Hamilton Field Naturalists Club



Environmental Advocacy and Action 1958-2008

Diane E Luhrs

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club

Environmental Advocacy and Action 1958-2008

Diane E Luhrs

With contributions from
Rod Bird
John and Glenys Cayley
Ken Grimes
Jane Hayes
Yvonne Ingeme
David and Lyn Munro

Reto Zollinger

David Munro



Kindly supported by the Shire of Southern Grampians

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club

Environmental Advocacy and Action 1958-2008

© Diane Luhrs 2009.

Published by: Diane Luhrs,

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club,

PO Box 591, Hamilton, 3300, Victoria, Australia.

Printed and handbound by: Murray Tucker,

Hilltop Park, PO Box 288, Traralgon, 3844, Victoria, Australia.

Front cover

Drosera binata, Forked Sundew near Mirranatwa Gap, Grampians, October 2006. (Diane Luhrs)

The author

Diane Luhrs (1953) has a BSc (University of Melbourne) and Dip Ed (Melbourne State College). Diane taught Mathematics and Science with the Victorian Department of Education following her graduation in 1975 until her retirement in 2008. A keen environmentalist, Diane engaged her students in projects to develop their understanding and value of natural Australian environments, impressing upon them the importance of preserving remaining natural habitats for their intrinsic value and for the actual and possible benefits to humans. Diane was introduced to the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club by Rod Bird in 1997, and has been actively involved with the Club since then. She is currently completing an Arts Degree (Monash University), focusing on Philosophy, Sociology and History.

ISBN: 978-0-9806233-1-4

First edition 2009 SECOND PRINT RUN

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following people who provided me with material, advice and editorial assistance in the compilation of this history.

John Cayley, 2006 President of the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club (HFNC), provided files from the Club's archives on the HFNC's activities. He also provided many cases of photographic slides that were taken by Lionel Elmore, one of the founding members of the Club.

Glenys Cayley, 2006 HFNC Secretary, provided the volumes of HFNC Minutes Books. I have used these volumes, with the records of minutes of each meeting from the first meeting in 1958 until August 2008, as the source for most of the information about the Club's history.

Ken Grimes, the current HFNC Treasurer, looked through the records on payment of membership fees and created a list of members for the time that he has been Treasurer. I have been able to use this list to ascertain the number of current members and to determine the changes to membership over the last five years. I have been able to compare the recent numbers of members with those described in the first few years of the Club. No continuous lists of membership have been located.

Ian Black and Betty Huf of the Hamilton History Centre were very helpful in providing specific details of the early members of the Club. They provided information that described the personal attributes of these people and of how they fitted in with the local community.

Murray Gunn, John Fenton and Rae Dempster, all members of HFNC in its first years and who still have connections with the Club, were able to clarify details about people and their special involvement. Rae also provided photographs of excursions of the 1980s. I am also grateful for the time that Rod Bird, Margaret Corrick, Ken Grimes and David Munro gave to checking the scientific content of this history and for their assistance in trying to interpret the handwritten notes in the minutes. Ken Grimes kindly reviewed my first draft and made many useful suggestions about the presentation and layout of the content.

Rod Bird, a member from the early 1970s, provided information about the continuing activities of the Club. He was able to identify people and locations depicted in Lionel Elmore's photographic slides (now owned by HFNC). I am also very grateful for the time he spent in scanning many of these slides for this history, and for his reading of this document to check the accuracy of my interpretation of the Club's records of meetings. Rod also provided excellent advice on how to construct tables to clearly display the huge record of sightings provided by members and visitors during the Club's meetings.

I am also grateful for the contributions from current and former members: Kay Aldridge (Personal Reflection), Rod Bird (HFNC Projects), John and Glenys Cayley (HFNC Issues), Ken Grimes (Local Geology), Jane Hayes (Local Birds), Yvonne Ingeme (Local Grasslands), David and Lyn Munro (Local Fungi and Orchids), David Munro (Nature Notes Publications) and Reto Zollinger (Mammal Surveys) on their special interest topics. I have used their contributions either as introductions or as supplements to the relevant sections in this book. I also thank Rod Bird, John Cayley, Rae Dempster, Elizabeth Fenton, Ken Grimes, David Munro and Reto Zollinger for contributing photographs and diagrams to illustrate HFNC activities and special interests.

Finally I would like to thank Meredith Fletcher of Monash University who provided the initial opportunity to undertake the research required for producing this history and for her advice to classify the material into themes. This history developed from my Community History Research Assignment completed in 2006; that assignment covered the first five years of HFNC.

CONTENTS

	Page
List of Abbreviations	3
Introduction	5
Chapter 1 Influential identities	9
Chapter 2 HFNC Structure, Membership and Operations	21
Chapter 3 Summary of HFNC Presidents' AGM Reports and Min	autes 27
Chapter 4 HFNC Projects	63
Chapter 5 Environmental Issues	101
Chapter 6 HFNC Members Contributions	115
Chapter 7 HFNC Excursions	143
Chapter 8 HFNC Special Presentations	159
Chapter 9 HFNC Records of Sightings	173
Chapter 10 HFNC Members' Reflections	235
Conclusion	237
Appendix 1 Dewar Goode's 1959 President's Report	239
Appendix 2 Letter from Cliff Beauglehole	241
Appendix 3 HFNC Office Bearers	243
Appendix 4 List of HFNC Members	251
Appendix 5 Minutes of the first four HFNC meetings	253
Appendix 6 Minutes of the first four Annual General Meetings	257
Appendix 7 Samples of Excursion Reports	265
Appendix 8 Articles published in The Victorian Naturalist	267
Appendix 9 Geological Survey Map of Mt Napier (1970)	271
Endnotes	273