

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Annual Report



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Year Ending 31 December 2003



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Reg. No A0033611X
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130
Telephone/Fax 9877 9860
www.vicnet.net.au/~fncv
email: fncv@vicnet.net.au

President's Report

This year we concentrated on consolidating our finances, lifting the calibre of our profile and addressing the need to upgrade our ageing systems and equipment.

Profile and Marketing

We discussed the idea of having a popular name that lets the public understand what we are. The members were divided on this issue so we looked more at educating people about us, taking a higher profile and making more use of our mission statement "Understanding our Natural World". We achieved this in many ways, one of which was the acquisition of a banner to be used at displays and functions. It is very eye catching and certainly identifies us well.

For biodiversity month we ran a symposium on fire called the "Burning Issue" and invited many high calibre speakers to present and discuss issues of bushfires and burning. It was highly successful and the papers will be published in the Victorian Naturalist this year. We ran a Bat Identification workshop early in the year which was also a great success.

Environment Fund Grants

This year was the first year that the FNCV was able to award grants to successful applicants from the Environmental fund. It took many years to set up this fund so that donors could receive a tax deduction and thus we could attract more donations of money to the club. The money from this fund must go to aid research into the environment and its related inhabitants. It was gratifying to finally see this fund become established and have enough money in it to award grants to successful applicants for their natural history based research projects. The recipients will supply the club with results of the research and publish them in the Victorian Naturalist.

President's Appeal

We looked at our ageing photocopier that can only do one side and therefore use more paper than we could morally tolerate, our computers (that we now rely on for the FNN newsletter and the Victorian Naturalist, memberships etc.) that once again needed updating and the need to enter the digital age by getting a data projector. Many of our speakers now have their presentations on Powerpoint and thus require an appropriate projector. To this end we devised a President's Equipment Appeal to raise \$20,000 to address these needs.

To end December we had raised \$4000. The first item to be purchased early in 2004 will be the digital projector.

Program of Activities

Once again we had a vast range of activities for our members – almost too many. Most of our interests extend into many areas but we don't have the time to go to all the meetings, excursions, workshops, conferences and camps, even if we wanted to. Each of the Special Interest Groups will be detailing their activities separately. A task for next year is to look at ways of reducing the number of activities without compromising each group. Then maybe we can get to more of the activities we would like.

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Finances

Our Treasurer announced during the year that through our diligence and belt tightening policies, the finances had turned around and that we were in a healthy financial state. This was very gratifying after the hard work put in by all of us. However late in 2003 we got the news that the GVEHO grant that we usually get each year would not be received this year as they had changed the criteria and we no longer met them. A \$10,000 shortfall is a huge hole in our funds. A flurry of activity by several of our members produced a document that we submitted, protesting about this and stating why we should be eligible. We still await the outcome. To lose \$10,000 will be a big blow and very hard to replace. It was mainly used to fund our administrative officer and for publishing the Victorian Naturalist.

Web Site

Our Web site has been redesigned and updated by one of our members. It is excellent. It is easy to navigate around, interesting and quick to download. It is wonderful to have a web site that reflects us and is in keeping with the modern world.

Surge of Interest in Botany

Many groups and interests go in cycles and it was becoming obvious that interest in Botany was rising. We gathered together many interested people, high calibre speakers and had an inspiring meeting looking at the future structure and projects for the group. It was a good start to an exciting future.

Australian Natural History Medallion

The Australian Natural History Medallion for 2003 was awarded to Clive Minton. It was awarded to him for his work on Migratory Waders. Clive has achieved so much in his life thus far which made him a very worthy recipient. He gave the lecture for the November meeting on his work on Migratory Shorebirds.

The Loss of Some Members

This year we had the sad news that some of our members who had been with us for so long, and contributed so much, passed away. We deeply miss John Seebeck, Ron Kershaw, Eric Allen, Ian McCann and Elspeth Sacco.

Finally thanks to all my councillors and other office bearers without whom we could not have achieved so much.

Wendy Clark

President

FNCV Administration

Membership

Membership was down a little from last year with 974 members as of 31st December 2003. The largest numbers

were Ordinary (full fee) membership (27%), and concessional members (27%). The remainder were divided between Family, Joint, Honorary, Institutional, Clubs/Schools, Exchange and Free List (0.41% for Clubs/Schools to 16% for Joint Members).

Promotion

Our main promotional tool is our Calendar of Events which is produced three times during the year. This is distributed to libraries, Universities and other environmental groups.

We did not take part in the usual Community Festivals during 2003, due to a lack of people available to coordinate an FNCV stall. We were offered a sponsored site at The Great Australian Science Show between 16-18th August at the Melbourne Museum in which we took part. As helpers for the event came from the Fauna Survey Group, a display that these people could talk about was established with many photos of the group's activities displayed. Trapping methods used and what we do with the results collected were explained and raised much interest with the visitors to the Museum. There were a number of people interested in our club and the other special interest groups we have, so the three day event was worth all the hard work it took to set up. Thank you to all our members who helped out during this time.

Publications

Early in 2003 we invested in the excellent new book *Spiders and Scorpions of Victoria*, buying them in two batches of 100 so that we could recoup our initial investment of \$1250 before buying in the second batch. As of 31/12/03 we had sold 116 of the 200 copies. To break even, we still need to sell another 32 books. In future, when considering such publication deals, we will need to give much thought to the best and most effective way of selling such books quickly to prevent any financial loss to the organisation.

Courses

A Bat Workshop was run during February in conjunction with the FNCV's Fauna Survey Group and The Australasian Bat Society Bat Workshop. The event was most successful and enjoyed by all those who attended. The profit for the weekend course were halved between FNCV and ABS, our share of the profits being \$275.45. A full description of the event can be found in the *Field Naturalists News (FNN)* 120.

Advertising in FNCV Publication

Paid advertising and flyer inserts placed in the *Field Naturalist News* during the year totaled \$506.82 (before expenses) a little down from the previous year, while there was no advertising income from *The Victorian Naturalist* (last year \$470).

Grants Received

We received the maximum grant of \$10,000 from the Program of Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO), run by the Federal Government's Department of Environment and Heritage.

Unfortunately, due to a restructure, we were told we are no longer eligible for this grant in the future. This grant had become a major part of the club's income for a number of years.

The other successful grant for 2003 was from Parks Victoria of \$4,800 for an invertebrate survey project at Yarra Bend Park.

General Administration

Money received from hiring out our hall to groups decreased from \$4400 last year to \$3650.75 for 2003 (before expenses). It was found not worth our while to hire out to some 'high-maintenance' groups. We mainly hire out to other environmental groups, but also to political parties and others. One of our members, Graham Lorimer held a successful Grass Workshop at our hall during the year.

A big thank you to Ian Kitchen who has volunteered his time in the office during 2003. His help with the administration duties as well as maintenance of the hall has been greatly appreciated. The improvements to the interior of the hall during the year has been due to his tireless efforts. Thank you also must go to Lyn Ansell and Mimi Pohl who have helped me out with administrative tasks during the year. I would also like to thank Leon Altoff for redesigning our website and training the novices in website maintenance. The time and support of all our volunteers is much appreciated.

Ann Williamson

Administration Officer

Newsletter Team

Field Naturalist News (FNN) plays a major role in the efficient running of the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria. Without this vital organ of communication it would be impossible to run the Club program. There were eleven monthly issues of Field Naturalist News for 2003. We are proud of our newsletter and strive constantly to improve it.

The FNN team is always mindful of its budget. By changing to a new local printer, we were able to reduce expenditure below that of the previous year, in response to the "belt tightening" necessary throughout the Club. We are also actively seeking suitable advertising to help offset our costs.

The newsletter team is most grateful to all our contributors. Our thanks to all who took the trouble to write up regular columns, excursions, meetings, issues and supply original copy. It is impossible to mention every one by name but our major writers are listed in table 1 below. It is good to see the number increasing, suggesting that more members of special interest groups are active and participating in Club

life.

A few people deserve special thanks. Platon Vafiadis meticulously prepares the Marine Research section of the Newsletter. President Wendy Clark sets a great example, by contributing a leading article and Juniors' report each month. Ann Williamson, our Office Administrator has been especially helpful in many ways. She edits the four monthly calendar from which we produce our calendar of activities. Ann also keeps an eye on the email and often downloads copy for us. Jim Walker our Conservation Co-ordinator keeps the Club posted with up to date information. Ian Kitchen is usually on duty in the office on Tuesday and helps us with many details and suggestions.

Our deadline is always lunchtime on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. However, it makes life very difficult if too much is sent in at the last minute. The newsletter team particularly appreciate items which come into the office by email or on disk. Our preferred format is a Word document. (Not a Publisher document). And please don't format Word into columns. As always, careful labelling of emails and files is important if they are to get to the right place. Noel Schleiger, Joan Broadberry and Bob Barron are always hard at work on the first two Tuesdays of the month writing, typing, laying out, proofreading and double checking the pages of FNN before it is delivered to the printer.

Once the newsletter is printed and delivered to the FNCV office. The 3rd Tuesday of the month is collation day. We rely on a team of volunteers to collate and address over 900 FNN's. The number of volunteers this year has been a little down. We really need at least 10 to help with collation if we are to get the newsletter to the Blackburn Post Office by 4 pm. If that is not possible the newsletter can take up to a week to reach members. (See asterisked numbers in the right column of Table I.)

Ray Power has the onerous job of organizing the various copies of FNN into separate bundles for the many mail centres interstate and within Victoria.

We try to acknowledge our volunteers each month in FNN. We are grateful to everyone who pitches in so willingly. Remember, if you don't write articles, work on the collation team is just as valued.

Dr. Noel Schleiger & Joan Broadberry

Editors

The Victorian Naturalist

The Victorian Naturalist published its usual 6 issues during 2003 culminating with a great flurry of activity and effort in our final issue of the year, a special issue devoted to a review of the Victorian Fauna and Flora Guarantee Act 1988 and protection of biodiversity in the state. Four of the papers in this issue were presented at the Symposium enti-

Table 1: Significant Contributors to FNN 2003

Month & (Edition)	Significant Contributors	Pages	Enclosures	Advertisements	Collators
February (117)	Alan Yen; Ed Grey; Platon Vafiadis; Wendy Clark; Jim Walker.	10	1	6	8*
March (118)	Jim Walker; Platon Vafiadis; Grif. Ward.	8	1	4	12
April (119)	Jenny Porter; Sally Bewsher; Rob Hamson; Alan Yen; Lyn Ansell; Noel Schleiger; Jim Walker; Platon Vafiadis; Wendy Clark.	12	0	5	12
May (120)	Joan Broadberry; Keith Marshall; Silvia Zele; Rob Hamson; Sheila Houghton; Wendy Clark; Julie Constable; K. Devenish; Noel Schleiger; Platon Vafiadis.	12	1	2	11
June (121)	Jenny Porter; Judy Rutherford; Russell Thompson; Rob Hamson; Jim Walker; Nick Andrewes; Noel Schleiger; Sheila Houghton; Tanya Loos; Platon Vafiadis	12	1	2	6*
July (122)	Geoff Lay; Jim Walker; Ian Kitchen; Rob Hamson; Sheila Houghton; Annabel Carle; Robert Hollingworth; Gretna Weste; Platon Vafiadis.	12	0	3	9*
August (123)	Geoff Lay; Russell Thompson; Sheila Houghton; Noel Schleiger; Jim Walker; Platon Vafiadis.	12	1	3	11
September (124)	Geoff Lay; Ian Kitchen; Rob Hamson; Sheila Houghton; Noel Schleiger; Jim Walker; Platon Vafiadis.	12	0	5	12
October (125)	Dorothy Mahler; Geoff Lay; Stuart Dashper; Rob Hamson; Wendy Clark; Ann Williamson; Platon Vafiadis; Noel Schleiger; Jim Walker; Rob Hamson.	12	1	7	10
November (126)	Wendy Clark; Nick Andrewes; Jenny Porter; Russell Thompson; Rob Hamson; Roger Pierson; Pat Grey; Ed Grey; Sheila Houghton; Noel Schleiger; Peter Neville; Jim Walker; Platon Vafiadis.	12	0	5	10
December (127)	Wendy Clark; Enid Amis; Ann Williamson; Rob Hamson; Ray Power; Sheila Houghton; Noel Schleiger; Platon Vafiadis; Jim Walker.	10	1	1	10

'A review of the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act – 14 years since implementation' organised by the FNCV and held as part of Biodiversity Month in September 2002. Authors have provided a perspective from Department of Sustainability and Environment; a critique of the Act comparing original expectations against outcomes and suggestions for improvement; an outline of the NSW Threatened Species Act which may be a useful source of ideas for improving the FFG Act; and a discussion of conservation of lesser known groups such as invertebrates and fungi which are poorly protected compared with the 'cute and cuddly' flora and fauna. Also Included in this issue is a point-by-point critique of the FFG Act by Lawyers for Forests who discuss the Act's defects. Particularly lack of government commitment and funding, combined with suggestions for improvements to its implementation. The FFG Act was an important piece of legislation when it was introduced in 1988 and it is now necessary that all interested groups and individuals work together with government to make the improvements to the Act that will guarantee the survival of Victoria's biodiversity.

Authors covered a wide range of conservation and ecological topics in Volume 120 with the fires in alpine areas over summer 2003 a major issue. Vegetation was covered in 120 (1) with papers on Snow Pratia, *Exocarpus cupressiformis* and the impact of climate change on plant communities in the Kosciusko alpine zone. Fauna was well represented throughout Vol 120 with topics ranging from dolphins, Powerful Owls, Little Penguins, Hooded Plover, Leadbeater's Possum, Carp, Rufous Bristlebird and reptiles. Conservation and protection areas were covered by J. A. Fitzsimons and C. Ashe 'Some Recent Strategic Additions to Victoria's Protected Area System 1997-2002' in 120 (3), N.S.G. Williams 'Vegetation of the Northern (1989) Addition to Greens Bush, Mornington Peninsula National Park' and D. Cook and J. Yugovic 'Clyde-Tooradin Grassland Re-discovered' in 120 (4). The work of the Fauna Survey Group was reported by S. Dashper and S. Myers 'The Use of Artificial Nestboxes by Brush-tailed Phascogales *Phascogale tapoatafa* in Rushworth Forest' in 102 (2) and P. Homan 'A Reptile and Amphibian Survey of the Wonthaggi Heathland and Coastal Reserve' in 120 (4).

Charles McCubbin supplied us with an important Naturalist Essay 'Investigating Interconnectivity in a South-eastern Australian Forest Ecosystem in 120 (1) beautifully illustrated with original sketches. Ron Fletcher again contributed with an observation of Red-necked Wallabies and Jim Walker entertained with instructions on catching (or not) Blue-ringed Octopus. Ken Green made a welcome re-appearance as Naturalist in the Mountains with observations on the fires of 2003 in Kosciusko alpine area and David Cheal provided a viewpoint from the Victorian side of the border on the fires in the Bogong High Plains. As has been stated before, the editors would be delighted to receive more Naturalist Notes and we encourage members to describe their natural history observations and send them in to *The Victorian Naturalist* for publication.

Sixteen book and two software reviews appeared during the year. Those books returned by reviewers were donated to the FNCV Library.

Momentous upheavals to a long-established team occurred during 2003 when Alastair Evans completed his PhD and left *The Vic Nat* to pursue postdoctoral studies in Helsinki, Finland. Al joined *The Vic Nat* in 1997 to support Ed and Pat Grey with layout of the journal and gradually added editorial, design and expansive computer expertise to his list of attributes. Marilyn Grey also resigned to give herself the opportunity to complete her own PhD, a desire too long shelved while she supported, encouraged, organised, arranged authors, referees, proofreaders, other editors and desk-top publishers to maintain the high quality and standard of *The Vic Nat* as it is today.

Two new editors, Gary Presland and Mary Gibson, joined the team and have settled in well, bringing their own special expertise and interests to widen the scope of the editorial department. Virgil Hubregtse joined earlier in 2003 as Assistant Editor in charge of proofreading and expanded her activities to include most of the on-going administration tasks while Dorothy Mahler continued to provide valuable administrative assistance with each issue published and Ann Williamson supported with office back-up. Ken Bell earns our undying gratitude each year for preparation of the annual index. Steve Kitto of BPA Print Group provides endless advice and support. I wish to thank all of the above and the authors, the referees, proofreaders and book reviewers (listed in the December issue) for without their contribution there would be no *Vic Nat*.

Anne Morton

Editor

FNCV Environment Fund

The FNCV Environment Fund is administered by a committee consisting of Malcolm Calder (Chair), Anne Morton (Secretary), Barbara Burns, Tom May, Bob Rogers and Noel Schleiger.

The Committee met for the first time in 2003. A calendar of activities was established and an application form with closing date was inserted into *Field Nats News*. The Committee then selected appropriate projects and apportioned grants. These were presented to successful candidates at the FNCV General meeting in August.

The projects supported were:

- *Understanding modes of recovery of plants in subalpine grasslands after fire*, Dr John Morgan, La Trobe University
- *Survival of Australian alpine plant biodiversity: the importance of temperature and snowmelt on plant function*, Susanna Venn and Dr John Morgan, La Trobe University
- *Diet and food availability of the Swamp antechinus (Antechinus minimus): a comparison between coastal and inland habitats*, Louise Allison, Deakin University
- *Casterton Minnie Hole bird hide project*, Ian McCallum, Casterton Field Naturalists Club
- *Studies in the Geological Evolution of Plenty Gorge*, Dr Alan Parkin, Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
- *Invertebrate Biodiversity at Yarra Bend Park*, Dr Alan Yen, Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
- *Refurbishment of Bat Traps*, Ian Kitchen, Field Naturalists Club of Victoria.

Each successful project is required to be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding, with a report on completion to be published in *The Victorian Naturalist*. Successful applicants are encouraged to communicate the results of their project to the Club via articles, talks or field trips.

Donations to this tax-deductible fund are most welcome and gratefully accepted. We have been fortunate in the past year with donations to the fund from members and particularly from Knox Environment Society with \$1000. We are always happy to receive more donations to enable us to grant more funding to worthy projects in the future.

Anne Morton

Secretary

General Meetings

Monthly general meetings provided a variety of topics and most of these have comprehensive reports. (See Column 4 to Table 1 next page.) I thank all our speakers for contributing towards making 2003 a very interesting and informative year for our members.

Peter Carwardine provided an interesting introductory talk on the study of insects suitable for all ages. Peter conveyed a keen approach for the learner and hints as to what equipment the learner needs.

Annabel Carle gave a comprehensive, detailed study of the Coorong and its dependence on the health of the Murray River.

The AGM presided over by Wendy showed the Club was successfully emerging from financial downturn and the need for care in future spending. Barbara Burns (Treasurer) thanked all members for their help in curbing the expenditure where needed.

Vince Morand (Geol. Survey Vic) gave a very interesting talk, classifying mountains, and gave case histories from various parts of the world. His section on volcanoes was particularly informative.

Kate Sparks (AQIS) was particularly enlightening on her information on quarantine, especially on the introduction of pests and diseases from overseas, and how the public can help.

The session on the Environment Fund recipients was particularly interesting. The variety of the three speakers held the interest of the audience. Dr Alan Yen's concluding talk on Crickets in China made us realise how hobbies and obsessions can vary tremendously with different cultures.

Margaret Cameron's trip to Sri Lanka studying birds was supported by excellent slides of many of the birds, some indigenous and some migratory, dependent on different habitats.

We were grateful to Michele Adler and Rod McMillan for stepping in at late notice to replace the planned speaker who suddenly had to go overseas. Michele and Rod, with the aid of slides, showed us the project they had to help landscape the Galapagos Research Centre with a minimum of funding and, by the way, we learned much about the flora and fauna.

Dr Clive Minton, the ANHM recipient for 2003, showed how much he had gained from the organisation of the many voluntary helpers interstate and overseas. He had given an enormous amount of thought and organisation with advancing technology to learn the migratory paths of birds from Australasia around the Pacific, and beyond.

Finally, our Members' Night featured Joan Broadberry and her great slides of orchids from the South West of Western Australia. Joan is a member of both photographic and orchid societies which contributes not only to her excellent slides but also to show best the necessary features which assist in orchid classification which is constantly changing. John Harris's talk and slides on bird watching in North Queensland was fascinating, especially to those unfamiliar with this part of Australia.

Dr Noel Schleiger

Program Co-ordinator

Table 2: FNCV General Meetings 2003

Date	Topic	Speaker
6 June 2003	Introduction to the Study of Insects	Peter Carwardine
7 April 2003	Conserving the Coorong	Annabel Earle
5 May 2003	Annual General Meeting	Wendy Clark
2 June 2003	Origin of Mountains	Vince Morand
6 July 2003	The Role of Quarantine	Kate Sparks (AQIS)
3 August 2003	FNCV Environment Fund	Louis Allison, Dr. John Morgan and Susanna Venn
	Crickets in China	Dr Alan Yen
1 September 2003	Spotting Birds in Sri Lanka	Margaret Cameron (Deakin University)
6 October 2003	The Galapagos Islands Project	Michele Adler and Rod McMillan
10 November 2003	ANHM Recipient	Dr Clive Minton
	Studies of Migratory Shore Birds	Birds Australia
7 December 2003	Members' Night: Orchids of Victoria	Joan Broadberry
	Bird Watching in North Queensland	John Harris

Club Excursions

Ten excursions were planned, of which nine were accomplished. Drip, drip drop little April showers turned out to be a wash-out. The subjects of our activities included: Marine, Paleontology, Botany, Bird Watching, Fauna and Forestry.

It was indeed a pleasure that all the leaders who were approached responded willingly and conveyed their knowledge with enthusiasm to the enjoyment of the participants. While recognizing the fascination of the Dinosaur-Dreaming dig, each and every excursion had its intrigue with still more information to be gained. For a list of excursions see next page.

Dennis Meltzer

Club Excursions Coordinator

Table 3: FNCV Club Excursions 2003

Leader	Subject	Venue
Leon Altoff	Marine	Mushroom Reef
Monash University Group	Paleontology	Via Inverloch
Flora Anderson	Botany, Forestry	Yarra Ranges
Dennis Meltzer	Sherbrooke Lyre Birds	Dandenong Ranges
Mark Sullivan	Recovery after 1983 fires	Mt. Macedon
Neville Walsh	Forestry, Botany	Kinglake
Cecily Falkingham	Botany	Hochkins Ridge
Ranger Russel Brooks	Bird Watching	Cheetham Wetlands
Jim Walker	Powelltown / Healesville	Forestry / Fauna

Library

Forty-eight titles were added this year. Noteworthy amongst these were: Australian Daisy Study Group *Everlasting daisies of Australia* (2002); *Flora of Australia* vol. 43 *Poaceae* (2002); D. Meagher and M. Kohout *A field guide to Wilson's Promontory* (2001); J.H. Pearn *A doctor in the garden: Australian flora in the world of medicine* (2001); L. Robin *The flight of the emu* (2001); W.J. Young, ed. *Rivers as ecological systems: the Murray-Darling Basin* (2001); *Zoological catalogue of Australia* vol. 19.3B *Crustacea: Eucarida Part 2* (2002). We have a comprehensive collection of management plans for Victorian national parks and RAMSAR sites.

Additions to our CD collection include *Key to Australian aquatic invertebrates*, *The action plan for Australian butterflies*, *Wattle: acacias of Australia*, and *Hair ID; an interactive tool for the identification of mammalian hair*. The Reference section has been expanded by the addition of several subject dictionaries.

We are grateful for donations from Ron Fletcher, Keith Marshall, Joan Semmens, Kathie Strickland, Alan Yen and Betty Yuen; also to those who have donated the books which they have reviewed for *The Victorian Naturalist*.

Enquiries during the year, mainly historical, concerned the origins of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, which grew out of the Club, the Lal Lal Falls, Cliff Beaglehole's researches on Lord Howe Island, and the Club's historical and current involvement in conservation issues.

We again had a student from Melbourne University's History in the Field Unit who chose as her subject the effect of the

Plate 1: (opposite) FNCV president Wendy Clark with Clive and Pat Minton at the Australian Natural History Medallion Presentation
Photo: Joan Broadberry

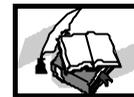
from 1929 to 1935, and good use was made of our archive collection for this period.

The library was open on Tuesdays, and available to members for borrowing and reference at meetings.

Finally, I would like to thank Enid Amis, Enid Haarhoff and Joan Kottek for their assistance, especially during my extended absence in the early part of the year. My thanks also to Tess Kloot, who has been helping with the archives.

Sheila Houghton

Honorary Librarian & Archivist



Australian Natural History Medallion

The 2003 Medallion was awarded to Dr Clive Minton for his contributions to the study of waders and terns particularly in Australia but also overseas. He was nominated by the Victorian Ornithological Research Group and a full citation of his accomplishments was published in the *Victorian Naturalist*. The Medallion was presented by Wendy Clark, President of the FNCV, at the November meeting and this was followed by an address from the recipient dealing with many wader and other bird study projects with which he has been involved.

The General Committee did not meet during the year as there were no vacancies on the Awards Committee to be filled and no other significant matters to be resolved.

An appeal was made to the clubs and societies associated with the medallion for donations towards expenses and a total of \$500 was received. This included a memorial donation by two FNCV members for Marjorie North, a long time member of the FNCV and the Montmorency Field Naturalists Club. An investigation was made into the possibility of obtaining tax deductibility of gifts to the Fund but the structure of the Medallion rules and committees will not allow this.

The Awards Committee members are to be thanked for the effort and time that they put into assessing the dossiers of seven nominations, four of which were new for this year. Their geographic spread of nominations was: ACT (1); NSW (1); Queensland (1); South Australia (1) and Victoria (3). Again, the Committee found it necessary to debate at length

the respective merits of professional and amateur nominees. Some amendments will be made to future guidelines stressing the need for community involvement activities to be highlighted for those whose contributions have been made predominantly as part of their professional position.

Ian Endersby
Secretary to the Medallion General Committee

Geology Group

During 2003 we had ten talks and six excursions, two of which were two-day trips. Once again, we would like to express our gratitude to our speakers and excursion leaders for the stimulating talks and wonderful field trips they have taken us on. Thanks also to members who have helped in any way with the Group's activities, particularly Lyn Ansell and Lyn Willshire who each wrote two reports for the FNN and Frank Holmes for setting up two displays in the cabinet at the Clubhouse.

One change that has occurred this year is that we have started charging visitors to our meetings and excursions. This began as a nominal \$2 to cover insurance on trips but is now \$5 for both talks and excursions, with the aim of encouraging visitors to join the Club. This charge netted \$180 for the Group while Geology expenses refunded in 2003 were \$203.50, the latter being mainly postage, telephone and gifts of wine for speakers/leaders who have already received mugs. These sums have been paid in to and disbursed by the Club Treasurer.

Another first was to invite Sale and Bairnsdale FNCs to join our last field trip to Buchan which served to boost our numbers to a respectable size. It also gave the members of these two clubs the opportunity to enjoy the expertise of specialist geologists on their home turf, and of course, it is good to meet up with fellow field naturalists wherever they are. The \$5 charge to visitors also helped defray the leaders' expenses. It is a worthwhile practice to continue particularly with longer trips.

The topics and speakers at our 2003 meetings are listed opposite. The average attendance was down a bit from 31 last year to 26. Please make the effort to come to meetings – we must have a decent audience when we are inviting some of Australia's leading experts in geological fields to speak to us.

Rob Hamson
Secretary



Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group held 7 meetings and undertook 7 field trips throughout 2002. On average 19 people attended our meetings with the highest attendance at our February meeting when 24 people attended. Topics ranged from marine worms to Great White Sharks!

Field trips are a wonderful opportunity to experience at first hand the myriad of invertebrate life forms to be found on our coasts. Trips were undertaken when suitable low tides coin-

Table 4: Geology Group Meetings & Excursions 2003

Geology Meetings		
Date	Topic	Speaker
February 2003	Aspects of the Geology of Northern Tasmania	Dr Noel Schleiger, FNCV member
March 2003	Goldmining in Bendigo	Peter Carwardine, FNCV member
April 2003	The Evolution of Rocky Coasts	Dr Wayne Stephenson, University of Melbourne
May 2003	The Geological Evolution of Victoria	Professor David Gray, University of Melbourne
June 2003	Red Giants, White Dwarfs and Black Holes	Ian Endersby, FNCV member
July 2003	Tropical Rainforest at Mount Hotham	Dr David Greenwood, Victoria University
August 2003	The Nature of Change: Geological Perspectives on Global Change	Professor Mike Sandiford, University of Melbourne
September 2003	Fieldwork in the Canadian Rockies	Gillian Hamson, Melbourne University undergraduate student
October 2003	Groundwater in the Murray-Darling Basin	David Ife, URS Australia Pty Ltd
November 2003	Karst Landscapes in Australia	Dr John Webb, La Trobe University
Geology Excursions		
Date	Topic	Leader (Attendance)
February 2003	Bayside Geology and Scenery	Dr Eric Bird, consultant and writer (23)
March 2003	The Geology of the Torquay Coastline	Dr Tom Darragh, Museum Victoria (retired) (17)
April 2003 (Weekend Trip)	The Bendigo Goldfields The Geology and Geomorphology of the Bendigo Area	Peter Carwardine, FNCV member; Dr Allan Rossiter, La Trobe University (19)
July 2003	The Restoration of the Spires of St Paul's Cathedral	James Charlwood, Stonemason, Cathedral Stone (27)
November 2003	The Palaeozoic Geological Evolution of Central Victoria	Professor David Gray, University of Melbourne (15)
December 2003 Weekend Trip	The Karst Features and Fossils of the Buchan Area	Dr John Webb, La Trobe University; Frank Holmes, Fossil Collectors; Association of Australia (30)

Locations visited during 2003 included the Inverloch area, Port Fairy and surrounds, Mushroom reef Flinders, Bear Gully and Lome.

A new Committee was elected in October and the new structure is as follows:

President	Michael Lyons
Secretary	Leon Altoff
Fieldtrip coordinator	Audrey Falconer
Committee members	Phil Bock Platon Vafiadis

I would like to thank all our speakers for sharing their knowledge with us. I would also like to thank Platon Vafiadis for preparing the MRG page for Field Nats News and Audrey Falconer for coordinating our field trips. Thanks also go to Clarrie Handreck, Ken Bell and Philip Bock.

Leon Altoff

Secretary



Table 5: Marine Research Group Program 2003

Date	Speaker	Topic
February 2003	Darren James	Abalone Ranching in Port Phillip Bay
April 2003	Jeff Weir	Dolphins In Port Phillip Bay
May 2003	Members' Night	
July 2003	Mark O'Loughlin	New <i>Asterinidae</i> Species
August 2003	Harry Houridis	Ecological Effects of Sediment Dumping from Channel Deepening
September 2003	Wendy Roberts	Reefwatch
October 2003	Dr Greg Parry	Effect of Introduced Species In Port Phillip Bay
December 2003	Members' Night	



Plate 2: Marine Research Group carrying out a survey for marine invertebrates under the pier at Sunday Island, Gippsland.
Photo: Joan Broadberry

Fungimap

The Fungimap scheme is jointly supported by the FNCV and Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, and continues to collect distribution and ecological data on 100 target species of fungi. By the end of 2003 there were 703 people on the mailing list, and more than 15,485 records entered into the Fungimap database. Regional Coordinators in the A.C.T, N.S.W, Southern Tasmania and Western Australia continued their work generating interest in fungi around the country, running workshops and forays.

The second National Fungimap Conference was held in Rawson, Victoria, from 15th – 20th May 2003, and was a great success. Approximately 90 participants attended the conference and enjoyed the varied program of workshops and forays. Conference participants discussed the future of Fungimap and it was generally agreed that it would be necessary to set up Fungimap as a separate, incorporated organisation.

Gudrun Evans resigned as Fungimap Coordinator in October and has moved to Finland, where her husband takes up a postdoctoral position in Helsinki. Gudrun made an outstanding contribution to the project in her time as Coordinator. In particular, she skillfully developed a very effective database system to manage the large volume of records and to manage finances. Cassia Read was appointed the new Coordinator in November and has enthusiastically embraced the varied and challenging tasks of the position. The adept work of several volunteers has been central to the function of Fungimap over the past year. Geoff Lay, Graham Patterson and Michael Stewart assisted with the database and Pat Grey kindly managed administration during the transition between coordinators.

The Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) approached Fungimap for a second time to contribute data to their biodiversity database, once again confirming the significance of the Fungimap project. Fungimap will provide the AHC with 3,000 records of an additional 200 species by May 2004. These species are not on the list of Fungimap target species and collection of this data has required a special effort from key Fungimap members and State Coordinators.

Three issues of the Fungimap Newsletter were produced in 2003 including a newsletter with a delightful colour supplement titled *Flavours of Fungimap*. The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne kindly donated \$500 to assist with this publication, as part of the activities to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the National Herbarium of Victoria.

A Fungimap book is in production, designed as a field guide to all 100 target species. Excellent progress has been made during the year and the book is due for publication late 2004. Pat and Ed Grey together with Leon Costermans have done wonderful work compiling text, collecting and scanning photos and laying out pages, and numerous Fungimap volunteers have contributed photos.

Michael McBain has created distribution maps for publication of all the targets species. This has also been very useful for detecting records with errors. We were very fortunate to receive a donation of \$500 from The Royal Society of Victoria towards publication of the book and an indication of financial support for the Book has also come from the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

The Friends of the Botanic Gardens generously donated \$10,000 to the project. This funding is to support the role of the Fungimap Coordinator in supervising and expanding the team of volunteers and to assist Fungimap in such areas as data management, book production and publication sales.

Cassia Read

Fungimap Coordinator

Conservation

Our main activities over the 2003 year have been to continue to publish regular reports in the club's monthly newsletter, to promote our September Biodiversity month forum, which in 2003 was on "Fire", and to lobby on various environmental issues, particularly those affecting forests. The Regional Forest Agreement signed by Victoria with the Federal Government has been an unmitigated disaster for forests and rural economies

Some of the issues we have involved ourselves in this year are –

- The construction of a links golf course on Henley floodplain on the Yarra River, apparently in breach of Melbourne Water's policy of not allowing levee bank construction on floodplains. The proposal was made a controlled action under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act but the Federal Minister failed to protect the river, allowing construction of levee banks and a concrete walled dam on the floodplain.
- The channel deepening project for Port Phillip Bay proposed by the Port of Melbourne Authority. This massive project has created some serious environmental challenges, not least of which is removal of large quantities of rock from The Rip, one of the most biodiverse marine areas in the world. Disposal of the huge quantities of dredge spoil in an environmentally sound way is another problem.
- The apparently illegal logging of a large stretch of Snowy River National Park along Yalmy Road in Far East Gippsland. This issue remains unresolved, although the Government claims to have completed a thorough inquiry.
- We continued to lobby for protection of remnant native bush and creation of a comprehensive National Park in the Strzelecki's. A well attended Strzelecki Forest Rally was held outside Parliament house on August the twenty-seventh.

- We made submissions to the Victorian Environment Assessment Council investigation for a greater National Park for the Angahook-Otway area. We contend that all remaining public land in the Otways Study Area with indigenous vegetation should be put in reserve to protect water supplies and native flora and fauna.
- We lobbied for greater protection for the production forest areas of the Central Highlands, particularly for protection of Leadbeater's possum. A permanent Leadbeater's reserve system has been promised in the forest production area.
- Our Fire Forum, held at Melbourne University's Prince Phillip Theatre this year, was informative and a solid success financially and in terms of attendance. We learned that fuel reduction burning, like grazing, can in fact increase fire hazard.
- We are keeping a watch on the progress of the wombat Community Forest Management process.

Jim Walker

Conservation Officer



Microscopical Group

Due to the difficulty of attracting new speakers to our small group it had been decided to produce speakers from within the group to talk on, and demonstrate practical aspects of microscopy such as slide making. This was successful for only a few of the group who do the job well. Mastering new practical work from books without personal know how is difficult without a heap of failures so the preference is now for speakers again.

Thank you to all that have helped during the year but particularly to the stalwarts like Roger Pierson and Don Cram who can present a meeting each year.

The meetings for the year were:

January	Members' Night
February	Botanical Slide Making
March	Botanical Slide Making
April	Drawing through the microscope
May	Pond Life Identification
June	Incredible Journey of a tiny spore
July	Members' Night - General
August	Hands on Night with Lichen - Dr Sharon Morley
September	The History of Microscopy and Entomology - Dr Melanie Archer
October	Members' Night
November	Members' Night.

It was interesting to see there were more visitors during the year than past years. Some members, some threatening to be members, generally doing some form of tertiary study in a modern field of end environmental science.

Some of these people showed great surprise at what they saw for the first time under a microscope.

Perhaps microscopes are not used as much as they should be and a direction for the group may be to get speakers skilled in environmental studies and with microscopes, perhaps enhance the availability of detailed knowledge to help us all.

Ray Power

Chairperson



Fauna Survey Group

As in previous years the Fauna Survey Group had a busy program of fauna surveys, meetings with guest speakers and an educational workshop.

Survey techniques included cage, Elliott and harp traps, pitfall lines, hair-tubing, spotlighting, bird spotting, chance sightings and Anabat monitoring. Trapping records were forwarded to the Department of Sustainability and the Environment for inclusion in the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife.

The Cobberas

The Christmas Camp was in an area near Mt Wombargo in the vicinity of the Cobberas, north of Buchan. The purpose was to find traces of the Mountain Pygmy-possum in some of the boulder scree slopes. No Possums were discovered. Other animals detected included Agile Antechinus, Bush Rats, Dusky Antechinus, House Mouse, Chocolate Wattled Bats, Lesser Long-eared Bat, Little Forest Bat, Southern Forest Bat. The campsite was 1400 -1500 metres above sea level, in Snow Gum country. A few species of reptiles and one frog species were also detected in the area. Fifteen volunteers attended.

Corner Inlet

Corner Inlet survey was on a Land for Wildlife property which was bordering on coastal Banksia woodland and heathland. There were generally low numbers of captures on the property and surrounding bush: some Bush Rats, a Common Blue-tongued Lizard, and forest bat species were recorded. A very noisy thunderstorm was heard during the night drifting across Wilson's Promontory. Twelve volunteers attended.

Mt Howe Wilderness

The week long Easter camp was the continued survey of East Croajingalong and Lake Barracoota area that was begun in 2002. The group was based at Methodist Ladies College's property, Marshmead. A range of vertebrate species were trapped or detected during the survey, some of which included Bush Rats, Swamp Rats, Agile Antechinus, and up to seven species of bats.

Reptiles included Tiger Snakes, White-lipped Snake, Diamond Python, Common Blue-tongued Lizard, Lace Monitor, a range of small reptiles, and up to a hundred species of birds were detected. Twenty-six volunteers attended.

Kinglake National Park

The Group surveyed Broad Gully, a unique area in Kinglake National Park, in May. The survey site had steep slopes draining into a broad swampy central valley supporting a stand of wet heath. No known fauna surveys have been done here. Pitfall trapping yielded two species from ten trap-nights. Captures were two female Agile Antechinus and an unidentified skink. A couple of Boobook Owls were observed. At the Visitors Centre a Brown Tree Frog was trapped and Victorian Smooth Froglet and a Southern Boobook Owl were heard. Two Bobucks were observed. Superb Lyrebirds were seen at Mason Falls. Eleven volunteers attended.

Mount Cole

Mount Cole survey was aimed at surveying for Mountain Brush-tailed Possum. At least one animal was spotted: a mother with a large young. Other animals encountered included Swamp Wallaby, Grey Kangaroo, Koala, Fox, and feral sheep. A range of birds were seen, which included a pair of Powerful Owls, Wedge-tailed Eagles, and lots of Long-billed Corellas. It was very picturesque country with many splendid walks. Ten volunteers attended this camp.

Glenmaggie

Six members took part in this weekend trip, in June, to survey private and public land near Lake Glenmaggie, north east of Traralgon. Two hundred and fifty Elliott trap-nights produced nil results, while twelve bat trap-nights produced four individuals of three species: Little Forest Bat, Large Forest Bat and Gould's Wattled Bat. The most interesting event during the weekend was the horrible scream one of our members heard while spotlighting, and on investigation found a Boobook Owl with a Sugar Glider in the owl's talons on a branch.

Wombat State Forest

The group went on a day trip to Wombat State Forest to check one hundred reptile lounges. No new species were recorded. This site was due to be logged but has now been placed in



Plate 3: Fauna Survey Group members admiring a diamond python caught on a survey near Mallacoota in 2003.

Photo: Joan Broadberry

Wyperfeld National Park

The Group spent a weeklong spring survey in the north eastern section of the National Park. It was well attended by thirty members and visitors. Several survey techniques were employed across a range of habitats: pitfall trapping, harp trapping, Elliot trapping and spotlighting. Mammal species trapped were low in numbers of individuals and species – forest bat species, Mormopterus sp., Gould's Wattled Bats and Lesser Long-eared Bat and a range of small skink species. Several *Delma butleri* were found in the mallee spinifex. A large specimen of Brown Snake was seen moving through the campsite. Many bird species were detected, some of which included the Regent Parrot, Blue Bonnets and Emus with chicks. An active Mallee Fowl nest was found with the bird nearby.

Urimbira - Little Desert

Twelve members and friends took part in the survey of this 1000 hectare private property situated on the northern boundary of the Little Desert National Park in November. We shared the Bill Gully's Hall Camping Area with the Urimbirra Cooperative who own and manage the property we were surveying. One hundred and eight pitfall trap-nights produced Silky Mouse, Mallee Spadefoot Toad, five reptile species: Painted Dragon, and the skinks *Morethia obscura*, *Menetia greyii*, *Lampropholis delicata*. The highlight was two individuals (juvenile and adult) of the Legless Lizard being found in the two heathland pitlines. There have only been twenty records ever of this species in Victoria. Other reptiles seen or caught were the Eastern Bearded Dragon, Stumpy-tailed Lizard and Marbled Gecko. Tadpoles of both the Mallee Spadefoot and Common Spadefoot Toads were identified and eight bat-trap nights at a water point just within the Little Desert National Park produced Little Forest Bat, Chocolate Wattled Bat and Gould's Wattled Bat.

Churchhill National Park

Our Churchill National Park bat session was well attended. It was magical being in the Park after setting up the harp traps and listening to the cackle of the Anabat Detectors. The trapping was poor with only two bats caught, but it was great for those present who had never before seen an insectivorous bat. Breakfast was special, supplied by the Knox Environment Society, our co-participants, who are long-time supporters of our Group. It was wonderful to sit and eat enjoying the tranquility of the new morning.

Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve

This trip was cancelled in 2003, however it will be revisited in 2004 to check the forty reptile lounges and open the two pit lines for further survey work.

Stagwatches

Seven stagwatches were completed in 2003, five in the Ada River area where many of our previous surveys have been conducted, one in the Stevenson River catchment east of Marysville and one in the Toolangi Forest. Our main target species, Leadbeater's Possum, was seen on four occasions with a total of six animals.

Eleven species were recorded during the surveys, including the familiar ones, Mountain Brushtail, Greater Glider, Sugar Glider and Boobook Owl. Less frequently recorded are Yellow-bellied Gliders which were recorded just once and a first sighting of a Powerful Owl during stagwatch surveys in the Ash Forests. Attendance at surveys ranged from 7 to 21, average 14. The stagwatch surveys are suitable for beginners and casual participants as training, can be given on the spot. Information collected from the stagwatches since their inception was presented to the Group's July meeting.

Bat Workshop

The Fauna Survey Group and the Australasian Bat Society ran a bat workshop at Kinglake National Park in February.

Sixteen bat enthusiasts listened to some very interesting presentations from three speakers. Robert Bender outlined the bat box project at Organ Pipes National Park, Lindy Lumsden, talked about Grey-headed Flying Foxes and the insectivorous bats and Matt Gibson discussed software he is writing to analyse bat species from their sonographs. The participants set up harp traps at Toorourong Reservoir where nine species of bats were trapped, providing a chance for everyone to learn points of identification. The Anabat detector was also used. The group finished up with breakfast at the Reservoir after dismantling the traps and learning about how to 'process' the bats through the collecting and recording of data.

Meetings

There were an average of twenty-four members and visitors at each of the eleven meetings during the year, with guest speakers giving excellent presentations at ten of the eleven meetings.

Committee

The Committee for 2003 was Sally Bewsher, Christie Dempsey, Ian Kitchen (Chairperson), Andrea Mitchell, Mimi Pohl, Prue Simmons, Sophie Small, Russell Thompson, Paul Webb, Ray White. Ann Williamson was Records Officer.

Russell Thompson

Convenor



Juniors

The Juniors continue to flourish with average attendances consolidating at 50-60 at meetings and 20-30 at excursions. The age range is from three years to early twenties and of course the parents. The average age is around seven. It is good to see a group of teenagers staying through and helping run the club. Several of them are now taking on more responsibilities returning the group to being Junior run. Nick Andrewes is our President, Christine Brown and John Edmonds were Editors, Wendy Clark was adult advisor and Programme Secretary, Evannah Clark was Treasurer, Sophia Darcy-Cole was Sales Manager and we had several other councillors.

Topics covered at meetings were – Bats, Deep Sea Creatures (a dress up meeting), Scorpions, Dinosaurs, Useful Bush Plants, Lizards and Snakes, Camping information Night, Spiders, a series of short talks covering Dugongs, Aspects of Plants and Lilypution Lizard.

Excursions took us to Shoreham for rock pool rambling, Monash for a look at useful bush plants, night insects at Warrandyte, Studley Park to look at the geology, Yarck to find tracks and traces of animals, Jells Park spotlighting for mammals and We rribee Gorge for a general look around.

We had three camps. The Easter one, which is our highlight of the year, was to Langi Gheran with wonderful walks and campfire activities including the Easter Bilby visits. Our Winter camp was to Rushworth with the Ikauna Survey Group to check nest boxes and we saw many Sugar Gliders despite the very heavy rain. In December we returned there to see the change in vegetation since the rains and to sit under the nest box trees to observe what emerged. We were privileged to witness a family of six Tuans emerge and play up and down the tree trunks before going off to forage as well as a Sugar Glider emerge from another tree and glide off. What more could you ask for.

Wendy Clark

Convenor



Botany Group

The Botany Group has continued the established pattern of evening lectures and weekend excursions. Following the large attendance at the “Revival” meeting in July, several members came forth to help plan and prepare the program for the remainder of the year and I thank Keith Marshall, Neil MacFarlane, Richard Fossett, Ray MacMahon, Geoff Sutter and Liz Haylock for their efforts.

We have been indebted to the gracious people who gave their time and expertise to us. They were: Helen Aston, Andrew Dilley of Australian Native Orchid Society, Dr Andrew Trinnan, David Cameron Looker from Trust for Nature, Jenni Tonkin from the Herbarium, Sharon Morley from the Institute for Horticultural Development, Gary Whipp from Friends of Long Forest, Leon Costermans from the Friends of Langwarrin.

Excursions were to ferns at Sassafras Creek, Cherry Lake Altona, autumn orchids at Baluk Willam, fungi at Bunyip State Park, Galada Tamboora Reserve, rainforest lichens at Acheron Gap, Long Forest Flora Reserve, Plenty Gorge, Labertouche, Langwarrin, Lake Mountain and a camp at Mt Hotham.

Last year an initial botanical survey was undertaken at the site in Ivanhoe for the relocation of the Botanical Gardens bats. These year two further surveys were carried out to improve our knowledge of the site.

Several initial surveys have been undertaken for the intended Botanical Survey of the Pyrete Range, which is South of Gisborne and East of Lerderderg Gorge. The Range may be declared a National Park. Permission has been granted to collect specimens for identification. In 2004 it is intended that monthly surveys will be undertaken as part of this long-term project which will take several years to complete.

Due to work commitments and health problems I will have to hand over the job of convenor this year but I have thoroughly enjoyed the knowledge and friendship I have gained and shared over the last twelve months.

Geoff Lay

Convenor



Terrestrial Invertebrate Group

The continued curiosity in the invertebrate world has enthused participants and demonstrated the interest of the Field Naturalist Club in these organisms. Participation with other organisations including Parks Victoria and the Entomological Society of Victoria has also allowed the Group to increase memberships and has supplied a list of potential speakers for future discussions.

Topics included:

- An Insight into the Role of Entomologists in Protecting the Australian Borders from Potential Insect Pests that could Damage our Export Industries;
- The Mating Habits of Orb Weaving Spiders;
- An Introduction to Invertebrates in Freshwater Systems; and
- Not All Termites are Destructive Pests that Need to be Eradicated.

The TIG successfully applied for a Parks Victoria Volunteer Group Grant, allowing us to conduct surveys over Spring and Summer at Yarra Bend Park. This grant has allowed the group to examine the terrestrial invertebrate fauna within four habitats of the Yarra Bend Park. It also allowed the group to purchase a microscope and other collecting equipment to carry out field surveys.

TIG also successfully received the FNCV Environment Fund grant, which has allowed us to purchase field equipment. These funds have enabled the group to get out and conduct research and teach participants about the invertebrates on our backdoor. Butterfly counts were also carried out again this year at Warrandyte State Park.

Peter Neville

Convenor



THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT
 Year ended 31 December 2003
REPORT BY COUNCIL

The members of Council hereby submit the Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2003 and the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended on that date and report as follows:

1. The names of the Executive Council in office at the date of this report are as follows:

Name	Position on Council	Occupation	Council Member Since
Wendy Clark	President	Photographer	1998
Dr. Noel Schleiger	Vice President	Education Consultant	1990
Dr. Alan Yen	Vice President	Entomologist	2001
Karen George	Secretary	Ecologist	2003
Barbara Burns	Treasurer	Lecturer	2001
Jim Walker	Councillor	Ecologist	2001
Ian Kitchen	Councillor	Retired Horticulturalist	2001
Joan Broadberry	Councillor	Retired Teacher	2003
Mimi Pohl	Councillor	Zoology Student	2003
John Harris	Councillor	Environmental/Science Teacher	2003
Special Interest Group Representatives			
Jenny Porter	Botany	Biology	2002
Russell Thompson	Fauna Survey	Horticulturalist	2002
Rob Hamson	Geology	Teacher	1998
Nick Andrewes	Juniors	Student	2002
Michael Lyons	Marine Research		
Leon Altoff	Marine Research	Analyst	2003
Audrey Falconer	Marine Research	Public Servant	2003
Ray Power	Microscopical	Retired Engineer	1993
Dr. Melanie Archer	Terrestrial Invertebrate	Entomologist	2002

2. The principal activities and object of the Club are to stimulate interest in natural history and to preserve and protect Australian fauna and flora. No significant changes in the nature of those activities occurred during the reporting period.

3. The net loss of the club for the year ended 31st December 2003 was \$178.85 (2002 loss of \$507.22).

4. A review of the operations of the Club is contained in the Presidents Report, which forms part of this Annual Report.

5. No matter or circumstance has arisen since the end of the financial year, which has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations or the state of affairs of the Club.

6. Other than as disclosed in the Annual Report, there are no significant developments likely to affect the financial results of the Club.

7. During the financial year, no member of the Council has received or become entitled to receive any benefit by reason of a contract made by the club with the councillor or with an entity of which the councillor is a member or in which the councillor has a substantial interest.

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

In the opinion of the members of Council,

- (a) The accompanying Statement of Profit and Loss is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial results of the Club for the year ended 31 December 2003.
- (b) The accompanying Balance Sheet is drawn up as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Club as at 31 December 2003.
- (c) As at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Club will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

SIGNED at Blackburn on this 23 day of March 2004 in accordance with a resolution of Council.

W. Clark
President

B. Burns
Treasurer

Wendy Clark

B Burns

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA			
STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS			
Year ended 31 December 2003			
		2003	2002
INCOME	Membership	<u>\$35,267.68</u>	<u>\$36,832.34</u>
Sales	Bookshop sales	\$9,533.06	10,841.52
	<u>Less Bookshop - Cost of Sales</u>	<u>(\$7,066.35)</u>	<u>(\$7,395.48)</u>
		<u>\$2,466.71</u>	<u>\$3,446.04</u>
Publications	FNCV Publications (net)	\$944.10	1,757.90
	Calendar sales (net)	-	927.18
	Back issues Vic Nat	<u>\$565.30</u>	<u>\$521.26</u>
		<u>\$1,509.40</u>	<u>\$3,206.34</u>
Other Income	Hall Hire	\$3,650.75	4,041.08
	Profits - Excursions & Seminars	\$2,890.95	2,047.95
	Advertising - Field Nat News	\$506.82	609.54
	Advertising - Vic Nat	-	470.00
	Profit sale FNCV products	\$77.39	528.59
	Sundry Income	\$731.09	298.62
	Ins. Levy - Excursions (non-members)	<u>\$346.36</u>	<u>\$143.83</u>
		<u>\$8,203.36</u>	<u>\$8,139.61</u>
Investments	Bank Interest	\$652.64	507.11
	Interest Income	<u>\$15,563.44</u>	<u>\$16,541.41</u>
		<u>\$16,216.08</u>	<u>\$17,048.52</u>
Other Income	Grant for Volunteer Environment and Heritage Organisation	\$10,000.00	7,290.00
	General Donations	\$1,101.50	2107.00
	Donations President's Equipment Appeal	<u>\$3,597.25</u>	<u> </u>
	Total Other Income	<u>\$14,698.75</u>	<u>\$9,397.00</u>
	Total Revenue	<u>\$78,361.98</u>	<u>\$78,069.85</u>

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS
Year ended 31 December 2003 (continued)

	2003	2002
EXPENDITURE		
Publications		
Vic. Nat. Printing	\$11,890.10	\$22,587.09
Less Grants (N. Smith)	(\$1,243.00)	(\$3,400.50)
Postage - Vic. Nat.	\$2,922.04	3,553.22
Sundry expenses- Vic Nat	<u>\$355.17</u>	<u>438.88</u>
	<u>\$13,925.31</u>	<u>\$23,178.69</u>
Newsletter Printing	\$3,327.01	5,608.17
Newsletter Postage etc	\$3,254.90	3,631.55
Calendar of events	<u>\$1,313.76</u>	<u>\$1,822.23</u>
	<u>\$7,895.67</u>	<u>\$11,061.95</u>
Total Publications Expenses	<u>\$21,820.98</u>	<u>\$34,240.64</u>
Other		
Expenses		
GROSS PROFIT	<u>\$56,541.00</u>	<u>\$43,829.21</u>
Advertising, Market & Pub	\$66.99	\$719.05
Annual report	\$1,900.00	\$2,520.00
Junior Naturalists Postage	\$551.13	
Office Stationery etc	\$841.79	\$1,734.73
Library Expenses	\$1,761.02	\$1,891.19
Bank Fees	\$1,192.75	\$1,133.93
Depreciation Expense	\$4,314.62	\$4,355.34
Internet Provider & Virus Scan	\$246.55	\$340.69
Volunteer Expenses Reimbursed	\$196.12	\$112.58
FNCV Mugs	\$727.28	\$554.35
Dues & Subscriptions	\$128.17	\$138.18
Insurance	\$3,119.93	\$2,612.71
Council Rates	\$1,379.15	\$641.40
General Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,285.42	\$505.13
Office Equip Repairs & Maintenance	\$201.77	\$737.41
General Office Postage	\$885.62	\$1,336.18
Kitchen & Bathroom Expenses	\$351.08	\$179.63
Sundry Expenses	\$109.36	\$442.27
Superannuation & Workers Comp	\$2,094.32	\$1,648.37
Wages & Salaries	\$20,230.38	\$17,539.50
Office Telephone	\$976.29	\$873.41
Gas, Electricity, Water	\$1,444.85	\$1,437.16
Donations	\$100.00	\$3,100.00
Group Expenses	\$241.24	\$1,227.08
FNCV Publs. Royalties-prior periods		\$752.34
Loss on Sale National Income Secs		<u>\$718.00</u>
Total Other Expenses	<u>\$44,345.83</u>	<u>\$47,250.63</u>
Total Publication and Other Expenses	<u>\$66,166.81</u>	<u>\$81,491.27</u>
OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)	12,195.17	(\$3,421.42)
Fungimap - See attached schedule (1)	<u>(\$12,016.32)</u>	<u>\$2,914.20</u>
NET PROFIT (LOSS)	<u>\$178.85</u>	<u>(\$507.22)</u>
Fungimap		
<u>Fungimap (1)</u>		
Sales	7,655.92	12,763.10
Conference Profit	4,388.26	
Interest Received	671.86	245.82
Donations	440.00	21.73
Less Bank Fees	(172.36)	(116.45)
Less Contributor to Operating expenses	<u>(\$25,000.00)</u>	<u>(\$10,000.00)</u>
Net Operating Deficit/Surplus	<u>(\$12,016.32)</u>	<u>\$2,914.20</u>

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2003

		2003	2002
		Inflow no brackets, Outflow ()
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Inflows	Net Inflows from Operations	10,220.77	
Outflows	Net Outflows from Operations		(\$2,646.52)
	GST	(\$450.81)	(\$574.39)
	Net Cash Flow from Operations	<u>\$9,769.96</u>	<u>(\$3,220.91)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Inflows	Fauna Survey Equipment Fund		\$1,200.00
	Proceeds Sale National Income Securities		7,282.00
	Proceeds Sale Esanda Debentures		4,590.00
Outflows	Equipment Purchases	(\$4,668.35)	(\$2,027.23)
	Library Book Purchases	(\$161.32)	
	Transfer AGC Debenture Stock	(\$4,007.15)	(\$3,745.00)
	Transfer Esanda Unsecured Notes	(\$5,166.29)	
	Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities	<u>(\$14,003.11)</u>	<u>\$7,299.77</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Inflows	Marine Research Fund	199.00	421.41
	FNCV Juniors	445.00	1,600.00
Outflows	Australian Natural History Medallion	(\$208.22)	2,266.32
	Transfer to Fungimap Bank A/c		(\$11,816.85)
	Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities	<u>\$435.78</u>	<u>(\$7,529.12)</u>
DECREASE IN FNCV CHEQUE A/C BALANCE for year		<u>(\$3,797.37)</u>	<u>(\$3,450.26)</u>
	Cheque Account Bank Balance Start Year	<u>19,390.04</u>	<u>22,840.30</u>
	Cheque Account Bank Balance End Year	<u>\$15,592.67</u>	<u>\$19,390.04</u>

Note 1 Reconciliation of Net Profit with Cash Flow from Operations

Net Profit	\$12,195.17
Increase in Inventory	(6,080.67)
Decrease stock of "T" shirts	(6.50)
Depreciation	4,314.62
Decrease in Debtors	278.00
Increase in Creditors	(\$930.66)
Net Cash Inflow from Operations	<u>\$9,769.96</u>

FUNGIMAP Bank Account - CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2003

		2003	2002
Cash Flow From Operating Activities			
Inflows	Sales	7,655.92	12,763.10
	Conference Profit	4,388.26	
	Interest received	671.86	245.82
	Donations	440.00	21.73
Outflows	Bank fees	(172.36)	(116.45)
	Operating expenses	(\$25,000.00)	(\$10,000.00)
	GST not yet adjusted with FNCV	(\$12,016.32)	2,914.20
		(\$580.71)	827.09
CHANGE IN FUNGIMAP BANK BALANCE		<u>(\$12,597.03)</u>	<u>\$3,741.29</u>
	Opening Balance	<u>\$15,558.14</u>	<u>\$11,816.85</u>
	Balance 31 December 2003	<u>\$2,961.11</u>	<u>\$15,558.14</u>

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

	2003	2002
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
FNCV Cheque Account - Note (3)	\$15,592.67	\$19,390.04
Fungimap Cheque Account - Note (3)	2,961.11	15,558.14
The Environment Fund Account - Note (3)	3,240.91	6,127.76
Trade Debtors		278.00
Stocks "T" Shirts & Lenses - Note (4)	371.50	365.00
Inventories (Books for Sale) - Note (4)	<u>11,492.57</u>	<u>5,411.90</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>33,658.76</u>	<u>\$47,130.84</u>
Non Current Assets		
AGC Debenture Stock - Note (5)	61,252.15	57,245.00
Treasury Corporation of Vic - Note (5)	50,000.00	50,000.00
Esanda Unsecured Notes - Note (5)	100,576.22	95,409.93
General Property Trust Units - Note (5)	<u>23,851.00</u>	<u>23,851.00</u>
	235,679.37	226,505.93
ANHM Charge Account		-208.22
Library Holdings - Note (6)	<u>46,591.11</u>	<u>46,429.79</u>
	<u>\$282,270.48</u>	<u>\$272,727.50</u>
Non Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Maryborough Property - Note (7)	13,400.00	13,400.00
Clubhouse at Cost - Note (7)	171,512.00	171,512.00
Clubhouse Improvements - Note (7)	38,988.00	38,988.00
Equipment at Cost - Note (8)	57,431.64	52,763.29
Less Accumulated Depreciation - Note (8)	<u>-37,481.07</u>	<u>-33,166.45</u>
	<u>\$243,850.57</u>	<u>\$243,496.84</u>
Total Non current Assets	<u>\$526,121.05</u>	<u>\$516,224.34</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$559,779.81</u>	<u>\$563,355.18</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors - Note (9)	250.00	243.00
GST Paid - GST Collected - Note (9)	-1,756.75	-630.99
PAYG Payable - Note (9)	693.00	888.00
Hall Hire Paid in Advance		291.66
Funds Held in Trust - Note (9)	<u>271.00</u>	<u>271.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>-\$542.75</u>	<u>\$1,062.67</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$560,322.56</u>	<u>\$562,292.51</u>
EQUITY		
Members Accumulated Funds		
Current Year Earnings/Loss	\$178.85	-\$507.22
+ Fungimap (deficit/surplus)	<u>12,016.32</u>	<u>-2,914.20</u>
Current Year Earnings excluding Fungimap - Note (10)	12,195.17	-3,421.42
General Fund b/f - Note (10)	<u>\$502,830.20</u>	<u>\$506,251.62</u>
	<u>\$515,025.37</u>	<u>\$502,830.20</u>
Total Specific Funds		
Marine Research Fund - Note (11)	25,466.75	25,267.75
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund	-1,451.25	-1,451.25
Fungimap Fund - Note (11)	2,808.78	14,731.05
FNCV Environment Fund - Note (11)	3,240.91	6,127.76
Asset Revaluation Reserve	13,187.00	13,187.00
FNCV Juniors - Note (11)	<u>2,045.00</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>\$560,322.56</u>	<u>\$562,292.51</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2003

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members to fulfil the Council's financial reporting requirements under The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated constitution. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Club's constitution and with previous years, and are, in the opinion of the Council, appropriate to meet the needs of members.

- (a) The financial report has been prepared on a modified accrual basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption.
- (b) The requirements of Accounting Standards and other professional reporting requirements in Australia do not have mandatory applicability to The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated because it is not a "reporting entity". The Council has, however, prepared the financial report in accordance with relevant Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.
- (c) These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost and do not take into account changing money values.
- (d) The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise specified.
- (e) *Investments* - are valued either at cost less amounts written off for permanent diminution in the value of investments, or at Council valuation. Dividends and interest are brought to account when received.

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2003 (continued)

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

- (f) *Fixed Assets* - Property is brought to account at cost, or where appropriate, at Council valuation. Plant, equipment, furniture and fittings are brought to account at cost less accumulated depreciation calculated on a straight line basis over the estimated life of the asset.
 (g) *Income tax* - The club is not liable for income tax
 (h) *Inventories* - are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2. REMUNERATION OF COUNCILLORS

No remuneration has been received by councillors for the year ended 31 December 2003

	2003
3. CASH	
FNCV A/c - Bank of Melbourne	\$15,592.67
Fungimap A/c - Bank of Melbourne	2,981.11
Environment Fund A/c - Bank Melb.	<u>3,240.91</u>
	<u>\$21,794.69</u>
4. STOCKS	
T-Shirts	371.50
Books for sale at lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>11,492.57</u>
	<u>\$11,864.07</u>
5. INVESTMENTS	
AGC Debenture Stock	61,252.15
Treasury Corporation of Vic Inscribed Stock	50,000.00
Esanda Finance Corporation Unsecured Notes	100,576.22
General Property Trust Units - at cost	<u>23,851.00</u>
	<u>\$235,679.37</u>
6. Library - Books and Journals	
at Council Valuation 23/5/95 plus additions at cost	<u>\$48,591.11</u>
7. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES	
Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough	\$13,400.00
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn - at cost	171,512.00
Improvements	<u>38,988.00</u>
	<u>\$223,900.00</u>
8. OTHER FIXED ASSETS	
Plant and Equipment - at cost	57,431.64
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-37,481.07</u>
	<u>\$19,950.57</u>
9. CREDITORS & PROVISIONS	
Sundry Creditors	250.00
Net GST	-1,756.75
PAYG Liability	693.00
Funds Held in Trust	<u>271.00</u>
	<u>-\$542.75</u>
MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS	
10. GENERAL FUND	
Balance Brought Forward	\$502,830.20
Add Net Surplus	178.85
Add Fungimap Deficit	12,016.32
Balance at 31 December	<u>\$515,025.37</u>
11. SPECIFIC FUNDS	
<i>Marine Research Group Fund</i>	
Balance Brought Forward	25,267.75
Net Addition	<u>199.00</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>\$25,466.75</u>
<i>Fungimap Fund</i>	
Balance Brought Forward	14,731.05
Less Net Deficit	-12,016.32
Less Owing for GST reimbursement	<u>94.06</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>\$2,808.79</u>
<i>FNCV Environment Fund</i>	
Balance Brought Forward	6,127.76
Add Donations	2,080.00
Add Interest	34.15
Less Grants	<u>-5,001.00</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>\$3,240.91</u>
<i>Juniors Fund</i>	
Balance Brought Forward	1,600.00
Add Additional funds contributed	<u>445.00</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>\$2,045.00</u>
12. CONTINGENT LIABILITY	

The FNCV is at present working to confirm that its past and present practice of not collecting GST on its membership fees is recognised by the Australian Tax Office. It is not absolutely certain that the matter will be resolved in the club's favour.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC

Scope

I have audited the attached special purpose financial report comprising the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance, Cash Flow Statement and Notes to the Financial Statements, of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated, for the year ended 31 December 2003. The Club's Council is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Club's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting requirements under the Club's constitution. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia).

I have relied on the data for years prior to that ending 31 December 2003 as being correct. No effort has been made to value the Club's assets.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practical for The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated to maintain a tight system of internal control over donations, subscriptions and other fund raising activities until their entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, the audit in relation to such receipts was limited to the amounts recorded.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In my opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated as at 31 December 2003 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:



Ray A Wells, CPA
Honorary Auditor

15 March 2003
South Melbourne