

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Annual Report



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Year Ending 31 December 2021

Reg. No. A0033611X
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130
Telephone 9877 9860
www.fncv.org.au
email: admin@fncv.org.au



Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau, AC, Governor of Victoria

INDEX	Page
President's Report	1-4
FNCV Administration	4
Botany Group	5
Microscopy	5
Field Nats News	6
Terrestrial Invertebrates Group	7
Bookshop	7
Environment Fund	8
Australian Natural History Medallion	8
Geology Group	9
Marine Research Group	9-10
Day Group	10
Fungi Group	11
Library and Archives	11
Juniors Group	12-15
Fauna Survey Group	16-17
<i>The Victorian Naturalist</i>	18
Report by Council	19
Income Statement	20
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	21
Notes to the Accounts	22
Cash Flow Statement	23
Audit Report	24

President's Report

Introduction

My seventh year in the role of President of the FNCV was as challenging as the previous year, with the continuing Covid-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions, and at times, confusing compliance issues. However, the experience of 2020 put us in a very good position to keep operating smoothly in 2021 since we had all of the routines and procedures already in place. To assist with meeting CovidSafe operational requirements and good hygiene practice, the hand-washing facilities



Nature Stewards students learning in the field.

in the toilets were all upgraded to hands-free status early in the year, as planned. Council continues to place the health and safety of our membership as its highest priority. I thank all of our members for their cooperation, patience and tolerance for what has been two years of significant upheaval. Zoom online activities again facilitated the delivery of many of our programs for 2021 and helped streamline our other activities. It is likely that Covid-19 may cause more inconvenience in 2022 but I have no doubt that FNCV will continue to cope and

Dead seahorse washed up on Inverloch beach.
Photo, Lauren Burns



adapt flexibly to any challenges that arise, as it has always done. Council is certainly up for the challenge.

Despite the difficulties of the last two years the Club is thriving and we have maintained most of our community activities. As always, our operations require the involvement of many motivated and dedicated 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 your efforts are greatly appreciated by me, Council and your fellow Club members. An overview of the year's news and highlights is set out below.

Biodiversity Symposium

Unfortunately, under the extremely unpredictable circumstances we continued to deal with it was not



Juniors experiencing first hand, the attractions of a tree hollow in the Grampians.
Photo, Faye Campbell

possible to organise a Symposium for 2021. Nevertheless, we intend to run another interesting Biodiversity Symposium in 2022.

The Australian Natural History Medallion

The 2021 Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Peter Latz, Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club, for his contribution to Ethnobotany, Conservation and Education.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The Special Interest Groups have all maintained their high standards in providing many interesting meetings, presenters and activities for the past year. A few excursions occurred when the CovidSafe regulations permitted them. We are indebted to the hardworking SIG leaders who kept the programs running throughout the year. The Juniors' Group, in particular, is operating very effectively under the supervision of Dr Patricia Amaya Cruz and I thank her on behalf of the FNCV. Her efforts in organising the Easter Camp un-

der very difficult circumstances were exceptional. The camp at Stawell and the Grampians was a great success and ran during one of the brief respites from the Pandemic. A few SIG meetings were held in the Hall at the end of the year as some restrictions were lifted. We plan to start regular meetings in the coming year, commencing in February, albeit with some remaining restrictions.

FNCV Website

Once again, I thank Jurrie Hubregtse who has continued to successfully run and maintain the Website which remains the principal portal for access to our Club and its activities.

Facebook

While our subscription membership has remained fairly stable, our Facebook membership has risen to over 21,000 interested followers, increasing our visibility and profile in the broader community. Thanks to John Harris, Andrej Hohmann, Wendy Gare, Asha Billing and Claire Ferguson for their continued efforts with this online forum. It has also proven very useful for advertising our Zoom presentations to a wider audience.

SEANA

Thanks to Geoff Lay and Ken Griffiths as our SEANA representatives.

The Victorian Naturalist, FNN and Library

I wish to thank Dr Gary Presland for his continuing contribution as Chief Editor of *The Victorian Naturalist* and for his ongoing work as FNCV Librarian. On behalf of the Club, I would also like to thank all the editors of *Field Nats News* and *The Victorian Naturalist* for their diligent work throughout another year of difficult conditions. The workload and time commitment is enormous and both publications remain critical to our FNCV culture and activities. Covid-19 restrictions demanded that those involved spent considerable time working remotely and online for yet another year. The *Field Nats News* was well-received and enjoyed by all during the entire lockdown period and continues to keep us all entertained and in touch with nature during our isolation. Dr Gary Presland, Dr Maria Gibson, Sue Forster, Virgil Hubregtse, (*Vic Nat*) and Joan Broadberry and Sally Bewsher (FNN) continue to produce timely publications of the highest standard.

Brendan Murphy

Brendan Murphy supported the Club in many ways over many years and his contribution will not be forgotten. Brendan passed away during the year and his legacy will continue through his bequest to the Club.

Council Members and Office-bearers

Council, as the governing body of the FNCV, bears full responsibility for all of the Club's activities and its corporate compliance and existence. The attendance at Council meetings over the past year was very high. We successfully held another Annual General Meeting via Zoom. I thank all of the Council members for their efforts during the year.

Barbara Burns, as Treasurer and Secretary, continues to efficiently manage the accounts, which show a small

operating profit for the year. Andy Brentnall continues to support the Club and its activities. Once again, I thank him for his enduring contribution.

Bookshop

Our bookshop remains very popular and continues to prosper. I thank Kathy Himbeck, supported by John Harris, for her outstanding management of this valuable service, which continues to cater to the needs of the Club.

Administration Officer

As always, Wendy Gare applied her considerable administration skills, experience and knowledge to the effective facilitation of the Club's activities. Her commitment and dedication go well beyond the norm and I thank her for her vital contribution to FNCV.

Community Participation.

Once again, Community programs were necessarily limited during 2021 because of the Covid-19 epidemic and enforced lockdowns. 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. Some of our members have worked with the community via Zoom. We are participating in the Gardiner's Creek (Kooyongkoot) Regional Collaboration for the catchment and have contributed to the City Nature Challenge at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.

Nature Stewards

We maintained our commitment to the Nature Stewards Program which rapidly adapted to a Zoom-based delivery mode. The role of Nature Stewards in educating the broader community on the importance of conserving, protecting and studying the amazing biodiversity of Australia continues with FNCV support, as a sponsor of the program. Nature Stewards is proving to be a productive and collaborative community endeavour and continues to grow. An overview of Nature Stewards 2021 activity



'Oh what a beauty' Sapphire Mc McMullen Fisher enthusiastically presenting Fungi in the Field, for Nature Stewards. Photo, Chris Clarke

is provided below.

In 2021 Nature Stewards saw three excellent programs completed across the City of Whittlesea, the NW Hub (Macedon Ranges Shire, City of Melton, Hume City Council), and the City of Greater Geelong. At the end of 2021, the alumni of the program exceeded 270 and a number of local alumni events were held across Greater Melbourne. It was good to have opportunities available once again for the participants and alumni to support nature through private property works, field sessions, and local volunteering actions.

For 2022 it is anticipated that six programs will be running in summer and autumn. The Program looks forward to continuing to connect with nature, our community, and supporting our local natural areas.

The Future of FNCV

I believe that the future of FNCV is highly linked to, and dependent upon, its contribution to citizen science and community education to increase the understanding of our natural world, in addition to supporting the protection and conservation of our rapidly diminishing natural environment. For that reason, it is critical that we maintain and improve our connections with other like-minded organisations including Naturalists Clubs, VNPA, VEFN, Landcare Groups, Friends Groups, AABR, EEV, ACSA and others. Our continued liaison with State and Local Government is very important and provides opportunities to share our knowledge and expertise and learn from the experience. The environment will not fix itself; it will require the concerted efforts and collaboration of many partners. Educating the community is the most effective way to bring about change. It is something we are good at and have been doing for 142 years.

Our principal, constitutionally stated purposes include:

- To promote and support the study of natural history in all its branches.
- To establish, encourage, foster and stimulate interest in natural history and in its advancement and popularisation by all and every means available.
- To take all such steps as may be considered most effective to preserve, conserve and protect the natural environment of Australia and its environs and in particular the flora, fauna and fungi of Victoria.

We have an experienced and capable membership, who can and do contribute to our Citizen Science and educational projects.

The proposed purchase of Mali Dunes in 2022 will provide us with a field site where we can practice conservation, education, citizen science and environmentally focused research activities in collaboration with other organisations. We will have an onsite auditorium for delivering presentations and training programs. Members of Council put in a great deal of work to organise a Special General Meeting to seek approval to purchase the property. I thank them for their efforts and, in particular, I thank those who have made financial contributions towards the acquisition of the property.

Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough

Liaison with the Maryborough Field Naturalists Club will continue with the establishment of a joint committee to oversee the management of the FNCV property known as 'The Cosstick Flora and Fauna Reserve.' Joint excursions and work groups will be organised for 2022.

Once again, I thank you all for the privilege of being elected President of the FNCV for another year. I would like to especially thank all of the members of Club who have provided support in so many ways throughout this difficult period.

Maxwell Campbell, President



Administration

Another year has gone by with all the problems of being in a pandemic, but this year we were old hands at Zoom meetings, and for the few visitors to the office, library and bookshop, use of masks and QR codes went very smoothly. With the 'on again, off again' nature of the lockdowns, I have had some months solo here in the office, as well as some time with others present. It has been really pleasant to have the company of Joan Broadberry, Field Nats News editor and Dr Gary Presland our librarian, archivist and VicNat editor, after so much time here on my own.

A special mention must be made about the wonderful coffee brewed for us by Gary. My assistant, Andy Brentnall, was able to come in for some of the year, albeit briefly and with a mask. As always, his help was very much appreciated. As Andy is one of our most 'senior' volunteers we have to look after him!

Membership

We have had a success story with our membership numbers, up to 781, as at 31st December 2021. This is a very pleasing net increase overall of 7½% from the same time last year. Single memberships went up 14%, student memberships up 22%, but the biggest increase was in Junior memberships – a huge 30%. Most other categories stayed relatively stable.

Only 28 members are now without email, so the number of items required to be posted out via Australia Post is still dropping. We now post out very few Field Nats News each month, but there are still 169 members who receive the hard copy of *The Victorian Naturalist* but who do have an email. That is 12 less than last year, so we're very slowly chipping away at the printing and posting issues.

Hall Hire

Money received from hiring out the hall was minimal last year, as most meetings had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. We welcome one new hall hirer, the intrepid Blackburn Ladies Probus Club who have managed, against the odds, to hold several meetings.

Promotion

Our main promotional tool is our Calendar of Events

which is normally produced three times during the year. Last year only the February to June issue was published, and most of the events were sadly either cancelled or changed to Zoom. We used emails to advise our members of events which were being held.

Our website has been worth its weight in gold during the pandemic. Many people accessed the information contained there, which resulted in new memberships being initiated. Thank you to Jurrie Hubregtse who continues to administer the upkeep of the site.

Our Facebook group has gone from strength to strength, and by the end of the year had over 21,000 members. The moderators have had their work cut out avoiding the heated comments which are posted when contentious issues cause feelings to run hot. They are keeping the many engrossing discussions to a family friendly and educational framework. Thank you very much to Andrej Hohmann and Claire Ferguson, and welcome to Asha Billing, they have had to spend many hours keeping an eye on all of the posts. Thank you also to John Harris who had been a moderator for many years, but who had to retire during the year due to pressures of work.



Wendy Gare.

There were no symposia, festivals or fairs in 2021.

Fundraising

None of our normal fund raising events were able to be held during the year, but we did have an appeal to raise funds to assist in the purchase of Mali Dunes, a Trust for Nature property in north west Victoria. Administratively, this involved the setting up of additional meetings, sending out letters and emails with all relevant information and a Special General Meeting to discuss and approve the purchase. Following that, accepting the donation pledges, followed by receipt of the actual donations themselves was required. Over \$100,000 has been raised which will enable the purchase to go ahead.

Office Equipment

Thank you very much to Club member Rhys Freeman for updating all of our office computers to Windows 10 early in the year. Rhys has moved to country Victoria, and travelled in to Blackburn to do the update with a minimum of fuss and much gratitude from everyone who uses them.

Our monthly Council meetings continued to be held via Zoom. We all hope that things will be more 'normal' in 2022.

Wendy Gare, Administration Officer



Botany Group

The Botany Group certainly had a mixed year, with four meetings by Zoom, three at the Hall and, in the winter, three cancelled meetings. On average, 23 attended. Thank you to the other two committee members, Sue Bendel and Lisa Williams. And thank you to our speakers, who provided a range of in-depth and passionate presentations, in response to our invitations.

February - John Harris presented on Wildflowers of Western Australia. The Kwongan region and the south west, both near Perth, are a world-recognised hotspot of diversity and endemism. John showed and discussed many examples, grouped by genus. He also referred to the plant families present and to the Western Australian environment.

March - Jordan Crook, a new campaigner at the Victorian National Parks Association, presented on the Forests of the Central West, a region studied by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, whose report was with the State Government. Numerous plots of public land were reviewed, such as Wombat, Mt Cole and Wellsford Forests. VEAC has made recommendations for various grades of protection, including a new Wombat-Lerderderg National Park. Jordan illustrated the natural values, including local endemic species such as *Bossiaea vombata* (Wombat Bossiaea), and *Grevillea montis-cole subsp montis-cole* (Mt Cole Grevillea). Water resources are also of high value.

April - Tim Entwisle, director of Royal Botanic Gardens, presented an illustrated talk he called 'Nature, culture, science'. From Mueller to Guilfoyle, from South Yarra to Cranbourne, our gardens have developed, yet retained their charm. Garden recreation and botanical preservation and education, are competing interests in the gardens.

May - Dr Melanie Birtchnell spoke on 'Communities in Conservation: exploring the case study of the Helmeted Honeyeater'. She explained the history of the decline in Helmeted Honeyeater numbers since the Kooweerup Swamp was drained for farming in the late 19th century. In 1989, public support for conservation developed locally at Yellingbo and a reserve was declared along two creek lines. Today volunteers run many activities, including an indigenous plant nursery. Also at Yellingbo a lowland habitat of the Leadbeaters Possum has now been discovered.

June - From Burnley Horticultural College and then Melbourne University, Dr Greg Moore speaks often to community groups, is heard on the radio and writes for The Conversation. Greg argues extensively and passionately for urban tree cover to increase, in order to mitigate the effects of climate change.

July, August and September. No meetings.

October - La Trobe university graduate students Stan Wawrzyczek and Armon Aristidou presented on their

research project on the endemic Enfield Grevillea, discussing specific soil differences and pollination regimes. Other grevilleas in the Holly Leaf group are similarly locally endemic in the Ballarat region.

November - Adrian Marshall, of the Grassy Plains Network, engaged us on the topic of remnant native grasslands adjacent to, and within Melbourne's western suburbs. Many designated plots are not yet transferred to public ownership. Goals are to protect, restore, engage the public and have a vision for the future.

Ken Griffiths



The Enfield Grevillea.



Microscopy Group

Because of the pandemic, the group was only able to hold one meeting in the hall in 2021. However to keep in touch, we combined with TIG at a couple of their Zoom meetings. Hopefully the group will be able to come together, face to face, on a more regular basis in 2022.

At our one in-person meeting in April we worked with a range of microscopes and specimens with people bringing in their own samples for examination and identification.

Philippa Burgess

Thanks to Barbara Burns for the production of the 2021 FNCV Annual Report.

Field Nats News

In 2021, 11 issues of Field Nats News (FNN) were published, running from number 315 to 325 inclusive.

As was 2020, 2021 was disrupted by lockdowns. The FNCV was not able to run a full program but adapted to the prevailing circumstances principally by using the Zoom format for meetings. Excursions were held when allowed. The editorial team continued to work from home sending files by means of WeTransfer. The extra space available in FNN was another welcome opportunity for field naturalists to share their observations and images and learn from each other.

Limited space allows me to detail only some of the longer contributions. Max Campbell prepared eleven leading articles with a wealth of detail on a range of topics especially insects and spiders observed in his garden. Many thanks Max. Wendy Clark, as always, generously shared her observations and beautiful images. FNN 315 included her description of the female Pseudococcid bug, Scarlet Honeyeaters, Beetle Fly and Peacock Spiders and a further piece on the Peacock spider *Maratus volans*. In FNN 316 Wendy reported on the Terrestrial Invertebrate Group's (TIG) January trip to Warburton as did Reiner Richter. In the same issue William Terry wrote a delightful article, 'Phascogales make a return to the wild' and David Cheal detailed a further record of the Striped Legless Lizard, *Delma impar*.



Sally, Wendy and Joan. Photo, Gary Presland

FNN 317 included my report on Gary Presland's talk (using Zoom) to the Day Group, 'Dr. FGA Barnard, Naturalist and Historian' and Reiner Richter's descriptions and lovely images of 'Photogenic Flies.' In FNN 318 Reiner reported on the TIG excursion to Birdsland and I summarised the March Day Group meeting, 'Australian Wildlife Conservancy.' FNN 319 contained my reports on the April, Day Group meeting, 'Bandicoot Brigade. Getting to know our Nosey Neighbours', and the Marine Research Group's survey at Martha Point. Extracts from the minutes of the FNCV Annual General Meeting were provided by Wendy Gare.

A number of substantial articles appeared in FNN 320. Barbara Burns prepared an obituary for Brendan Murphy, Virgil Hubregtse detailed the Fungi Group meeting, 'Impacts of Fire on Fungi', Andrej Hohmann explained the steps necessary to receive a Working with Children Check, Philippa Burgess wrote up the Microscopy Group's hands on practical night, Lisa Nink reported on the Geology Group's meeting, 'Using Citizen Science to track the field trips and document the collections of some of Victoria's pioneering geologists in the 19th and early 20th centuries' and I reported on the June, Day Group meeting, 'A field naturalist in Iceland.'

Carol Bathie and Janet Pett, from the MRG, wrote an article, 'Ascidian Highlights' for FNN 321 and there were four articles from members of the Fungi Group in this issue. They were, 'MYCOmmunity: Applied Mycology and Learning Lab', prepared by Virgil Hubregtse, reports on forays to the Ada Tree, the Masons Falls area and Mortimer Reserve, written by Reiner Richter, Torbjorn von Strokirch and Sue Forster respectively.

FNN 322 contained my summary of the July, Day Group Zoom meeting, 'Leaf Beetles, Chrysomelidae of Victoria' and Virgil Hubregtse's write up of the Fungi Group's meeting, 'Phylogenetic Trees Made Easy'. A report on the Fungi Group's foray to Wanderslore Trust for Nature Sanctuary was prepared by Pat Grey for FNN 323. Sue Forster wrote an article on the Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary and I summarised the August Day Group presentation, via Zoom. 'Up the Creek with Gary', for that issue.

In addition to his President's Reports, Max Campbell included an article on the Snoutmouth Caterpillar, *Paraguda nasuta* in FNN 324, Ray Gibson reported on the Fauna Survey Group's meeting, 'Tracking the recovery of woodland bird communities following habitat restoration' and Philippa Burgess wrote a lovely article on 'The Macquarie Collectors Chest'.

FNN 325, the final issue for the year, contained 'The Lockdown Bug Story,' written by Katherine Zonneville, Andrej Hohmann's congratulations to Asha Billing for winning the 2021 Threatened Species Bake-off, open category, Sally Bewsher's 'Wandering in Cardinia Reservoir Park' and John Harris's account of writing a wildlife book.

Most importantly a large number of members contributed a wealth of natural history observations, images and shorter articles making each issue of FNN lively, thought provoking and full of interest.

The production of Field Nats News is very much a team effort. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sally Bewsher for her meticulous proof-reading and her unfailing support and encouragement and Wendy Gare, our fabulous office administrator, who solved many problems for me.

Joan Broadberry
Editor Field Nats News



Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

The Terrestrial Invertebrates Group ran six excursions and five meetings (four on Zoom and one at the Hall) in 2021. Meetings and excursions were well attended and all CovidSafe requirements were followed.



A group of TIG photographers at Braeside Park.
Photo, Faye Campbell



Caterpillar of the Monarch Butterfly.
Photo, Barbara Burns

Excursions were held at Cardinia Reservoir, Braeside Park, Cranbourne Botanical Gardens, Badger Weir, Birdsland and Big Pats Creek. We intend to run more outings in early 2022.

Images from excursions are uploaded to iNaturalist, contributing to our knowledge of invertebrate biodiversity.

Max Campbell



Bookshop

Across the year the FNCV Bookshop sold a total of 243 books, that ranged across 156 different titles, covering 9 broad genres. During 2021 over 300 books were available for sale on the shelves covering topics including aquatics, children, flora, fauna, fungi, geology, invertebrate, places, gardens, landscape restoration, nature and the environment. A total of 43 new titles were added to the selection available for the year.

The bookshop profit in 2021 was reported as \$508.

Again, many thanks for the ongoing support from the members, and to all who purchased books through the FNCV bookshop. The bookshop provides a 20% discount on the recommended retail price of most books, sold. The running of the bookshop is a voluntary position and aims to provide a service to existing members but also to be an incentive for new members to join the Club.

I would like to extend a sincere thanks for the patience and understanding to those that were impacted by supply issues. Covid related restrictions and associated problems continued to impact on the services offered throughout most of 2021. These disruptions have also affected the very limited provision of bookshop articles to the FNN and the inability to release an updated bookshop catalogue.

Orders for specific books are encouraged as there is limited space available to stock a full range of titles that are of interest to members. The full selection can be viewed from the bookshop catalogue, with a printed copy available at the clubrooms, or an electronic copy on the FNCV website.

Kathy Himbeck, Bookshop Manager



Book display cases in the hall.
Photo, Barbara Burns

FNCV Environment Fund

The FNCV Environment Fund is a tax-deductible fund that was set up in 2003 to aid not-for-profit 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.

Donations of \$6,413 were received in 2021, including 2 large donations in June, one for \$2,000 and one for \$1,000.

The projects supported in 2021 were:

- Friends of Warrandyte State Park - 1000 brochures on how to attract native bees to gardens in Warrandyte, \$600.
- Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve Committee - Taxidermy of a Sacred kingfisher for display in the visitors' centre, \$330.
- Snape Reserve, Dimboola. Committee of Management - black star posts to mark the corners of quadrants set up on 846 hectares of old growth vegetation, Trust for Nature Property, to assist in regular surveys, \$242.
- Friends of Wanderslore Sanctuary, Launching Place - Purchase of a laptop and accessories to enable effective documentation, updating, data access and entry regarding species identification and biodiversity, \$973.
- Friends of Bats and Bushcare - \$332 to buy 15 Wombaroo high-protein milk supplements to feed orphaned Grey-headed Flying Foxes at Yarra Bend, plus purchase of a landing curtain for bats \$450, total \$782.

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

Barbara Burns, Secretary

Australian Natural History Medallion

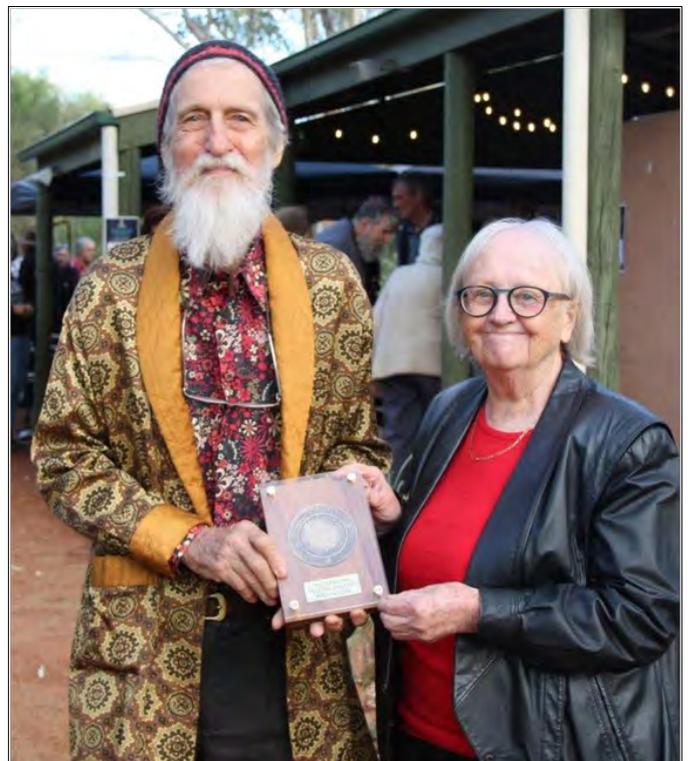
The 2021 Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Peter Latz, Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club for his contribution to Ethnobotany, Conservation and Education.

Due to the difficulties of travelling during the pandemic, the award was presented to Peter at Alice Springs by Barbara Gilfedder, President of the Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club (ASFNC) at a large community gathering. The FNCV contributed to the costs of the event.



The FNCV extends its congratulations to Peter. A full account of his work will be published in the Victorian Naturalist.

Max Campbell



The 2022 Australian Natural History Medallion being presented to Peter Latz on Sunday 31 October, at The Olive Pink Botanic Garden, Alice Springs, by Barbara Gilfedder, President of ASFNC.

Photo compliments of ASFNC.



Geology Group

In 2021 the Geology Group had five meetings by Zoom, three at the Hall and two cancelled meetings.

Thank you to Ruth Hoskin, the retiring SIG leader, for her hard work in coordinating the group over a number of years. Thank you also to Troy Williams, the Geology representative on the FNCV Council.

Our speakers addressed a wide range of geology related topics, bringing their expertise and passion to get us thinking and wondering. Details of all the meetings held are set out below.

February - 'Acid-sulfate soil formation and the acidification risk at Tooradin, Victoria. An introduction to the formation of soils'. Speaker Brigitte Small.

March - Tim Ziegler, the vertebrate Palaeontology Collections Manager, Melbourne Museum, explained how he traced the descriptions in diaries and field notes of megafauna fossils at the Buchan area caves. His own field trips have followed in the pioneering palaeontologists' footsteps, although he is still unsure of where some of the sites mentioned actually are located, so he is approaching local farmers and the Buchan community to see if they know of less explored caves which may yield fossil finds. This was a most interesting talk particularly as the field work is ongoing.

April - Dr Oskar Lindenmayer, Collection Manager, Mineralogy and Petrology, Melbourne Museum, spoke about the Museum's collections of some of Victoria's pioneering geologists in the 19th and early 20th centuries. He told us about a project where volunteers developed a database from hand-written rock and mineral records.

May - Bill Reid graphically explained the Stawell region geology in modern terms of tectonic plate subduction, volcanic North-South arcs, and consequential deposit and folding in the crust rocks of granite and mudstone. Gold is emplaced deep. Nowadays there is a much greater understanding of the evolution and structure of this continental accretion since the Cambrian era.

June - Firstly, Ken Griffiths introduced the excursion planned for July 25th, by explaining how new data sources are improving our understanding of both the Newer Volcanic Province and the Melbourne Zone of old and very deep sediment. Then Eve Kolar took us for a virtual trip with her many photos and comments about northern Australia. The Kakadu wetlands and escarpments, the Kimberley with its ancient flat, uplifted sandstone geology, waterfalls and flooded harbours, and Montague Sounds' basalt columns, limestone and cliff caves, were just some of the highlights.

July - cancelled.

August - Dr Gary Presland presented on 'Indigenous use of geological resources.' Economic, artistic and ceremonial aspects were treated.

September - Cancelled.

October - Dermot Henry, Head of Science at Museums Victoria, spoke about the Murchison meteorite, which fell in Sept. 1969. He described the observations of that day, and the collecting of many pieces, totalling 100kg.

A carbonaceous chondrite meteorite, 'Murchison' has proved of great interest to scientists today, particularly in the USA, for its many mineral types. It contains:

- Some of the oldest compounds to have formed in our solar system.
- Many pre-solar grains, so-called star dust, which are identified by their isotopes, existed from long before our Sun came into being. (Chemical elements heavier than iron all come from outside our solar system.)
- Many organic compounds, including amino acids, which show that some of the chemical ingredients needed for life exist elsewhere in our Universe.

November - Stephen Poropat described the Cretaceous geology period where, at Winton in Queensland, a 'Dinosaur stampede' was discovered. Over his decade of work there, the dinosaur species identified (from incomplete bones) have increased from 9 to 25. In Victoria, there is a site at Koonwarra, which he also spoke about.

Ken Griffiths



Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group (MRG) held two meetings and undertook nine field trips throughout 2021. These were attended by small, but enthusiastic groups.

MEETINGS

May was our annual field trip roundup, where we review the locations we have visited and the animals we have seen on the field trips. Members are encouraged to bring images and exhibits from the trips to show to others.

December was our annual members night where individuals brought along images, stories and research to share with the group.

FIELDWORK

Field work is an important activity for the MRG, providing members with the opportunity to observe animals in their natural habitat and their interactions with their environment and other creatures. The data and specimens collected by the group contribute to on-going research conducted. 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 (stalked jellyfish), and Nemertea (ribbon worms), as well as conducting a general study of marine invertebrates to increase their own knowledge and that of others.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

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 field work.



This urchin, *Holopneustes inflatus*, is from Blanket Bay near Cape Otway. It was seen in the weed in the pools of the rocky reef. Photo, Audrey Falconer

Locations visited in 2021 included Point Cook, Barwon Heads, Apollo Bay, Port Arlington, and Mt Martha.

All fieldwork is performed under collecting permits issued by DSE and DPI. Beyond this we collaborate with Australian and overseas institutions and individual researchers.

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 members for their participation and contributions. I would also like to thank Audrey Falconer for coordinating our field trips.

Leon Altoff, Secretary

Day Group

The FNCV Day Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, February to November. Members enjoy coffee and a chat from 10.30 am with the speaker scheduled at 11 am. The Day Group is a generalist group and presentations or excursions are directed towards learning more about a wide range of natural history topics in the company of friendly, like-minded people. All FNCV members are welcome, along with friends, family and visitors. Attendance averages about 25 each meeting.

The table below sets out the program for 2021.

2021	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Feb 23	FGA Barnard: a Foundation member of the FNCV, who edited <i>The Victorian Naturalist</i> for 32 years. Via Zoom.	Dr. Gary Presland
March 23	Australian Wildlife Conservancy	Bianca Friend
April 27	Gardens for Wildlife. Habitat gardening using bandicoots as a case study.	Charlotte Fletcher
May 25	A Field Naturalist in Iceland.	Sally Bewsher
June 22	Meeting Cancelled.	
July 27	Leaf Beetles of Australia. Via Zoom.	Martin Lagerwey
Aug 24	Meeting Cancelled.	
Sept 28	Planned excursion to Blackburn Lake cancelled.	
Oct 26	The fascinating wildlife of the Blackburn Creeklands. Via Zoom.	Wendy Clark
Nov 23	Meeting Cancelled.	

As they have done since 2015, Joan Broadberry and Sally Bewsher prepare the program and chair the meetings. Joan usually prepares a summary of the event for inclusion in Field Nats News. Andy Brentnall sets up the hall and Wendy Gare sends out promos, passes on details of possible speakers, puts out morning tea and much more. Special thanks to Max Campbell for his invaluable assistance in setting up presentations and for problem solving when things don't run smoothly.

Because of the disruptions caused by Covid restrictions some meetings which had been planned, had to be cancelled. However, it has been possible to reschedule all of them in 2022. Other meetings were able to be held remotely using the Zoom format.

Joan Broadberry, Day Group Co-ordinator

Thanks to Sally Bewsher for Proof-reading the Annual Report.



Puffin, photographed by Sally Bewsher on her trip to Iceland.



Fungi Group

Aims

Through our activities in the Fungi Group, we aim to improve the knowledge and understanding of fungi in our environment and teach people how to catalogue local specimens. We endeavour to collect herbarium specimens whilst out in the field for greater scientific use.

Forays

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, we were able to go to half of our forays. We taught individuals how to take herbarium specimens and perform in-field culturing which was exciting for members and newcomers. Many of our observations were recorded with the support of volunteers, utilising iNaturalist. A highlight was seeing new growth of the fungus *Hypocreopsis amplexens* (Tea-tree Fingers).

Meetings

We had a handful of in-person meetings throughout the year and adapted to Zoom when needed. We enjoyed hearing from a variety of speakers including academics, researchers, non-for-profit members and a bioinformatics enthusiast. We always welcome new speakers to share their knowledge and passion in the mycological world.

Members

In 2021 there have been approximately 80 attendees across the Fungi Group events and we have had a number of new members sign up. As new committee members joining the Fungi Group, we welcome Anna and Priscila!

Melvin Xu, Anna Brady and Priscila Ferraz



Fungi group coordinator, Melvin Xu, demonstrating how to take an In-field culture, Herbarium, and DNA sample.



Library and Archives

Library

As in the previous year of the pandemic, in 2021 the Library was able to operate fully only for part of the year. This is reflected in the number of loans, and the period in which they were made. All 12 instances of a monograph being borrowed from the library took place between February and July 2021. There were 17 loans of periodical issues.

A total of 14 new volumes were added to the FNCV Library holdings during 2021. All but one of these acquisitions were the result of donations. Three volumes were donated by the authors; a further three were donated by Sue Bendel, in memory of the late Ed Grey; and four books were given by miscellaneous sources.

Archives

A small amount of series description work was carried out by the Archivist, in the last few weeks of the year, when it was possible to access the FNCV building. Otherwise, there is nothing to report regarding the Club's archives.

Through the foreshortened reporting period Graham Patterson provided invaluable support in keeping the library's collection of periodicals up to date. I thank him for that work and for his ready assistance and cheery company.

During the period of lockdown Wendy Gare monitored the library email account and forwarded relevant messages to the librarian. She also emailed to members all the newsletters that were received in digital form, from other organisations. I am pleased to thank her for her assistance in these regards.

Dr Gary Presland, Honorary Librarian and Archivist



Hypocreopsis amplexens (Tea-tree Fingers),
Photo, Pat Grey



Juniors' Group

For the Junior Field Naturalists the year 2021 was full of highs and lows; exciting camps and excursions provided fun and learning opportunities in-between significant periods of Covid-19-induced restrictions. The annual Juniors Easter Camp in the Grampians was a highlight in April, whilst the annual Juniors birthday party turned out to be a very fun way to spend an evening on Zoom. The Juniors Group continues to be led with enthusiasm by Dr. Patricia Amaya.



Juniors testing the water at Blackburn Lake with Su Dempsey. Photo, Zoe Burton

The monthly Juniors Newsletter was again produced by the Burton/Wilton family. There were many contributions from Junior members which was terrific. These included reports on excursions, reports of animals and plants seen, book reviews, videos, drawings and photos.

A Landcare Grant awarded to the Juniors assisted with costs for excursions and equipment in 2021 and the remaining balance will be put to use in 2022.

Members of the LabRats Science Club, in collaboration with the Junior Field Naturalist group, successfully conducted field research in local waterways and produced results from their investigations. Juniors had hands-on experience doing experiments with technical equipment, which broadened their practical skills and scientific knowledge in the areas of chemistry, geology, biology and ecology.

MEETINGS

March – 'Essential camping equipment', with FNCV President Max Campbell. With his years of experience, Max spoke to the Juniors about what camping gear is best to bring on camps and excursions. He showed

photos from early FNCV camps and more wild camping spots, including Papua New Guinea.

August – Juniors Birthday meeting.

The Juniors celebrated their 78th birthday with a party on Zoom. There may not have been balloons and running around, but there were quizzes, costumes and cake! Slides were shown with photos of winning costumes from previous years and also photos from past Juniors' camps. It was good to look back at some of the fun we have had as a group and think about what we would like to do in the future.

Also in August, FNCV member Sue Bendel spoke to us about her work rescuing wildlife who are injured or who have lost their parents and there was also an acknowledgement of all the Juniors who have submitted ideas, photos, drawings and articles for the newsletter and a prize awarded to the person who had submitted the most in the last 12 months. The Prize was a \$250 experience at a Melbourne Zoo and the winner was Phineas Wilton.

October - Juniors Film Night

The Covid restrictions did not stop the group from getting together on Zoom and having a terrific meeting where Juniors showed short films they had either made or liked from You Tube. We were lucky to have Wendy Clark, FNCV member and previous Junior member, at the meeting as a judge. The 1st prize was a night camping at Patricia's house and 2nd prize was a book.

Films shown included:

- Max Campbell (FNCV President) – rare Silky Mouse found at Mali Dunes.
- Sonya & Isaac Markowsky – leopard falling off a cliff whilst hunting, iguana being hunted by a mob of snakes and their own films on bugs and bees.
- Lydia & Rachel Fysh - their own film about a moth they had rescued (Pinara moth family).
- Thomas Hosken – film of the native plant garden he has planted at his home. Thomas' plant knowledge was incredible!
- Sofia Beliakov – a film about her Lovebird's efforts in making a nest for her eggs.
- Miles – a film about a magpie hunting worms (one-legged!) in his garden.
- Zoe Burton – film of a case moth emerging from its case.

The winners: were, 1st prize, Lydia & Rachel Fysh and 2nd prize, Thomas Hosken.

November - Show and tell via Zoom

Lots of interesting things from the natural world were shared by Junior members including images and video of a family of Tawny Frogmouths and a swarm of Common Brown Butterflies in the You Yangs.

EXCURSIONS

January - Junior member, Sonya, attended a FNCV Terrestrial Invertebrate Group excursion in Warburton.

Sonya wrote about the excursion for the Juniors Newsletter. Observations included leeches, scorpion flies and a wasp taken over by the cordyceps parasitic fungi.

February - Water testing at Blackburn Lake

The group started the year with a great excursion to Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. The day was well attended and a number of new members joined. This excursion was the first of three, subsidised by the Landcare Grant. In total 36 Junior Naturalists joined Su Dempsey (Blackburn Lakes volunteer) and Lydia Low (Head of Labrats) to test the water of Blackburn Lake. Testing involved recording pH levels, turbidity, temperature, nitrate levels, phosphate levels and salt levels (measured by electrical conductivity). This was a hands-on excursion and it was exciting to realise how much could be discovered in a small container of water. The Juniors recorded their results in a handbook provided and were then encouraged to take the kits home and test some water in a lake or creek near where they live, and upload their findings into the Labrats Data collection for the Suburban Waterways Investigation



Tawny Frogmouth drawing by Junior member Marlowe Wilton.

Most importantly, this project fostered a sense of appreciation and increased awareness of environmental concerns facing local aquatic life, prompting further discussions surrounding sources of pollution and methods for mitigation and remediation.

March - Mount Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre

A group of lucky Juniors had the opportunity to make a night visit to the 473 hectare Mt Rothwell Centre, which is Victoria's largest feral predator-free ecosystem. This excursion was booked out. Many rare animals were seen during a spot-light walk including Rufous Bettong, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Eastern Quoll, Southern Rock Wallaby, Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby and Tawny Frogmouth.

April - Dolphin Research Institute in Hastings

On Sunday 11th of April, a large group of Juniors travelled to Hastings to visit the Dolphin Research Institute on the Westernport coast. Mandy Robertson from the Institute provided a slide show and exhibits of animals found in the area including weedy sea dragons, the baleen plates of a humpback whale, some sea sponges and a surprisingly heavy sperm whale tooth. A walk was then undertaken through the expansive mangroves along the shoreline which is a Ramsar site.

Easter Camp in the Grampians

Stunning weather over the Easter long weekend provided perfect conditions for the Junior Field Naturalists Camp on private property near Stawell. Dr. Patricia Amaya organised excursions and talks throughout the weekend. We were lucky to have Max Campbell, President of FNCV, with us. He set up lights and a sheet on the first night to attract moths, night flying insects and beetles. He then photographed them and the next night presented a talk under the stars, with slides of some of the insects we had seen plus others from his collection.

Also on the first night new member Ann Turner gave a practical talk about snake bite and provided some bandages and instructions. Under her skilled tutelage (she is a nurse in regional Victoria) everyone had to bandage each-others limbs to learn how to restrict the lymph flow.

There were many walks undertaken in the Grampians National Park during the time, including to natural water holes called Venus Baths, to Chatauqua Falls, Bunjils shelter and the Brambuk Cultural Centre. The local swimming pool in Halls Gap was visited twice over the weekend by the group to provided a cooling swim.

Margo, who is a member of the Grampians Flora Botanic Gardens, took us on a tour of the Gardens in Halls Gap and a tour of the geology of the surrounding area. All the plants in the Gardens are native to the area. We saw heath myrtle, she-oaks, desert banksia, nodding blue lily, erect guinea flower and cherry wattle amongst many others. Anthea, another member of the Gardens, spoke to us about xerophytic adaptations (adaptations to dry habitats) in Australian native plants and showed examples from the flora in the area.

Back at the camp site, the two resident camels have a day a week when they get a special treat, carrots! The Juniors had a wonderful time feeding a whole bag to them. The goats on the property were very fond of Weetbix and those who had come with some of this cereal had fun feeding them too.

Easter camps always have two special events, a Camp Concert and the Bilby hunt. The mild weather allowed us to have a camp fire which provided a suitable dramatic setting for concert acts. There were some terrific jokes, songs, and skits performed and wonderful exhibits shared, including snake and lizard skins. Chocolate bunnies were the prizes for best in show.

Some of the older children co-ordinated a Bilby hunt on Sunday morning, requiring the kids to follow a series of nature questions leading them around the property.

The wonderful weather and fascinating environment of the Grampians, combined with the energy and enthusiasm of the Juniors made this a camp to remember.

There are still many places to visit in the Grampians, so it may be some where the group goes back to.

As the fauna of the Grampians is so diverse, the children voted to use it as the theme for the costume competition at the August Juniors' Birthday Party.

Zoe Burton



Birthday emu drawing by Junior member Phineas Wilton.



Drawing of a Nankeen Night Heron with nuptial plume by Junior member Marlowe Wilton.



Kookaburra sitting on eggs in a hollow tree in Mount Eliza.
Photo, Junior member Marlowe Wilton



Juniors saying thanks to Landcare for the grant which helped them visit the Dolphin Research Institute in Hastings.
Photo, Zoe Burton



Juniors at the Grampians' Botanical Gardens during the Easter camp.
Photo, Gleb Beliakov



Juniors feeding the camels carrots at the Easter camp near the Grampians.
Photo, Zoe Burton



Fauna Survey Group

Surveys

The Fauna Survey Group conducted three surveys in 2021, the same number as last year, and, again, some were abandoned or deferred because of Covid-19 lockdowns.



Setting a Bat Trap at Yassom Swamp.
Photo, Asha Billing

The Cooperambra survey was deferred from October to December, however the onset of heavy rain caused the survey to be abandoned little more than a day after it got underway.

Our Bael Bael Grassland NCR survey was conducted in April during Easter and, again, was a great success. Not only was this the fifth annual survey in a row, we were able to schedule it between Covid-19 lockdowns. The survey is conducted in partnership with Parks Victoria who did much of the organisation. We stayed in the Quambatook caravan and camping park on the banks of the Avoca River. The survey entailed spotlighting transects from slow moving vehicle or on foot. This time a total of 7 Plains Wanderers were recorded, an increase from last year, and the second year in a row this critically endangered species was sighted. There was also evidence of breeding. Curl Snakes and Fat-tailed Dunnarts were in good numbers. In the Black Box woodland, South-Eastern Free-tail Bat, Gould's Wattled

Bat and Little Forest Bat were recorded.

A small group visited Rushworth Forest in May and checked 85 nest boxes of which 14 contained animals: 2 Brush-tailed Phascogales and 27 Sugar Gliders.

Survey Summary 2021:

- Bael Bael NCR, 2-5 April.
- Rushworth Forest, 15-16 May.
- Cooperambra NP, scheduled 6-10 December. (ended on the 8th.)



Asha and Brenna checking a nestbox in
Rushworth Forest.
Photo, Sally Bewsher

Meetings and Speakers

February 9. Dr. Maggie Haines, Honorary Research Associate, Museums Victoria. 'Cryo-drama in the High Country: untangling the complex evolutionary history of Australian Alpine Skinks.'

March 2. Matt Clancy, Honours Graduate, University of Melbourne. 'Modelling the distribution of the threatened Howard Springs Toadlet, *Uperoleia daviesae*, in the Northern Territory.'

April 13. Graham Jury, Masters student, La Trobe University School of Life Sciences. 'Exploring the Faunal Community responsible for pollination of the tree form of Silver Banksia, *Banksia marginata*. Which animals are involved and how effective are they?'

May 4. Dr Colin McHenry, Senior Lecturer, University of Newcastle. 'Crocs and Kookaburras, dolphins and goannas. What does skull shape and function tell us about convergent evolution?'

June 1. Bhagya Herath, PhD candidate, La Trobe University. 'Complexity of visual and vocal communication in the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog, *Litoria fallax*, among genetic, ecological and social constraints.'

July 6. Michael McBain, Master of geographic information and remote sensing. 'Making maps from your data.'

August 3. Jules Farquhar, Honours graduate, Monash University. 'Mesic lizards at an arid edge. Exploring the climatic basis of range limits in the Delicate Skink, *Lampropholis delicata*.'

September 7. Dr Angie Haslem, Research Fellow, La Trobe University. 'Tracking the recovery of woodland bird communities following habitat restoration: insights from a multi-scale, long term study'.

October 5. Josh Griffiths, Senior Wildlife Ecologist, Cesar Australia and EnviroDNA. 'Using DNA to detect aquatic fauna and assess biodiversity'.

November 9. Andrej Hohmann, survey leader, Fauna Survey Group. 'The story of Bael Bael Grasslands Nature Conservation Reserve; five years of surveying grassland fauna.'

December 14. Members night with short talks and end of year breakup in the hall.

The February, June and August to November meetings were via Zoom, the other five were in the hall. The Zoom meetings averaged 15 attendees (10 - 23).

Raymond Gibson



Plains-wanderer. Bael Bael survey.
Photo, Peter Homan



Sugar Gliders in a nestbox. Rushworth Forest.
Photo, Asha Billing



After birdwatching at Yassom Swamp.
Bael Bael survey.
Photo, Michael McBain

The Victorian Naturalist

Despite periodic government-imposed restrictions on movement during the second year of the plague, production of volume 138 of *The Victorian Naturalist* was achieved over the entirety of 2021, without any major problems.

After a tentative start to the year, with the Editors hard at work in the FNCV office, the fifth period of lockdown - followed shortly afterwards by a sixth - saw them retreat to their homes, once again. Apart from a brief meeting in the Executive Editor's home, it was only in the final weeks of the year that the editors met again in 2021. Throughout the year they were without the presence of Virgil Hubregtse, the team's administrative



Vic Nat team 2021, Gary, Sue, Maria and Virgil.
Photo, Wendy Clark.

Assistant, but not without her assistance, which she was always willing and able to provide from the safety of her home.

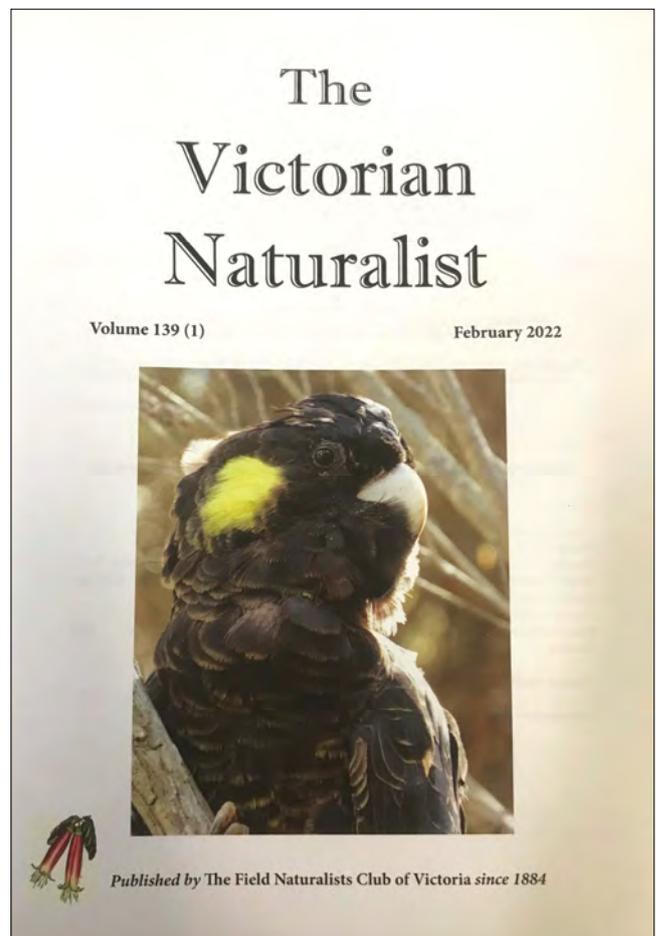
Because of the enormous flow of submissions during the previous year, 2021 began with a relatively high number of manuscripts in hand; a comforting situation for any editor. The bulk of this was published during 2021. Through the year there was also a steady trickle of submissions.

Volume 138 comprised six issues of 32 pages each (including one which contained the Index for Volume 137). This spread resulted in the publication of 160 pages for the year. A total of 22 substantive papers were published, comprising three Research Reports, 13 Contributions, and six Naturalist Notes. One book was reviewed in the pages of the journal in 2021, and there was one tribute, in memory of Club stalwart, Ed Grey. In addition, it was the Editors' pleasure to publish the citation for the 2021 recipient of the Australian Natural History Medallion, Craig Morley of the Geelong Field Naturalists Club.

I am grateful, as ever, for the efforts through another difficult 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 team of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

During the periods of lockdown, Wendy Gare monitored the email account of *The Victorian Naturalist* and forwarded relevant message to the Executive Editor. This was pivotal in maintaining the output of the journal, and I am pleased to thank her for the assistance this provided.

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



A recent edition of the FNCV's refereed journal, *The Victorian Naturalist*. The six editions a year are produced by the Vic Nat team (pictured above) who do all the work on a voluntary basis.

Photo, Barbara Burns

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC
REPORT BY COUNCIL. Year ended 31 December 2021

The members of Council hereby submit the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2021 and the Income Statement for the year ended 31st December 2021 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
Susan Bendel	Councillor	Retired	2006
Judith Sise	Councillor	Teacher	2017
	<i>Special Interest Group Councillors</i>		
Joan Broadberry	Day Group Councillor	Retired teacher	2001
Michael Lyons	Marine Research Group Councillor	Scheduler	2020
Melvin Xu	Fungi Group Councillor	Student	2021
Ken Griffiths	Botany Group Councillor	Retired teacher	2017
Patricia Amaya	Juniors Group Councillor	Doctor G.P.	2017
Troy Williams	Geology Group Councillor	Student	2021
Su Dempsey	Fauna Survey Group Councillor	Retired	2013
<i>Vacant</i>	Terrestrial invertebrates Group Councillor		

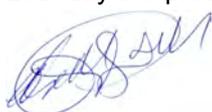
2. The principal activities and objects of the Club are to stimulate interest in natural history and to preserve and protect Australian fauna and flora. No significant changes in the nature of those activities occurred during the reporting period.
3. The net profit of the Club for the year ended 31st December 2021 was \$9,870 which includes profit from the sale of shares of \$9,336 (2020 \$15,631)
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 displayed in the Annual Report, there are no significant developments likely to affect the financial results of the Club. The Covid-19 pandemic will not have a significant effect on the financial results.
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 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,

- (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 2021
- (b) 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 2021.
- (c) As at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Club will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

SIGNED at Blackburn on this 20th day of April 2022 in accordance with a resolution of Council.



Maxwell Campbell – President



Barbara Burns - Treasurer

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Income Statement year ended 31/12/21

		2021	2020	
		\$	\$	
INCOME	Membership	39,266	36,486	
	Bookshop Profit	509	1,590	
	Hall Hire	1,510	373	
	Government Covid-19, Cash Flow Grant		9,751	
	Non-Member Levy	30	105	
	Copyright Royalties - Vic Naturalist.	4,086	3,650	
	Sales Back Issues Vic Naturalist	55		
	Interest and Franking Credits from Investments	7,696	7,104	
	General Donations and Fungi e-book (\$315)	<u>3,994</u>	<u>3,353</u>	
	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$57,146</u>	<u>\$62,412</u>	
EXPENDITURE	Victorian Naturalist, Printing and Postage	8,308	4,941	
	Publications			
	Newsletter, Printing and Postage	1,791	863	
	Calendar of events, Printing and Postage	<u>951</u>	<u>473</u>	
	<u>Total Publications Expenses</u>	<u>\$11,050</u>	<u>\$6,277</u>	
Other	Annual Report Printing Cost	200	200	
Expenses	Bank Fees, Credit Card, Eftpos machine	578	468	
	Depreciation Expense	3,020	3,586	
	Donations Outgoing	500	0	
	Electricity	288	303	
	Hall Cleaning	626	480	
	Insurance	2,368	1,506	
	Internet Provider, Website Expenses & Phone	1,185	1,188	
	Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	41	43	
	Library Expenses and Subscriptions	470	819	
	Non-Library Subscriptions	197	293	
	Office Postage and Post Office Box Hire	424	561	
	Office Stationery Supplies etc	817	710	
	Repairs & Maintenance Office Equipment	713		
	Repairs & Maintenance - General	2,729		
	Rates (\$308) and water (\$9) - Gardenia St	317	314	
	Rates Maryborough	270	263	
	Hall Alarm	486	516	
	Covid –safe Expenses	361		
	Sundry Expenses	203	192	
	Purchase of Software	144	306	
	Special Interest Group Expenses	167		
	Workers' Compensation Insurance	214	204	
	Wages, Salaries and Superannuation	<u>29,244</u>	<u>28,552</u>	
		<u>Total Other Expenses</u>	<u>\$45,562</u>	<u>\$40,504</u>
		<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$56,612</u>	<u>\$46,781</u>
		<u>OPERATING PROFIT</u>	<u>\$534</u>	<u>\$15,631</u>
	Sale of	<u>Add Income from the Sale of Shares</u>		
Investments	Argo \$5,035, WHSP (Milton) \$4,197, Aust United Investments \$104.	<u>9,336</u>	<u> </u>	
	<u>NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</u>	<u>\$9,870</u>	<u>\$15,631</u>	

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31/12/21

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current Assets	\$	\$
Cash at Bank - Note (3)	216,855	75,666
Environment Fund A/c - Bendigo Bank	716	716
Petty Cash (FNCV \$50, Bookshop \$40)	90	90
Stock Goodwill Wine \$240, plus Stock FNCV Mugs \$585	825	825
Sundry Debtors Bookshop	3,414	2,118
Inventories Bookshop - Note (4)	<u>10,996</u>	<u>9,986</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>232,896</u>	<u>89,401</u>
Non-Current Assets		
<u>Investments</u>		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits	204,885	204,133
Shares Listed on the Stock Exchange - Note (5)	<u>37,753</u>	<u>84,731</u>
	<u>242,638</u>	<u>288,864</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, 1 Gardenia St. Blackburn - Note (7)	769,000	769,000
Clubhouse Improvements - Note (7)	57,958	57,958
Equipment at Cost, Less Accumulated Depreciation - Note (7)	<u>6,844</u>	<u>9,739</u>
	<u>847,202</u>	<u>850,097</u>
Total Non-current Assets	<u>1,140,161</u>	<u>1,189,282</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,373,057</u>	<u>\$1,278,683</u>
Less LIABILITIES (Current)		
Prepaid Book Vouchers Not Yet Spent – Bookshop & Admin Account	2,000	-30
Pay as You go Payable	571	662
GST Paid less GST Collected	423	867
Mali Dunes Donations to 31/12/21	85,650	
Science Talent Search Fund		1,000
Landcare Australia Grant, FNCV Juniors	3,841	
Australian Natural History Medallion - Loan Account	6,881	6,717
FNCV Environment Fund - Loan Account	16,680	12,813
Government Covid-19 Cash flow Grant Deferred	—	<u>6,558</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>116,046</u>	<u>28,587</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,257,011</u>	<u>\$1,250,096</u>
FNCV ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Current Year - Net Profit	\$9,870	15,631
General Fund brought forward - Note (8)	<u>579,305</u>	<u>589,175</u>
		<u>563,674</u>
Bequests, Dorothy Mahler (\$10,000), Fred Smith (\$10,000)	20,000	20,000
Marine Research Fund	24,857	24,857
Fauna Survey Equip Fund (B/f \$10,593 Less Equip. Bought \$1,455)	9,138	10,593
FNCV Environment Fund	715	715
Asset Revaluation Reserve - Clubhouse	597,488	597,488
Asset Revaluation Reserve - General	15,093	15,093
FNCV Juniors b/f \$2,045 Less Transf. to Mali Dunes A/c \$1,500	<u>545</u>	<u>2,045</u>
TOTAL FNCV ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>\$1,257,011</u>	<u>\$1,250,096</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021

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 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
3. CASH		
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	201,005	60,020
Bookshop Account, Westpac Croydon	3,693	3,491
Bookshop Interest Bearing Account, Westpac Croydon	<u>12,156</u>	<u>12,155</u>
	<u>15,849</u>	<u>15,646</u>
TOTAL CASH	<u>\$216,855</u>	<u>75,666</u>
4. STOCK OF BOOKS for sale, at the lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>10,996</u>	<u>9,986</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>0</u>	16,858
Shares in Milton Corporation, at cost	0	14,882
Shares in AUI Investment Company, at cost	<u>0</u>	<u>15,238</u>
5(a) MARKET VALUE OF LISTED SHARES 31/12/21	<u>37,753</u>	<u>84,731</u>
Shares in Australian Foundation - Market Value, 7300 x \$8.46	61,758	53,290
Shares in Argo Investments - Market Value,		19,251
Shares in Milton Corporation - Market Value,		15,264
Shares in AUI Investment Company - Market Value	<u> </u>	<u>14,624</u>
	<u>61,758</u>	<u>102,429</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		
Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough – at valuation	13,400	13,400
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn - at valuation	769,000	769,000
Blackburn Improvements - at cost	57,958	57,958
Plant and Equipment - at cost	\$72,120	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(65,276)</u>	<u>9,739</u>
	<u>6,844</u>	
	<u>847,202</u>	<u>850,097</u>
8. GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward	\$579,305	563,674
Add Net Profit for 2021	<u>9,870</u>	<u>15,631</u>
Balance at 31 December 2021	<u>\$589,175</u>	<u>\$579,305</u>

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

<u>Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2021</u>	<u>Inflow +,</u>	<u>Outflow (-)</u>
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
CASH FLOWS OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	\$	\$
Net inflow from Operations (Note 1.)	12,523	17,494
GST (net change)	<u>-444</u>	<u>476</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Operations	<u>\$12,079</u>	<u>\$17,970</u>
CASH FLOWS INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Equipment Purchased	-125	-5,369
Decrease in Fauna Survey Group Equipment Fund	-1,455	90
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit Interest Added to Principal	-752	38,771
Proceeds from the Sale of Listed Shares	<u>46,978</u>	<u>-30,120</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Investing Activities	<u>\$44,646</u>	<u>\$3,372</u>
CASH FLOWS FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Decrease in Science Talent Search Fund	-1,000	-1,000
Increase in Donations for Mali Dunes	85,650	
Decrease in Bookshop account with FNCV		-199
Increase in Landcare Grant , FNCV Juniors	3,841	-5,451
Increase in Loan from Australian Natural History Medallion	164	574
Increase in Loan from Environment Fund	3,867	151
Decrease in Government, Cash Flow, Covid -19 Grant	-6,558	6,558
Decrease in Marine Research Fund		-577
Decrease in FNCV Junior's Fund	<u>-1,500</u>	
Net Cash Inflow from Financing Activities	<u>84,464</u>	<u>\$56</u>
Net Cash Inflow for the Year	<u>141,189</u>	<u>21,398</u>
CHANGE In FNCV CHEQUE A/Cs BALANCE for year	<u>\$141,189</u>	<u>\$21,398</u>
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance Start of Year	60,019	39,089
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance End of Year	<u>201,005</u>	<u>60,019</u>
Increase in Bendigo Bank Account	140,986	20,930
Increase in Westpac Bookshop Accounts	<u>203</u>	<u>468</u>
Total increase in Cash for year	<u>\$141,189</u>	<u>\$21,398</u>
Note 1. Reconciliation of Net Profit with Cash Flow from Operations		
Net Profit	9,870	\$15,631
Add back depreciation	3,020	3,586
Less Increase in inventories	-1,010	-423
Less Increase in bookshop debtors	-1,266	-800
Decrease in stock of Goodwill wine & Trade Creditors		-620
Less decrease in Pay-as-You-Go tax owing	-91	120
Add increase in prepaid bookshop gift vouchers	<u>2,000</u>	
Net Cash Inflow from Operations	<u>\$12,523</u>	<u>\$17,494</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 2021. 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 2021 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 2021 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:



Susan J. Harkin, CPA
Honorary Auditor

8/4/2022
Blackburn