

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Annual Report

Year Ending 31 December 2014



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

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President's Report

As the 2015 AGM gets closer, it is time to pen my last President's report, for the time being anyway. As I am writing this, I have just realised that I have spent half of my time as a member of the FNCV in this position.

2014 has been another year of innovation for the club, as well as continuing to do the things that we do well. Some of these are highlighted below:

Our new constitution was accepted at the 2014 AGM. Thank you to Robin Drury, Jurrie & Virgil Hubregtse and Barbara Burns for the many hours that were put into getting our old constitution into a form that fitted our legal requirements and was accepted by the members, whilst still having an FNCV "flavour".

Ray Gibson's contribution to natural history was recognised with a Deakin Community Award in July. These awards were instigated by the Federal Member for Deakin, Michael Sukkar, to recognise the contribution of Deakin residents to their communities.

Congratulations to Dr Tom May on being awarded the 2014 Australian Natural History Medallion for his tireless work on fungi.

This year's biodiversity symposium was based around Farming and Conservation. The speakers, Neville Oddie, Iestyn Hosking, Rob Youl, Tony Brindley, Jackie Waring and Ben Carr, presented on topics ranging from a farmer's viewpoint, policy and practices, biodiversity farming to farming and conservation in a peri-urban environment. On the Sunday a bus trip went to the Damper Creek, wetlands in Mordialloc and finished up at the Cardile property, Sarokos Park, at Strathewen. The wetland tour highlighted what can be done to repair and reconstruct wetlands while the visit to Sarokos Park capped off how conservation and farming can be combined and the benefits that planning for conservation can bring. Thank you to the speakers and the Cardile's for their contribution.

The FNCV was well represented at many public events including the Yarra Plant Show, the Whitehorse Spring Festival and the Rhododendron Gardens. I would like to

1 Gardenia St Blackburn.
Photo J. Hubregtse.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

thank all of those people who volunteered their time for each of these activities.

The Facebook page started by Ian Kitchen, has been very popular and now has over 1000 “friends” (as of April 2015). This is a great way to educate the public about the Club and communicate with them the activities that we organise. A number of people have joined the club after being in the Facebook group. Thanks to Ian for getting this social media tool up and running and for his continuing monitoring of the site.

With our new website operational, a continuing thank you to Jurrie Hubregtse for his constant updating and for those others that contribute to helping the site to remain ‘fresh’.

The Bookshop is going from strength to strength, returning a healthy profit of around \$2000 dollars for 2014. Kathy Himbeck has put in a mighty effort throughout the year, keeping her fingers on the pulse as new books are released. She has looked far and wide for books that not only suit the adult members of the Club, but also for titles that are more suitable to our Juniors. Kathy also put together a special catalogue on farming and conservation for the Biodiversity Symposium, as well as general catalogues that can be found on our website.

September 2014 saw the passing of another Club stalwart, Sheila Houghton, after a long illness. Sheila had over 40 years of association with the FNCV and was a past president and honorary life member. Her most recent role with the Club was as librarian and historian and our library is named in her honour.

Finally a personal thank you to the members who support the range of activities that this Club offers, without you the Club would not be as it is. One group of members deserve special recognition, they are the members that sit on Council whether they be elected or as SIG representatives. Without these members and the many tireless hours that they put into the Club, it would not function as effectively as it does now.

To the editors of both the *Field Nats News* and *The Victorian Naturalist*, I extend my thanks for the many hours of diligent work that Joan and Sally, Gary, Anne, Maria and Virgil respectively put into these two publications. They are both informative to the members and respected flagships of our Club and may this continue for many years to come.

A final thank you to Wendy Gare, our office administrator, for her tireless good humour and dedication to the club and to occasionally roping in her husband Colin to lend a helping hand

With that, I would like to say thank you for allowing me to preside over this great organisation for six years. I hope I have made my mark on the Club, overseen the implementation of new ideas and left the FNCV in as good a shape, if not better, than when I started. It has been [my honour](#)!! **John Harris, President**



The Victorian Naturalist team.



Tom May being presented with the 2014 Australian Natural History Medallion.
Photo Joan Broadberry



Valé Sheila Houghton



Administration

A year has flown by, and I've settled in and understand most of what happens here in the FNCV office. There are now lots of familiar names and faces and I hope to get to know a lot more of you, because after all you're my reason for being here!

Membership

Membership as at 31st December 2014 was 841, slightly down from last year. We have 7 fewer family memberships (now 87 families), but those families include 20 more individuals than last year (now 252). There are 5 fewer non-paying members (made up of honorary members, government



bodies and exchange memberships) and 13 fewer single memberships (now 210), but the good news is that we have 5 more junior members and 5 more students, so the future is looking positive. We have 147 concessional members, down by 13 on last year's numbers. Most of these were caused by the transfer into long term membership of 15 members who have been with us for over 40 years, increasing the number of long term members to 27.

Hall Hire.

Our hall hire fees are looking very healthy for 2014, having increased to \$8851. This is largely due to two long periods of hire by a government backed training agency which runs courses to assist disabled people to obtain paid work. Unfortunately this booking looks like not continuing for 2015. Our regular hirers are other not-for-profit groups and clubs who pay annually in advance and receive a discount. They have contributed their regular hire payments of just over \$2500. There will be a 10% increase in fees applied incrementally over the next 2 years to bring us more into line with comparable hall hire fees in the City of Whitehorse, although our hall is still very affordable, particularly for other not-for-profit groups and clubs.

Promotion

Our website and its associated Facebook page continue to go from strength to strength. During the year our new, revamped website came on-line, thanks mainly to the stalwart work done by Jurrie Hubregtse in developing it from scratch. The Facebook page has been carefully and enthusiastically tended by Ian Kitchen, who has increased the number of facebook friends to 1000. The Calendar of Events is produced three times during the year, and is distributed to libraries, universities, community houses and other groups, as well as to our members. We are trying to distribute as many copies as we can electronically, in order to save on printing and

postage costs.

In 2014 we took part in the Whitehorse Spring Festival and the Australian Plants Expo. Our stalls were popular and attracted many visitors – grateful thanks to all those who participated: June Anton, Jaynaya Atkins, Sue Bendel, Pieter Boschma, Andy Brentnall, Joan Broadberry, Barbara Burns, Wendy Clark, James Cordwell, Meg Cullen, Julia Davis, Su Dempsey, Cecily Falkingham, Claire Ferguson, Ray Gibson, Ruth Hoskin, Jesse Kurylo, Fran La Fontaine, Gary Presland, Ruth Robertson and Lani Watson.

Thank you to Andy Brentnall who has again given me invaluable help during the year as my office assistant, and to Barbara Burns, John Harris, Joan Broadberry and Gary Presland who bear the brunt of my numerous queries and questions with unfailing good humour. I consider myself very lucky to have such a rewarding and enjoyable job.

Wendy Gare, Administration Officer



Bookshop

The sale and purchase of books for the FNCV Bookshop has been steady across 2014 with over 270 books sold for the year. This is due to the extensive range of books now displayed on the shelves and available to order through the expanded general bookshop catalogue that is continually being updated. The advertising of selected books in the monthly bookshop articles submitted to the FNN and the more extensive range of colour photographs and listings within the general catalogue that is posted on the FNCV website, have been influential in achieving these impressive sales.

Throughout the year several new publications were added to the shelves including a very popular title *Flora of Melbourne*. Since being released in June 2014, the bookshop has sold 37 copies of this book to both members and non-members, significantly adding to the profits for the year. There were a total of 119 different titles that were available on the shelves of the bookshop during the year, including 16 children, 25 flora, 30 fauna and 18 invertebrate titles.

In conjunction with the FNCV Biodiversity Symposium for 2014, *Farming and Conservation*, the bookshop created a specific catalogue containing a number of books relating to this topic that include publications that are not generally stocked. The catalogue was available to all attending the symposium and books were able to be ordered on the day or any time afterward. The catalogue was posted on the FNCV website and will remain there for 12 months.

Kathy Himbeck
Volunteer Bookshop Manager

Field Nats News

2014 *Field Nats News* (FNN) issues ran from numbers 238 to 248 inclusive. With the help of our valued contributors, (see table below) and our wonderful editorial, indexing and collation teams, the production of the FNCV's monthly newsletter always gives me great satisfaction and pleasure.

FNN is very much a Club effort. My grateful thanks go to Sally Bewsher who assists in many ways, but in particular with the vital work of proof-reading. Thanks also to Gary Presland for supporting us with his IT skills and for assistance with library news, archival material and obituaries. Special thanks to Wendy Gare for preparing the four monthly calendar on which our activities page is based, assisting with our advertisers, supplying mail-out labels and supporting and backing up the editorial team in countless ways. An index for the previous year's issues of FNN is now included in the March newsletter. Pat Grey, a very busy person, has kindly volunteered to take on the task of preparing it. An index such as this, requires many hours of exacting work. Pat does a superb job. Thank you doesn't seem enough.

Without our hardworking writers there would be no content and no newsletter. It is never easy to supply details of activities, check the calendar and especially to report on meetings, excursions, camps and symposiums. I am continually impressed with the high standard of articles and images submitted and recognise the time that goes into them. A reminder, our deadline for copy is always,

10 am on the first Tuesday of the month even if it is New Year's Day or Cup Day!!!!

Collation takes place in the hall at about 10.00 am on the third Tuesday of the month. We are extremely fortunate to have a very reliable and hardworking team of people who willingly volunteer their time for the essential job of readying the newsletter for posting. New helpers are always welcome. The four monthly calendar of events (COE), is a supplement to the newsletter, but is also posted out as part of the Club's publicity strategy. The collation group has taken over this task from the office. It occurs three times a year and we always get people willing to stay on and complete it.

Finally a request to those who receive the print copy of FNN. We would like to encourage even more members to receive FNN via email and enjoy the full colour version. Importantly it saves the club money and reduces the time taken for collation. You may not realise, but **it costs more than a dollar per month (\$11 + per year) to post out one copy of FNN.**

Please contact Wendy with your email address at, admin@fncv.org.au and she will change you from print to email.

Joan Broadberry, Editor



2014	No	Main Contributors	Page No
Feb.	238	John Harris, Joan Broadberry, Kaye Oddie, Gary Presland, Claire Ferguson, The Horobin Family.	12
March	239	John Harris, Pat Grey, Kathy Himbeck, Kaye Oddie, Platon Vafiadis.	14
April	240	John Harris, Graham Patterson, K Himbeck, J Broadberry, Platon Vafiadis.	12
May	241	John Harris, Cecily Falkingham, Leon Costermans, Joan Broadberry, Peter Fagg, Maxwell Campbell, Platon Vafiadis	14
June	242	Joan Broadberry, Cecily Falkingham, Kathy Himbeck, Kaye Oddie, Peter Fagg, Barbara Burns, Ed and Pat Grey.	12
July	243	John Harris, Cecily Falkingham, Euan Ritchie, Ed and Pat Grey, Joan Broadberry, Maxwell Campbell, Platon Vafiadis	12
August	244	John Harris, J. Broadberry, Ed & Pat Grey, Gary Presland, Kathy Himbeck.	12
Sept.	245	John Harris, Ed & Pat Grey, Gary Presland, Kathy Himbeck, Joan Broadberry, Les Hanrahan, Ruth Hoskin, Platon Vafiadis	14
Oct.	246	Joan Broadberry, Pat & Ed Grey, Gary Presland, Platon Vafiadis	12
Nov.	247	John Harris, Kaye Oddie, Ed & Pat Grey, Joan Broadberry, Robin Drury, Gary Presland, Platon Vafiadis	14
Dec.-Jan. 2015	248	John Harris, Graham Patterson, Ed & Pat Grey, Christine Connelly, Kathy Himbeck, Platon Vafiadis	12

The Victorian Naturalist

Six issues of *The Victorian Naturalist*, Volume 131, were published during 2014, one of which, Number 2 in April 2014, included the Index for Volume 130. The August issue, Number 4, contained papers presented at the 2013 FNCV Biodiversity Symposium and comprised 64 pages. In total we published 220 pages for the year.

A total of 27 substantive papers were published in Volume 131, comprising six Research Reports, 16 Contributions, and five Naturalist Notes. In the final issue for the year the editors had the sad duty of publishing a tribute to Sheila Houghton, an Honorary Member of the FNCV, who passed away in September 2014.

Five books were reviewed in the pages of the journal in 2014. The first issue for the year contained the citation for the 2013 Australian Natural History Medallionist, Marilyn Hewish.

Through more than 130 years of production, *The Victorian Naturalist* has provided a means of creating an enduring record of features such as the occurrence, location and character of many elements of the natural world in Victoria. The value of such a record - to contemporary researchers as well as those interested in historical aspects of natural history - is inestimable. The Editors are proud to be part of a long tradition within FNCV which, on the one hand adds to and maintains the database of information regarding natural environments, and on the other provides an on-going contribution to the scientific study of Victoria's natural history.

The editorial team has remained unchanged since July 2003, and, as ever, I remain grateful for the efforts of all the team members: co-editors Maria Gibson and Gary Presland, and Editorial Assistant Virgil Hubregtse. Throughout the year, they brought professionalism, attention to detail, and support, making it a pleasure to be part of the team that produces *The Victorian Naturalist*.

Anne Morton, Executive Editor

Australian Natural History Medallion

The Australian Natural History Medallion has been awarded annually since 1940. The Medal was presented in 2014 to Dr Tom May, for his contribution to the study of mycology. Tom was nominated by Fungi-map Inc. The citation for Dr May was published in the first issue of *The Victorian Naturalist* in 2015.

The Secretary wishes to record his thanks to the members of the Award Committee who had the unenviable task of choosing a suitable winner from a very good field of nominations.

Gary Presland, Secretary ANHM



Library

A total of 100 new volumes was added to the FNCV Library during 2014, a significant increase on the previous year. The larger number is partly the result of a donation by the Fauna Survey Group (through the agency of Sally Bewsher) of a series of Government reports commissioned in the wake of the Black Saturday bushfires of February 2009. The number also includes those reports donated by David Cameron that had not been catalogued in the previous year. Among other acquisitions during the year were a small number of donations by authors, including Meredith Fletcher's biography of Jean Galbraith *Writer in a valley*, and Graham Patterson's *Coastal guide to nature and history: Port Phillip Bay*. A significant addition was the long-lost Part 6 of *A handbook of destructive insects of Victoria* by Charles French.

Loans of books and periodicals during the year remained at the level of the previous year, with 101 items being borrowed from the Library. Loans were mostly enacted on evenings on which there was a SIG meeting at the Hall.

During the year details of the Library's major holdings—books, periodicals, maps and photographs—were made more readily accessible, by lodging searchable databases on the FNCV Website. That this was achievable is a result of the electronic databasing of the collections carried out over the past few years; but it could not have been done without the input of Jurrie Hubregtse in developing the FNCV website. I am pleased to thank him for his participation and patience.

Archives

Through the year Yvonne Fitzmaurice has continued her work of creating Item Description Lists, within correspondence records. The computerised database that is being increased through this work will make it easier to find specific items within the archives.

The greatest use of the archives during the year was that by the Archivist himself, in his pursuit of information of relevance to the history of FNCV he is writing. In addition, there was a small number of archival enquiries by other researchers. These included a PhD student at The University of Melbourne who was researching the activities of Winifred Waddell and a group that began as the Wildflower Section of FNCV; an American academic enquiring about biographical material on James Serle, former president of FNCV; and an enquirer interested in the involvement of FNCV members in the 1962 restoration of the 'Dig Tree' at Coopers Creek.

Graham Patterson and Yvonne Fitzmaurice have provided invaluable support throughout the year. My thanks go to them both for their ready assistance and cheery company.

Gary Presland, Honorary Librarian and Archivist

FNCV Environment Fund

The FNCV Environment Fund is a tax-deductible fund that was set up in 2001 to aid individuals and community groups who are involved in environmental research and education. 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
- 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), Bob Rogers, John Harris, Cathy Willis and Ian Moodie. 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 April to process the submissions and decide on the successful applicants.

The projects supported in 2014 were:

- Yarren Dheran Nature Reserve. - LED TV , \$981
- FNCV Botany Group - Conservation of the Maroon Leak Orchid, \$752
- Nature Watch, VNPA, 'Caught on Camera' - Camera and fittings, \$800
- FNCV Microscopy, TIG & Juniors' - 3 stereoscope dissecting microscopes, \$990
- Biosphere Pty Ltd. Dr Graeme Lorrimer - Illustrated Identification Key for Victorian Stipoid Grasses, \$1000
- Wildlife Experiences - John Harris, Kathy Himbeck, Colin Clay - Investigation into the stygofauna of the Port Campbell limestone Aquifer, \$945.

Unfortunately donations were down in 2014 but thank you to everyone who did donate. Your support will enable the Fund to continue providing grants for worthy projects in the future.

Barbara Burns, Secretary



Botany Group

The Botany Group has continued to attract informative speakers and to visit a diverse array of interesting locations during the past year.

The Botany Group members wish to acknowledge the effort taken by the speakers, excursion leaders and members who made the activities interesting and enjoyable. Thank you to Heather Eadon for assisting in arranging speakers and setting up the hall for meetings. The following is a summary of the year's activities.

Geoff Lay presented on the flora of the Larapinta Trail, which starts at Alice Springs and heads across the Macdonnell Ranges for 230km. Geoff did a fourteen day trek in June 2013, after good rains had brought out many wildflowers. Surprisingly, *Macrozamia* and maidenhair ferns were found in the gullies and there were even *Actinotus helianthi* (Flannel flowers). Dr Trevor Edwards showed us the similarities in the flora of South Africa and Australia, taking us back thousands of years to when they were joined. Dr Tom Duff and Tom Fairman presented on managing fire in Australian landscapes - a complex balancing act. They told us that fire has been part of the Australian landscape for the last 25,000 years. The plants fall into two main groups: resprouters and reseeder. If there are successive fires before reseeder have reached sexual maturity, these species will become locally extinct. The Phoenix model predicts what fire will do. This allows managers to manage for species survival.

Dr Joe Greet presented on the decline of flood plain forests at Yellingbo: causes and restoration. Joe told us that Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve is important for two of Victoria's faunal emblems, the Helmeted Honeyeater and the lowland Leadbeater's Possum. Unfortunately the hydrology at Yellingbo has changed with farmers building levy banks which makes some areas too wet and others too dry, so that there is dieback in the *Eucalyptus camphora* (Mountain Swamp Gum) and no natural recruitment. Joe told us about his experiments in growing *E. camphora* under flood conditions and what is being done to improve the hydrology at Yellingbo.

Jasper Hails spoke about the recovery of Tall *Astelia* in Kurth Kiln Park. Jasper told us that Tall *Astelia* is threatened by the edge effect of drying out the forests caused by prescribed burning. David Cameron presented on rare and threatened flora of Victoria. David described what characteristics put an organism on the IUCN Red List. He told us that of the Victorian vascular and non-vascular plants, there were currently 49 extinct taxa, 520 critically endangered, 360 endangered, 421 threatened, 157 near threatened, 528 of least concern and 93 data deficient taxa. David outlined some case studies including two Spider-orchids and two *Acacias*.

Bernie Mace spoke about the role of native forests in a world threatened by global warming and the case for a Great Forest National Park. Bernie told us about the importance of Victoria's Mountain Ash forest to Melbourne's water supply and that logging and fires depleted the quality and quantity of water. He kindly took

us to Toolangi's forests on two occasions and showed us the magnificent Mountain Ash forests and the destruction by clearfell logging. We also visited the beautiful Wirra Willa rainforest walk. Bernie took us to some known Leadbeater's Possum habitat and told us how the Mountain Ash forests are an important habitat for many endangered species. Dr Niels Klazenga introduced us to the Virtual Herbarium and showed us how it is part of the Atlas of Living Australia. The Virtual Herbarium gives us taxonomic status, occurrence status, establishment means and a plant profile giving a description of the plant. Niels also showed us the online keys for flora of Victoria. Professor Tim Entwisle presented on *Entwisleia bella*: aka Hobart's Wollemi Pine. Tim told us that this newly-discovered, very rare marine algae had similarities to the Wollemi Pine, in that like the Wollemi Pine, this algae is a new genus, and that it is only found in one location, being near Hobart. Tim also took us through the phylogenic tree of algae and told us why he had studied freshwater algae.

The Botany Group visited a Trust for Nature property in Three Bridges and did a species list for the drier part of the property. We plan to return in April 2015 to look at the wet gullies on this 60 hectare property.

Thank you to Karen Lester for again assisting with the management of the Clyde–Tooradin disused railway Plains Grassland area. We did some monitoring of threatened species this year and the grasslands were looking good. We have received a grant from Communities 4 Nature to do some weed control and planting at Clyde in Autumn 2015. We have formed a working management group and threatened species and recovery team for Clyde with DSE, CFA, VicTrack, City of Casey and Westernport Swamp Landcare.

Sue Bendel on behalf of the Botany Committee



Prue and John Hasluck at Dunstan's track, Toolangi. Photo Sue Bendel



Geology Group

Ten meetings were held in 2014 with guest speakers on a range of geological and wider interest topics. A list of the meetings is given below. In addition, one excursion was held. Reports of talks were published in *Field Nats News*. Geology Committee members were Kaye Oddie and Ruth Hoskin. Leon Costerman and Graham Patterson kindly helped with the writing of some *FNN* reports. Ruth Hoskin was the Geology SIG representative on Council.

2014

Feb. *Links between the World Heritage Naracoorte Caves and the Kanawinka Fault – Insights into Australia's large flat Tertiary Limestone sheets.* Speaker: Ian Lewis, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia

March *Filling the Gaps: Using Geophysics to help make Geological Maps.* Speaker: Dr. Vince Morand, La Trobe University

April *Seven 'wonders' of the mineral world – Unravelling the mysteries of life, the universe and everything.* Speaker: Dermot A. Henry, Manager, Natural Science Collection, Museum Victoria

Excursion – Bay West. Day trip around the western section of Port Phillip Bay, visiting Point Cooke, Werribee South, Kirk Point and Moorpanyal Beach in North Geelong. Leader: Graham Patterson

May *"Chasing Ice" DVD* by Jeff Orlowski

June *Mid-Palaeozoic Ostracoda of central Victoria, southeast Australia.* Speaker: Ms. Tamara Camilleri, Deakin University

July *Two plates colliding: Unravelling the hidden processes of plate tectonics.* Speaker: Dr. Fabio Capitano, School of Geosciences, Monash University

August *Last of the giants: Alfred Russel Wallace and his legacy to the Geosciences.* Speaker: Dr. Rolf Schmidt, Invertebrate Palaeontology Collections Manager, Museum Victoria

Sept. *The geomorphic effectiveness of urbanisation: Implications for managing waterways in cities and suburbs.* Speaker: Dr. Geoff Vietz, Waterway Ecosystem Research Group, University of Melbourne

Oct. *Snowball Earth.* Speaker: Dr. Peter Jackson, Geologist

Nov. *Bioluminescence of the Gippsland Lake.* Speaker: Phil Hart, Astrophotographer

Kaye Oddie



Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group held 8 meetings and undertook 9 field trips throughout 2014. On average 14 people attended our meetings with the highest attendance being 23 people.

The program of meetings for the year was:

February	Hugh MacIntosh presented an interesting talk on shipworms, their diversity and distribution assisted by wooden sailing ships.
April	Dr Anna McCallum of Museum Victoria spoke about Deep-sea Biodiversity.
May	2014 Field Trip Roundup narrated by Leon Altoff, with presentations from several members.
July	Leon Altoff SACReD Critter Search 2014 spoke to the group about a recent trip with the South Australia Conservation Research Divers where members assisted in identifying and cataloguing the marine invertebrates that live amongst the sub-tidal weeds of the South Australian coast.
August	Peter Bathie spoke about his experiences diving and filming in the waters of Papua New Guinea.
September	Members' night.
October	Audrey Falconer spoke on the Stauromedusa of South East Australia.
December	Members' night.

Field work is an important activity for the MRG, providing members with the opportunity to observe animals in their natural habitat and their interactions with their environment and other animals. The data and specimens collected by the Marine Research Group contribute to on-going research conducted by the group. MRG members are actively researching Opisthobranchia (sea slugs and related animals), micro-Gastropoda (very small snails), Holothuroidea (sea cucumbers), Amphipoda and Isopoda (small crustaceans), Ascidians (sea squirts), Stauromedusae (stalked jellyfish), and Nemertea (ribbon worms), as well as conducting a general study of marine invertebrates to increase their own knowledge and that of others. We also identify and monitor pest species found during our field work.

All fieldwork is performed under collecting permits issued by DSE and DPI.

A giant cuttlefish (*Sepia apama*) was observed in the rock pools at Merricks Beach during our survey work in March 2014. The small reef at Merricks is almost completely submerged at high tide, but reveals a wide diversity of life at low tide. 133 species were recorded on the day. The giant cuttlefish has only been observed 5 times in the group's 51 years of field records.

A survey was conducted for invertebrates at Point Lillias behind Avalon airport. Point Lillias is a site used by



Giant cuttlefish (*Sepia apama*).
Photo Leon Altoff

Reef Watch who gave a talk to the MRG in 2013 and prompted our visit to add to the knowledge of the area.

The Marine Research Group prides itself on its knowledge of marine invertebrates and works with other groups including interstate groups to expand their knowledge and assist with their projects.

The existing committee remained in place.

President	Michael Lyons
Secretary	Leon Altoff
Fieldtrip co-ordinator	Audrey Falconer
Committee member	Platon Vafiadis



The Marine Research Group on a field trip to Point Lillias.
Photo Leon Altoff

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 co-ordinating the field trips.

Leon Altoff, Secretary



Fungi Group

Aims

The Fungi Group aims to 'widen our knowledge of fungi in the field'. Through our activities we hope to improve the knowledge and understanding of the distribution and ecology of Victorian fungi.

Activities:

1. Forays

The program of weekly forays attracts a wide range of people of various ages and experience, and experienced guides lead each foray. Fifteen forays for 2014 were held in the following locations:

- Cambarville, 13 April.
- Mortimer Nature Trail, Bunyip State Park, 27 April.
- Toorong Falls, near Noojee, 4 May.
- Gembrook (Whites Corner and Shiprock Falls) post-fire, 11 May.
- The Grampians, 16-18 May (several locations).
- Ada Tree, Yarra State Forest, 25 May.
- Jack Cann Reserve, Blackwood, 1 June.
- Mount Worth State Park, 8 June.
- Jehosophat Gully, Kinglake National Park, 15 June.
- Greens Bush, Mornington Peninsula National Park, 22 June.
- Neds Gully, Cathedral Range State Park, 29 June.
- Woodlands Historic Park, Greenvale, 6 July.
- Badger Weir near Healesville, 13 July.
- Starlings Gap, Yarra State Forest, 20 July.
- Wanderslore Sanctuary, 27 July.

In each case, the appropriate ranger was contacted prior to the survey to check any special requirements, and each ranger was sent a copy of the relevant survey report. All foray activities are covered by a Research Permit from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (now DEPI) to facilitate our project: 'The collation of data on distribution and ecology of Victorian fungi'. This permit covers our foray activities until March 2015.

New locations visited in 2014 included: The Grampians, Jehosophat Gully, The Ada Tree and Starlings Gap.

Twenty-five collections were made for the National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. All locations revealed interesting fungi, some of which were: *Asterophora mirabilis* growing on decaying *Russula* fruit-bodies at Mortimer Nature Trail (Fig.1), the rarely seen *Chromocyphella muscicola* growing on a mossy twig at Badger Weir, and the eye-catching flat purple polypore *Ceriporiapurpurea* at Jehosophat Gully.

2. Meetings:

During the year a series of talks, plus a planning meeting, were held at the FNCV clubhouse, Blackburn. Topics included:

- 'Time-lapse fungi photography' by Ian Bell
- 'Crowd sourcing of data for interactive keys to fungi' by Dr Tom May
- 'Making collections for herbaria' by Nimal Karunajeewa
- 'Tropical fleshy fungi' by Gregory Bonito
- 'Fungi of the Surf Coast Shire' by Richard Hartland
- 'Queensland Fungi Festival' by Paul George
- 'Mini conference' with speakers Ed Grey, Richard Hartland, Jurrie Hubregtse, Virgil Hubregtse, Bill Leithhead and Carol Page.

3. Other activities:

In May, Jurrie Hubregtse led a 'fungi walk and talk' for the Mullum Mullum Festival at Yarran Dheran Reserve, Mitcham, and also led a 'fungi walk and talk', organised by the Shire of Nillumbuk, at Smiths Gully.

Jurrie Hubregtse



Asterophora mirabilis. Photo Jurrie Hubregtse



Juniors' Group

The Juniors' Group continued to be led by Claire Ferguson in 2014, assisted by council members and their families. The teenage council members have gradually taken on more responsibility with running meetings and associated jobs (eg. library, FleaZone competition, equipment set up, etc.) and parents have helped with a range of tasks at meetings, camp organisation, producing the monthly newsletter, report writing and other administrative tasks. Younger non-council members and their parents are encouraged to actively participate with exhibits, the production of reports for the newsletter and with meetings.

Many of our monthly speakers and outing leaders again visited us from the wider club (THANK YOU!) and Junior members took up invitations to join other SIGs on their outings, including the Botany, Fungi, and Fauna Survey Groups. Our representation at the annual Christmas Party grew further while many that were unable to attend had purchased raffle tickets to assist with fundraising for the club.

Sadly, after four years and many generations, it was decided to give away our Stick Insects to members as it was becoming too difficult to organise families to look after them on a monthly basis.

MEETINGS

- January** Council Member talks
- February** Graeme Stockfeld (President, Turtles Australia Inc.), "Turtles"
- March** Max Campbell (FNCV member), "Microscopy / Macro-invertebrates"
- April** James Murray (Observation Outreach officer, Mount Burnett Observatory) "Night Sky."
- May** Russell Thompson (FNCV Fauna Survey Group), "Identifying Bones"
- June** John Harris (President, FNCV), "A week of madness in far north Queensland"
- July** Sue Bendel (FNCV Member), "Leadbeater's Possum"
- August** Juniors' 71st Birthday Party, Theme "Endangered Animals of the World"
- Sept** Wendy Clarke (FNCV Member), "The Nullabor and beyond"
- Oct** Tony Fitzgerald (Ranger, Kinglake N.P), "People and Parks Kinglake Community project"
- November** Sean Dooley (Twitcher/Writer/Editor of BirdLife Magazine), "Birding"

OUTINGS

- January** Snorkelling at Black Rock, Led by Trevor Turner (Juniors' parent)
- February** Point Nepean National Park
- March** Queenscliff Marine Discovery Centre and Boat Trip

- March** Dinosaur Dig with Friends of Dinosaur Dreaming, Inverloch
- April** (No excursion due to Easter Camp)
- May** Mount Burnett Observatory
- June** Fungi Foray with the FNCV Fungi Group, Greens Bush
- July** Moonlit Sanctuary, Pearcedale
- August** Walk with the Yarra River Keeper, Yarra Bend.
- September** Frogging at Lysterfield, Led by Robin Drury (FNCV Fauna Survey Group)
- October** Macro-invertebrate bus trip, Led by Priya Crawford-Wilson (Melbourne Waterwatch)
- November** (No excursion due to End of Year Camp)

CAMPS

Easter Camp - Warby Ranges

The group stayed at The Oval Campsite, Warby-Ovens National Park. Activities included nature walks around the Killawarra forest with Chris Tzaros, Kaluna Island with Ian Davidson, nest box checking, ponding and Pine Gully Nature Walk with Geoff Barrow (retired ranger). There was also the annual visit by the Easter Bilby and a campfire and concert.

End of Year Camp (November) - Mt Baw Baw Lodge weekend

We stayed at the EdSki Lodge, Mt Baw Baw. Activities included walks, spotlighting, talk from the Baw Baw frog research team and Claire and Scott's second wedding (long story!)

Robyn Goode



Ella with python



The end of the year Christmas Camp at Mt Baw Baw

All photos taken by Scott Ferguson



Phineas



Queenscliff Marine Discovery Centre Boat Trip



Group at Yarra Bend Melbourne



Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

There were five meetings held in 2014 with an average of twelve people attending each meeting with a significant attendance by members from other SIGs. Speakers presented at all of the meetings and covered subjects including invertebrate parasites, modern microscopes, spiders, moths and native bees. When possible interesting invertebrates were displayed to the group.

The Terrestrial Invertebrate Group retains a dedicated core membership and in addition has participation from external groups and visitors. New members have joined the FNCV as a consequence of meeting attendance. There is a great interest in field excursions, workshops and broader community activities within the group. Discussions have been held with the Entomological Society of Victoria with a view to regularly holding common meetings.



Alastair Trail at work filming carpenter ants.
Photo Alastair Trail



Scorpion *Urodacus armatus* with young. First instars do not fluoresce under UV light. Photo M. Campbell

Good use was made in 2014 of the three dissecting microscopes purchased through the Environment Fund and the one kindly donated by Andy Brentnall. The Juniors have been able to access the microscopes and they have also been used for FNCV display activities.

There is now a useful collection of good binocular compound microscopes available for use by the FNCV with more to be donated in May 2015. With these it is hoped that the TIG will be able to run some educational workshops in the near future.

The Terrestrial Invertebrate Group will continue to meet throughout 2015 with interesting presentations and some day trips to photograph invertebrates in their habitat. A trip to Starlings Gap will be held in June with other excursions planned. There is interest in joining the forays of other SIGs. There is a great deal of skill and expertise within the membership of the Terrestrial Invertebrate Group which will be invaluable in developing its future activities and directions.

Maxwell Campbell, Convenor



Wolf spider. Photo Alastair Trail

Thanks to Barbara Burns for the production of the FNCV Annual Report 2014



Day Group

The FNCV Day Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10.30 am for coffee, with the speaker scheduled for 11 am. Occasional short excursions take place. Being a generalist group, unlike other specialist groups in the FNCV, the Day Group can offer a wide variety of natural history subjects. It is consistently well attended. Once again I would like to thank our guest speakers for sharing their travels, knowledge and experiences with us. As always, we have been introduced to many new ideas and new fields of learning have been opened up. We are very appreciative of all those who have taken the time to come and present to us.

Dr Gary Presland has co-ordinated the Day Group for six and a half years. His tasks have included arranging the program, chairing the meetings and providing technical support. Through his outstanding work the Day Group has become a most valued groups in the FNCV. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank Gary and gratefully acknowledge the time and effort he has put in.

Program 2014

- **January**, Peter Homan: "*Survival and Recolonisation following Wildfire at Moyston West.*"
- **February**, Joan Broadberry: "*Ashmore Reef.*"
- **March**, Excursion to the *Yarra Ranges National Park* including the Kokoda Track Memorial. Leader: Joan Broadberry
- **April**, Graham Patterson: "*Natural History around Port Phillip Bay.*"
- **May**, Lynsey Pore: "*Island Hopping in the Galapagos Islands: In the Footsteps of Darwin.*"
- **June**, Adriana Simmons: "*Experiences of being a Wildlife Shelter Operator.*"
- **July**, Bernie Joyce: "*Victorian Volcanoes.*"
- **August**, Peter Rogers: "*Mistletoes.*"



The Kokoda Track Memorial, Yarra Ranges National Park.

Photo Joan Broadberry

- **September**, Christine Connelly: "*Results of Research Funded by the FNCV Environment Fund.*"
- **October**, Lucy Johanson: "*Bees of the Bogong High Plains.*"
- **November**, Excursion (*cancelled*).

Joan Broadberry



Microscopy Group

The Microscopy Group in 2014 regularly welcomed many members from the other SIG groups. We enjoyed three members' nights with many people bringing in insect, plant, marine, fungi and seaweed specimens from home to view under our wonderful microscope collection.

Max Campbell, Terrestrial Invertebrates SIG. Convenor, enthralled us with his videos of protozoans, including water bears, ciliates, flagellates and sarodines (amoebae). It was so wonderful to watch them in such detail going about their daily activities.

Kumar Eliezer, Principal Biologist from ALS Environmental, spoke to us on 'Microalgae that occur in freshwater and their influence on water quality'. City and regional water boards from all over Victoria, NSW and Queensland send water samples in to Kumar for regular testing. We learnt of the many forms of micro and macro algae, cyanobacteria, diatoms, flagellates green algae and their affect on water quality and our health, all accompanied by wonderful quality photographs through the microscope.

Julie Boyce, MGeosci (Hons) Research Associate in Volcanology and Geochemistry at Monash University spoke on the 'Newer Volcanics Province of Victoria'. Julie has mapped all the volcanoes in the province and spoke of Mt Rouse, the Hamilton area, Mt Gambier, Tower Hill, Mt Bainbridge and Mt Pierrepont. This volcanic area is 8 million years old with the last eruption in Mt Gambier 5,000 years ago. It covers an area of 400 kilometres with over 400 eruption centres and 700 vents! Eruptions were witnessed by Aboriginals and painted. Julie brought in many specimens for us to look at and also Peles Tears and scoria for us to take home.

2014 was another interesting year in the activities of the Microscopy Group. There were not as many speakers due to late notice cancellations, but this gave us the opportunity to spend the evening using the many different microscopes we have and the endless supply of wonderful slides and specimens for viewing.

Phillippa Burgess



Fauna Survey Group

This year saw the completion of most of the field work on the major fauna survey project carried out in the parks of eastern Melbourne. The reptile survey component saw the deployment of tiles and tin for habitat. The monitoring of this habitat will continue. So far there have been 114 different species identified, which comprise 65 birds, 29 mammals (including 8 bat species) 10 frogs and 10 reptiles. Around 110 volunteers took part in the survey in one or more activities, which consisted of around 125 outings. Parks Victoria staff also participated in on-site visits and activities.

This year also saw the commencement of a partnership arrangement with Parks Victoria's Science and Management Effectiveness Branch. Under this arrangement, the group assists with priority projects. This year there were two such projects, one in the Grampians and the other in the Mallee. Both projects had specific aims, but the opportunity was also there to undertake general fauna surveys.

The Grampians project was specifically aimed at identifying arboreal mammals in a number of parks and reserves. In particular Parks Victoria was keen to confirm the ongoing occurrence of the Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), listed as endangered under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. By using remote cameras, hair tubes and spotlighting, we were able to record a Squirrel Glider as well as a Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*), another listed species. According to Victorian Biodiversity Atlas Records, Brush-tailed Phascogale had not been recorded in the Grampians National Park previously.

As well as a general fauna survey, the Mallee project, in the Meringur-Yarrara area focused on the occurrence of the White-browed Treecreeper (*Climacteris affinis*) and Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (*Lophochorua leadbeateri*). Ninety-five vertebrate species were recorded during this survey; 66 species of bird, 17 reptiles and 12 mammals. There were 58 individual White-browed Treecreepers detected. Four of the fauna species identified in this survey (White-browed Treecreeper, Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis gutturalis*), Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*) and Beaked Gecko (*Rhynchoedura ornata*) are listed under the *FFG Act* and a fifth, the Little Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus picatus*) is considered vulnerable in New South Wales. No Major Mitchell's Cockatoos were recorded.

Of particular note is the capture and release of the Little Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus picatus*). There are no records of this species currently in the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. Our survey not only confirmed the presence of this bat in Victoria, but indicated that it breeds within the state rather than just passing through as a vagrant.

We also worked with Parks Victoria on a general survey in the Port Campbell area on the Melbourne Cup weekend. Our cameras captured images of Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*) and Rufous Bristle-

bird (*Dasyornis broadbenti*). Through trapping we captured and released large numbers of Bush Rat (*Rattus fuscipes*) and Swamp Rat (*Rattus lutreolus*).

Other activities of the FSG during 2014 included five stagwatches near Powelltown, a bat trapping night at Wick's reserve in the Basin and nest-box checking at Rushworth and the Club block at Cossticks Reserve near Maryborough.

We had eight speakers at our monthly meetings; two of them were FSG members. We thank them all for giving their time to come and share their passion, research and knowledge with us.

Speakers 2014

- February** Dr Patrick-Jean Guay from Victoria University. "*Ecology, Behaviour and Conservation of the Musk Duck.*"
- March** No speaker
- April** Stuart Dashper, Fauna Survey Group. "*Surprising Taiwan - The beautiful island*"
- May** Christine Connelly, PhD Candidate, Deakin University. "*Effects of urbanisation on Eastern Yellow Robins in Melbourne*".
- June** Bronwyn Hradsky, PhD Candidate, Melbourne School of Land and Environment. "*Interactions between introduced predators and fire, based in the Otway Ranges.*"
- July** Dr Mark Antos, Parks Victoria. "*Fauna of Equatorial Guinea and the conservation challenges faced.*"
- August** Jarod Lyon, Arthur Rylah Institute. "*Current issues with Victoria's freshwater fishes.*"
- September** Robin Drury, Fauna Survey Group. "*Results of Eastern Fauna Focus, a fauna survey in the parks of Eastern Melbourne.*"
- October** Sarah Maclagan, PhD Candidate, School of Life and Environmental Science, Deakin University. "*Ecology of the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot in peri-urban Melbourne.*"

Talks were given by FSG members to the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Shepherds Bush and at the Australia Wild Project, Belgrave.

Survey work is carried out by named permit holders and Fauna Survey Group members under the conditions of our DSE Flora and Fauna Permit which is valid until May 2015. All results are forwarded to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas following surveys, as required by the permit.



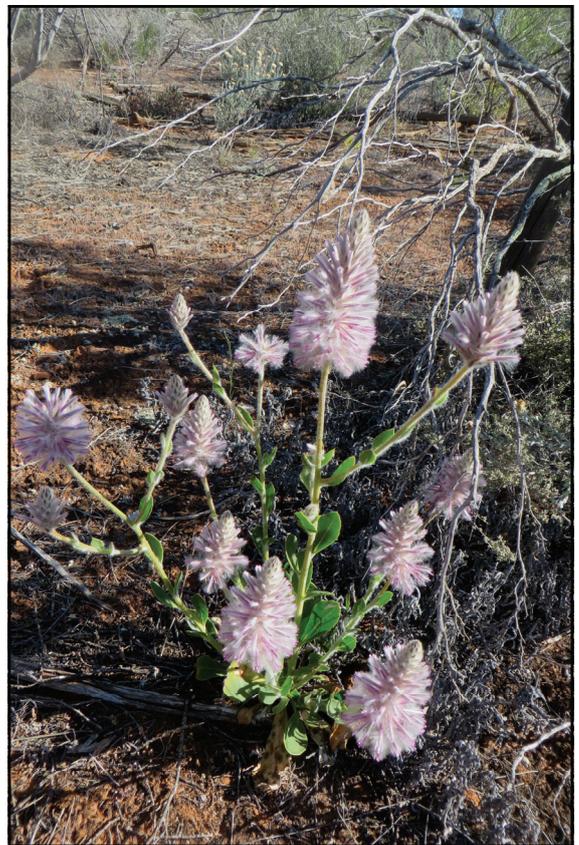
The Campsite at Meringur.
Photo Barbara Burns



Processing bats at the Meringur-Yarrara camp. Photo Barbara Burns



Little Pied Bat (*Chalinobus picatus*). Photo Craig Allen.



Ptilotus blooming in the Mallee. Photo Barbara Burns

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC
REPORT BY COUNCIL. Year ended 31 December 2014.

- The members of Council hereby submit the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2014 and the Income Statement for the year ended 31st December 2014 and report as follows:

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position on Council</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Council Member Since</i>
John Harris	President	Wildlife Consultant	2003
Ian Kitchen	Vice President/Fauna Survey	Retired	2014
Barbara Burns	Treasurer/Secretary	Retired Lecturer	2001
Joan Broadberry	Councillor/Day Group	Retired Teacher	2001
Sally Bewsher	Councillor	Retired Teacher	2009
Andrew Brentnall	Councillor/Correspondence Secretary	Retired Engineer	2011
Su Dempsey	Councillor	Retired	2013
SIG Representative	Special Interest Group		
Leon Altoff	Marine Research - joint	Analyst	1997
Audrey Falconer	Marine Research - joint	Public Servant	1997
Ray Power	Microscopy - joint	Retired	1993
Phillipa Burgess	Microscopy – joint		2012
Susan Bendel	Botany	Quality Assurance Co-ordinator	2006
Maxwell Campbell	Terrestrial Invertebrates	Retired	2013
Claire Ferguson	Juniors	Mother	2010
Ruth Hoskin	Geology	Retired	2012

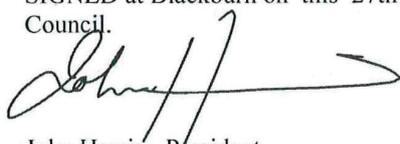
- The principal activities and object of the Club are to stimulate interest in natural history and to preserve and protect Australian fauna and flora. No significant changes in the nature of those activities occurred during the reporting period.
- The net profit of the club for the year ended 31st December 2014 is \$5606, (2013 \$1514).
- A review of the operations of the Club is contained in the President's Report, which forms part of this Annual Report.
- 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.
- Other than as disclosed in the Annual Report, there are no significant developments likely to affect the financial results of the Club.
- 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,

- The accompanying Income Statement 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 2014.
- The accompanying Statement of Assets and Liabilities is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Club as at 31 December 2014.
- 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 27th day of April 2015 in accordance with a resolution of Council.



John Harris - President



Barbara Burns – Treasurer

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
INCOME STATEMENT - Year ended 31 December 2014

		2014	2013
		\$	\$
INCOME	Membership	35,756.95	38,744.07
Bookshop	Bookshop Profit	2,324.27	2,947.31
	Back issues Vic Nat	59.72	62.54
		<u>2,383.99</u>	<u>3,009.85</u>
Other income	Hall Hire	8,851.28	3,541.82
	Profit Biodiversity Symposium	1,400.33	1,524.74
	Bat Workshop		1,532.34
	Fees Speakers	200.00	
	Profit Sale Club Jackets (printers blocks)	45.00	852.41
	Non-Member Levy	328.19	354.25
	Copyright Royalties - Vic Nat.	1,317.43	3,141.54
	Junior's Camp Fees		74.68
	Fund Raising	1,535.25	1,791.59
	Income Solar Panels	111.62	654.39
	2nd Hand Book Sale		1,372.05
	Goodwill Wine	119.20	81.18
		<u>13,908.30</u>	<u>14,920.99</u>
Investments	Bank Interest	51.20	61.29
	Interest Income Investments	9,559.86	10,907.02
	Franking Credits Investments	471.87	3,237.00
		<u>10,082.93</u>	<u>14,205.31</u>
Grants, Donations	Grant* (See below)	3,000.00	4,000.00
	General Donations	3,443.70	2,605.95
	Grant Parks Victoria- re FSG projects	500.00	1,000.00
		<u>6,943.70</u>	<u>7,605.95</u>
	Total Income	<u>69,075.87</u>	<u>78,486.17</u>
EXPENDITURE	Victorian Naturalist - Printing	7,669.00	10,068.32
Publications	- Postage etc	2,685.56	3,100.45
	Net Cost Victorian Naturalist	<u>10,354.56</u>	13,168.77
	Newsletter - Printing	2,046.32	2,226.37
	- Postage etc	2,196.79	2,492.39
	- Advertising Income	-274.55	-323.64
	Calendar of events Printing & Postage	1,540.11	1,538.73
	Junior Naturalists - Printing and Postage	711.46	687.22
	Total Publications Expenses	<u>16,574.69</u>	<u>19,789.64</u>
	GROSS PROFIT	<u>52,501.18</u>	<u>58,696.33</u>
Other Expenses	Advertising	374.32	734.55
	Annual report	80.00	50.00
	Bank Fees, Credit card, Eftpos	753.76	1,049.98
	Depreciation Expense	1,524.75	1,047.00
	Donations Outgoing	500.00	250.00
	Gas, Electricity, Water	788.91	1,319.76
	Christmas Party Expenses	190.31	114.68
	Hall Cleaning	1,052.60	602.20
	Insurance	1,370.91	2,200.00
	Internet Provider & Website Expenses	462.02	649.48
	Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	324.56	12.82
	Library Expenses & Subscriptions	853.18	1,295.03
	Mugs	1,020.00	1,020.00
	Non-Library Subscriptions	371.36	333.64
	Office Postage	1,191.26	1,864.31
	Office Stationery etc	1,349.36	782.26
	Office Telephone	1,084.08	1,243.18
	Repairs & Maintenance - General	1,104.99	9,961.69
	Repairs & Maintenance - Office Equipment	288.18	
	Rates - Council	2,122.85	3,001.85
	Rates - Maryborough Property	746.40	1,552.45
	Hall Alarm	540.91	
	Special Interest Group Expenses		453.64
	Sundry Expenses	937.30	261.84
	Superannuation	2,652.46	2,280.45
	Volunteers Expenses		54.36
	Workers Compensation Insurance	196.35	179.00
	Wages & Salaries	<u>28,817.58</u>	<u>24,868.63</u>
	<i>Total Other Expenses</i>	<u>50,698.40</u>	<u>57,182.80</u>
	Total Expenses	<u>67,273.09</u>	<u>76,972.64</u>
	OPERATING PROFIT	<u>\$1,802.78</u>	<u>\$1,513.53</u>
	Loss on Sale of GPT Shares	-1,307.07	
	Profit on sale Ethical Investments	5,110.76	
	Net profit	<u>\$5,606.47</u>	

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account - Note (3)	19,949.85	23,740.31
Bookshop Account Westpac. Kathy H. Note (3)	4,603.16	3,354.61
The Environment Fund Account - Note (3)	615.40	615.40
Petty Cash - Note (3)	50.00	50.00
Prepaid Expenses - Note (4a)		1,020.00
Stock Club Jackets	455.00	455.00
Sundry Debtor		685.30
Inventories (Books for Sale) - Note (4)	<u>5,480.21</u>	<u>3,590.39</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>31,153.62</u>	<u>33,511.01</u>
Non Current Assets		
Investments		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits - Note (5)	228,978.93	200,884.99
General Property Trust Units - Note (5) (5a)	0.00	8,100.00
Australian Ethical Investments - Note (5) (5a)	0.00	23,695.44
Shares in Australian Foundation - Note (5) (5a)	37,752.76	20,220.00
Shares in ARGO Investments	<u>16,858.43</u>	
	283,590.12	252,900.43
Library Holdings - Note (6)	<u>50,320.88</u>	<u>50,320.88</u>
	<u>333,911.00</u>	<u>303,221.31</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Maryborough Property - Note (7)	13,400.00	13,400.00
Clubhouse at Valuation - Note (7)	769,000.00	769,000.00
Clubhouse Improvements - Note (7)	57,957.15	57,957.15
Equipment at Cost - Note (8)		
Less Accumulated Depreciation - Note (8)	<u>8,723.49</u>	<u>7,260.19</u>
	<u>849,080.64</u>	<u>847,617.34</u>
Total Non current Assets	<u>1,182,991.64</u>	<u>1,150,838.65</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,214,145.26</u>	<u>\$1,184,349.66</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accrued Expenses - Note (9)	4,596.75	5,234.85
Payment Received in advance - Note (9)	2,576.00	
Payroll Tax Owing - Note (9)	562.00	
GST Paid - GST Collected - Note (9)	309.76	430.97
Bookshop account GST - Note (9)		198.55
Grants Deferred - Note (9)	14,268.25	2,310.82
Owing to Kathy Himbeck Bookshop Account - Note (9)	782.26	330.58
Science Talent Search Fund in Memory of Noel Schleiger (9)	3,000.00	4,000.00
ANHM - Loan Account - Note (9)	5,429.64	4,344.76
FNCV Environment fund - Loan Account - Note (9)	<u>3,779.89</u>	<u>4,264.89</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$35,304.55</u>	<u>\$21,115.42</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,178,840.71</u>	<u>\$1,163,234.24</u>
EQUITY		
Members Accumulated Funds		
Current Year - Profit	6,606.47	1,513.53
General Fund b/f - Note (10)	<u>512,010.43</u>	<u>510,496.90</u>
	517,616.90	512,010.43
Total Specific Funds		
Bequest Dorothy Mahler	10,000.00	10,000.00
Bequest Fred Smith - Note (11.a)	10,000.00	
Marine Research Fund	25,433.75	25,433.75
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund	548.75	548.75
FNCV Environment Fund	615.40	615.40
Asset Revaluation Reserve - Clubhouse	597,488.00	597,488.00
Asset Revaluation Reserve	15,092.91	15,092.91
FNCV Juniors	<u>2,045.00</u>	<u>2,045.00</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>\$1,178,840.71</u>	<u>\$1,163,234.24</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2014

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 except for the revaluation of some fixed assets, all of which are noted in the accounts.

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(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 in the value of investments or at Council valuation. Dividends and interest are brought to account when received.

(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

i) *Grants* related to operating activities are shown in the income statement as income and offset by regular operating expenses

Grants related to the purchase of assets are deducted from the carrying amount of the asset.

2. REMUNERATION OF COUNCILLORS

No remuneration has been received by councillors for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014	2013
3. CASH	\$	\$
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	19,949.85	23,740.31
Environment Fund A/c - Bank Melb.	615.40	615.40
Bookshop A/c Westpac - Croydon	\$1114.82	
Bookshop interest bearing account	<u>\$3488.34</u>	3,354.61
Petty Cash	<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
	<u>25,218.41</u>	<u>27,760.32</u>
4a. PREPAID EXPENSES		
Club Mugs	0	<u>1,020.00</u>
4. STOCK BOOKS		
Books for sale at lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>5,480.21</u>	<u>3,590.39</u>
5. INVESTMENTS		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits	228,978.93	200,884.99
General Property Trust Units - at valuation	0	8,100.00
Australian Ethical Investments - at valuation	0	23,695.44
Shares in Australian Foundation	37,752.76	20,220.00
Shares in Argo Investments	<u>16,858.43</u>	
	<u>283,590.12</u>	<u>252,900.43</u>
5(a) CURRENT MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS		
Shares in General Property Trust		6,120.00
Shares in Australian Foundation - Market Value, 7300 x \$6.05	44,165.00	28,323.84
Australian Ethical Investments		30,600.00
Shares in Argo Investments 2300 x \$7.76	<u>17,848.00</u>	
	<u>62,013.00</u>	<u>65,043.84</u>
6. LIBRARY BOOKS AND JOURNALS		
At Council Valuation 23/5/95 plus additions at cost	<u>50,320.88</u>	<u>50,320.88</u>
7. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES		
Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough	13,400.00	13,400.00
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn - at valuation	769,000.00	769,000.00
Improvements - at cost	<u>57,957.15</u>	<u>57,957.15</u>
	<u>840,357.15</u>	<u>840,357.15</u>
8. OTHER FIXED ASSETS		
Plant and Equipment - at cost	50,937.93	47,949.88
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-42,214.44</u>	<u>-40,689.69</u>
	<u>8,723.49</u>	<u>7,260.19</u>
9. CREDITORS & PROVISIONS		
Accrued Expenses (Rates \$3069.25, VicNat \$1527.50)	<u>4,596.75</u>	<u>5,234.85</u>
Payment Received in Advance (Rents received)	<u>2,576.00</u>	
Payroll Tax and Net GST owing	<u>871.76</u>	<u>761.55</u>
Bookshop account GST	0.00	<u>198.55</u>
Grants Deferred - Melbourne Water Community Grant	281.81	1,000.00
- Knox Environment Society	0.00	1,310.82
- DEPI Communities Nature Grant	2,866.36	
- Parks Victoria	3,120.08	
- Local History Grant Public Records Office	<u>8,000.00</u>	
	<u>14,268.25</u>	<u>2,310.82</u>
Owing to Kathy Himbeck Bookshop Account	782.26	
Science Talent Search Fund in Memory of Noel Schleiger	3,000.00	4,000.00
Creditor FNCV Environment Fund	3,779.89	4,264.89
Creditor Australian Natural History Medallion	<u>5,429.64</u>	<u>4,344.76</u>
	<u>35,304.55</u>	<u>21,115.42</u>
MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
10. GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward	512,010.43	510,496.90
Add Net Profit	<u>5,606.47</u>	<u>1,513.53</u>
Balance at 31 December 2014	<u>517,616.90</u>	<u>512,010.43</u>
11. SPECIFIC FUNDS		
11.a Bequest Fred Smith		
Brought forward	0.00	
Bequest received from Estate Fred Smith	<u>10,000.00</u>	
Balance 31 December 2014	<u>10,000.00</u>	

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2014
for The Bendigo Bank Account No 123098725

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net inflows from Operations	17,052.02	5,215.31
GST (net change)	<u>-319.76</u>	<u>1,184.71</u>
Net Cash inflow from Operations (Note 1)	<u>16,732.26</u>	<u>6,400.02</u>
CASH FLOWS FOR INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Outflows		
Equipment Purchased	-2,988.05	-1,216.00
Transfer to Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	-28,093.94	
Purchase shares in Australian Foundation	-17,532.76	
Purchase Shares in Argo Investments	-16,858.43	
Inflow		
Transfer from Bendigo Bank Term Deposit		<u>3,732.51</u>
Proceeds Sale Ethical Investments	28,806.20	
Proceeds Sale of GPT Property Trust	<u>6,792.93</u>	
Net Cash Outflow from Investing Activities	<u>-29,874.05</u>	<u>2,516.51</u>
CASH FLOWS FOR FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Inflow		
Bequest - Dorothy Mahler		10,000.00
Bequest from Fred Smith	10,000.00	
Increase in Loans Environment Fund & ANHM	599.88	<u>1,548.65</u>
	<u>10,599.88</u>	<u>11,548.65</u>
CHANGE IN FNCV CHEQUE A/C BALANCE for year	<u>-2,541.91</u>	<u>\$20,465.18</u>
Bendigo/Bank Melb Cheque Acc Balance Start Year	23,740.31	6,629.74
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance End Year	<u>19,949.85</u>	<u>23,740.31</u>
Net decrease in bank accounts	<u>-3790.46</u>	<u>17,110.57</u>
Increase in Westpac Bookshop account Kathy H.	<u>1,248.55</u>	<u>3,354.61</u>
Total Increase in Cash for year	<u>-2,541.91</u>	<u>\$20,465.18</u>

Note 1 Reconciliation of Profit with Cash Flow from Operations

Net Profit	5,606.47	1,513.53
add back depreciation	<u>1,524.75</u>	<u>1,047.00</u>
	7,131.22	2,560.53
increase in inventories	-1,889.82	-760.44
decrease in prepaid expenses	1,020.00	-1,020.00
increase in stock club jackets		-455.00
decrease in sundry debtors	685.30	-685.30
decrease in fund raising c/fwd		
decrease in receipts received in advance		-672.73
increase in payroll tax owing	562.00	-250.00
decrease in Noel Schleiger Fund	-1,000.00	
decrease in amt owing to Kathy Bookshop	451.68	330.58
decrease in accrued expenses	-638.10	5,234.85
increase in grants held and unspent	11,957.43	932.82
loss on sale GPT shares	1,307.07	
profit on sale Ethical investments	-5,110.76	
increase in payments received in advance	<u>2,576.00</u>	
Net Cash Inflow from Operations	<u>\$17,052.02</u>	<u>\$5,215.31</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 Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and Notes to the Financial Statements, of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated, for the year ended 31 December 2013. 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 2013 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 2013 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:


Susan J. Harkin, CPA
Honorary Auditor

15-3-2014
Blackburn