

2016-09-HFNC-activities-events

Hi everyone

First, some may not know that Ken Grimes, one of HFNC's long-serving and dedicated members, died in a tragic accident last month. We were devastated by Ken's untimely passing and so we were not able to run our General Meeting and Excursion in August. We will circulate a detailed tribute to Ken in a future email. Ken was a geologist who specialized in karst systems and volcanics. He had a national profile and was well known and respected by his colleagues across Australia. Ken was an enthusiastic member of our group and contributed much to our tree-planting and weed removal projects as well as attending almost all of our excursions, where he added a geological insight to the trips. Ken was also artistic and computer savvy and contributed much to our web site construction and content. You will see Ken's wonderful sketches there and read his articles on landscape and geology. We will sadly miss his quiet, learned presence, and the expertise he gave so willingly to our group and other organisations.

Upcoming events for September:

Fulham working B Sat 10 September – due to the heavy rain this week we will not be going there (herbicide-wiping Cape Tulips) on this date. Some of us will try again during the next 2 weeks, when (if) there is some fine weather. There will be another Club working B there on Sat 24 September (meet at the river at 10 am – bring lunch, gloves and wear old clothes!). Please consider helping, even if you can only spare a few hours. This year we will be restricting the area that we will cover – basically the western side from the entry track. It will be our 11th year of work at the reserve.

Special presentation 7.30 pm at HIRL Thursday 15 Sept – Peter Cunningham will be addressing the topic of “Bushfood development by Indigenous Communities”

Peter has recently completed a study on the feasibility of developing the bush food industry with indigenous communities in Victoria. Peter says that bush foods, (also known as Bush Tucker), consist of a wide variety of native plant foods including greens, herbs, spices, nuts and seeds. They have been known and used by indigenous people for thousands of years. Although they have been gradually introduced to mainstream menus over recent years they are still considered as “exotic” by many. Peter's study has identified steps which could see the commercial development of the bush food industry with particular focus on the involvement of indigenous communities. He has identified plants suitable for each of four regions in Victoria.

The study has taken Peter to many parts of Australia where he has visited nurseries, communities and individuals with specialised knowledge of his area of interest. He has taken part in seminars aimed at broadening the knowledge of native food plants and investigating the possibilities for future development.

Peter has a background in agronomy and worked locally at the Pastoral and Veterinary Institute for some years. His life took a new turn when he moved to Africa and joined World Vision. There he studied, amongst other things, the development of edible Acacia seed as a food resource within indigenous communities. He is a world authority on this subject and has presented at several international seminars.

Excursion to Western Block of Little Desert National Park – campout from Friday 16-Sunday 18 September. Some of us will be camping at Nature Glenelg's “Eaglehawk” bush property near Frances. A couple may arrive Friday afternoon. Others may decide to join us for the day on either Saturday or Sunday. We hope to be able to investigate the wildflowers of the western block of the Little Desert NP, an area that is rather different from the central and eastern blocks. Broughton's Waterhole is in that sector. Those who can attend should contact me (55723639 or email to rod.bird@bigpond.com) nearer the date, to get directions to our camp and other information.

Four-wheel drive vehicles are usually needed in the Little Desert but will not be needed to get to the “Eaglehawk” camp. Getting bogged in the sands of the Little Desert can happen under dry conditions but that is most unlikely this season! Too much water may be a problem for the entry to Broughton’s Waterhole from the western road but there are other entry points.

Cheers

Rod Bird

Secretary

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club