

Hello Members of HFNC

This is the HFNC's **April 2020 Newsletter**.

All meetings at HIRL and excursions – cancelled until further notice, due to Covid-19 control restrictions. We hope to have our speakers present in 2021. You will be aware that the Autumn 'camp' of SEANA has been postponed until April 2021.

Activities – we have been told that if we observe the rule of '2 people parties' we CAN still undertake our local activities at Kanawalla & Wannan. The situation with PV areas (e.g. Fulham Streamside Reserve) is uncertain – at present no voluntary work is permitted in areas PV control but that may change by September.

Wannan Flora Reserve – our program shows our first work there on **Saturday 02 May**. Since we have to ensure that we have only 2 people present at any one time, we will be seeking some roster of times (any days) when members can assist, to avoid conflicts. The task is simple – cut down any Hedge Wattle that is seen! The area that we are most concerned about now is the heath area nearest the Wannan-Nigretta Rd. The acacia has severely reduced ground flora species. There are thousands of small seedlings present around the reserve that can be cut off near ground level with heavy-duty loppers or small axe (or pulled out if very small). Some of us will tackle the large shrubs. Present indications from a trial last year is that no poisoning is needed, provided the cut is made below any live branch.

Nearer the date, for those who can help, please let me know when you can help at the reserve. I can sort any problems then, incl. timetable conflicts. This will be just a start on this thorny problem.

Kanawalla – I will soon be undertaking spraying for weed control around the trees planted in 2020. Hand-weeding in the guards has been done twice since planting. Guards to control wallabies and kangaroos have also been made and fitted over the 300-odd trees. The banksia and quite a few of the small bursaria and sheoak have also each been given about 5 L of water on each of two occasions. The first was in mid-January – I think that prevented a loss of about half of the banksias and some of the other species, many of which were badly scorched and stressed. The second watering was in early March and intended to 'hold the fort' until the autumn rains arrived. We have never had to water plants in the past. Hopefully our losses now will not exceed the usual 10% experienced without watering (but also with very good weed control).

We have a working bee scheduled for early July to replace plants lost, as well as a new planting of our local Manna Gum, Silver Banksia and Drooping Sheoak. We hope to have your assistance there. A good time, too, to see the results of planting in 2019.

Virtual Meetings – you will know that we are trying to conduct some meetings using Zoom, where you may stay at home and gaze at your PC screen. While this is not something most of us (including me) want to do, I am asking that you try and give it a go! Peter Hocking gave me some points on what to do, so I will try and interpret those and have set them out below. Good luck!

1. You need at least Windows 7 (or recent Apple), a microphone and speakers (or headset), a webcam (if you want to be seen) and a good internet connection.
2. If your PC connections are not up to it you could use a mobile phone, if that has access to the internet and your emails.
3. Turn on your PC and get online well before the advertised Session start time.
4. Locate the **email** that was sent to you inviting you to the meeting – it is the way in.
5. A few minutes before the meeting starts click on the '**Join Zoom Meeting**' **https tab** in that email.
6. When the screen appears, if the process does not happen automatically, just click on the '**Open URL: Zoom launcher**' tag – the Zoom App will then download to your Downloads Folder (no need to install the Zoom App previously).

7. Enter the Meeting ID (**400 330 504**) and Password (**030598**) for this session (they are in your email – e.g. see PS # below). The large Conference window will appear.
8. The session controller will admit you to the show in a few seconds.
9. You can ‘play’ with buttons along the base of the screen – can you be seen/heard? You can write text in the far right panel.
10. The Video button has to be ON.
11. You need to MUTE the microphone when you are NOT talking.

Excursion on Sat 21 March to Bridgewater Lakes and Discovery Bay – see attached pdf

Membership due. The annual subscription is due (\$20 single or \$25 for family membership).

Cheers,
Rod

PS #

Topic: HFNC BUSINESS MEETING

Time: Apr 16, 2020 07:30 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/400330504?pwd=OURtN3BHZWISb2NMUCtHN2VrV2pzUT09>

Meeting ID: 400 330 504

Password: 030598

Meeting via Zoom is scheduled for 40 minutes free time only. We will start the agenda promptly at 7.35 pm (allowing time for settling in) and not get side-tracked along the way.

If we have a quorum (5 members), then we can to vote on any necessary motions. If not, then voting forms will be sent via email.