

2017-11-HFNC-activities-events

Hi everyone

Special Meeting Thursday 16 Nov (7.30 pm at HIRL)

- Mark Bachmann from Nature Glenelg Trust will take a few minutes to brief members on an exciting development in a wetland restoration project planned for the Hamilton region.
- Reto Zollinger & Yvonne Ingeme will then address the meeting on the topic of “**Nature in New Zealand and Switzerland**”

Despite being half a world apart the Swiss Alps and the mountains of New Zealand are very similar landscapes of towering, snow clad mountains, lakes and glaciers. These impressive landscapes will be a feature of the evening. The alpine wildflowers of Europe will be contrasted with the antipodean vegetation of NZ. Also on show will be birds like the Yellow-eyed Penguin and Kiwi of NZ as well as the White Stork of Switzerland.

Reto and Yvonne have explored much of the Swiss countryside and have visited many of the lesser known natural places, many of which are easily accessed by public transport. They will be sharing this information at the meeting.

HFNC Excursion to Nigretta Falls Reserve on Sat. 18 November(meet at Lonsdale St Visitors centre at 9.00 am or at Nigretta Falls at 9 30 am or later).

The excursion will combine an exploration of the Scenic Reserve and/or Flora Reserve with a working bee to remove African Weed Orchids. Members who are able to cross the rocks above the falls will visit the Flora Reserve, where many wildflowers are still in bloom. Peter Hocking will manage the transit.

The aim there will be to take a leisurely stroll over the reserve to look at the flora and to dig up any African Weed Orchids (AWO) that are seen. We have spent 2 days there earlier, herbicide-wiping AWO, but inevitably you will find some that were missed – those are the only ones to be removed. A stout screwdriver is the best tool for extracting the plants with tubers intact. The plants and methods will be demonstrated. A count will be made of plants dug up so please leave the bags with Peter when finished.

Members who do not wish to cross the river will conduct a search for flora and AWO on the Scenic Reserve. Roger Thompson has been digging up the plants over many years and will welcome that assistance – but please keep a count of plants dug up on that reserve so that Roger can add it to the list!

HFNC inspection of fauna nest boxes at Bear State Forest on Sat. 25 November (NOTE change of date!!) – meet at the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am.

The aim is to conduct the annual check of any occupants in the 10 nest boxes that we installed at 5 sites several years ago. Reto and Peter will be in charge of this excursion. It will probably run until 1 or 2 pm.

Portland FNC Glenelg River Cruise Sunday 26 November – meet at Estuary car park at 10 45 am (for the bird watchers) or the landing in Nelson at 3.30 pm for the River Cruise.

We have been invited to this end-of-year function and several members who were intending to go to Bear wished to go (hence the change to our program for Bear). Ruth Graney provided the following information:

- Options are a smorgasbord meal or a barbecue – please send an email to Ruth (irgraney@bigpond.com) if you can come and your meal preference. Both options have a three-hour cruise.
- Cruise + Smorgasbord is \$52.00 pp (children over 5yrs half price)
- Cruise + Barbecue is \$54.00 pp (same deal for children) barbecue is cooked on the boat.
- Estimated time of return to Nelson is 7.00 pm
- This is a charter cruise, please make payment to Portland Field Naturalists Club **by November 22nd**. Provide your name and 'Glenelg Cruise' when paying into the Bendigo Bank. BSB: 633 000, Ac. No. 153451513, Acc. Title: Portland Field Naturalists' Club.

Cheers

Rod
Secretary
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club