

Hello members of HFNC

This is our HFNC Newsletter for June 2021.

General Meeting on Thursday 17 June, 7.30 pm at HIRL – with the reduced Covid-restrictions coming into force this Friday it is expected that our business meeting will go ahead at that date, venue and time.

Excursion on Sunday 20 June – a visit to the northern end of the Dundas Range and (if the weather is OK) some may like to continue on to the Fulham Streamside Reserve on the Glenelg River. Whilst we have spent many spring days at Fulham (mostly herbicide-wiping Cape Tulip and other weeds) we have not visited there in winter. Those who prefer a shorter day will leave us at the Dundas Ranges. We will be leaving the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.30 am.

Project activity at Wannon Flora Reserve – our last scheduled working morning at the reserve was cancelled due to Covid restrictions. We are hoping to do a catch-up there this coming Sunday 13 June, starting at 10 am and finishing an hour or two later. If you have an hour or so to spare please come along.

The task is to remove new seedlings of *Acacia paradoxa* from the areas cleared last year. That will require tough leather gloves to cope with the sharp spines. As mentioned before, the seedlings are easily pulled out but can be cut off with secateurs, provided the cut is below any twig at the base. In practice, that means cutting just below ground surface to ensure no twig is missed (the plant will survive if any twig is left).

Project activity at Kanawalla Rail Flora Reserve on Saturday 26 June – the aim is to remove weeds from within the guards on seedlings that were planted in 2020 and to untangle any leaders that have been caught up in the tree guards. That is a problem with some of the eucalypts where we have had to use substantial guards to stop wallaby browsing. The weeding will be very minor because it has been done once (twice in some cases) already this year and the grass around each tree was sprayed 3 weeks ago. We have lost only about 4 trees of the 270 planted last year and most are growing well.

This would be a good time to enjoy a walk in the reserve! Meet at 10 am at the gate on Hensley Park Rd just south of Forts Rd – park in the works area opposite the gate. We aim to finish by 12 noon.

Excursion report for May 2021

Six members had an interesting excursion to the Black Lake Wildlife Reserve off the Carngham Rd. The reserve contains a lake in a caldera (or is it a Maar volcano?). For information about this site and our visit see the attached report.

Cheers
Rod Bird

Secretary
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club