

Hello members of HFNC

This is our HFNC Newsletter for May 2021.

Special Meeting on Thursday 20 May, 7.30 pm at HIRL – our guest speaker is Dr Andrew Levings and his presentation will be on *Marine life within 30 m of the southern shore*. This zone is our playground but the life within it is poorly known to most of our members. You will have noted from our program that this year we have 2 speakers presenting on marine ecology and activities. Andrew will start us off and Russell Robinson will follow in July.

Andrew completed his secondary education at Hamilton College and holds multiple qualifications in geology, community studies and forestry as well as the trade skills of a Master Mariner.

Andrew was awarded a PhD by Deakin University in 2008 after describing the previously unknown life history of the Giant Crab and inventing a unique tag that stays with the crab when it sheds its shell as it grows. The 'levotag' is used globally.

In younger days, Andrew worked extensively as a pearl and lobster diver and prawn trawler mate, then managed pearl culture for Paspasley Pearling on the remote Coburg Peninsula.

In later years, returning south, he captained lobster vessels off Victoria and the Tasmania's west coast and began work regulating interactions between whales and seismic surveys from onboard the survey boats or aircraft. He was invited to join a group of eminent Marine Geologists for a project aimed at understanding the biota of the kelp zone and how it breaks down and contributes to the fossil record. The study was published in the international series *Sedimentary Geology* in 2013 and will form part of Andrew's presentation at our meeting later this month.

Excursion on Saturday 22 May – Black Lake Wildlife Reserve caldera near Skipton. We will be leaving the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.30 am. Members are advised to join us there, or at Dunkeld at about 9.50 am, because this is a 'new' location for us and the prospect of some getting side-tracked is considerable.

Project activity at Wannon Flora Reserve – Saturday 29 May, 9.30 am to noon.

We had only 4 members attend our event on Sunday 2 May so we hope to have a better attendance this time. Please make a note of the date. It is vital that we remove the new seedlings of *Acacia paradoxa* from the areas cleared last year. That is best done when the plants are small, when they can easily be pulled.

SEANA event – we were fortunate with the weather over the 16-18 April and by all accounts this was a really successful event. Much of that success was due to Diane Luhrs and Glenys Cayley, in particular, who conducted the business and logistics. They were aided by our members (and some from Portland & Warrnambool FNCs and Hamilton Birdlife) who conducted the excursions and the operations at HIRL. We will have a report later.

Portland FNC 75th Anniversary – Ruth Graney has issued an invitation to our members to attend the PFNC celebrations on the Saturday 29 May (6-11 pm at the Portland Yacht Club on the foreshore). Finger-food will be provided and bar service is open until 9 pm. Singer/songwriter/environmentalist Fay White is the special guest. An RSVP form (reply by 15 May) and flyer for the celebration is attached.

In addition, there will be a visit on Sunday 30 May to various RAMSAR sites at Discovery Bay, Glenelg Estuary and Picks Swamp, led by Mark Bachmann, NGT.

Cheers
Rod Bird

Secretary
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club