



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB



NEWSLETTER, July 2010

Winter greetings to our members. We hope you are enjoying all the fungi that have been popping up in the wet weather. The 16 brave people who came on our July excursion to Mount Eccles were able to enjoy the leeches that were out in the wet weather too (see below, but note that all 16 did get home safely!)

This newsletter is to update you on our program for the second half of the year, including our end-of-year Christmas party, and to let you know about a couple of developments. One of these is the need to...

...ADOPT A CONSTITUTION AT THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

The Club has existed without a constitution for 52 years, but times change and we decided that in order to have standing we need to adopt a formal constitution. This will be drawn up at a Committee Meeting on 23rd September, and then presented at the General Meeting on October 7th, at HIRL, for all members to vote on. "Artist's impression" not with-standing, we hope that it will be as short and simple as possible. If anyone has strong opinions about what should go into it, please contact a committee member before 23rd September.

The other development is the publication by the Club of the:

HAMILTON REGION NATURE GUIDE

This book could be described as "almost everything you ever wanted to know about where to see the natural world around Hamilton." Many members of the Club have contributed information from their own areas of expertise and/or about their own favourite patches, and Diane Luhrs has accomplished the tremendous task of melding it all into a coherent whole. The result is a book which should present nearly everybody with a list of new places to visit or new things to look for when they get there. It is also the ideal book to give (or sell) to visitors of an even vaguely naturalistic bent. To get your copies, either buy one from a Club member or fill in and post the form.

BIRD TALKS ON FRIDAYS

The remaining two Special Meetings for this year will feature birds of islands and woodlands – and **both will be on Fridays**. The September meeting will not be on Thursday as listed in the Program, but on **Friday 3rd September**. At this meeting, **Adam Bester** will speak about, "**Birds of Lord Howe, Chatham, Codfish and Cabbage Tree Islands**." These will include birds of sea and shore and others such as the Lord Howe Island Woodhen and the kakapo. Unfortunately several of our members will be away for this meeting, so please come if you can and make sure you spread the news to any birdos of your acquaintance.

The reason for the change of date of the September meeting is avoid a clash with the Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar, to be held at the Laharum Hall on Thursday 2nd September. This should be an interesting forum with like-minded people. Members who wish to attend should contact the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority.

In November, **Professor Andrew Bennett's** talk on "**Studies and status of woodland birds**" will include data about declining bird numbers. As shown in the program, this meeting also will be on a **Friday (5 November)** rather than on the Thursday. Again, this is one to let your birding friends know about.

CHRISTMAS BREAKUP

This year we have decided to separate the AGM from the End-of-Year/Christmas celebration so there will be no official proceedings to put a damper on things. The **AGM plus General Meeting** will be on **Thursday 2nd**



December, as shown in the Program, and the **Party** will be the following **Thursday, 9th December**. After several years of going west, this year we'll go east and have our picnic and barbecue on the top of **Mount Rouse**, in the picnic area there, starting at **6 pm**. Everyone is welcome; just BYO everything, including food to barbecue if you wish (unless it's a total fire-ban day.)

EXCURSIONS AND WORKING BEES

There has (as yet!) been no change to the planned excursions. This means they should all take place as shown on the program, but it's always an idea to check details with a committee member if you haven't been to the preceding meeting. (If you have lost your program, contact Janeen on 5573 4503 and she may be able to give you a new one.)

Also as shown on the program will be two **Working Bees**. One of these will be a weekend of camping and weed-control at **Fulham Streamside Reserve**, on **17 to 19 September**. The Club has been going there for several years, in an attempt to control sparaxis, gladioli and Cape tulip in this area of diverse grassy/heathy woodland. This year several of the "regulars" will be away, so new people will be especially welcome. People who can't spare the whole weekend or don't wish to camp are welcome to come for either Saturday or Sunday.

Rod Bird is the organiser, and he expects to be there from after lunch on Friday (17th). He says, "Those who can come will find us (or a message at the camp) by the river, after entering the park from Edgewood Road and driving directly down that track to the Fulham Pool. We will certainly be at or near the camp from 8-9 am, 1-2 pm and after 5 pm." Most of the weed control this year will be by wick-wiping rather than spraying, but if the weather is too showery we will just do some botanising and bird observing.

Following this, on **Sunday 17 October** there will be a working bee to try to remove the South African Weed Orchid which is invading the **Nigretta Flora Reserve**. This will run from 10 am to 2 pm. Again, please contact Rod Bird for details.



On a cold and misty morning, through forests all a-drip,
Sixteen banded bandicoots set out upon a trip.

They ventured into Tunnel Cave (though one stayed at the door)
Then ambled down the South Canal o'er rocks and mossy floor.

They picked up lots of wriggly friends (a lean and hungry bunch)
Then climbed the wall to Smoko Cave to have a bite of lunch.

Thirteen banded bandicoots continued in the rain;
They scrambled under Natural Bridge (though one stayed out again).

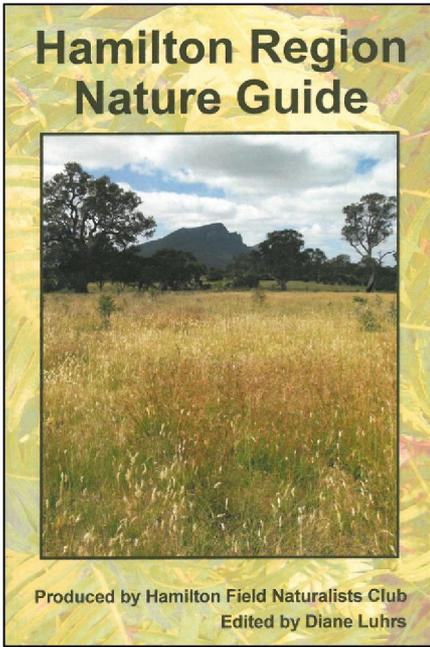
Ten determined bandicoots then took off in a force
To follow up the next canal and find its crater source.

Ahead, Mount Eccles' mighty crest reared up against the sky
But eight undaunted bandicoots cried, "We shall do or die!"

Five bedraggled bandicoots said, "Now before we stop
We'll head into the town for cake and coffee in a shop."

Alas! the caff was closed to trade; no matter how they pleaded
Zero banded bandicoots got the caffeine fix they needed

Hamilton Region Nature Guide - ORDER FORM



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The A5 sized nature guide contains 76 pages with descriptions, maps, diagrams and colour photographs of special places within 80 km of Hamilton that provide for interesting day trips.

With this guide, the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club aims to share its knowledge of the Hamilton area, to promote awareness of the special environmental features of the region and hence to develop an appreciation of and concern for the need to preserve the region's ecological richness.

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(For postage cost of large orders contact HFNC via e-mail: hamiltonfnc@live.com.au)

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