



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

NEWSLETTER March 1998

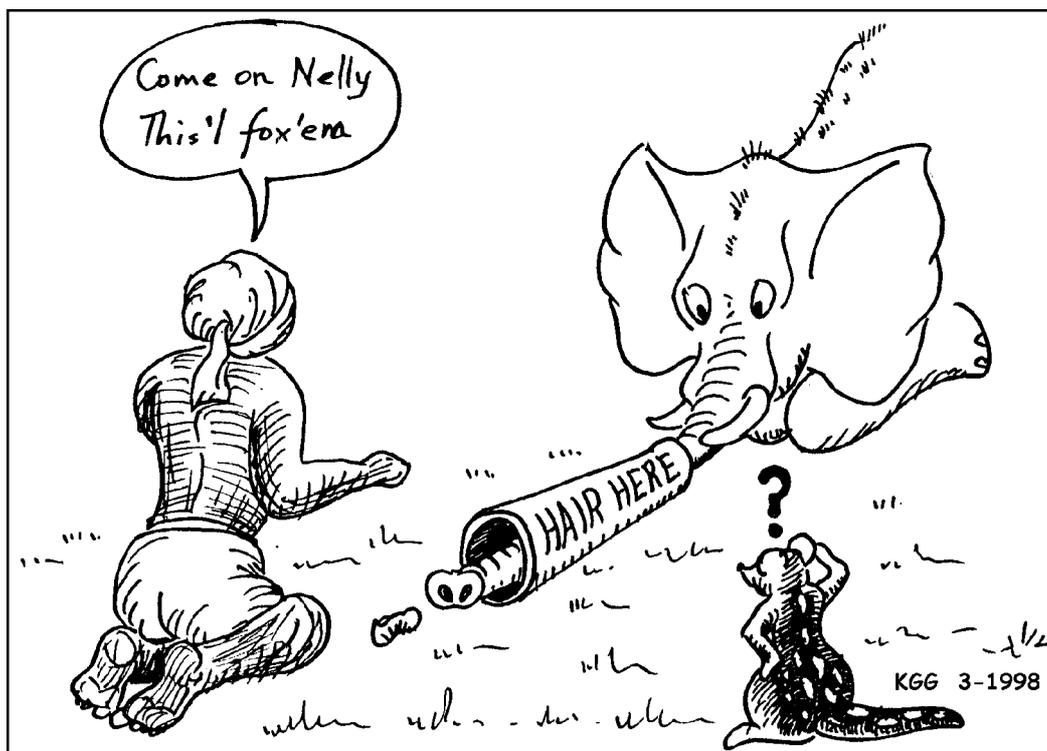
COMMITTEE TOPPLED AFTER HARD-FOUGHT CONTEST:

Bitter factional wrangling - blood on the ballot boxes.

No, as you will have guessed, this was *not* the scene at the Field Nats' AGM on 19 February. Nevertheless, after a minimum of arm-twisting, there was some reshuffling of positions and the appearance of two new faces (with bodies attached) on the committee for 1998. Dave Munro is our new President; John Cayley, our past President, is now Vice-President; Janeen Samuel is Secretary and Ken Grimes is continuing as Treasurer as he didn't want anyone else looking at the books. In addition, we have created a new committee position, Publicity Officer: Yvonne Ingeme, who will be liaising with the "Spectator" (and "The Age", "Time", "Paris Match", "Pravda") about interesting events, forthcoming speakers, trips etc. Glenys Cayley, who has been doing a sterling job as secretary and newsletter producer for the last two years, will be having a well-earned respite from the committee.

MEETING: 19th March

The first Special Meeting of the year will be on 19 March. Craig Reid will speak on "*The Return of the Shadow*". Craig is a Grampians National Park Ranger and is involved with monitoring the endangered Brush-Tailed Rock Wallaby in the Victoria Range. On Saturday 21 March we will have an excursion to learn about hair-tube trapping for the tiger quoll, in conjunction with the Friends of the Grampians. The site is the airstrip on Syphon Road in the Victoria Valley, commencing at 11 am. People travelling from Hamilton can meet at the Tourist Office at 9 am. There will be an opportunity for walking in the area as well as learning about the hair-tube trapping.



PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR

The attached program gives our plans for the rest of 1998. Some of the plans are not fully finalised at this stage, so it is advisable to read the latest newsletter and/or look in the "Spec" and/or check with a committee member for details of times and dates. Don't rely on our new Publicity Officer to do all the work; please tell your friends and workmates about any forthcoming event that might interest them. We always meet for excursions at the Tourist Office, so people who don't have cars (or don't have reliable cars) can arrange to get lifts.

Of course if you want to receive the Newsletters you will need to renew your membership for 1998. Unlike the health insurers, we have held our fees at last year's rates: \$15 for a single person and \$20 for a family. Please fill in the form below and either send it and a cheque to the address indicated, or bring the money to the treasurer, Ken Grimes, at the next meeting or excursion.

LAKE LINLITHGOW

Our first excursion for the year was as usual a morning trip to Lake Linlithgow to count birds. It is interesting to see the variation from year to year; this year there were few ducks but large numbers of swans and also several pelicans. The ducks seen were mostly Australian shelduck ("mountain ducks"). No doubt the birds find it interesting to watch the variation in the Field Nats that turn up from year to year; the Rod-Bird is almost always present, but the others are less predictable. This year there was even a migratory individual from Japan. After the count, some of us went to inspect the roadside site (Forest Lane) where spoil was dumped a year ago on an area of native grassland. After representations from our club, and inspection of the site by Shire representatives, the spoil has been moved. The area has been scraped smooth, so that with luck most seeds of weed species will have been removed, and it is hoped that the native species will recolonise from the adjacent land. Full marks to the Shire for being willing to discuss the matter and rectify a mistake.

HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB
PO Box 591, HAMILTON, Vic 3300.
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name:

Address:

Phone home:

Phone work:

Annual fee is due at the start of each year: *Single \$15,* *Family \$20.*