

2017-10-HFNC-activities-events

Hi everyone

This **October HFNC activities** reminder email is a little earlier than usual, on account of 2 matters:

- **Nigretta Flora Reserve working B** – this was scheduled for Saturday 14 but will now be held on SUNDAY 15 October. It would be good if members can help to herbicide-wipe the African Weed Orchids (AWO). This is usually a huge job, requiring more visits, if only a few people turn up. We will leave from the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9 am. It is expected that the river may be too high to cross at the Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve (above the falls) so we will probably get access to the reserve through private property off Youngs Rd, north of Four Posts. Some of us will be on site all day so please attend if you have a few spare hours. Just bring gloves and your lunch and water bottle – if it is too wet to work we shall do a plant walk through this magnificent wildflower area.
- **Southern Grampians Shire Council Harmans Valley Landscape Overlay** – comments on this are due by 20 October. It would be helpful if individuals could support the proposed amendment to protect the volcanic features of the lava flow. I have attached 2 pdfs that will give you the information you need, plus one pdf that you can print off, write on and submit as your submission of support.

Next Excursion – this will be to Wannon Rapids Flora Reserve on Sunday 22 October. We will leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9 am and travel to the Delahoy's farm at Balintubber, where Darryl will meet us and take us across to the reserve. There is no easy public access. This is another magnificent local flora reserve which has spectacular rapids. We had planned to visit last year but the paddocks were too wet to permit crossing. Bring your lunch.

Report of previous excursions – a report of the Cape Otway weekend camp is attached, for those who would like to see what we saw and how we fared (lots of photos, so apologies for overloading your internet system).

Report of working B at Fulham Streamside Reserve – we had 4 members present on Saturday 30 September and worked on the NW end of the reserve (chiefly west of the access track). We made 4 more visits since then, with a total of 91 hours of work done so far in treating Cape Tulip, Sparaxis, Wild Gladiolus, AWO & Bridal Creeper on the far western block. We estimated that well over 100,000 plants were treated.

On a visit over the AFL Grand Final weekend we witnessed hoons driving repeatedly over the wet heathland and one lot using a chain saw to cut down 2 large live Red Gums, then cutting the trunks into blocks to load into a trailer. It was blatant and very disheartening. Unless PV can exert some control in this reserve then our efforts to protect the wonderful flora there seems futile. We are awaiting some response from PV.

Follow-up working B at Nigretta Flora Reserve - Saturday 28 October – leaving Hamilton at 9 am as previously, except we will probably be able to cross the river at Nigretta Scenic Reserve. Please make an effort to attend, even if only for a few hours.

Cheers
Rod

Secretary
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club