



Hamilton Junior Naturalist Club

Term 1 Programme 2015

Meetings at 7pm, Hort Centre, Hamilton Gardens, Gate 2

(Unless advised differently)

- February 13 **BBQ at Tony Jane Lorimer's Place** We'll start the year with a BBQ at Tony and Jane's. Tony is our Club Patron, and if you're lucky he'll show you around the Honey House. Bring salads, barbequing supplies, drinks and togs.
- February 20 **Kaniwhaniwha Picnic** We meet at the Kaniwhaniwha carpark at 6.30pm with our food, drinks, togs and bicycles.
- Ideally you would bring bikes so that we can all head up to the Campground together. Otherwise it is an easy 3km, 30 – 40 minute stroll to the Kani Campground.
- Near the Campground is a swimming hole, a cave and glowworms, and an easy-grade cycle trail. You'll need to bring a headlamp-type torch and some spare batteries because it could be getting dark by the time we return to the carpark. Any questions, give me ring on 07 846 4013 or text 021 684640.
- February 27 **Whewell's Bush Scientific Reserve** Field trip to this beautiful kahikatea remnant which will give you an idea of what the Waikato basin looked like 100s of years ago. We meet at the entrance to the reserve on Swallow Lane, which is off the Tamahere / Matangi road. Bring a torch in case we get benighted. More details, ring Dave 846 4013
- March 6 **Hamilton Zoo Trip** We meet at the carpark at 7pm and then go in to the Education Room where one of the Zoo Keepers will introduce us to Hendrix, one of the star attractions at the zoo. We'll also meet some of the other special reptiles that live there. Unfortunately because we'll be there after hours there'll be a charge of about \$6 per person (to cover the wages of the keeper).
- March 13 **Algae, Slime and Rock-snot** Katie Brasell, Freshwater Ecologist, Department of Conservation who specialises in microbial ecology (back to our regular venue, Gate 2, Hamilton Gardens).
- March 20 **Lamprey and Other Cool Critters** Cindy Baker, NIWA ecologist (homework: what does NIWA stand for?).
- March 27 **Bats and Dactylanthus** Find out how these disparate species use each other: Avi Holzapfel, Department of Conservation Terrestrial Ecosystems Manager
- April 3 **EASTER FRIDAY – The Big Thrust** down to Tongariro National Park. This year we explore the eastern side of Ruapehu. We will be staying at a lodge which is accessed off the Desert Road. More details later. Phone Dave 07 846 4013.