

2018-10-HFNC-activities-events

Hamilton Field Naturalists has a number of activities listed for October.

1. Sunday 14th October – First up and before our monthly meeting is the first of our annual weeding excursions at the Nigretta Flora Reserve. As many people who can help on this day would be much appreciated – for any amount of time. We will meet at 9 am at the Hamilton Visitor Information Centre and travel in convoy to Nigretta. We will have to make an assessment closer to the actual date to determine whether we need to enter from the north through private property (with permission, of course) if the river is too high to cross, or we will park near the bend of the Wannon in the Nigretta Reserve and cross the river if it is low enough for us to cross.
 - a. BYO food and drinks for however long you can stay.
 - b. Wear clothing appropriate to the day – sun hat, insect repellent, boots (snakes are already on the move in the district) and kitchen rubber gloves to protect hands from herbicide. (We use our specially adapted tongs to wipe the weeds individually – HFNC supplies tongs, herbicide and bottles for carrying the herbicide.) For members who would like to help but prefer not to use herbicide – you can help by bringing a very long screwdriver to dig out individual plants – something to kneel on would be more comfortable than kneeling on the ground if this is how you would like to help.
 - c. This place is a delightful place to visit and to work as the orchids are usually on show and the views across the top of the falls are beautiful.
2. Thursday 18th October – 7.30 pm at HIRL - Our club's business meeting. All members are welcome to participate in this meeting.
3. Sunday 21st October – Whole day excursion to Wartook Reservoir, Grampians to enjoy the spring wildflowers of the area. David Munro will be the leader on this day.
 - a. BYO food, drinks and chair for lunch.
 - b. Dress according to the day – with good walking shoes and a hat.
4. Saturday 27th October – note this is different from an early print of the HFNC calendar of events where the date incorrectly reads Saturday 28th October). Our second Working Bee at Nigretta Flora Reserve to mop up and African Weed Orchids missed the first time around. Meet at the Hamilton Visitor Information Centre at 9 am and travel in convoy to the reserve.
 - a. BYO food and drinks for however long you can stay.
 - b. Wear clothing appropriate to the day – sunhat, insect repellent, boots (snakes are already on the move in the district) and kitchen rubber gloves to protect hands from herbicide. (We use our specially adapted tongs to wipe the weeds individually – HFNC supplies tongs, herbicide and bottles for carrying the herbicide.) For members who would like to help but prefer not to use herbicide – you can help by bringing a very long screwdriver to dig out individual plants – something to kneel on would be more comfortable than kneeling on the ground if this is how you would like to help.

And early in November, November 3rd at Balmoral, Martin Rowe of the Balmoral Landcare Group is organising a follow-up on last year's successful plant identification day and has asked HFNC for any members who may be able to assist or who would like to participate in this event to keep this day free. More details will follow closer to the date.

Looking forward to seeing you out and about on our HFNC spring activities

Diane Luhrs
HFNC President