

## **Hello Members of HFNC**

This is the HFNC's **June 2020 Newsletter for Activities in June and early July 2020:**

As a consequence of the CoVid-19 virus restrictions, General Meetings (but NOT Special Meetings with a guest speaker) can now be conducted but we are presently limited to 10-12 members meeting at HIRL (that may change by Aug.). All Excursions and other Activities (including working bees) will proceed.

**General Meeting Thurs 18 June, 7.30 pm at HIRL** – as noted above, we are constrained to a maximum of 10-12 people, which means the committee plus another 5 or 6 members. If a member not on the committee would like to attend then please let me or Diane know. For any issues or sightings that members may have to present to the meeting, please also let us know.

**Excursion to Budj Bim on Sunday 21 June** – leaving Visitor Centre at 9.30 am. Diane and I have recently visited the area to work out what we might do and where we can go. Our plan is to visit Lake Surprise, then the Natural Bridge, Tunnel and lastly a short drive through the forest to Footes Cave (easily accessible to all vehicles). We had thought of continuing through the forest to Murphys Hut and Lake Condah but found that to be impossible for vehicles other than 4WD (interesting but rather trying for a 4WD!).

**Report on May 2020 Excursion to The Piccaninny** – see pdf

**Kanawalla Tree-planting activity on Sunday 5 July** (9.30 am) – please make a note of this date and try to attend because we need to crow-bar holes, plant and guard about 100 Silver Banksia and Drooping Sheoak at this time (and another 100 on 16 August). Manna Gums grown from the 2 original trees at the site have been planted to replace 17 of the 309 trees planted in 2019 that died. Another 30 Manna Gum have also been planted this June. The taller Ringlock guards that were installed on all planted trees in 2019 have worked – wallabies have chewed the tops off a couple of banksias that had short guards fitted. The mob of 50 Kangaroos seen in 2019 seems now to be reduced to about 5, so fewer guards knocked over.

**Report on Wannan Flora Reserve *A. paradoxa* project** – the Shire and CFA funded a team to remove the invasive wattles from about 20 m width on the North and West perimeters and road reserves. That material was chipped and removed. HFNC members have worked on the Glenelg Highway side and the eastern half of the reserve (the heath area) to cut down the Hedge Wattle and any remaining *A. longifolia*. That has proved to be a monumental task but most of the huge, dense shrubs on the eastern half have now been cut down, along with many hundreds of seedlings. In all, 65 hours of work has been devoted to the task, 14 of that from the 2 working bees conducted on 3 May and 30 May. In all, 9 members have contributed their time and energy. Peter Hocking has been a major contributor with 19 hours devoted to this thorny problem. We will try and get support for action on the remainder of the reserve in 2021. We will need to deal with seedling regeneration if we are to restore this area to its pristine state. Older members will recall that HFNC 'managed' the reserve from 1960 to 1990, after which various departments assumed nominal control and the *A. paradoxa* infested most of the reserve.

Cheers  
Rod Bird

Secretary  
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club