

2015-03-hfnc-activities-events

Hi everyone

I have attached the **HFNC program for 2015**, a reminder that our **membership subs** are now due, and a report on our **first excursion for 2015** which was notable for the sighting of 45 Brolga at Lake Bullrush.

The attached membership form shows payment options (there is no need to fill in and post the form if the electronic banking option is used).

Our first Speaker for the year will be Mark Bachmann from Nature Glenelg Trust (Thursday 19 March at 7.30 pm, HIRL) – ‘Restoring drained wetlands in the SW’

Mark is a biologist who is interested in the natural and social history of places. He and his group have been instrumental in restoring several wetlands in the region, including Gooseneck Swamp, Bradys Swamp, Walkers Swamp and Green Swamp. He began with several wetlands in the lower SE of SA, including Pics Swamp on the coast. HFNC members assisted last year with the sandbagging of Gooseneck and Bradys Swamp, works that were needed to establish the efficacy of the works and that there would be no undesirable impacts resulting. Mark will show pictures of historical wetland extent, the current situation and works that have been carried out. His topic was presented at a SWIFFT tele-meeting late last year and was applauded by all who saw it. As you know, we have ‘lost’ more than 50% of our wetlands and the drying of the climate threatens many of those that remain. We need to restore as many as we can in order to conserve the wildlife of our wetlands.

The excursion on Sat 21 March will be to Mt Napier State Park (9 am from Hamilton Visitor Centre) – we will be setting up remote cameras in an effort to detect some small mammals, including Brush-tailed Phascogale, Sugar Gliders, Yellow-bellied Glider, Ring-tailed Possum, Yellow-footed Antechinus, Agile Antechinus and whatever else that might be interested in our gear. Note that leeches are now found in the forest, so be prepared for them (one deterrent, which I have NOT tested, is to soak your soaks in very salty water and dry them before wearing – hmmm!)

This year we will be having a **campout to the western part of the Little Desert (Fri 18 – Sun 20 September)** – we will be staying at the **Little Desert Nature Lodge** (once Wimpeys) and the options are camping (\$25 a night) or ensuite rooms (\$125 a night). Unfortunately the Bunk Rooms have been booked out by Keilor Plains APS.

Members wishing to attend will need to contact the Lodge and make a booking (53915232 or info@littledesertlodge.com.au). The wildflowers should be good at that time and the area to the west is a part of the Little Desert that most of us have not visited. Some of us will arrive on Friday about noon. We will stay 2 nights and leave Sunday morning for Douglas, where we plan to meet Euan Moore (if he is available) who will show us his Jilpanger bush block. If Euan cannot make it we will have a look at the Flora Reserve. Any day trippers from Hamilton can join us at Douglas, at 10 am, for this part of the weekend.

Cheers
Rod

Secretary
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club