

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Annual Report

Year Ending 31 December 2022



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

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President's Report

My eighth year in the role of President of the FNCV was another challenging year, but the reduction in COVID restrictions made our operations easier to run. Our safe meeting procedures facilitated an increase in the number of face-to-face meetings and, where needed, we continued to run Zoom meetings. We are considering the purchase of a medical grade air purifier for the hall to support our current COVID-Safe practices next year.



Juniors planting grasses at Yalukit
William Nature Reserve in Elsternwick.
Photo, Zoe Burton.

Once again, I thank all of our members for their cooperation, patience and tolerance for what has been three years of significant upheaval. Council is certainly up for the challenges that 2023 may bring.



The MRG heads for Twin Reefs
the Bunurong, near Inverloch.
Photo, Leon Altoff.

The Club is thriving and we have maintained most of our community activities. As always, our operations require the involvement of many moti-

vated 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 are set out below.

Biodiversity Symposium

Unfortunately, under the extremely unpredictable circumstances we continued to deal with it was not possible to organise a Symposium for 2022. Nevertheless, we intend to run a Biodiversity Symposium in 2023 if possible.



Moreland's Nature Stewards group at Coburg Lake observing a pair of Tawny Frogmouths.
Photo, A. McGregor.

The Australian Natural History Medallion

The 2022 Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Dr Genevieve Gates for her contribution to Mycology, in Fieldwork, Education and continuing involvement with Citizen Scientists.

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. Excursions occurred when the COVID-Safe regulations permitted. We are indebted to the hardworking SIG leaders who kept the programs running. The Juniors' Group, in particular, is operating very effectively under the supervision of Adam Hosken who has taken over from Dr Patricia Amaya Cruz and I thank him on behalf of the FNCV. His efforts in organising, at short notice, the Juniors' Easter Camp at Mali Dunes were exceptional. The camp on FNCV's new property was a great success.

Some SIG meetings were back in the hall at the end of the year as many of the COVID restrictions were lifted. We plan to start regularly meeting in the hall in the coming year, commencing in February, albeit with some remaining restrictions, but we will continue to undertake

Zoom and hybrid meetings when deemed necessary.

FNCV Website

Jurrie Hubregtse has continued to successfully run and maintain the FNCV 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 29,000 interested followers, increasing our visibility and profile in the broader community. Thanks to George Paras, John Harris, Andrej Hohmann, Wendy Gare, Asha Billing, Claire Ferguson and Bruce Edley for their efforts with this online forum.

SEANA

Thanks to Geoff Lay and Ken Griffiths as our SEANA representatives in 2022.

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 time working remotely throughout the year. The Field Naturalists News continues to be enjoyed by our members and other organisations. 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.

The Victorian Naturalist is being digitised to create a word-searchable digital archive of *The Victorian Naturalist*, volumes 1-137. A new credit card-sized USB thumb-drive should be available for sale from the bookshop in early 2023.

Council Members and Office-bearers

Council, as the governing body of the FNCV, must bear 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 and, as per legal requirements, we held a successful Annual General Meeting in the hall during 2022. 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 an operating profit for the year.

Andrew Brentnall

Sadly, our friend and fellow naturalist, Andrew (Andy) Brentnall passed away in 2022 and we lost a great supporter and benefactor of the Club. Andy filled many roles and undertook many tasks for the Club as well as serving as a long-term member of Council. He is sorely missed by all of us.

Bookshop

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

Administration Officer

Wendy Gare kept us all informed of events and continued to manage the FNCV Office with her usual high efficiency and cheerfulness. We are all indebted to Wendy for her extraordinary efforts to support the Club's activities. Thank you Wendy.

Community Participation.

Once again, Community programs were necessarily limited during 2022 because of the COVID-19 epidemic, its restrictions and safety procedures. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and effort to sustain the profile of the Club as a leading Citizen Science organisation. It is important that we continue our delivery of presentations, seminars, symposia and attendance at public events, schools and other organisations to maintain our role as a significant and productive member of the community. Some of our members have worked with the community via Zoom in addition to face-to-face contact.

We are participating in the Gardiner's Creek (KooyongKoot) Regional Collaboration for the catchment. Judith Sise, Sue Bendel and myself have worked with the project team and the FNCV Council hopes to sign a collaboration Memorandum of Understanding in 2023.

Nature Stewards

In 2022 we continued with our commitment to the Nature Stewards Program which adapted to a Zoom-based delivery mode but in 2023 will return to face-to-face operations for classes and field trips. The role of Nature Stewards in educating the broader community on the importance of conserving, protecting and studying the biodiversity of Australia continues with FNCV support, as a sponsor of the program. Nature Stewards has proven to be a productive and collaborative community endeavour and continues to grow. For 2023 it is anticipated that at least eight programs will be running. The Program looks forward to continuing to connect with nature, our community, and supporting our local natural areas.

Nature Stewards is now operating from the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) and has a new website for 2023: <https://vnpa.org.au/programs/nature-stewards/>. Programs for 2023 are to start from March 18th and include Mornington Peninsula, Merri-bek & Moonee valley, Melbourne and Strathbogie (youth).

Mali Dunes

The purchase of Mali Dunes in 2022 has given us a field site where we can practice conservation, education, citizen science and environmentally focused research activities in collaboration with other organisa-

tions. There is a small, onsite auditorium (the Dome) on the property for delivering presentations and training programs. I thank everybody who has contributed financially to the initial purchase and those who have



Hopping Mouse photographed at Mali Dunes by an FSG motion sensing camera.

visited the site for working bees and biological surveys. We intend to have regular visits to Mali Dunes in 2023 including an Easter Camp which the Juniors, the Fauna Survey Group and a work party will all be attending.

Plans for other actions are being developed including the installation of permanent toilet facilities. Plans are currently being prepared which will then need to be approved by local municipal authorities and Trust for Nature before construction can begin.

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 and continue to provide support in so many ways in addition to their friendship throughout this difficult period.



The New Sign for Mali Dunes.
Photo, Max Campbell.

Maxwell Campbell, President.



Administration

Life in the FNCV office has returned to normal during the year, with members coming and going and making use of our hall. In August we had the very sad news that Andrew Brentnall, who has been helping in the office for many years, had passed away just after his 90th birthday. His quirky personality is still very much missed, not to mention the practical help which he was always happy to give. Vale dear Andy.

Membership

Membership as at 31st December 2022 was 771, only 10 members down from the same time last year. We attracted 123 new members over the year, which included a pleasing 30% increase in the number of students. There were small fluctuations in the other categories resulting in the net loss.

The number of members still receiving the hard copy of *The Victorian Naturalist*, even though they have access to the digital version, has decreased in 2022 from 169 to 141. Thank you to the members who transferred across to the digital version.

Hall Hire

Money received from hiring out our hall to various groups was quite low, at \$575 for the year. This was due to the slow resumption of meetings following COVID and should return to normal in 2023.

Promotion

Our Calendar of Events is produced three times during the year and is distributed to libraries, community houses and universities. Due to the expense of printing and postage, we are moving from sending hard copies of the Calendar to emailing a pdf instead. We now send it to 79 organisations by post and 68 organisations by email. There are also always copies freely available at the hall.

We send regular emails to our members to remind them of upcoming meetings.

The website still continues to be a valuable resource for anyone wanting to know more information about our Club. Thank you to Jurrie Hubregtse for his diligence in keeping it up to date.

Our Facebook page continues to grow and, as at 31 December, 2022, has over 29,000 members.

Fundraising

Our second-hand booksale in May raised \$1,382, and the Christmas raffle raised \$128. Thank you to those who gave their time freely to help with organising the events.

Thank you

to Gary Presland and Joan Broadberry, who are the

colleagues most often in the office each week, for their cheerful companionship. Ü@ä æ@||•Ää^•Ä çä~ È æ^Ä@|| Äæ@ [} çä^ Ä||æä * Ää äÄ [•ç * Ä@Ä ç^! &] ä•Ä Ä@Ää|äæ Ä^, •Ä

Thank you also to our President Max Campbell, for his unfailingly helpful guidance and support on everything pertaining to the FNCV, not to mention his patience in identifying numerous insects which live in my garden!

Wendy Gare,
Administration Officer

Wendy Gare



Microscopy Group

During 2022 the microscopy group met four times. Our large set of dissector microscopes and also compound and digital microscopes are available to members and visitors on these evenings.

We have hundreds of samples, both on prepared slides and intact specimens, for viewing, covering marine, botany, geology, fauna and flora. Members and visitors often bring their own specimens and samples to the meetings that they collect from various locations.

Several members and visitors were very new to microscopy and enjoyed one-on-one instruction on using the microscopes. Some members also brought in their newly purchased microscopes and received a full explanation on operation and maintenance from Max Campbell.

These evenings are accompanied by Max's videos of freshwater organisms.

Philippa Burgess.



Australian Natural History Medallion

In 2022 the Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Genevieve Gates for her contribution to Mycology, in Fieldwork, Education and continuing involvement with Citizen Scientists.

As Genevieve was unable to travel to Victoria from Tasmania for a presentation in November, the ceremony has been postponed until sometime in 2023 when she will be able to come across and accept the award in person.

Max Campbell.



Botany Group

Although interrupted in 2022 by COVID considerations, the Botany group generally had a consistent year, with some meetings back in the Club hall. There is a concern however that if for some meetings our attendance falls below 10, in 2023 we will invite the Geology group to join us for topics of mutual interest. Thanks is due to Sue Bendel for her ever reliable support when needed and also to Lisa Williams for her work on our committee.

February - Geoff Lay presented a report on the flora of the Gun Barrel Highway. The trip was 14 days and 1500 km of red dirt track. They travelled in May. He found 215 species, including 140 new to him. All were photographed and named. Flowering occurs when it rains. Geoff reported 2017, 2019 and 2021 were rainy years.

March - Julia Askeland presented on the topic of Bryophytes - mosses, hornworts and liverworts. They are non-vascular, spore producing and of course photosynthesizing. Micro-habitats have implications for biodiversity. Julia has a field work project on *Leptotheca gaudichaudii* this autumn.

April - Pam McDiarmid presented her take on the Beckler's Botanical Bounty project of the last decade, in the form of a voiced slide show. Beckler set out on the Burke and Wills expedition of 1860, but chose to stay at Menindee, on the Darling River. Mueller requested from Melbourne that he collect for the Botanical Gardens Herbarium. 150 years later, a group of Melbourne botanical illustrators sought out those plants again near Menindee, and did water colour illustrations.

May - Dr Maria Gibson spoke about a study of Box-Ironbark forest where the respective mineral nutrient acquisition strategies, usually from roots of various plants, were measured. The benefits to the forest from senescent leaves, for example, were assessed and leaf adaptations were also described.

June - Ken Griffiths presented on "Why Proteaceae do not need fungi", following the publications of Mark Brundrett, of Perth. Fungi typically form mutualisms with most plants, providing minerals and taking sugars. There are several kinds of hyphae/root cell configuration. Brundrett has surveyed world-wide work on most plants, at species and family level. 8% of plants world-wide are not mycorrhizal, but Australia has a higher percentage. Brundrett attributes this to the long time of the family evolution through poor soils and a drying climate. The Proteaceae are known to resist fungal invasion, so it is not just that there are no fungi in their habitat.

July - FNCV is a Community Partner for Julia Askeland during her Deakin 4th year research work-in-progress. She reported on her recent rain-forest field work on mosses, showing systematic data collection.

August - No meeting,
September - No meeting

September excursion - Returning to the Brisbane Ranges for the third time, we had a good attendance and fine weather to observe spring wildflowers at this hot spot of diversity. We used established lists. After Boardmans Reserve we stopped at Butchers Rd. Then, north of Stony Creek, on the winding Switch Rd, we found the endemic *Grevillea steiglitziana*. As described, "it is found in dry sclerophyll forest in rocky situations with sandy or quartzitic-clay soils".

October - Bill Aitchison, of the Acacia Study Group, (ANPSA) presented on: "The botanical classification of Acacias (and some other things)". Their diversity ranges from 641 in Western Australia to 21 in Tasmania. Bill's illustrations covered the seven sub-genus groups in Australia.

November - David Lindenmayer, of the Australian National University, presented: "Trouble in the forest". He spoke about logging and fire having the potential to trigger biodiversity and ecosystem collapse. He went on to discuss threatened species, such as the Greater Glider Possum. It is found in the upper elevations of



Members of the Botany Group out in the field.
 Photo, Ken Griffiths.

Mountain Ash, mostly in older forest and mostly in hollow-bearing trees. Put simply, many threatened species are in forest areas targeted for logging. To protect biodiversity, scientific studies show that native forest logging should cease in Victoria. Logging fragments the forest. The reserve system is inadequate.

Old forests suffer fire with less severity. Recovery is faster. Animal recolonisation is earlier. David cited numerous of his team's research papers which have established these principles. A "landscape trap" can constrain forest recovery.

For future forestry, well designed plantation regimes are recommended and a Great Forest National Park is desirable for Victoria. Amongst the questions from the audience was a concern on the progress of the current native logging phase-out in Victoria.

Ken Griffiths.

Field Nats News

In 2022 eleven issues of Field Nats News (FNN) were published, running from number 326 to 336 inclusive. Some of the major contributions are described below.

Max Campbell prepared eleven leading articles with a wealth of detail on a range of topics especially insects and spiders observed in his garden. He regularly reports on the Terrestrial Invertebrate Group's (TIG) outings, such as the February excursions to Yellingbo and Starling Gap. Max also wrote an article on slime moulds for FNN 333.

Wendy Clark generously shares her observations and beautiful images from her regular walks in the Blackburn Creeklands, including reporting on her talk (via Zoom) given to the November Day Group. FNN 326 contains her report on the November 2021 TIG outing to Braeside Park. In the December/January 2023 FNN she and I wrote up the TIG excursion to Black Rock/Beaumaris. This issue also included Wendy's observations of caterpillars, Horned Tree Hoppers and Tyrant Ants.

Barbara Burns contributes to FNN in various ways. She regularly reports on the FNCV's association with the Science Talent Search and on the FNCV Environment Fund. Barbara has also written articles on the Fauna Survey Group's survey in the Warby-Ovens National Park, (FNN 333) and the Mali Dunes Working Bee, (FNN 335).



Sally, Wendy and Joan. Photo, Gary Presland.

Ray Gibson has written reports on Fauna Survey activities for FNN 328 and FNN 330, "*How will Little Critters Cope with Climate Change?*" and "*The Grampians (Gariwerd) long-term fire, climate and small mammals' project*." Detailed reports of the Fungi Group's meetings and excursions have been ably reported on by Melvin Xu, Tobi May, Anna Brady, Virgil Hubgregtse, Mary Gibson, Hamish Beshara and Attilio Demicheli. Many thanks to you all for your great work. Philippa Burgess sends details of the Microscopy Group's meetings and in FNN 330 and 336 respectively, reported on the sec-

ond-hand book sale and the Geology Group's meeting, "*Groundwater for a thirsty Planet*". Ken Griffiths supplies short reports on the activities of the Geology and Botany Groups. Julia Askeland summarised her talk to the Botany Group, "*An Introduction to Bryophytes*", in FNN 331. Barbara Hall (MRG) has contributed articles to FNN 329 and 335 respectively, "*Of Crabs and Amphipods*" and "*The Insects of the Sea*."

Since the lockdowns of 2020 I have adapted to working on the newsletter from home, which allows me to give FNN more time and thought but I also enjoy working in the FNCV office a few days a month. FNN 326 included my article titled, "*Melbourne, a hotspot for Eastern Blue-tongue Lizards*." FNN 327 contained a report summarising highlights of the Marine Research Group's (MRG) January 2022 fieldwork at Point Roadknight, Anglesea, and a report of the FNCV defibrillator training. FNN 328 included an overview of the MRG's February field work in the Bunurong Marine Park. In FNN 332 there is a report on my observations of Bush Stone-curlews and, in the September newsletter, an article titled, "*A Naturalist with a camera in Cairns*." FNN 335 included an account of my visit to the Melton Botanic Gardens. In addition I summarised seven presentations for the FNCV Day Group and wrote three book reviews.

From time to time many FNCV members contribute natural history observations and reports on various activities and images, making each issue of FNN lively, thought provoking and full of interest. Thanks to Andrew McCutcheon for "*Dead Antechinus at Coronet Bay*", FNN 329 and many images, Sue Tardif, "*Frog Monitoring Program comes to Yellingbo*", FNN 329, John Eichler, "*Some interesting Otway Finds*", FNN 327 and many stunning images. Also thank you to Cecily Falkingham, Patricia Amaya, Carol Page, Sally Bewsher, Andrew Geschke and Ray Turner. I sometimes lift items from the amazing FNCV Juniors' Group newsletter. My thanks to Zoe Burton, Simon Wilton and Thomas Hosken for allowing FNN to use their material.

Finally, having acknowledged the contributors I would like to thank everyone who so willingly and reliably helps in the production of FNN in a variety of different ways. Sally Bewsher has taken on the task of proof-reading for many years. Her support and encouragement is always appreciated. It is from the Four Monthly Calendar of Events, the minutes of each Council Meeting and the AGM minutes, prepared by Wendy Gare, that the list of events, notices and member news are obtained. Wendy, in many other areas, is a constant, much valued support. She solves endless problems, deals with advertisers, sends out the FNN in pdf form and much more. Sheila Nicholls collates the printed copies of FNN ready for posting. Pat Grey has quietly and efficiently prepared a comprehensive index for FNN since 2010. Gary Presland provides regular library news, helps with obituaries and awards and is always willing to act as guest editor if needed. Each month's FNN is very much a team effort.

**Joan Broadberry,
Editor Field Nats News.**

FNCV Environment Fund

The FNCV Environment Fund is a tax-deductible fund that was set up in 2003 to aid not-for-profit community groups and individuals 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 \$7079 were received in 2022,

The projects supported in 2022 were:

- **Friends of Edwards Lake.** Printed information for residents on ways in which they can act as guardians of the lake, \$939.
- **Friends of Grove St. Reserve, Eltham.** Habitat restoration: chainsaw hollows, nest boxes and indigenous plants, \$1,000.
- **Friends of Bats and Bushcare.** Funds to buy high-protein milk supplements to feed orphaned Grey-headed Flying Fox pups at Yarra Bend, \$288.
- **Stawell Urban Landcare.** Cost of bus transport for students from three primary schools to learn about the local ironbark forest and its future sustainable management, \$396.
- **Greta Valley Landcare (Wangaratta).** Geology workshop targeted at local landholders, \$550.
- **Friends of Leadbeaters Possums.** Purchase of enhanced GPS to monitor the exclusion fence and report breaches to Zoo and Parks Victoria, \$729.

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.



Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

Despite many cancellations due to COVID and extreme weather events causing excursion postponements, the Terrestrial Invertebrates Group continued to attract interest. In 2022 three meetings were held in the hall at Blackburn and two online, via Zoom. There were five well-attended field excursions including Yellingbo, Starlings Gap, Cranbourne Botanical Gardens, Black Rock/Beaumaris and Langwarrin.

The excursions have generated a great deal of interest and have significantly encouraged the uptake of macro-photography of invertebrates and nature in general, leading to new members joining the FNCV.

Wendy Clark took over running the TIG excursions and chairing meetings for the second half of the year and joined the FNCV Council as the TIG representative. Her efforts and comprehensive skills have been much appreciated and the group is now set-up for a successful year in 2023 with many excursions already planned.

Max Campbell and Wendy Clark.



Laphria sp., Asilidae
(Robber Flies). Mating pair at Starlings Gap.

Photo, Max Campbell.



Day Group

Members enjoy coffee and a chat from 10.30 am on the last Tuesday of the month, 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. As Gary Presland quips, 'a GIG not a SIG (special interest group).'

Below is a record of the program for 2022.

February: "*Travels to the Sub-Antarctic Islands of New Zealand and Macquarie Island.*" Speaker: Heather Ducat, Peninsula Field Naturalists Club.

March: "*Whirl into 2022 with the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Art Group, The Whirlies.*" Speaker: Pam Diarmid.

April: "*Grey-headed Flying Foxes.*" Speaker: Dr Megan Davidson secretary, Friends of Bats and Bushcare Inc.

May: "*Wildlife of the Australian Rainforests - the lesser known states.*" Speaker: John Harris, Wildlife Experiences.

June: "*Missing the Forests for the Trees. The ecology of the Box-ironbark forests of the Heathcote region.*" Speaker: Dr Mary Gibson.

July: "*Travels in Arnhem Land.*" Speaker: Eve Kolar.

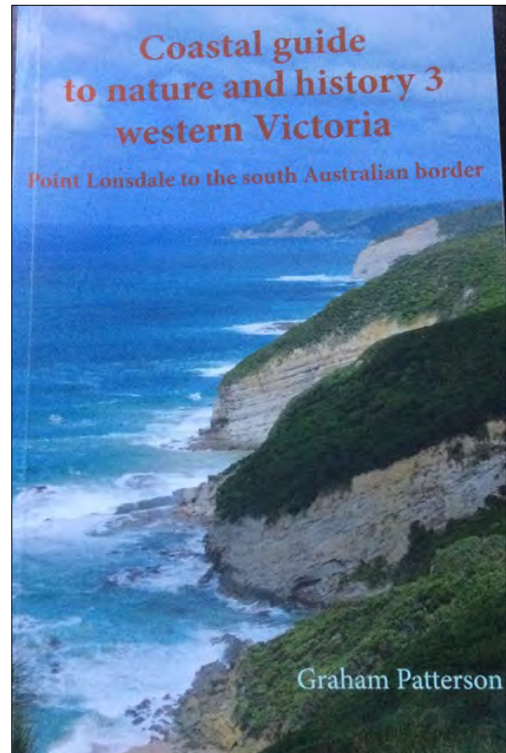
August: Held via Zoom. "*Wattle-time or Yellow-haired September. A brief history of Wattle Day.*" Speaker: Dr Gary Presland.

September: A spring wildflower and nature walk at Blackburn Lake, led by Ian Moodie, team leader, Environment and Education, Whitehorse Council, was planned. Unfortunately it had to be cancelled due to a very poor weather forecast. Max Campbell stepped in and gave a presentation, via Zoom, on the Mallee property recently acquired by the FNCV, Mali Dunes.

October: "*Coastal guide to nature and history 3. western Victoria.*" Speaker: Graham Patterson.

November: "*Travels in Outback Western Australia from Broome to Perth via Mt. Augustus.*" Speaker: Joan Broadberry.

The Day Group has always been exceptionally well supported from within the FNCV. In 2022, seven of the ten speakers were Club members. I would especially like to thank all our wonderful presenters who generously volunteer their time and expertise. As always, the Day Group program was varied and full of interest. Attendance averages about 25 at each meeting. All members are welcome, along with friends, family and visitors.



Graham Patterson introduced the October Day Group to his new book, *Coastal guide to nature and history 3, western Victoria.*

Photo, Joan Broadberry.

As they have done since 2015, Joan Broadberry and Sally Bewsher organise the program and chair the meetings. Joan usually prepares a summary of the presentation for inclusion in Field Nats News. 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 with all technical matters, his wide range of contacts and for stepping in as back-up speaker on occasions.

FNN 337 contains a plea from Joan and Sally for assistance in organising the Day Group. To discuss this further please contact Joan, email: joan.broadberry@gmail.com or Wendy Gare at the FNCV office admin@fncv.org.au

**Joan Broadberry,
Day Group Co-ordinator.**

**Thanks to Barbara Burns for the
production of the 2022 FNCV Annual
Report.**



Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group (MRG) held two meetings and visited ten locations in 2022. These were attended by small but enthusiastic groups of members.

The program for 2022 was:

Meetings

May - Our annual field trip roundup. We look at the locations we have visited and the animals we have seen. Members are encouraged to bring in images and exhibits from the field work to show to others.

December - Our annual members night. The meeting was held jointly online and at the FNCV hall. Members brought along images, stories and research to share with the group.

Field Work 2022

29/1	Anglesea,
23/2-26/2	Inverloch, (Four locations visited)
23/3-26/3	Port Fairy, (Four locations visited)
23/4	Stony Point.

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



An amphipod in the family Maeridae, approximately 15 mm long, found during the survey at Point Roadknight, Anglesea. Photo, Leon Altoff.

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

The existing committee remained in place.

President	Michael Lyons
Secretary	Leon Altoff
Fieldtrip coordinator	Audrey Falconer
Committee member	Platon Vafiadis

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

Leon Altoff, Secretary.



Library and Archives

Library

A total of 21 new volumes were added to the FNCV Library holdings during 2022. The great majority of these were acquired as donations. These gifts came either from the estates of former members of the Club, from individuals wishing to divest themselves of books, to an appropriate home, or the books were selected by the Librarian from the stock that were part of the Club's second-hand book sale. Three of the recent acquisitions were purchased. My thanks are extended to those people who made donations, and also to Kathy Himbeck, FNCV Books Sales Officer, who facilitated the purchase of a number of recently-published monographs.

Twenty-five books and 14 periodical issues were borrowed during the reporting period, which was an increase on the previous couple of years. This is to be expected because 2022 was the first year since 2019 that the Library has been able to operate completely through the 12 months.

Archives

Archival enquiries in 2022 continued to be based largely on research external to the Club, but which took in issues relating to FNCV members or activities. 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. The subjects of these enquires have included prominent members Dudley Best and Edith Coleman, as well as research on Jane Sutherland, and the rediscovery of Leadbeaters Possum.

Through the year Graham Patterson has provided invaluable support in keeping the Library's collection of periodicals up to date. I thank him for doing this and for his ready assistance and cheery company.

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



Juniors' Group

Many fun and informative excursions were undertaken by the Juniors in 2022, with the annual Easter Camp again a highlight of the year. Meetings were reduced or held as part of excursions to limit close contact and in some months there were two excursions to accommodate this. Adam Hosken stepped up as the leader of the group in 2022 and organised some great outings. The Juniors' Newsletter was again produced by the Burton/Wilton family with terrific contributions from some of the young members of the group. A Landcare grant awarded to the Juniors assisted with costs for some of the activities.

February – Excursion 1, Queenscliff Boat Trip

Twenty-four Junior members embarked on a boat trip out of Queenscliff into Port Phillip Bay to see the seals at Chinaman's Hat, the gannets at The Popes Eye and to do a little 'dredging' in the seagrass beds to see what could be found. There were many species of seaweed and crabs, but the highlights included a seahorse, a sea-spider, a sea 'mouse' (*echinoderm urchin*) and skeleton shrimps.

February – Excursion 2, Point Cook Marine Sanctuary

Warm weather provided the perfect environment for the Juniors' excursion to the Point Cook Marine Sanctuary on the western side of Port Phillip Bay. The tide was low which allowed people to venture around the rocks to look for interesting marine life. There were quite a number of rays swimming in the shallow water not far from shore. Andrew Christie from Melbourne Polytechnic generously spent the afternoon showing the Juniors where to find specimens and also helped to identify them. He provided some bathoscopes, so that people could look under the surface without needing a snorkel. Many fish, including baby flathead, were observed. Some more adventurous members snorkelled out a little further and encountered Port Jackson Sharks, Southern Fiddler Rays and Stingarees.

April - Weedy Seadragons at Portsea

Twenty-one Juniors embarked on a snorkeling excursion at Portsea in April where they were lucky enough to see the elusive weedy seadragons in their natural habitat. This excursion was partially subsidised by our Landcare Grant.

Easter Camp at Mali Dunes

The Juniors had a wonderful Easter Camp in the Big Desert area, at the newly acquired FNCV property, Mali Dunes. The Juniors were lucky to have some extremely knowledgeable members of the FNCV join them in the desert including president Max Campbell, Joan Broadberry, Barbara Burns and Carol Page. Seven families took part and were able to see some rare wildlife, including Mallee Fowl.

May - Tree planting at Yellingbo

In May, a group of Juniors travelled to Yellingbo to help with tree planting.

July - Spotighting in Rosanna Parklands

The Juniors ventured out on a night excursion led by author Harry Saddler and the Friends of Rosanna Parklands, looking for nocturnal wildlife. Tawny Frogmouths, Common Ringtail and Brushtail Possums, as well as large numbers of Krefft's Sugar Gliders, were seen.

September - Excursion to Yalukit William Nature Reserve in Elsternwick

A past urban golf course in Elsternwick, near Port Phillip Bay, is being transformed into a sustainable nature reserve, thanks to some innovative design and assistance from local groups. One of the people who has been closely involved in the development of the site, Gio Fitzpatrick, kindly took a group of Juniors around the reserve and showed them some of its design features and the plants that are being grown. The Juniors also got a chance to help by planting some grasses alongside one of the ponds.

October – Royal Park

Kylie Soames from the University of Melbourne took a group of Juniors through a part of Royal Park that has been designed to attract smaller birds and reptiles. The Trin Warren Tam-boore wetland area treats storm-water by filtering it through a series of ponds full of native plants. This area has been planted out with lots of dense, understory flora, such as tangled lignum and saltbush. This creates a haven for small birds that can hide and nest inside it whilst, at the same time, keeps out predators and other bigger birds. Fifty-five fairy wrens have had their legs banded as part of an ongoing study.

In another part of Royal Park, scientists have been trying different ways to help grow and expand the numbers of White's Skinks found there. Over the 2022 winter, some rocky sections of the park were fenced off and goats were introduced in the hope that they would eat the grass in the areas that were difficult to cut. This has been successful and when we visited, the group found a number of White's Skinks and also a Weasel Skink.

Zoe Burton.

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



Juniors at Yellingbo thanking Landcare for the grant that subsidised many of their excursions in 2022.

Photo, Millie Wan.



Cartoon showing moth larvae being infected with *Cordyceps gunnii* spores and then growing a fruiting body out of its head.

Drawing
Phineas Wilton.



Gannets out in Port Phillip Bay.
Photo, Patricia Amaya.



Juniors out on a boat
on Port Phillip Bay
searching through
sea grass from the
sea floor.
Photo, Simon Wilton.



Juniors in Rosanna parkland for a spot-
lighting excursion.
Photo, Adam Hosken.



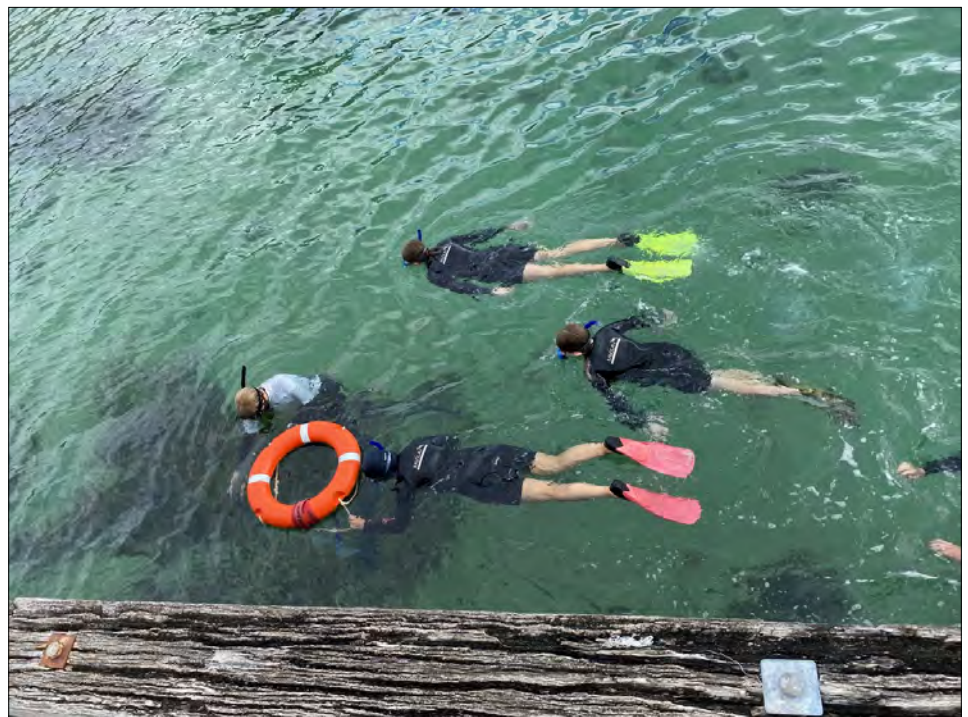
Junior member looking through a bathoscope at Point Cook Marine reserve.
Photo, Zoe Burton.



James in his prize-winning costume at the Juniors' birthday in August.
Photo, Zoe Burton.

Juniors snorkelling and looking for Weedy Seadragons at Portsea.

Photo, Heather Greenwood.





Geology Group

Geology SIG meetings were well attended at the Club hall in 2022. Just 2 of 10 required Zoom, due to COVID. Thank you to FNCV vice-president Philippa Burgess, who joined the Geology SIG planning team mid-year, and also chaired two meetings. Also thank you to Troy Williams, Geology SIG Council representative. Our guest speakers brought us a range of geology topics and we thank them for their interest, expertise and passion!

February

The Woods Point earthquake of 22 Sept 2021 was the topic of James La Greca, MSc researcher at Melbourne University. Pressure waves were felt in Melbourne, and as far as central Tasmania. The magnitude of 5.9 was at 12.7 km depth, with a 4.2 aftershock 15 min after. James described and illustrated the extensive local investigations made to study the quake's effects. He told us a region of 8 x 9km of existing faulted rocks was found and the prime cause was attributed to the tectonic plate boundary in New Zealand.

March

Professor Neil Phillips spoke about the s-type (sedimentary in origin) granites and a field survey project of Strathbogie granites. A surprising result of the survey was that both the top and bottom of the extensive emplacement could be traced and that the thickness was much less than previously thought, at 300 m. He brought rock samples for inspection at the meeting.

April

Perry Vlahos speaking on "How astronomers revealed secrets of the universe", recounted that Aristarchus, long ago, calculated the distance from the Earth to the Moon using the Earth's shadow. He described how science builds on past work, while sometimes overturning past conclusions. So Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Kepler, Galileo, Huygens, Newton and Halley each, in turn, built up astronomical knowledge.

May

Ken Griffiths presented, "Exploring virtual night skies with Stellarium". While stepping through some useful features of the software version for Windows PC, a number of bright celestial objects of different kinds were illustrated:

- Arcturus: red and bright, Alpha Centauri: actually a binary, readily 'split' with a small telescope. The Jewel Box open cluster is near Beta Crux, and faintly visible to the naked eye. Binoculars or a small telescope show it well.
- The Hyades is a big open cluster that you can photograph in the summer. Stellarium can zoom from a narrow telescope view to a 5 degree wide binocular/camera view.
- The nebula of Orion is 6 times the area of the moon, which Stellarium illustrates. And by changing the date to January, Stellarium simulates the position of the Orion constellation, high in our southern sky in summer.

- The star theta 1 Orionis C, one of the four in the Trapezium cluster, is a mighty powerhouse in the cradle of new stars that the Orion nebula is. It is notable that Galileo recorded his observation of the Trapezium in 1617. Finally, Stellarium showed us: the stunning Carina nebula complex, the Large Magellanic Cloud galaxy and the Omega Centauri globular cluster.

June

Perry Vlahos continued from April with Part 2 on "How astronomers revealed secrets of the universe". He told us Copernicus, in 1543, published a book on how the Earth orbits the Sun. Tycho Brahe recorded accurate



Geology meeting in the hall.
Presenter, Graham Patterson.
Photo, Eve Kolar.

measurements of planetary movements, which Kepler borrowed to correct the idea of Brahe that the Sun orbits the Earth. (All before telescopes were invented.)

- Halley's Comet is recorded as sighted from the Tower of London in the 1066 Bayeux Tapestry.
- The extreme elliptical orbits of comets around the Sun as one focus implied the Oort Cloud, described in 1950 though not seen, well beyond the furthest planets.
- The direction of a comet's tail is evidence of solar wind, much studied these days.
- William Herschel 200 years ago built big telescopes, supported by George III in England and his discovery of an infra-red band beyond the visible rainbow spectrum of light led to Fraunhofer, in 1815, using diffraction slits to reveal the chemical elements (metals) in light sources, such as stars.
- Perry explained how in the mid 19th century the observed Doppler Effect of sound waves was applied to the developing understanding of the electro-magnetic spectrum and the famous red shift in the light of a nebula was observed in the 1860s.
- In the 1920s, the expanding universe was described. The 'Big Bang' theory of the origin of the universe got widespread support by the 1960s.

July

Tim Ziegler, from Vertebrate Palaeontology at Museums Victoria, detailed the role of the public in 2021 in choosing, from 8 candidates, the Victorian Fossil Emblem. *Koolasuchus cleelandi* was a crocodile-like amphibian that lived beside dinosaurs in Victoria during the Cretaceous period, about 125 million years ago. The other candidates were: *Isograptus victoriae* (this fossil animal colony formed a V for Victoria), *Baragwanathia* (a pioneer land plant from about 400 MYA), *Bishops whitmorei* (a tiny mammal among Victoria's dinosaurs), *Janjucetus hunderi* (ancestor of today's whales), *Pelagornis* (a giant toothed bird), *Palorchestes azael* (an ice-age marsupial) and *Leaellynasaura* (a slender polar dinosaur).

August

On Zoom we watched together the Museums Victoria Lecture, "Fresh approaches to deep time; on finding the *Koolasuchus*, new State Fossil Emblem." This was a follow-up to the July presentation about the process to determine the State Fossil Emblem. In turn, Tom Rich and Anne Warren explained and illustrated the field work of recent decades, and the developing understandings of evolution in Victoria of dinosaurs, and Temnospondyli.

September

Jürgen Schaeffer has over 40 years experience in mining, groundwater and environmental projects throughout Australasia, Norway and Africa. He spoke about our global water resources, the several types of geological water storage systems, the major groundwater storage basins in Australia (with great maps), the uses of ground water for environmental, domestic, industrial, mining, agriculture and power supply. He explained that Australia monitors relatively well the extraction of groundwater, through licences and guidelines. It was a very interesting presentation on an extremely vital resource with a depressing conclusion as to our future water supply for the world's estimated population of 10 billion by 2050.

October

Tony Heyes, a physicist, spoke on Carbon-14 dating (on the Turin Shroud), and dendrochronology (dating using tree growth rings). Miyake Spikes (high levels of C-14 isotope) were found in tree rings from 774 CE. They enable study of historic solar activity, and geomagnetic storms.

November

Agathe Lisé, Pronovost of Melbourne University, explained that the surface magnetic field of Earth is expressed variably in the human part of geological time, varying both by location and through time. So we do not simply find a virtual bar magnet between the N and S magnetic poles.

Date confirmation can be achieved for a site using several different methods. For example, at Lake Mungo, four methods were used to confirm the current date estimate of ancient indigenous people earliest presence.

Whereas generally the N-S of Earth flips roughly each 800,000 years, and is marked on the ocean floor near expanding basalt rifts, a geomagnetic excursion lasting a few thousand years occurred just 41,000 years ago. This "Laschamp excursion" was detected by Agathe's team locally, from 5.5 metre sediment cores taken at Lake Selina in Tasmania.

Palaeo magnetism has the properties of declination, inclination and intensity. These are recorded in the field, along with the date. Several modern methods were subsequently used to date the cores. Note: three glaciation periods were detected for Tasmania, within the 270,000 year range of study.

Ken Griffithg.



Fungi Group

In 2022 we have continued engaging volunteer fungi citizen scientists in building up their capacity to identify fungi through Herbarium samples.

This year:

- We catalogued a number of specimens that are waiting to be sent off to the Royal Botanic Gardens Herbarium.
- We engaged with a wider spectrum of speakers that were not limited to fungi in our natural environment.
- We decided to expand our forays throughout Victoria in 2023.

In our first full year of field work, post pandemic restriction, we had a large group of volunteers take part in our outings. Younger and new fungi-philes plus local plant societies joined us on our forays!



Herbarium sampling and microscopy inside the studio at the Sanctuary. Photo, Anna Brady.

Melvin Xu, Hamish Beshara, Tobi May.



Fauna Survey Group

The first three surveys for 2022 were in partnership with Parks Victoria Biodiversity Science, in national parks or nature conservation reserves. All were established surveys with three or more visits now having been completed. New species are still being added to the fauna lists for each reserve, and valuable data collected about the populations of target species over time.



Robin Drury collecting cameras, at Mali Dunes after the rain. Photo, Ray Gibson.

The Bael Bael NCR has been surveyed annually since 2017, fortunately avoiding COVID-19 lockdowns. This was our sixth visit concentrating on the Plains Wanderer which has been recorded in gradually increasing numbers for the last three years. The survey has added records confirming the successful management by Parks Victoria for Plains Wanderer and the value of the reserve for other grasslands fauna, some of them also rare or threatened in Victoria.

The Warby Ovens National Park survey included camera surveys for small mammals, spotlighting and birdwatching transects. Repeating surveys every 2-3 years adds to the long-term knowledge of species, and adds new species records each time. This is a good place to see Squirrel Gliders, and also many woodland birds. There were daylight sightings of Yellow-footed Antechinus, and notable bird records included nine Painted Button Quail in one 500m transect, Swift Parrots, Speckled Warbler, Brown Treecreeper and Grey-crowned Babblers.

Yarrara Nature Conservation Reserve, in far North West Victoria, protects rare Belah woodland communities and White-browed Treecreepers, which are the main focus of the surveys. White-browed Treecreepers were recorded this time, even though showers and windy weather curtailed the full number of transect survey replicates. Spotlighting surveys revealed numbers

of geckos and frogs. A Yellow-faced Whip Snake, rare for Victoria, was recorded and plenty of interesting woodland birds were seen.

Directly after Yarrara we went to Mali Dunes, the Club's property at Yanac at the southern edge of the Big Desert. Here we sampled the fauna using remote cameras and recorded mammals, reptiles and birds. Particularly pleasing were some Hopping Mice at several localities, a species of Pygmy Possum, and, after heavy rain, frog activity in the ponds. Fauna survey methods will be developed for systematic, comprehensive, long term monitoring at this property.

Surveys for 2022

11-14 March	Bael Bael
10-14 June	Warby-Ovens National Park
24-28 October	Yarrara NCR
9-31 October	Mali Dunes
21-22 November	Mali Dunes

Meetings

1gh February: Marty Lockett, PhD Candidate, School of Biosciences, University of Melbourne: *"Artificial light at night masks the natural lunar cycle and disrupts foraging activity of the Bell Miner."*

1st March: Katrina Harrison - Manager, Regulatory Intelligence Unit, Conservation Regulator, DELWP. *"Protecting our public land, our wildlife and vegetation, how to identify suspicious behaviour and what to do".*

5th April: John White, Associate Professor, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University. *"How will little critters cope with climate change? The Grampians-Gariwerd Fire, Climate and Small Mammals Project."*

3rd May: Andrew Constantinou, FSG member and wildlife and conservation biology student at La Trobe University. *"A recent trip exploring the rain-forest fauna of Queensland's wet tropics".*

7th June: Rocio Aguilar, Research Fellow at Museums Victoria and Monash University. *"X-rays, superpowers and the ecology, morphology and diversity of Australian lizards".*

5th July: John Harris, Zoologist and Director, Wildlife Experiences. *"Wildlife of the Australian Rainforests - the lesser known states: a look at the wildlife residing in rainforests in Victoria and Western Australia".*

6th September: Dr Simon Watson, Forest and Fire Risk Assessment Unit, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. *"The ecological theory, data, models and decisions behind Victoria's bushfire management for ecosystem resilience and biodiversity".*

4th October: Robert Irvine, Friends of Organ Pipes National Park: *"The Nest Box Program at Organ Pipes National Park. Birds, Sugar Gliders and Microbats. Successes and Failures."*

Turning over wood
to see what may be
hiding underneath.

Photo,
Andrej Hohmann.



8th November: Phoebe Macak, Wildlife Ecologist, Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research. *"Review of nest box programs for native wildlife in Victoria"*.

6th December: Members' night. Review of the year's survey activities.

The August meeting was cancelled and the speaker rescheduled to November. The September meeting was online. The attendance at meetings was 9 to 25, averaging 17.

Raymond Gibson.



Little Forest Bat.
Photo, Andrej Hohmann.



Bynoe's Gecko. Yarrara trip, October 2022.
Photo, Andrej Hohmann.



Mali Dunes at Easter before the rains.
Photo, Barbara Burns.



Setting a pitline, Yarrara NCR.
Photo, Ray Gibson.

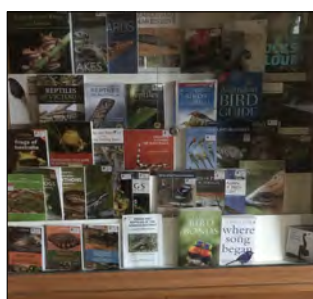


Mali Dunes after the rains.
Photo, Barbara Burns.



Bookshop

The bookshop team extends a warm thanks to all those that have supported us throughout 2022, submitting book orders and purchasing books from the clubrooms. The bookshop team would also like to acknowledge and thank, in particular, Wendy Gare and all those that processed the book sales from the clubrooms. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you for the patience and understanding of those that were impacted (and potentially still impacted) by delays in book order dispatch issues. Whilst the supply from distributors has almost recovered from the COVID holdups, moving house and all of the disruptions that has caused has been the main reason for the delays in 2022. The disruptions throughout the year, have also impacted on the very limited provision of articles to the FNN and the inability to release an updated bookshop catalogue.



Book display cases in the hall.
Photo, Barbara Burns.

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

The bookshop provides ongoing support to the library with the purchase of any new titles that are considered appropriate. In 2022 we also provided support for the purchase of Mali Dunes with a donation of \$5,000 and provided funding of \$5,000 for the creation of *The Victorian Naturalist* word searchable digital archive, in the form of a USB, that will be available for sale through the bookshop in 2023.

Over 2022 the FNCV Bookshop sold a total of 191 books that ranged across 90 different titles covering 9 broad genres. Throughout the year an extensive range of books were available for sale covering over 300 different titles across a range of topics including aquatic, children, flora, fauna, fungi, geology, invertebrates, places, habitats in gardens, landscape restoration and a range of other general topics. In 2022 the bookshop reported a profit of \$2,495 for the year.

The next bookshop catalogue will be produced in 2023 and will include the full selection of titles, with a printed copy able to be viewed at the clubrooms and an electronic copy put on the FNCV website. The regular articles in the FNN are also planned for a return, so members can catch up on the new titles available.

Kathy Himbeck, Bookshop Manager.

The Victorian Naturalist

Production of *The Victorian Naturalist* has continued without serious problems, for the 139th consecutive year. Six issues of the journal comprising Volume 139 were published during 2022. The volume was made up of six issues of 32 pages each (including one which contained the Index for Volume 138). This spread resulted in the publication of 192 pages for the year.

A total of 21 substantive papers appeared in Volume 139, comprising 6 Research Reports, 10 Contributions, and 5 Naturalist Notes. In addition, 4 books were reviewed.

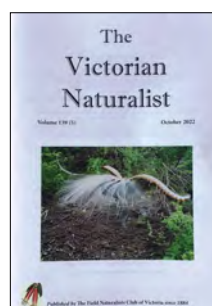


Vic Nat team 2022, Gary, Sue, Maria and Virgil.
Photo, Wendy Clark.

It was the Editors' pleasure to publish, in the April issue, the citation for the 2021 recipient of the Australian Natural History Medallion, Peter Latz.

As ever, I am grateful 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 the tasks 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*.

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



The Victorian Naturalist,
October 2022 Edition.
Photo, Barbara Burns.

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC
REPORT BY COUNCIL. Year ended 31 December 2022

The members of Council hereby submit the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2022 and the Income Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022 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>Com- menced</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
Andrej Hohmann	Councillor	Public servant	2022
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 (1st part of year)	Doctor G.P.	2017
Adam Hosken	Juniors' Group Councillor (2nd part of year)	Change Master	2022
Troy Filer(aka Williams)	Geology Group Councillor	Student	2021
Su Dempsey	Fauna Survey Group Councillor	Retired	2013
Wendy Clark	Terrestrial Invertebrates Group Councillor	Retired	2022

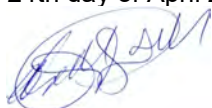
- The principal activities and objects of the Club are to stimulate interest in natural history and to preserve and protect Australian fauna and flora. No significant changes in the nature of those activities occurred during the reporting period.
- The net profit of the Club for the year ended 31st December 2022 was \$10,932 which includes profit from the sale of shares of \$6,961 (2021 \$9,870)
- 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 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 2022
- 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 2022.
- 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 24th day of April 2023 in accordance with a resolution of Council.



Maxwell Campbell – President



Barbara Burns - Treasurer

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Income Statement year ended 31/12/22

		2022	2021
		\$	\$
INCOME	Membership	38,702	39,266
	Bookshop Profit	2,495	509
	Hall Hire	575	1,510
	Government Credit for GST Grant	2,530	
	Non-Member Levy and Sundry income	365	30
	Copyright Royalties - Vic Naturalist.	5,201	4,141
	2nd Hand Book Sale and Raffle	1,510	
	Interest and Franking Credits from Investments	3,068	7,696
	General Donations and Fungi e-book (\$315)	<u>4,291</u>	<u>3,994</u>
	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$58,737</u>	<u>\$57,146</u>
EXPENDITURE	Victorian Naturalist, Printing and Postage	6,903	8,308
Publications	Newsletter, Printing and Postage	2,150	1,791
	Calendar of Events, Printing and Postage	<u>1,360</u>	<u>951</u>
	<u>Total Publications Expenses</u>	<u>\$10,413</u>	<u>\$11,050</u>
Other Expenses	Annual Report Printing Cost	227	200
	Bank Fees, Credit Card, Eftpos machine	532	578
	Depreciation Expense	2,132	3,020
	Donations Outgoing		500
	Electricity	615	288
	Hall Cleaning	1,452	626
	Hall Alarm	509	486
	Insurance	2,786	2,368
	Internet Provider, Website Expenses and Phone	1,248	1,185
	Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies and Xmas Expenses	284	41
	Library Expenses and Subscriptions	977	470
	Mali Dunes Expenses - Net (Insurance, Rates)	945	
	Non-Library Subscriptions	309	197
	Office Postage and Post Office Box Hire	569	424
	Office Stationery Supplies, etc	646	817
	Repairs & Maintenance Office Equipment	216	713
	Repairs & Maintenance - General	787	2,729
	Rates (\$317) and water (\$258) - Gardenia St	575	317
	Rates Maryborough	282	270
	Safe-COVID Expenses		361
	Sundry Expenses	254	203
	Software Purchase	87	144
	Special Interest Group Expenses		167
	Workers' Compensation Insurance	216	214
	Wages, Salaries and Superannuation	<u>28,705</u>	<u>29,244</u>
	<u>Total Other Expenses</u>	<u>\$44,353</u>	<u>\$45,562</u>
	<u>Total Publication and Other Expenses</u>	<u>\$54,766</u>	<u>\$56,612</u>
	<u>OPERATING PROFIT</u>	<u>\$3,971</u>	<u>\$534</u>
Sale of investments	Add Profit from the Sale of 2900 AFI Shares	<u>6,961</u>	<u>9,336</u>
	<u>NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</u>	<u>\$10,932</u>	<u>\$9,870</u>

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31/12/22

<u>ASSETS</u>	2022	2021
Current Assets	\$	\$
Cash at Bank - Note (3)	54,754	216,855
Environment Fund A/c - Bendigo Bank	716	716
Petty Cash (FNCV \$50, Bookshop \$40)	90	90
Stock FNCV Mugs	585	825
Sundry Debtors Bookshop	4,778	3,414
Prepaid Cost of VicNat Searchable USB's (Bookshop)	5100	
Inventories Bookshop - Note (4)	<u>13,938</u>	<u>10,996</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>79,961</u>	<u>232,896</u>
Non-Current Assets		
Investments		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	100,000	204,885
Shares Listed on the Stock Exchange - Note (5)	<u>20,220</u>	<u>37,753</u>
	<u>120,220</u>	<u>242,638</u>
Library Holdings - Note (6)	<u>50,321</u>	<u>50,321</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment		
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)	8,718	6,844
Mali Dunes, Millers Road, Yanac (at cost 6/4/22).	<u>308,223</u>	
	<u>1,157,299</u>	<u>847,202</u>
Total Non-current Assets	<u>1,327,840</u>	<u>1,140,161</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$1,407,801</u>	<u>\$1,373,057</u>
<u>Less LIABILITIES (Current)</u>		
Prepaid Book Vouchers, Not Yet Spent – Bookshop	1,900	2,000
Pay as You go Payable (0), Net GST (0)		994
Mali Dunes Donations (for the Purchase of the Property)	103,765	85,650
Science Talent Search Fund	1,500	
Landcare Australia Grant, FNCV Juniors	5,459	3,841
Australian Natural History Medallion - Loan Account	7,355	6,881
FNCV Environment Fund - Loan Account	<u>19,610</u>	16,680
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	<u>139,589</u>	<u>116,046</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$1,268,212</u>	<u>\$1,257,011</u>
<u>FNCV ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		
Current Year - Net Profit	10,932	9,870
General Fund brought forward - Note (8)	<u>589,175</u>	579,305
Bequests, Dorothy Mahler (\$10,000), Fred Smith (\$10,000)	20,000	20,000
Marine Research Fund	24,857	24,857
Fauna Survey Equip Fund - Note (9)	9,407	9,138
FNCV Environment Fund	715	715
Asset Revaluation Reserve - Clubhouse	597,488	597,488
Asset Revaluation Reserve - General	15,093	15,093
FNCV Juniors	<u>545</u>	<u>545</u>
<u>TOTAL FNCV ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	<u>\$1,268,212</u>	<u>\$1,257,011</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2022

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 professional reporting requirements in Australia do not have mandatory applicability to The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated because its reports are only for members. The Council has, however, prepared the financial report in accordance with the applicable professional reporting requirements.

(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 2022

	2022	2021
3. CASH	\$	\$
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	50,815	201,005
Bookshop Account, Westpac Croydon	3,282	3,694
Bookshop Interest Bearing Account, Westpac Croydon	<u>657</u>	<u>3,939</u> <u>12,156</u>
TOTAL CASH	<u>\$54,754</u>	<u>\$216,855</u>
4. STOCK OF BOOKS for sale, at the lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>13,938</u>	<u>10,996</u>
5. SHARES LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE		
5000 Shares in Australian Foundation, at cost (7900 in 2021)	<u>20,220</u>	<u>37,753</u>
5(a) MARKET VALUE OF LISTED SHARES 31/12/22		
Shares in Australian Foundation - Market Value, 5000 x \$7.46	<u>37,300</u>	<u>53,290</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
Mali Dunes Property at cost 2022	308,223	
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn - at valuation	769,000	769,000
Clubhouse Improvements - at cost	57,958	57,958
Plant and Equipment - at cost \$76,127		
Less Accumulated Depreciation <u>(67,409)</u>	<u>8,718</u>	<u>6,844</u>
	<u>1,157,299</u>	<u>847,202</u>
8. GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward	\$589,175	\$579,305
Add Net Profit for 2022	<u>10,932</u>	<u>9,870</u>
Balance at 31 December 2022	<u>\$600,107</u>	<u>\$589,175</u>
9. Fauna Survey (FSG) Equipment Fund	9,138	10,593
Received for Loan of FSG Equipment	<u>269</u>	<u>-1,455</u>
Balance at 31 December 2022	<u>9,407</u>	<u>9,138</u>

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.**Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	<u>Inflow +,</u>	<u>Outflow (-)</u>
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
CASH FLOWS OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	\$	\$
Net inflow from Operations (Note 1.)	3,227	12,523
GST (net change)	<u>-423</u>	<u>-444</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Operations	<u>\$2,804</u>	<u>\$12,079</u>
CASH FLOWS INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Equipment Purchased	-4,006	-125
Purchase of Mallee Property, Mali Dunes	-308,223	
Increase in Fauna Survey Group Equipment Fund	269	-1,455
Decrease in Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	104,886	-752
Proceeds from the Sale of Listed Shares	<u>17,533</u>	<u>46,978</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Investing Activities	<u>\$-189,541</u>	<u>\$44,646</u>
CASH FLOWS FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Increase in Science Talent Search Fund	1,500	-1,000
Increase in Donations contributed for Mali Dunes Purchase	18,115	85,650
Increase in Landcare Grant, FNCV Juniors	1,618	3,841
Increase in Loan from Australian Natural History Medallion	473	164
Increase in Loan from Environment Fund	2,930	3,867
Decrease in Government, Cash Flow, COVID-19 Grant		-6,558
Change in FNCV Juniors' Fund	<u> </u>	<u>-1,500</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Financing Activities	<u>\$24,636</u>	<u>\$84,464</u>
Net Cash Outflow for the Year	<u>-\$162,101</u>	<u>\$141,189</u>
CHANGE In FNCV CHEQUE A/Cs BALANCE for year	<u>\$-162,101</u>	<u>\$141,189</u>
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance Start of Year	201,005	60,019
Less Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance End of Year	<u>50,815</u>	<u>201,005</u>
Decrease in Bendigo Bank Account	-150,190	140,986
Decrease in Westpac Bookshop Accounts	<u>-11,911</u>	<u>203</u>
Total Decrease in Cash for year	<u>\$-162,101</u>	<u>\$141,189</u>

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

Net Profit	10,932	9,870
Add Back Depreciation	2,132	3,020
Less Increase in Inventories Bookshop	-2,942	-1,010
Less Increase in Bookshop Debtors	-1,364	-1,266
Add Decrease in Stock of Goodwill Wine & Mugs	240	
Less Decrease in Pay-as-You-Go Tax Owing	-571	-91
Less Increase in Prepaid Cost of VicNat Searchable USB's	-5,100	
Less Decrease in Prepaid Bookshop Gift Vouchers	<u>-100</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Operations	<u>\$3,227</u>	<u>\$12,523</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 2022. 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 Professional Accounting requirements. 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 mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia).

I have relied on the data for years prior to that ending 31 December 2022 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 2022 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:



Susan J. Harkin, CPA
Honorary Auditor

15 April 2023
Blackburn

