

Leaves from our history
The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
1880-2005

by

Sheila Houghton and Gary Presland

Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
2005

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Locked Bag 3,
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Preface

An interest in practical study of the natural world developed among educated people in Europe, from the 16th century onwards. This was stimulated by a number of factors and covered a wide range of subjects. In England interest in geology was increased as large-scale changes to the countryside took place due to new road and canal constructions. People with a preference for botany could attend a programme of field instruction run by the Apothecaries in London. Later, as the British Empire expanded, ever more exotic examples of natural history specimens found their way to England, further increasing the appeal of nature studies.

By early in the 17th century fascination with natural history had developed to such an extent that naturalists became interested in forming clubs and associations of general scientific interest. These clubs were variously called Field Clubs, Natural History Clubs and Botanic Clubs. The establishment of the Royal Society in England, in November 1660, gave an impetus for people to get involved in the emerging study of new sciences through fieldwork. The Temple Coffee House Botanic Club, formed in 1689, is possibly the earliest known naturalist club.

The European settlement of Victoria coincided with the heyday of natural history, and the new colony proved to be a rich collecting ground for naturalists. Interest was high from the beginning of settlement and did not abate. On 6 May 1880, a meeting was held in the Athenæum to form the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. This meeting was chaired by Dr T P Lucas, and resulted in what is now the longest running club of its kind in Victoria.

Objectives of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

1894:

The Club was founded in 1880 for the purpose of affording observers and lovers of Natural History regular and frequent opportunities for discussing those special subjects in which they are mutually interested; for the Exhibition of Specimens; and for promoting Observations in the Field by means of Excursions to various collecting grounds around the Metropolis.

2005:

To stimulate interest in natural history and to preserve and protect Australian flora and fauna.

Significant events in the Club's history

- 1880 (May-June) Founding of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV).
 1884 *The Victorian Naturalist* published for the first time.
 (November) First 'camp-out', at Olinda Creek, Lilydale.
 1885 First Wildflower Exhibition, held at Royal Society's Hall.
 1887 King Island expedition.
 1889 Croajingalong expedition.
 1890 Upper Yarra Falls expedition.
 1891 Excursion to Sassafras Gully.
 1892-1894 Prizes for natural history specimens awarded to Juniors.
 1893 Furneaux Group expedition.
 1894 11th Annual Conversazione expanded to take in two nights and the intervening afternoon.
 1898 Wilsons Promontory National Park established.
 (October) Annual picnic at Blackburn. About 50 members and friends were present, entertained with songs, music and recitations.
 1901 21st anniversary. Musical reunion at the Vienna Cafe, Collins Street, Melbourne.
 1907 Plant Names Subcommittee formed. Its objective was to supply vernacular names for native plants, to aid the layman who had difficulty in remembering botanical names. *A Census of the Plants of Victoria with their regional distribution and vernacular names adopted by the Plant Names Committee of FNCV* published 1923; 2nd edition 1927
 1914 Excursion to Mt Baw Baw.
 1916 First Wildflower Exhibition to be held in Melbourne Town Hall.
 1921 (June) Nature Lovers' Exhibition, held jointly with Microscopical Society of Victoria, to raise funds for publishing *The Victorian Naturalist*.
 1927 (October) Expedition to the Western District.
 1930 50th anniversary: three-day Natural History Show in St. Kilda Town Hall.
 1934 Club Wildflower exhibit in Fitzroy Gardens as part of Melbourne's Centenary celebrations.
Victorian Ferns by R.W. Bond and C. Barrett published
 1936 National Monuments and Parks movement inaugurated at a meeting at the National Herbarium. The FNCV played a leading part in the National Parks and National Monuments Standing Committee, from which developed the Victorian National Parks Association, in 1952.
Victorian Sea Shells by C.J. Gabriel and J.K. Allan published.
 1940 60th anniversary. Conversazione at Victoria Palace, Melbourne;

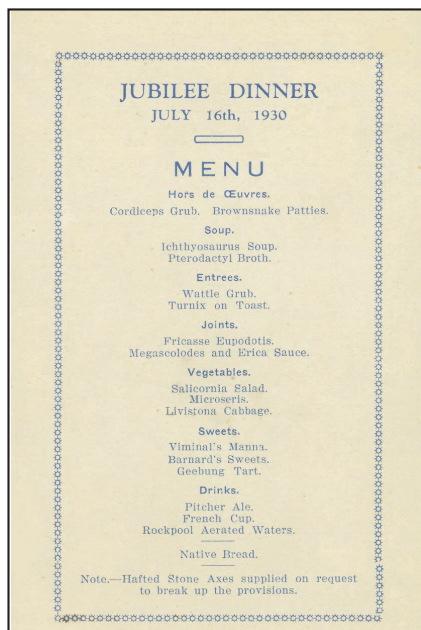


Fig. 1. Menu card from the Jubilee Dinner, 1930

- 1941 first Australian Natural History Medallion awarded, to A.H. Chisholm.
- 1941 *Victorian Fungi* by J.H. Willis published.
- 1943 Hawthorn Junior Field Naturalists Club founded (now Melbourne JFNC)
- 1945 Botany Group established.
- (November) Geology Group inaugural meeting.
- 1947 First female President elected: Ina Watson.
- (August) Marine Biology and Entomology Group established.
- 1949 Native Plants Preservation Group established, to become in 1952 a separate organisation, the Native Plants Preservation Society.
- 1950 70th Anniversary celebrated at Scots Hall, Russell Street, Melbourne;
- Certificate of Incorporation formally presented to FNCV President, E.E. Lord.
- 1953 Three-day Nature Show held at Prahran Town Hall.
- 1954 Microscopical Society of Victoria amalgamated with FNCV; Microscopical Group established.
- Prahran Junior Field Naturalists Club founded.
- 1955 *Ferns of Victoria and Tasmania* by N.A. Wakefield, revised edition, published.
- 1957 *Victorian Toadstools and Mushrooms* by J.H. Willis, 2nd edition, published.
- 1958 Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough, presented to FNCV by Mrs Jean Nowlan; named in memory of her parents.
- 1959 *The Victorian Naturalist* given a new look.
- 1960 Little Desert National Park established.
- Fauna Survey Group established.
- 1962 A microscope, designed for the Club by W.C. Woollard and D.E. McInnes, put into production for sale to members. An example went on display at the Nature Show in Melbourne Town Hall in September 1963, and by the end of the year more than 100 had been sold.
- 1964 Preston Junior Field Naturalists Club founded.
- 1965 *The Vegetation of Wyperfeld National Park* by J. Ros. Garnet published.
- 1969 Montmorency Junior Field Naturalists Club founded.
- Flowers and Plants of Victoria* published in association with A.H. and A.W. Reed.
- 1971 *The Wildflowers of Wilsons Promontory National Park* by J. Ros Garnet published by Lothian/FNCV.
- 1973 Black Rock Junior Field Naturalists Club founded.
- 1976 *The Victorian Naturalist* becomes bi-monthly.
- Author index to *The Victorian Naturalist* 1884-1975, by J.A. Baines published.
- 1979 Subject index to *The Victorian Naturalist* 1884-1978, by K.E. Hall and A.W. Thies published.
- 1980 Centenary anniversary. (5 May) Meeting in the State Film Centre, attended by the Club's Patron, the Governor, Sir Henry Winneke, and Lady Winneke.
- 1980 FNCV awarded the Victorian Conservation Prize, a painting by Neil Douglas, *Bend of Islands Sunrise*.
- 1981 Symposium on 'Effects of Introduced Animals and Plants in Australia', held at State College of Victoria, Rusden.
- 1983 *What fossil plant is that?* by J.G. Douglas published.
- 1984 Centenary issue of *The Victorian Naturalist*.
- 1984 Nature Show in Mueller Hall, National Herbarium.
- 1987 Expedition to King Island to celebrate 25th anniversary of King Island FNC and commemorate the FNCV expedition in 1887
- A History of the Australian Natural History Medallion* by S. Houghton published.
- 1989 *Wildflowers of the Stirling Range* by B. Fuhrer and N. Marchant published.
- 1990 *Down under at the Prom: a guide to marine life and dive sites at Wilsons Promontory* by M. O'Toole and M. Turner published jointly with the

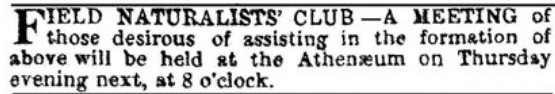
- 1991 Australian Biennial Authority and the Dept of Conservation and Environment.
Field Nats News published for the first time.
- 1993 *A Field Companion to Australian Fungi* by B. Fuhrer published.
- 1995 FNCV purchases its own premises at Blackburn.
Excursion to Mildura, Lake Mungo, Broken Hill.
Fungimap project started.
- 1996 Centenary of Baron von Mueller's death, marked with a graveside ceremony, exhibition of memorabilia, fungi excursion to Wilsons Promontory, retracing his steps, and a special issue of *The Victorian Naturalist*.
- 1997 Marine Research Group amalgamated with FNCV.
A paid position of Office Manager created and appointment made.
Roadside Geology: Melbourne to Ballarat, edited by N. Schleiger, published in association with The Geological Society of Australia (Victorian Division).
- 1998 Special issues of *The Victorian Naturalist* celebrating centenary of establishment of Wilsons Promontory and Mt Buffalo National Parks.
- 2001 Special issue of *The Victorian Naturalist* on Sir Frederick McCoy, the Club's first President.
- 2002 Terrestrial Invertebrate Group established.
- 2003 *A Field Guide to the Mosses and Allied Plants of Southern Australia*, by D. Meagher and B. Fuhrer, published with the Australian Biological Resources Study.
- 2004 *Index to Southern Science Record 1881-1883* by S. Houghton published.
Fungal Studies Group established.



Fig. 2. FNCV members and friends at the May 1920 meeting. This meeting marked the 40th anniversary of the Club.

Summary of the history of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) was founded in 1880. It was the first field naturalist club in Australia, and is unique in having existed continuously since its foundation.



FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB—A MEETING of
those desirous of assisting in the formation of
above will be held at the Athenæum on Thursday
evening next, at 8 o'clock.

Fig. 3. This notice, placed in *The Argus* on 5 May 1880, led to the formation of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria.

The idea of forming a club originated among a small group of nature enthusiasts who used to meet regularly at the home of Charles French. An advertisement was placed in *The Argus*, inviting interested people to attend a meeting at the Athenæum on 6 May 1880 (Fig. 3). Thirty people came. The objectives of the proposed club were unanimously approved, and a provisional committee, consisting of Dr T.P. Lucas (Chairman), D. Best, C. French, J.R.Y. Goldstein, E. Howitt, W.T. Kendall and H. Watts, was appointed to draw up rules. The adjourned meeting was resumed on 17 May at which the rules were adopted, the subscription set at ten shillings, and the first office-bearers elected. The inaugural meeting of the FNCV was held on 14 June 1880, when fifty-six people were elected as members. They were afterwards known as the 'original members'. By May 1881 ninety-one members had been elected. Current membership is nearly 1000 members.

The Club's journal *The Victorian Naturalist* also has an unbroken record. From its first publication in January 1884 it appeared monthly until 1976, since when it has been bi-monthly. In that period several special issues have been published. These have been on particular natural history topics, and to commemorate significant centenaries: of the Club (1980); the death of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller (1996); the establishment of Wilsons Promontory National and Mt Buffalo National Parks (1998). In 2001 there was a special issue on Professor Frederick McCoy, the first President. A monthly newsletter, *Field Nats News* has been published since 1991.

The imperative for establishing the Club arose from the desire to increase knowledge and understanding of the natural world about us. This in turn led to the realisation that much of our flora and fauna is unique to this country, and conservation very quickly became a major concern. The FNCV was responsible for the establishment of Wilsons Promontory National Park, and it has maintained a watching brief over the area since 1898. Early moves were made to reserve the area that subsequently became Croajingalong National Park; amongst more recent conservation concerns of the Club have been the Little Desert, the Box-Ironbark Forests and the Marine National Parks.

Nature Shows have been an important activity in the FNCV. They grew out of the Annual Conversaciones, which were primarily Club events held on the anniversary of the founding of the FNCV. Because spring was a more suitable time to display flowers, it was decided in 1885 to hold the first Wildflower Exhibition in October. This was set up in the rooms of the Royal Society of Victoria, where the Club had its meetings. In 1916 the Show took place in the Melbourne Town Hall. Gradually the scope of these annual exhibitions had widened to include all branches of natural history, and it became known as the Nature Show. Different venues were used over the years, the Athenæum Hall, the Masonic Hall, St. Kilda and Prahran Town Halls, until in 1960 the Nature Show returned to the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, where it became a regular event for the next ten

years. The Society for Growing Australian Plants and the Bird Observers Club took part, and the Hawthorn Junior FNC played a significant role in these shows. Several of the smaller Clubs, such as Montmorency and Black Rock Clubs, contributed to the FNCV Centenary Show in 1980, which was also held in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall. The last Nature Show, was held at the National Herbarium, in 1984.

From its beginning, the Club has drawn its membership from the ranks of amateur naturalists and professional scientists. Ferdinand Mueller was an enthusiastic supporter of the Club and one of its first Patrons. Professor Frederick McCoy was both the first President and later a joint Patron with Mueller. Professionally trained members have always been generous with their time and expertise as speakers and leaders of expeditions. Over the years Special Interest Groups have been established within the Club to meet the demand of members. Currently, FNCV has Botany, Fauna Survey, Geology, Invertebrate Survey, Marine Research, Microscopy and Fungal Studies Groups, most of which meet monthly and hold their own excursions. The Fauna Survey Group conducts regular camps, and the results of the Group's efforts are passed on to the Arthur Rylah Institute. The Club had always accepted and encouraged junior members, but in the early 1940s it was felt that this aim could be better achieved by having junior clubs in various suburbs. Several of these branches were set up with the assistance of FNCV members. The longest surviving such group was the Hawthorn Junior Field Naturalists Club, established in 1943, which has since been incorporated in the FNCV as the Melbourne Juniors Group.

The establishment of the FNCV inspired people elsewhere to set up similar groups and today there are Field Naturalists Clubs throughout the country. The Victorian National Parks Association was a direct offshoot of the FNCV, and members of the FNCV also played a significant part in setting up the Society for Growing Australian Plants, now Plants Australia. In 1972 the FNCV organised the establishment of the Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association to foster cooperation between Victorian clubs. The Australian Naturalists Network, set up in 1991, brings together field naturalists clubs nationwide.

The Fungimap project was launched in 1995, to concentrate study on a branch of the flora that had received comparatively little attention. The aim is to document the occurrence and distribution of fungi, and these findings are reported to the National Herbarium in Melbourne. Originally confined to Victoria, this scheme is now wide spread, with enthusiastic involvement from people in all states.

Excursions have been a central feature of the FNCV from the beginning and are still held regularly. These are either of a general nature or organised by the Special Interest Groups, and are either day excursions or more extended field trips. The latter kind have included trips to Wilsons Promontory, Mt Buffalo, Mt Kosciusko, the Otways, and the Bass Strait Islands to name a few. Further afield, excursions have been made to Western Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand.

The Club has administered the Australian Natural History Medallion since the inception of the award in 1939. This is awarded annually to a person who is considered by the Award Committee to have increased popular or scientific knowledge of Australian flora and fauna during the previous ten years. The Medallion has been awarded to such notable individuals as Jean Galbraith, Vincent Serventy, Graham Pizzey, and Rodger Elliot. Less well-known people have also been honoured, like Edith Coleman, in 1949, for her work in unravelling the mysteries of the pollination of orchids.

The Club maintains a comprehensive library of some 6500 volumes for use of members. It has also from time to time published books on Victorian shells, ferns, wildflowers, fungi, fossil plants, mosses and allied plants.

In 1995 the Club achieved a long-cherished ambition, to have premises of its own. With the aid of several very generous bequests, added to the building fund set up by far-sighted members, it purchased the hall at 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn. This acquisition has given a greater sense of identity to the Club and allowed an expansion of its activities. One of the earliest events held in the hall, was the exhibition in 1996 of memorabilia of Baron von Mueller, to commemorate the centenary of his death. A number of one-day workshops have been held, on fungi, molluscs, insects, reptiles and mistletoes, the latter being followed by a weekend excursion to observe mistletoes in the field. Since 2002 symposia have been held during Biodiversity Month on topics of current concern, such as fire and the proposed deepening of the entrance to Port Phillip Bay. The FNCV has also been able to resume presenting the Australian Natural History Medallion, preceded by a reception, in its own hall, after having had to use the Royal Society of Victoria's premises for some years.

Excursions

From the very beginning of the FNCV, excursions have played a significant part in the activities of the Club. The first excursion was to Brighton on 19 June 1880, only five days after the inaugural meeting. Brighton and the heathlands of Cheltenham and Clayton became favourite venues for outings, but many other places accessible by train were visited for a day or half-day excursion.

The first major excursion was to King Island in November 1887. Twenty-six members took part, travelling in the Customs Department steamer *Lady Loch*. Camp was made at Yellow Rock River, described by A.J. Campbell as being "in an amphitheatre of ancient sand dunes, clothed with thick scrub", and in the ensuing six weeks much of the island was surveyed and important scientific work done. In 1987 there was an excursion to commemorate this event, and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the King



Fig. 4. Expeditioners from the FNCV on King Island, 1887

Island Field Naturalists Club. Ten members flew to the island, were most hospitably welcomed, and visited places explored by the first expeditioners. In 1887 an abundance of watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium aquaticum*) was noted in the Currie area, which had largely disappeared by 1987, but was found flowering profusely along the South Yellow Rock River road. A red water snake was again seen at Yellow Rock River. One notable feature in 1987 was the Eulalie Bennett Reserve. This had been created by her granddaughter-in-law, to commemorate Mrs Bennett, a member of the FNCV for 66 years, from 1918 to 1984.

A small party consisting of C. French, C. Frost, H.K. Jackson, J. Searle and W. Baldwin Spencer set out on 28 December 1888 for an exploration of the Croajingalong area, almost up to the New South Wales border. The expedition lasted nearly a month. The party travelled by train to Sale, then by coach to Orbost, where they procured horses for the rest of the trip. Recent bush fires had destroyed the vegetation over a considerable area, and they were often forced to cover long distances in order to find feed for the horses. Much botanical knowledge was, however, obtained, the highlight of which was the discovery of the small area where the Cabbage Tree Palm (*Livistona australis*) grows. Steady, persistent rain did not prevent the expeditioners from sketching the palms. Representations to the Lands Department led to the reservation of 8500 acres in the Cabbage Tree area, later in 1889.



Fig. 5. Members of FNCV on the return visit to King Island, 1987

Another extended expedition took place to the Furneaux Islands Group in Bass Strait, in November 1893. A party of six, led by Joseph Gabriel, and including A.J. Campbell and T.G. Campbell, embarked aboard the steamer *Alert* on a two-week expedition. The unavoidable absence of botanists on this expedition precluded a general survey. However, Gabriel considered that their increased knowledge of gannets, muttonbirds and Cape Barren Geese made the expedition a success.

W. Baldwin Spencer, D. Best, C. Frost, J. Searle and G. Lyell set out in November 1890 in an attempt to reach the Upper Yarra Falls. It was an arduous expedition, much hampered by adverse weather conditions, but Baldwin Spencer and Frost finally succeeded in reaching the Falls and made a hazardous descent to find a suitable vantage point from which to photograph them.

Late in 1903 there was a notable field excursion, later described by Hugh Stewart as 'a classic in the Club's history'. Alerted to the beauty and natural history of Mount Buffalo by Charles Walter, and with the availability of train transport to Porepunkah, an intrepid party set out on Christmas Eve 1903. The party included eleven ladies. Ladies had gone on other excursions previously, but this was the first 'camp-out' in which they had been included, and they responded with enthusiasm and fortitude in the spartan conditions. In 1905 Anna Hardy, newly married to Alfred Hardy, was an active member of the camp-out at Derby River, Wilsons Promontory. So it is curious to read in the report of the excursion (*The Victorian Naturalist* Vol. 45, pp.281-2, 1929) that the Australia Day



Fig. 6. FNCV excursionists at a quarry site on the Maribyrnong River, 1910

weekend camp at Cape Woolamai in 1929 was reported as being in the nature of an experiment, as to the desirability of mixed camps. The verdict, however, was that it was an unqualified success!

The female members of the Club were not put off by hazards, nor daunted by ten-mile walks. On an excursion to Sassafras Gully in 1891 the coach overturned, the ladies being reported as 'shaken, but not injured'. They continued to take part, together with Junior members, suitably attired and equipped, as on the Essendon excursion in 1910 (Fig. 6).

In 1914 it was decided to have an exploratory visit to the Baw Baw Plateau, made more accessible by the opening of the Walhalla narrow-gauge railway in 1910. The Club had known for some years of the wealth of flora to be found there, and so a party of eight, led by F.G.A. Barnard, departed on 24 January for a five-day trip. They were assisted by a local guide, Mr C. Rawson. Storms and torrential rain impeded their progress at times, but, impressed by the magnificent scenery and variety of flora, all agreed that a week on the plateau in spring would be very worthwhile.

World War I curtailed field activities for the FNCV to some extent. In the 1915-1916 Annual Report J.G. O'Donoghue reported that Saturday afternoon excursions had been well-attended, but whole day and extended excursions had received little support. However, he attributed this in part to the choice of locations, recommending places less frequented by tourists, where field naturalists would be protected from 'deprecating glances ... at their rough but serviceable working apparel.'

In 1927 an anonymous donation allowed the Club to mount an expedition to the Western District of Victoria. The purpose of the tour was to visit the southern and northern ends of the Grampians, with a detour to Mt. Arapiles. Five members – E.E. Pescott, C. Daley, C. Barratt, H.B. Williamson and V.H. Miller – spent ten days in the area, and reported on the physiography, geology, flora, both native and exotic, and fauna. They were much concerned by the botanical degradation caused by grazing, and expressed the urgent need to control this. At Mitre Rock they were distressed to find a large Wedge-tailed Eagle, which had been shot and fastened to a wire fence.



Fig. 7. Members of FNCV on the excursion to Bendigo, October 1928. Pictured, left to right, are L. Hodgson, Mrs C. Daley, Mrs V.H. Miller, V.H. Miller and C. Daley.

In the early days of the Club excursions seem to have been planned by the committee members. After World War II, however, the position of Excursion Secretary was created, to be held by the same person for a period of two to three years. In 1954 Marie Allender was elected Excursion Secretary, a position she subsequently held for the next thirty-five years. Excursions by “parlour-coach” became a regular feature. By this time, in addition to the monthly Club outings, the Special Interest Groups were holding monthly excursions, with the Fauna Survey Group conducting regular survey camps at Easter and at other extended holiday times. A Christmas-New Year excursion was a regular feature, which combined natural history and socialising. The Easter camp for the Hawthorn Junior Field Naturalists Club was another occasion for families to enjoy nature, and promote the idea of the Easter Bilby, a tradition which has been maintained.

In 1963 a three-week excursion to Western Australia was organised. The party travelled by bus from Melbourne to Perth via Esperance, Albany and Pemberton, camping or taking advantage of more permanent accommodation where available. After two days in Perth, where they were able to visit the Western Australian Naturalists’ Club’s show in the Town Hall, they boarded the bus back to Kalgoorlie and continued home by train. Their adventures, discoveries and improvisations, especially by the photographers who recorded the day’s collections by the light of campfire or candle, were recounted by Jim Willis, in his inimitable style, in *The Victorian Naturalist* (Vol. 81, pp. 11-12; and Vol. 82, p.1).

The expeditioners also produced their own account in “*Westwards” the Field Nat: journal of the explorations of McKenzie, Willis and Allender who together with twenty five pack-bearers crossed the continent from east to west and back seeking to increase existing botanical knowledge.* Compiled from impressions along the way, and delightfully illustrated with line drawings by Katherine Hough, this journal conveys the enjoyment, camaraderie, and wonder at the glorious flora and scenery they experienced. No doubt they would all have endorsed the words of Elizabeth Turner (one of the expeditioners) when she wrote at the conclusion of her ballad:

Of holidays and things to see,
There are attractive lists,
But my advice to you would be,
(I’m sure you’ll never rue it)
Go camping with the Naturalists,
If you’ve health and cash to do it.

The Melbourne Herbarium benefitted by some 320 species, including fungi, mosses and lichens. However, there was dismay at the sight of vast areas of the sand-plain between Grass Patch and Esperance being cleared for cultivation, and the consequent destruction of the native vegetation. The FNCV was moved to write to the Premier of Western Australia, urging control of land clearing, and the advisability of preserving verges during road-making in the bush.

Ranging yet further afield, the Club undertook another three-week excursion, to New Zealand, in 1972. Hampered at times by the vagaries of the weather the travellers still managed to observe much of the flora and some of the fauna (in the Auckland zoo) in both islands. Highlights included the trip to the glowworm grotto in the Waitomo limestone caves, attempting to make flax clothing in the Maori centre at Rotorua, the drive to Milford Sound and boat trip there, the opportunity for steam enthusiasts to inspect the 'Kingston Flyer' train, a spectacular view of the Mueller glacier, and to hear the echoing roars of crashing avalanches in Mount Cook National Park. The party narrowly missed an earthquake (6.8, on the Richter scale) in Wellington. The account by an anonymous author in *The Victorian Naturalist* contains much botanical and geological information. National Parks were well established in New Zealand, the first having been created in 1887, and the party was assisted by Rangers on several occasions.

In 1980, our Centenary year, a week-long excursion was held at Wilsons Promontory, in conjunction with the National Parks Service, to celebrate the FNCV's long association with the Park. About 160 people took part, and there were day excursions to Lilly Pilly Gully, Tongue Point, Chinaman's Creek, and Corner Inlet. Some people undertook the walks to Sealer's Cove, the lighthouse and Waterloo Bay. The very slender tree fern, *Cyathea cunninghamii* was found on the Chinaman's Creek trip, as well as the oval tree fern, *Lindsaea trichomanoides*, the only place in Victoria where it has been found. Lectures in the evening were given by Jim Willis, and the Rangers, Malcolm Turner and Peter Thomas. The District Supervisor, Bob Jones, spoke on Park Management. The Fauna Survey Group laid traps, and the animals caught were displayed next morning, before being released back into the bush.

The creation of the Victorian Field Naturalists Association in 1972 inaugurated a period of combined weekend field trips in spring and autumn in various parts of the State, hosted by the local Field Naturalists Club. These campouts later became an annual event. Developing from this was the establishment in 1999 of the Australian Naturalists Network, with excursions nationwide.

Eighteen members enjoyed the 1995 excursion to Mildura, Lake Mungo and Broken Hill. Contact was made with country Field Naturalists Clubs along the way, where local members guided the party to places of interest. The Pink Lakes and the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park were visited before reaching Mildura, where the party was hosted by the Sunraysia Field Naturalists Club. Two days were spent at Lake Mungo, learning about the local flora and the archaeological significance of the area. The second day ended with a bus trip to the Great Wall of China at sunset, which provided an opportunity for some spectacular photography. In Broken Hill members of the Barrier Field Naturalists Club accompanied the excursionists on a visit to Mootwingie. Highlights of the stay in Broken Hill were an underground tour of the Delprat Mine, and visits to the Geo Centre and Daydream Mine. The trip continued to Wentworth, where many birds were observed during a two-hour cruise on the Murray. In Maryborough the party attended a meeting of the Maryborough Field Naturalists Club, where Gary Cheers gave an illustrated talk on the local flora and fauna. Next day, after a visit to the FNCV property, the Cosstick Reserve, and the Aboriginal wells, the party headed for Melbourne. The tour was voted a great success.

The Victorian Naturalist

From 1881, Club proceedings and papers read had been published in *Southern Science Record*. Growing dissatisfaction with this arrangement prompted the FNCV to attempt publishing its own journal, in 1884. It was a momentous decision, and there were financial difficulties. These were overcome, however, and *The Victorian Naturalist* has been published continuously ever since.

The first modest issue, consisting of eight pages, appeared in January 1884, with a plain buff cover (Fig. 8.). The purpose of the periodical was to report the proceedings of the Club, including papers read at meetings, and accounts of excursions. It was also a means of communication for people wanting to exchange specimens and to that end, correspondence was included. The journal was intended for public circulation. Initially, members had to buy it – the price was sixpence – but it was soon included in their membership fees, as it is now.

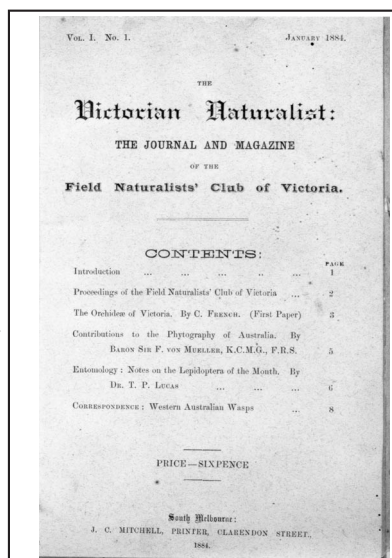


Fig. 8. Cover of the first issue of *The Victorian Naturalist*, January 1884

A decorated border appeared on the cover of Volume 3 (7) in 1886 (Fig. 9.). A slightly more decorative one was used in 1889, and this remained the style until 1927, with the addition of the Club badge, the Banded Nassa shell from 1905 (Fig. 10). This logo was in use until 1928 when, by popular acclaim, *Correa reflexa* was adopted as the Club badge, and replaced the shell. Sober shades of buff or green were chosen for the covers, which advertised the contents, until Volume 76, 1959-60, when a totally new style of cover appeared. For the first time a photograph was used (Fig. 11.). This was on a white background, the emblem was removed and the contents list within. In 1967 the Club emblem was restored, and the photograph enlarged to take in the full width of the cover. Colour was introduced in 1971, a different one being used for each volume, until 1990, when a return was made to a white cover, a photograph being retained. This is the style in use today.

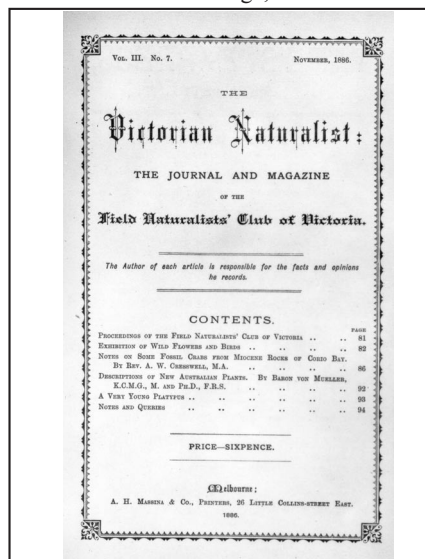


Fig. 9. The first decorated cover of *The Victorian Naturalist*, November 1886

The first volume of the journal contained 16 monthly issues, from January 1884 to April 1885, to bring it into line with the Club's year, which was from May to April. This format continued until 1965 when Volume 82 contained only 8 issues, to bring the journal in

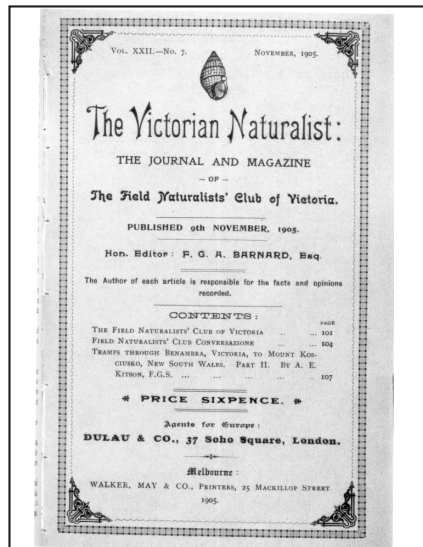


Fig. 10. The first cover of the *The Victorian Naturalist*, to use the FNCV logo, March 1905

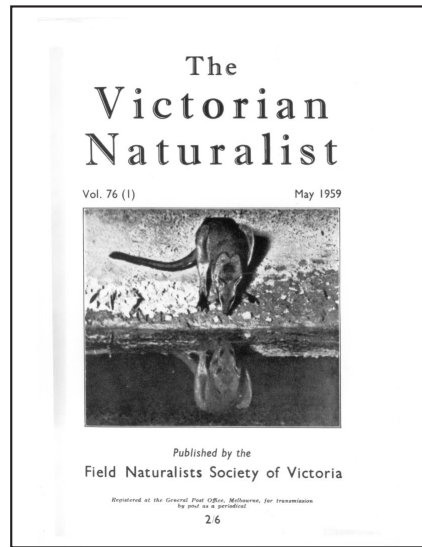


Fig. 11. The first cover of *The Victorian Naturalist* to include a photograph, May 1959

line with the calendar year. In 1976, with volume 93, *The Victorian Naturalist* became bi-monthly, as it is today.

The contents remained similar for many years, although the detail changed. Lectures were no longer described as ‘Papers read’, though the lecture was frequently printed in full. Increasingly, a precis was included in the Club proceedings, which in time themselves became abbreviated in the hands of the Club Reporter. Articles submitted to the Editor began to appear, not always from members of the Club. Species lists were an early feature, as an aid to collectors. They appeared as a result of individual study and also as addenda to excursions.

The special issue on the King Island excursion in 1887 (vol. 4(1), 1888) contained the first illustration, a map of the island, bound into the front. The report on the Croajingalong expedition (vol. 6 (1/2) 1889) was notable for a number of features. It included the first use of colour, the route and camp sites marked on the map in red, possibly hand-coloured on each map. It also contained the first pictorial illustrations, a lithograph of the peak of Mt. Ellery copied from a photograph taken by Charles Walter, and of drawings made by W. Baldwin Spencer. The latter included the Cabbage tree palm (*Livistona australis*). The first photographs came from the Yarra Falls excursion in 1890 (vol. 7 (11) 1891). These were the original photographs glued to sheets of paper and bound in. The first printed photograph (vol. 10 (11) 1894) was ‘Gannetry on Cat Island’, taken on the Furneaux Group islands expedition (Fig. 12). In 1932 the first colour plate appeared (vol.49 (1)), colour variations in the Papuan ‘Crinoline’ fungi (*Dictyophora*) from paintings by Ellis Rowan, which accompanied an article by Dr Ethel McLennan. Colour was not extensively used until recent years. The special issues celebrating the centenaries of Mt. Buffalo National Park (vol.115 (5), 1998) and Wilsons Promontory National Park (vol.115 (6), 1998), both carried several pages of colour photographs. In 2001, photographs of fungi in colour appeared (vol.118 (2)), and the special issue, part two, on Frederick McCoy (vol.118 (6) 2001) carried a colour photograph of him on the cover, and plates from his *Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria* in colour inside.



Fig. 12. Gannets on Cat Island

In 1959, along with the change of cover, detailed above, there was a distinct change in the style of *The Victorian Naturalist*. The Editor, Norman Wakefield, in the introduction to the new look volume 76, set out the reasons for this change of 'flavour'. He pointed out that scientists were no longer the prominent members of the FNCV, and that other journals catered for their needs. The idea now was to produce a 'popular nature magazine in the hands of those who have a general, but not necessarily specialized interest in the natural phenomena around them.' Indeed, he saw it as a possible successor to *Wild Life* which had ceased publication some five years previously. 'Along the By-ways with the Editor' became a regular feature, to which members could send in observations or queries. It was a popular decision. Amongst the many letters received was one from Fred Barton of Eagle Point, Gippsland, offering his congratulations, and saying that the magazine would stimulate interest among young people, a sentiment echoed by a pupil from Lang Lang primary school. Ellen Lyndon wrote from Leongatha to offer her congratulations also, suggesting country members would get to know each other more. She added a plea, however, that members would not be starved 'of all those serious but very instructive articles on botany, geology and aboriginal lore'. The Editor confessed that no scientific material had been received for a considerable time.

'Along the By-ways' continued for five volumes, undergoing a title change in 1964 (Volume 81) under the new Editor, J.R. Hudson. 'Bush Brushes' dealt with the same kind of material, the explanation for the change of title being that as the fox's brush was the traditional trophy of the chase, a different 'tale' was brought home from the bush by a field naturalist. A combination of cultures was revealed here. 'Bush Brushes' survived until October 1966 (Volume 83(10)). G.M. Ward became Editor in 1966 and held the position for ten years. Gradually a more scientific tone returned to the journal, although readers' nature observations were also included. Long-running series became a feature, such as Hans Beste's articles on Victorian reptiles, Margaret Corrick's on bush peas of Victoria, Brian Smith's on Victorian non-marine molluscs, and the 'Origin of Generic Names of the Victorian Flora', by James Baines.

Several special issues were produced under the editorships of Madge Lester (1976-1977) and Reuben Kent (1977-1978): the Coast issues (Volumes. 93(6), 1977; 94(1), 1978); Inland Waters issue (Volume 94(6), 1977), and the Alpine issue (Volume 95(6), 1978). Both the centenary of the Club in 1980 and that of *The Victorian Naturalist* itself in 1884 were commemorated with special historical issues. In 1993 the proceedings of the VNPA conference on Box & Ironbark Woodland Conservation were published (Volume 110(1)). The April issue of that year (Volume 110(2)) was devoted to fungi. There was another

one-topic issue in 1997, containing articles from the Club's Mistletoes Forum (Volume 114(3)). While the emphasis had shifted to scientific reports and articles, the needs of the amateur member were not overlooked, with the appearance of the 'Naturalist-in-Residence' feature which was introduced during the editorship of Ed and Pat Grey (1995-1998). The holders of this position wrote on a variety of natural history topics of general interest.

Book reviews have become an increasing feature of the journal, and in 1998 *The Victorian Naturalist* was shortlisted for the Review Publication of the Year Award. Instituted by Publish Australia, this award was to honour the media outlet which provided the best quality and quantity of reviews of Australian books. *The Victorian Naturalist* did not win, but to have been nominated reflected very well on the journal.

During the 1980s reports of Club proceedings appeared somewhat erratically in *The Victorian Naturalist*, and with the emergence of *Field Nats News* in 1991 they ceased to be included altogether. The only exception to this is the report of the Australian Natural History Medallion presentation each year, which includes a profile of the person who was honoured.

Editors of *The Victorian Naturalist*

Jan.1884-Dec. 1892	A.H.S. Lucas
Jan 1893-1925	F.G.A. Barnard
1925-July 1939	C.L. Barrett
Aug. 1939-1948	A.H. Chisolm (J.H. Willis Editor for 6 months 1945- 1946)
1948-1951	J.H. Willis
1951-1953	Ina M. Watson
1933-1957	N.A. Wakefield
1957-1958	A.B. Court
1958-1964	N.A. Wakefield
1964-1966	J.R. Hudson
1966-Dec. 1975	G.M. Ward
	(At the 1975 A.G.M., F.J.C. Rogers was elected as Editor, to begin in January 1976. However, Mr Rogers resigned in August 1975 and did not take office.)
Nov. 1975	Editorial Committee formed
Feb. 1976-Feb. 1977	Margery J. (Madge) Lester
Mar. 1977-Dec. 1978	R. Kent
Jan. 1979	B.J. Smith (Acting)
Mar. 1980	R.L. Wallis
May/June 1980	
(Centenary issue)	Margery J. Lester
July 1980-May 1983	R.L. Wallis
July 1983-Mar. 1986	Editorial Committee: B.J. Smith (convenor), P. Lawson, Diana McClellan, Joan Phillips, R. Thomson,L.Williams
May-Dec. 1986	R. Thomson, D. McClellan, Vicki Spencer
Jan. 1987-Feb. 1989	R. Thomson
Mar. 1989-Jan. 1991	Robyn Watson, T. Offor
Mar. 1991-Apr. 1995	Robyn Watson
June 1995-Dec. 1998	Ed and Pat Grey
Feb. 1999-Aug. 2002	Merilyn Grey
Oct. 2002-Oct. 2003	Alistair Evans and Anne Morton
Dec. 2003-	Anne Morton, Gary Presland, Maria Gibson

Conservation

According to the Objectives of the FNCV, printed in *The Victorian Naturalist* in 1894, the members' main interest was in going out into the field to find out what was there. But within a very short time they were concerned with preserving what was there, despite the culture of collecting specimens, which persisted for many years. Wilsons Promontory quickly attracted their attention, after George Robinson, Arthur Lucas and John Gregory went on a walking tour in 1884, and reported that it was 'full of interest for naturalists of all persuasions'. Wilsons Promontory National Park was established in 1898, and the Club congratulated itself on the successful outcome of its efforts, little realising that the preservation of the park required eternal vigilance. The FNCV swung into action yet again in the 'Hands Off the Prom' campaign in 1997 when the State government planned to approve the building of a hotel at Tidal River.

The Club was not the instigator of the reservation of Mount Buffalo, but took a keen interest in the area after its visit in 1903. The granting of grazing licences was of concern, and the FNCV, with kindred societies, pursued this matter throughout the 1940s and 50s until the issue of licences ceased in 1956.

Concern for the preservation of Aboriginal sites as well as areas of natural history significance brought about the establishment of the Club's National Monuments and National Parks Sub-committee in 1936. Their campaign was launched in conjunction with the Victorian Advisory Council for Flora and Fauna, of which Charles Daley, a former President of FNCV, was the Honorary Secretary.

In 1944 the FNCV was one of thirty-seven organisation that supported the foundation of the Save the Forests campaign, and at the same time the Club pressed on independently for better management of national parks. A public conference in 1946 produced *National Parks and National Reserves in Victoria* (1948), and the report from the State Development Committee in 1951 endorsed many of the Club's recommendations. Their contention was that all national parks in Victoria should be under the control of one authority, and the National Parks Authority finally came into being in 1957, with Crosbie Morrison as Director. The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) had been established in 1952, a direct off-shoot of the FNCV. Ros Garnet, who had been Secretary of the National Monuments and National Parks sub-committee, became Secretary of the VNPA.

The battle for the Little Desert was waged during the 1960s, and as Libby Robin has pointed out in her history of the campaign *Defending the Little Desert*, there were significant parallels between this campaign and that for Wilsons Promontory. The FNCV urged that reserves be established before any settlement scheme for the area proceeded. In 1967 the Save Our Bushland Action Committee (out of which grew the Conservation Council of Victoria) was formed. The FNCV was the largest of the conservation groups involved, together with the VNPA, the Natural Resources Conservation League and five other metropolitan groups. The idea that the public had a right to bushland had taken hold, largely due to the efforts of the FNCV and the VNPA, and public meetings held in 1969 in Melbourne drew over 1000 people each. Politicians took notice. Although the campaign was largely fought in metropolitan Melbourne, local campaigners played an important role. In Kaniva, Alec Hicks (Honorary member FNCV 1989) was one of the leading campaigners for the western Little Desert. Keith Hatley (elected 1939) in Kiata, who became the first ranger for the Little Desert National Park, was an authority on the flora and fauna of the central Little Desert.

During the 1960s, country Field Naturalists Clubs sought the support of the FNCV in their campaigns to secure reservation of other local areas of significance, among them Portland FNC (Lower Glenelg River); Maryborough FNC (the Pyrenees); Sunraysia

Nature Reservation Trust (Millewa extension). In 1964 Fred Barton, one of the FNCV's longest serving members, wrote urging the reservation of Cape Conran. Barrier FNC in Broken Hill sought assistance in preserving the famous 'Dig' tree.

The year 1973 was another important one in the conservation sphere. Locally, the Club was concerned for the preservation of the Edithvale Swamp; nationally it joined the campaign for the protection of Lake Pedder in Tasmania. Ten years later the Franklin Dam was the major issue. The FNCV wrote letters of protest, urged members to do the same individually, and the Club was represented in the rally in the Fitzroy Gardens.

When the Land Conservation Council started releasing its reports on the study areas covering Victoria, the FNCV responded to many of them, notably the Melbourne, Mallee and Alpine areas. The more recent Regional Forest Agreements have also come under consideration. There was much input, particularly by the Marine Research Group, into the proposals for the establishment of marine parks around the Victorian coast.

The FNCV has been involved in many conservation issues, great and small. In addition it has spawned other organisations with specific concerns. Mention has been made already of the VNPA. The Native Plants Preservation Group, inaugurated in 1949, became the Native Plants Preservation Society in 1952, and the Wildflower Garden Section of the Club became the Society for Growing Native Plants, now Plants Australia.

Nature shows

The annual Wildflower Show, later renamed Nature Show, was a major activity of the FNCV for nearly a century. A large exhibition of specimens of all kinds was held at the Annual Conversazione from 1881 onwards. This was primarily an anniversary meeting, at which the President gave an address, reviewing the past year's work. From 1883 the meeting incorporated two or three lecturettes by members. It was not a public meeting, though members' friends did attend. The Annual Conversazione was held in April, which was not a good time for wildflowers, and so in 1885 the first Wildflower Exhibition was held on 12 October in the Royal Society of Victoria's Hall. For the 1887 Show flowers were sent from various parts of the state. In the following year the Show required the upper room at the Royal Society to accommodate all the exhibits. For the next five years the Wildflower Show was combined with ordinary meetings of the Club, but extended over the October and November meetings from 1891-1901.

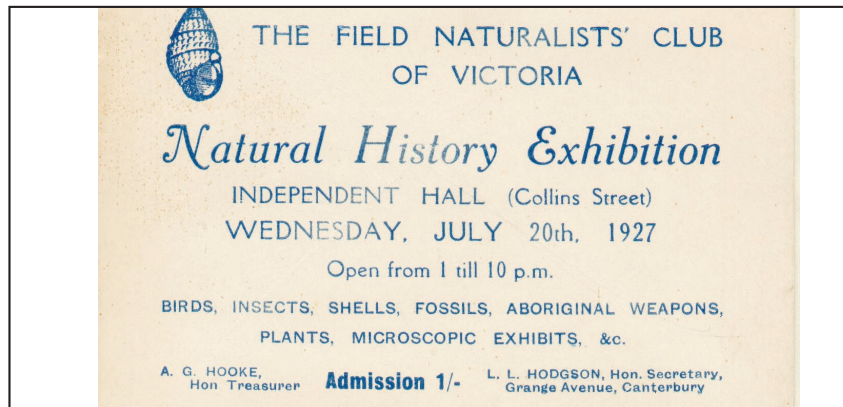


Fig. 13. Advertising card for the 1927 Nature Show

In 1902 the combined meeting and Show was held at the Athenæum Hall, and in 1905 the Show was combined with the Annual Conversazione which was transferred to October. It was held in the Masonic Hall, and extended over three days. The 1908 Show was again combined with the Conversazione; it was opened by the Governor, Sir Thomas Carmichael, and lasted two days. Back at the Royal Society in 1909, a new member observed that it was a pity to exhibit flowers only at night. This point was taken, and in 1910 the Wildflower Show was combined with an ordinary meeting on Monday night, 10 October, but was extended to the following Tuesday afternoon and evening, at the Royal Society.

The All-Australian Exhibition was held in October 1913, and the Victorian Branch of the Australian Forests League invited the FNCV to hold their exhibition (and meeting) in the Exhibition Building. Flowers came from many country areas, and *The Victorian Naturalist* reported that 'The display was a very fine one, and created considerable interest among the visitors to the Exhibition who were unacquainted with the Club's annual display.'

The 1915 Show in the Athenæum Hall raised £54.4.11 which went to Lady Stanley, the Governor's wife, for her Fund for Wounded Soldiers. A special orchid table was a feature of this Show.

The year 1916 marked FNCV's move to the Melbourne Town Hall for the annual Wildflower Show. This was opened by the Governor, Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson (made an Honorary member of the Club in 1917), and the proceeds went to the YMCA National Appeal. In addition to exhibits from all over Victoria, flowers were sent from Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia. The music was organised by Amy Fuller. In 1917, Miss Levy's orchestra provided the musical background.

Despite its title, the Wildflower Show was not always confined to flowers. Fungi, exhibited by Flora Martin, and mosses were included in the 1887 show, and in 1908 the Microscopical Section was established. Freda Bage exhibited live chick embryos, and there was a demonstration of section-cutting. Janet Raff was in charge of this section in 1911 and continued to be involved through to the 1930s. The orchid table that featured in the 1915 show developed into a regular Orchid Section, and was presided over by Edith Coleman and her daughter, Dorothy, for nearly twenty years from 1921.

Much discussion took place in the Club leading up to the 1918 show. The lack of common names was lamented, but two factors prevented their being supplied for all exhibits: firstly, the lack of such names for many plants (despite the best efforts of the Plant Names Sub-committee), and secondly, insufficient time before the show to attach them. The flower stall did a brisk trade, but the popularity of some flowers, the Waratah and Flannel-flower for example, meant that supplies ran out, and the flower-sellers were suspected of abstracting exhibits to meet the demand. There was also a complaint that there were too many microscopes, causing a jam around the tables, which were not suitable anyway!

As a result an effort was made to make the 1918 show more systematic. Beginning on 1 October in the Melbourne Town Hall, the Show presented a brilliant scene. It was opened by the Lord Mayor who commented on the suitability for cultivation of many indigenous plants, as evidenced by the splendid collection from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. The Microscopical Society of Victoria provided the microscope display. There was a display of Amy Fuller's watercolour paintings of wildflowers, which became a regular item for the next fifteen years. The Ladies Committee were in charge of the flower stall, and the YMCA provided refreshments. The total raised for the YMCA's National Fund for Soldiers was £141.2.9.

Flowers continued to be contributed from around the country for Shows during the 1920s, and were displayed on State tables. Throughout the 1930s the Shell Company provided an exhibit, which was in the care of the Ladies committee, under the guidance of Mrs C.L. Barrett. There was an emphasis on the dissemination of information, with a Plant Classification table, bookstall and information bureau. The Wildflower Protection Act meant that the FNCV had to restrict the display of Victorian flowers gathered in the field, and the emphasis shifted to cultivated plants.

The Depression affected the attendance at the 1936 show, and the 1937 show was cancelled when the government placed restrictions on large gatherings because of the polio epidemic. In 1934 the FNCV participated in the Victorian Centenary Horticultural Council exhibition. There was an unsuccessful motion in 1940 that the show not be held. The show went ahead as usual, held in the Horticultural Society's hall.

Back in 1922, a Nature Study Exhibition was held in June. It had been pointed out that natural history covered more than botany, and the other fields of study should be promoted. This Exhibition proved successful, and the proceeds went to the Children's Hospital Appeal. The next Natural History Show, in 1927, included displays of shells, fossils and geological specimens, Aboriginal artefacts, birds, insects, butterflies and moths, and a good show of winter blooms in the botanical section. The public response was encouraging. This became known as the Wild Nature Show, and eventually the two shows were merged into the annual Nature Show.

In 1948 A.J. Swaby was the Director of the Nature Show, and the various Special Interest Groups of FNCV were responsible for their respective sections. There was a special Photographic Section, for which Ina Watson, R.D. Lee and Bert Reeves were responsible. The Show was held in the Hawthorn Town Hall, and lasted three days. The exhibit by Hawthorn Junior FNC was an outstanding feature of that Show.

The aim of the 1953 Show was education, rather than fund-raising. It was held in the Prahran Town Hall, and was advertised in the *Education Gazette*. Schoolchildren were admitted free of charge and 4000 of them attended. Further advertising in *Wild Life* and through brochures distributed by the various organisations who provided displays, resulted in a very large public attendance over the four days of the Show. There were no Victorian bush flowers on display, only garden-grown plants, and the emphasis was on cultivation. In Norman Wakefield's words 'The various branches of nature each had their place, but emphasis was placed on the application of the naturalists' studies to the utilization and conservation of our natural resources.' He also reported that, as a result of the Show, the Victorian Education Department was taking considerable notice of the Club and was ready to consider methods of cooperating to further their common aims.

Another Show was held in the Prahran Town Hall in November 1956, and the Olympic Civic Committee offered space in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall for a display of native flowers during the Games. The FNCV, along with other natural history organizations, staged a show for a week in the Preston Motors Showroom during the Moomba Festival in March 1958.

In 1960 the Nature Show moved to the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, where it was held annually for the next ten years, under the energetic direction of Dan McInnes. From 1961 the shows, which lasted three days, were held jointly with the Society for Growing Australian Plants. The Bird Observers Club also contributed to several of them. One of the highlights of the 1960 show was a large exhibit of native birds in a natural setting, with sound recordings of birdcalls. CSIRO lent sound films of birds, seals, and the biological control of insects. In the following year the focal point was the Mallee-fowl, the Lowan, and its mound in a natural setting, to draw attention to its increasing loss of habitat. The marine life exhibit included live specimens, and there were also displays of live spiders and reptiles. Nature films were shown at intervals during the Show.

The microscopical section had always been a great attraction at the Shows, but the 1963 Show was a special occasion, because the FNCV microscopes, designed and created by Dan McInnes and W.C. Woollard, were in use for the first time. The Hawthorn Junior FNC, encouraged by Dan McInnes, were always active in this section, and in 1965 they provided a 'Do-It-Yourself' feature, where people could collect aquatic life from ponds and view it under a microscope. Gem-polishing was another activity presented by the Hawthorn Juniors over several years. In 1967 they constructed a glowworm cave. The FNCV Secretary's Annual Report recorded that 'D. McInnes and the Hawthorn Juniors are the proprietors of Instant Caves, Ltd.: the caves come in assorted sizes complete with stalactites and stalagmites. We understand that with modern methods the manufacturing time has been cut from several million years to 26 weeks.'

As noted above, each of the Special Interest Groups was responsible for displays reflecting their particular interest. 'Vegetation of the Foreshore' was the Botany Group's contribution in 1967, while the Geology Group presented an exhibit on 'Some of the Important Ore Deposits of Australia'. The feature on another occasion was a geological scale model of the Yarra Valley. The Entomology and Marine Biology Group regularly exhibited live marine specimens, as well as a variety of insects, both terrestrial and aquatic.

In 1980, after a ten-year gap, another Nature Show was held in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, to commemorate the Club's centenary. The Mammal Survey Group (now Fauna Survey Group) created a bush setting, with stuffed animals, on loan from the National Museum of Victoria, in the trees and undergrowth, or suspended in mid-air. Lamps were provided so that visitors could do their own spotlighting. Montmorency FNC had a timber bird-hide, from which people could view various birds in a natural setting. Hawthorn Junior FNC demonstrated the preserving and mounting of insects and fossils, and again had a pond from which creatures could be netted and examined under a microscope. Black Rock FNC had a coastal exhibit with a painted background, and tanks of marine creatures. (Fig.14) The FNCV Day Group, established to cater for people who did not wish to attend evening meetings, displayed photographs of their excursions, and there were geological and entomological exhibits. Garden-grown wild-flowers covered several tables, providing colour throughout the hall. Talks and demonstrations on plant propagation attracted many visitors. To mark the fact that it was an historical occasion, one table was devoted to FNCV history and activities.



Fig. 14. The coastal exhibit set up by the Black Rock FNC at the Nature Show of 1980.

The last Nature Show took place on 13-14 October 1984, at the instigation of Noel Disken, a former Hawthorn Junior who had fond and vivid memories of past Shows. It was held in the Herbarium Hall, where a bush ambience was created, complete with stuffed animals. Again the Microscopical Group's display, presided over by Dan McInnes, proved to be a great attraction, while the Hawthorn Juniors' display of live reptiles was also popular. While not on the scale of some of the former Nature Shows it gave a good insight into the activities of the FNCV, and attracted a considerable number of the public.



Fig. 15. Dan McInnes demonstrating the power of the microscope, at the 1984 Nature Show.

Australian Natural History Medallion

The FNCV has awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion annually since 1940. The idea originated with J.K. Moir, who wrote to the FNCV in 1939 suggesting that such a medallion should be awarded to a person who had performed, in his words, ‘a signal service’ to the protection of flora and fauna - ‘a variation of the Nobel awards’. He referred to the ‘crying need ... for recognition that our native flora and fauna is fast disappearing’, and thought that the establishment of a medallion would be an appropriate way of enhancing the study of natural history.

Eligibility for the award has changed little over the years. The recipient must have increased popular or scientific knowledge of Australian flora and fauna, or assisted in its protection or propagation, or published relevant books or articles. The dissemination of knowledge, by whatever means, is an important aspect of the criteria of eligibility. Scientific societies, Field Naturalists Clubs, etc. are invited to nominate a candidate, whose nomination runs for three years, with the option of renewal if the candidate is unsuccessful, though updating of the person’s dossier is requested. There is a General Committee, consisting of delegates from interested societies, whose main function is to appoint the six members of the Award Committee, who serve for four years, with half retiring every two years. The President of the Royal Society of Victoria chairs the Award Committee. Until his death in 1958 J.K. Moir paid for the Medallion. Since then all expenses have been the responsibility of the FNCV.

There have been three designs for the Medallion. R.H. Croll designed the initial medallion, in use from 1940 to 1980. Matcham Skipper produced the 1981 to 1993 medallion. Since 1994 a bronze medallion, designed by Tony Gilevski and cast by Viktor Kalinovski, has been used.

Australian Natural History Medallionists

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient (and State)</u>	<u>Field(s) of endeavour</u>
1940	Alec H. Chisholm (Vic.)	Ornithology, Natural History (Popularisation)
1941	Frederick Chapman (Vic.)	Geology, Palaeontology, Microscopy
1942	David H. Fleay (Vic.)	Mammalogy, Ornithology
1943	Herbert W. Wilson (Vic.)	Natural History (Education)
1944	John McConnell Black (S.A.)	Botany
1945	Charles P. Mountford (Vic.)	Anthropology, Ethnology
1946	Heber A. Longman (Qld.)	Zoology, Palaeontology
1947	P. Crosbie Morrison (Vic.)	Natural History (Popularisation)
1948	Ludwig Glauert (W.A.)	Herpetology (Palaeontology)
1949	Edith Coleman (Vic.)	Natural History, Botany, etc.
1950	Bernard C. Cotton (S.A.)	Conchology
1951	Tarlton Rayment (Vic.)	Entomology (Bees)
1952	John B. Cleland (S.A.)	Natural History, Ornithology (Botany, Ethnology, Conservation, etc)
1953	Charles L. Barrett (Vic.)	Ornithology, Natural History (Popularisation)
1954	Herman M.R. Rupp (N.S.W.)	Botany (Orchids)
1955	Stanley R. Mitchell (Vic.)	Anthropology, Geology
1956	Dominic L. Serventy (W.A.)	Ornithology
1957	Charles E. Bryant (Vic.)	Ornithology
1958	Charles J. Gabriel (Vic.)	Conchology
1959	Keith A. Hindwood (N.S.W.)	Ornithology
1960	James H. Willis (Vic.)	Botany, Natural History
1961	Emil H. Zeck (N.S.W.)	Entomology
1962	Norman A. Wakefield (Vic.)	Botany, Ornithology, Mammalogy
1963	Thistle Y. Stead (N.S.W.)	Botany, Conservation (Education)
1964	Winifred Waddell (Vic.)	Botany, Conservation
1965	Roy Wheeler (Vic.)	Ornithology
1966	J. Roslyn Garnet (Vic.)	Botany, Conservation
1967	Gilbert P. Whitley (N.S.W.)	Ichthyology (Oceanography)
1968	Norman B. Tindale (S.A.)	Anthropology, Entomology, etc.
1969	Charles A. Gardner (W.A.)	Botany
1970	Jean Galbraith (Vic.)	Botany, Conservation (Natural History)
1971	A.C. Beauglehole (Vic.)	Natural History (Botany, Entomology)
1972	Allen A. Strom (N.S.W.)	Conservation (Ecology)
1973	Edmund D. Gill (Vic.)	Anthropology, Geology, Palaeontology
1974	Vincent N. Serventy (N.S.W.)	Ornithology, Natural History (Conservation, Popularisation)
1975	Alison W. Ashby (S.A.)	Botany (Illustration, Cultivation)
1976	Winifred M. Curtis (Tas.)	Botany
1977	John R. (Jack) Wheeler (Vic.)	Ornithology, General Conservation
1978	Allen R. Sefton (N.S.W.)	Ornithology, General Conservation
1979	Helen I. Aston (Vic.)	Ornithology, Botany (Aquatic Plants)
1980	Michael Tyler (S.A.)	Herpetology
1981	Elizabeth Marks (Qld.)	Entomology
1982	Howard Jarman (Vic.)	Ornithology
1983	Trevor Pescott (Vic.)	Natural History (Ornithology, Conservation)
1984	Kevin Kenneally (W.A.)	Botany, Natural History
1985	Jack Hyett (Vic.)	Natural History (Ornithology)
1986	Graham Pizzey (Vic.)	Natural History (Ornithology)
1987	Robert G.H. Green (Tas.)	Zoology (Ornithology, Ecology)

1988	John Dell (W.A.)	Herpetology, Ornithology, Biogeography, Conservation
1989	Bruce A. Fuhrer (Vic.)	Botany (Photography)
1990	Ellen McCulloch (Vic.)	Ornithology
1991	Fred J.C. Rogers (Vic.)	Botany
1992	Enid L. Robertson (S.A.)	Botany, Ecology, Conservation
1993	Alan J. Reid (Vic)	Environmental Education, Ornithology
1994	Joan W. Cribb (Qld.)	Botany, Mycology
1995	W. Rodger Elliott (Vic.)	Botany
1996	Ken N.G. Simpson (Vic.)	Natural History (Ornithology)
1997	Geoffrey Monteith (Qld.)	Entomology
1998	Peter W. Menkhorst (Vic.)	Ornithology, Mammalogy, Wildlife Management
1999	Mary P. Cameron (Tas.)	Botany
2000	Malcolm Calder (Vic.)	Botany, Conservation, Ecology
2001	Alan B. Cribb (Qld.)	Botany, Marine Biology, Conservation
2002	Ian Endersby (Vic.)	Ornithology, Entomology, Natural History
2003	Clive Minton (Vic.)	Ornithology
2004	David Lindenmeyer (A.C.T.)	Ecology, Conservation Biology (Forests)

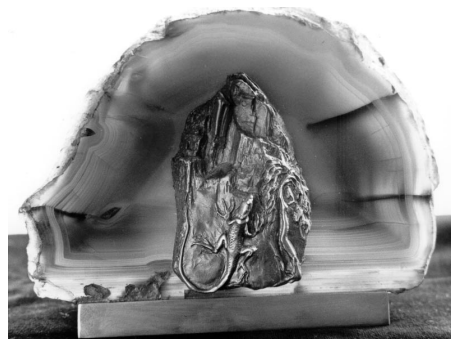
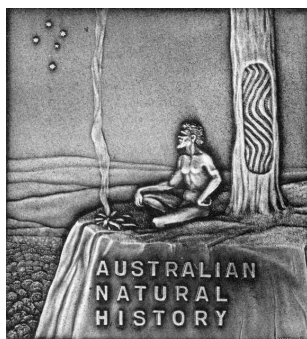


Fig. 16. Australian Natural History Medallions: (Upper left) 1940-1980; (Upper right) 1981-1992; (Above) 1993-to date.

Fungimap

Knowledge of fungi lags far behind that of the flowering plants. To address this situation, the Fungimap project was launched in 1995, at the instigation of Dr Tom May, a mycologist at the National Herbarium of Victoria. The aim was to gather information about fungi and its distribution, using the services of interested amateurs as well as professionals. A pilot scheme, targetting eight species, proved very successful, and the list was then expanded to one hundred species. A CD-ROM featuring the hundred species was produced, and a website set up. The *Fungimap Newsletter* comes out three times a year.

The scheme quickly aroused interest in other States, and there are now Regional Coordinators in New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, Western Australia (Kimberley Region), Australian Capital Territory, and Tasmania. Fungal Studies Groups have sprung up in most States. The national database of fungi species now contains more than 20,000 records, and the Fungimap mailing list contains over 700 people around Australia.

Successful conferences have been held at Denmark, W.A. in June 2001; at Rawson, Victoria in May 2003; and at Gowrie Park, Tasmania in May, 2005.

The formation of Fungimap was sponsored by FNCV, and supported by the National Herbarium of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and Melbourne and Deakin Universities. In 2005 Fungimap became a separate incorporated body, although the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, continues to host the Fungimap office and Coordinator



Fig. 17. The Fungal foray display at the FNCV Open Day, 20 March 2005

F.N.C.V. Presidents

1880-1883	*F. McCoy	1939-1940	*A.S. Chalk
1883-1884	F.S. Dobson	1940-1941	*L.W. Cooper
1884-1887	*J.J. Halley	1941-1943	*P.C. Morrison
1887-1889	*A.H.S. Lucas	1943-1944	*P.F. Morris
1889-1891	C.A. Topp	1944-1945	*I.C. Hammet
1891-1893	*W.B. Spencer	1945-1946	H.C.E. Stewart
1893-1895	*H.T. Tisdall	1946-1947	*F.S. Colliver
1895-1897	*W.B. Spencer	1947-1948	*Ina Watson
1897-1899	*C. French	1948-1949	*J.R. Garnet
1899-1901	J. Shepherd	1949-1950	C.S. Lewis
1901-1903	*T.S. Hall	1950-1952	*E.E. Lord
1903-1905	O.A. Sayce	1952-1953	*Margaret Chattaway
1905-1907	*F.G.A. Barnard	1953-1955	*A.A. Baker
1907-1909	*G.A. Keartland	1955-1956	*T. Rayment
1909-1910	*A.J. Ewart	1956-1957	A.J. Swaby
1910-1912	F. Wisewould	1957-1959	*J.R. Garnet
1912-1913	*J.A. Leach	1959-1962	*D.E. McInnes
1913-1915	*J.A. Kershaw	1962-1967	M.K. Houghton
1915-1916	*C.S. Sutton	1967-Oct. 1967	W.L. Williams
1916-1918	*F. Pitcher	Nov.1967-1970	*E.R. Allan
1918-1920	A.D. Hardy	1970-1973	*T.H. Sault
1920-1921	*J. Gabriel	1973-1976	*P. Kelly
1921-1922	F. Chapman	1976-1978	*Margaret G. Corrick
1922-1924	*C. Daley	1978-1981	*B.J. Smith
1924-1925	*J. Searle	1981-1985	*Wendy H. Clark
1925-1926	*G. Coghill	1985-Dec.1985	*B.J. Smith
1926-1928	*E.E. Pescott	Jan.-Apr. 1986	*Sheila Houghton (Acting President)
1928-1929	F.E. Wilson		
1929-1930	P.R.H. St. John	1986-1988	*J.G. Douglas
1930-1931	*C.L. Barrett	1988-1990	*G.C. Love
1931-1933	*J.A. Kershaw	Aug. 1990	R.B. Pearson
1933-1934	*V.H. Miller	Sept. 1990-1993	*A.J. Farnworth
1934-1935	*A.S. Kenyon	1993-1995	*D.M. Calder
1935-1936	*G.N. Hyam	1995-1998	*R.L. Wallis
1936-1937	*S.R. Mitchell	1998-2001	*T.W. May
1937-1938	*A.H. Chisholm	2001-2004	*Wendy H. Clark
1938-1939	*R.H. Croll	2004-	*Karen Muscat

* indicates that a photograph of this President has been reproduced below.

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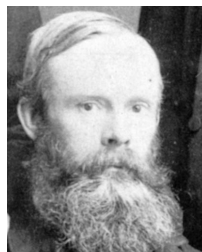
W.B.Spencer from *So much that is new* by D.J. Mulvaney and J. Calaby;
H.T. Tisdall, A.J. Ewart and J. Gabriel from the collection of the Royal Botanic Gardens;
C. Daley, and E.E. Pescott from *Victorian Historical Magazine*;
E.E. Lord from *Shrubs and trees for Australian gardens*;
A.S. Kenyon from the collection of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria;
J. Leach from *Vision and Realisation* by L.J. Blake;
A.S. Kenyon from *Hunters and collectors* by T. Griffiths;
S.R. Mitchell, S. Houghton, G.C. Love, and P. Kelly from family collections.



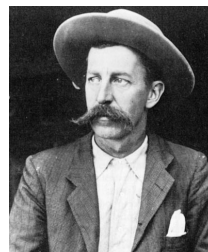
F. McCoy



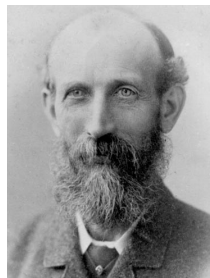
Rev. J.J. Halley



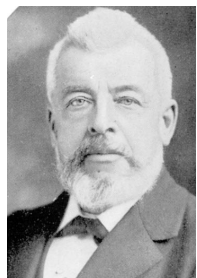
A.H.S. Lucas



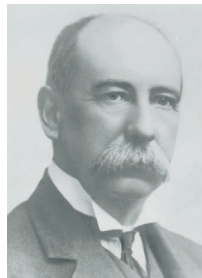
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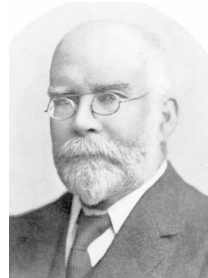
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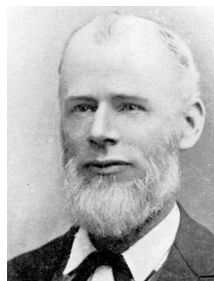
C. French



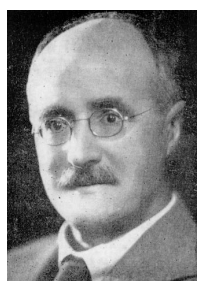
T.S. Hall



F.G.A. Barnard



G.A. Keartland



A.J. Ewart



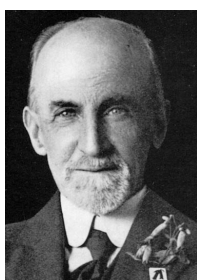
J.A. Leach



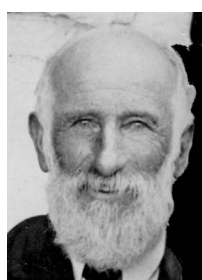
J.A. Kershaw



C.S. Sutton



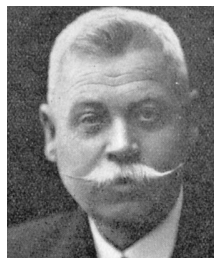
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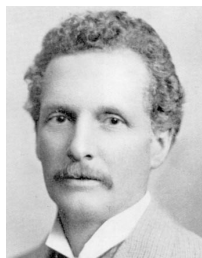
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C. Daley



J. Searle



G. Coghill



E.E. Pescott



C.L. Barrett



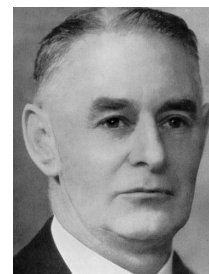
V.H. Miller



A.S. Kenyon



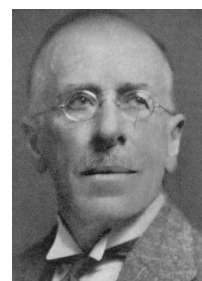
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S.R. Mitchell



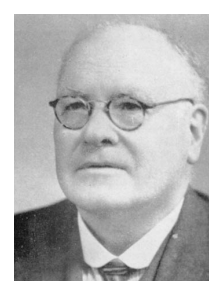
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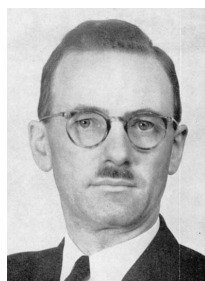
R.H. Croll



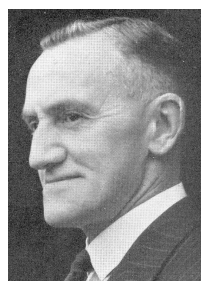
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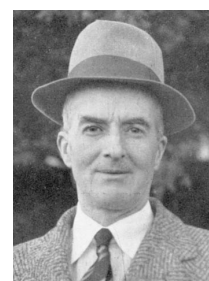
L.W. Cooper



P.C. Morrison



P.F. Morris



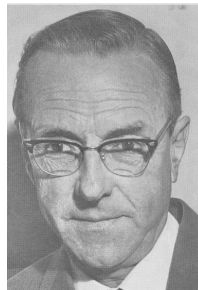
I.C. Hammet



Past Presidents of the FNCV, taken at the Centenary meeting, 5 May 1980:
Back row (L-R): Tom Sault, Dan McInnes, Eric Allan, Stan Colliver
Front row (L-R): Ros Garnet, Margaret Corrick, Brian Smith, Margaret Chattaway, Alf Baker



I. Watson



E.E. Lord



T. Raymond



P. Kelly



W. H. Clark



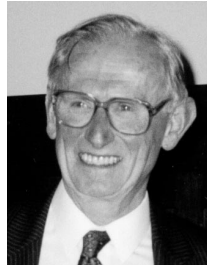
S. Houghton
(Acting President)



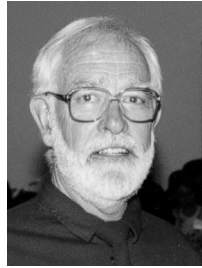
J.G. Douglas



G. Love



A.J. Farnworth



D.M. Calder



R.L. Wallis



T. W. May



K. Muscat

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Notes