

Hello Everybody

## **HFNC Inc's activities and events in May 2026**

**Special Meeting on Friday 22 May at HIRL, 7.30 pm.** Greg Kerr will present on 'Conservation challenges in Fiji and South Africa'. Please note that this meeting is NOT on our usual Thursday evening.

Greg is a behavioural ecologist working locally with Nature Glenelg Trust. Over the last ten years he has spent four periods working for Operation Wallacea, in Fiji and South Africa. He undertook fauna surveys and lectured on local ecology and biogeography to visiting university and senior secondary students.

In Fiji, Greg helped the local community establish the first large scale Fijian conservation park on the remote and previously closed Natewa Peninsula. Discovery of fascinating local endemic species resulted in significant conservation challenges.

In South Africa, Greg worked on Somkhanda, a private Game Reserve in a remote region of Kwa Zulu Natal, helping quantify populations and assess carrying capacity. Private reserves underpin conservation in South Africa but are subject to poaching pressures – local communities obtain meat for food and poachers supply international groups with horns from slaughtered rhinos.

In this presentation Greg will explore the challenges posed by poaching and illegal international animal trade.

**Excursion to Fergusons, Rocklands State Forest on Saturday 23 May.** Note that this is a replacement for the visit to the Naracoorte Caves (listed on your annual program of activities). We leave Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am. Virginia Keiller and Jo Logan will lead this excursion. At Woolhpooer we turn onto Gartons Rd and then weave our way to Fergusons, with stops along the way to enjoy the vegetation, fungi and birds.

**Volunteer Activity – Acacia paradoxa control on the Wannon Flora Reserve, Sunday 24 May** – we will meet at 9.30 am on Powells Rd on the west side of the reserve and finish at around noon. The large shrubs have mostly been eliminated and the main aim now is to pull up the seedlings of this invasive, spiny species (gloves are available) or cut off at the base any larger shrubs (loppers will be supplied). New volunteers will be given information to identify the target plants, so as to avoid removing any of 4 other species that have spiky foliage or spines.

**Report on excursion to Cooks Rd, Serra Range in April** – Nine members attended this excursion on a lovely autumn morning for a ramble along a bush track. We were delighted to find several orchid species in flower – see attached pdf report.

**Advance notice for the excursion on Sun 21 June to Tae Rak (Lake Condah)** – some arrangements need to be sorted before that date. Diane has contacted the centre and established that it will be open and available for morning tea (tea/coffee & scones or tart – \$12) and/or lunch (from \$20 to \$33). We envisage arriving before 10 am, perhaps then spending an hour or so looking at birds on the lake, then have morning tea or an early lunch at the cafe. It would be helpful if you email Diane ([diane.luhrs@bigpond.com](mailto:diane.luhrs@bigpond.com)) to let her know if you are coming and whether you want to be included in the café booking. (More info on Tae Rak is available on the attached docx).

**Membership subscriptions for 2026** – another reminder that subs were due in January (\$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.

Rod Bird  
Secretary,  
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club Inc