

Hello Members of HFNC

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

You will be pleased to know that we can start to enjoy some activities again, following a partial lifting of restrictions with the Covid-19 epic.

So, if we limit our group (or groups) to 10 members we can conduct an excursion. We will not be able to conduct a club meeting yet, partly because HIRL is probably not available for some time.

Excursion on Sat. 23 May – Piccaninny Walk. We will leave the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.0 am. If there are more than 10 present then some will go forth to Dunkeld and meet with others there, to form a second group. If that is the case then we will have to keep the groups separate during the proceedings. The group leaving from Hamilton will stop at Dunkeld to check on proceedings.

Activities at Wannan Flora Reserve – we have conducted several days of work to remove *Acacia paradoxa* from parts of the reserve. Luckily, the Shire/CFA project at the Wannan Falls Scenic Reserve has been able to spare some funds to assist with the job. More than assist! The work crew have carefully removed an enormous amount of material from the West, North and East margins (extending in about 20m). That material is being chipped and removed from the site. The reserve is beginning to resemble that of the 1970s.

The 8 HFNC members who have spent time there have continued the job, working mostly on the southern side (Glenelg Highway) and eastern side. We have collectively spent 30 hours cutting down very large bushes as well as small seedlings. But there is much more to do before we can say that the special heath area on the entire eastern half is free from the pest.

We have another 'action day' at the Flora Reserve on Saturday 30th May. It would be good if we could have 10 members turn up on that day to possibly finish this year's work there. And to have a good look through the reserve. We will begin at 9.30 am. Those who can only come in the afternoon might arrive at 1 pm and spend a 2-3 hours also. A substantial saw (including chainsaw or recip saw) is required to deal with large trees (some are 5-10 cm in diameter), plus leather gloves, while heavyduty loppers or small saw will be OK for small stuff.

We hope everyone has been untouched by the virus.

Cheers
Rod Bird

Secretary
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club