about 1985. It has 175 native flora species recorded and remains one of our greatest local environmental assets.

Rod Bird,
Secretary, HFNC