

Hello everybody

HFNC's activities and events in May 2023.

Special Club Meeting on Thursday 18 May, 7.30 pm at HIRL – the speaker will be **Dr Greg Kerr** and his topic '**Citizen science, monitoring ecosystems in Ethiopia**'. Greg will outline a citizen science project for carbon credit projects he developed for World Vision Australia and implemented in Ethiopia with award winning environmental, social and economic outcomes.

World Vision is involved in a range of community-based carbon credit reforestation and afforestation projects around the world. These require monitoring and impacts reported to local biodiversity over a project-life of 30-50 years. Greg will show how the model was implemented in Ethiopia.

Greg will also outline a long-term citizen science program he is developing across western Victoria to help understand the current threats to the region's biodiversity.

Club Excursion – Gariwerd Peaks Trail Yarram Gap south to Halls Gap Rd on Saturday 20 May. We leave Hamilton at 9 am and will stop on the Halls Gap Rd at the Griffin Tk trail crossing. If the weather is fine we will leave some vehicles there and the rest will take everyone and go up to the Yarram Gap Rd and stop near the quarry. There is a 5-hr walk (a pace for those who are not trampers) along the range and back to the Halls Gap Rd. Two or three of the peaks (there are 8) are rather tough going but the views are great. Take your lunch, water and rain coat.

If the day is too wet and cold we will do the easy walks from the Halls Gap Rd east to the Wannon River (a short part of that trail can be wet), return and go west to the Griffin Tk trailhead. We can arrange a car shuffle for that section, leaving most of the vehicles at the trailhead.

Report on previous activities

- I have attached a report of the last excursion to Cape Nelson & Point Danger – we were very lucky with fine weather and enjoyed the walks.
- The SEANA camp at Port Campbell was also held in fine weather and enjoyed by all.
- Our work activity at Wannon Flora Reserve over the last 2 weeks has seen a significant removal of *Acacia paradoxa* from the western side of the reserve. Three of our members devoted time to that work. The LandMate crew of 4 or 5 men from Ararat had 4 days on the job; our members helped cart the cut material to the roadside. A contractor from Heywood is chipping the material. On two Tuesdays Diane supervised a group of school students on another part of the reserve, pulling up small seedlings over the course of an hour or so.
- HFNC submission Inquiry into duck hunting in Vic – see attachment.

Work activity at the Wannon Flora Reserve – Sunday 28 May from 9.30 am to about 12 noon

Park on the bush track on the north side of the reserve or on the edge of Powells Rd. The main task will be to remove small *A. paradoxa* shrubs (and seedlings) from the eastern half of the reserve. We can provide leather gloves. Also 4 loppers for the small shrubs that are too large to pull out. Two members may use light battery chainsaws to handle larger shrubs (protective gear will be used). We would really appreciate some help with this project.

Birdlife Australia, with the Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Nature Glenelg Trust, are presenting a **Shorebird Conservation workshop**, focused on the Willaura Shorebird area. A range of migratory and resident shorebirds use the wetlands in this area and one, the Double-banded Plover, arrive in winter after breeding in NZ.

The workshop is for anyone interested in improving shorebird ID skills, understanding and awareness of shorebirds, learning count techniques, data entry on Birdata, reporting flag sightings.

Workshop details: 30th May, 2023, start 10 am at **Glenthompson Memorial Hall**, 13 McLennon St. Afternoon session is visiting **Green Swamp**, a Nature Glenelg Trust wetland. RSVP and further information: Jono Stevenson on 0477 502 898 or email shorebirds@birdlife.org.au by Wednesday 24th May (see attachment).

Rod Bird, Secretary, HFNC