

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Annual Report



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Year Ending 31 December 2015

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President's Report

The 2016 AGM is rapidly approaching and I find it hard to believe that I have almost completed a year as President of this amazing and diverse organisation. It has been a very enjoyable and productive time for me.

It was affirmed this past year that The FNCV has the official Patronage of the Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Linda Dessau, AM.



Maxwell Campbell - President of the FNCV.
Photo Joan Broadberry.

During the last weekend in February, The Fauna Survey Group organised an outstanding seminar, "Mammals of Victoria", which ran over two days with 16 prominent speakers. Included in the program was an evening excursion to Mt Rothwell Sanctuary. Many aspects of the biology and ecology of Victorian mammals were expertly covered. The seminar was well-attended and well-received by all who participated. Congratulations to everyone involved in its organisation and delivery.

(Continued on page 2)

Geology Excursion. Examining the sandstone cliffs of Westernport Bay.
Photo Ruth Hoskins.

(Continued from page 1)

The 2015 Biodiversity Symposium in October, "Impacts on Biodiversity During the Anthropocene", also fielded 16 excellent speakers over two days and was also well-attended and well-received. It highlighted the ongoing effects of human activity on the Earth's ecosystems and some of the predictions were not encouraging. A special thank you to Su and Peter Dempsey for their help with the seminar and the symposium.

The FNCV Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to produce interesting meetings and excursions. I have tried to attend as many meetings as possible and I urge others to do the same. There is nothing more satisfying and encouraging than a full house. I thank all of the SIG leaders and organisers for their continued hard work.

The FNCV was represented at several public events, including The Mullum Mullum Festival, Songs from the Wetlands (Darebin), Manningham Environmental Seminars and The Whitehorse Spring Festival. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and effort to sustain the profile of the Club. As President, I represented the FNCV at discussions on the changes to native vegetation legislation and the restructuring of the EPA.

It is our delivery of presentations, seminars, symposia and attendance at public events that maintain our status and integrity as an important member of the community. Our membership has increased as a result of our successful activities and public exposure. Ian Kitchen's efforts with Facebook have contributed to this by increasing our visibility to the wider world.

A special thanks to Jurrie Hubregtse who has continued to successfully run and maintain the FNCV website which is our portal for the world to contact us and a place where we can showcase our capabilities.

A new computer network has been purchased and was installed in the office at the end of 2015. This involved the acquisition of new software and hardware so we are better able to meet the challenges of rapidly evolving technology. There have been a few teething difficulties in trying to maintain independence from the "Cloud" world. I thank Struan Campbell for the many days and nights of dedicated work involved in setting up and tailoring the system to the Club's specific requirements. I must acknowledge the generous contribution from Andy Brentnall towards the purchase of the computers and his dedicated and continuing support of the Club.

On behalf of the Club I thank the editors of Field Nats News and *The Victorian Naturalist* for their diligent work. The workload and time commitment is enormous and both publications are critical to the FNCV culture and activities. Joan and Sally, Gary, Anne, Maria and Virgil continue to produce timely publications of the highest standard.

Congratulations to Margaret MacDonald OAM on being awarded the 2015 Australian Natural History Medallion for her contribution to conservation and the environment of the East Otway region.

The operational core of the FNCV is the Council, which bears responsibility for all of the Club's activities and its corporate existence. A sub-committee of Council has been working hard to develop a Risk Management Strategy which will be implemented in the coming year. Our Treasurer, Barbara Burns, efficiently manages the accounts and we have maintained a healthy financial position again this year. I extend my thanks to all of the Councillors and the members who support the activities such as the book sale and working bees.

On behalf of the Club I would like to thank Kathy Himbeck for continuing to run a very successful FNCV bookshop. It is popular with both members and visitors and caters well to the needs of the Club. As a frequent customer I am particularly indebted.

Our Office Administrator, Wendy Gare, has once again managed the office and supported the Club's activities at the highest level of efficiency and dedication. Her ability to maintain a calm and pleasant demeanour whilst dealing with the range of challenges in the day to day running of the office is, to say the least, remarkable. Thank you Wendy, the roles of Councillors and President would be very difficult without you.

Thank you all for the privilege of being elected President of the FNCV for this past year. The role has been made much easier by the exceptional team of dedicated Councillors and Wendy Gare. There is also no doubt that without the hard work and dedication over the past six years of the previous President, John Harris, the job would not have been so straightforward. Thanks John. Next year will be even better.

Maxwell Campbell, President



Max Campbell and Gary Presland attending Government House on Australia Day as guests of the FNCV's Patron, the Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Linda Dessau. Photo Coral Ross.



Administration

2015 was a very satisfying year in the FNCV office, with everything humming along smoothly. The boost in new members has been the most exciting aspect of the year. We must be doing something right!

Membership

The number of members has increased by 7½% giving us a total of 904. Every category of membership has increased except institutional memberships. Family memberships have gone up by 10%, but the most pleasing gains were with the junior memberships, which increased by a massive 25% to 27 families. There are also a further 48 family memberships which receive *The Junior Naturalist* publication each month: our Juniors' Group is booming! Congratulations are due to Claire Ferguson and all those involved in the leadership of the Juniors' Group.



We now have:

- 332 single memberships (one third of which are concessional)
 - 120 family memberships incorporating 330 individuals (one fifth concessional)
 - 27 junior family memberships incorporating 71 individuals and
 - and 38 student memberships,
- as well as our institutional, club, school, exchange, honorary and long-term members.

The 33 long-term members will have their ranks swelled at this year's Annual General meeting by 5 more members who have been with us for over 40 years.

Electronic delivery of publications

We're making good headway with our push to convert as many members as possible to receiving all of their publications via email. The costs associated with paper delivery are going up rapidly, so it really is an important initiative. We have an email address for 93% of our members. Of those, one quarter still receive their Field Nats News via Australia Post, so we're working on that.

The Victorian Naturalist has only been available electronically since the beginning of 2015, and the take-up rate has been a little quicker than it originally was for the Field Nats News. Just under one third of the members with an email address have swapped to downloading their copies of *The Victorian Naturalist* via a link on the website which is emailed to them for each new

issue. Thank you to all those members who are helping the Club in this way.

Hall hire

Hall hire again has been a useful addition to the Club's finances. We have not had the almost \$8000 income boost from the government department which hired our hall in 2014, but in all other respects hall hire has increased. We have one new regular hirer and some of our existing groups have increased their number of hire days. After adjusting for last year's windfall amount, we have had a 47% increase in regular fees.

Promotion

The website www.fncv.org.au has continued to be refined by Jurrie Hubregtse and is a valuable resource. The membership application form is now interactive and the ease of applying for membership has reinforced the membership boost following the very successful Biodiversity Symposium, organised by Maxwell Campbell and others, which was attended by over 70 participants.

The "Mammals of Victoria" Seminar held on 28th February and 1st March, was a resounding success, with over 100 participants. Not only did it swell our membership numbers, but it also raised funds to purchase much needed equipment for the hard working Fauna Survey Group who organised it, as well as helping to cover the Club's day to day running costs.

Our facebook page, supervised by Ian Kitchen, has continued to be very popular, with the membership doubling over the course of the year from 1000 to over 2000.

As usual we ran a stall at the Whitehorse Festival in September, raising our profile with the local community, and we also participated in the Alphington Wetlands Festival in November. Thank you to the members who helped with the stalls: Su Dempsey, Kerryn Dempsey, Philippa Burgess, Jackie Waring, John Harris, Clare and Scott Ferguson and their two boys, Robin Goode, Barbara Burns and Ruth Hoskins.

Our four monthly calendar of events is being sent to over 200 organisations including libraries, U3A centres, neighbourhood houses, other naturalist clubs and like-minded organisations, promoting the Club's activities to people who otherwise may not be aware of us.

Thank you

My job is made much easier thanks to the help and guidance from our Treasurer, Barbara Burns, who keeps a firm hand on the financial helm. Finally, my grateful thanks to my faithful sidekick Andrew Brentnall who unfailingly arrives on my office days to unlock the hall, collect and open the mail and make me a cup of tea. All of that in addition to helping with the correspondence, subscriptions, new memberships and indeed anything else that the office needs.

Wendy Gare, Administration Officer

Field Nats News

In 2015 *Field Nats News* (FNN) issues ran from numbers 249 to 259 inclusive. With the help of our valued contributors, and our wonderful editorial, indexing and collation teams, the production of the FNCV's monthly newsletter always gives me great satisfaction, pride 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.

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.

The following is a list, in no particular order, of those who have made substantial contributions to FNN in 2015. Maxwell Campbell, John Harris, Kaye Oddie, Joan Broadberry, Kathy Himbeck, Platon Vafiadis, Ed Grey, Pat Grey, Rob Hamson, Sally Bewsher, Wendy Gare,

Gary Presland, Sue Bendel, Claire Ferguson, Cecily Falkingham, Graham Paterson, Barbara Burns, Les Hanrahan, Robin Drury, Ian Penrose, Philippa Burgess and Ray Gibson.



Joan Broadberry, Editor.

I would love to see even more people contributing to the FNN. Our amazing Club runs a huge program. Each month there are many meetings, presentations, surveys and field trips that are not reported on. Some SIGs are hardly mentioned in a whole year. I find it especially rewarding to receive nature notes and images, stories, poems and observations from members. But these are few and far between. Email and digital photography have made it so very easy to send material to the FNN (fnnews.org.au). The FNN could and should be overflowing with snippets and reports from every section of the Club and from our always fascinating field naturalist lives. Contributions do not have to be long. I like the rule of p's: a picture, a paragraph or possibly a page. Please take up the challenge and share your natural history discoveries with us all through the pages of YOUR NEWSLETTER.

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. I would especially like to thank Sheina Nicholls for taking over the role of organiser. New helpers are always welcome. The four monthly calendar of events (COE), is a supplement to the newsletter and is also posted out to like-minded organisations as part of the Club's publicity strategy. The collation group has taken over the mailing of the COE. It occurs three times a year and we always get volunteers willing to stay on and complete it.

Finally, a request to those who receive the print copy of FNN. We would like to encourage 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. As postal charges have now risen substantially this is an even more serious consideration. Please contact Wendy with your email address at admin@fncv.org.au and she will change you to email.

Joan Broadberry, Editor



Bookshop

The support from members in purchasing books through the Club is growing and is greatly appreciated. Across the year the FNCV Bookshop sold a total of 345 books that ranged across 133 different titles, with topics including 11 aquatic, 18 children's, 29 flora, 52 fauna, 9 fungi, 3 geology, 36 general and 20 invertebrate. Throughout the year there was an extensive range of books available from the shelves at the clubrooms covering 178 different titles. Bookshop profit for the year was \$2743.23.

Space has become very limited and it is impossible to stock a copy of all titles that are of interest to members. The bookshop catalogue, which is available to view at the clubrooms and on the FNCV website, provides a greater range of titles that members can choose from. The bookshop article published in the FNN includes recent or upcoming new titles that have not previously been supplied, giving members the latest releases. Throughout the year additional publications were added to the titles available. These were determined by popularity, member suggestions, submitted orders or topic.

The FNCV Bookshop provided support to the FNCV Biodiversity Symposium and the Mammals of Victoria Seminar. For the latter a specific catalogue was created that included books that are not generally stocked. The catalogue was available to all attendees and orders could be placed on the day or any time afterward. The catalogue was posted on the FNCV website and remained there for 12 months.

Kathy Himbeck, Volunteer Bookshop Manager



Geology Group

MEETINGS: The ten meetings held during 2015 were well attended with an average of 30 attendees. The topics covered by the speakers included studies of South Australian, Central Australian, Victorian and Melbourne geology as well as areas further afield such as Reunion Island and a palaeontology/sociology study of a South Pacific island. Topics ranged from describing the different make up of physically close volcanoes in the Western district, studying a particularly interesting aspect of cable bacteria in the Yarra River, to looking at the origin of life on earth as having been possibly seeded by meteorites.

Many thanks to Ruth Robertson for organising the program for most of the year, and to our speakers who gave up their valuable time to prepare and present their topics. We also introduced an opportunity for members to give a ten minute talk on their special interest. This tapped into the breadth of knowledge of our members.

Supper was served after all meetings and was a productive time to talk to the speakers and each other. Many thanks to Andy Brentnall who was always there to open the hall and set up the meeting place, and to Max Campbell who was invaluable on many occasions in setting up the AV.

Topics and speakers for 2015 are listed below:

February 25th - Ian Lewis, Dept of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia: "*The World's Largest Limestone Sheet – History and recent research on the Nullarbor Plain, its Blowholes and Giant Caves and its modern relevance*".

March 25th - Dr Gary Presland: "*The Geological Basis of Melbourne's History*".

April 22nd - Dr Peter Jackson: "*The Geology of the Flinders Ranges*".

May 27th - Jim Enver, Mining engineer (retired), formerly of the CSIRO: "*The Rush that Ended: the Quest for Rubies in Central Australia*".

June 24th - Graham Patterson, author of Guide to Western Port, Phillip Island and French Island: "*An Introduction to Western Port Landforms*".

July 22nd - Rob Hamson: "*The Geology of Ile de la Reunion: UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site*".

August 26th - Julie Boyce, Research Associate, Monash Volcanology Research Group: "*Volcanoes of the Hamilton Area. Effusive and Explosive Eruption Products*".

September 23th - Assoc. Prof. Perran Cook, Monash School of Chemistry: "*Cable Bacteria in the Yarra River and Beyond*".

October 28 - Alex Codoreanu, Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing, Swinburne: "*The Rosetta Space Mission; Did life on earth begin as debris from space i.e. asteroids?*"

Nov 25th - Tessa Smith: "*Paleo-ecology, poo/poop and people: A study of a small South Pacific Island*".

EXCURSIONS: Three very worthwhile excursions were held during 2015 and our grateful thanks go to the four leaders.

In May, Dr Phil Bock led a walk around the city streets exploring the building stones of city buildings, and we also were shown the only example of the Melbourne's Silurian bedrock in the city area. The Buchanan Devonian marbles on the State Library staircase were also a highlight.

Graeme Patterson led the June excursion around Western Port Bay from Flinders to Warneet on a beautiful sunny winter day. We explored Miocene fossiliferous limestone, evidence of volcanic activity at Shoreham and moved on to see Silurian sedimentary rocks and the overlying Cranbourne sand formations.

In August, Professor John Buckeridge and Rob Hamson led us on an exploration of the Late Miocene geology at Ricketts Point then showed us the rich fossil beds of Beaumaris where examples of the Echinoidea *Lovenia forbesi* were particularly numerous. A lovely day of sunshine with rich sea and bird life to add to the day's enjoyment.

Ruth Hoskins



Petrified tree trunk, Ricketts Point, with Professor John Buckeridge, August 2015.

Photo Ruth Hoskins.



Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group held 8 meetings and undertook 9 field trips throughout 2015. On average 14 people attended the meetings with the highest attendance of 23 people.

The program for the year was:

- February Lisa Goudie: “*Sponges of Southern Australia*”.
- April 2015 Field Trip Roundup narrated by Leon Altoff, with presentations from several members.
- May Mel Mackenzie, Museum Victoria: “*RV Investigator - A new vessel for marine research in Australia*”.
- July Dr Rob Jones: Melbourne Sea Life Aquarium “*The Aquarium Vet*”.
- September Phoebe Lewis; “*Plastic ingestion and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Flesh-footed Shearwaters of Lord Howe Island*”.
- October Kristina Cook: “*Marine mammal rescue training workshops with ORRCA (Organization for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans Australia)*”.
- December Members night.

Field work is an important activity for the group, 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 ongoing 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, Stauro-medusae (stalked jellyfish), and Nemertea (ribbon worms), as well as conducting general study of marine invertebrates to increase their own knowledge and that of others. The Group also identifies and monitors pest species found during field work.

Cornirostra pellicida (below) is a small sea snail (shell length of 1.5mm). This specimen was found in sediment at Shallow Inlet during our field survey. This is the first record of this species for the MRG. Sixty-three species

were recorded for the day at this site.

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

Beyond our field work the Marine Research Group conducts further studies on the animals we find. During our residential field work, lab work and identification is carried out after each day’s survey. The MRG prides itself on its knowledge of marine invertebrates and works with other groups, including interstate groups, to expand



Lab research and identification.

their knowledge and assist with their projects.

2015 saw the publishing of *Nudibranchs and related Molluscs* by Robert Burn, a long-term member of the MRG and an acknowledged expert in the field. The book represents many years of research and data collected by the group. Many members contributed images to the book.

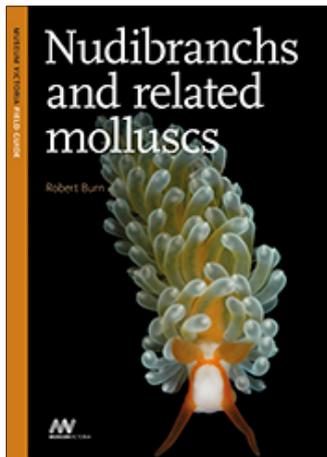
- The existing committee remained in place.
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| President | Michael Lyons |
| Secretary | Leon Altoff |
| Fieldtrip coordinator | Audrey Falconer |
| Committee member | Platon Vafiadis |

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



**Nudibranchs and related Molluscs,
By Robert Burn.**

**Publisher:
Museum of
Victoria.**





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.



Hygrocybe siccitatopapillata

Photo Jurrie Hubregtse.

ACTIVITIES

1. Forays

Our program of weekly forays attracts a wide range of people of various ages and knowledge. Experienced guides lead each foray. Fourteen forays were held, in 2015 in the following locations:

- Cambarville, 26 April
- Toorong Falls, near Noojee, 3 May
- Mount Worth State Park, 10 May
- Jack Cann Reserve, Blackwood, 17 May
- Sanatorium Picnic Ground, Mt. Macedon Ranges National Park, 24 May
- The Bump, near Powelltown, 31 May
- Ada Tree, Yarra State Forest, 7 June
- Mortimer Nature Trail, Bunyip State Park, 14 June
- Wanderslore Sanctuary, 21 June
- Woodlands Historic Park, Greenvale, 28 June
- Greens Bush, Mornington Peninsula National Park, 5 July
- Neds Gully, Cathedral Range State Park, 12 July
- Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve, 19 July
- Gembrook (Whites Corner and Shiprock Falls) post-fire, 26 July

New locations visited in 2015 included The Bump and Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve.

For each foray the appropriate ranger was contacted prior to the survey to check for any special require-

ments, and later each was sent a copy of the relevant survey report.

Sixteen collections were made for the National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. All locations revealed Interesting fungi, including *Cortinarius metallicus* and the always delightful *Mycena interrupta* (pictured) at Cambarville, *Hygrocybe siccitatopapillata* (pictured) at The Bump, and the hairy-capped *Panus fasciatus* at Woodlands Historic Park.

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 2017.

2. Meetings

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

Topics included:

- “*Fabulous Fungi*”, by Ian Bell
- “*The Kingdom Fungi*”, by Jurrie Hubregtse
- “*Describing New Species of Cortinarius: My Work on a Key, Morphology and DNA*”, by Reannon Smith
- “*Fungi All Sorts*”, by Sapphire McMullan-Fisher
- “Mini conference” with speakers Richard Hartland, Jurrie Hubregtse, Virgil Hubregtse and Geoff Lay.

3. Other activities

In May, Jurrie Hubregtse gave a talk, titled “Introduction to fungi”, at the Boronia Library.

Jurrie Hubregtse



Mycena interrupta

Photo Jurrie Hubregtse.



Juniors' Group

The Juniors' Group continued to be led by Claire Ferguson in 2015, assisted by the Juniors' council members and families. Along with our usual round of speakers and outings, members were encouraged to participate in additional nature-related activities with groups such as Waterwatch, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Seaford-Edithvale Wetlands. One of these, a "Save the Bilby" crossword competition entry, resulted in our group receiving the winning prize of a visit to native animals from Animals of Oz.

Claire and Robyn promoted our Club within the community by visiting a Rowville Scout group to give a talk and run activities and also assisted with the FNCV stall at the Whitehorse Festival, resulting in new members. Involvement of the Juniors' in the wider FNCV Club also continued with members attending other Special Interest Group meetings/outings, assisting at working bees and attending the Club Christmas Party.

During the year, a number of issues arose within the group which required the guidance of the Club council and president and we were very grateful for their support. One of these issues related to the ethical treatment of animals including trying to find a balance between education and animal welfare. It is hoped that clearly established guidelines can be put in place for members, which is especially important when considering that the current Junior members will influence the future of both our Club and our wildlife.

MEETINGS

- January:** Council Member talks
- February:** John Harris (FNCV), "Simpson Desert Research Trip"
- March:** Tom May (Senior Micologist, MBG), "Fascinating Fungi"
- April:** Sally Bewsher (FNCV) "Exploring Svalbard, Norway"
- May:** Max Campbell (FNCV), "Scorpions"
- June:** Ian Moodie (Whitehorse Council), "Nature Photography"
- July:** Meaghan Cullen (Birdlife Australia), "Beach Birds Nesting Project"
- August:** Juniors' 72nd Birthday Party, Theme "Australian Mammals"
- September:** Meeting cancelled
- October:** "Animals of Oz" excursion – competition prize won by Claire's niece
- November:** Adrianna Simmonds (Wildlife carer, Human Seeds), "Our Native Wildlife and us".

OUTINGS

- January:** Snorkelling and Beach Day at Blairgowrie Pier

- February:** Blue Lotus Water Garden, Yarra Junction
- March:** Phillip Island Adventure
- April:** No excursion due to Easter Camp
- May:** Fungi Foray with the FNCV Fungi Group, to Toorong Falls
- June:** Nest box monitoring and planting at Kinglake N.P. with Tony Fitzgerald
- July:** Scheduled event "Planting at Yellingbo" - cancelled due to low numbers
- August:** Cranbourne Botanic Gardens
- September:** Brisbane Ranges, Led by Cathy Powers (Australian Plant Society)
- October:** Orchids at Baluk Willam N.C.R, Led by Wendy Clark
- November/December:** No excursions due to End of Year Camp.

Easter Camp to Genoa River:

Staying on private property, adjacent to the Genoa River, near Genoa, the group engaged in rock hopping, bush & beach walks at Mallacoota, a visit to ecologist Max James' property which included a walk and a river swim, an annual visit by the Easter Bilby plus campfires and a concert.

End of Year Camp (November) – Camp Cormorant, Paynesville:

We stayed at Cormorant by the lakes at Paynesville. Activities included a visit to the Raymond Island koala and wildlife shelter, a talk by naturalist/entomologist Andrew Bould, spotlighting, a scavenger hunt, beach play, campfires and a visit to the Mitchell River silt jet-ties.

Report by Robyn Goode

All Photos by Claire and Scott Ferguson.



**Blue Lotus Water Garden, Yarra Junction.
Giant Amazon Lily.**



**Easter camp,
Genoa River.**



**Children learning
about trigger plants.**



Botany Group

In 2015 the Botany Group continued to attract informative speakers and to visit a diverse array of interesting locations.

The Botany Group members wish to acknowledge the effort taken by the speakers, excursion leaders and members who made all the activities interesting and enjoyable. Thank you to Heather Eadon for being responsible for organising the computer and data projector for each meeting, and for assistance in setting up the hall for meetings.



Wet Gully on Trust for Nature property at Three Bridges. Photo Sue Bendel.

We sincerely thank the speakers and leaders referred to below for giving us their time and expertise.

- Dr Mary Gibson showed us some amazing photos of an incredibly diverse flora in her presentation, "*The wonderful world of plants: adaptations to environment*";
- PhD candidate, Daniel Ohlsen spoke about "*Diversity and biogeography of Victorian ferns*", explaining how to identify ferns from their fronds and spore patterns;
- Dr Noushka Reiter presented on "*Orchid conservation*" and informed us about the orchid conservation programme occurring at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, and the opportunities for volunteers to reintroduce endangered orchids into the wild;
- Maggie Riddington described her Honours project on "*Cool temperate rainforests in Victoria*" which concerns the comparative photosynthesis rates of Sassafras and Myrtle Beech at Mount Donna Buang & Tarra Bulga N.P.;
- Patrick Honan discussed "*Pollination: Darwin's abominable mystery*", telling us about the birds, mammals and invertebrates that pollinate flowers, concentrating on insects, which are responsible for 80% of pollination. His talk mentioned the rewards to pollinators and the trickery of orchids in attracting male wasps, by imitating female wasps;
- Heather Eadon brought in many examples of seeds to

supplement her talk on "*Seed collection from local plants*";

- Cathy Powers showed us many photos of the flora and fauna of the Brisbane Ranges with some superb pictures of orchids in her presentation, "*Biodiversity of the Brisbane Ranges*";
- John Delpratt presented on "*Protecting and expanding south-eastern Australia's native temperate grasslands*" outlining a history of management of critically endangered Grasslands, and the revegetation of ex-pastoral and ex-agricultural land with seed collected from seed orchards. John also led an interesting field trip to the beautiful Evans Street Grasslands in Sunbury.

The Botany Group also visited a Trust for Nature property at Three Bridges, where a species list for the wet gully rainforest area was compiled.

Thank you to Karen Lester for again assisting with the management of the Clyde-Tooradin disused railway, Plains Grassland area. During the year some photo points were set up for future monitoring of the grasslands.

Sue Bendel



Day Group

The FNCV Day Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10.30 am for coffee and a chat with the speaker scheduled for 11 am. Occasional short excursions take place. Being a generalist group, unlike other specialist groups in the FNCV (a GIG not a SIG), the Day Group can offer talks and excursions on a wide variety of natural history topics. Most months there is a short or more detailed report on the previous months presentation in Field Nats News.

As the program summary below illustrates, subjects covered in 2015 included: fauna survey, fungi, microscopy, exploration and travel, marine, geology, terrestrial invertebrates, geography, botany, research, photography and a wildflower walk.

We would particularly like to thank Gary Presland and Max Campbell for their invaluable help with technical issues and back up when needed. Once again on behalf of the group we would like to pay tribute to our wonderful presenters who generously volunteer their time to prepare and deliver fascinating talks or lead activities. The superb images used to illustrate their themes deserve special mention. Attendances at the 2015 Day Group ranged from 45 to 15 and we welcomed many visitors.

Summary of the program for 2015

January: "*An introduction to invertebrates*". Speaker Maxwell Campbell.

February: "*A visit to the World Heritage listed Ile de la Reunion*". Speaker Rob Hamson.

March: "*Fauna surveying in the Gibson Desert*". Speaker John Harris.

April: "*Nature close up*". Speaker Bruce Fuhrer.

May: "*Natural history highlights of Western Port Bay*."

Speaker Graham Paterson.

June: Members' morning. Presentations from within the group. Speakers Hazel & Edward Brentnall and Peter Fagg.

July: "The Larapinta Trail." Speaker Geoff Lay.

August: A hands on introduction to the fascinating natural world as revealed by the microscope. Leaders Philippa Burgess and Maxwell Campbell.

September: "Researching the Smoky Mouse and Broad-toothed Rat" Speakers Phoebe Burns & Stella Shipway.

October: Wildflower and orchid walk in Chaim Court Bushland, leader Cecily Falkingham.

November: "Down the Cooper to Lake Eyre". Speaker Maria Gibson.

Joan Broadberry & Sally Bewsher - Co-ordinators



Day group excursion to the Mullum Mullum Valley. Photo Joan Broadberry.



Microscopy Group

The Microscope Group started 2015 with a members activity night with around 10 different microscopes from our collection set up with many interesting specimens for viewing and with members bringing great specimens from home for viewing and identification. Max Campbell arranged for us to look at his wonderful collection of painstakingly recorded videos of the microscopical everyday life, death, domination and reproduction of numerous garden and freshwater dwellers.

In April we welcomed Mark O'Loughlin with his research on Sea Stars and Sea Cucumbers and their various means and strategies to enhance reproduction. Not all is known of course and some speculation exists. Observations made include close aggregation of *Tosca magnifica* for egg and sperm release and fertilization. Other theories of fertilization include spawning within the water column following the release through upper surface gonapores. Yet *Tosia neossia* has no upper surface gonapores and males release sperm onto egg masses released onto substrate by females which is then fertilized and protected under their bodies. Other observed fertilization methods include rare hermaphrodites with

internal fertilization and internal embryo protection, development of juveniles within the gonads and born live and many examples of accidental and intentional fissparity, or self division.

Hermaphrodite sea cucumbers also brood internally in gonads and are born live. Some cannibalism is seen with auto ingestion in coelom (Internal fluid filled cavity). Broods are also protected in internal marsupia or external brood protection pockets around the body.

In June Andrew Christie, lecturer in Aquaculture Programs at the Melbourne Polytechnic and President of Marine Care Point Cooke spoke on invasive and introduced marine pest species that compromise the biodiversity of ecosystems the world over. We learnt of the five main marine pests that appear to be making a significant impact on the Point Cooke area biota. Ongoing research and removal studies were also discussed. One of the invasive pests Andrew has focused on is the introduced European Fan Worm, *Sabella spallanzanii*, with its beautiful two tiered fan arrangement of cirri. Andrew is doing studies on the effectiveness of removal programs within the marine sanctuary. We were shown dissections at 8X of the tube worms after their removal from their protective tube casing showing their hooked anchoring abilities.

Andrew also discussed his work at Melbourne Polytechnic. Students study and manage commercial fish production during their studies and encounter many "real life" commercial fishery diseases and parasites, experiencing on the job training, learning and resolution.

Some of the diseases and parasites Andrew showed us under magnifications of 80X to 400X, were evil looking lurnaea anchor worms on murray cod broodstock, dactylogyrid gill flukes with 4 eye spots found on ornamental discus and silver perch, trichodina, or "flying saucers with teeth" @ 400X. Also sleepy cod with "spectacle eye" and mites at 100X and silver perch stock badly affected by Saprolegnia.

Mark O'Loughlin kindly returned in August with a wonderful presentation on his participation in the 1993 *Eastern Antarctic Benthic Survey* on the Aurora Australis, focusing on the area between Mawson and Davis bases and Prydz Bay.

Using krill trawls, grab buckets and epibenthic sleds, the survey of bottom dwelling invertebrates produced a huge array of specimens. Photos of the sorting trays on the trawl deck showed sea stars, feather stars, brittle stars, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, barnacles, corals and sponges to name a few! Many specimens were deep frozen for later examination. One of Mark's roles was documenting the species richness of sea cucumbers and his results totalled 187 retrieved sea cucumbers included 51 previously undescribed!

We finished off the year with a final members' activity night, delighting and enthralling several new members with their first time at using a microscope and seeing what a huge unlimited and amazing unknown microscopical world surrounds us all.

Phillipa Burgess



Fauna Survey Group

Once again the group ran a series of surveys and meetings throughout the year. We had 80 different people present at our meetings and 70 attend our surveys. We also ran a two-day mammal symposium which was attended by 120 people.

We had survey activities close to home at Baluk Willam, Long Forest, Cardinia Creek Parklands, Dandenong Valley Parklands, Churchill National Park, Lysterfield Lake Park, and Braeside Park. We also travelled a bit further afield to Rushworth, Wilson's Promontory, Warby Ranges, Lonsdale Nature Conservation Reserve and Heatherlie in the Grampians, Minimay near the Little Desert and held two stagwatches in the Central Highlands.

Broadly speaking these surveys can be categorised as:

- Those we do with Parks Victoria in the parks of Eastern Melbourne;
- Those we do with Research Management Branch, Parks Victoria;
- Our nestbox projects;
- Our stagwatches; and
- The Little Desert survey working with Bank Australia.



**Some of the group who carried out the survey at the Bank Australia property, Minimay.
Photo Barbara Burns.**

In the parklands of Eastern Melbourne (Dandenong Valley, Sandbelt and Berwick), we have continued the "tile and tin" reptile survey, which was a part of Eastern Fauna Focus that started in 2012. We encountered 1 species of snake (Lowland Copperhead, *Austrelaps superbus*), 7 species of lizard and 3 species of frog.

We deployed cameras at Baluk Willam in search of the Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*) and at the Cardinia Parklands after a reported sighting of a Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*). Our efforts only revealed the more common species, although a feral pig (*Sus scrofa*) was photographed at Baluk Willam.

Our work with the Research Management Branch of Parks Victoria concentrated on surveys for the New Holland Mouse (*Pseudomys novaehollandiae*) and endangered arboreal mammals, particularly the Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*). Although our search for the New Holland Mouse at Wilsons Promontory proved fruitless, we did detect a Southern Brown Bandicoot on our cameras.

Other Research Management Branch surveys, involving the search for threatened arboreal mammals, took us to the Warby Ranges and the Grampians. At the Warby Ranges we detected Squirrel Gliders by camera and by spotlight. During our bird surveys we detected 12 of the bird species of the Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community, which are listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, 1988*. Included were Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*) and Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*). In the Grampians we carried out surveys at Heatherlie and Lonsdale Nature Conservation reserve. We detected a Squirrel Glider at the latter.

We checked the nestboxes at Rushworth twice; once in January and again in May. In January we found 13 Sugar Gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*) and 3 Brush-tailed Phascogales (*Phascogale tapoatafa*) in the boxes, while in May the number was 58 and 6. At Long Forest we found Sugar Gliders and bats.

There were two stagwatches during the year, January and December. January was quiet with an Agile Antechinus (*Antechinus agilis*) being the only sighting, but in December detections included Leadbeater's Possum (*Gymnobelideus leadbeateri*), Sugar Glider, Mountain Brushtail (*Trichosurus cunninghami*), Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) and Sooty Owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*).

In November we carried out a survey on land owned by Bank Australia at Minimay, south of the Little Desert. It is the subject of revegetation and we recorded 50 species of birds, 6 species of reptile and 10 species of mammal.

As well as field work the Fauna Survey provides a program of meetings once a month and in February organised a very successful symposium.

The symposium was titled "Mammals of Victoria". There were 16 speakers over two days and we finished the weekend with a trip to the Mt Rothwell Sanctuary at Little River.

Those who spoke are listed below and we thank them for their contributions.

- Professor John Woinarski, Charles Darwin University, "*National Context: the Conservation Status of Australian Mammals*"
- John Harris, Wildlife Experiences/FNCV President, "*Changes in Victoria's mammal fauna over time*"
- Associate Professor Graeme Coulson, The University of Melbourne, "*Macropods*"
- Dr Rodney van der Ree, Deputy Director,

ARCUE – Royal Botanical Gardens, “*Possums and Gliders*”

- Jess Lawton, Deakin University, “*What drives the distribution of Mitchell’s hopping-mouse in a fire prone landscape?*”
- Dr Euan Ritchie, Deakin University, “*The ecology of predators and prey in Victoria: insights from the Mallee, Otways & Wilsons Promontory*”
- Dr Lindy Lumsden, Wildlife Ecology – Arthur Rylah Institute, DELWP, “*Bats: Fascinating Creatures of the Night*”
- Dr Pam Whiteley, University of Melbourne, “*Wildlife Disease Surveillance Victoria.*”
- Peter Menkhorst, Translocation Evaluation Panel - Fauna – DELWP, “*Threatened species in Victoria*”
- Andrew Murray, Southern Ark Operations Manager – DELWP, “*The Southern Ark project: reviving the mammal fauna of Far East Gippsland*”



Yellow-footed Antechinus

Photo Robin Drury.

- Dr Annette Rypalski, Manager, Mt Rothwell/Southern Brush Tail Rock Recovery Team, “*Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby*”
- Dr Dan Harley, Threatened Species Biologist - Zoos Victoria, “*An overview of the conservation of Leadbeater’s Possum in highland and lowland habitats*”
- Kylie Soanes, The University of Melbourne, “*Squirrel Glider*”
- Dr Ian Mansergh, “*Burramys (Mountain Pygmy-possum) learning’s from 30 years of research and management for a changing climate*”
- Sarah Maclagan, PhD Candidate, Deakin University, “*Ecology of the Southern Brown Bandicoot in peri-urban Melbourne*”
- Dr Amy Coetsee, Zoos Victoria, “*Eastern Barred Bandicoot*”.

Speakers at Meetings 2015

We had 13 speakers at 11 monthly meetings held during the year. We thank each of them for giving us their time and sharing their passion, research and knowledge with us.

February - John Harris, Fauna Survey Group, “*Fauna Surveying in the Gibson Desert*”

March - Su Dempsey and Ray Gibson, Fauna Survey Group, “*Fauna Survey at Port Campbell and Bay of Isles*”

April – Dr Dan Harley, Threatened Species Biologist at Zoos Victoria, “*Direction with Zoos Victoria’s Fighting extinction programme to recover threatened species*”

May - Brooke Squires, Conservation Officer at Zoos Victoria, “*Kicking Goals for Wildlife in Northern Kenya*”

June - Dr Euan Ritchie, Deakin University, “*Camera surveys in Papua-New Guinea*”

July - Marlene Rodriguez, PhD Student, Deakin University, “*Australasian Gannets*”

August - José Maria Barredo, “*Biodiversity on the islands off Mexico*”

September - Zac Lewis, Development Executive, Australian Wildlife Conservancy, “*Work of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy*”

October - Phoebe Burns and Stella Shipway, The University of Melbourne, “*Smoky Mouse and Broad-toothed Rat*”

November - Dr Maria Gibson, Deakin University, “*Animal encounters around the world*”

December – Robin Drury, Fauna Survey Group “*This was the year that was*”.

Our survey work is carried out by named permit holders and Fauna Survey Group members under the conditions of our DELWP Flora and Fauna Research Permit which is valid until May 2018. All results are forwarded to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas following surveys, as required by this permit.

Robin Drury



Diamond Firetail

Photo John Harris.

*THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC
REPORT BY COUNCIL. Year ended 31 December 2015.*

- The members of Council hereby submit the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2015 and the Income Statement for the year ended 31st December 2015 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>
Maxwell Campbell	President/Terrestrial Invertebrates	Retired	2013
Philippa Burgess	Vice President/Microscopy	Artist	2012
Barbara Burns	Treasurer/Secretary	Retired Lecturer	2001
Joan Broadberry	Councillor/Day Group	Retired Teacher	2001
John Harris	Councillor	Wildlife Consultant	2003
Andrew Brentnall	Councillor/Correspondence Secretary	Retired Engineer	2011
Su Dempsey	Councillor	Retired	2013
Sally Bewsher	Councillor	Retired Teacher	2009
<i>SIG Representatives</i>	<i>Special Interest Group</i>		
Leon Altoff	Marine Research - joint	Analyst	1997
Audrey Falconer	Marine Research - joint	Public Servant	1997
Geoff Lay	Fungi	Retired	1999
Susan Bendel	Botany	Quality Assurance Coordinator	2006
Claire Ferguson	Juniors	Mother	2010
Ruth Hoskin	Geology	Retired	2012

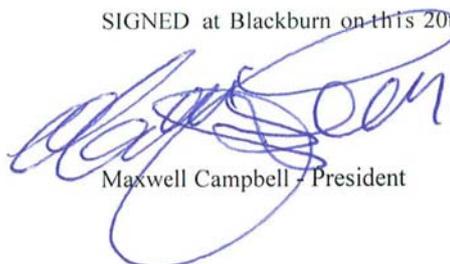
- The principal activities and object of the Club are to stimulate interest in natural history and to preserve and protect Australian fauna and flora. No significant changes in the nature of those activities occurred during the reporting period.
- The net profit of the club for the year ended 31st December 2015 is \$7177, (2014 \$5606).
- 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*

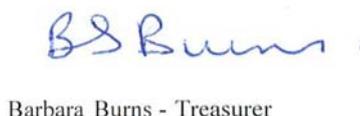
In the opinion of the members of Council,

- 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 2015.
- The accompanying Statement of Assets and Liabilities is drawn up as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Club as at 31 December 2015.
- 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 April 2016 in accordance with a resolution of Council.



Maxwell Campbell - President



Barbara Burns - Treasurer

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
INCOME STATEMENT - Year ended 31 December 2015

		2015 \$	2014 \$
INCOME	Membership	<u>42827.53</u>	<u>35,756.95</u>
Bookshop	Bookshop Profit	2743.23	2,324.27
	Back issues Vic Nat	<u> </u>	<u>59.72</u>
		<u>2,743.23</u>	<u>2,383.99</u>
Other income	Hall Hire	4308.46	8,851.28
	Profit Biodiversity Symposium	1550.13	1,400.33
	Mammal Seminar	1315.40	
	Fees Speakers		200.00
	Profit Sale Club products	202.00	45.00
	Non-Member Levy	506.06	328.19
	Copyright Royalties - Vic Nat.	2360.27	1,317.43
	Fund Raising	554.01	1,535.25
	Income Solar Panels	138.91	111.62
	2nd Hand Book Sale	1269.35	
	Goodwill Wine	<u>251.20</u>	<u>119.20</u>
		<u>12,455.79</u>	<u>13,908.30</u>
Investments	Bank Interest	64.56	51.20
	Interest Income Investments	9448.45	9,559.86
	Franking Credits Investments	<u>1061.13</u>	<u>471.87</u>
		<u>10,574.14</u>	<u>10,082.93</u>
Grants, Donations	Grant		3,000.00
	General Donations	3511.00	3,443.70
	Grant Parks Victoria- re FSG projects		<u>500.00</u>
		<u>3,511.00</u>	<u>6,943.70</u>
	Total Income	<u>72,111.69</u>	<u>69,075.87</u>
EXPENDITURE	Victorian Naturalist - Printing	8037.80	7,669.00
Publications	- Postage etc	<u>2947.47</u>	<u>2,685.56</u>
	Net Cost Victorian Naturalist	<u>10985.27</u>	<u>10,354.56</u>
	Newsletter - Printing	1706.05	2,046.32
	- Postage etc	1981.01	2,196.79
	- Advertising Income	<u>-790.91</u>	<u>-274.55</u>
		<u>2896.15</u>	<u>3968.56</u>
	Calendar of events Printing & Postage	1672.88	1,540.11
	Junior Naturalists - Printing and Postage	<u>626.29</u>	<u>711.46</u>
	Total Publications Expenses	<u>16180.59</u>	<u>16,574.69</u>
Other Expenses	Advertising	118.19	374.32
	Annual report	70.00	80.00
	Bank Fees, Credit card, Eftpos	782.32	753.76
	Depreciation Expense	2187.34	1,524.75
	Donations Outgoing	400.00	500.00
	Gas, Electricity, Water	944.48	788.91
	Christmas Party Expenses		190.31
	Hall Cleaning	969.00	1,052.60
	Insurance	1379.09	1,370.91
	Internet Provider & Website Expenses	531.36	462.02
	Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	75.45	324.56
	Library Expenses & Subscriptions	1089.38	853.18
	Mugs		1,020.00
	Non-Library Subscriptions	357.27	371.36
	Office Postage	1146.78	1,191.26
	Office Stationery etc	800.12	1,349.36
	Office Telephone	775.84	1,084.08
	Repairs & Maintenance - General	858.98	1,104.99
	Repairs & Maintenance - Office Equipment	22.71	288.18
	Rates - Council	2318.45	2,122.85
	Rates - Maryborough Property	1000.00	746.40
	Hall Alarm	434.17	540.91
	Special Interest Group Expenses	547.73	
	Sundry Expenses	125.55	937.30
	Superannuation	2530.45	2,652.46
	Purchase of Software	2451.50	
	Workers Compensation Insurance	176.70	196.35
	Wages & Salaries	<u>26661.70</u>	<u>28,817.58</u>
	<i>Total Other Expenses</i>	<u>48,754.56</u>	<u>50,698.40</u>
	Total Expenses	<u>64,935.15</u>	<u>67,273.09</u>
	OPERATING PROFIT	<u>\$7,176.54</u>	<u>\$1,802.78</u>
	Loss on Sale of GPT Shares		-1,307.07
	Profit on sale Ethical Investments		<u>5,110.76</u>
	NET PROFIT	<u>\$7,176.54</u>	<u>\$5,606.47</u>

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account - Note (3)	16518.48	19,949.85
Bookshop Account Westpac. Kathy H. Note (3)	7128.93	4,603.16
The Environment Fund Account - Note (3)	615.40	615.40
Petty Cash - Note (3)	50.00	50.00
Stock Club Jackets	350.00	455.00
Interest Income Owing (4)	2620.70	
Inventories (Books for Sale) - Note (4a)	<u>5796.06</u>	<u>5,480.21</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>33,079.57</u>	<u>31,153.62</u>
Non Current Assets		
Investments		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits - Note (5)	229376.51	228,978.93
Shares in Australian Foundation - Note (5a)	37752.76	37,752.76
Shares in ARGO Investments - Note (5a)	<u>16858.43</u>	<u>16,858.43</u>
	283,987.70	283,590.12
Library Holdings - Note (6)	<u>50,320.88</u>	<u>50,320.88</u>
	<u>334,308.58</u>	<u>333,911.00</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>13454.49</u>	<u>8,723.49</u>
	<u>853,811.64</u>	<u>849,080.64</u>
Total Non current Assets	<u>1,188,120.22</u>	<u>1,182,991.64</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,221,199.79</u>	<u>\$1,214,145.26</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors (Note 9)	2730.40	4,596.75
Hall/Hire Income Deferred (Note 9)	2323.00	2,576.00
Payroll Tax Owing - Note (9)	295.38	562.00
GST Paid - GST Collected - Note (9)	510.99	309.76
Bookshop account GST - Note (9)	150.22	
Grants Deferred - Note (9)	12764.84	14,268.25
Owing to Kathy Himbeck Bookshop Account - Note (9)		782.26
Science Talent Search Fund in Memory of Noel Schleiger (9)	2000.00	3,000.00
ANHM - Loan Account - Note (9)	5395.35	5,429.64
FNCV Environment fund - Loan Account - Note (9)	5066.17	<u>3,779.89</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$31,236.35</u>	<u>\$35,304.55</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,189,963.44</u>	<u>\$1,178,840.71</u>
EQUITY		
Members Accumulated Funds		
Current Year - Profit	7176.54	5,606.47
General Fund b/f - Note (10)	<u>517,616.90</u>	<u>512,010.43</u>
	524,793.44	517,616.90
Total Specific Funds		
Bequest Dorothy Mahler	10,000.00	10,000.00
Bequest Fred Smith -	10,000.00	10,000.00
Marine Research Fund	25,433.75	25,433.75
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund (Note 11)	4,494.94	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>\$1,189,963.44</u>	<u>\$1,178,840.71</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2015

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 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
3. CASH		
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	16518.48	19,949.85
Environment Fund A/c - Bank Melb.	615.40	615.40
Bookshop A/c Westpac - Croydon	2084.77	1,114.73
Bookshop Interest Bearing Account Westpac Croydon	5044.16	3,488.43
Petty Cash	<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
	<u>24,312.81</u>	<u>25,218.41</u>
4. Interest Income Owing		
Fixed Deposit interest owing	2620.70	
4a. STOCK BOOKS		
Books for sale at lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>5796.06</u>	<u>5,480.21</u>
5. INVESTMENTS		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits	229,376.51	228,978.93
Shares in Australian Foundation	37,752.76	37,752.76
Shares in Argo Investments	<u>16,858.43</u>	<u>16,858.43</u>
	<u>283,987.70</u>	<u>283,590.12</u>
5(a) CURRENT MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS		
Shares in Australian Foundation - Market Value, 7300 x \$5.95	43435.00	44,165.00
Shares in Argo Investments 2300 x \$8.00	<u>18400.00</u>	<u>17,848.00</u>
	<u>61,835.00</u>	<u>62,013.00</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	57856.27	50,937.93
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-44401.78</u>	<u>-42,214.44</u>
Written down Value	<u>13454.49</u>	<u>8,723.49</u>
9. CREDITORS & PROVISIONS		
Trade creditors - VicNat \$1446, Software \$1284	<u>2730.40</u>	<u>4,596.75</u>
Income Received in Advance (Rents received)	<u>2323.00</u>	<u>2,576.00</u>
Payroll Tax and Net GST owing	<u>806.37</u>	<u>871.76</u>
Bookshop account GST	<u>150.22</u>	0.00
Grants Deferred - Melbourne Water Community Grant		281.81
- DEPI Communities Nature Grant - Botany	2516.36	2,866.36
- Parks Victoria	3612.12	3,120.08
- Local History Grant Public Records Office	<u>6636.36</u>	<u>8,000.00</u>
	<u>12,764.84</u>	<u>14,268.25</u>
Owing to Kathy Himbeck Bookshop Account		<u>782.26</u>
Science Talent Search Fund in Memory of Noel Schleiger	<u>2000.00</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
Creditor Australian Natural History Medallion	<u>5395.35</u>	<u>5,429.64</u>
Creditor FNCV Environment Fund	<u>5066.17</u>	<u>3,779.89</u>
	31518.16	35304.55
MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
10. GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward	517,616.90	512,010.43
Add Net Profit	<u>7,176.54</u>	<u>5,606.47</u>
Balance at 31 December 2015	<u>524,793.44</u>	<u>517,616.90</u>
11. SPECIFIC FUNDS		
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund		
Brought forward	548.75	548.75
Proceeds Mammal Seminar Weekend	<u>3,946.19</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Balance 31 December 2015	<u>4,494.94</u>	<u>548.75</u>

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2015
for The Bendigo Bank Account No 123098725

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net inflows from Operations (Note 1)	2010.91	18,052.02
GST (net change)	<u>201.23</u>	<u>-319.76</u>
Net Cash inflow from Operations	<u>2,212.14</u>	<u>17,732.26</u>
CASH FLOWS FOR INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Outflows Equipment Purchased	-6918.34	-2,988.05
Transfer to Bendigo Bank Term Deposit		-28,093.94
Purchase shares in Australian Foundation		-17,532.76
Transfer to Fixed Deposit	-397.58	
Purchase Shares in Argo Investments		-16,858.43
Inflow 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>-7,315.92</u>	<u>-29,874.05</u>
CASH FLOWS FOR FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Inflow Bequest from Fred Smith		10,000.00
Increase in Fauna Survey Group Equipment Fund	3946.19	
Decrease in Noel Schleiger Fund	-1000.000	-1000.000
Increase in Loans Environment Fund & ANHM	<u>1251.99</u>	<u>599.88</u>
	<u>4,198.18</u>	<u>9,599.88</u>
CHANGE IN FNCV CHEQUE A/C BALANCE for year	<u>-\$905.60</u>	<u>-\$2,541.91</u>
Bendigo/Bank Melb Cheque Acc Balance Start Year	19949.85	23,740.31
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance End Year	<u>16518.48</u>	<u>19,949.85</u>
Net decrease in account	<u>-3431.37</u>	<u>-3790.46</u>
Increase in Westpac Bookshop accounts Kathy H.	<u>2525.77</u>	<u>1,248.55</u>
Total decrease in Cash for year	<u>-\$905.60</u>	<u>-\$2,541.91</u>
Note 1		
Reconciliation of Profit with Cash Flow from Operations		
Net Profit	7176.54	5,606.47
add back depreciation	<u>2187.34</u>	<u>1,524.75</u>
	9,363.88	7,131.22
increase in inventories	-315.85	-1,889.82
decrease in prepaid expenses		1,020.00
decrease in stock club jackets	105.00	
increase in income owing interest	-2620.70	685.30
decrease in receipts received in advance hall hire	-253.00	2,576.00
decrease in payroll tax owing	-266.62	562.00
decrease in amount owing by Bookshop	-632.04	451.68
decrease in trade creditors	-1866.35	-638.10
decrease in grants held and unspent	-1503.41	11,957.43
loss on sale GPT shares		1,307.07
profit on sale Ethical investments		<u>-5,110.76</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Operations	<u>\$2,010.91</u>	<u>\$18,052.02</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 2015. 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. The 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 2015 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 2015 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:


Susan J. Harkin, CPA
Honorary Auditor

20/ 4 | 2016
Blackburn