



# SPRING 2023

## Hamilton Park Co-Op Ltd

Keeping You Updated about Your Community

[www.hamiltonpark.org.au](http://www.hamiltonpark.org.au)

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**Hamilton Park Co-Operative 26 Kurrajong Lane Glenrowan 3675**



### Hamilton Park Playground

As a family with two young children, the extended closure of the Glenrowan Playground really hit home last year. As a major consumer of playground infrastructure, many additional trips into Wangaratta were undertaken by our family. This made us realise that there might be a need in our growing community of young families, grandparents and carers, who are in a very similar situation, to have access to a playground within walking, scootering and biking distance from home.

In July this year a small working group came together with the aim to establish a playground in Hamilton Park by December 2024. We met with the HP board and wrote a project plan and developed a community survey.

As a small community we are relying on community grants for a project like a playground. A thorough project plan, the gathering of demographic statistics and community feedback are essential for being successful in grant applications.

The community survey was successfully distributed in the first week of September and we had some amazing feedback from our beautiful community. The working group is currently analysing the data and will provide survey results in the Summer edition of the newsletter.

Thank you to all for your time and effort of completing the survey.

The aim for the rest of 2023 is to apply for various grants and conduct fundraising activities like a GoFundMe page to ensure that we've got enough funds to commence the build of a playground in the second quarter of next year.

Check our Hamilton Park Facebook page to get involved.

Els & Julia

*(This is an exciting and welcomed initiative for our community—well done to all involved)*

**Park Lane**  
nursery and garden centre

**Proudly supplying plants for landcare, farms, gardens and revegetation projects in our community.**

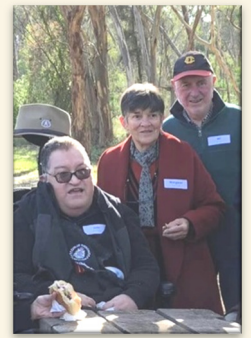
95 Park Lane, Wangaratta  
Ph: (03) 5721 6955  
[www.parklanenursery.com.au](http://www.parklanenursery.com.au)



**Merriwa**  
Bringing quality to life

**Vale:** John Henry Hamilton—Son of Doug Hamilton, who had the vision to establish this estate. The Hamilton Park Community extends it's condolences to Marg, Liz and Doug on the recent passing of their much loved brother John. John spent most of his teenage years in Hamilton Park and shared some of his wonderful memories in the Hamilton Park History Book. He also assisted his Mum, Ruth with the creation of the garden in Henley Drive. John lived a humble and full life with dignity and warmth and will be missed greatly by his family.

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**Vale:** DEBORAH GOODSON has been a familiar face around Hamilton Park – in recent times often seen meandering through the bushland or sitting in the winter sun by a dam. Deb aged 74 died peacefully at home on September 8th, surrounded by her family. Deb was the main impetus behind the establishment of the Weeding Group in 2010 (now known as Native Vegetation Group). She knew and understood our bushland and native grasslands better than most. She was a weed warrior, contributing weekly to making this beautiful place even better by targeting invasive weeds. Deb had an intuitive knowledge about Australian native plants – amazing since she grew up in Kenya and spent her early adult years living in London, then Sydney. She gained a Bachelor of Photography in London. With her photographer's eye for detail, no weed escaped her notice! Deb and her young son Tim, came to Hamilton Park 20 years ago, after the death of husband/father Pete. They facilitated the building of an architect-designed, energy efficient house after clearing away the debris of the previous house which had burnt down. Deb loved native birds, always making sure the native grass seed was available for Turquoise Parrots, finches and others. She enjoyed seeing them drink at the water trays she'd set up in the native garden she established. With her artistic, creative, design flair, Deb could turn her hand to most practical skills: she designed and made jewellery in her studio, was a superb vegetable gardener, a cordon bleu chef, knitted without patterns and made many of her own clothes. She had a keen interest in current affairs and loved adventurous travel. She once cycled solo from London to Athens. Her recent autobiography, captures images in words, of exotic lands she's lived or travelled in. Deb was a wonderful friend and mother, bushwalking companion, active member of the Hamilton Park community and the Garden Club. (Contributed by Loretta Atkin and Glen Schofield)

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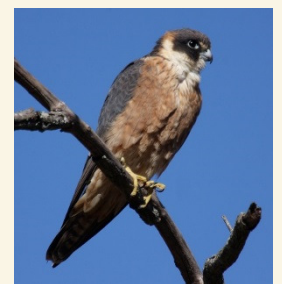
**Vale: Dean Klaebe :** Dean and his partner Gill came from Adelaide to Hamilton Park 14 years ago. They had made the decision to relocate to the area and subsequently spent considerable time exploring available options until they found their forever home in Orchard Drive. Dean was a quiet gentle man, who loved his garden and during his 14 years here with Gill managed to create a beautiful oasis with lovely views .He enjoyed walking his dog daily and looked forward to the chats with neighbours as he strolled through the community and delighted in passing on the various news items to Gill , when he arrived home. Dean embraced life at Hamilton Park but sadly lost his health battle recently.

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### **Hamilton Park visit by Birdlife Australia- Murray Goulburn branch members on Saturday 17 June 2023**

Thirty-six (36) keen birders (a record number) met on a clear cool sunny morning at the Community Hub to visit our bush and grasslands areas. After a brief introduction, we walked into the thinned out bush eventually reaching the Dick Hamilton dam. It has constant, relatively deep water and the reeds provide good bird habitat we were able to see limited numbers including Wood & Black Duck, Swampheh, Little Pied Cormorants and a White –faced Heron. We then headed towards Orchard Drive, some lucky people saw Olive-backed Orioles along the way. We then walked on Orchard Drive to Wirrinya Avenue, having a good opportunity to see many bush land birds including numbers of Jacky-Winter, Scarlet Robin, Grey Butcherbird, Golden Whistler, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Australian Hobby and numerous Thornbills. Most of the group also walked along part of Taaffe Road, where he views to the Ovens Valley were fantastic. Returning to the Community Hub, we enjoyed lunch under the trees. In the afternoon we explored the lower dams and the common land to the south section of Hamilton Park. There were fewer birds around but still good fun. We managed 57 species in the morning, but only 23 in the afternoon (the birds must have gone to sleep). We saw 60 species for the day but we weren't able to add to the impressive 155 species already recorded at Hamilton Park. We saw more woodland birds than water birds on this occasion. People very interested to hear about the management of HP common lands and the way the Cooperative operates. (Contributed by Peter and Carol Ockenden HP residents & Birdlife members)



**Thursday Walking :** A number of residents participate in the weekly walk to Glenrowan and we find it is a great way to increase and maintain our fitness. Our star walker at present is Marian who has been able to improve her fitness considerably—well done Marion. Friendships have been formed and we all enjoy the social interaction over coffee at the Vintage Café. Some residents join us for part of the walk or just for a coffee and chat. A great way to spend a Thursday Morning. The walk is posted on the Hamilton Park Facebook page each week and for further details I can be contacted by messenger or on 0421348711.

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## AGM MEETING

**Our AGM will be held on Saturday October 28th commencing at 10am at the Community Centre.**

**This is an important meeting for the community and we welcome your attendance and input .**

**Agenda items will include presentation of reports, election of new Board Members and proposed new park maintenance and water fees for the coming year, as well as items of general business.**

What a great place we live in, but what would happen if we didn't have a water supply or parklands which are maintained for us all to enjoy?

HP is seen as the "Place to live" based on the beauty and freedom our parklands offer, as well as the access to water for gardens. The loss of these services, that we all enjoy and take for granted would be a disaster for our community which would be directly reflected in the property values.

### **How can you prevent this from happening?**

- We are always seeking help to maintain our parklands, working bees are mostly attended by the same few, our recent best was attended by 22 but to put this into perspective is only about 10% of the residents. We have an opportunity to reverse this trend with the upcoming working bees, come along and get involved with maintaining our environment.
- A group is working to build a playground, if you think you have something to contribute then get involved, as this project progresses there will be lots to do from digging holes to spreading mulch, it will benefit us all in some way.
- Talk to the board of management, bring your good ideas to us, but remember someone will need to do the work, there is no "THEY" at Hamilton Park just US.
- Join the mowing roster or let a board member know you want to help out , we need a pool of helpers. We would also like to acknowledge those that continue to maintain parkland at present.
- Join the board of management, contribute to the decision making for the place that we all love. Commitment is only about twenty hours a year. See our website for application form.

This year we are seeking members for Parkland(s) and Water Distribution.

If you are interested please contact Ian (Chair) 0417 346 197 for a chat , I would be pleased to discuss joining our board.

### **Your current Water charges:**

With the wet conditions over the last two years, the board decided to only invoice for water once this year. In the 2020-21 year (a dry year) our community used 20.3ML but in the 2021-22 and the current year the total was only 14ML or 70% of our last dry year usage.

This will mean that the water charge may appear higher but overall it has most likely reduced. As we are now about to enter another dry few years we will return to twice yearly billing cycle for water.

Should you have any concerns please contact [bookkeeper@hamiltonpark.org.au](mailto:bookkeeper@hamiltonpark.org.au)



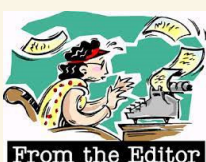
### **WORKING BEES**

As we approach the Summer fire period we are planning a series of working bees to have a general clean up of our parklands. Bring rakes/line trimmers and your enthusiastic selves.

Focus will be on tidy up of long grass , particularly around infrastructure and path edges and general preparation for summer and the completion of spreading mulch in the arboretum .

**SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER 8.30am followed by morning tea**

**FRIDAY 17 TH NOVEMBER 5.00pm followed by sausage sizzle and maybe a beer**



*Dear friends, We are all part of this unique and lovely community and when we loose a neighbour our hearts go out to their family and friends. This month we pay tribute to John Hamilton, Deb Goodson and Dean Klæbe. My appreciation to all the people who have contributed items and photos for this newsletter and special thanks to Margaret Butt for her beautiful photography—Dianne*



**Glider Boxes** : Six nest boxes have been constructed and donated to the Native Vegetation Group by the students at Glenrowan Primary School. The boxes have been distributed around Hamilton Park and their size and shape are ideal for Squirrel gliders, which have been identified in our bushland. These gliders are quite rare, more so than sugar gliders.

Andrew Snowden, from the Council was invited by the Native Vegetation Group to come out and provide advice on the installation. Andrew has over 30 years experience in installing and monitoring nest boxes in the North East and he provided valuable advice. Six individual trees were selected to suit Squirrel Gliders, location in overall area and ease/safety for installation. His expertise was very much appreciated as he was able to provide tips and tricks for mounting the boxes etc. The Native Vegetation Group has now installed the nest boxes at selected locations.

*This has been a great initiative and well done to all involved.*

**Purple Coral Pea**



**Winter 2023 -Hamilton Park Bushland**

Pleasing to see so many of our local plants flowering in the bushland, amazingly resilient species to have survived so many years of grazing and horticulture. Pictured some species beautifully photographed by Margaret Butt

**Spiny Bitter Pea**



**Nodding Blue Lily**



**Daphne Heath**



**Garden Club**—Members have been very busy over the last few months with three working bees. Firstly the Henley Drive plot had an industrious group clearing it of weeds and trimming vegetation. August saw the group at the Arboretum performing a tidy up. September we were spreading mulch at the arboretum. A chat and a cuppa afterwards is always a welcome addition to these mornings. New members are always welcome. Next Meeting at Di Jonkers on Monday October 25th Contact person Tina Norton—0419880761



**The Pruning Pile:**

The pruning pile was closed at the end of August to allow the green matter to dry out a bit to assist with the burning, which will happen late October, before fire restrictions are to be declared. The pile has been pushed in with the estate tractor and is now ready for burning, as is the small heap at the end of Warrawong Lane. To burn the piles legitimately, permits must be obtained from RCOW. A 'new' firefighting hose system is being organised so water can be pumped from the 'pile' hydrant to the other end of the heap, should something go wrong, the hoses we have now do not extend the distance required. A big thank you must go out to Yvonne Arnott for being the diligent gate keeper for another year. ( Peter Janas)

*Our community extends it's appreciation to Pete and his helpers for again providing such a great service*



*We extend a warm welcome to new residents, Donald and Sally White and we hope that you enjoy life here in our unique community.*



**Marian's Fruit Cake: Ingredients:** 1 Kg Mixed fruit, 1 ½ cups of orange juice, 1 teaspoon of mixed spice, ¼ cup of brandy, 1 teas. Carb. Soda, 2 cups of SR flour, a grated apple, 375 light evaporated milk, chopped walnuts.

**Method:** Boil fruit and orange juice until juice is dissolved. Add all other ingredients and mix well. Bake in moderate oven for one hour. This will make a large round or tray cake. Blackcurrant Apple juice can be substituted for the orange juice