

Hello members of HFNC

This is our HFNC Newsletter for July 2021.

Firstly, it with great sadness that we farewell our dear friend Lyn Munro who passed away at 2 am last Saturday. Lyn was a vital part of our club for almost 40 years.

We extend our deep sympathy to Dave and the family.

Dear Lyn, we will miss you.

Special Meeting on Friday 16 July, 7.30 pm at HIRL – Russell Robinson will give a presentation on ‘Scuba diving & underwater photography’. This address will be a great complement to the presentation on marine life near the southern shore given by Andrew Levings at our May meeting.

Russell has been operating his sports store since July 1977 and in that time it has seen many changes. One change he enjoyed most was taking on Scuba Diving and then becoming a Padi Dive Instructor. This was quickly followed by taking divers on local and interstate guided dives. Overseas trips soon followed. The business has been operating that way for more than 25 years and visited lots of dive destinations throughout the South Pacific and Indian Oceans, including Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Brunei, Palau, Maldives and beyond. He has had his wings tied for the past 18 months as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, cancelling 3 trips last year, and is not sure exactly when he can resume overseas activities.

Russell will be speaking to 3 fabulous destinations on Friday (time permitting):

- Truk Lagoon – a favourite (lots of War Time history included)
- Papua New Guinea (Tawalli Resort)
- Niue, a tiny island sometimes called the ‘Rock of the Pacific’ (with some of the clearest water on the planet)

Most of the trips include some form of Land Tours and you never know what you are going to find when looking through the jungle – war wrecks, bird life, swimming holes

All of Russell’s trips are designed for divers and non-divers alike, and Russell hopes our members and visitors find this an enjoyable evening and he looks forward to lots of questions during the evening.

Excursion on Saturday 17 July – Mullinger Swamp, near Kybybolite, on the Vic/SA border. The major attraction is the presence of several of the largest River Red Gums in Australia. We may also visit Lake Jale Jale Wildlife Res (west off Benayeo Rd, a few km from Apsley).

We will be leaving the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.30 am.

- From Casterton, take the Naracoorte Rd (C211) at McPherson St in the centre of the town
- At Apsley, turn left onto the Wimmera Hwy (B240)
- Turn right (north) onto Benayeo Rd and proceed to Butterworth Rd
- Turn left (west) at Butterworth Rd and look for the Mullinger Swamp sign and track.

June Excursion – we had an interesting excursion to the northern end of the Dundas Range Scenic Reserve on the 20 June. We have written to Parks Victoria regarding a recent expansion of tracks and structures along the range. A report will be provided in the August newsletter.

June Work Activity – seven members attended our work activity at Kanawalla Rail Flora Reserve on Sat 26 June and we completed the removal of weeds from the Silver Banksias, Drooping Sheoaks and Manna Gums planted in the last two years. We had pleasant weather for this task. So far we have had greater than 95% survival from the 2020 planting but our tree guards are not quite up to stopping the browsing macropods.

Cheers
Rod Bird

Secretary, Hamilton Field Naturalists Club