

HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

NEWSLETTER No 3 - 1997

Hello Everyone!

This is a brief newsletter to let you know about previous excursions, correct a couple of mistakes in the program of events for 1997 ('Oh no, not more!' I hear you cry), and inform you about a speaker for our November meeting for you to add to the program.

First of all the corrections: The next excursion is (Claude Austen Reserve) Sunday September 21; and next month's excursion (Tower Hill: Grampians) is on Saturday October 18.

Now the new speaker. Eddie Muelman has just submitted his thesis on his study of the Grampians Heath Mouse, and has agreed to bring us up to date with his findings on Thursday November 20 (Yes, the date has been checked).

The search for Orange-bellied parrots in the discovery Bay area in July proved to be fruitless, however we all (about 10 of us) had a good time except perhaps for poor Dave who had a painful encounter with a charging kangaroo.



The trip to Hattah only attracted 3 starters (Rod, Glenys and John), and we are pleased to report that we had a great time. Highlights were the number and variety of birds of prey seen going up there (21) and coming home again (31); also the stunning sunset at Lake Mournpall on Friday evening, and the peace and quiet (we had the place pretty-well to ourselves). The bird-life in this Mallee area was also spectacular and varied. About 30 species were seen including Mallee Ring-neck parrots, Yellow Rosellas, cheeky Blue-faced Honey-eaters, Pelicans and White-bellied Sea-eagles. There was a lack of wild-flowers due to the dry conditions.

We have had an invitation from the Casterton Field Nats to a one-day orchid trip on Sunday October 19. If interested, we are to meet them at 10.00 am at the Myaring Bridge picnic area (approached from the Casterton-Mt Gambier road). We need to 'RSVP' by October 14 to their secretary, Carol McKinnon (phone 03-5581 1957).

Two things in conclusion: don't forget to come and hear about Jerry Chin and Roger Thompson's Tasmanian adventures (or mis-adventures!) next Thursday, and please give some thought to this year's Christmas Picnic.

Cheers for now,

Sheep.