

## Hamilton Field Naturalists Club activities & events in November 2019

Hello Friends & Members of HFNC

This is a reminder of what is on for HFNC in November 2019 and two club reports.

**Special Meeting Friday 22 Nov 2019 – Speaker Prof. Liz Reed – ‘Vertebrate palaeontology & Naracoorte Caves’.** Please note – the venue for this meeting is the Blue Malt Restaurant in Grey St. The meeting will begin at 7.30 pm. Those who wish to join us there at 6 pm for dinner before the presentation need to notify Diane on either 55723874 or email ([diane.luhrs@bigpond.com](mailto:diane.luhrs@bigpond.com)) by this Fri evening 15 Nov.

Liz Reed from Adelaide University has made the Naracoorte Caves the main focus of her research over recent years. Her interest in caves extends to conservation, heritage, management and tourism. One aspect of her work has been to use the bones and the surrounding soil to build up a picture of previous ecosystems and climates. The fossil record provides a means for understanding long-term biodiversity responses to change. The work has involved many hours examining the bones by using photographs, measurements and drawings before they are excavated. This is then followed by extensive lab work.

Liz has previously worked as a site interpreter in the Naracoorte Caves and has been involved in staff training, developing interpretive materials and organising special events there. She has contributed to several periodicals and books and taught students at universities. We are fortunate to have her here.

**Bear Fauna nest Box inspection/Excursion on Sat & Sun 23-24 Nov** – on Saturday we leave Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.30 am, proceeding to East-West Rd at Mooralla and then west to Hallams Rd into Bear State Forest. Those who might be late can catch up along the track where we will be inspecting fauna nest boxes (take the left fork in Hallams Rd about 1 km from EW Rd – the other way takes you around the eastern side of Bear).

On Sunday we aim to take a hike across the woodland, starting from Hallams Track at about 9.30 am. Some of us may decide to bush camp at Bear on Saturday night but others may arrive on Sunday morning. We will meet at the sign on Hallams Rd where the track bends away from the paddock boundary on the south and crosses Bear SF. Don't be put off by rain! Bring lunch.

**Working Bee Saturday 30 Nov. at Nigretta Flora Reserve** – rain has disrupted our work at Nigretta this spring, with our Sat 26 Oct. trip to herbicide-wipe African Weed Orchid having to be cancelled. A few of us managed other visits and our AWO total is now about 6,800. However some large AWO remain and some are still emerging, so we need another visit to either dig out plants or just pull off the seed heads, it being too late to poison the plants. We also have a problem with ‘Clingers’ (*Galium* sp.) and *Fumaria* weed infesting clumps of Tree Violet. We will meet at the Nigretta Swimming Hole area at 9.15 am and cross over the rocks. Take gaiters to protect socks/ankles from Bidgee spines. A stout screwdriver is useful for digging up AWO tubers.

**Report of Excursion on Sunday 20 Oct. to Woolpooer State Forest** – see attachment – this was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to our expert guide, Roger Edwards.

**Report on working bees at Fulham Streamside Reserve in Sept-Oct 2019** – see attachment – the work at Fulham does not get any easier. Over several visits (108 hours) we probably herbicide-wiped about 49,000 Cape Tulip, Sparaxis, Wild Gladiolus and some AWO on the western quarter and spot-sprayed many patches of Sparaxis and Cape Tulip. This was our 14th year there. Are we getting anywhere? Unfortunately, uncontrolled off-road hoon and wood cutter traffic also adds to the spread of the weeds.

Rod Bird

Secretary

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club