

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Annual Report



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Year Ending 31 December 2016

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President's Report

It has been another very enjoyable and productive time for me as President of the FNCV. As always the activities of the Club are many and varied and it is impossible to mention everything that happens or to thank everyone for the myriad of contributions they make. If I have not mentioned you or your activity in the summary below let me assure you that your efforts are greatly appreciated by myself and your fellow Club members.



Juniors' Camp—Near the Twelve Apostles.
Photo Scott Ferguson.

A highlight of the year was Dr Gary Presland's new book, '*Understanding our natural world*', which was released on Friday 8th July 2016 and is an excellent read, detailing the history of the FNCV from 1880 to 2015. The book was launched by Associate Professor Don Garden, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. The launch was held in conjunction with the celebration of 20 years' occupancy of the FNCV Hall at Blackburn. I also thank Gary, on behalf of the Club, for his work on the production of *The Victorian Naturalist*, for his contribution as FNCV Librarian, and for his efforts as Secretary of the ANHM General Committee.

Another highlight of 2016 was the outstanding Biodiversity Symposium "Reptiles and Amphibians of Victoria", organised by the Fauna Survey Group, which ran over

(Continued on page 2)



Reptiles and Amphibians Symposium.

Photo John Harris.

the weekend of the 8th and 9th of October. There were 16 prominent speakers who discussed many aspects of the biology and ecology of Victorian reptiles and amphibians. It was a very successful weekend and showcased the capacity and qualities of the Club. Congratulations to all of those involved in its organisation and delivery.

Although it occurred in January 2017, I will mention in this report the invitation to The FNCV president and a guest to attend an Australia Day reception at Government House, hosted by Her Excellency, the Honourable Linda Dessau, AC, Governor of Victoria and Patron of the Club. Barbara Burns and I went along as representatives of the FNCV. Also, in a letter of 25th January 2017, Her Excellency thanked the FNCV, its members and volunteers, for all of the work we do to strengthen our Victorian community.

As always, during 2016, each SIG provided many interesting meetings, presenters and excursions of which I attended as many as possible. The opportunity to hear interesting presentations and discuss issues with fellow naturalists is always stimulating. I thank all of the SIG leaders and organisers for their continued hard work.

The FNCV was represented at a number of public events during 2016, including the City of Melbourne BioBlitz and the Whitehorse Spring Festival. FNCV members also gave presentations to local councils and community groups. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and effort to sustain the profile of the Club. It is important that we continue our delivery of presentations, seminars, symposia and attendance at public events to maintain our status and integrity as an important and productive member of the Community.

The FNCV website is our principal portal for the world to contact us and a place where we can showcase our capabilities and facilities. I thank Jurrie Hubregtse who has continued to successfully run and maintain the site. Struan Campbell has maintained the integrity of the office computer system during 2016. On behalf of the Club I thank him for his contribution. While our subscription membership has remained fairly stable our Facebook membership has risen to nearly 4300 interested followers which has certainly increased our visibility and profile in the broader community. Thanks to Ian Kitchen and Claire Ferguson for their efforts with this online forum.

On behalf of the Club I would also like to 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 our FNCV culture and activities. Joan and Sally, Gary, Anne, Maria, Sue and Virgil have nevertheless produced timely publications of the highest standard. Anne retired this year after 20 years of dedicated and extraordinary service and effort for the FNCV in relation to *The Victorian Naturalist*. We are indebted to her and wish her well in her future endeavours. Thank you Anne. I would also like to especially thank Claire Ferguson

who is retiring as leader of the Junior Naturalists after seven years of tireless organisation, hard work and outstanding leadership. The FNCV is indebted to her for her enormous contribution to the development of so many young naturalists.

Congratulations are also due to Dr Maxwell Moulds on being awarded the 2016 Australian Natural History Medallion for his contribution to the field of entomology; in particular, the biology, ecology and taxonomy of Australian cicadas.

In this report I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the generous contributions from three long standing club members. Firstly Andy Brentnall for his financial help in the purchase of equipment as well as his dedicated and continuing support of the Club; secondly, Brendan Murphy for his continued support of the FNCV and his generous contributions to the Science Talent Quest and thirdly Ray Power who has been a stalwart of the Club in many capacities. I take this opportunity to thank all three for their input and involvement over many years.

Continuing with thank-yous', the Council is the operational core and governing body of the FNCV and it bears responsibility for all of the Club's activities and its corporate existence. I extend my thanks to all Club Councillors and the members who support the activities such as the book sale, symposia, Christmas function, special dinners and working bees. A sub-committee of Council continued to develop a Risk Management Strategy which is now nearing completion, and Sue Bendel will coordinate a new Environment Committee in 2017. Our Treasurer, Barbara Burns, efficiently manages the accounts, which again show a healthy financial position.

I would also like to acknowledge the Club's indebtedness to Kathy Himbeck for her ongoing work in running, and continuously improving, a successful FNCV bookshop which is popular with both members and visitors and caters well to the needs of the Club. Like many of you I remain a frequent and dedicated customer. Thank you Kathy.

Last but not least, our Administrator, Wendy Gare, has continued to manage the office and support our activities at the highest level of efficiency and dedication. Thank you Wendy, the roles of Councillors and President would be very difficult without you.

Finally I thank you all for the privilege of being elected President of the FNCV for a second year. I have enjoyed the experience immensely. I believe that great opportunities may present themselves in the coming year to further enhance our role in educating the broader community on the importance of conserving, protecting and studying the amazing biodiversity of Australia. This will involve strengthening relationships with other like-minded organisations and working closely with them to realise common goals.

Maxwell Campbell, President.



Administration

This year is notable from an administrative point of view because it's the year we had our new computer system installed. Our President Maxwell Campbell enlisted the help of his son Struan who is a computer professional, and between them they dragged the FNCV office into the 21st century. The installation took many, many hours over December and January; they gave up their weekends, toiled into the wee hours and had it all up and running for us to use when we returned ready for the next year. Initially things seemed to be a whole lot more confusing, but before long before everyone found that they are actually a whole lot better: quicker, more efficient and more versatile. Grateful thanks go to Struan and Max for a job well done!



Wendy Gare

Membership

Our membership is remaining relatively stable, with an overall decrease for the year of only 15: our total membership as at 31st December 2016 was 889. It's been swings and roundabouts with our younger members – although our juniors decreased by 6 families from last year's record high, our student membership has had a large net increase of 11, up nearly 30%. Even so, the Junior Naturalist is still emailed to 60 families overall. The number of family memberships remained constant, and clubs and schools increased by 1. Single memberships had a small net increase of 3. Disappointingly we lost 6 institutional subscriptions, most likely because they are now able to access *The Victorian Naturalist* directly and pay royalties instead.

This year 4 members have reached their 40 year membership milestone, so they will have their Long Term Member status conferred on them at the AGM.

Electronic delivery of publications

We now have an email address for 94% of our members. Of those, only 13% still receive their Field Nats News via Australia Post (last year it was 25%), a pleasing result.

We are making headway with the digital delivery of *The Victorian Naturalist*. 45% of subscribers with an email address are now downloading the publication, which is a big help to our balance sheet. Those who have swapped from the print version have found that the digital version is very user friendly – personally I enjoy having the ability to make the text larger!

Hall hire

2016 saw a pleasing increase of just over 30% in the income from hall hire. This was mainly due to an increase in the number of days being booked by one of our regular hirers.

Promotion

Our website www.fncv.org.au is very popular and is responsible for a quarter of our new memberships. Roughly a half of all our new memberships come from word of mouth, so keep telling your friends about our amazing Club!

We have again doubled the number of followers of our facebook page to over 4000. This is an outstanding success which is growing our public profile and is much enjoyed by those who participate. Some really stunning photos have been posted of all different sorts of wildlife and plants, with fascinating discussions about anything naturalist: identification of species, ethical debates and interesting facts. Ian Kitchen and Claire Ferguson have moderated the group and deserve grateful thanks for the care and time which they have put into the task.

This year, as well as our stall at the Whitehorse Festival in September, we participated in the "BioBlitz" in the City of Melbourne in November. Particular thanks to Philippa Burgess, our Vice President, who ran our stall at both of these events. Thank you also to the members who helped her: at the Whitehorse Festival - Marty Banning, Anne Marie MacArthur, Alex Yan, Ray Gibson, Tilda & Niamh Horobin, Christine Gray and Ruth Hoskin; at the Bio Blitz - Claire Ferguson and her family.

Our symposium in October this year was all about the Reptiles and Amphibians of Victoria. It was another success for the hard-working committee of the Fauna Survey Group which spread our public profile even further.

Our calendar of events is still being sent 3 times a year to over 200 organisations including libraries, U3A centres, neighbourhood houses and other naturalist clubs and like-minded organisations, promoting the Club's activities to people who otherwise may not be aware of us.

Thank you

Andrew Brentnall has been my stalwart assistant for another year. It's a great comfort to know that I can rely on him to always be there every Monday and Tuesday, with mail collected and the kettle on! Thank you very much Andy for all your help. Also thank you to Barbara Burns, our Treasurer, who makes sure all matters financial are running smoothly.

Finally thank you to you, the members of the Club, who are always supportive of my efforts to make the office a friendly and approachable place.

Wendy Gare, Administration Officer

Field Nats News

In 2016 Field Nats News' (FNN) 11 issues ran from number 260 to 270 inclusive. FNN is very much a team effort. My grateful thanks go to Sally Bewsher, who lightens my load in so many ways and in particular does a superb job with the exacting work of proof-reading. Thanks also to Gary Presland for contributing library news, archival material, obituaries and for solving many a perplexing IT problem. Special thanks to Wendy Gare for her unstinting assistance in countless ways, for example, preparing the four-monthly calendar on which our activities page is based, compiling the FNCV Council minutes, and helping with reminders and the mailout. Her can-do attitude and cheerful manner makes solving any FNN problem easier. Thanks also to Jurrie Hubregtse who does the job of posting FNN on the Club's website. Pat Grey continues to take on one of the most difficult tasks of all, preparing the index. It is hard to find appropriate words to convey the depth of appreciation and admiration Sally and I feel for Pat's work.

Without our contributors there would be no content and no newsletter; they are the backbone of the FNN. The following is a list, in no particular order, of those who have made substantial contributions to FNN in 2016: Maxwell Campbell, Gary Presland, Wendy Gare, Reiner Richter, Pat and Ed Grey, Les Hanrahan, Graham Patterson, Wendy Clark, Platon Vafiadis, Robin Drury, Rob Hamson, Claire Ferguson, Kathy Himbeck, John Harris, Joan Broadberry, Cecily Falkingham, Peter Betts, Jurrie Hubregtse, Philippa Burgess, Ruth Hoskin, Ruth Robinson, Barbara Burns and Ted Ryan. Thank you one and all for taking time out of your busy lives to record the life of our wonderful Club.

In the 2015 Annual Report and during the year in the FNN, I asked members to contribute nature notes and images to our members' page. They are still far too few. I will state once again, there is no excuse! Email and digital photography have made it a breeze to send in material (fnnews.org.au). FNN could and should be overflowing with photos and natural history observations. Contributions do not have to be long. My rule of p's goes like this - a picture, a paragraph or possibly a page. Please share what has caught your eye with us.

A reminder, our deadline for copy is always 10 am on the first Tuesday of the month. Perhaps I should not use the word 'always'. Occasionally I am away travelling and really appreciate the co-operation that has been shown when the due date has been brought forward.

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 volunteers. I would especially like to thank Sheina Nicholls for taking over the role of organising the collation and Andy Brentnell for his continued help on collation day. 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 willingly completes this extra task 3 times a year.

Forgive me directing yet another plea to those who continue to receive the black and white print copy of FNN, but we would love you to enjoy FNN in full colour if you use email. Of course the digital version saves the club money on printing and postage, but maybe you have not realised that without the constraint of 12-14 printed pages we could produce a bigger and better newsletter. Please contact Wendy with your email address at admin@fncv.org.au and she will change you from print to email. It is that simple.

I would like to conclude by saying that the production of the FNCV's monthly newsletter invariably gives me great satisfaction, pride and pleasure.

Joan Broadberry, Editor



Microscopy Group

Microscope Group attendees enjoyed several Members Activity Nights.

We spent evenings on different techniques of slide making; various temporary mounting methods, imprinting mammal hairs for viewing and cross sections. We also had freshwater pond and dam samples from several locations and enjoyed some fascinating live action viewing. Our Activity nights were accompanied by Max Campbell's fabulous and inspiring video footage of microscopic life.

Vanessa Craigie from DELWP spoke to us on the important and precarious task of translocating the Spiny Rice Flower – *Pimelea spinescens* (SRF) – critically endangered under EPBC act and listed as threatened and vulnerable. SRF is a very slow-growing small shrub, flowering April to August with white/pale yellow flowers. Plant lifetime estimates are 50 to 100 years! Mature plants are supported by a disproportionately large, thick taproot, adding to the many difficulties faced in its translocation.

"The Pimelea Spinescens Recovery Team", with over a dozen expert team members, was established as a result of an offset agreement between the Federal Government and land developers to allow development in Altona at a site containing SRF specimens. Through their trial and error and record keeping we can have some hope of successful rescues.

Philippa Burgess - Coordinator



Joan and Sally

The Victorian Naturalist

Six issues of *The Victorian Naturalist*, comprising Volume 133, were published during 2016. This volume consisted of five issues of 32 pages each and one issue of 64 pages. One of the 32 page issues included the Index for Volume 132. This spread resulted in the publication of 220 pages for the year, which was the same as the previous year's output.



The Vic Nat Team 2016

A total of 31 substantive papers were published in Volume 133, comprising three Research Reports, 21 Contributions, and seven Naturalist Notes. The 'Special' issue during 2016 was number 3, which comprised most of the papers delivered at the 2015 Biodiversity Symposium on 'Mammals of Victoria'. In addition, seven books were reviewed in the pages of the journal in 2016. Of these books, two—*Land of sweeping plains* and *Australian wildlife after dark*—were donated by the reviewers to the FNCV library.

Two citations for recipients of the Australian Natural History Medallion were published during the year. That for Margaret MacDonald OAM, the 2015 Medallionist, appeared in the February 2016 issue; and that for Dr Max Moulds OAM, the recipient in 2016, in the December issue.

For the first time in 13 years, during 2016 there was a change in the editorial team, with the retirement of Executive Editor Anne Morton. This brought to an end a service of 20 years in the production of the FNCV journal. The remaining editors wish Anne well in her well-deserved retirement. At the same time we welcome Sue Forster who joined the team in August.

I am grateful for the efforts of all members of the editorial team: co-editors Anne Morton, Dr Maria Gibson and Sue Forster, and Editorial Assistant Virgil Hubregtse. Throughout the year, each of them has always brought a professional approach, attention to detail, and support. All this, and their unfailing cheerfulness, made it a pleasure to be part of the team of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

Dr Gary Presland
Executive Editor, *The Victorian Naturalist*



Library

A total of 23 new volumes were added to the FNCV Library collection during 2016. These were acquired primarily through purchase or donation. The Library continues to benefit from members of the Club who generously donate books to the Library and offer material for deposit in the FNCV archives. We also regularly receive review copies of books that were reviewed in *The Victorian Naturalist*. Our thanks are extended to these people who contributed directly to the holdings of the Library, and also to Kathy Himbeck, the FNCV Books Sales Officer, who facilitated purchase of a number of volumes.

Forty-seven books and 34 periodicals were borrowed during the year.

The trend within periodical publishing, to produce digital copies only, has necessitated new strategies and procedures for accessing such items. The Librarian has endeavoured to develop ways in which members can most easily gain access to the increasing number of journals that are available only in digital form. Since the bulk of Library use occurs in connection with evening SIG meetings, access to digital journals is best done in the FNCV office rather than the Library. The incoming copies of these journals are thus lodged on the desktop of the more readily accessible Library/Vic Nat computer in the office.

Archives

There was a relatively small number of archival enquiries during the year but some of these were of a more than ordinary interest. Biographies are being written of Kate Cowle and Edith Coleman, two women who were prominent in FNCV activities in the earlier decades of the last century. The Club's archives have been of great assistance to the authors of these works. The Club's rich archival holdings continued to be mined by the Archivist himself for use in writing the history of the FNCV. This endeavour has provided him with interesting detail for the history, but also greatly increased his knowledge of what is in the archives.

Through the year Graham Patterson has provided invaluable support, as has Yvonne Fitzmaurice, through her creation of Series Description Lists in the archives. My thanks go to both of them for their ready assistance and cheery company.

Dr 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 2016 were:

- FNCV Juniors Group. Replacement of 2 toilet tents & purchase of petrol powered auger for camping trips, \$600.
- Phoebe Burns, PhD student. The University of Melbourne "Environmental determinates of Smokey Mouse (*Pseudomys fumeus*) populations in the Grampians-Gariwerd National Park." Equipment purchases, \$460.
- Bairnsdale FNC. Juniors. Three dissecting microscopes Model MoticRED20-S, \$1000.
- Sale FNCV. 2000 Brochures of 100 significant Birds of the Sale Common State Game Reserve, \$1000.

Thank you to everyone who donated in 2016. Your support will enable the Fund to continue providing grants for worthy projects in the future.

Barbara Burns, Secretary

Australian Natural History Medallion

The Australian Natural History Medallion has been awarded annually since 1940, to the person judged to have made the most meritorious contribution to the understanding of Australian Natural History, within the previous decade. The financing, design and procurement of the Medallion is the responsibility of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, which also appoints the Secretary to the General Committee, hosts the Medallion presentation, and provides other administrative services.

The winner of the 2016 Australian Natural History Medallion was Dr Max Moulds OAM, who was nominated by the Entomological Society of Queensland for his contribution to the study of entomology. The Medallion was presented to Dr Moulds by Dr Bill Birch AM, President of the Royal Society of Victoria, on Monday, 7 November 2016. The citation detailing the work of Dr Moulds was published in the December 2016 issue of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

As this will be my final report as Secretary of the General Committee, I take this opportunity to thank all members of both the ANHM General and Award Committees for their willing assistance during the six years of my tenure.

Dr Gary Presland
Secretary, ANHM General Committee



Geology Group

The Geology Special Interest Group hosted ten diverse and interesting speakers in 2016 with geology topics such as Plate Tectonics (Assoc Prof Peter Betts), a theory of gold deposit deformation by Dr Neil Phillips, and a discussion by Dr Sanja Van Huet of the evolutionary tendency to extremes of size particularly in isolated populations of animals.

Lisa Nink talked about the practicalities of digging out fossils using the Dinosaur Dig in the Otways as an example, and Dr Peter Jackson described the complex geology of Western Tasmania. A specific method used by La Trobe University to date early African humanoid and Australian fossils was presented in October by Assoc Prof Andy Herries.

We were challenged by Leon Costermans' discussion of how to encourage geological thinking in the wider community, as well as Christian Wallis' inspiring talk on cleaning up Melbourne's industrial contamination and, a topic very much in the news at the moment, the future use of prime agricultural land.

Peter Trusler's beautiful paintings of Australia's past life forms, produced in close association with palaeontologists, really brought these fossils to life.

A list of speakers and their topics follows.

Feb 24

'World Heritage Stone: Establishing a new international



Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group held 7 meetings and undertook 9 field trips throughout 2016. On average 16 people attended our meetings with the highest attendance of 22 people.

The program for the year was:

February	Lupita Bribiesca, talking about the Anchialine caves: laboratories in nature.
April	Andre Chiaradia, talking about Penguins at Sea.
May	2016 Field Trip Roundup with presentations from several members.
August	Mel Mackenzie made her way south to Antarctica this summer with a team of 22 international scientists to explore the seafloor around the South Orkney islands.
September	Michela Mitchell. With fronds like these who needs anemones: venoms are your friend.
October	Dr Tim O'Hara from Museum Victoria on The Ophiuroid Project.
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), Ascidiaceae, 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. We also identify and monitor pest species found during our field work.

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

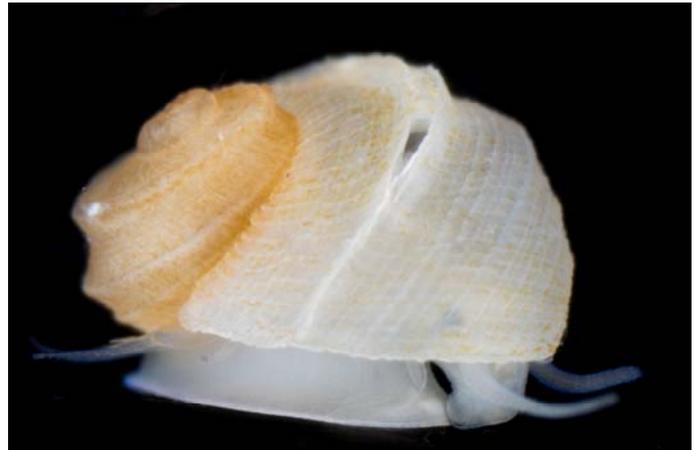
Our field work produces records of the species of marine invertebrates found along the Victorian coast. *Sukashitrochus atkinsoni*, a small (3 mm) marine gastropod, was collected from the west end of Harmer's Haven. This species is rarely seen alive and is uncommon as dead shells.

Beyond this we collaborate with Australian and overseas institutions.

Audrey Falconer has collaborated with Allen Collins, Smithsonian Institute, USA; Lucilia Miranda, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brazil; Claudia Mills, University of Washington, USA; Yayoi Hirano, Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba Japan; Antonio Marques,

Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brazil; and David Fenwick, UK, to publish a paper on the phylogeny of worldwide Stauro-medusae. As a result of this work two new species are now recognized from Victoria and work has commenced to describe these species.

The existing committee remained in place.



Sukashitrochus atkinsoni. Photo Leon Altoff.

President	Michael Lyons
Secretary	Leon Altoff
Field trip 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 Audrey Falconer for coordinating our field trips.

Leon Altoff, Secretary



Field work at Inverloch. Photo Joan Broadberry.



Juniors' Group

While the Juniors Group continued to be led by Claire Ferguson and fellow council members in 2016, the group is beginning to undergo a transition as Claire prepares to pass on her role as group leader. Claire has made an enormous contribution to the group since taking over leadership in 2010 and we hope that a replacement for her can be found soon. During the year the Aitken family also retired as newsletter editors after doing a great job for several years, handing over to members Jenny and Bridie.

This year attendances at some events were down due to poor weather for outings; younger families who struggle to attend night meetings and some activities; and less involvement by older members as they increase their commitments outside the Club. As part of our efforts to recruit new members, Claire and Robyn returned to Parks Victoria's Family Fun Day at the Rhododendron Gardens to man a stall to promote the FNCV to the wider community.

The group celebrated its 73rd birthday with an insect theme which included a "Bug" cake made by member Gerry and his family using various forms of chocolate-coated, sugared and spiced crickets and larvae. It was much more delicious than it sounds and most members in attendance were brave enough to give it a try.

It is the input from our members, both from the Juniors Group and other SIGs, that makes our Club unique.

MEETINGS

- January:** Council Member talks
February: Heather Maginn (Earthcare), "40 Years since Jaws: Why do we still fear sharks?"
March: (No meeting due to camp)
April: Wendy Clarke (FNCV) "Photographing Nature Close Up"
May: Max Campbell (FNCV), "A Bug's Life"
June: Bruce Fuhrer (FNCV), "Australian Fungi"
July: John Harris (FNCV), "A Naturalist's week on the New Zealand South Island"
August: Juniors 73rd Birthday Party Theme, "Insects"
September: Meeting cancelled due to public holiday.
October: Dr. Jenny Martin (Melbourne Uni Biosciences Dept) "The Big Roo Count"
November: Ranita and Gerry Marantelli (FNCV), "Salamanders"

OUTINGS

- January** Beach Day at Black Rock Pier
February: St.Kilda Earthcare Northern Sea Star removal project with Heather Maginn
March: Visit to Adrianna Simmond's Wonga Park refuge

- April:** Family Fun Day at Rhododendron Gardens, Olinda
May: Photography with Wendy Clark (FNCV) at Valley Reserve, Mt. Waverley
June: Behind the Scenes at Melbourne Museum
July: Fungal Foray with FNCV Fungi Group
August: Serendip Sanctuary, Lara
September: (Werribee Gorge Walk postponed until December)
October: Warrandyte Walk, led by Ian Penrose (Yarra River keeper) cancelled due to lack of interest
November: Tour of the Giant Trees with the Botany Group
December: Werribee Gorge Walk

Easter Camp to Clarkesdale Sanctuary near Ballarat:

Stayed on BirdLife property at Linton. Nature walks around the sanctuary; guided historical walks near Devils Kitchen and water races with James Brown; visit to naturalist Emily Noble's property; ponding; scavenger hunt; annual visit by the Easter Bilby; camp concert.

Cup Weekend Camp (November) – Private Property near Port Campbell

Stayed on private property near the 12 Apostles. Visited various sites in the area including Loch Ard Gorge, The Grotto, London Bridge, Gibson Steps, etc; walks and rockpooling.

Report by Robyn Goode
Photos by Claire and Scott Ferguson



The Bug Cake



Easter Camp



Concert

Microscopes





Botany Group

The Botany Group has continued to attract informative speakers and visit interesting locations during the past year. The Group wishes 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 being responsible for organising the computer and data projector for each meeting, and for assistance in setting up the hall for meetings.

A special thank you to the speakers and excursion leaders referred to in the following paragraph.

Geoff Carr, director of Ecology Australia, presented on "Vegetation of Victorian Coastal Saltmarsh – floristic composition and classification" where we learned that in 2008, twenty-one ecological classes of saltmarsh were described from one conglomerate ecological vegetation class. Chenopods or Salt-bushes dominate these saline areas. Fifty per cent of saltmarsh areas have been lost from the Melbourne region, and saltmarsh ecosystems are considered to be vulnerable.

Dr Maria Gibson gave the Botany Group a lesson in identifying mosses, with "Mosses 101: a workshop". Microscopes were set up with the kind assistance of Max Campbell and samples of mosses, including the world's tallest moss *Dawsonia superba*, were sliced extremely finely by participants so that they could use a key to the genera of Australian mosses to determine which moss had been dissected.

Kyle McLoughlin, a visiting arborist from Canada, introduced us to "Ontario: Land of the incredible ancient cedar." This area forms the Niagara Escarpment, which is an urban UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. The reserve consists of two major biomes: boreal needle leaf forests in the north, consisting of 1000 year old *Thuja occidentalis* (Eastern White Cedar) and temperate broad leaf forests in the south.

Dr Gary Presland informed us about "Aboriginal use and management of plant resources in the Melbourne area". Aboriginal people regard Country as relatives and care for it in the same way. The primary way of caring for country was by the use of fire for patchwork burns. Fire was applied to grasslands on the western side of Port Phillip Bay with a frequency of three to five years. This way a grassland was maintained, rather than developing into a shrub land, and maximised the growth of herbs with tubers, such as lilies, orchids and murnongs. Burns were done when tubers were small, so that the plant was exposed to more sunlight. West Melbourne was the site of Batman's Swamp and was important for the food source of roots of Cumbungi (*Typha* species). Cumbungi leaves were shredded to make wrist bands. Wetlands have plants used for medicinal purposes.

Wendy Clark, from Master Your Camera, gave the Botany Group a lesson in "Photographing plants up close (macro) with or without a macro lens". Participants brought their cameras, from SLRs to point and shoot, or tablets or smart phones. Wendy taught us about the workings of our cameras, including adjusting the white

balance, and we spent the night practising macro photography, taking photos of various plants.

David Cameron, Senior botanist from Arhtur Rylah Institute, presented on "Myrtle wilt in Victorian cool temperate rainforests". David told us not to confuse Myrtle wilt, which is inky patches on Beech, with Myrtle rust, a rusty disease of plants in the family Myrtaceae. Myrtle wilt was first noticed in the Otways in the 1980s, and is of great concern as unlike other rainforest areas the Otways does not have the other main rainforest tree, Southern Sassafras. Therefore, when *Notofagus cunninghamii* (Myrtle Beech) dies, the canopy of the rainforest is opened up. Myrtle wilt is easily transmitted from tree to tree as the roots of different individuals of Myrtle Beech naturally have their roots grafted together.



Fringe Lily. Photo Barbara Burns.

Brett Mifsud showed us many photos of tall Mountain Ash trees from Victoria and Tasmania, as well as giant sequoias in California which he had climbed, in his presentation "On the trail of Giants – our largest trees". Brett also gave us statistics on the relative ages, girths and heights of these enormous trees. Brett led a tour of giant trees of Powelltown and Three Bridges for members of the Botany Group and the Juniors. We were all impressed by the size of these 350 year old trees.

John Patykowski, a PhD candidate from Deakin University, introduced us to "Understanding the functional role of rare plants". John told us that losing a rare species was often more of a loss to an ecosystem than simply losing one plant species, as rare species support vulnerable functions in high diversity ecosystems. These plants have unique functions that are lost if these rare species disappear. For example, *Pultenea graveolens*, (Scented Bush-pea) is a rare plant that is the only nitrogen fixer in the box ironbark forests of the Goldfields region. Scented Bush-pea is a small strongly perfumed shrub to 1.5 metres high which is listed as Vulnerable under the FFG Act 1988.

Thank you to Karen Lester for again assisting with the management of the Clyde-Tooradin disused railway, Plains Grassland area.

Sue Bendel



Day Group

The Day Group is one of only two generalist groups in the FNCV (the other being the Juniors). As such, it is able to offer a varied program that draws from all aspects of natural history. This year we have dipped into fungi, botany, birds, microscopy, wildlife, bees and geology. Through our speakers, we have visited little known parts of Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

The Day Group caters especially for those who prefer daytime activities. It meets monthly, always on the fourth Tuesday (except for December and January) at 10.30 am for coffee and a chat, with the speaker scheduled for 11 am. Occasional local excursions take place.

As I still feel like a 'rooky' convenor I would particularly like to thank those who have helped with the organisation of the group. Sally Bewsher has been a valued sounding board in designing the program and has ably chaired many of the meetings. Max Campbell and Gary Presland have generally given their time and expertise to overcome the occasional IT problem. Wendy Gare has, as always, helped in a myriad of ways.

Most of all I would like to pay tribute to our wonderful group of presenters who have volunteered their time to prepare and deliver fascinating talks or lead activities. The depth of the content and quality of the images used in every presentation has been outstanding. A summary of the year's program appears below. Each month I endeavour to prepare a short report of each meeting for Field Nats News. Invariably our speakers have made this task easy by offering to lend me their notes and have given permission for their images to be copied.

Finally I would ask that anyone who has suggestions for the future Day Group program to please speak to or email Sally, the FNCV office or me. Don't be shy, we would really value your input. In fact for the Day Group to be successful we need to have the widest possible range of contacts. We will do the follow up, just give us your ideas.

Program for 2016

February - '*A grey nomad's wildlife encounters*'. Speaker: Andrew McCutcheon.

March - '*Fabulous Fungi*'. Speaker: Ian Bell.

April - '*Wildflowers of the USA's Mojave and Sonoran Deserts*'. Speaker: Lyndsey Poore.

May - '*Botanical art*'. Speaker: Helene Wild.

June - '*What the buzz? A peek into the lives of our native bees: nesting, mating & roosting*'. Speaker: Linda Rogan.

July - '*Up close and personal with New Zealand's amazing birds and wildlife*'. Speaker: Joan Broadberry.

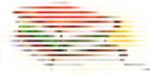
August - '*New Zealand South Island: geology for the tourist*'. Speaker: Rob Hamson.

September - '*All about microscopy*'. Speaker: Maxwell Campbell.

October - '*A spring wildflower walk in Wombalano Park, Ringwood East*'. Leader: Carol Page.

November - '*The conservation and monitoring of the Rakali (the Australian Water-rat)*'. Speaker: Geoff Williams.

Joan Broadberry



Bookshop

Many thanks to all those people who supported the FNCV Bookshop throughout the year. The number of members purchasing books through the Club is growing and is greatly appreciated.

Across the year the FNCV Bookshop sold a total of 473 books that ranged across 146 different titles, with topics including 8 aquatic, 18 children's, 24 flora, 43 fauna, 5 fungi, 2 geology, 26 general and 20 invertebrate. Throughout the year an extensive range of books were available from the shelves, covering 209 different titles, including 83 new titles being added to the selection at the clubrooms. Bookshop profit for the year was \$3,456.70.

As space is limited and it is impossible to stock a copy of all titles that are of interest to members, orders from the bookshop catalogue, available to view at the clubrooms and on the FNCV website, or books promoted in the FNN have been encouraged. The bookshop FNN article includes recent and upcoming new titles that have not previously been supplied, informing members about the latest releases. Throughout the year additional publications were added to the titles available.

The FNCV Bookshop provided support to the FSG, 'Reptiles and Amphibians of Victoria', Seminar. A specific catalogue was created that included books of that topic that are not generally stocked, with special prices offered to attendees. A total of 37 books were sold over the two days in October.

A book detailing the history of our club, *Understanding our natural world*, written by our own Gary Presland, was successfully launched on 16 July 2016 with over 50 books sold. This book has been a good seller with plenty of copies still available.

Kathy Himbeck, Bookshop Manager



FNCV Bookshop. Photo Kathy Himbeck.



Fauna Survey Group

Throughout the year the Fauna Survey Group conducted 17 surveys in locations around Victoria. At our monthly meetings we had speakers present on a wide range of fauna-related topics and in October we presented a symposium entitled “Reptiles and Amphibians of Victoria”.

Eighty different people attended our meetings, while 70 attended our surveys. The symposium was attended by 120 people.

We completed our work with Parks Victoria in the eastern Melbourne parks of Baluk Willam, Cardinia Creek Parklands, Dandenong Valley Parklands, Churchill National Park, Lysterfield Lake Park and Braeside Park with two reptile surveys. Under the previously deployed tiles and tin we detected five species of frog, six lizard species, two snake species and one mammal. The White-lipped Snake (*Drysdalia coronoides*) and Bougainville’s Skink (*Lerista bougainvillii*) were detected for the first time in the three-year project.

We were involved in three nestbox projects; Rushworth where we visited three times, Long Forest and Djerrivarrh Reservoir (for Western Water) for one visit and newly erected boxes in Lonsdale and Jallukar Nature Conservation Reserves (near the Grampians) also for one visit for Parks Victoria. This year at Rushworth visits were made in January and November in addition to our normal May sojourn. The low occupancy in January suggested that the normal Sugar Glider (*Petaurus brevipes*) and Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*) residents seek other shelter in the hotter months, while in November there was an influx of Yellow-footed Antechinus (*Antechinus flavipes*). The Djerrivarrh Reservoir boxes had a much higher occupancy rate of Sugar Gliders than the Long Forest boxes, while signs of Brush-tailed Phascogales were seen at both sites. The Grampians boxes, erected in late 2015, were still unused.

Our partnership with the Science and Management Effectiveness Branch of Parks Victoria continued in 2016 with projects on ground dwelling mammals at Parker River in the Otways, surveys for birds and threatened arboreal mammals at two sites near the Grampians and a survey for threatened mallee birds at Annuello in northern Victoria.

At Parker River our catch and release trapping revealed the usual suspects: Agile Antechinus (*Antechinus agilis*), Bush Rat (*Rattus fuscipes*), Chocolate Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus morio*), House Mouse (*Mus musculus*) and Swamp Rat (*Rattus lutreolus*). The cameras also detected these species (except House Mouse) and also other mammals such as Long-nosed Potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus tridactylus*), Dusky Antechinus (*Antechinus swainsonii*), Koala (*Phascolarctos cinere-*

us) and an unidentified Bandicoot. The introduced predators Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and Cat (*Felis catus*) were also recorded.

Our surveys at Deep Lead and Dadswells Bridge failed to detect the threatened arboreal mammals Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) and Brush-tailed Phascogale that we were looking for. We did however record other arboreal mammals such as Sugar Glider and Feather-tailed Glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*). We also recorded a number of birds from the Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community, which is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG), 1988*. They included Little Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), Brown Treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*), Yellow-tufted Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus melanops meltoni*), Fuscous Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus fuscus*), Black-chinned Honeyeater (*Melithreptus gularis*), Brown-headed Honeyeater (*Melithreptus brevirostris*), Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascians*), Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*) and Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*).



The Annuello Crew. Photo Robin Drury.

The mallee is noted for its reptile biota and at Annuello we detected 11 different species, including Pink-nosed Worm Lizard (*Aprasia inaurita*) and Burton’s Snake Lizard (*Lialis burtonis*). On the bird front Annuello provides habitat for the endangered Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and the vulnerable Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides*), both listed under the FFG Act. We detected [ten Mallee Fowl and active mounds](#) and one evening counted some 1600 Regent Parrots returning from the direction of the Murray River.

During the year four stagwatches were carried out in the Highlands. While no Leadbeaters Possums (*Gymnobelideus leadbeateri*) were detected, other arboreal mammals including Sugar Glider, Mountain Brushtail (*Trichosurus cunninghami*), Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) and Feathertail Glider were.

Other surveys were carried out for the Shire of Cardinia and City of Melbourne. For the Shire of Cardinia we carried out a survey near Garfield at the Mt Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve and Cannibal Creek Reserve.

Catch and release trapping revealed Bush Rats, Swamp Rats and both Agile and Dusky Antechinus. Our cameras showed Black Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*), Common Wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*) and Superb Fairy-wren (*Malurus cyaneus*) at the most sites. For the City of Melbourne we assisted with their Bioblitz by erecting bat traps and assisting with spotlighting at Melbourne University and Westgate Park. Neither site produced any bats but interest from the community was high.

Speakers at Meetings 2016

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 - Laëtitia Kernaléguen, PhD student at Deakin University, "*Feeding ecology of the Australian and Antarctic fur seals*".

March - Dr Mark Antos, Parks Victoria, "*Wildlife in the Congo*".

April - Dr Kath Handasyde, Senior Lecturer, School of BioSciences, The University of Melbourne, "*The ecology of echidnas*".

May - Cara Brammar, PhD Candidate, Department of Ecology, Environment and Evolution, La Trobe University, "*Birds in the Western Strzelecki Ranges*".

June - Briony Hutton, Honours student, Deakin University, "*Seaweed - A Critical Resource for Sandy Shores*".

July - Peter Homan, Fauna Survey Group, "*A fauna survey in Western Victoria*".

August - Dean Smith, Taxidermist "*Behind the scenes of natural history exhibitions*".

September - Dr Leila Brook, Zoologist, Ecology Australia, "*Interactions between dingoes and feral cats in northern Australia*".

October - Mark Hall, PhD Candidate, La Trobe University, "*The importance of vegetated linear strips (roadsides and creek lines) within agricultural landscapes for birds and native invertebrate pollinators*".

November - Manisha Bhardwaj, PhD Candidate, The University of Melbourne, "*How did the bat cross the road? Evaluating the impact of roads and night-time lighting on bat behaviour*".

December - Robin Drury, Fauna Survey Group, "*This was the year that was – Fauna Survey Group 2016*".

Symposium Speakers

At the 'Reptiles and Amphibians' Symposium we had 16 speakers, listed below, and we thank them for their contribution.

Dr Geoff Heard, Research Fellow, School of Biosciences, The University of Melbourne, "*Disease, drought and climate change: the key challenges for frog conservation in Victoria*".

Shannon Braun, PhD candidate, Department of Ecology, Environment and Evolution, La Trobe University, "*Fox-lizard interactions in the mallee*".

Graham Stockfeld and Dylan Hill, President / Vice President, Turtles Australia Inc, "*Victorian turtles and fox predation*".

Dr Katie Howard, Scientist, Wildlife Ecology, Arthur Rylah Institute, DELWP, "*Conservation of Freshwater Turtles in the Murray Catchment*".

Nick Clemann, Program Leader, Threatened Fauna, Arthur Rylah Institute, DELWP, "*Cold-blooded indifference: Victorian reptiles and frogs as a case study of the Sixth Extinction*".

Jake Urlus, Senior Zoologist, Ecology Australia, "*The factors driving frog assemblages in Melbourne's constructed wetlands*".

Chris Banks, Conservation Partnership Manager, Zoos Victoria, "*Grassland Earless Dragon – Tympanocryptis pinguicollis*".

Dr Megan O'Shea Lecturer, Environmental Management Specialisation – Victoria University, "*A non-invasive method for identification of Striped Legless Lizards and other pygopods*".

Assoc. Prof. Michael Kearney, Lecturer, School of Biosciences, The University of Melbourne, "*Thermal ecology of rock-dwelling geckos*".



Greater Glider. Photo John Harris.

Matt West, Research Fellow (Amphibian Ecology) - The University of Melbourne, "*Spotted Tree Frog – Litoria spenceri*".

Scott Eipper, Partner, Nature 4 You, "*Husbandry of Victorian venomous snakes*".

Deon Gilbert, Threatened Species Project Officer (herpetofauna) – Zoos Victoria, "*Update on the Baw Baw Frog – Philoria frosti recovery program*".

Anna Senior, PhD candidate, School of Biological Sciences, Monash University, "*Searching for the elusive Swamp Skink – Lisssolepis coventryi*".

Craig Cleeland, Teacher, Aquinas College, "*Life history & conservation status of Southern Toadlet – Pseudophryne semimarmorata*".

Dr Reid Tingley, Research Fellow, School of Biosciences, The University of Melbourne, "*Predicting the establishment and spread of alien amphibians in Victoria*".

Gerry Marantelli, Manager, Amphibian Research Centre, "*Can we survive without amphibians?*".

Robin Drury

*THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC
REPORT BY COUNCIL, Year ended 31 December 2016.*

1. The members of Council hereby submit the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2016 and the Income Statement for the year ended 31st December 2016 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	Retired Engineer	2011
Su Dempsey	Councillor	Retired	2013
Audrey Falconer	Councillor - Seconded	Public Servant	1997
<i>SIG Representatives</i>	<i>Special Interest Group</i>		
Leon Altoff	Marine Research	Analyst	1997
Geoff Lay	Fungi	Retired	1999
Susan Bendel	Botany	Quality Assurance	2006
Claire Ferguson	Juniors	Mother	2010
Ruth Hoskin	Geology	Retired	2012

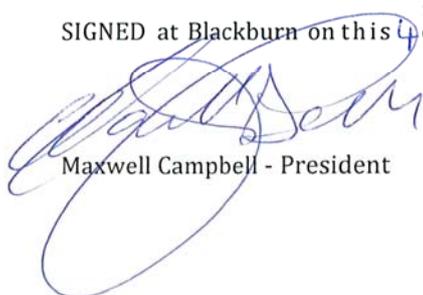
2. The principal activities and object of the Club are to stimulate interest in natural history and to preserve and protect Australian fauna and flora. No significant changes in the nature of those activities occurred during the reporting period.
3. The net profit of the club for the year ended 31st December 2016 is \$8,442.20 (2015 \$7,177).
4. A review of the operations of the Club is contained in the President's Report, which forms part of this Annual Report.
5. No matters or circumstance has arisen since the end of the financial year which has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations or the state of affairs of the Club.
6. Other than as disclosed in the Annual Report, there are no significant developments likely to affect the financial results of the Club.
7. During the financial year, no member of the Council has received or become entitled to receive any benefit by reason of a contract made by the club with the councillor or with an entity which the councillor is a member or in which the councillor has a substantial interest.

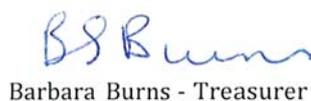
*THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL*

In the opinion of the members of Council,

- (a) The accompanying 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 2016.
- (b) 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 2016.
- (c) As at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Club will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

SIGNED at Blackburn on this 4th day of April 2017 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 2016

		2016 \$	2015 \$
INCOME	Membership	<u>40,585.52</u>	<u>42,827.53</u>
Bookshop	Bookshop Profit	<u>3,456.70</u>	<u>2,743.23</u>
Other income	Hall Hire	4,843.91	4,308.46
	Profit Biodiversity Symposium		1,550.13
	Reptiles and Amphibians Seminar	924.38	1,315.40
	Fees Speakers	200.00	
	Profit Sale Club products		202.00
	Non-Member Levy	347.57	506.06
	Copyright Royalties - Vic Nat.	1,725.69	2,360.27
	Fund Raising	273.91	554.01
	Income Solar Panels	125.46	138.91
	Sundry Income	169.52	
	2nd Hand Book Sale	18.18	1,269.35
	Goodwill Wine	<u>168.93</u>	<u>251.20</u>
		<u>8,797.55</u>	<u>12,455.79</u>
Investments	Bank Interest	26.89	64.56
	Interest Income Investments	8,671.96	9,448.45
	Franking Credits Investments	<u>1,117.01</u>	<u>1,061.13</u>
		<u>9,815.86</u>	<u>10,574.14</u>
Grants & Donations	General Donations	4,808.00	3511.00
	Donations Fungi e-book	<u>320.00</u>	<u> </u>
		<u>5,128.00</u>	<u>3,511.00</u>
	Total Income	<u>67,783.63</u>	<u>72,111.69</u>
EXPENDITURE	Victorian Naturalist - Printing	7,364.70	8037.80
Publications	- Postage etc.	<u>2,748.83</u>	<u>2947.47</u>
	Net Cost Victorian Naturalist	<u>10,113.53</u>	<u>10985.27</u>
	Newsletter - Printing	1,079.05	1706.05
	- Postage etc.	1,645.68	1981.01
	- Advertising Income	<u> </u>	<u>-790.91</u>
		<u>2,724.73</u>	<u>2896.15</u>
	Calendar of events Printing & Postage	1,629.32	1672.88
	Junior Naturalists - Printing and Postage	<u>456.21</u>	<u>626.29</u>
	Total Publications Expenses	<u>14,923.79</u>	<u>16180.59</u>
Other Expenses	Advertising		118.19
	Annual report	65.00	70.00
	Bank Fees, Credit card, Eftpos	683.11	782.32
	Depreciation Expense	4,132.00	2,187.34
	Donations Outgoing	200.00	400.00
	Gas, Electricity, Water	780.18	944.48
	Christmas Party Expenses	90.96	
	Hall Cleaning	832.00	969.00
	Insurance	1,560.00	1,379.09
	Internet Provider & Website Expenses	553.19	531.36
	Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	155.94	75.45
	Library Expenses & Subscriptions	781.35	1,089.38
	Non-Library Subscriptions	168.18	357.27
	Office Postage	1,089.91	1,146.78
	Office Stationery etc	1,203.29	800.12
	Office Telephone	750.45	775.84
	Repairs & Maintenance - General	789.58	858.98
	Repairs & Maintenance - Office Equipment		22.71
	Rates - Council	277.50	2,318.45
	Rates - Maryborough Property	233.35	1,000.00
	Hall Alarm	457.68	434.17
	Special Interest Group Expenses		547.73
	Stawell Field Nats Oral History Project	177.00	
	Sundry Expenses	86.22	125.55
	Superannuation	2,519.73	2,530.45
	Purchase of Software	51.77	2,451.50
	Volunteers Expenses	77.27	
	Workers Compensation Insurance	178.60	176.70
	Wages & Salaries	<u>26,523.38</u>	<u>26,661.70</u>
	<u>Total Other Expenses</u>	<u>44,417.64</u>	<u>48,754.56</u>
	Total Expenses	<u>59,341.43</u>	<u>64,935.15</u>
	OPERATING PROFIT	<u>\$8,442.20</u>	<u>\$7,176.54</u>

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account - Note (3)	19,590.00	16,518.48
Bookshop Account Westpac. Bookshop - Note (3)	6,866.92	7,128.93
The Environment Fund Account - Note (3)	616.19	615.40
Petty Cash - Note (3)	50.00	50.00
Sundry Debtors Bookshop	660.64	
Stock Club Jackets	280.00	350.00
Interest Income Owing (4)		2,620.70
Inventories (Books for Sale) - Note (4a)	<u>5,958.16</u>	<u>5,796.06</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>34,021.91</u>	<u>33,079.57</u>
Non Current Assets		
Investments		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits - Note (5)	235,701.49	229,376.51
Shares in Australian Foundation - Note (5a)	37,752.76	37,752.76
Shares in ARGO Investments - Note (5a)	<u>16,858.43</u>	<u>16,858.43</u>
	290,312.68	283,987.70
Library Holdings - Note (6)	<u>50,320.88</u>	<u>50,320.88</u>
	<u>340,633.56</u>	<u>334,308.58</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>10,310.49</u>	<u>13,454.49</u>
	<u>850,667.64</u>	<u>853,811.64</u>
Total Non current Assets	<u>1,191,301.20</u>	<u>1,188,120.22</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,225,323.11</u>	<u>\$1,221,199.79</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors (Note 9)	1,184.40	2,730.40
Hall Hire Income Deferred (Note 9)		2,323.00
Payroll Tax Owing - Note (9)	417.00	295.38
GST Paid - GST Collected - Note (9)	-63.54	510.99
Bookshop account GST - Note (9)	385.82	150.22
Grants Deferred - Note (9)		12,764.84
Owing by Kathy Himbeck Bookshop Account - Note (9)	164.00	
Science Talent Search Fund (9)	6,000.00	2,000.00
ANHM - Loan Account - Note (9)	6,344.71	5,395.35
FNCV Environment fund - Loan Account - Note (9)	<u>5,474.14</u>	<u>5,066.17</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$19,906.63</u>	<u>\$31,236.35</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,205,416.58</u>	<u>\$1,189,963.44</u>
EQUITY		
Members Accumulated Funds		
Current Year - Profit	8,442.20	7,176.54
General Fund b/f - Note (10)	<u>524,793.44</u>	<u>517,616.90</u>
	533,235.64	524,793.44
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)	11,505.88	4,494.94
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>\$1,205,416.58</u>	<u>\$1,189,963.44</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2016

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 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 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
3. CASH		
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	19,590.00	16,518.48
Bookshop A/c, Westpac - Croydon	2,280.54	2,084.77
Bookshop Interest Bearing Account, Westpac - Croydon	4,586.38	5,044.16
Environment Fund A/c - Bank of Melbourne	616.19	615.40
Petty Cash	<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
	<u>27,123.11</u>	<u>24,312.81</u>
4. Interest Income Owing		
Fixed Deposit interest owing	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,620.70</u>
4a. STOCK BOOKS		
Books for sale at lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>5,958.16</u>	<u>5,796.06</u>
5. INVESTMENTS		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits	<u>235,701.49</u>	<u>229,376.51</u>
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>54,611.19</u>	<u>54,611.19</u>
5(a) CURRENT MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS		
Shares in Australian Foundation - Market Value, 7900 x \$5.76	45,504.00	43,435.00
Shares in Argo Investments 2300 x \$7.46	<u>17,158.00</u>	<u>18,400.00</u>
	<u>62,662.00</u>	<u>61,835.00</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	58,844.27	57,856.27
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-48,533.78</u>	<u>-44,401.78</u>
Written down Value	<u>10310.49</u>	<u>13,454.49</u>
9. CREDITORS & PROVISIONS		
Trade creditors - Victorian Naturalist	<u>1,184.40</u>	<u>2,730.40</u>
Income Received in Advance (Rents received)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,323.00</u>
Payroll Tax and Net GST owing	<u>353.46</u>	<u>806.37</u>
Bookshop account GST	<u>385.82</u>	<u>150.22</u>
Grants Deferred - DEPI Communities Nature Grant - Botany	0.00	2,516.36
- Parks Victoria	0.00	3,612.12
- Local History Grant Public Records Office	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,636.36</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>12,764.84</u>
Owing by Kathy Himbeck Bookshop Account	<u>164.00</u>	0.00
Science Talent Search Fund in Memory of Noel Schleiger	1,000.00	2,000.00
Science Talent Search Fund FNCV	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Creditor Australian Natural History Medallion	<u>6,344.71</u>	<u>5,395.35</u>
Creditor FNCV Environment Fund	<u>5,474.14</u>	<u>5,066.17</u>
MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
10. GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward	524,793.44	517,616.90
Add Net Profit	<u>8,442.20</u>	<u>7,176.54</u>
Balance at 31 December 2016	<u>533,235.64</u>	<u>524,793.44</u>
11. SPECIFIC FUNDS		
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund		
Brought forward	4,494.94	548.75
Proceeds Reptile Seminar Weekend	<u>7,010.94</u>	<u>3,946.19</u>
Balance 31 December 2016	<u>11,505.88</u>	<u>4,494.94</u>

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2016
for The Bendigo Bank Account No 123098725

	2016 \$	2015 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net outflows from Operations (Note 1)	-1,670.46	2,010.91
GST (net change)	<u>-574.53</u>	<u>201.23</u>
Net Cash Outflow from Operations	<u>-2,244.99</u>	<u>2,212.14</u>
CASH FLOWS FOR INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Outflows Equipment Purchased	-988.00	-6,918.34
Transfer to Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	<u>-6,324.98</u>	<u>-397.58</u>
Net Cash Outflow from Investing Activities	<u>-7,312.98</u>	<u>-7,315.92</u>
CASH FLOWS FOR FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Inflow Increase in Fauna Survey Group Equipment Fund	7,010.94	3,946.19
Increase in Noel Schleiger Fund	4,000.00	-1,000.00
Increase in Loans to Environment Fund & ANHM	<u>1,357.33</u>	<u>1,251.99</u>
	<u>12,368.27</u>	<u>4,198.18</u>
CHANGE IN FNCV CHEQUE A/C BALANCE for year	<u>\$2,810.30</u>	<u>-\$905.60</u>
Bendigo/Bank Melb Cheque Acc Balance Start Year	16,518.48	19,949.85
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance End Year	<u>19,590.00</u>	<u>16,518.48</u>
Net increase in account	<u>3,071.52</u>	<u>-3,431.37</u>
Decrease in Westpac Bookshop accounts Kathy H.	<u>-261.22</u>	<u>2,525.77</u>
Total increase in Cash for year	<u>\$2,810.30</u>	<u>-\$905.60</u>
Note 1 <u>Reconciliation of Profit with Cash Flow from Operations</u>		
Net Profit	8,442.20	7,176.54
add back depreciation	<u>4,132.00</u>	<u>2,187.34</u>
	12,574.20	9,363.88
increase in inventories	-162.10	-315.85
increase in bookshop debtors	-660.64	
decrease in stock club jackets	70.00	105.00
decrease in income owing interest	2,620.70	-2,620.70
decrease in receipts received in advance hall hire	-2,323.00	-253.00
increase in payroll tax owing	121.62	-266.62
increase in amount owing by Bookshop	399.60	-632.04
decrease in trade creditors	-1,546.00	-1,866.35
decrease in grants held and unspent	<u>-12,764.84</u>	<u>-1,503.41</u>
Net Cash outflow from Operations	<u>-\$1,670.46</u>	<u>\$2,010.91</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 2016. 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 2016 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 2016 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:


Susan J. Harkin, CPA
Honorary Auditor

19th April,

2017
Blackburn