

2018-09-HFNC-activities-events

Special Meeting Thursday 20 September (7.30 pm at HIRL) – Speakers will be Diane Luhrs & Rod Bird on *East Arnhem Land – its natural history and people*

Diane and Rod took a 13-day trip with Outback Spirit through eastern Arnhem land, into places not accessible by private transport – from Nhulunbuy to Darwin with camps at Murwangi, Barramundi Lodge, Mount Borradaile and on the Cobourg Peninsula.

The presentation will include descriptions of the landscapes visited, associated geology, flora and fauna and meetings with the local Indigenous people and the sharing of arts, crafts and cultures and of the political struggles they have engaged in. Diane was interested in the techniques of basketry and attempted to prepare plant material for weaving – she found that the local women had skills that far surpassed hers. Rod tried his hand at fishing for barramundi – with little luck. The good-sized trevalli caught within a few minutes of casting his line was thrown back by the fishing guide!

The highlights of the trip were visits to Yirrkala, Ramingining and Maningrida cultural centres and to have two days to explore the rock art sites at Davidson's near Mt Borradaile – a former buffalo hunting lodge. Here were magnificent galleries of Aboriginal paintings from thousands of years old to as recent as the last century, often in layers upon layers, and a guide pointed out the significance of many of the works.

Excursion on Saturday 22 September – this will be to flora reserves in the Ararat area. We will leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9 am and meet at 10.30 am near the Town Hall in Ararat. Our members in Ararat will then lead us to the flora reserves.

Working Bee at Fulham on Sunday 23 September – we have a scheduled a Cape Tulip eradication day on the Fulham Streamside Reserve. We will herbicide-wipe the Cape Tulip plants (an easy task with our gear). It is necessary to begin early in spring before the plants flower. We will meet at 10 am at the bend in the river about 300 m north of the track to the old Railway Bridge. All equipment will be provided but you might prefer to bring rubber gloves.

Peter Hocking and I attended our first scheduled working bee there on Sunday 9 September and found the task much easier than in previous years. We managed to treat all of the southern 500 m section of the western part of the reserve, about one quarter of the total area west of the entry track off Edgewood Rd.

Walker Swamp launch hosted by Nature Glenelg Trust on Sunday 23 September – I hope those who are unable to help at Fulham will consider attending this event that celebrates the acquisition of the second 500 acres of land for the Walker Swamp restoration project. It is a project that we have supported from the outset.

The day will begin at 10.30 am. In the morning NGT staff will host a range of activities for attendees of all ages (guided birdwatching, bushwalking, waterbug catching....)

This event will give you a fantastic opportunity to learn about and experience up-close, what the Walker Swamp project is all about, including how NGT will begin to restore 1000 acres of floodplain wetlands.

NGT will be providing a free BBQ lunch so it is necessary to confirm numbers attending. Please register on the NGT website (where more details are given) or contact Mark directly on mark.bachmann@natureglenelg.org.au

Cheers

Rod Bird