

Hello Everybody

HFNC's activities and events in November 2024

Incorporation – you may be interested to know that, as a result of our meeting on 17 October, our club is now incorporated as **Hamilton Field Naturalists Club Inc.** No members opposed the move.

Work activity at Wannan Flora Reserve on Sunday 10 November – this is our last work activity this year and we hope to have some helpers. The main objective is to pull up or cut off seedlings of *Acacia paradoxa* from the North and West fringes. We meet at 9.30 am on Powell Rd, western side of the reserve. We finish at about 12.30 pm. Gloves and loppers are available.

Special Club Meeting on FRIDAY 22 November at HIRL, at 7.30 pm. Geologist Ross Cayley will present a lecture on the evolution of the landscapes of western Victoria.

Ross will start with events 700 mya when our area was land-locked deep in the interior of the super continent we now call Rodinia. Our earth was locked in the largest and longest ice-age ever known. The breakup of Rodinia began the end of the ice-age and the geological evolution of western Victoria.

Western Victoria lay on Rodinia's break-up line and subtle traces of that event may be seen in the rock record. A smaller super-continent, Gondwana, was left behind after Rodinia broke apart. Much of the geological development of Victoria's landscape occurred in Gondwana. Some 90 mya the final break-up of Gondwana was marked by the separation of Australia from Antarctica.

Dinosaurs ruled the earth then and their footprints and bones are evident in Victoria. Some of the mountains and river valleys in Western Victoria were formed in response to the Gondwana breakup. Ross will indicate where these features are and what the geological evidence is. He will also cover some of the fascinating younger geology of our region's landscapes.

Excursion to Giant Rock Scenic Reserve on Saturday 23 November – we leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am. Giant Rock is an interesting volcanic trachyte plug; it erupted about 400 mya. It is situated 10 km from Coleraine on the west side of Coleraine-Balmoral Rd. On a visit there in 1996 we conducted a basic botanical survey and assisted in the planting of local native trees. Our purpose this time, apart from climbing to the craggy summit, is to see what native species are now present, following the removal of pines and exclusion of grazing livestock in 1997. Access is from a parking area on the west side of the creek on Giant Rock Rd. There is a walk of about 400 m across a paddock to the public reserve.

Bear Fauna Nest Box inspection on Saturday 30 Nov – we leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am. We do the circuit on Hallams Rd (off East-West Rd); any moderately late people will find us along that track (keep left at the junction 1 km from East-west Rd).

Report on the October excursion to the Northern Gariwerd/Grampians area to look for orchids – see attached pdf.

Rod Bird

Secretary

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club