

2019-04-HFNC-activities-events

Hello friends and members of HFNC

This is a reminder of events remaining for us in April – and a mention of events past:

General Meeting of HFNC – this is on Thursday 18 April, 7.30 pm at HIRL. This is our usual business meeting – held alternate months on Thursdays – and this year we will be meeting in the small meeting room near the main hall. Our Special Meetings will still be held in the Bandicoot Room.

Excursion – to the Urimbirra Cooperative at their Little Desert holding. This is on the ANZAC day weekend of **26-27 April** (note that it is a week later than our usual excursions).

Some of us will camp at the Bill's Gully Hall campsite and will leave some time Friday 26th April morning, to arrive early afternoon. That will give us at least one full day with the Urimbirra Cooperative on Saturday. Would anyone like to travel in convoy with Diane & Rod? For others interested in attending could you please email Diane so that she can pass numbers and names on to Alex at Urimbirra.



DIRECTIONS:

- Melbourne to Bills Gully Hall 430km via Western Hwy
- Drive 28km from Nhill and turn left on to Miram South Road; travel a further 5km south down Miram South Rd and then left on to Bills Bully Rd. Bills Gully Hall and the entrance are 900m on the left.
- Nhill is a 34km drive and Kaniva 18km from the Hall

ACCOMMODATION:

- **Camping**
 - Bills Gully Hall:
 - Pit toilets; wood BBQ; hall has kitchen with water tank, fridge, kettle & oven
- **Motels**
 - Little Desert Nature Lodge (16km south of Nhill)
 - Kaniva Colonial Gardens Motel
- **Shopping**
 - Nhill IGA
 - Kaniva General Store
 - Horsham Aldi, Coles, Woolies; Camping gear
 - Fuel: Kaniva, Nhill, Dimboola



Either BYO tent and camping gear (and \$15/camp/night) OR book accommodation in motel/hotel/Airbnb Nhill or Kaniva – but remember to bring food etc AND suitable clothing for the weather. A 4X4 drive vehicle is not required to get to the camp. However, some 4WDs will be needed for the excursion into the Little Desert – sharing may be needed.

Report on Nature Glenelg Trust's Walkers Swamp sandbagging of the drain – a good team of volunteers turned up on Wednesday and Thursday to help NGT accomplish the essential task of eventually lifting the water level in the swamp by 0.5 m, sufficient to restore it to its former capacity. Three members of HFNC attended and, together with a dozen or so other workers, managed to fill 4,000 sandbags and have them stacked across the drain by about lunch time Thursday (photo attached). NGT and local helpers had more to do later in collecting and placing rocks on the lee side of the 'spillway', to prevent any flood from washing back under the sandbags. Watch the water rise! (hopefully this winter).

Report of HFNC excursion to Griffith Island, Port Fairy on Saturday 23 March – 7 members enjoyed a pleasant relaxing Saturday walking around Griffith Island, birdwatching and looking into the tidal pools to see what life was evident there (see attached report). Diane Luhrs led the little excursion which was attended by about 25 members of the South Eastern Australia Naturalists Association (SEANA). Some of us also attended the SEANA dinner at East Beach that evening.

The passing of Doug Phillips of Portland FNC – Doug was a good friend to HFNC and a fine person. He died on the 7 March 2019 at the age of 62 and his funeral on 28 March was attended by hundreds of people. Some of you would not know how involved he was with environmental matters, particularly concerning the forests. The people of Victoria owe Doug a huge debt because without his constant but respectful meetings with politicians we would not have the Cobboboonee National Park. It would still be a State Forest to be razed by a clear-falling practice that our threatened species of wildlife cannot cope with.

Cheers
Rod Bird