

## **2015-11-HFNC-activities-events**

Hi everyone

**Special Presentation, Thursday 19 Nov. (7.30 pm) at HIRL – Euan Moore** is our guest speaker and his topic will be 'Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)'.

IBAs are part of a global program run by BirdLife International. To protect birds it is also necessary to protect their habitat and that means other threatened species also received protection.

BirdLife groups in most countries have identified more than 12,000 IBAs for their birds, on land and sea. Most of the work is community-based, by volunteers or employees of local NGOs, usually BirdLife affiliates.

In Australia, there are 314 land-based IBAs as well as some marine IBAs in the Tasman and Coral Seas. There are currently 37 IBAs in Victoria, including Lawrence Rocks near Portland and the Natimuk-Douglas Lake System.

Euan will cover the IBA program and Victoria's IBAs. He is BirdLife Australia's IBA Champion for Victoria, a volunteer job working with local groups with their IBAs.

Euan will describe ways that community groups can monitor birds in IBAs and assist with the management of these important areas.

**Excursion on Sat 21 November is to Bear State Forest** (on Hallams Rd, off East-West Rd, Moralla)

We will inspect 10 nest boxes to see what animals have occupied them since we last looked a year ago. We leave from the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9 am. Those who attend can spend an hour or two or stay to the finish at about 2 pm. We will take a picnic lunch and hope to enjoy a fine display of Blue Pincushions (*Brunonia australis*) along the way.

### **African Weed Orchid cull at Nigretta Flora Reserve**

You can see the results of this work in the attachment. In brief, the infestation this year was only half that in each of the previous years, so we may be making progress. Our herbicide project has also shown that the chemicals are killing the corms as well as the tops of the AWO.

**Report of excursion to Claude Austin State Forest in October** – see the attachment

Cheers

Rod Bird