

HAMILTON FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB



2010.....Meetings & Excursions.....2010



Meetings of HFNC are held at H.I.R.L., 333 North Boundary Road, at 7.30 pm, **generally the First Thursday of the month**, February to December. However, on occasion our guest speaker can only come on a Friday. An excursion date may also be affected where Easter or other public holidays or events clash. These changes are indicated in the program (see “*Note date*”). Any unexpected change in the program will be noted in our Newsletter, email network and in the Hamilton Spectator.

Special meetings are devoted to a **guest speaker**, except for a preliminary presentation of short items of local natural history interest, and for a report on the previous excursion and details of the next – so don’t miss the start! We conclude with supper at about 9.30 pm, when there is an opportunity for an informal chat or an early night. Visitors & non-members welcome.

Club meetings are held on alternate months, always on **Thursday**, and deal with **club business and conservation issues**. Members’ short reports of interesting items of natural history, and details of the past and coming excursions, are also presented.

Excursions are mostly held **on the weekend after the meeting**. We often leave from **Hamilton Visitor Information Centre**. We survey birds at **Grange Wetlands** from 8-9 am on the Thursday after the excursion. Visitors & non-members welcome.

Month	Day	Event	Speaker & topic or detail of excursion or working bee
Feb	Thurs 04	Club meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Sat 06	Excursion	Birds at Linlithgow & other wetlands – meet 7.30 am The Point [leader RB]
March	Thurs 04	Special meeting	Steve Clark “Birdwatching in Texas and New York”
	Sat 13	Excursion	Bridgewater lakes/beach – (<i>Note date</i>) – meet Visitor Centre 9 am [YI]
April	Thurs 01	Club meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Sun 11	Excursion	Brimboal SF & Dergholm SP – (<i>Note date</i>) – meet Visitor Centre 9 am [RB]
May	Thurs 06	Special meeting	Noushka Reiter “Threatened Orchids & other plants in Western Victoria”
	Sat 08	Excursion	Mt Schank & Pics Swamp, SA – meet Visitor Centre 9 am [KG]
June	Thurs 03	Club meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Sun 06	Excursion	Earth First Aust.’s Buckley Swamp bush block – meet Visitor Centre 9.30 am
July	Thurs 01	Special meeting	Ken Grimes “Volcanoes and volcanic caves”
	Sat 03	Excursion	Mt Eccles volcanics, ferns, fungi, moss...- meet Visitor Centre 9.30 am [KG]
Aug	Thurs 05	Club meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Sun 08	Excursion	Mafeking – gold mines, fungi, flowers & birds – meet Visitor Centre 9.30 am
Sept	Thurs 02	Special meeting	Adam Bester “Birds of Lord Howe, Chatham, Codfish & Cabbage Tree Islands”
	Sat 04	Excursion	Wilkin Flora Reserve – meet at Visitor Centre 9 am [JC]
	Fri 17-19	Work B/campout	Fulham Reserve – flora survey & weed control. Camp at river [RB]
Oct	Thurs 07	Club meeting	Sightings, club business & environmental issues
	Sun 10	Excursion	Wannon walk – Four Posts to Nigretta Falls – meet Visitor Centre 9 am [RB]
	Sun 17	Working Bee	Nigretta Flora Reserve – African Weed Orchid control (10 am–2 pm) [RB]
Nov	Fri 05	Special meeting	Prof. Andrew Bennett “Studies & status of woodland birds” (<i>Note date</i>)
	Sat 06	Excursion	Bear SF & Lookout Hill wildflower tour – meet Visitor Centre 9 am [DL]
Dec	Thurs 02	AGM & Club Mtg	Election of Office-bearers for 2010, then Gen. Meeting with sightings, club business
	Sun 05	Excursion	Wannon Falls Scenic Res. – meet 9.30 am Wannon Falls car park [RZ]
	TBA	End of year party	Venue and date to be announced in HFNC newsletter in November.
Feb 2011	Thurs 03 Sun 06	Club meeting Excursion	Sightings, club business & environmental issues Birds at Linlithgow & nearby wetlands – meet 7.30 am The Point [RB]

ENQUIRIES: **P.O. Box 591, Hamilton, 3300** or hamiltonfnc@live.com.au

Office-bearers in 2010:

President.....Reto Zollinger 55712544
 Vice President.....David Munro 55765485
 Correspondence Secretary.... Rod Bird 55723639
 Minutes Secretary..... Diane Luhrs 55723874
 Treasurer.....Glenys Cayley 55723737
 Publicity Officer..... David Munro 55765485

**NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME**

**Visitors Welcome to all Meetings &
Excursions**

The Hamilton Field Naturalists Club

The Hamilton Field Naturalists Club was formed in 1958 because members of the community had an interest in natural history and a growing concern for the conservation of native flora and fauna, geological features and Aborigine art and artefacts in the district. There were very few conservation reserves in SW Victoria, and none of any size, and much of the remnant Crown Lands were threatened by alienation for farms or pine plantations. River frontages and other Crown Reserves were degraded through grazing leases and the drainage of wetlands was proceeding apace. The knowledge of what was in the Crown Lands, and how to manage them to conserve the fauna and flora, was also very poor.

The founding HFNC members had a 10-point agenda that is still relevant after 50 years:

- To enjoy and respect the features of the natural environment,
- To respect the Aboriginal history and presence in our region,
- To learn about the geology, fauna and flora of the region,
- To survey and record the species of flora and fauna in our native forests, woodlands, grasslands and wetlands,
- To understand the principles of environmental management in those natural landscapes,
- To protect and to promote the conservation of habitat, flora and fauna in those natural landscapes,
- To support submissions for long-term legislative protection of significant natural areas as National Parks, Flora Reserves or Wildlife Reserves,
- To restore degraded natural woodlands, grasslands and stream or wetland frontages through appropriate revegetation and management of pest plants and animals,
- To restore significant drained wetlands to their former pristine condition and function,
- To be advocates for the natural environment – to educate and persuade by means of science publications, articles in local papers, conducting excursions to significant natural areas, serving on committees of management, participating on government committees and reviews, and by assistance to schools and other groups.

We strive today to live up to those objectives. We ask like-minded people to join with us in enjoying the wonders of our natural world, and in helping to conserve it for future generations to enjoy, but also because every other species has a right to exist.