

Hello everybody

HFNC's activities and events in September 2024

Special Meeting at HIRL at 7.30 pm on FRIDAY 20 Sept. Diane Luhrs & Rod Bird will be speaking about a trip on the 2,000 km Canning Stock Route in August 2023 with Outback Spirit, travelling from Wells 1 & 2 near Wiluna and then Wells 9 to 52 at Billiluna (at the Tamami Rd). Over 900 sand dunes and lots of wildflowers on the way. Then on sealed roads west to Fitzroy Crossing and Broome. The section from Well 2 to Well 9 where there are no large dunes was not part of the Outback Spirit tour – we travelled that difficult but attractive section (it has stunning River Red Gums on river pools) alone in August this year and will give some attention to it.

Excursion to Poolaijelo/Mereek State Forest to look for orchids on **SATURDAY 21 Sept** – leaving Hamilton Visitor Centre promptly at 9.0 am. We will meet some members from PFNC at the old Casterton Cemetery shortly after 9.30 am, then proceed to Baileys Rocks in the Dergholm State Park where we will stop briefly before continuing on to Poolaijelo and Mereek SF.

Work activity at Fulham Streamside Res on SATURDAY 28 September – we aim to herbicide-wipe Cape Tulip & Sparaxis. Proceed from Balmoral on the road to Horsham and then, after about 10 km, take the Edgewood Rd to the entrance of the reserve. Drive down that track and meet us at some point along it at 10 am. All herbicide appliances and associated gear will be provided, plus instruction for novices. If there is more than 2 mm of rain expected for the day then we will not be working but may enjoy looking at the flora. There should be many wildflowers starting to bloom.

Report on the excursion in August to the Gariwerd Fish Falls area – a report by Jenni Mitchell and others will be provided in the October newsletter.

Report on the Edenhope/Apsley Mosaic Trail events on Sunday 15 September

Diane and I attended this event on our way home from WA. These trails were interesting and took us to places that we had not previously seen. The 6 ha Edenhope Flora Reserve on Moss St has a good range of wildflowers but also exotic plants (e.g. Freesias) on the margin. One enters on a lane past the town tip! The 5 km Newlands walk takes one through Red Gum/Banksia/Wattle landscape to Newlands Lake, and there are some magnificent River Red Gums there and along the way. From appearance, it would seem that the area has (or had) been grazed over a long period and the wildflowers are rather few. Some 70 or more tile mosaics from local artists, featuring various native flora & fauna, have been distributed along these trails.

Rod Bird

Secretary

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club