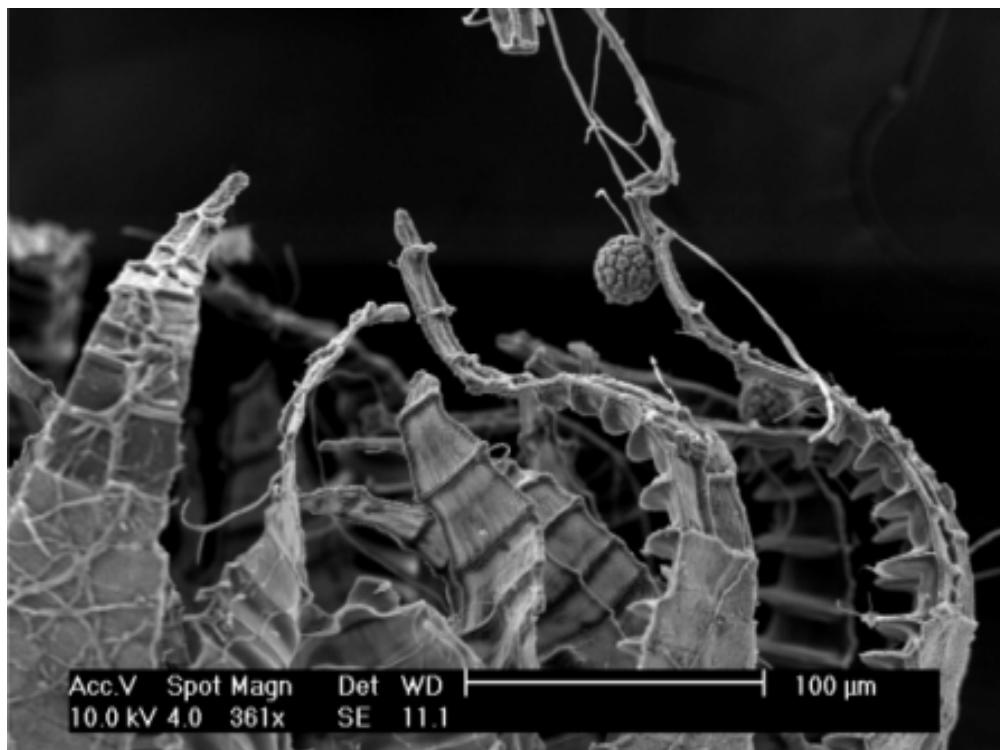




The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Annual Report

Year Ending 31 December 2004

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Scanning electron microscope image of peristome of *Bartramia mossmanniana*.
Image by Mary Gibson

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Annual Report

Year Ending 31 December 2004



President's Report

Over the last few years, the FNCV has faced a number of challenges that have caused concern for its operation and financial viability. Through creative thinking and hard work by Councillors, the Administrative Officer and members, these challenges have been met. In some ways, 2004 was a reflection year for the Club in that plans were made to simplify its operation so that members could spend more time doing what they joined the Club for - being a field naturalist.

Special Interest Groups

The main activities of the Club have revolved around meetings, excursions and workshops organised by the Special Interest Groups. The Club has eight SIGs, including a new one. With Fungi-map going national and taking over its own administration independent of the FNCV, we welcome the addition of the Fungi SIG. The one SIG that has not continued its operation is the General Excursion group because we have been unable to find a co-ordinator to replace Dennis Meltzer.

FNCV Activities

The number of General Meetings has been reduced - the monthly ones replaced by four meetings each year: the AGM, the Australian Natural History Medallion presentation, a winter meeting, and the Christmas party. The 2004 Christmas party attracted over 50 members and was a great success. The Club acknowledges three sponsors who provided \$500 worth of prizes: Kathmandu, The Wilderness Store and BellBird Café.

The annual Biodiversity symposium was the *Digging Deeper* in the Bay forum held in the Club hall in September.

The presentations from this symposium will be published in *The Victorian Naturalist*. Council decided not to hold a Biodiversity symposium in September 2005 because resources were diverted to organise a symposium entitled *Leaves from our History*, in May, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the FNCV.

Excursions continue to attract interest, and those organised by the Fauna Survey Group, the Marine Research Group, Geology, and the Juniors were well attended. The Club hosted a Fungal Foray workshop in the Grampians, which was a great success.

Australian Natural History Medallion

Dr. David Lindenmayer was presented with the 2004 Australian Natural History Medallion. David's address was "21 Years of Wildlife Biology in Victoria's Wet Forests - New Insights and Future Directions."

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Finances

Earlier this year we had serious concerns about our cash flow when the Commonwealth Government decided not to renew our \$10,000 Grant to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations, because the Government decided that the FNCV did not meet the new criteria of either having (1) a national focus; and/or (2) a State/Territory focus (such as providing a resource for community action in their State/Territory); or (3) a regional focus (providing a broad advocacy and/or resource role and address a broad range of environmental issues within their region).

This represented a major blow to the Club because the funds were previously used to hire our part-time Administration Officer. The Club has managed to weather this loss by reducing operating costs, and increasing income through increased hall hire and Club fund raising activities. The Club was able to absorb the loss of the grant in 2004, but this situation may not be permanent. The club cannot reduce operating costs any more and it is facing increased charges for utility services, insurance and building maintenance. Hall hire, while a welcome source of income, has the potential to limit use of the hall by our Special Interest Groups.

Donations to the President's appeal totalled \$1,342 in 2004. These assisted the purchasing of new computers and software, a digital projector and a laptop computer.

Donations to the Environment Fund totalled \$1,759 in 2004.

Administration

The Council approved formalising a structure for running the Club. The reason for implementing this structure was to provide members with a better understanding of what the Club does. One of the new committees in this structure is a Scientific committee that will oversee, through relevant subcommittees, important issues such as conservation advocacy, permits, data, intellectual property and symposia.

The Club would not have achieved what it did this year without the dedicated voluntary assistance of its members - too many to list individually.

This includes the Council, SIG Office Bearers, *The Victorian Naturalist* editorial team, the *Field Naturalist News* team, Sheila Houghton for her work with the Library and the archives, Leon Altoff for supervising the IT system, and Ian Kitchen for his invaluable work in maintaining the FNCV building. Our Administration Officer, Mimi Pohl, warrants a special thank you for her brilliant job in maintaining and handling all facets of the Club.

I wish to thank everyone for their efforts and support with my first year of Presidency, and look forward to a even more exciting year in 2005.

**Karen Muscat
President**

FNCV Administration

This is my first Annual Report and I must start by thanking Ann Williamson who spent over two years in the role of Administration Officer, a role that I took over in June 2004. Prior to her departure, Ann spent a lot of time showing me the ropes, which I greatly appreciate. Ann resigned so that she could travel around Australia surveying and studying mammals and reptiles, making good use of her Zoology degree. We all wish her well and thank her for the good work she undertook during her time here.

Membership

The number of members as at 31st December 2004 was 972, only 2 members less than at the same time last year. We attracted 120 new members over the year, but unfortunately lost 122. The largest membership categories were Ordinary (full paying) Members at 31.7% (up from 27%), and Concession Members at 21.7% (down from 27%).

Hall Hire

Money received from hiring out our hall to groups increased from \$3,650.75 in 2003 to \$7,145.97 (before expenses) in 2004. This increase was due mainly to a new client who runs a training class at the hall two days a week, for one semester, for non-English speaking immigrants. We mainly hire out to other environmental groups, but also to political parties and others.

Thank you to Rosemary Robb, Wendy Clark and Michael Lyons who gave up their time to open the hall for our hirers.

Book Sales

Next to membership, book sales were our highest source of income for the year. The club grossed \$14,818.95 in book sales, up from \$9,533.06 in 2003. This figure includes \$5,075.00 for *Mosses and Allied Plants*, and \$652.50 for *Spiders and Scorpions*. This year, Ray White handed over control of the book brokerage to the Administration Officer, and all book sales are now coordinated through the club hall. We thank Ray White for all his hard work over the last few years in supplying good quality books to all our members.

Publications

Sheila Houghton wrote *Index to the Southern Science Record*, an index to articles and nature notes in the first incarnation of *The Victorian Naturalist*. As we considered there to be a relatively small market for this title, only 20 copies were printed, which are now slowly selling.

Conferences

In May 2004, Sharon Morley ran *The Cryptogamic Extravaganza*, with financial support provided from the FNCV. Over 50 people (members and non-members) attended the weekend at Halls Gap. In return for the club's support, we received a donation of \$1,100.

Grants Received

Unlike previous years, this year we did not receive a grant from the Program of Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO), run by the Federal Government's Department of Environment and Heritage. This is due to a restructure, which meant we were no longer eligible for this grant.

However, we did receive two other grants. In October the Fauna Survey Group received \$1,500 from the M.A. Ingram Trust. This was to purchase a new harp trap to allow expansion of the microbat survey program that the Fauna Survey Group has embarked on over the last few years.

In the same month, we received \$1,650 from the City of Whitehorse to assist with running an Open Day planned for March 2005.

Promotion

The club's 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.

In 2004 we took part in two festivals - the Stringybark Festival in Rowville, and Deakin University's Green Week. Thanks to Ian Kitchen for co-ordinating both stalls, and thanks to all those who participated. We were offered stalls in several other festivals, but due to a lack of people available to coordinate a FNCV stall, had to decline many of these offers.



Ian Kitchen holding the fort at Deakin University's Green Week, 2004.

Advertising in FNCV Publications

Paid advertising and flyer inserts placed in the *Field Nat News (FNN)* during the year totalled \$493, only \$13.82 less than the previous year. For the second year running, there was no advertising income from *The Victorian Naturalist* (\$470 was raised in 2002).

I'd like to make a special thank you to Ian Kitchen who has volunteered so much of his time to help in the office, and with many other aspects of the club, during 2004. Thanks also to Lyn Ansell who helped out in the office, Leon Altoff who gave much needed technical support, and Wendy Clark who provided essential background information on the many areas of the club. Thanks to everyone who has helped me settle in and been kind and patient while I learnt the breadth and width of this role.

Mimi Pohl
Administration Officer



Field Nats News

In 2004, 11 issues of *Field Nats News (FNN)*, numbers 128-138, were produced. The monthly newsletter contributes enormously to the efficient functioning of the Field Naturalist's Club of Victoria. Without the help of many volunteers, this newsletter would not appear. In particular we would like to thank our contributors, our editorial



and layout team and our collation team.

Many changes have taken place even over a year as we keep up with the latest technology. We are now delivering our copy to the printers electronically. This gives us more time to proofread and check for errors. Much of the content of the FNN can be included on the FNCV website. Special thanks to Bob Barron whose IT knowledge has been an invaluable asset to our editorial team.

We also strive to improve our content. For example, in 2004 we were able to do this by including more photographs. We welcome feedback from members and letters to the editor. FNN is produced within a budget and we work hard to keep costs down. Advertising generates some revenue.

Without our writers there would be no newsletter. Table 1 tries to cover our main contributors for each issue. To those not mentioned, we apologise. Special thanks to Platon Vafiadis for his meticulous preparation of the monthly Marine Research

Photo: Joan Broadberry, Noel Schleiger and Bob Barron, Field Nats News.

Table 1: Significant Contributors to FNN 2004:

Month	No.	Significant Contributors	Pages	Enc	ads	Coll-aters
Feb	128	Wendy Clark, John Harris, Rob Hamson, Ray Gibson, Sheila Houghton, Jim Walker, Ray Power, Noel Schleiger, Sharon Morley	12		4	14
March	129	Wendy Clark, Peter Homan, Ian Kitchen, Lyn & George Ansell, Rob Hamson, Jim Walker, Noel Schleiger, Sheila Houghton, Platon Vafiadis	12	1	3	7
April	130	Wendy Clark, Sheila Houghton, Rob Hamson, Ian Kitchen Jim Walker, Platon Vafiadis, Noel Schleiger	10		4	9
May	131	Wendy Clark, Ray Power, John Edmonds, Rob Hamson, Sheila Houghton, Peter Homan, Jim Walker, Joan Hales	10		4	9
June	132	Wendy Clark, Chris Coleburn, Karen George, Ray Power, Tess Kloot, Ann Williamson, Karen Muscat, Platon Vafiadis, Noel Schleiger, Sheila Houghton.	12		3	8
July	133	Karen Muscat, Pat & Ed Grey, Stuart Dashper, Rob Hamson, Noel Schleiger, Sheila Houghton, Jim Walker, Stuart Fraser, Jim Walker, Platon Vafiadis	12	1	5	10
August	134	Karen Muscat, Clem Earp, Alan Yen, Pat & Ed Grey, Sheila Houghton, Jim Walker, Doug Phillips, Platon Vafiadis, Rob Hamson	10	1	3	10
Sept.	135	Karen Muscat, Ian Kitchen, Sue Bendal, Sue Ansell, Rob Hamson, Alan Yen, Jim Walker, Pat & Ed Grey, Noel Schleiger, Platon Vafiadis	12	1	5	12
Oct.	136	Karen Muscat, Mimi Pohl, Ed & Pat Grey, Rob Hamson, Jim Walker, Ian Endersby, Ian Kitchen, Sheila Houghton, Annie Lamb, Melanie Archer, Maria Belvedere, Clarrie Handreck, Linden Gillbank	12		4	10
Nov.	137	Karen Muscat, Mimi Pohl, Sheila Houghton, Ed Gray, Paul George, Rob Hamson, Jim Walker, Annie Lamb, Platon Vafiadis, Sally Bewsher	12	1	3	9
Dec/ Jan	138	Karen Muscat, David Cheal, Pat Grey, Mimi Pohl, Richard Fossett, Platon Vafiadis, Linden Gillbank, Noel Schleiger, Sheila Houghton	10	1	3	11

Group report. Thanks also to Karen Muscat, our new President, for conscientiously producing a President's report each month. Mimi Pohl produces the Club four-monthly calendar and Joan Broadberry carefully presents it in a more detailed monthly form. This is a service that is vital to our Club's functioning.

FNN now has its own email address (fnn@vicnet.net.au), separate from the FNCV office email address. Our absolute deadline is the second Monday of the month. However, as our greatest problem is a mad rush at the end, we ask our contributors to please have their copy in by the first Tuesday of the month. Our preferred format is as a word document.

With more than 12 volunteer collators, the collation afternoon becomes a pleasant social occasion. However we were often short of helpers, especially during April, May, June and November. Our aim is to prepare 900 post-ready copies of the newsletter for the Blackburn Post Office by 4 pm. This preparation involves a substantial saving on the cost of postage. Ray Power does a tremendous job in co-ordinating the collation.

In conclusion we would like to again thank everyone involved in producing the *FNN* machine, which drives the FNCV.

Joan Broadberry and Noel Schleiger
Joint Editors

The Victorian Naturalist

Six issues comprising Volume 121 of *The Victorian Naturalist* were published during 2004. The highlight of the year was the publication of a special issue (No 3) of the papers presented to the Fire Symposium held by the FNCV in September 2003, in the wake of the tragic high country fires of January 2003.

The papers covered a wide range of topics including a fire-fighter's perspective, historical aspects,

Aboriginal burning, flora and fauna responses and fire mitigation strategies.

Once again authors canvassed a wide range of conservation, ecological and natural history issues, including:

- Fauna - freshwater turtles, Leopard Seals and Leadbeaters Possum, birds on Lady Julia Percy Island and Hooded Plovers, leeches, intertidal invertebrates and River Blackfish;
- Flora - *Senecio* on Mt Macedon, Blue Gums in north west Tasmania, bryophytes at Cement Creek; and
- Conservation - additions to protected area systems, revegetated riparian strips and dieback.

Seven 'Naturalist Notes' were published during 2004 with a diversity of topics such as the welfare of small mammals in traps and effects of drought on fauna; foxes in urban parks, wombats in winter snow and Australian trees in India.

Twenty book reviews were published during the year. Books returned by reviewers were donated to the FNCV library.

After the huge staff turnover of prior years the editorial team has remained unchanged and continues to maintain the high standard of *The Victorian Naturalist*. In order to minimise any printing price rises we decided to publish in either a 32-page or 64-page format. In 2004 there were three issues of 64 pages and three smaller ones, resulting in the publication of 304 pages for Volume 121, significantly more than in past years. This policy has resulted in economic efficiency and will be continued in 2005.

Thank you to all members of the editorial team, co-editors Maria Gibson and Gary Presland, Assistant Editor Virgil Hubregtse and Administrative Assistant Dorothy Mahler, who always bring professionalism, attention to detail and support - making it a pleasure to be part of the team of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

Anne Morton
Editor

FNCV Environment Fund

The FNCV Environment Fund is a tax-deductible fund that was set up in 2003 to aid individuals and community groups who are involved in environmental research.

Its purposes are:

- To support and finance environmental research, in particular research into the biodiversity of Victoria;
- To support and finance dissemination of information on the natural environment by any legitimate means, including public lectures, seminars, field trips, courses and publications; and
- To support and finance practical projects aimed at preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of Victoria.

The Fund is administered by a committee consisting of Malcolm Calder (Chair), Barbara Burns (Secretary and Treasurer), Tom May, Bob Rogers and Noel Schleiger. Anne Morton, who was inaugural secretary, recently resigned. We would like to thank Anne for her work and dedication over the past two years.

Each year the Fund contacts the regional Field Naturalist Clubs in Victoria and advertises in the FNCV Newsletter and on the Web for grant applications. The committee meets in early April to process the submissions and decide on the successful applicants.

The projects supported in 2004 were:

- *Acquisition of Additional Animal Processing Equipment*, Fauna Survey Group, Field Naturalists Club of Victoria \$1000
- *Information Leaflet update and Newsletter printing to support the conservation of the Mullum Mullum Valley*, Hillcrest Association Inc. \$ 200

Each 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 the fund are tax-deductible, most welcome and gratefully accepted. Thank you to everyone who donated in 2004, especially Pam Petschack, Brendan Murphy and Juris Ozols, who each donated from \$100 to \$200. Your support will enable the Fund to continue providing grants for worthy projects in the future.

**Barbara Burns
Secretary**

Library

2004 was a busy year in the library. The last of the old catalogue was incorporated into the current one, so there is now a single comprehensive guide to the book-stock. Further work was done in sorting and cataloguing the archive collection, with the assistance of Tess Kloot, who came in monthly for this purpose.

Fifty-nine titles were added to the book-stock. These included W.D. Birch, ed. *Geology of Victoria* second edition; D.S. Jones and G.J. Morgan *A Field Guide to Crustaceans of Australian Waters* second edition; S. Legge *Kookaburra, King of the Bush*; R. Morrison *Australia Before Time*; S.O. Shattuck *Australian Ants*, and *Zoological Catalogue of Australia Volumes 19.2A and 19.2B*.

J.G. Douglas donated *The Nature of Warrnambool* on behalf of the Warrnambool Field Naturalists Club. Gary Presland donated a copy of his book, *Aboriginal Melbourne*, and Tom Sault a copy of his memoir *The Mornington Peninsula through the Eyes of a Naturalist*.

We also received an interesting book from Trevor Barton, *The Bartons of Banksia*. This is a family history by his father, Fred Barton, who was a member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria for 77 years, and a regular contributor to *The Victorian Naturalist* for many years. The family property on Spermwhale Head became part of The Lakes National Park.

Other donations were received from E. and H. Brentnall, Ian Bell, Pat Crowley, Mary Doery, Richard Francis, David Lindenmayer, Keith Marshall, Judith Rutherford and Jeanette Watson. We also benefited from books donated by reviewers.

The archives were well used by people researching the genesis of the Society for Growing Australian Plants in the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, the activities of the Plant Names Subcommittee of the Club, and Henry Tisdall. Requests were also received for information on Club excursions to the Warburton-Millgrove area, and the Baw Baw Plateau. The fate of a property in Upper Beaconsfield, offered to the Club to be held as a nature reserve in the 1960s, was the subject of another enquiry. The offer was subsequently withdrawn after agreement could not be reached over the Club's conditions for maintaining and developing the property. We had no information on its subsequent fate.

Members made good use of the library during the year, and I would like to thank Enid Amis, Enid Haarhoff and Joan Kottek for their assistance in keeping it functioning, and Tess Kloot for her help with the archive collection.

Sheila Houghton
Honorary Librarian and Archivist



Australian Natural History Medallion

Dr. David Lindenmayer was awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion for 2004, recognising his contributions to Ecology, Conservation Biology and Mammalogy. The Award was presented by Dr. Bruce Livett, President of the Royal Society of Victoria, at the FNCV meeting

in November, and was followed by the winner's address entitled "21 Years of Wildlife Biology Research in Victoria's Wet Forests". Canberra Ornithologists Group made the nomination.

Dr Graham Coulson, Dr Gary Poore and Mr Neville Walsh retired from the Awards Committee after four year's service. They are thanked for their valuable contributions during this time. They have been replaced by Dr David Cheal, Dr Chris Gray and Dr Paul Gullan.



Australian Natural History Medallion 2004. Dr. David Lindenmayer being congratulated by FNCV President, Karen Muscat.

Although the FNCV has ultimate responsibility for funding the Medallion, donations are sought from those Societies on the mailing list used to seek nominations. Ideally the Trust fund should be endowed to a level where the interest covers all costs. A comprehensive budget analysis and investigation into Income Tax Exemption and Deductible Gift Recipient status concluded that the structure of the Medallion administration would not allow an approach to philanthropic associations. Instead, the General Committee decided that a major sponsor be sought each year to cover the cost of the Medallion and its administration. We are extremely pleased that Andrew Isles has accepted an invitation to sponsor the Medallion for the next three years.

Always there is some debate about the relative merits of amateur and professional nominations though, in practice, it rarely affects the decision. The guidelines for the preparation of dossiers have been amended to stress that those who are employed as professional scientists, or have

recently retired from such a position, should make particular note of how the nominee has been involved with dissemination of natural history knowledge to the community and involvement with local and amateur groups.

Ian Endersby
Secretary to the ANHM General Committee

Geology Group

As usual we have had ten talks over the year and are very grateful to the speakers who gave us a variety of entertaining and informative presentations. Our average audience has dropped again slightly from 26 last year to 23. It is important that we have a reasonable turn-out for our speakers, as they put such care into preparing their talks, give up their evenings and expect no recompense for their efforts - the mug or bottle of wine often seems to come as a surprise to them!

We also had four excursions over the year which were well attended and the weather was kind to us on each occasion. Many thanks to the excursion leaders, and to the landowners and quarry manager (Alex Walker) at Waurn Ponds who allowed us access. Thank you also to speakers and excursion leaders who have lent specimens, photographs and diagrams for the display cabinet.

At the first meeting in February 2005, we hope to elect a committee and allocate some of the tasks that have to be routinely done for the Group to run successfully. Many people already help but the FNCV Council would like to formalise the structure of Special Interest Groups to ensure continuity.

Thanks to Clem Earp, Jim Walker and Lyn Ansell for writing reports for the *FNN*, to members Roger Pierson, Phil Bock, Alan Parkin and Noel Schleiger for leading excursions, also to Professor Neil Archbold for his talk and finally, Ray Power for all he does to help at meetings.

Rob Hamson
Secretary



Geology Meetings		
Date	Topic	Speaker
February	"Here Rover.. Sit! Stay! Do Science!" The Mars rovers Opportunity and Spirit and why they went where they went	Dr Marion Anderson Monash University
March	Fossil Whales in Southeast Australia	Erich Fitzgerald Monash University
April	Victoria's Other Volcanoes	Fons VandenBerg Geological Survey of Victoria
May	The Salinity Picture in Victoria	Kirsten Barker Keith Turnbull Research Institute
June	The History of Fossil Pollen of the Wolleni Pine and the Great Lakes of Bass Strait	Dr Alan Partridge Consultant, geologist/palynologist
July	Preserving the Geological Heritage of Australia	Bernie Joyce University of Melbourne
August	Global Change and the Fossil Record	Professor Neil Archbold Deakin University
September	The Tectonic Evolution of East Timor	Gill Hamson University of Melbourne
October	Controversies in Outcrop Interpretation	Dr John Smith RMIT University
November	Gold in North-East Victoria	Dr Brian Lloyd Writer

Geology Excursions		
Date	Topic/Location	Leader/s (Attendance)
February	Sorrento Ocean Coast and Cape Schank	Dr Eric Bird, consultant and writer (22)
March	The Permian and Triassic Rocks of the Bacchus Marsh Area	Phil Bock, RMIT retired and Roger Pierson, Deakin University (24)
July	Collecting Fossils in Waurn Ponds Quarry	Courtesy of Alex Walker, quarry manager, Blue Circle Southern Cement Ltd (25)
November	The Evolution of the Plenty Gorge	Dr Alan Parkin, geotechnical engineer and Dr Noel Schleiger, lecturer, ret. (12)



Brendan Murphy hard at work at one of the club's regular working bees.

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 2004 there were 713 people on the mailing list, and more than 20,426 records (of target and non-target species) entered into the Fungimap database. Regional Coordinators in the ACT, NSW, SA, Tasmania and WA continued their work generating interest in fungi around the country, running workshops and forays.

The third National Fungimap Conference is being organised for 2005. The theme is *History, Ecology & Conservation* and it will be held in northern Tasmania from the 29th April-2nd May 2005 at Gowrie Park, near Sheffield. The venue is nestled below spectacular Mt Roland, with great foray sites within walking distance from the lodgings and Cradle Mountain only a short drive away. Conference activities will include a Fungi Exhibition to highlight the wealth of talent we have on board the Fungimap project and a Children's Day. Sarah Lloyd, (Tasmanian Fungimap Coordinator) has been an invaluable help with organising this big event.

Fungimap successfully provided the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) with 3,000 records of an additional 200 species in May 2004. The collection of data has required a huge joint effort from key Fungimap members and State Coordinators, and volunteers in the Fungimap office have been a huge help with data collation and checking. The DEH has approached Fungimap for a third time to contribute a further 1000 records to their biodiversity database, once again confirming the significance of the Fungimap project.

Three issues of the Fungimap Newsletter were produced in 2004, including a newsletter with a delightful four-page colour supplement with photos of beautiful and interesting fungi sent in by Fungi mappers.

The Fungimap book is in its final stages of production. Ed and Pat Grey have now selected all the photographs to be included in the book and Leon Costermans has the onerous job of sizing, annotating and fitting the images into the page layout. All the text has been written (introduction, descriptions and appendices), and distribution maps have been created. We hope to officially launch the book at the Fungimap Conference in 2005.

Once again, the success of the Fungimap project has relied on a number of volunteers who generously donate their time and skills each week in the Fungimap Office. We are deeply grateful for the excellent work of Graham Patterson, Geoff Lay, Libby Read, Ros Shepherd and Wendy Cook.

From its inception, Fungimap has been magnificently supported by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) and the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (RBG). The necessary administrative and financial arrangements have outgrown the capacity of FNCV. and RBG. Melbourne. Therefore, with the blessing of these two organisations, Fungimap will be incorporated as a separate organisation in 2005. A draft constitution has been drafted by an incorporation committee and will be published in the Fungimap Newsletter for comment from Fungimap members. It will be then finalised for the inaugural AGM at the Fungimap Conference, when members will vote in the new Committee of Management and Constitution.

Cassia Read
Fungimap Coordinator



Fungi Group

The aim of the Fungi Group is to "widen our knowledge of fungi in the field".

The idea for this new group came from Ed & Pat Grey who noticed that there were no regular fungi forays for the Victorian group of Fungimap Australia. They drew up a schedule of 10 fortnightly forays between April and September. The forays attracted a wide range of people of various ages, experience and knowledge.

After each foray, a list of the fungi discovered was published, together with Pat's informative and entertaining commentaries. Tom May (Senior Mycologist, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne) generously offered to identify samples and provided additional information to help identify them in the field.

On September 2nd 2004, a meeting was held at the FNCV office at Blackburn to form a permanent group. Twenty-five FNCV members and interested people attended this meeting, and a committee was formed to promote the Fungi Group. Committee members include Arthur and Denise Carew, Ed and Pat Grey, Paul George, Jurrie and Virgil Hubregtse, Geoff Lay, Ivan Margitta and Tom May (who has again volunteered as our "ID man"). The FNCV Council officially approved the new Fungi Group on September 28th 2004.

The group has mapped out a series of monthly meetings and presentations to further our knowledge in areas such as taking field notes, microscopical analysis and photography. Other areas of interest include developing field identification keys for selected genera, visiting the Herbarium, searching for rare species, etc. The meetings are planned to be held on the first Monday of the month. Three meetings were held this year. More forays will be scheduled next year.

The group also plans to publish a CD-ROM early next year. It will contain a collection of images of those fungi species that could be readily and unambiguously identified in the field. We currently have 60 species and nearly 400 photographs.

Paul George



Fauna Survey Group

Grampians

Two surveys were carried out to search for Smoky Mouse in the Victoria Range. Several were trapped in moist gullies on the southeast slopes, in different locations. They included both juvenile and mature animals. Of the sites surveyed, mice were trapped in both previously recorded sites, and new sites.

Specimens of Heath Rat and a Southern Brown Bandicoot were also trapped.

Otways

One survey was carried out from the Parker River area, just east of Cape Otway. It was hoped we would find Smoky Mouse and New Holland Mouse, but neither was caught. However, large numbers of Bush Rats, Swamp Rats, Agile Antechinus and Swainson's Antechinus were caught in recently burnt areas.

A second trip was held between Christmas and New Year to a different area in the Carlisle State Park near Gellibrand. We were looking for New Holland Mouse and Smoky Mouse in a 600 ha area due to be burnt. A combination of Elliott and cage trapping was used. It resulted in large numbers of Bush Rats, Agile Antechinus and Swainson's Antechinus. Another animal found was a Long-nosed Bandicoot (dead specimen). Bat trapping took place at the campsite and species recorded included Greater Pipistrelle Bat, Chocolate Wattled Bat, Gould's Wattled Bat, Lesser Long Eared Bat and the three Forest Bats.

Kinglake

Our annual trip to the Kinglake area was as successful as always. A total of 89 bats were caught at Toorourrong Reservoir in one night. This included nine species that were trapped and one that was heard. The notable species included Fishing Bat, the Common Bentwing Bat and the Greater Pipistrelle Bat.

Wonthaggi Heathlands

A combined camp involving Fauna Survey members and Holmesglen TAFE students was conducted at Wonthaggi Heathlands. This forms part of Bunnerong Coast. Pitfall trapping resulted in specimens of Eastern Three Lined Skink, Southern Grass Skink and Southern Bullfrog (Pobblebonk) being caught. Elliott trapping resulted in White-footed Dunnart and Swamp Rats being recorded, while in cage traps we caught Bush Rats.

Stagwatches

The FSG conducted seven stag watches. A stag watch involves observing hollow-bearing trees for the emergence of animals, in particular the endangered Leadbeaters' Possum. This particular survey has been ongoing for 17 years.

During this calendar period, Leadbeaters' Possums were detected on two occasions, Greater Gliders five times, Mountain Brush-tails six times, and Sugar Gliders twice. Antechinus, Owlet Nightjars, Boobook Owls and Powerful Owls were also seen or heard on several occasions. Attendance ranged from 8-25 people, the average being 14.

Scotia

A successful two-week FSG camp was held in south-western NSW. The purpose of the camp was to set up permanent monitoring sites for future research. A wide range of reptiles were recorded, along with mammal species including Bobلام's Mouse, Common Dunnart and *Ningaui yvonneae*.

Scotia is a sanctuary for several threatened and endangered species of native mammals, which include Numbats, Bilbies, Nail-tailed Wallabies, Mala, Greater Stick Nest Rats and Burrowing Bettongs. Members had the opportunity to observe these animals in a natural habitat. Accommodation was provided by the sanctuary and the use of the restaurant area with the kitchen facilities and the bar were very welcome.

Gurdies

Four members attended a bleak weekend at a private property near Grantville in west Gippsland. After 50 mm of rainfall and cyclonic winds overnight, five Bush Rats were trapped in Elliott traps which were set in a 20 ha bush remnant. Wombats were seen due to their burrows being flooded. Bat trapping was completely negative. Fortunately the owners allowed us the use of their home, or we would have been very wet and cold fauna surveyors.

Equipment Day July

A very successful day was held to clean and mend traps and to update permit numbers. It was a great day to socialise at the hall.

Cape Conran

A week-long survey was held at Cape Conran as part of the Southern Ark Project. Our accommodation was provided by DSE. The FSG assisted in monitoring established survey sites as well as setting up other sites. The results were large numbers of Potoroo (many of which were micro chipped) along with some recaptured micro chipped animals. Other species caught included Long Nosed Bandicoot (one specimen weighed

1700 gm), Swamp Rats and Agile Antechinus. Bat trapping resulted in approximately 70 bats. Up to thirteen frog species were recorded during the camp. Another highlight of the camp was a presentation by David Hollands on Owls. He also had his latest book on Owls for sale.

Hird Swamp

In September, several FSG members travelled north to Hird Swamp, near Cohuna, to conduct a general survey of the area. Mammal species trapped and/or recorded included a beautiful specimen of a Water Rat and assorted House Mice. A small number of bats was trapped. Frog species recorded were Spotted Grass Frog, Banjo Frog, Striped Marsh Frog and Peron's Tree Frog. A large number and variety of water and terrestrial birds were seen during our stay.

**Sally Bewsher and
Russell Thompson**



Terrestrial Invertebrate Group

The third year of the Terrestrial Invertebrate Group has been extremely successful, with a core group of members attending most of our meetings and a number of visitors attending presentations. The past year has provided a wide range of presenters to discuss a range of topics of general interest.

Ian Beveridge discussed the biology, taxonomy and implications of ticks within Australia. Richard Marchant introduced us to freshwater invertebrates and the impacts of stream modification on invertebrate assemblages. Student night allowed three students to discuss research projects and plans for the coming year/s, and provided an opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics, from the DPI graduate programs, to the taxonomy of leaf hoppers, to stream pollution on invertebrate assemblages.

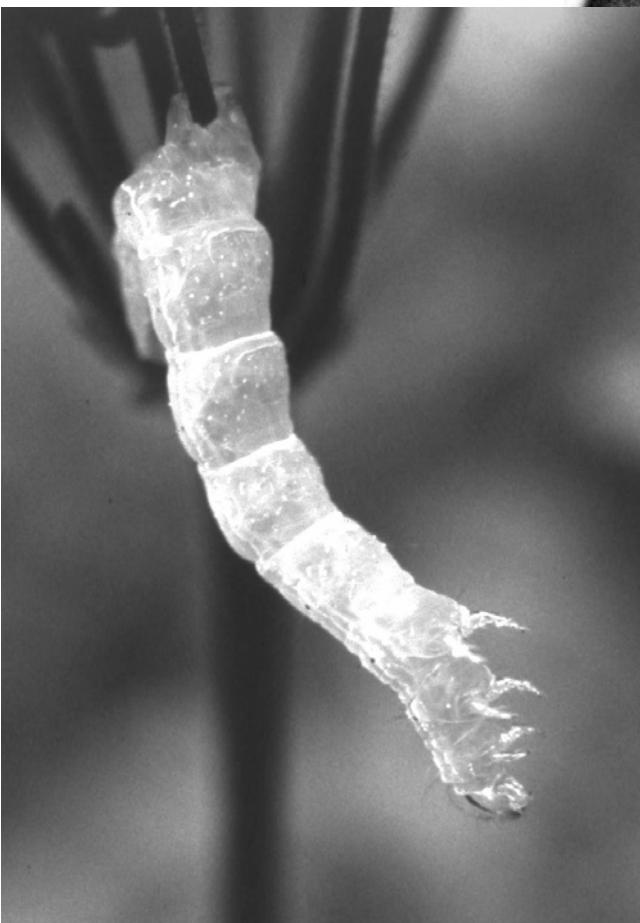
We have continued to survey Yarra Bend Park and a core group has been sorting invertebrates at home. It is hoped to have most of the raw data ready in the next few months. Further identification of particular groups will progress throughout the coming year.

Right: Desert Wolf Spider



Terrestrial Invertebrates

All images by Wendy Clark



Above: Caterpillar in Geranium

Right: Emperor Gum Moth



Butterfly counts were also carried out again this year at Warrandyte State Park. This has allowed the Terrestrial Invertebrate Group to obtain three years of data. Thanks go to Jane Pammer and Sharon Mason for organising and running the trips this year. We hope to continue this work in future years to allow us to document changes in the butterflies of the area.

Peter Neville
Secretary



Botany Group

The Botany group has continued to attract informative speakers and visit a diverse array of interesting locations during the past year. We would like to thank Geoff Lay, Keith Marshall and Richard Fossett for organizing most of these activities. A group of committed members - Mimi Pohl, Jenny Porter, Karen Muscat, Annie Lamb and James Berriman, will maintain the quality of the program in 2005.



Botany excursion to Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough, October 2004

We extend our thanks to all the interesting speakers, dedicated leaders, contributors to *Field Nats News* and other members who made the group's activities enjoyable.

In particular we thank the following people for providing the group's activities:

Presenter / Leader	Topic
Geoff Carr	Dianella Taxonomy
Nick Williams	Grassland Fragmentation
Geoff Lay	Alpine Flora, High Country Grazing and Mt Hotham camp
Sheri Mc.Farlane	Vegetation Quality Assessment and Application at Riffle Range
Tom Morley	Biological Control of Weeds
Kate Blood	Invasive Garden Plants & Weeds of the Future
Richard Francis	Fire Ecology and Application at Boomers Reserve
Sue Bendel	Biology of Weeds
Glen Jameson	Buffle Grass, a Weed of Central Australia
David Cameron	Introduction to the Flora of Victoria ID Part 1 Bend of Islands
David Meagher & Bruce Fuhrer	Mosses of Blackburn Lake
Carolyn Mellor	Revegetation in Eltham and Diamond Creek
Neil Mc Farlane & Keith Marshal	Surveys of Pyrene Range
Sarah Holland-Cilft	Biological Control of Bridal Creeper
Dylon Osler	Revegetation of Churnside Wetlands
Karen Garth, Eileen Courtney, Mimi Pohl and Ray Power	Cosstick Reserve Maryborough

In 2005 the Botany Group will contribute to the conservation of Victoria's biodiversity by performing botanical surveys in several Trust for Nature properties, and searching for threatened species. These excursions will provide members with practical experience in some of the State's high quality patches of remnant vegetation. The information we obtain will assist land managers in adopting appropriate land management practices.

Jenny Porter
Botany Group Committee



Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group held 8 meetings and undertook 7 field trips throughout 2004. On average, 19 people attended our meetings. The highest attendance occurred at our February meeting, when 24 people attended. Topics ranged from the use of shells in Aboriginal art, to DNA and the study of marine ecology.

The program for the year was as follows:

Month	Presenter & Topic
February	Dr Robin Wilson - Sea Munts, Submerged Mountains of the Deep Sea
March	Phil Bock - Ecology of Bryozoans
May	Dr Julie Gough - The Use of Shells in Aboriginal Art
July	Mark Rodrigue - Victoria's Marine National Parks
August	Dr Cary Poore - Marine Decapod Crustacea of Southern Australia
September	Chris Burridge - DNA and the Study of Marine Ecology
October	Bob Burn - Workshop on Limpet-Like Gastropods
December	Member's Night

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 coincided with weekends, and many records were added to the Marine Research Group species database. Locations visited during 2004 included Port Welshpool, Sunday Island and Apollo Bay.

The existing committee remained in place:

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 and Bob Burn.

Leon Altoff
Secretary



Juniors' Group

2004 was a very successful year for the Juniors' Group with an interesting and varied range of meetings, excursions and camps filling the program. Membership continues to flourish with average attendances of 50-60 people at meetings, and 20-30 at excursions.

The age range is from 4 years to the 20's and of course, many parents attend. The average age of 8 years was slightly higher this year, reflecting the ongoing and increasing interest of teenagers within the group.

The Junior Council is made up of juniors from the age of 12 years and up, with Nick Andrewes (22) as Chairman. For the first half of the year, Nick was in South America exploring the wilds. During that time it was very pleasing to find that the other council members, with the ongoing help of Wendy Clark, really stepped up and increased their involvement with the club.

Meetings and Excursions

The topics covered at monthly meetings included: Marine life, Fungi, Crabs, Volcanoes, Carnivorous Plants, Reptiles, South America, Spiders and Native freshwater fish, not to mention several talks by council members on varying topics.

Excursions were as follows:

Mushroom Reef (beach fossicking), Mud Island (boat trip), Badger Weir, Cranbourne Gardens, Blackburn Creek-lands (spotlighting) and Hotchkins Reserve.

Camps

Two camps are held annually, at Easter and one near Christmas. The Easter camp is the longest, running over 5 days. This year, the Juniors ventured out to Hattah-Kulkyne National Park in northwest Victoria for a fantastic camp in the mallee. Mt Samaria State Park was the site for the two day December camp.

Nick Andrewes
Chairman



Microscopical Group

The group had a varied program of 8 lectures and 2 member nights, with all lectures given by members of the club. Although two meetings attracted 19 and 17 members respectively, unfortunately the average attendance at meetings has not really been reliable enough to have visiting speakers from outside the club to talk on subjects suggested by members a number of months ahead. I would welcome suggestions to rectify the issue from club members not associated with the Microscopical Group - one never knows what may develop.

Month	Presenter & Topic
February	Members Night
March	What in the Microscopical World is a Palynomorph –Roger Pierson of Deakin University explains
April	Demonstration of Scanning Electron Microscope - Dr. Phil Bock of Deakin University demonstrates
May	An Introduction to Fungi and the Microscope - a talk by Bruce Fuhrer
June	The Microscopical Group Club Microscopes
July	Thin Rock Sections Explained - Dr. Phil Bock of Deakin University
August	Identification of Mammalian Hair - Maria Belvedere explains
September	Photomicrography with the Digital Camera - Paul George
October	Permanent Mounting of Hydroids - a Demonstration by Dr. Jan Watson
November	Members' Night

Meetings held for the year were as follows: The group demonstrated three microscopes (dissecting, geological and compound) at Knox City's Stringybark Festival. Whilst there were large crowds in attendance, the microscopes and their objects did not seem to attract as much interest as one or two microscopes did at earlier festivals we displayed at. These included Maranoa Gardens and Return of the Kingfisher Festival at C.E.R.E.S., Brunswick.

In the meantime, some universities are reducing the instruction and use of microscopes in some courses. I wonder if there is some cause and effect relationship operating? However, nothing happens without speakers so I must continue to express our gratitude to Roger Pierson, Phil Bock, Bruce Fuhrer, Maria Belvedere, Paul George, Jan Watson, Pat Grey and Jim Walker for their talks and reports.

**Ray Power
Convenor**



Conservation

Thanks are extended to Jim Walker, who has continued to regularly publish articles in *FNN* to highlight significant environmental issues, including those targeted by other environmental groups such as VNPA and the Wilderness Society. This year, Jim also played an important part in preparing and promoting the FNCV's September Biodiversity month forum on Port Phillip Bay Channel Deepening Project. Thanks also go to Stuart Fraser and Doug Phillips for contributing to conservation articles within *FNN*.

Conservation topics touched on this year included:

- Who is responsible for waterway management and implementation of Federal and State legislation? Particular emphasis was placed on the Henley golf course proposal;
- Channel Deepening in Port Phillip Bay - proposed actions, issues and impacts;
- Heads in the Sand - proposed open cut sand mine that may impact on water bodies, remnant vegetation and habitat west of Gariwerd (Grampians);
- 'Retention Harvesting' - Logging coupes trial being undertaken in the Central Highlands by Dr. Lindenmayer and his team from the Australian National University;
- Are Box Ironbark Forests protected from mining, timber and firewood harvesting, urban growth and rubbish tips?
- Forest conservation in western Victoria.

Jenny Porter

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC
REPORT BY COUNCIL Year ended 31 December 2004

1. The members of Council hereby submit the Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2004 and the Statement of Profit and Loss for the year ended 31st December 2004 and report as follows:

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
Karen Muscat	President	Self Employed	2003
Dr. Alan Yen	Vice President	Entomologist	2001
Dr. Melanie Archer	Terrestrial Invertebrate	Entomologist	2002
Karen George	Secretary	Ecologist	2003
Barbara Burns	Treasurer	Lecturer	2001
Wendy Clark	Past President	Photographer	1998
Jim Walker	Councilor	Ecologist	2001
Joan Broadberry	Councilor	Retired Teacher	2001
Ian Kitchen	Councilor	Naturalist	2001
John Harris	Councilor	Science Teacher	2003
Special Interest Group	Representative		
Leon Altoff	Marine Research	Analyst	2003
Audrey Falconer	Marine Research	Public Servant	2003
Rob Hamson	Geology	Teacher	1998
Russell Thompson	Fauna Survey	Horticulturist	2002
Ray Power	Microscopical	Retired Engineer	1993
Jenny Porter	Botany	Biology	2002
Nick Andrews	Juniors	Student	2002
Arthur Carew	Fungi Group	Retired	2004

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 profit of the club for the year ended 31st December 2004 was \$23,601.74 (2003 net profit of \$178.85).
4. A review of the operations of the Club is contained in the President's Report, which forms part of this Annual Report.
5. No matters 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 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 2004.
- (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 2004.
- (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 20th day of March 2005 in accordance with a resolution of Council.

K. Muscat
President

B. Burns
Treasurer

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA**STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS**
Year ended 31 December 2004

		2004	2003
		\$	\$
INCOME	Membership	<u>\$43,847.00</u>	<u>\$35,267.68</u>
Bookshop	Bookshop Profit	<u>3,279.30</u>	<u>\$2,466.71</u>
Publications	Profit Sale FNCV Publications	3,011.95	\$944.10
	Back issues Vic Nat	<u>481.63</u>	<u>\$565.30</u>
		<u>3,493.58</u>	<u>\$1,509.40</u>
Other Earnings	Hall Hire	6,496.34	\$3,650.75
	Profits - Symposiums, Camps, Workshops	1,421.45	\$2,890.95
	Advertising - Field Nat News	248.18	\$506.82
	Advertising - Vic Nat	200.00	
	Profit Sale FNCV products	83.05	\$77.39
	Copyright Income	1,632.00	
	Sundry Income	<u>1,292.48</u>	<u>\$1,077.45</u>
		<u>11,373.50</u>	<u>\$8,203.36</u>
Investments	Bank Interest	754.22	\$652.64
	Interest Income Investments	<u>20,447.46</u>	<u>\$15,563.44</u>
		<u>21,201.68</u>	<u>\$16,216.08</u>
Grants, Donations	Grants	1,500.00	\$10,000.00
	General Donations	3,396.75	\$1,101.50
	Donations President's Equipment Appeal	<u>1,342.50</u>	<u>\$3,597.25</u>
		<u>6,239.25</u>	<u>\$14,698.75</u>
	Total Revenue	<u>\$89,434.31</u>	<u>\$78,361.98</u>



Female Antechinus showing pouch. Photo taken with the FSG at Carlisle State Park, December 2004

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS
Year ended 31 December 2004 (continued)

		2004	2003
EXPENDITURE			
Publications	Vic. Nat. Printing	9,851.15	\$11,890.10
	Less Grants (N. Smith)		(\$1,243.00)
	Postage - Vic. Nat.	2,277.36	\$2,922.04
	Sundry expenses- Vic Nat	<u>410.63</u>	<u>\$356.17</u>
		<u>12,539.14</u>	<u>\$13,925.31</u>
	Newsletter Printing	4,144.25	\$3,327.01
	Newsletter Postage etc	2,935.12	\$3,254.90
	Calendar of events	1,433.42	\$1,313.76
	Junior Naturalists - Printing and Postage	<u>486.63</u>	<u>\$551.13</u>
		<u>8,999.42</u>	<u>\$8,446.80</u>
	Total Publications Expenses	<u>\$21,538.56</u>	<u>\$22,372.11</u>
Other Expenses	GROSS PROFIT	<u>\$67,895.75</u>	<u>\$55,989.87</u>
	Advertising, Market & Pub		\$66.99
	Annual report	65.91	\$1,900.00
	Bank Fees	1,099.59	\$1,192.75
	Council Rates	1,165.20	\$1,379.15
	Depreciation Expense	5,172.37	\$4,314.62
	Donations	100.00	\$100.00
	FNCV Mugs		\$727.28
	Gas, Electricity, Water	1,526.08	\$1,444.85
	General Office Postage	795.10	\$885.62
	Special Interest Group Expenses	304.24	\$241.24
	Insurance	3,807.73	\$3,119.93
	Internet Provider & Virus Scan	834.62	\$246.55
	Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	410.38	\$351.08
	Library Expenses & Subscriptions	359.13	\$1,761.02
	Non-Library Subscriptions	563.91	\$128.17
	Office Stationery etc	1,327.51	\$841.79
	Office Telephone	889.33	\$976.29
	Repairs & Maintenance - General	483.77	\$1,285.42
	Repairs & Maintenance - Office Equip	304.09	\$201.77
	Sundry Expenses	642.96	\$109.36
	Superannuation & Workers Comp	2,756.60	\$2,094.32
	Wages & Salaries	25,155.62	\$20,230.38
	Volunteer Expenses Reimbursed	<u>90.64</u>	<u>\$196.12</u>
	Total Other Expenses	<u>47,854.78</u>	<u>\$43,794.70</u>
	Total Publication and Other Expenses	<u>\$69,393.34</u>	<u>\$66,166.81</u>
	OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)	20,040.97	12,195.17
	Fungimap - See attached schedule (1)	<u>3,560.77</u>	(\$12,016.32)
	NET PROFIT (LOSS)	<u>\$23,601.74</u>	<u>\$178.85</u>
Fungimap	<u>Fungimap (1)</u>		
	Sales	2,160.77	7,655.92
	Conference Profit		4,388.26
	Interest Received		671.86
	Donations	1,511.50	440.00
	Less Bank Fees	-111.50	(172.36)
	Less Contribution to Operating expenses		(\$25,000.00)
	Net Operating Deficit/Surplus	<u>\$3,560.77</u>	(\$12,016.32)

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank of Melbourne Cheque Account - Note (3)	\$18,804.08	\$15,592.67
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account - Note 3	13,249.70	
Fungimap Cheque Account - Note (3)	6,674.21	2,961.11
The Environment Fund Account - Note (3)	3,799.91	3,240.91
Stocks "T" Shirts & Lenses - Note (4)	180.00	371.50
Inventories (Books for Sale) - Note (4)	8,933.78	11,492.57
Total Current Assets	\$51,641.68	33,658.76
Non Current Assets		
Investments		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit - Note (5)	\$10,000.00	
AGC Debenture Stock - Note (5)	\$65,539.80	61,252.15
Treasury Corporation of Vic - Note (5)	\$50,000.00	50,000.00
Esanda Unsecured Notes - Note (5)	\$105,231.59	100,576.22
General Property Trust Units - Note (5)	\$23,851.00	23,851.00
Library Holdings - Note (6)	\$254,622.39	235,679.37
	\$47,786.23	46,591.11
	\$302,408.62	\$282,270.48
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)	\$61,783.49	57,431.64
Less Accumulated Depreciation - Note (8)	-\$38,470.92	(37,481.07)
	\$247,212.57	\$243,850.57
Total Non current Assets	\$549,621.19	\$526,121.05
TOTAL ASSETS	\$601,262.87	\$559,779.81
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors - Note (9)	\$3,259.00	250.00
GST Paid - GST Collected - Note (9)	\$1,445.00	(1,756.75)
PAYG Payable - Note (9)		693.00
Grants Received in Advance	\$11,500.00	
Funds Held in Trust - Note (9)	271.00	271.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$16,475.00	-\$542.75
NET ASSETS	\$584,787.87	\$560,322.56
EQUITY		
Members Accumulated Funds		
Current Year Earnings/Loss	\$23,601.74	\$178.85
-+Fungimap (surplus/deficit)	-\$3,560.77	12,016.32
Current Year Earnings excluding Fungimap - Note (10)	\$20,040.97	12,195.17
General Fund b/f - Note (10)	\$515,025.37	\$502,830.20
	\$535,066.34	\$515,025.37
Total Specific Funds		
Marine Research Fund - Note (11)	25,466.75	25,466.75
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund	(1,451.25)	(1,451.25)
Fungimap Fund - Note (11)	6,674.12	2,808.78
FNCV Environment Fund - Note (11)	3,799.91	3,240.91
Asset Revaluation Reserve	13,187.00	13,187.00
FNCV Juniors - Note (11)	2,045.00	2,045.00
TOTAL MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$584,787.87	\$560,322.56

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2004

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 2004 (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 2004

2004

3. CASH

Bank of Melbourne - Cheque Account	\$18,804.08
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	<u>13,249.70</u>
	<u>32,053.78</u>
Fungimap A/c - Bank of Melbourne	6,674.21
Environment Fund A/c - Bank Melb.	<u>3,799.91</u>

4. STOCKS

"T-Shirts	180.00
Books for sale at lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>8,933.78</u>
	<u>\$9,113.78</u>

5. INVESTMENTS

Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	\$10,000.00
AGC Debenture Stock	\$65,539.80
Treasury Corporation of Vic Inscribed Stock	50,000.00
Esanda Finance Corporation Unsecured Notes	\$105,231.59
General Property Trust Units - at cost (Market Value \$33,300)	<u>23,851.00</u>
	<u>\$254,622.39</u>

6. Library - Books and Journals

at Council Valuation 23/5/95 plus additions at cost

\$47,786.23

7. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough	\$13,400.00
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn - at cost	171,512.00
Improvements - at cost	<u>38,988.00</u>
	<u>\$223,900.00</u>

8. OTHER FIXED ASSETS

Plant and Equipment - at cost	\$61,783.49
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-\$38,470.92</u>
	<u>\$23,312.57</u>

9. CREDITORS & PROVISIONS

Sundry Trade Creditors	\$1,825.00
Creditor FNCV Environment Fund	<u>\$1,434.00</u>
	<u>\$3,259.00</u>
Net GST	1,445.00
Grant Received in Advance -	
History Symposium	10,000
Open Day	<u>1500</u>
Funds Held in Trust	<u>11,500.00</u>
	<u>271.00</u>
	<u>\$16,475.00</u>

MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS

10. GENERAL FUND

Balance Brought Forward	\$515,025.37
Add Net Surplus	23,601.74
Less Fungimap Surplus	<u>-\$3,560.77</u>
Balance at 31 December 2004	<u>\$535,066.34</u>

11. SPECIFIC FUNDS

Marine Research Group Fund	\$25,466.75
Balance Brought Forward	0
Net Addition	<u>0</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>\$25,466.75</u>

Fungimap Fund

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,113.35
Add Net Surplus	<u>3,560.77</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>\$6,674.12</u>

FNCV Environment Fund

Balance Brought Forward	3,240.91
Add Donations	1,759.00
Less Grants	<u>(1,200.00)</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>\$3,799.91</u>

Juniors Fund

Balance Brought Forward	2,045.00
Add Additional funds contributed	0
Balance at 31 December	<u>\$2,045.00</u>

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA		
CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2004		
	Inflow no bracket, 2004	Outflow () 2003
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Inflows	Net Inflows from Operations	\$ 42,472.63
	GST (net)	10,220.77 <u>\$2,660.99</u> <u>(\$450.81)</u>
	Net Cash Flow from Operations	<u>\$45,133.62</u> <u>\$9,769.96</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Outflows	Equipment Purchases	(\$8,534.37) (\$4,668.35)
	Library Book Purchases	(\$1,195.12) (\$161.32)
	Transfer to AGC Debenture Stock	(\$4,287.65) (\$4,007.15)
	Transfer to Esanda Unsecured Notes	(\$4,655.37) (\$5,166.29)
	Transfer to Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	(\$10,000.00)
	Net Cash Outflow from Investing Activities	<u>(\$28,672.51)</u> <u>(\$14,003.11)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Inflows	Marine Research Fund	199.00
	FNCV Juniors	445.00
Outflows	Australian Natural History Medallion	(\$208.22)
	Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities	<u>\$0.00</u> <u>\$435.78</u>
CHANGE IN FNCV CHEQUE A/Cs BALANCES for year (inflow)		
	Change Account Bank Balance Start Year	<u>\$15,592.67</u> <u>19,390.04</u>
	Cheque Accounts Bank Balances End Year	<u>\$32,053.78</u> <u>\$15,592.67</u>
Note 1	Reconciliation of Net Profit with Cash Flow from Operations	
	Net Profit	\$20,040.97
	Decrease in Inventory	\$2,558.79 (6,080.67)
	Decrease stock FNCV Merchandise	\$191.50 (6.50)
	Depreciation	\$5,172.37
	Decrease in Debtors	4,314.62 278.00
	Increase in Creditors	\$3,009.00 (\$930.66)
	Grants Received in Advance	\$11,500.00
	Net Cash Inflow from Operations	<u>\$42,472.63</u> <u>\$9,769.96</u>
FUNGIMAP Bank Account - CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2004		
	2004	2003
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Inflows	Sales	2,160.77
	Conference Profit	7,655.92
	Interest received	4,388.26
	Donations	671.86
Outflows	Bank fees	1,511.50 (111.50)
	Operating expenses	440.00 (\$25,000.00)
	GST adjustment with FNCV	\$3,560.77 \$152.33 (\$12,016.32) (\$580.71)
CHANGE IN FUNGIMAP BANK BALANCE		
	Opening Balance	<u>\$2,961.11</u> <u>\$15,558.14</u>
	Balance 31 December 2004	<u>\$6,674.21</u> <u>\$2,961.11</u>

**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 2004. 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 2004 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 an effective 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 2004 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:



Ray A Wells, CPA
Honorary Auditor

29 March 2005
South Melbourne



Images from our Junior Naturalists



All images by
Wendy Clark

