

Hello Everybody

HFNC Inc's activities and events in February 2026

General Meeting on Thurs 19 Feb. at HIRL, 7.30 pm. This meeting concerns club business matters but begins with members reports of interesting sightings.

The agenda for this meeting is attached.

The record of minutes from the Dec. 2025 meeting is also attached.

Draft program of club activities in 2026

The committee met last week to develop a program of activities for your consideration (see attachment).

Membership subscriptions for 2026 – these are now due (\$25 for a single or \$35 for a family) and, since the near-demise of the cheque book, most simply paid at one of our meetings or through internet banking (see attachment for details).

Excursion to Lake Linlithgow wetlands on Sunday 22 February – this is an annual club tradition, begun in 1983. This year we will modify the route on account of the scarcity of water (and thus few birds). We will meet at “The Point”, off Chatsworth Rd, at 8 am and then stop at Lake Bullrush, on the way to Boonawah Creek. We will then return to Hamilton and go to Lake Hamilton, on the south side near the playground. A walk to the bridge at the eastern end may then show us crakes and other waterbirds.

Report on shorebird surveys –we have almost finished a survey of some 25 wetlands in the region, counting numbers of birds of each waterbird or raptor species. Most wetlands have dried out, with no birds present (e.g. Linlithgow, Bullrush, Kennedy, Krause, Harnath, Muirhead, Buninjon, Green, Walker) but there was water in others (e.g. Bryan, Brady, Lake Bolac and Tower Hill). Bryan Swamp on 1 Feb was almost dry but had huge numbers of spoonbills, herons and ibis. Brady Swamp had large numbers of spoonbill, ducks, Brolga (81) and herons and several waders. Tower Hill had nearly 6,000 coot, large numbers of duck and several species of waders. Killarney Beach had Sanderlings stints and plovers but the prize on 7 Feb. was a lone Royal Penguin, ashore to moult on rocks east of Killarney boat ramp.

Tribute for Samantha Greiner – we were dismayed to receive the news that Sam had passed away. Apart from her knowledge of birds and whole-hearted dedication to Birdlife Hamilton, her work in a local plant nursery, or involvement in many other environmental concerns, she was a person that you could trust in whatever you asked of her. We are so sorry that her life was cut so short and we extend our sincere condolences to Marie and family.

Rod Bird
Secretary,
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club Inc