

# HFNC Life Membership to Rod Bird

Dave Munro, Dec. 2018

I wish to move the following motion:

That Rod Bird be granted Life Membership of Hamilton Field Naturalists Club in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Club and his continuing dedication to expanding the knowledge of natural history and preservation of the natural environment.

Rod has been a member of HFNC since 1973. During these 45 years he has held the following official positions:

President for two terms (1974-1976 & 1988-1992)

Vice-President (1978-1982, 1985-1987 & 2000)

Correspondence Secretary continually from 2009.

These official positions give only a very partial indication of the contribution that Rod has made to the activities and functioning of the Club. Rod is a strongly focused environmentalist whose determination and passion have driven many of the Club's projects. His dedication to the natural environment was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 2009 when he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal.

He was influenced by his early association with Lionel Elmore, Cliff Beaglehole and Murray Gunn and he has continued with their commitment to documenting features of the natural environment. He has conducted flora surveys of many areas including along the Wannon River, Fulham Streamside Reserve, Kanawalla Flora Reserve and the Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Reserve. He has also undertaken mammal and bird surveys of many areas including Mt. Napier and the Lake Linlithgow complex, the annual Birdlife Australia Shorebird 2020 surveys at Killarney, Hamilton and Willaura wetlands, and Red-tail Black-cockatoo surveys.

Rod has researched and written many, if not most, of the Club's submissions on a wide range of issues. Prominent amongst those are the Regional Forests Agreement and the Land Conservation Council investigations of the 1970's and 1980's.

He has represented the Club on many committees, panels and boards. Of note is his involvement with the Budj Bim/Lake Condah aboriginal projects. It should be said that Rod has had a keen interest in aboriginal matters, both historical and current.

He has entertained and informed members and visitors with his Special Presentations both at the club and as a guest of other organisations. These talks demonstrate Rod's breadth of interests. They range from specific topics (his talks on birds usually fill the room), current issues and his many travels to interesting places, often alongside Diane.

He has organised many excursions, special events and campouts always with a wealth of prior research and preparation.

He is almost solely responsible for providing material for the Club's web page. Indeed some of the most valuable items on the web page are Rod's publications which he has most generously allowed to be shared with the general public, researchers and students.

Rod's dedication and persistence is nowhere more evident than his approach to weed control. He is the major driver in the control of Cape Tulip, Sparaxis, Disa bracteata, Oxalis purpurea, Wild Gladiolus, Bridal Creeper, Fumaria, Clingers and Phalaris at Fulham, Nigretta, Wannon & Kanawalla.

His work with the Department (under its various names) involved propagating of native plants and organising revegetation on farms. He extended these activities to the Club with major plantings of local native species at the Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve, Lake Linlithgow and, more recently, Kanawalla Flora Reserve.

Rod has been called upon to advise the local government and GHCMA on a variety of environmental issues.

In recent years Rod has undertaken the onerous position of Honorary Secretary with his usual dedication, attention to detail and application. It would be true to say that the Club would not function at anywhere near its current level without this man.

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