

Hello Everybody

## **HFNC's activities and events in March 2025**

**Special Meeting at 7.30 pm on Thurs. 20 March at HIRL** – Diane Luhrs & Rod Bird will talk on a trip to the Antarctic Peninsula in January 2024, with some comment on time spent in Argentina before and after the voyage to the ice.

**Membership subscriptions for 2025** – a reminder that these are now due. The annual subscription for a family is \$35 or \$25 for an individual. The most convenient way to pay is either to the Treasurer at a meeting or via Internet Banking:

CBA BSB 063 513 HFNC's A/c No. 00901086.

(Please print your surname and 'subs' in the Description section of the internet banking form)

**Excursion to Warrnambool coastal sites on Saturday 22 March** – we will leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am and travel in convoy to Warrnambool. We will be visiting about 5 sites, from Hopkins River mouth and Logans Beach west to Point Richie and Granny's Grave, then on to Lady Bay and Thunder Point Lookout (or whatever we have time for).

**Portland FNC invite you to attend a Moth ID workshop on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7.00pm** at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Tyers Street, Portland. This will be run by **Trevor Kennedy from Warrnambool FNC**. There will also be an **iNaturalist tutorial provided by Kristy Brewer**.

Bring your images of Moths for identification as well, or you may just like learn about these intriguing, gentle creatures. Some are beautiful, others are masters of camouflage (Flyer attached).

Trevor is very knowledgeable on insects in general so if you have some unidentified non-moth images bring them along too.

Those doing the iNaturalist course will need to preload the iNaturalist Australia app onto their devices and set themselves up as a user so they can sign-in on the night.

**Wetland bird surveys for BirdLife Shorebirds Summer surveys** – for those interested in our wetland birds I have attached PDFs for our Hamilton, Willaura and Killarney region wetlands. This summer many of the wetlands were dry, with few, if any, waterbirds present. One reason for continuing these surveys is to alert DEECA to the presence of significant numbers of threatened species (e.g. Blue-billed Duck, Freckled Duck, Brolga, etc) in the hope of gaining closure of those wetlands from duck shooters. Despite very low duck numbers the season has been extended by 50% and the daily tally from 6 to 9 ducks (now regardless of species). Expect carnage on the wetlands that have water, such as Lake Bolac, Tower Hill and Lake Bulrush.

**Submissions to various government projects/enquiries** – this summer has seen 4 submissions from us, most requiring a lot of background reading. The subjects were:

- hfnc submission future of Victorian State Forests Jan 2025
- hfnc submission Kentbruck green power hub windfarm March 2025
- hfnc submission managing biodiversity impacts renewable energy Feb 2025
- hfnc submission NullarborWGEH Feb 2025

Those wishing to see what our responses were may find the PDFs on our website.

**HFNC Annual program of meetings, excursions and other activities in 2025** – see attached PDF

Rod Bird

Secretary

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club