

# The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

## Annual Report



Understanding Our Natural World  
Est. 1880

Year Ending 31 December 2018

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## President's Report

After four years in the role of President of the FNCV my enthusiasm has not waned; if anything, it has increased markedly over the period. I enjoy the Club's activities and I have continued to attend as many of them as possible. I believe that the FNCV is as active now as it has ever been in its long history. Our numerous, varied activities involve many people so it is not possible to cover all events or to thank everyone for the contributions they make. If I have not mentioned you or your activity in the following summary let me assure you that, as always, your efforts are greatly appreciated by me and your fellow Club members.



Intense Macro-photography. Members of the Terrestrial Invertebrates Group in action at Bunyip State Park.  
Photo Max Campbell.



*Doratifera quadriguttata*, Limacodidae, caterpillar.  
Photo Max Campbell.

Details of the years' news and highlights are set out below:

We ran a local symposium in 2018 titled "Introducing the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria". It was well attended and each of the SIGs delivered presentations on their activities including their citizen science projects. It was a great opportunity for FNCV members to see what was happening in the various groups.

The 2018 Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Sarah Lloyd. The medallion was presented by Nick Williams, Vice-President of the Royal Society of Victoria. After receiving the award, Sarah Lloyd gave an interesting presentation titled "Living with Slime". The FNCV extends its congratulations to Sarah.

The Special Interest Groups provide many interesting meet-

ings, presenters and excursions every year and 2018 was no exception. I attended as many as I could manage. The breadth of subjects covered is extensive and the opportunity to discuss the issues raised with fellow naturalists is always rewarding. We are indebted to the hardworking SIG leaders who keep the programs running throughout the year. Special thanks to Reiner Richter who has initiated popular photographic field excursions for the Club to capture macro images of our invertebrates.

The Juniors' Group continues to thrive under the guidance of Dr Patricia Amaya who has taken over, as volunteer coordinator, from Clare Ferguson who retired after many years of dedicated service. There were many excellent presentations, excursions and camps throughout the year to sustain the enthusiasm and interest of the Group. Patricia and her family have worked assiduously to maintain the effective operation of the Juniors and the Club. I thank them on behalf of the FNCV.

The FNCV was represented at a number of public events during 2018, including the round table discussions on Victoria's Regional Forests Agreements, the Biodiversity Strategy and continued representation on the Program Advisory Group for the Nature Stewards course. Members of the FNCV represented us at the Whitehorse Spring Festival and Science in the Park at Coolart. FNCV members also gave presentations to local councils, naturalist groups, community groups, U3A and community radio. 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 role as a significant 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 and highlight our activities. I thank Jurrie Hubregtse who has continued to successfully run and maintain the site. Struan Campbell has supported the integrity of the office computer system during 2018, ensuring that the software is updated and the system protected. On behalf of the Club I thank him for his contribution. I also thank Colin Gare for providing essential technical support throughout the year.

While our subscription membership has remained fairly stable our Facebook membership has risen to nearly 12,000 interested followers which has certainly increased our visibility and profile in the broader community. Thanks to Ian Kitchen, John Harris, Andrej Hohmann, Wendy Gare and Claire Ferguson for their continued efforts with this online forum.

I thank Dr Gary Presland for his tireless work on the production of *The Victorian Naturalist* and for his continued contribution as FNCV Librarian.

On behalf of the Club I would 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, Maria, Sue and Virgil have nevertheless continued to produce timely publications of the highest standard.

Andy Brentnall and Brendan Murphy have both supported the Club and its activities over many years and continue to do so. Once again, I thank them for their considerable contribution.

The governing body of the FNCV, its Council, bears responsi-

bility for all of the Club's activities and its corporate existence. The attendance at Council meetings over the past year has been excellent and I extend my thanks to all Councillors and members who have supported activities such as the book sale, symposia, Christmas function, special dinners, excursions, community activities and working bees. Barbara Burns, as treasurer, continues to efficiently manage the accounts, which again show a healthy financial position.

Thanks to Kathy Himbeck the FNCV bookshop continues to prosper and cater to the needs of the Club. Like many of you, I remain a dedicated customer and check out the display at every meeting. Thank you Kathy.

We are very privileged to have an incredibly resourceful and dedicated Administration Officer, Wendy Gare, who provides efficient and effective support for the FNCV and its members. Her efforts often extends well beyond the call of duty as many of you know. Thank you Wendy, your contribution is greatly appreciated by all of us.

Again, I thank you all for the privilege of being elected President of the FNCV for a fourth year. I believe that we need to continue to further enhance our role in educating the broader community on the importance of conserving, protecting and studying the amazing biodiversity of Australia. To this end we have supported the successful development and introduction of the Nature Stewards Program, an initiative of the Victorian government, which will facilitate the education of people over 18 years in matters of natural history and stewardship. FNCV is an official sponsor of the program which commences in February 2019.

These are challenging times for those trying to protect and preserve our natural treasures which continue to be threatened on every front. The impacts of climate change and human activity in general are having catastrophic, global effects on the natural world. At the FNCV we have taken advantage of opportunities to participate as environmental stakeholders during 2018 and will continue to do so in the future.

**Maxwell Campbell, President.**



Photographic Equipment used by the Marine Research Group.  
Photo Barbara Burns.



## Administration

The major event in the office this year was our change to the NBN. We are now receiving internet and our phone connection via the NBN after a relatively trouble free, albeit stressful, conversion. We also purchased a new colour printer, after the decease of the previous elderly model. In February we had reverse cycle air conditioning units installed in the hall, which have been very successful. The gas heater and gas stove have been decommissioned and the gas has been cut off, saving approximately \$400 each year.

### Membership and Publication Distribution

Membership as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was 773, 38 members down from the same time last year. We attracted 90 new members over the year but lost 128. Only 51 do not have an email address registered with us.

We still have 120 members requesting the paper copy of the *Field Nats News*, however that figure is decreasing steadily. The number of paper copies of *The Victorian Naturalist* still being mailed is quite high at 53%; we hope in the future to encourage more members to download the journal from the website. For the past three years new members have been offered only the digital version.

### Hall Hire

We have unfortunately lost two of our regular hirers. One group has started to use space which became available at their home venue where they run their other activities and the other group has moved to use another hall. This will impact in the future on our revenue from hall hire. Note that our hire rates have remained unchanged for three years.

### Promotion

Our main promotional tool is our Calendar of Events which is produced three times during the year and distributed to libraries, universities and other community organisations. As with our other publications, we are moving towards

using email distribution and have increased our email list considerably with a commensurate drop in the numbers being printed. The majority of our paper calendars are taken by the general public, from the brochure holders on the doors of the hall and also from the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor Centre where they are on display.

Our website, which is regularly updated by Jurrie Hubregtse, is popular and our facebook group is increasing in size exponentially. In 2018 numbers went from 7,000 to 12,000 members. The group engages in lively and informative discussions, identification of Australian flora and fauna, sharing of knowledge from well informed citizen scientists and experts, along with the sharing of many stunning photographs of our bush and wildlife taken by members. It is also used to publicise meetings and excursions, resulting in new people discovering what the FNCV has to offer.

In 2018 we took part in two festivals; Whitehorse Spring Festival and Coolart Science in the Parks. Many thanks to those who helped to run the stalls which were popular, particularly with children. We also used our annual biodiversity symposium to raise the Club's profile, with all of the SIG Groups, including the juniors, presenting on the scope of their activities. The attendance fee was low because we wanted to make this event as accessible as possible; it made a modest \$200 profit.

We also hosted the well-attended Autumn SEANA get-together at Badger Creek which involved a great deal of work for many of our members, and was ably coordinated by Joan Broadberry. After allowing for administration costs, we made a profit of \$1,940.

We have purchased a new batch of FNCV mugs in two different designs as gifts for our speakers.

### Fundraising

Our Christmas raffle raised \$200 with nearly everyone who attended the Christmas party winning at least one prize. Thank you to those who donated such a wide range of excellent prizes.

During the year we raised \$471 from Goodwill Wine, but our partnership with them regrettably ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> December as their new marketing direction did not fit with the FNCV. We wish them well into the future.

Paid advertising during the year in the *Field Nats News* totalled \$100.

### Thank you

To my office helper, Andy Brentnall, who never fails to open up the hall and to greet me each Monday and Tuesday with the day's mail and a nice, hot cup of tea! It is very much appreciated. Also my thanks to Barbara Burns for her help and supervision of the Club's activities, and to Gary Presland, Joan Broadberry and Sally Bewsher whose good company in the office triggers much laughter, enjoyment and camaraderie.

Finally my thanks to our President Maxwell Campbell for his willingness to jump in and help with an enormous range of queries, problems and advice, and not least for his unflinching good humour.

**Wendy Gare, Administration Officer.**



Wendy Gare.



Christmas Party 2018. Photo Barbara Burns.

## Field Nats News

In 2018 Field Nats News' (FNN) 11 issues ran from number 282 to 292 inclusive. It cannot be said too often that FNN is very much a team effort. Once again I would like to thank and acknowledge those involved in its production for their unstinting support and hard work.

Sally Bewsher is a second pair of eyes on all aspects of FNN, gives sound advice and takes on the essential monthly task of proofreading the draft newsletter. Thank you so much Sally. Wendy Gare provides much of the material on which FNN is based. This includes the four-monthly calendar of events, the monthly FNCV council minutes and notices for events such as the AGM or the second-hand book sale. She regularly writes a column, 'From the Office'. In addition Wendy fields numerous emails and phone calls, assists with the newsletter mail out, deals with our advertisers, solves software problems and much more. Dr Gary Presland provides 'Library News' archival



Sally, Wendy and Joan.  
Photo Gary Presland.

material, obituaries and welcome cups of brewed coffee. Once again he stepped into the editor's role during the year when I was travelling. Thanks also to Jurrie Hubregtse for so ably posting FNN on the FNCV website. Very special thanks goes to Pat Grey, who delivers a carefully prepared index in December each year. Robin Drury and Ray Gibson have contributed reports on the work of the Fauna Survey Group. Kathy Himbeck regularly supplies details of the latest natural history books for sale. Barbara Burns has kept us informed on the FNCV Environment Fund and on a variety of FNCV activities such as working bees, the science talent quest and the Christmas Party. Judith Sise and Philippa Burgess reported on the Whitehorse festival.

Every edition of FNN is crowded with photos of Club activities. These images are one of the strongest features of FNN. Thank you to everyone who has allowed us to share their photos.

Ken Griffiths, Raymond Gibson, Sue Bendel, Claire Ferguson, Virgil Hubregtse, Dr Patricia Amaya, Philippa Burgess, Leon Altoff and Ruth Hoskin have kept FNN readers up to date on the activities of the various SIG Groups through their reports to Council.

Four other people have made major contributions to the FNN in 2018. Max Campbell prepares our front page, 'From the

President' each month and in several instances provided summaries of his own presentations. Most importantly, with his son Struan, Max keeps our computers up to date and running efficiently. Virgil Hubregtse has supplied reports on almost every Fungi Group meeting and foray for the year and Reiner Richter has reported on most of the 2018 Terrestrial Invertebrate Group activities. Thank you all for your outstanding work.

I would also like to acknowledge the generosity of the presenters at FNCV meetings, many of whom provide their notes and images as an aid to writing summaries for FNN and frequently assist by editing drafts. Particularly I would like to thank Gary French for provided a much appreciated report on the excursion he led to Morang Wetlands.

It has been very pleasing to receive an increasing number of nature notes and images for our members' page. I would especially like to acknowledge the many observations contributed by local naturalist Cecily Falkingham. Thanks also to Peter Fagg, Wendy Clark, Sue Martin, Angus Martin, Alistair Trill, Carol Page and John Eichler. **Remember, with most readers now receiving FNN in digital format there is almost unlimited space to publish what has caught your eye.**

Collation takes place at about 10 am on the third Tuesday of each month. We are fortunate to have a fabulous team of volunteers led by Sheina Nicholls to complete this task. In particular, I would like to thank Andy, Edward and Hazel Brentnall and Cecily Falkingham for their continuing commitment to collation over a long period and thanks also to Andy Brentnall for setting up the hall each month. We were all saddened by the death this year of Keith Marshall who was almost always first at the hall on collation day.

The job of editing the FNCV's monthly newsletter takes time and effort but always gives me great pride and pleasure. I try to write a detailed summary of the Day Group meeting each month and also endeavour to report on whole of Club events such as the AGM, Australian Natural History Medallion, Symposiums and the 2018 SEANA get-together. It is a special pleasure to share my natural history observations with others through the members' page. However my greatest satisfaction comes from working with such a remarkable team of people who, with me, produce FNN each month.

**Joan Broadberry, Editor.**



The beautiful Australian Jewel spider,  
*Austracantha minax*. Photo Max Campbell.

## FNCV Environment Fund

The FNCV Environment Fund is a tax-deductible fund that was set up in 2003 to aid individuals and community groups who are involved in environmental research 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), Robert 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 2018 were:

- Jacinta Humphrey, PhD, La Trobe University. '*Beyond the fringe; temporal and spatial change in peri-urban (urban fringes) land-use and avian communities.*' iPad and software. \$723.
- Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. For spotlighting with children's groups, 4 x lightweight Klarus flashlights and batteries. \$847.
- Helmeted Honeyeater Inc. Pump and Hoses to irrigate 30,000 new plants in the reserve. \$380.
- FNCV Junior's. Two motion sensing cameras, night vision devices, bird guides and a worm farm. \$789.
- Marty Lockett, PhD, University of Melbourne. '*The effects of artificial light at night on bell miner colonies in suburban woodlands.*' \$710.
- James Douch, Honours research project, University of Melbourne. '*Phylogenetic study and revision of the taxonomy of Bankeraceae (tooth fungi) in Aust and NZ.*' \$710.
- Sue Bendel, Wildlife shelter operator. Equipment to cool Grey headed flying foxes on extreme heat days. \$317.

Thank you to everyone who donated in 2018. 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 are 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 2018 Medallion was awarded to Sarah Lloyd for her contribution to conservation, natural history and education. Sarah was nominated by the Central North Field Naturalists Club in Tasmania. The presentation was made by Nick Williams, Vice-President of the Royal Society of Victoria. After receiving the award, Sarah gave an interesting presentation titled '*Living with Slime*'. The FNCV extends its congratulations to Sarah.

The citation, detailing the work of Sarah Lloyd, was published in the February 2019 issue of *The Victorian Naturalist*. Volume 136 (1)

I thank the members of the Award Committee for their efforts in 2018 and also the FNCV staff and members who organised the award function and are to be congratulated on a very successful event.

**Maxwell Campbell,  
Secretary, ANHM General Committee.**



## Microscopy Group

Meetings of the Microscope Group during 2018 saw us enthralled by the microscopic animal and plant world.

We enjoyed many 'movies' filmed via microscopes of the extensive unseen world of pond water life, life in mosses and soil and tiny terrestrial invertebrates. Videos give us such a different view compared to earlier times of viewing individual specimens in isolation. The interaction, feeding, reproduction, development, and daily survival activities that we have witnessed are absolutely fascinating.

Some of the interesting actions we have viewed that are truly entertaining are stealthy feeding strategies, live birth of aphids, growth of eyes and legs of scale larvae, and waste elimination through muscle contraction of transparent nematodes.

We also enjoyed the meeting where we made our own dissection and manipulation instrument tool kit which I have found invaluable for at home examination of botanical, entomological, and marine/freshwater life.

Our thanks to Max Campbell for being our major presenter and entertainer.

**Philippa Burgess.**



## Geology Group

2018 was a rewarding year for the Geology Special Interest Group with nine most interesting talks and an average attendance of 34 members and visitors. Our topics ranged through Geological explorations, physical geology, palaeontology, and the impact of man on the geological environment.

We are most grateful to all our speakers for sharing their expertise and experience, and for the time and effort they put in to prepare and present their talks. The questions and discussions after each address reflected the interest of the attendees in the topic presented on.

The speakers and their topics are as follows:

**February:** Geologist Ruth Robertson spoke on an historical, cultural and geological journey through Ethiopia.

**March:** There was a question and answer session titled '*Everything you wanted to ask about Volcanoes!*' with expert volcanologist Professor Ray Cas, from the School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University. In particular we learnt about Volcanoes in the Western District.

**April:** No Meeting - Anzac Day.

**May:** This month we travelled to Sudbury, Canada for an exploration of how a meteorite impact 850 million years ago influenced the present massive nickel, copper and gold deposits of Sudbury. The speaker was Professor Reid Keays, School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University.

**June:** Dr Rolf Schmidt, Collection Manager, Invertebrate Palaeontology, Melbourne Museum, gave a most interesting outline of the theories about the causes and effects of the five Mass Extinctions on Earth. The talk was titled '*Life's Great Crises: New Theories about Mass Extinctions since life began on Earth*'.

**July:** Our speaker was Dr Jeff Yugovic, Botanist, who is Senior Consultant Ecologist, Biosis. He alerted us to the problems of using geological material not natural to the area in landscaping especially in National Parks with a presentation, '*Imported Geological Material in Natural Areas: Impacts and Management*'.

**August:** In a presentation titled '*Reading the stories in rocks: a "virtual excursion" to interesting sites*'. Leon Costermans, Botanist, Geologist and FNCV Member gave us a practical lesson on how to read and understand Geological landscapes.

**September:** In a talk titled '*Of megafauna and megalakes - Tales from the shores of palaeo Lake Bungunnia*' Lisa Nink, PhD researcher in palaeontology, described her megafauna findings on the shores of the Lake Bungunnia which flourished around 3 to 1.8 million years ago near the present day Murray River.

**October:** Bill Reid, Geologist and Exploration Manager, Castlemaine Goldfields Ltd, explained the fascinating history of the deep lead mining and the present day exploration being undertaken at the Ballarat goldfields in a presentation titled '*Ballarat's Golden Mining History and Present Explorations*'.

**November:** We were fortunate to have a group of U3A geology students who spoke to us on their recent visit to the North West USA's National Parks, particularly the dramatic land-

scapes of the Scablands, which were caused by a collapse of an Ice Age Lake. The presenters were Sally Bewsher and friends who are members of FNCV and U3A's Geology class.

Many thanks go to Max Campbell for his support especially with the electronics and to Andy Brentnall who regularly arrived early to set up the room. Ruth Hoskin continues to act as the Geology SIG representative on Council.

**Ruth Hoskin.**



## Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

The Terrestrial Invertebrates Group held five meetings in 2018 with an average of ten attendees per meeting. The subjects covered included instrument making, close up photography and members' nights where field excursions and photographic results were discussed in detail. There is strong support for continuing the discussion sessions in the future.

There were six field excursions during the year to photograph invertebrates in situ at the following locations:

- 7/1 Cardinia Reservoir.
- 4/2 Buttongrass Walk/Bunyip State Park.
- 25/2 Sherbrooke Forest.
- 17-19/3 Licola/Tamboritha.
- 11/11 Langwarrin.
- 25/11 Buttongrass Walk/Bunyip State Park.
- 7-11/12 South West Victoria.

The interest in these photographic excursions is increasing and more are planned for 2019 as a regular activity for the Terrestrial Invertebrates Group. Reiner Richter is to be congratulated for organising these excursions and maintaining enthusiasm for fieldwork. Photographs taken can be loaded onto the iNaturalist website along with the associated data.

**Maxwell Campbell.**



Fiddler beetle, *Eupoecila australasiae* in *Leptospermum*.

Photo Max Campbell.



# Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group held seven meetings and undertook nine field trips throughout 2018. On average 13 people attended our meetings with 17 the highest attendance.

**The program for the year:**

**February** Ricky-Lee Erickson spoke on ‘*How are sessile invertebrate communities affected by multiple disturbances and do invasive species affect community resilience?*’. Findings were, studying the effects of multiple disturbances on ecosystems better reflects the natural environment and evidence suggests that a community’s ability to cope with multiple disturbances increases when native species diversity is high.



The nudibranch *Ceratosoma amoenum* (approximately 30mm in length), rarely seen intertidally but observed at San Remo.  
Photo Leon Altoff.

**April** Michael Lyons presented on his experiences night diving at Portsea.

**May** Was our annual field trip roundup. We looked at the locations we have visited and the animals we have seen. Members brought in images and exhibits from the field work to show to others.

**August** This month’s talk was titled ‘*Cone snails of the genus Conus: Biology and Chemistry?*’. Long admired for their decorative shells, cone snails are venomous marine predators. With over 700 species found in coastal waters across the globe, cone snails are becoming increasingly recognised as a source of chemical diversity that is showing promise for use in both basic research and medical applications.

**September** Zoe Brittain spoke on ‘*Learning from Communities: can historical Indigenous uses of seaweeds inform a sustainable Australian seaweed industry?*’. With global demand for seaweed products ever growing, eyes are turning towards Australia’s clean waters and unique seaweed species for the expansion of the industry. South Eastern Australia is home to cultural histories dating back as far as 80,000 years. Research is tapping into this previously undervalued expertise to gain an insight into how our first peoples utilized seaweeds, and how this knowledge may be able to assist the development of a seaweed production industry in Australia.

**October** Melanie Mackenzie from Museums Victoria, spoke on her recent research trip to the Larsen C ice shelf in Antarctica.

**December** This was our annual members night. Members brought along images, stories and research to share with the group.

**Field Work:**

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 on field trips by the Marine Research Group contribute to ongoing research conducted by the group. Individual 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, Stauromedusae (stalked jellyfish) and Nemertea (ribbon worms), as well as conducting general studies of marine invertebrates to increase their own knowledge and that of others.

Our field work produces records of the species of marine invertebrates found along the Victorian coast and discovers new, undescribed species. We also identify and monitor pest species found during our trips. Beyond this we collaborate with Australian and overseas institutions. All field work is performed under collecting permits issued by DSE and DPI.

The tides dictate the times of our field work; we head out on the lowest tides of the year.



The Marine Research Group, on a cool, foggy morning at McHaffies Point, Phillip Island.  
Photo Leon Altoff.

The existing committee remains in place.

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 Audrey Falconer for coordinating our field trips.

**Leon Altoff, Secretary.**



## Juniors' Group

The objective of the group is to familiarise children with the natural world through observation and direct experiences. This, in turn, leads to an understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our place in it.

Junior members of The Victorian Field Naturalists participated in many fun and informative excursions, meetings and activities with the Club this year. Junior members were encouraged to take an active role in the group, including running the monthly Junior meetings, introducing guest speakers and participating in excursions.

Viva and Marlowe Wilton, Edmond Ulyanovsky, Rachel and Lydia Fysh and Sofia Beliakov proudly participated in the Biodiversity Symposium held at the FNCV Club. The Junior group also participated at the Whitehorse Festival to promote the activities of our group.

The BurtonWilton family have been in charge of the Newsletter this year and they have been highlighting some of the Junior's adventures each month. There were some excellent reports written by Junior members in 2018, notably by Brandon Kootand and Thomas Hosken.

My first year as co-ordinator has been an inspiring one and I wish to thank all those involved with the Juniors particularly the support and participation of the BurtonWilton, Fysh, Shouten and Ulyanovsky families.

Attendance at the meetings and excursions (the latest was 10 in total) varied during the year.

We had two terrific camps in 2018, one at Easter time at The Clive Disher Park Scout Campsite in Gippsland and another during the Melbourne Cup break at Mali Dunes in the Big Desert. At the Easter Camp we were joined by members of the Bairnsdale Junior Field Naturalists Club, who showed us many wonderful sights in the region. Many thanks to Vicki Fraser from the Bairnsdale Junior Field Naturalists for helping to organise the camp.

The Junior program for 2018 was as follows:

### Friday Evening meetings

#### February

Alison Fysh, spoke about her time assisting with a study program on Komodo dragons.

#### March

No meeting due to the Easter Camp.

#### April

Dr Greg Holland, WMO Expert committee on Hurricanes and Climate Change, spoke on climate change and its impact on the environment.

#### May

Lydia Low, PrimeScience Education coordinator, presented on plastic and the environment.

#### June

Max Campbell, gave us an insight into the unique adaptations of unicellular organisms.

#### July

John Eichler, spoke about Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary life.

#### August

This was party night with a Marine life theme. There was also a Thank You to Claire Ferguson in recognition of her contribution to the Club as Junior Coordinator for the past seven and a half years.

#### September

No meeting due to the AFL grand final.



Gayle Osborne showing a skull to the Juniors in the Wombat State Forest. Photo Patricia Amaya.

### October

Lisa Maloney, presented on Aboriginal Weather Knowledge.

### November

Dr Marlene Rodriguez, gave a talk on seabirds and their similarities with the cookie monster.

### Excursions

The Juniors undertook a number of excursions throughout the year. These included:

- visiting Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary,
- Wombat State Forest,
- Point Cooke Marine Sanctuary,
- Dandenong Valley Wetlands,
- Mt. Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre,
- Bellbird Dell Reserve Vermont,
- tree planting at Yellingbo Nature Reserve,
- a tour of Melbourne's Synchrotron, Mt Burnett Observatory,
- Braeside Park,
- Sherbrooke Forest.

A number of the Juniors also attended the SEANA camp in Healesville and enjoyed a tour of the Sanctuary and an excellent talk by Dr Rupert Baker on the role of Zoos in conservation.

**Dr Patricia Amaya, Juniors Co-ordinator and Zoe Burton.**



**Above:**  
Juniors chasing the Easter Bilby. Easter Camp  
Gippsland.

**Below:** Junior Field Naturalists from Melbourne and  
Bairnsdale standing in an ephemeral lake in the Eagle Point  
Flora and Fauna Reserve, Easter Camp. Gippsland.  
Photo Gleb Beliakov.





## Fungi Group

### AIMS

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

### ACTIVITIES

#### Forays

Our program of forays attracts a wide range of people of various ages and experience, and experienced guides lead each foray. Thirteen forays were held, at the following locations:

- April 22: The Ada Tree.
- May 6: Mortimer Nature Trail, Bunyip State Park.
- May 20: Silvan Reservoir.
- June 1-4: Anglesea and Lorne. 5 forays, held at Gherang Gherang Bushland Reserve, Sheoak Picnic Area, Lake Elizabeth, Stevensons Falls and Forrest, & Cecil Track.
- June 17: Mount Worth State Park.
- July 1: Wanderslore Sanctuary.
- July 15: Toorong Falls, near Noojee.
- July 29: Jack Cann Reserve, Blackwood.
- August 12: Neds Gully, Cathedral Range State Park.



*Mycena* 'greyscale'. Photo John Walter.

All foray activities are covered by a research permit from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The permit is current until March 2020.

Fifty collections were made for the National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (Melbourne). Interesting fungi, some of which we rarely see, and which were new to many of us, were found at all locations. These included: the tiny *Hymenoscyphus berggrenii* on fallen Myrtle Beech leaves at The Ada Tree and Toorong Falls; a pale blue species of *Lepiota* and a tall *Cortinarius* with a brown, leather-like pileus surface and a patterned stipe, at Mortimer Nature Trail; a single fruit-body of *Gymnogaster boletoides* near the Sheoak Picnic Area; a spectacular *Aphelaria*, *Tapinella panuoides* and *Leucopaxillus lilaci-*

*nus* near Stevensons Falls; an unusual *Mycena* that we call *Mycena* 'greyscale', found at Jack Cann Reserve; Tea Tree Fingers *Hypocreopsis amplexans*, and *Pluteus pauperculus* at Wanderslore Sanctuary; and *Chromocyphella muscicola* growing amongst bryophytes on the trunks of *Kunzea* bushes at Neds Gully. The introduced fungal weed *Favolaschia calocera* was found at most sites and appears to be spreading.



*Aphelaria* sp. Photo Pat Grey.

### Meetings

During the year seven meetings were held at the FNCV clubrooms in Blackburn. There were five presentations, one members' night and one planning meeting where there was time for members to speak about topics of interest and show photos.

The presentations were:

- 'What do nearly 10,000 observation records collected by the FNCV Fungi Group tell us about macrofungal communities in Victoria?' Dr Tom May, Senior Mycologist, National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria;
- 'Putting Victoria's fungal biodiversity on the map'. Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, Fungimap mycologist and research scientist;
- 'Hiding in plain sight: Biodiversity of Australasian deceiver mushrooms'. Travis Heafield, Master of Science graduate, The University of Melbourne;
- 'The making of Fungi in Australia'. Jurrie Hubregtse;
- 'Macrofungal Survey of Brooklyn, AWC and Cairns'. Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher.

### Other Activities

Some members of the Fungi Group participated in the SEANA foray, held at Dom Dom Saddle, on April 29. Although conditions were particularly dry, quite a few fungi were found. These included a group of large, beige-coloured *Rhodocybe* and some colourful specimens of *Crepidotus*.

**Jurrie Hubregtse.**



# Botany Group

The Botany Group in 2018 continued its regular program of speakers, on the 3rd Thursday of the month, February to November. We are most grateful for the support these speakers give the Club. Our speakers differ each month, but there are some recurring themes we revisit from year to year, as we explore the scope of botany as natural history, in Victoria.

### Meetings

- Dr Graeme Lorimer, in February, spoke on ‘Demystifying the grassy plant families’. This was a wide ranging talk on the structure and functions of grasses and related plants.
- Dr Gary Presland, in March, presented on ‘Aboriginal use of trees, bark and wood’. A myriad of examples educated us about the opportunistic adaptations of this ancient culture to our continent.
- Jordan Crook, in April, presented on ‘Threatened species, plant and animal, of the Central Highlands.’ Animated audience discussion followed about this region of current focus.
- Max Cambell, in May, presented on ‘Insect pollination of flowers.’ We were treated to a particularly comprehensive outline of the evolution of flowering plants, the role of pollination in species diversity and the specific adaptations of many plants to attract pollinators. Many different and fascinating examples of insect pollination were explained, with outstanding photos.
- Dr Jeff Yugovic, in June, spoke on ‘Imported geological material impacts on biodiversity as well as geodiversity’. Jeff gave some thought provoking examples such as a pathway topped with screenings from foreign areas and how this can be improved upon by using local rock.
- Leah Royle, from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, in July, demonstrated the effectiveness of various new strategies to fight back against both feral herbivores and feral cats, in favour of threatened native animals. A 44 km cat-proof fence, at Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary in Central Australia, was just one example referred to.
- Ken Griffiths, in August, used the work of Robert Brown from 1810 to show French contributions to the understanding of our flora. He also spoke on how European botanic gardens aim to educate the public.
- Ed Hill from the Goongerah Environment Centre, GECO, in September, presented on the proposed Emerald Link which would form a continuous link from the Alpine National Park in East Gippsland down to the coast.
- 

- John Patykowsky, of Deakin University, in October, told us about his recent research exploring the role of rare plants in an ecosystem. He studied Box-Ironbark woodland, near Heathcote, using data from control burns. It was noted that spring burns promoted annual herbs. Nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, were measured, and the role of canopy trees examined. A finding was that Cherry Ballart and Mistletoe were identified as important to the ecosystem.
- Dr Mary Gibson, in November, recounted her journey across the Gibson Desert, as pioneered by Giles. We learned of lateritic gibber and of *Triodia* (Spinifex). Among the well adapted *Proteaceae* found in this region are *Banksia prionotes* and *Grevillea wickhamii*. These feature a dimorphic root system which employs a deep tap root for water and lateral roots with root hairs for minerals.



*Indigofera* in the Berlin botanical gardens.  
 This is a plant source of blue dye for industry.  
 Photo Ken Griffiths.

### Excursions

An excursion was held on Sunday 23rd September when seven keen Botany folk ventured to The Brisbane Ranges in cool and cloudy conditions. Even near the car park many plants were found, in various stages of spring flowering, including orchids, peas, hakeas and grevilleas. This special place is worth an annual survey.

### Thank you

In my transition to leading our group at the front of meetings, I am specially aware of the contribution Sue Bendel has made, over the past twelve years. Thank you too to Heather Eadon for speaker suggestions and for invaluable help with projection equipment etc. Thanks also to you, the loyal supporters of the Botany group. It is your extensive experience, and interest, that make the meetings so enjoyable. We also appreciate your input at the planning meetings.

**Ken Griffiths, for the Botany Group.**

**Thanks to Barbara Burns for the production of the 2018 FNCV Annual Report.**

**Thanks to Virgil Hubregtse for proof reading the Annual Report.**



## Day Group

Over the past year, the Day Group has again enjoyed a wide variety of presentations, as well as an excursion and a workshop. Attendance at each activity has been consistent, usually with twenty or more people present. We have welcomed several visitors, new FNCV members and of course members of different SIGS. There is an opportunity to meet and chat with others over morning tea prior to the presentation and time for questions and discussion afterwards.

Joan Broadberry and Sally Bewsher prepare the program and chair the meetings. Joan liaises with the speakers and, if possible, prepares a summary of the monthly activity for inclusion in *Field Nats News*. Many thanks to Andy Brentnall for setting up the hall, to Wendy Gare who regularly puts out morning tea and to Max Campbell for his invaluable assistance with technical matters. Joan and Sally are always keen to receive suggestions and ideas for future speakers or activities. Please approach them if you would like to help or know of someone who might contribute to the program.

Above all, our thanks go to our wonderful speakers and leaders who generously volunteer their time, to prepare and share their knowledge and experiences with us. The 2018 program is detailed below. Special thanks go to Gary French, Wendy Clark and Andrew McCutcheon for their very generous contributions to the year's activities.

All FNCV members are most welcome, along with friends, family and visitors. The Day Group meets at 10.30 am on the fourth Tuesday of the month, February to November with the speaker scheduled at 11 am. Presentations or excursions are directed towards learning more about an aspect of natural history in the company of friendly, like-minded people. Please come and join us during 2019.

### Day Group Program for 2018

**February:** *'The Biodiversity of Bhutan'*. Speaker, Penny Richards.

**March:** *'What are your Nature Photos Saying?' A look at what you put in your photos, what you leave out and a few other tricks to make your photos say what you want.'* Speaker, Wendy Clark.

**April:** Excursion - a morning walk through Morang Wetlands (Plenty Gorge Park). Easy walk of about 3.5k. BYO lunch at Hawkstowe. Leader, Gary French.

**May:** *'King Island.'* Speaker, Nicky Zanen.

**June:** *'Looking at nature in central Europe'*. Speaker, Andrew McCutcheon.

**July:** *'Puffins and islands of the North Atlantic'*. Speaker, Joan Broadberry.

**August:** *'The big five and more in Southern Africa.'* Speaker, Mark Smith.

**September:** Workshop. Hands-on photography, Blackburn Creek Parklands. Facilitated by Wendy Clark.

**October:** *'The management of Caladenia amoena and other rare native orchids in North-east Melbourne.'* Speaker, Gary French.

**November:** *'Looking at nature in Slovakia.'* Speaker, Andrew McCutcheon, who continued on from his June presentation on the natural history of Central Europe.

**Joan Broadberry.**



## Bookshop

Each year the FNCV Bookshop continues to flourish, due to the support from the members, so many thanks to all who have purchased through the FNCV bookshop.

The bookshop provides a 20% discount on the recommended retail price of most books, covering a range of topics associated with the natural environment. The running of the bookshop is a voluntary position and aims to provide a service to existing members and to give an incentive for new members to join the Club.

In 2018 a total of 346 books were sold that ranged across 176 different titles. In addition eight books were supplied to the library. Profit for the year was \$2,717.

Throughout 2018 an extensive assortment of books were available for sale including 21 aquatic, 24 childrens, 45 flora, 77 fauna, 4 fungi, 3 geology, 33 invertebrate, 4 places, 41 general and 37 special/second-hand volumes, with 73 new titles added during the year. The book that sold the most copies was *'Understanding Our Natural World'*, by Gary Presland. If you haven't got your copy yet, please pick one up from the clubrooms.

As space for the display of books is limited, it is impossible to stock a copy of all titles that are of interest to members, so orders have continued to be encouraged. The full selection of books available can be viewed from the catalogue, with a printed copy available at the clubrooms and an electronic copy available on the FNCV website. Titles new to the bookshop or titles soon to be published are promoted in the *Field Nats News*. A bookshop article was included in the FNN in nine months of 2018, highlighting 45 different titles.

The FNCV Bookshop provided support to the Autumn 2018 SEANA camp at Healesville, hosted by the FNCV. Seventy titles were displayed at the camp across a range of topics with a total of 31 books being sold.

A small collection of good quality, second-hand books are available for purchase, each individually priced. These books have originated from members who for a variety of reasons have donated them to the Club. A list of second-hand books is included in the bookshop catalogue and they are periodically advertised in the *Field Nats News*.

**Kathy Himbeck, Bookshop Manager.**



Terrestrial Invertebrates Group on an outing to Sherbrooke Forest. Photo Faye Campbell.



## Fauna Survey Group

The year 2018 was a busy and successful one for our field work program. We conducted 14 surveys to six survey localities. All, except Rushworth, were in association with the Science and Management Effectiveness Branch of Parks Victoria.

In March we travelled to Jalluka NCR as part of our ongoing series of surveys to woodland nature conservation reserves near the Grampians NP. Our primary aim was to find two rare mammals, the Squirrel Glider and Brush-tailed Phascogale, using remote cameras, spotlighting, and by checking nest-boxes. These species weren't found but we did see many other mammals and birds when doing the day and night transect components of the survey. The four arboreal mammals that were recorded were Brushtail Possum and Sugar Glider, by spotlighting and cameras, and Yellow-footed Antechinus and Feathertail Glider through the use of cameras only.



Beaked Gecko, Yarrara NCR.  
Photo Mark Antos.

Surveying for the rare Swamp Skink in parks and reserves of the Mornington Peninsula continued this year with a further seven trips. So far we have found the species at five of the six localities surveyed. There have also been frequent records of more common reptiles such as Delicate Skink, Weasel Skink and Tiger Snake. Two mammals, Swamp Rat and Agile Antechinus, were recorded in Elliott traps while trapping for Swamp Skinks during daylight hours.

A March/April a trip was undertaken to Bael Bael Grassland NCR, following up an earlier trip in 2017. On both trips intensive spotlighting night transects were conducted in the search for rare grassland species, in particular Plains Wanderer. Unfortunately no Plains Wanderers have been recorded so far in either year. By day we carried out bird watching and reptile surveys. A highlight was finding Samphire Skinks near a dry salt lake which was the first record for the reserves. This species is endangered in Victoria.

In January and again in July, trips were made to Warramate Hills NCR which is at Gruyere, 45 km east of Melbourne and located at the confluence of the Woori Yallock Creek and Yarra River. This survey added to the existing species list for the reserve, especially mammals, though one target species, the

Brush-tailed Phascogale was not found. Members did however see plenty of Agile Antechinus from overnight trapping. Ringtail Possum, Common Brushtail Possum, Mountain Brushtail, Sugar Glider and Wombat were some of the mammals recorded by spotlighting or cameras. Of interest was the sighting of three treecreeper species at this locality, the White-throated, Brown and Red-browed Treecreeper.

As part of the group's long-running project we visited Rushworth Forest in May and November. At the May survey we found an unusually high number of Brush-tailed Phascogales in nest boxes, at 14% occupancy whereas on the return trip in November only one female with young was found. Numbers of Sugar Gliders were also lower in November than in May whereas reptiles recorded in November were higher than usual and included Bearded Dragon, Jacky Lizard and Bougainville's Skink.

In recent years, September has been a time when we have visited the Mallee, this year making a return trip to Yarrara and Mallanbool Nature Conservation Reserves. These comprise several small conservation blocks surrounded by farmland to the north of the Sunset Country. The aim of the visit was to conduct vertebrate surveys with special focus on the White-browed Treecreeper, Beaked Gecko and Little Pied Bat. The 22 people who attended worked hard employing a variety of techniques including pit traps, reptile searches, bat traps, remote IR wildlife cameras and bird transects using playback calls. In total 100 vertebrate species were recorded made up of 66 species of birds, 19 reptiles and 15 mammals (including 7 bat species). All three target species were observed.

### Field calendar for 2018

<b>5-7 Jan</b>	Mornington Peninsular. Tiles, traps, cameras.
<b>20 Jan</b>	Mornington Peninsula. Cameras.
<b>26-28 Jan</b>	Warramate Hills.
<b>10 Feb</b>	Mornington Peninsula. Tiles.
<b>3 March</b>	Mornington Peninsula. Tiles.
<b>9-12 March</b>	Jalluka NCR (Lake Fyans).
<b>30 March-3 April</b>	Bael Bael NCR.
<b>13,14 April</b>	Jalluka NCR. Cameras collected.
<b>18-20 May</b>	Rushworth.
<b>26 May</b>	Mornington Peninsula. Tiles.
<b>15-17 June</b>	Warramate Hills.
<b>24 June</b>	Mornington Peninsula. Tiles.
<b>28 July</b>	Warramate Hills. Camera pickup.
<b>12 August</b>	Mornington Peninsula. Tiles.
<b>23-29 Sept</b>	Yarrara NCR.
<b>3-5 Nov</b>	Rushworth Forest.

### Meetings and Speakers

**February:** Dr Mark Antos, Science and Management Effectiveness Branch, Parks Victoria; *'Wildlife and Conservation of the Rainforests, Wetlands and Volcanoes of the African Rift Valley'*.

**March:** Ashley Whitt, PhD Candidate at School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University; *'Calling all Citizen Scientists – utilizing crowd-sourced data to understand a changing world'*.

**April:** David De Angelis, Consultant Ecologist and mem-

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

ber of the Fauna Survey Group. David stepped in at short notice when the scheduled speaker was delayed in the field and presented on 'Reptiles of the Mornington Peninsula'.

**May:** Bruce Robertson, ornithologist and PhD candidate; 'Aspects of the Pacific Gull in Australia'.

**June:** Andrej Hohmann, Biologist and member of the Fauna Survey Group; 'Ecology, conservation and surveying for the California Spotted Owl as well as the flora and fauna of the Sierra Nevada Pine Forests'.

**July:** Inka Veltheim, PhD candidate, Federation University and the University of Melbourne; 'Movements and habitat use of Brolgas in south-west Victoria'.

**August:** John Harris, Ecologist and Zoologist and member of the Fauna Survey Group; 'Mammal surveying on the islands in Shark Bay, Western Australia'.

**September:** Chris Farrell, wildlife photographer and author; 'Photographing and documenting individual Southern Right Whales'.

**October:** Zak Atkins, PhD candidate, Latrobe University; 'Findings on research into the Guthega Skink Liopholi Guthega'.

**November:** Birgita Hansen, Research Fellow, Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation, Federation University Australia; 'Building an understanding of habitat use, movement and migration of Latham's Snipe'.

**December:** Members night; Robin Drury presented findings from the surveys at Jalluka NCR, Warramate Hills NCR and Yarrara NCR. Ray Gibson presented results from Rushworth Forest.

**Raymond Gibson.**



## Library & Archives

### Library

A total of 32 new volumes were added to the FNCV Library holdings during 2018. The great majority of these were acquired as donations, principally from two sources. Firstly, the Library has benefitted from the estate of former members of the Club; secondly, the Library received copies of a few books that had been offered for review in *The Victorian Naturalist*. My thanks are extended to these people, who contributed directly to the holdings of the Library. In this regard, I also thank Kathy Himbeck, FNCV Books Sales Officer, who facilitated the purchase of a number of recently published books.

Forty-three books and 30 periodical issues were borrowed during 2018. This usage closely parallels that of the previous year.

### Archives

Archival enquiries in 2018 continued to be based largely on research external to the Club, but which took in issues relating to FNCV members or activities. During the year the Club was a major contributor to work in progress on two substantial publications, focusing on early members of the FNCV. The archival holdings of the Club are not insubstantial and once again have proved to be of great assistance to researchers in their documentation of early naturalists and their field studies in Victoria.

Through the year Graham Patterson has provided invaluable support in keeping the Library's collection of periodicals up to date. He has ably filled in for the Librarian, during the latter's wanderings to distant parts of the world. I thank him for these things and for his ready assistance and cheery company. I also wish to thank Kathy Himbeck for her service of acquiring books for the library from bookshop funds.

**Dr Gary Presland, Honorary Librarian and Archivist.**

## The Victorian Naturalist

Production of *The Victorian Naturalist* has continued without serious problems, for the 135th consecutive year. Six issues of the journal, comprising Volume 135, were published during 2018. The six issues were each of 32 pages (including one which contained the Index for Volume 134). This spread resulted in the publication of 192 pages for the year. This is less than in the previous year, because there were no 'special' or large issues published in 2018. Special issues, generally of 64 pages, mostly have contained the published form of papers delivered at a recent symposium. However, there has been a trend in the past couple of years for presenters not to offer their papers for publication, thus reducing the likelihood of a 'special' issue.



Vic Nat team 2018: Gary, Sue, Maria and Virgil.  
Photo Wendy Clark.

A total of 21 substantive papers were published in Volume 135, comprising seven Research Reports, five Contributions, one Symposium Paper, and eight Naturalist Notes. In addition, 11 books were reviewed. Of these books, five were subsequently donated by the reviewers to the FNCV library. The titles included *Wildlife conservation in farm landscapes* (Lindenmayer *et al.*); *Field guide to eucalypts: vol 2* (Brooker and Kleinig) and *Shark attack: myths, misunderstandings and human fear* (Chapman).

It was the Editors' pleasure to publish, in the February issue, the citation for the 2017 recipient of the Australian Natural History Medallion, Dr Paul Adam.

I am grateful, as ever, for the efforts throughout the year of all members of the editorial team: my co-editors Dr Maria Gibson and Sue Forster, and our editorial assistant Virgil Hubregtse. They all approached their roles with dedication, enthusiasm and attention to detail, and were a constant support. All this, plus their unfailing cheerfulness, has made it a pleasure to be part of *The Victorian Naturalist* team.

**Dr Gary Presland,  
Executive Editor, *The Victorian Naturalist*.**

**THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC: REPORT BY COUNCIL. Year ended 31 December 2018**

The members of Council hereby submit the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and the Income Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and report as follows:

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position on Council</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Commenced</i>
Maxwell Campbell	President	Retired	2013
Philippa Burgess	Vice President/Microscopy Councillor	Artist	2012
Barbara Burns	Treasurer/Secretary	Retired lecturer	2001
John Harris	Councillor	Wildlife consultant	2003
Andrew Brentnall	Councillor/Correspondence Officer	Retired engineer	2011
Audrey Falconer	Councillor	Public servant	1997
Susan Bendel	Councillor	Quality Assurance	2006
Judith Sise	Councillor	Teacher	2017
	<i>Special Interest Group Councillors</i>		
Joan Broadberry	Day Group Councillor	Retired teacher	2001
Leon Altoff	Marine Research Group Councillor	Analyst	1997
Geoff Lay	Fungi Group Councillor	Retired	2016
Ken Griffiths	Botany Group Councillor	Retired teacher	2017
Patricia Amaya	Juniors Group Councillor	Doctor G.P.	2017
Ruth Hoskin	Geology Group Councillor	Retired	2012
Su Dempsey	Fauna Survey Group Councillor	Retired	2013
<i>Vacant</i>	Terrestrial invertebrates Gp Councillor		

- The principal activities and objects 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was \$7,620 (2017 \$10,296 ).
- 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 displayed 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 of which the councillor is a member or in which the councillor has a substantial interest.

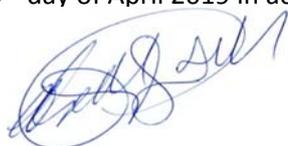
**THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC: STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

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 2018.
- The accompanying Statement of Assets and Liabilities is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Club as at 31 December 2018.
- 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019 in accordance with a resolution of Council.

Maxwell Campbell – President



Barbara Burns - Treasurer



**The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Income Statement year ended 31/12/18**

		2018	2017
		\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>	Membership	38,039	38,531
	Bookshop Profit	2,717	4,969
	Hall Hire	3,496	3,634
	Profit Biodiversity Symposium	199	2,432
	Seminar (Birds of Victoria 2017)		531
	Profit SEANA Camp Healesville	1,940	
	Fees Speakers	250	
	Non-Member Levy	456	118
	Copyright Royalties - Vic Nat. & Sale of Back issues	3,764	3,637
	Fund Raising	201	126
	Sundry Income	189	44
	2nd Hand Book Sale		1,710
	Goodwill Wine	471	421
	Interest & Franking Credits from Investments	10,274	9,299
	General Donations and Fungi e-book (\$210)	<u>4,949</u>	<u>2,959</u>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>66,945</u></b>	<b><u>68,411</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	Victorian Naturalist - Printing & Postage	7,228	8,440
<b>Publications</b>	Newsletter - Printing & Postage	1,932	2,172
	Calendar of events - Printing & Postage	<u>1,558</u>	<u>1,610</u>
	<b>Total Publications Expenses</b>	<b><u>10,718</u></b>	<b><u>12,222</u></b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	Bank Fees, Credit Card, Eftpos	643	639
	Depreciation Expense	4,142	3,492
	Advertising, Marketing and Publicity	86	
	Gas, Electricity, Water	700	699
	Hall Cleaning	1,224	948
	Insurance	1,327	1,292
	Internet Provider, Website Expenses & Phone	1,136	1,344
	Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies & Christmas Exps	181	232
	Library Expenses & Subscriptions	716	887
	Non-Library Subscriptions	364	348
	Office Postage and Post Office Box Hire	519	1,144
	Office Stationery, Printing etc	1,188	900
	Repairs & Maintenance	2,511	1,081
	Rates - Gardenia St & Maryborough Property	533	516
	Hall Alarm	465	458
	FNCV Mugs	1217	336
	Sundry Expenses and Registration (\$114)	276	59
	Purchase of Software		112
	Special Interest Group Expenses	1,534	
	First Aid Course		570
	Workers' Compensation Insurance	210	185
	Wages, Salaries & Superannuation	<u>29,635</u>	<u>30,651</u>
	<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b><u>48,607</u></b>	<b><u>45,893</u></b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>59,325</u></b>	<b><u>58,115</u></b>
	<b>Net Operating Profit</b>	<b><u>\$7,620</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,296</u></b>

**The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31/12/18**

<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash at Bank - Note (3)	32,818	24,771
Environment Fund A/c - Bank Melbourne	616	616
Petty Cash - Note (3a)	90	90
Amount Owing by Parks Vic to FSG for Mallee Trip	1,050	
Stock Goodwill Wine \$756 + Stock FCV Mugs \$1,170	1,926	
Sundry Debtors Bookshop	1,446	1,504
Inventories (Books for Sale) - Note (4)	<u>7,877</u>	<u>7,735</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b><u>45,823</u></b>	<b><u>34,716</u></b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
<u>Investments</u>		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits -	242,904	250,004
Shares Listed on the Stock Exchange - Note (5)	<u>54,611</u>	<u>54,611</u>
	<u>297,515</u>	<u>304,615</u>
<u>Library Holdings</u> - Note (6)	<u>50,321</u>	<u>50,321</u>
<u>Property, Plant and Equipment</u>		
Maryborough Property - Note (7)	13,400	13,400
Clubhouse at Valuation - Note (7)	769,000	769,000
Clubhouse Improvements - Note (7)	57,958	57,958
Equipment at Cost Less Accumulated Depreciation - Note (7)	<u>9,499</u>	<u>6,819</u>
	<u>849,857</u>	<u>847,177</u>
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b><u>1,197,693</u></b>	<b><u>1,202,113</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,243,516</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,236,829</u></b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade Creditors Victorian Naturalist	759	1,062
Pay as You go Payable	440	718
GST Paid - GST Collected	(110)	70
Bookshop Account GST	402	32
Owing Bookshop Account	0	-43
Science Talent Search Fund FNCV	3,000	4,000
SEANA Camp - Healesville		1,452
Australian Natural History Medallion - Loan Account	6,486	6,788
FNCV Environment Fund - Loan Account	<u>9,562</u>	<u>6,563</u>
<b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u></b>	<b><u>20,539</u></b>	<b><u>20,642</u></b>
<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,222,977</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,216,187</u></b>
<b><u>MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u></b>		
Current Year - Profit	7,620	10,296
General Fund brought forward - Note (8)	543,532	533,236
Bequests Dorothy Mahler (\$10,000), Fred Smith (\$10,000)	20,000	20,000
Marine Research Fund	25,434	25,434
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund - ( Note 9)	11,149	11,979
FNCV Environment Fund	615	615
Asset Revaluation Reserve - Clubhouse	597,488	597,488
Asset Revaluation Reserve - General	15,093	15,093
FNCV Juniors	<u>2,046</u>	<u>2,046</u>
<b><u>TOTAL MEMBERS' ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,222,977</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,216,187</u></b>

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2018**

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.

(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 assets.

2. No Remuneration has been received by councillors for the year ended 31 December 2018

3. CASH

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
	\$	\$
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	20,523	15,511
Bookshop A/c Westpac Croydon	3,678	2,655
Bookshop Interest Bearing Account, Westpac Croydon	<u>8,617</u>	<u>6,605</u>
	<u>32,818</u>	<u>24,771</u>
3a. PETTY CASH, FNCV, \$50 + Petty Cash Bookshop \$40	<u>90</u>	<u>90</u>
4. STOCK OF BOOK for sale, at the lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>7,877</u>	<u>7,735</u>
5. SHARES LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE		
Shares in Australian Foundation, at cost	37,753	37,753
Shares in Argo Investments, at cost	<u>16,858</u>	<u>16,858</u>
	<u>54,611</u>	<u>54,611</u>
5(a) CURRENT MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS		
Shares in Australian Foundation - Market Value, 7300 x \$5.925	43,252	45,552
Shares in Argo Investments 2300 x \$7.58	<u>17,434</u>	<u>18,285</u>
	<u>60,686</u>	<u>63,837</u>
6. LIBRARY BOOKS AND JOURNALS - At Council Valuation 23/5/95 plus additions at cost	<u>50,321</u>	<u>50,321</u>
7. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES and EQUIPMENT		
Cossticks Reserve, Maryborough – at valuation	13,400	13,400
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn - at valuation	769,000	769,000
Improvements - at cost	57,958	57,958
Plant and Equipment - at cost	\$65,667	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$(56,168)</u>	<u>6,819</u>
	<u>\$849,857</u>	<u>\$847,177</u>
8. GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward	543,532	533,236
Add Net Profit for 2018	<u>7,620</u>	<u>10,296</u>
<u>Balance at 31 December 2018</u>	<u>\$551,152</u>	<u>543,532</u>
9. SPECIFIC FUNDS		
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund Balance Brought Forward	11,979	11,506
Received \$0, less paid out for equipment, \$830	<u>(830)</u>	<u>473</u>
<u>Balance 31 December 2018</u>	<u>11,149</u>	<u>11,979</u>

**The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2018**

	<u>Inflow +, Outflow (-)</u>	
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Net inflow from Operations (Note 1)	9,171	11,067
GST (net change)	<u>190</u>	<u>134</u>
<b>Net Cash Inflow from Operations</b>	<b><u>9,361</u></b>	<b><u>11,201</u></b>
 <b>CASH FLOWS INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Equipment Purchased	-6,823	0
Transfer from Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	<u>7,100</u>	<u>-14,302</u>
<b>Net Cash Inflow from Investing Activities</b>	<b><u>277</u></b>	<b><u>-14,302</u></b>
 <b>CASH FLOWS FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Decrease in Fauna Survey Group Equipment Fund	-830	471
Decrease in Science Talent Search Fund	-1,000	-2,000
Increase in Bookshop Petty Cash	0	-40
Decrease in Loan SEANA - Healesville	-1,452	1,452
Increase in Loan to Parks Victoria	-1,050	
Decrease in Bookshop account with FNCV	43	
Increase in Loans from Environment Fund & ANHM	<u>2,698</u>	<u>1,532</u>
<b>Net Cash Outflow from Financing Activities</b>	<b><u>-1,591</u></b>	<b><u>1,415</u></b>
<b>Net Cash Inflow for the Year</b>	<b><u>\$8,047</u></b>	<b><u>-\$1,686</u></b>
<b>CHANGE IN FNCV CHEQUE A/C's BALANCE for year</b>	<b><u>\$8,047</u></b>	<b><u>-\$1,686</u></b>
 Bendigo Bank Cheque Acc Balance Start of Year	15,511	19,590
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance End of Year	<u>20,523</u>	<u>15,511</u>
<b>Net increase in Bendigo Bank Account</b>	<b><u>5,012</u></b>	<b><u>-4,079</u></b>
Increase in Westpac Bookshop accounts	<u>3,035</u>	<u>2,393</u>
<b>Total increase in Cash for year</b>	<b><u>\$8,047</u></b>	<b><u>-\$1,686</u></b>

**Note 1. Reconciliation of Profit with Cash Flow from Operations**

Net Profit	7,620	10,297
add back depreciation	4,142	3,492
increase in inventories	-142	-1,497
decrease in bookshop debtors	58	-1,404
increase in stock of Goodwill wine	-756	
decrease in trade creditors	-303	-122
decrease in Pay as You Go tax owing	-278	301
increase in stock FNCV mugs	<u>-1,170</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Cash inflow from Operations</b>	<b><u>\$9,171</u></b>	<b><u>\$11,067</u></b>

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 2018. 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 2018 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 2018 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:



Susan J. Harkin, CPA  
Honorary Auditor

6/4/2019  
Blackburn