

HFNC Life Membership to Dave Munro

I wish to move the following motion:

That Dave Munro be granted Life Membership of Hamilton Field Naturalists Club in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Club for over 40 years.

In support of this motion, I submit the following comment:

Dave has been a member of the Hamilton Field Naturalist Club since 1979, during which time he has been actively involved in Club projects and a leader of the Club's responses to important environmental issues. Specifically, Dave has held the positions of President (1998-2001), Vice-president (2008-2020), a Committee Member (1980-1984; 2005-2020) and Media Liaison and Publicity Officer (2005-2020). As Vice-President, Dave presided over the monthly Club meetings in the Presidents' absences.

Of the significant state-wide campaigns: in the early 1980s Dave assisted the Club in its support for the campaign to have the Grampians State Forest become a national park – achieved in 1984. In the late 1990s into early 2000s, as Club President, Dave led the Club through its discussions and public campaigns to negotiate the basis of the State's Regional Forests Agreements through directing our discussion on the issue and attending meetings and public hearings in Horsham and Portland.

For the last 15 years Dave has coordinated the publication of the Club's media items including advertising each of the bi-monthly Special Presentations, creating articles describing these presentations and creating a series of 20 Nature Notes for publication in the Hamilton Spectator.

Dave's expertise in identifying native fungi and orchids has been greatly appreciated by members, whether in the field on excursions, making special presentations to the Club on these topics, or in mentoring other members on the features and habitats of these organisms. On these topics, Dave contributed many pages to the *Hamilton Field Naturalists Club: Environmental Advocacy and Action 1958-2008* and to the two editions of the *Hamilton Region Nature Guide*. He has been – and continues to be – most generous in sharing his knowledge. We are now enjoying the knowledge gained in his new interest of arthropods.

Dave actively assisted the Club in its many working bees: tree-planting at Lake Linlithgow, the Wannon and at Kanawalla; weed-eradication at Nigretta Falls Scenic Res and mammal surveys at Bear SF. Dave also instigated (with Lyn) weed-eradication works on the roadside reserve at Back Creek.

Dave has been instrumental in linking the Club with members and activities of other groups – for example, to the Friends of the Grampians, and through introducing people with particular environmental specialist skills to the Club – for example Alison Pouliot and her work on photographing and identifying fungi. And he has kept our Club's name to the fore by attending many of the SEANA campouts, Wimmera biodiversity forums and the Australian Naturalists Network.

More recently, Dave has continued his environmental works at Yatmerone Wetlands and as volunteer at the Volcano Centre in Peshurst. Through these engagements, Dave has led by example to demonstrate the value of maintaining social relationships between like-minded people to ensure good environmental interest, knowledge, skill-development and husbandry continue within our regions and communities.

For all of these things, our Club is truly grateful.

I call on members to support the motion to grant Life Membership of Hamilton Field Naturalists Club to Dave Munro.

Moved Rod Bird; seconded Reto Zollinger
April 15, 2021.