

Hi everyone

This is the **HFNC Newsletter for August 2021**

Welcome to Spring and at least a partial release from Covid-19 restrictions on travel and meetings.

General Meeting for Thursday 19 August, 7.30 pm at HIRL. If new Covid-restrictions emerge we will let you know if we need to cancel the meeting. Currently we are only permitted to have 10 members present at a meeting and masks must be worn.

Excursion to the Grampians on Harrops Track to Manja Shelter and Buandik on Sunday 22 August – we leave at 9.30 from the Tourist Info Centre in Hamilton. Diane and I have made a preliminary run to check out the route and destinations and can report that the roads are in excellent order, with no tricky creek-crossings, and suitable for all 2WD vehicles. There are great vistas of the Billawin Range. Dozens of species of wildflowers were in full bloom. The easy 1.6 km walk to Manja Shelter covers a wide range of habitat and is particularly good for wildflower viewing. We will finish at the Buandik Picnic Area, with walks to the Buandik Falls and the Billamina Shelter to view the Aborigine rock art there.

Parks Victoria requests that we have masks and observe distance conditions. If we have more than 10 people we will form 2 groups along the way.

We will travel through Cavendish to Woohlpooer, turn right there onto the road that leads to Glenelg River Rd and, after about 6 km, turn onto Harrops Track. Latecomers will catch up with us along the way. Total travel for the day 140 km. Bring a picnic lunch.

Report of excursion to Dundas Range Scenic Reserve on 20 June – please see the attachment. You will note that we were disappointed to see the extent of recent vegetation clearance along the northern range as a result of the apparent expansion of the Gun Club.

Our excursion to **Mullinger Swamp** that was planned for July could not proceed, as a result of the State lockdown due to Covid outbreak.

Vale Brian Lacy – we regret the passing of Brian earlier this month. He was an early member of our club and dedicated environmentalist who was a major force in the Society for Growing Australian Plants. Brian was ever helpful to all who called on him for assistance and he will be remembered as one who made a large and long-term contribution to the appreciation and growing of our native plants.

Rod Bird

Secretary

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club