

Hi everyone

This is the **HFNC Newsletter for May 2022.**

Special Meeting for Friday 20 April, 7.30 pm at HIRL – Dr Andrew Leving’s presentation will be on ‘*Giant Crabs - Pseudocarcinus gigas*’. We welcome Andrew back as guest presenter, following his very fine presentation in 2021 of ‘*Marine life within 30 m of the Southern Shore*’.

Andrew holds multiple qualifications in Geology, Community Studies and Forestry as well as the trade skills of a Master Mariner.

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

In later years Andrew captained lobster boats off Victoria and Tasmania’s west coast. He also began work regulating interactions between whales and seismic surveys.



Andrew was awarded a PhD by Deakin University in 2008 for his research on the Giant Crab and inventing a unique tag that stays with the crab when it sheds its shell as it grows. The tag, the “levotag” is used globally. Andrew’s examiners commented that his research work provided ‘*a comprehensive examination of the biology of Pseudocarcinus gigas; perhaps one of the more extensive studies of any crab species....exploring many different aspects of the life history of the crab and its interactions with its environment....*’

Excursion on Sunday 22 May – we depart from the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.00 am for a whole day excursion to **Mullinger Swamp** near Kybybolite to look at the giant River Red Gums. One, ‘Big Red’, has claims to be the largest tree of its species in Australia.

Report on work at Wannan Flora Reserve on Saturday 30 April – four volunteers spent a total of 10 hours pulling up hundreds of seedlings of the invasive, spiny pest plant, *Acacia paradoxa* along the cleared northern and eastern edges of the reserve. Larger *A. longifolia* and *A. paradoxa* were also removed from much of the road reserve on the southern boundary. Much remains to be done – particularly on the western edge (Powells Lane) and within the body of the reserve.

Work activity at Wannan Flora Reserve on Saturday 28 May – we need to meet again at the reserve to continue the task of removing *A. paradoxa*. We will meet along the track at the northern side of the reserve at 9.30 am and spend 2 or 3 hours there. Bring stout leather gloves (a long-handled lopper is also handy for cutting off larger shrubs at the base). This work is a pleasant activity and not difficult, so please consider setting aside some time to the task.

Report on excursion to Cobboboonee NP on Sunday 24 April – the 10 members who attended enjoyed a fine, warm and relaxed day at Surry Ridge, Jackass Fern Gully, Heathland Nature Trail and the drives through the Messmate Forest – see attached report for details and photos.

Report on February excursion to Jenawarra (Lake Linlithgow) – this report appears to have been overlooked earlier (see attached).

Rod Bird
Secretary
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club