

## 2018-02-HFNC-activities-events

Hi everyone

Welcome to HFNC 2018 and our first notice of forthcoming events.

First, geologist Professor Ray Cas will be coming to Hamilton to be an expert witness for HFNC in the **public hearing of Southern Grampians Planning Scheme Amendment C36**, which aims to apply a Permanent Significant Landscape Overlay to the Harmans Valley volcanic landscape. That Overlay aims to protect of the tumuli adjacent to Old Crusher Rd, the rock formations and the view from the present Lookout on Pt Fairy Rd, and the other rock formations in the lava flow. That hearing will occur on 6 & 7 March. Janeen Samuel will be presenting the geological case for HFNC, with Ray Cas offering expert opinion. HFNC President, Diane Luhrs, will also be appearing to provide further support.

Second, HFNC is organising a **dinner with Ray Cas at the Botanical on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, at 7 pm**. Janeen has made a booking for 12 at this stage - 9 HFNC plus Ray Cas plus 2 possible outsiders. Would anyone who would like to attend please let Janeen know by 1st March at the latest.

Third, Professor Cas will be presenting a free **public lecture on Tuesday 6 March, 8 pm** at HIRL. His topic will be *Origin & history of the still active Volcanic Province of western Victoria*. All are welcome to attend. Some background to the presentation and Ray is given below:

Is Hamilton vulnerable to volcanic activity? Could south west Victoria be at risk of severe damage and disruption due to an unforeseen volcanic event? Is Mt Napier an extinct volcano?

Dr Cas has contributed significantly to the understanding of volcanic activity within the continental plates. Historically, research has concentrated on volcanic activity at or near the edges of tectonic plates but Dr Cas has been researching the formation of volcanos that occur within the boundaries of tectonic plates, such as those in south-west Victoria. His discoveries challenge previously held views on the origins of these geological features. It was once thought that volcanic activity locally had ceased but Professor Cas has produced evidence which indicates that the province is still active.

Although Dr Cas is highly regarded internationally as a vulcanologist he has, over his long career, studied a wide range of subjects. They include interpretation of ancient climates; the formation of coal deposits and sequences of sediments of very ancient rocks. He has taught and supervised hundreds of students and introduced them to an understanding of the geology of Victoria. Many of his former students have gone on to successful careers in geology. His work was recognised by the Geological Society of Victoria in 1998 when he was awarded the prestigious Selwyn Medal.

Fourth, attached you will find our **HFNC Program of Events for 2018**.

Rod Bird  
Secretary,  
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club