

HFNC excursion 21-07-2012 – Mt Abrupt walk across recent landslips to summit.

Present: John and Glenys Cayley, Julia Schlapp, Richard Alexander, Ken Grimes, Ross Simpson, Jane Hayes and Diane Luhrs (joined later).

Most of the group met at the Hamilton Visitor Information Centre and travelled via Dunkeld (Richard and Julia joined the group here) to the carpark at the foot of Mt Abrupt. The weather was overcast and only occasional glimpses of the wider landscape were enjoyed. When the clouds did lift during the walk, views of the extensive wetlands were seen both east and west of the range.

Flowers in bloom included a number of heaths (Pine, Golden, Flame, and Epacris), Calytrix sp., Hibbertia sp., Hakea sp., Grampians Thryptomene, Smokebush (Conospermum sp.) and the Flame Grevillea. Birds seen and/or heard included Brown Thornbill, White-browed Scrubwren, Crimson Rosella, White-throated Treecreeper, Eastern Spinebills (pair), New Holland Honeyeaters (many), Grey Shrike-thrush and a possible sighting of the Olive Whistler (by Diane on lower section of the walk near the first landslip area). A robin's red and white feather was also seen on the track. Fungi, mosses and lichens also were in abundance along the wet track on rocks and tree-trunks.

The group appreciated the restoration works done by Parks Vic to re-instate the walking track to the summit.

