Hello Everybody

HFNC Inc's activities and events in March 2026

Special Meeting on Thurs 19 March at HIRL, 7.30 pm. Our guest speaker will be **Geoff Lay**, a naturalist/photographer from Melbourne. His presentation will be on ***Australia, land of contrasts***. Geoff will show diverse and beautiful images collected from many years of travelling in Australia.

Geoff describes his interests thus: I have been a keen bushwalker, traveller, naturalist and photographer for almost 60 years. My ambition is to photograph every plant and fungus in Australia. After 57 years I am 27% of the way there!

Geoff donated 13,000 flora images to the Royal Botanic Gardens when **Flora of Victoria** was put on the Web. He also has fungi and flora photos in many publications and regularly gives talks to field naturalists, plant societies, Landcare, U3A and similar groups throughout Victoria and interstate.

This presentation will cover a land of ragged mountain ranges, of droughts and sweeping plains. A celebration of a lifetime experience of the multitude of vibrant colours, textures and moods of our landscapes. We will explore every State from the seaside to the highest snowy alps. Compare the green mountains of the east to the red deserts of the centre, deep gorges of the Pilbara to lush rainforests in our north, all begird by stormy seas. The many landscapes will be accompanied by flora and fungus that highlight each colour. Imagine blue lakes, green forests, brown ridges, orange cliffs, red soils, yellow wattles, white snow, black skies – and not a building in sight!

Membership subscriptions for 2026 – a reminder that the subs are now due ($25 for a single or $35 for a family) and can be paid in cash at one of our meetings or through internet banking : BSB 633 000 and HFNC Inc's A/C 240950832 (for new members see attachment for details).

Program of club activities in 2026 – see attached file

Excursion to the Grange Burn Fossil banks on Saturday 21 March – we will leave **Hamilton Visitor Centre** at 9.00 am. We shall be visiting 2 or 3 sites on private property where access has been sought and granted. This is NOT a visit to dig up fossils. Be prepared for rain/wet conditions.

Report on Excursion to Lake Linlithgow wetlands on Sunday 22 February –On account of the dry summer we modified our usual Feb. route to include a stop at Lake Hamilton (the only wetland with water) to end the bird watching excursion with views of Spotted and Spotless Crakes. See attached report.

FOTF Workshop at Derrinallum on Wed 25 March – 10 am-3 pm at the Mt Elephant Centre (1191 Hamilton Highway). This is for seed collection and propagation of native trees, especially Banksias, Bursaria, Sheoaks etc., from seed and cuttings. RSVP to grahamarkinstall@gmail.com or a.stevenson@ghcma.vic.gov.au by 23 March (see flyer for details of the planned activities).

Rod Bird
Secretary,
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club Inc