

Hello everybody

HFNC's activities and events in June 2024

General Meeting at HIRL at 7.30 pm – club business matters – the Agenda is attached, also the Minutes of the April meeting.

Excursion on Sunday 23 June to Portland and 'Sam's Loop' on the coastal heathland. We leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am and will meet up at Portland Harbour boat ramp parking area at 10 am before driving past the aluminium smelter to the Quarry Gate parking area for a cuppa. Our 6 km mostly flat loop walk on Cape Grant starts here, through Sheoaks, Stringybarks and heathland. There are 2 shorter walk options – Ruth Graney will bring details of the walks.

Forthcoming event – Working Bee at the Kanawalla Rail Flora Reserve on Saturday 29 June, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm. We will meet at the parking area opposite our gate on the Hensley Pk Rd, just south of Forts Rd intersection. For those who have not visited the reserve for some time, if the weather is nice this would be a good opportunity to take a walk in the reserve and see what has been achieved over the 20 years of our work there.

We will be removing (in some cases only partially unclipping) many of the mesh guards from the larger trees – bring pliers, gloves and wire cutters (if you have one) to help with some of the ringlock guards.

Report on the Work activity at the Wannan Flora Reserve on Sunday 26 May

Five members (DL, RB, PH, JS & SP) each spent 2-3 hours culling the seedlings of *A. paradoxa* from the perimeter of the reserve and from among many of the piles of old cut shrubs. These are more difficult to remove, often requiring cutting and moving of the old cut shrubs on the ground to gain access. Some large shrubs still standing in the former dense thickets were also cut out – RB spent another 2 mornings in May doing that but many more remain to be removed. It is expected to be much easier once the fine leaves, twigs and spines fall off the cut material.

Report on Baimbridge College students project at Wannan Flora Reserve – from 6-10 students have just finished a 6-week exercise, with Diane supervising (about 1.5 hrs on successive Wednesday mornings), in removing *Acacia paradoxa* seedlings from the reserve. That exercise forms part of an environmental program for some Year 9 students. Their assistance has been greatly appreciated.

Report on excursion to Peaks Trail, Cassidys Gap to Griffin, on 18 May – this was a very pleasant outing enjoyed by all 11 who attended – see attached pdf.

Rod Bird

Secretary

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club