

Hello Members of HFNC

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

The restrictions due to Covid-19 and our response remains as stated last month. All Excursions and other Activities (including working bees) will proceed but we cannot hold our Special Presentation by Russel Robinson ('Scuba diving and underwater photography') on 17 July. Russel has kindly agreed to defer that presentation to 2021.

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 help to make light of the work. And you can see the results of our planting in 2019 and 2018. Hopefully, any rain on the day will not be too unpleasant. Listed below are some tasks for the morning (something there to suit everyone!).

- crow-bar about 60 holes (60 have already been prepared)
- distribute the plants according to the plan for each site
- plant about 80 Silver Banksia and 40 Drooping Sheoak (we use a Hamilton Tree-planter)
- apply about 2 litres of water to each planted tree (if that suits you, please bring a bucket)
- fit plastic guards over the plants, using bamboo stakes (rubber mallets are supplied)
- form the wire mesh blanks into cylinders (pliers and gloves required)
- carry the stakes and guards from the track to the planting sites
- fit these wire mesh wallaby guards over the plastic guards, using a hardwood stake to secure it

Vehicles can be parked across the road from the Hensley Park Rd gate into Kanawalla. Alternatively, drive in through the gate and park on the right hand side of the track, about 50 m from the gate.

Excursion to Taipan Wall in the Grampians on Sunday 19 July – leaving Hamilton Visitor Centre at 8.30 am. We will be meeting with some members of 'Friends of Grampians' group at the Hollow Mountain car park at 10-10.30 am, for a short walk to the Summer Day Valley rock wall and then the Gulgurn Manya art shelter. After lunch we go to the Mt Zero car park and take the Flat Rock Walk to the Taipan Wall.

Up to 20 people can take part in '*outdoor group sport and exercise activities, provided you keep your distance (at least 1.5 metres apart)*'. If, however, you feel that we are a '*gathering*', and if we have more than 10 people we will split into 2 groups, to comply with that Covid restriction. Currently, there is no indication on the PV web site that this area is closed to visitors but if circumstances change we will send you an email. If it does close we will adjust our walk from the car park.

According to one rock climber, the Taipan Wall is an '*astonishing tidal wave of the best sandstone in the universe*' (it has a claim to be the premier climbing site in Australia – have a look on the Web for 'Taipan Wall' before you go there). It is certainly very picturesque!. You will be aware of the controversy over PV's clamping down on some activities allegedly involving damage to the rock face and vegetation by climbers in that area, and some Aboriginal sites or rock art in other areas. Maybe we can see what the problem is.

Report on Wannon Flora Reserve Hedge Wattle control project

As of 24 June, 10 members have spent 75 hours cutting out this prickly, invasive shrub/tree and spreading the tops to reduce the impact on regenerating heath species. We have concentrated on the eastern half of the reserve and a strip along the Glenelg Highway side. Southern Grampians Shire with the CFA, have cut and removed the shrubs from the northern and western perimeter, extending about 20 m into the reserve. I think we have done all we can do this year – next year we will need to cut off or pull the many regenerating seedlings, and continue work into the western half of the reserve.

Cheers
Rod Bird

Secretary
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club