



HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

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NEWSLETTER, November 2013

This newsletter is to remind you about our program for November and December, and to give you details of our end-of-year party.

OOZING MOUNDS ON CAPE YORK & WETLANDS NEAR GLENTHOMPSON

Our last **Special Meeting** for the year will be this week – **Thursday, 21st November**. Ken Grimes will be talking about a trip he did to Cape York last year. The Olkola people there are moving back onto their traditional lands, and they wanted a scientific survey of the natural resources to complement their traditional knowledge and stories. Ken's main role was to look at the geology of the mound springs – large heaps of mud and stones from which water or mud oozes. The title of the talk is “**Rat-Kangaroo Dreaming in Cape York Peninsula**” and the time and venue of the meeting as usual will be 7.30 pm at HIRL. The talk will include a video outlining the biological & geological studies.

Our **excursion** on the following **Saturday, 23rd November** will be to a wetland. Lachlan Farrington from Nature Glenelg Trust will be taking us to a farm northwest of Glenthompson to see wetlands on the property, the bird life there, and works in progress to improve the water-holding capacity. We will start from Hamilton Visitor Info Centre at 9 am and collect any members who wish to join us at Dunkeld, at 9.30 am near the Visitor Centre.

Earlier this year Nature Glenelg Trust, with help from some of our members, put in a temporary weir at **Gooseneck Swamp** to increase its capacity. At present it is looking good, with an almost complete cover of azolla, water ribbons and other aquatic vegetation. The Trust are hoping to hold a community field day there in early December. We will let members know the details of this by email.

WHY NOT STAND FOR ELECTION?

Our **AGM**, on **Thursday 12th December**, is your chance to stalk the corridors of power – in other words, to stand for a position on the Committee for 2014. If you think you might be able to contribute, but are not sure what would be involved, why not get in touch with someone on the committee and ask them about it? (See the list of current members at the end of this newsletter.) The AGM is also your chance to come up with ideas for speakers and excursions for next year's program. With luck it will not take too long, and we will have a normal general meeting after it.

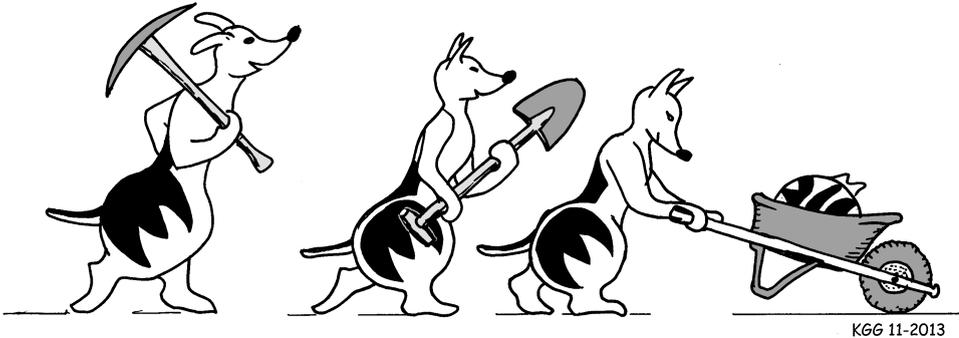
CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Our pre-Christmas/end-of-year gathering will be on **Sunday 15th December**. It will be at Ken and Janeen Grimes' place at Morgiana. The address is 795 Morgiana Road, or E37 on Fire Map 431. If you haven't been there before and need a mud-map, ring them on 5573 4503. Even if you haven't managed to get to any of our activities during the year, don't feel shy but come along.

The “party” proper will start at roughly 5pm but some members will precede it with a walk around the Wannon. They will meet at the Thomas Clark viewing area (on Morgiana Road a few hundred metres south of the highway) at 4pm. If you can't make it by then just turn up any time from 5pm (well, not at midnight!). Bring whatever you want to eat and drink, and (weather permitting) we will have a fire and/or barbecue for grilling things. Once we have been driven inside by wind or mosquitoes there will be coffee and Christmas pudding but **be warned**: there was a slight hiccup in the making of it this year, so the Editor makes no promises as to its quality. As for gingerbread bandicoots, at this stage the prospect is not looking good, but you never know.

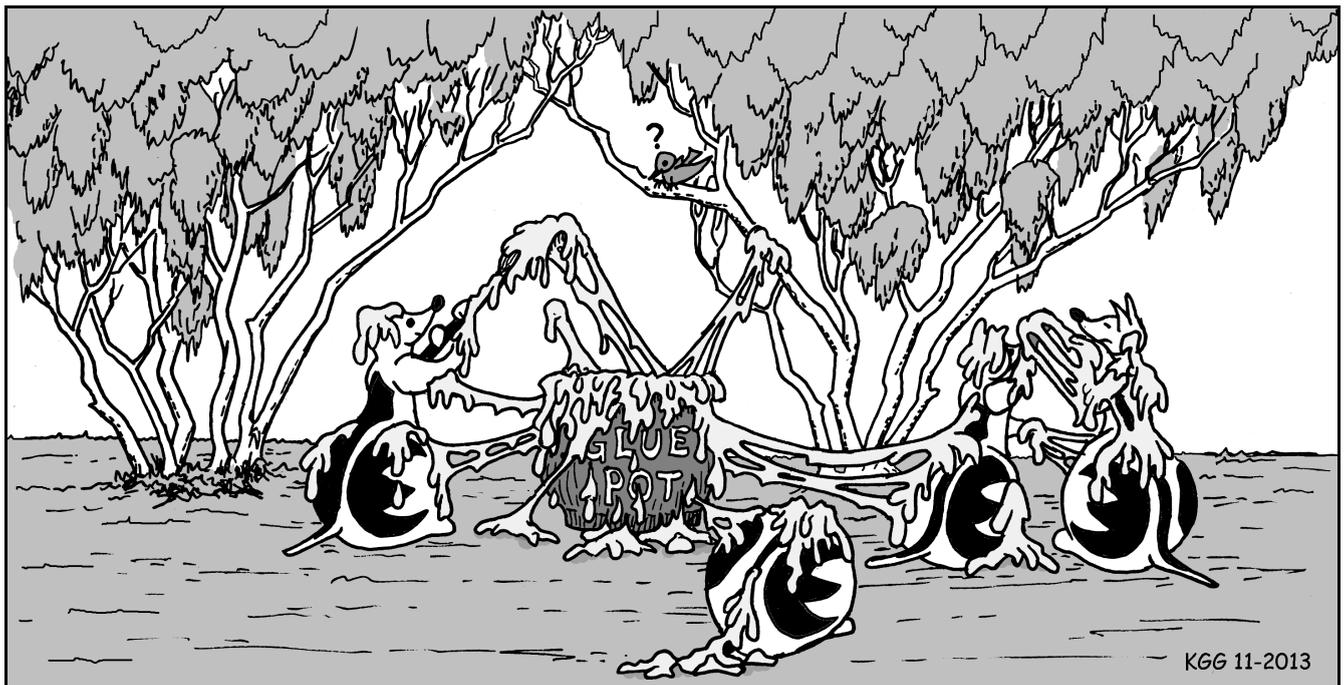
RECENT ACTIVITIES

September, October and November saw several working bees aimed at controlling weeds – particularly cape tulip and South African weed orchid – that are threatening native grassland at Fulham and Nigretta. The tally of weeds wiped or sprayed with poison, or dug out, came to over ten thousand. If you weren't able to get to any of these don't despair, because there are sure to be more weeds next year.



KGG 11-2013

In August, many members went camping at Gluepot Station in the South Australian mallee. All their tents and vans survived the wind and they had a good time, although they didn't see as many bird species as they had hoped for.



KGG 11-2013

Committee Members

President	John Cayley	5572 3737
Vice President	David Munro	5576 5485
Correspondence Secretary	Rod Bird	5572 3639
Minutes Secretary	Diane Luhrs	5572 3874
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