# The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

**Reg. No A0033611X**

# Annual Report

## Year Ending 31 December 2002

## President's Report

**A Plethora of Activities**

The range of fascinating and 'must attend' meetings, excursions and camps was almost too many for the average person to fit into their busy schedules. It is a credit to each group's organisers to come up with such a wonderful program each month. Please read their individual reports for details.

Two new groups have joined us. The Melbourne Junior FNC has ceased to be an independent club and joined us as the Junior Group. The Terrestrial Invertebrate Group was formed to cater for those who are passionate about this topic. The group will be based on field work as well as bi–monthly meetings. The General Meeting was reinstated to address people's general interests and to cover topics not covered by the special interest groups as well as looking at controversial issues. It is surviving, but needs more momentum.

Our club was host to the Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association campout, which was held at Trentham. It was wonderful to see so many naturalists from across the state assembled in one place all sharing each other's experiences.

This year the Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Ian Endersby for his work on entomology as well as in many other areas of Natural History. Ian followed his presentation with a wonderful address on 'How to be a Naturalist'.

Three of our members, Peg Lade, Florence Hosking and John Seebeck, were awarded Honorary Memberships.

**Achievements**

The Fauna Survey Group held two very successful workshops. One was on Identification of Reptiles and the other was a Small Mammals Workshop. All those who attended benefitted greatly from the knowledge imparted.

The Biodiversity Forum held during September was another one of our great successes. The main part of the forum held at the club hall was nearly standing room only. The key speakers were excellent and the ensuing discussion vigorous. The essence of this was collated and sent to the appropriate authorities to put forward our views on changes needed to the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

**Marketing and Sponsorship**

This year we put significant effort into planning a marketing strategy. The publication of a calendar the previous year, whilst a good idea and good for publicity, highlighted our need to do a greater amount of work on distribution and pre-selling before one was attempted again. At present our marketing plans are based on manning displays (we now have a striking banner to gain the public's attention), distributing activity announcements to libraries, schools and universities, holding workshops and forums as well as upgrading our web site. A survey of our younger members was conducted to ascertain their needs. It was discovered that we were, in general, on track. Last year we aimed to achieve a membership of 1000 and in December 2002 we achieved this.

As part of making the public more aware of the FNCV, Council decided to sponsor bursaries to the value of $100 in the Science Talent Search, with our bursaries going to those who chose a Natural History topic.

**Financial Control and Grants**

This year it became obvious that stricter control and greater income was needed to keep the club's finances on an even keel. We have put into place many strategies for achieving this. Some of these are as follows :- increasing membership numbers, awareness for cost saving, guidelines for members who are pricing items for sale so as not to forget to cater for hidden costs and GST, conducting workshops for profit, and regrettably, increasing membership fees and addressing categories of free or discounted membership.

Grants are another source of income and this year we were successful in gaining an increase in the amount from the Grants to Volunteer Environment and Heritage Organisations, to $10,000. We must use this wisely as the chances of receiving one next

Cover photograph: Members at a Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association excursion, panning for gold at Lyon Springs, Loddon River under the leadership of Dr Julian Hollis. Photo Anne Morton.

year are diminishing as the guidelines are being changed and there is less grant money available for distribution.

**Council and the Office**

Dr Alan Yen joined us this year as Vice President. Ian Kitchen resigned from council after several years of hard work, and Keith Marshall joined us in May and resigned after only a few months.

During the year Karen Dobson left as office manager to pursue her studies. Ann Williamson was subsequently employed and has settled in very quickly, ensuring a smooth running office and helping point the way forward in organisation.

**Entering the Digital Era**

Now is the time to address changes in the digital area including improving our web site and using digital microscopes with digital camera, computer and digital projectors etc. attached to enable us to project these images immediately to audiences and more. This will address many people's needs and keep us abreast with current technology. These thoughts will be worked on during 2003.

**A Wonderful Team of Workers**

My thanks to a hard working team of councillors, office bearers and others who work tirelessly for the club. Without their help the club would only be a shadow of what it is now.

**Wendy Clark, President**

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## FNCV Administration

**Membership**

Membership increased during 2002, giving us a total of 1005 members by 31st December 2002. Of these 30 came from the Melbourne Junior Field Nats joining our ranks (some of these were already members of FNCV). We had 153 new members join during the year, and Honorary Membership was awarded to three members.

**Promotion**

The FNCV Calendar of Events continues to be an important means of promoting FNCV activities. The calendar is distributed to public libraries, environmental groups, and other like minded organisations such as Threatened Species Network, Bird Observers Club Shop, NRE Information Centre and Friends of Warrandyte State Park. If anyone is able to distribute these to tertiary libraries, it would be greatly appreciated.

Throughout the year FNCV displays were mounted at the following festivals:

- Rally for the Forests Saturday 18th May
- Stringybark Festival Saturday and Sunday 19-20th October
- Whitehorse Spring Festival Sunday 20th October
- Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival Saturday 23rd November

Displays included posters of FNCV activities with giveaways of FNCV Calendars and back issues of *The Victorian Naturalist*. A ***Creepy Crawlies Quiz*** created by Tania Bartholomeusz and Sophie Small was a great hit with the kids (young and old!), with lollies as the prize. A number of FNCV publications were also sold at these festivals. Promoting our own publications continues, with sales being slow during the year.

**Courses**

Two successful courses were held in 2002. A Reptile ID course 17th March, organised by Maria Belvedere, and a Mammal ID Workshop, organised by Ian Kitchen and run in conjunction with Pearcedale Conservation Park. Both these courses generated funds for the FNCV.

**Advertising in FNCV Publications**

Paid advertising and flyer inserts placed in the *Field Nats News* (FNN) during the year totalled $518.63, while $470 of flyer inserts were placed in *The Victorian Naturalist*. This gives us a total of $988.63 (gross) for the year.

**National Australia Bank Community Link Volunteer Awards**

Peter Homan put together an impressive Report on the Fauna Survey Project at Black

Range, via Stawell for the Black Range Landcare Group. Unfortunately we were not successful this year, as we were in 2001.

**General Administration**

Hall Hirer fees increased in July to $50/half day, and $90/day. Hall Hirers for 2002 included our regulars, Carnival Noir (theatrical group), Australian Plant Society, Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee, and two Creative Memories groups. We unfortunately lost Diabetes Australia, as they now have their own premises. Others that have hired our hall during the year on a more casual basis include the Tree Preservation Society, MEG Conservation Co-operative Society, The Greens and Koonung Mullum Forestway Assoc. Gross total earned for the year from hall hire was just over $4400.

A big thankyou to Ian Kitchen, who volunteered his time in the office every Tuesday during the year. His help in maintaining a clean and tidy hall, as well as administration duties were greatly appreciated.

**Ann Williamson, Administration Officer**

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## Newsletter Team Report 2002

*Field Naturalist News* provides the link between the many sub-groups of the FNCV and is a vital communication tool in the Club's program. Many individuals contributed to the 11 editions produced during 2002. Without our contributors there would be no monthly *Field Nats News*. Our grateful thanks to all those who took the trouble to write up excursions and meetings or supply original copy. It impossible to mention all by name.

Field Nats News 106 - 116 were edited, laid out, collated and posted by teams of volunteers. Details of each are set out in Table 1.

Special thanks are due to our President, Wendy Clark, for her front page article month by month. It was always there on time and editorially correct. In the later issues when the Juniors became a special interest group of the FNCV, Wendy submitted a junior's report similarly. Ann Williamson has been very helpful in many ways, especially in updating the monthly calendar and checking for e-mail articles.

Most contributors now submit their articles via email or on disk. Careful labelling of files is always important. Our preferred format is as a "Word" document. On the first and second Tuesday of the month the various editorial teams are hard at work typing, laying out, proofreading and checking the pages of FNN before delivering the final version to the printer.

Each third Tuesday afternoon of the month, a dedicated team of members worked hard to collate the newsletter by 4 pm. - the time Australia Post requires it at the Blackburn Post Office. Collation involves 3 sheets, plus enclosures and with an FNCV membership over 1000, nearly 900 copies had to be folded into a standard letter format. The following helped with collation during the year with the number of sessions attended in brackets: David Barkley (4), Sally Bewsher (2), Alwynne Butine (8), Joan Broadberry (6), Ruth Davidson (1), Pam Faragher (3), Bruce Fuhrer (9), Irene Fuhrer (9), Felix Haarhoff (6), Clarrie Handreck (1), Jean Hawkes (7), Tom Hawkes (7), Ian Kitchen (1), Tanya Loos (1), Dorothy Mahler (7), Keith Marshall (10), Denis Meltzer (6), Gabrielle (2), Ray Power (10), Rosemary Robb (8), Noel Schleiger (11), June Southwell (5), John Seebeck (1), Bob Taylor (3), Ann Williamson (4). Many members have other important roles to fulfill for the club and may only be able to help occasionally.

Each month, Ann Williamson produces an updated list of financial members from the computer. These labels then have to be applied to each standard newsletter. All this takes time and the fewer the volunteers, the longer the task. The 2002 collation team varied between 8 and 15. In total, 25 individuals participated. If less than 12 people come along we have great difficulty meeting our deadline. Ray Power has the onerous task of tabulating the area bundles, which have to go to the various mail centres. This job has to be correctly done if we are to receive our discount.

The editors wish to applaud and thank all who contributed to *Field Naturalist News* and hope we can continue to do even better in 2003.

**Table 1.** *Field Nats News* details for 2002.

| Ed. | Month | Layout Team and Significant Contributors | Pages | Encl | Ads. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 106 | February | Joan Broadberry (JB) Karen Dobson (KD) Clarrie Handreck (CH) Noel Schleiger (NS) Dorothy Mahler (DM) | 12 | 2 | 4 |
| 107 | March | Val Himmelreich (VH) Brigid Vaughan (BV) Ed Grey (EG), KD, NS | 12 | | 3 |
| 108 | April | Rob Hamson (RH), Keith Marshall (KM) Platon Vafladis (PV) BV, NS, VH | 14 | | 6 |
| 109 | May | Jim Walker (JW) Audrey Falconer (AF) KM. | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| 110 | June | Helen Waller (HW) JB, NS, JW, RH. | 10 | 2 | 3 |
| 111 | July | Russell Thompson (RT) JB, DM, NS, JW. | 12 | 1 | 3 |
| 112 | August | Lyn Willshire (LW) Marcia Lewis(ML) EG, JW, KM, RT, VH, RP. | 10 | 1 | 7 |
| 113 | Sept | Ken Bell (KB) ML, KM, PV, JW. | 12 | 1 | 9 |
| 114 | October | Clem Earp (CE) Ann Williamson (AW) RT, NS, RP, JW, PV, DM | 12 | 1 | 6 |
| 115 | Nov | PV, NS, JW,KM, JB, AW, EG | 10 | 1 | 6 |
| 116 | Dec | KM, VH, ML, PV, RH, JW, RT, JB | 12 | | 7 |

**Joan Broadberry, Noel Schleiger, Keith Marshall**
**Editors, Field Nats News**

## *The Victorian Naturalist*

Six issues comprising Volume 119 of *The Victorian Naturalist* were published during 2002. This year a great deal of our time and effort went into producing the Murray River Special Issue, which was published in two parts as issues 3 and 4. The Murray River is an ecosystem under threat and important decisions about the management of the Murray need to be made now. Club members who are interested in the debate on flow regulation of the Murray will find this compendium of papers useful. Topics range from the general to the specific and include papers on history, geomorphology, floodplains, vertebrate fauna including reptiles, terrestrial invertebrates, aquatic macroinvertebrates and aquatic microfauna. Twenty-nine authors contributed to this issue.

Dr Ken Green of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service at Jindabyne was our 'Naturalist in the Mountains' during 2002. His series of naturalist notes celebrated the United Nations International Year of Mountains. Other papers published on the mountain theme were: 'Invertebrates of Mount McKay – a Brief Survey' by Ed Grey, 119(1); 'A Herpetofauna Survey of the Victorian Alpine Region, with a Review of Threats to These Species' by Nick Clemann, 119(2); 'Seasonal and Altitudinal Differences in the Abundance and Species Richness of Some Macroinvertebrates in Kosciuszko National Park, Australia' by Michelle Stock and Catherine Pickering, 119(5), and 'Potential Dispersal Agents of Higher Plants in the Kosciuszko Alpine Area' by Karen Rudkin and Catherine Pickering, 119(6).

Our only other naturalist note during 2002 was a delightful piece called 'Wingan Wilderness' by Ron Fletcher, 119(2). I can only emphasise my words in last year's annual report – the Naturalist Note section of our journal is a wonderful venue for FNCV members to describe their natural history observations. The Editors will gladly assist any prospective authors should they request it.

Authors canvassed a wide range of conservation, ecological and natural history issues this year, and some examples of the variety in the 62 manuscripts published during 2002 are: 'The Fish of Kororoit Creek – Stressed Relicts and City Slickers' by Paul Close, 119(1), 'Observations on the Feeding Behaviour of Uchidanurinae (Collembola: Neanuridae) in Australia' by Penelope Greenslade, Sean Moore and Roger Farrow, 119(5), and 'First Record of the Asian Freshwater Leech *Barbronia weberi* (Blanchard, 1897) (Euhirudinea: Euhobdellidae) in Australia' by Fredric Govedich, Bonnie Bain and Ronald Davies, 119(5).

Sixteen book reviews prepared by seventeen reviewers were published during the year. Books returned by reviewers were donated to the FNCV library.

Dorothy Mahler continues to provide valuable administrative assistance to *The Vic Nat* team, and we are grateful to Ken Bell who prepares the annual index. Thank you also to our large team of proof readers who are named individually in 120(1). Kate Smith, a Professional Writing and Editing student at CAE also joined us for 2002 to learn desktop publishing, proof reading and editing as part of a Practical Placement subject.

This year we made great progress in using new technology for the production of your journal. In-house desktop publishing, electronic art, scanning and digital photography have all helped to keep journal costs down. As I mentioned in last year's report, the costs of the two McCoy special issues prepared during 2001 would be reflected in the 2002 accounts. This means that this year the amount of $23,179 for printing and postage of *The Vic Nat* is the cost for seven issues of the journal, and not the usual six issues. This amount also reflects the fact that four of the issues produced were much larger than normal (parts one and two of the McCoy special issue and parts one and two of the Murray River special issue).

Lastly, and most importantly, I wish to thank my co-editors, Anne Morton and Alistair Evans, whose professionalism, attention to detail and support have made it a pleasure to be part of the editorial team of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

**Merilyn J Grey, Executive Editor**

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## Conservation Report

During 2002 the main conservation activities were –

* The Biodiversity Forum and field trips in September which were very well attended. The forum discussion will be published in a special issue of *The Victorian Naturalist* later this year.
* We joined the Dharnya Alliance of conservation groups with the aim of getting the Barma Millewa forests into a national park jointly managed with traditional owners. Note that the State government has announced it will commission the Victorian Environment Assessment Council to do a study on the possibility of creating a series of forest reserves along the Murray River. New South Wales is doing a similar study.
* We supported the campaign to end logging in the Otways with letters and fundraising.
* FNCV councillors signed a letter to government requesting a moratorium on logging in Goolengook Forest Block while a study was done of the feasibility of adding the most biologically important areas of the block to the Errinundra National Park. Government has acceded to this and we have responded to the Draft Terms of Reference for the Goolengook Study.
* The FNCV signed onto a joint position statement of conservation groups in support of implementing the Victorian Marine Park proposals as recommended by the Environment Conservation Council.
* We provided a detailed response to the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site Draft Management Plan.
* We responded to the Melbourne City Council's Greening Policy.
* We took part in a political rally on 18 May. The rally was outside the casino where the State Labour Party Annual Conference was being held, to counter pressure being put on the Labour Party by the logging industry.
* We lobbied in support of reservation of remnant native bush in the eastern Strzelecki Ranges and in support of a proposal for a 30,000 ha national park.
* A summary issues and policies document was put together as a reference point for lobbying activities and publications.

**Jim Walker, Conservation Officer**

## General Meetings

This year saw the return of monthly general meetings of the club. Meetings in general were better attended than five years ago when they were stopped. It is obvious that people who attend the general meetings have different interests from those of the specialist groups. The general meetings have speakers which deal with general topics that often cut across those of the special interest groups.

**Meetings and topics for 2002.**

| Date | Topic | Speaker | Report |
|---|---|---|---|
| Feb | Frequency and Intensity of Earthquakes inVictoria and Australia | Dr. Gary Gibson, Director: Seismology, Bundoora | FNN 108 |
| March | Spirit and Land in Pre-European Melbourne | Gary Presland, (former Head Curator, Museum Victoria, author 'Aboriginal Melbourne' | |
| April | Natural History Experiences in Outback Central and Western Australia | Trevor Blake, (SGAP Maroondah) | FNN 110 |
| May | Annual General meeting | FNCV President, Wendy Clark Future of FNCV | FNN 110 |
| June | Some Central Australian Invertebrates (Survey work with Aboriginal Community, | Alan Yen, Vice President FNCV Uluru) | FNN 111 |
| July | An Introduction to Forensic Entomology | Dr Melanie Archer, Vic Institute Forensic Medicine | FNN 113 |
| Aug | Marine Studies of the Intertidal Zone | Bruce Fuhrer | FNN 114 |
| Sept | The Forest Gallery of the Melbourne Museum | Luke Simpkin, Museum Victoria | FNN 114 |
| Oct | Fossil Mammals | Dr Tom Rich, Curator Vertebrate Paleontology, Museum Victoria | FNN 115 |
| Nov | AHHM Presentation to Ian D. Endersby, FNCV Club member | 'How to be a Field Naturalist.' | Vic Nat 2003 |
| Dec | Member's Night | | |
| | 4WD Safari Cape York - video | Anne Morton | |
| | ANN 2nd Get together Nov 2002, . hosted by Launceston Field Nats | Noel Schleiger | FNN 117 |

In summary, the year's program was a most interesting one, covering a wide variety of topics and some up to date data on all of them. Also, at the general meetings President Wendy has been keen to develop member's exhibits and observations, as well as reports, which all adds to our knowledge. This year entomological topics have been developed and it is good to see a specialist invertebrate group being formed. I wish to thank Alan Yen for his help in the development of the program and helping to recruit speakers.

**Noel Schleiger, Chairperson**

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## Club Excursions

The monthly Club Excursions are offered to all members and their friends. We were privileged to have the quality of the leaders that we had. They were all experienced professionals and experts in their fields. They voluntarily offered their expertise in imparting their knowledge to us, for which we are most grateful. The general atmosphere of the excursions was friendly and congenial which added to the joy of the learning experience.

Nine excursions took place in the year. Total number of participants was 195 persons of which 147 were members and 48 were visitors, the average attendance was 22 persons. The program for the year was diverse, and included visits to two of Melbourne's scientific institutions, where we had the opportunity to observe their inner operations.

**Excursions 2002**

| Date | Leader | Subject | Venue |
|---|---|---|---|
| February | Val Stajsic | Working operations | National Herbarium |
| March | | Weekend away | Rawson |
| April | Noel Schleiger | Geology | Lerderderg Gorge |
| May | Tom May | Fungi | Mt Dom Dom |
| June | Museum Guide | Forestry Gallery | Melbourne Museum |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| July | Flora Anderson | Botany | Warrandyte State Park |
| August | Neil Archbold | Geology | Sunnyside Beach |
| September | Cecily Falkingham | Flora and Fauna | Antonio Park |
| October | Graham Lorimer | Botany | Dandenong Ranges |
| November | Julian Hollis | Geology | Werribee Gorge State Park |

**Dennis Meltzer, Excursion Co-ordinator**

## Library Report

The library continued to be well-used during the year, for borrowing and reference at meetings. The Melbourne Junior Field Naturalists Club, being now officially part of the senior Club, became entitled to borrow books.

Fifty-nine titles were added, from purchase, donations from members, and people who reviewed books for *The Victorian Naturalist* who kindly passed them on to us. Noteworthy among the additions were *Everlasting Daisies of Australia*, published by the Australasian Daisy Study Group (2002); M. Braby *Butterflies of Australia* 2 volumes (2000); J. Breitenbach and F. Kranzlin *Fungi of Switzerland* 5 volumes (1986-2000); J.S. Duncan, ed. *Atlas of Victoria* (1982); A. Muyt *Bush Invaders of south east Australia* (2001); P. Olsen *Feather and Brush* (2001); V. Semeniuk and P. Withers, eds. *Leschenault Inlet Estuary* (2000), being the *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia* vol.84. part 4. Donations were received from Colin Clayton, Keith Marshall, Tom May, Geoffrey Paterson (who generously gave us the *Atlas of Victoria*), and BPA Print Group.

There were a number of interesting enquiries and requests for assistance. We were only partly able to satisfy the request to see the MSS of F. Reader's *The phanerogamous plants of Studley park, Kew*, published in *The Victorian Naturalist* in 1885, as we hold only the MS of Part 1. Other requests were for material on the FNCV 1890 excursion to Yarra Falls; details of the early history of the Club, and our involvement in the creation of the Little Desert National Park, from students at La Trobe University, Bendigo; and copies of articles by Gustav Weindorfer in *The Victorian Naturalist* for use in the annual commemoration at The Chalet at Cradle Mountain, Tasmania. A genealogical researcher contacted us to discover whether our archives contained information which would be useful to people tracing their ancestors, and we expect numerous enquiries as a result of this. Terence Lane, from the NGV, preparing material for the new Museum of Australian Art at Federation Square, required information about the early history of the FNCV, in relation to Jane Sutherland's painting *The Field Naturalists*. There appears to be no record that she was ever a member of the Club, but Heidelberg was a favourite place for excursion in the early days, and no doubt she saw members 'in the field'.

In second semester we were approached by Andrew Brown-May of the History Department of Melbourne University to accept a student to do some "hands-on" research. An oral history project was set up, to record the reminiscences of some of the people who went on the excursions, particularly the extended ones, organised by Marie Allender during her thirty-five years as Excursion Secretary.

Sorting and cataloguing of the archives continued. We now have 279 files listed, 590 print photographs, and an expanding slide collection. I have continued indexing, and the *Guide to FNCV history and archives* is gradually growing. Being unable to attend the library for some weeks, I occupied my time by compiling an *Index to the Southern Science Record 1881-1883*, the magazine which reported the activities of the FNCV, and published many of the papers read by members at Club meetings. This will prove a useful aid to people researching the first four years of the Club, before we began recording our own activities in *The Victorian Naturalist*, first published in 1884.

Enid Amis continued as Assistant Librarian, and I am very grateful to her for looking after the library during my enforced absence in the latter part of the year. Enid Haarhoff gave valuable assistance, and Joan Kottek and Tess Kloot attended on a monthly basis, the latter to help with the archives. My thanks go to them all.

**Sheila Houghton, Librarian**

## Junior Group 2002

The Junior Group had a very successful year with a full and interesting program. After several years of very rapid growth, the membership seems to be stabilising. Attendances at meetings are around 60 and excursions around 30. The Easter camp usually attracts between 60–100 people. This seems to be a manageable number to be able to provide interest and attention for all who attend.

The Junior council is made up of juniors from the age of 11 yrs and up with Nick Andrewes aged 20 at the helm as Chairman. This year the long wait for the councillors to become old enough to take on the extra duties and fill the large age gap we had ie. 14–19 yrs, has come to fruition. We now have some in this age group, taking on duties such as Chairman, Editor of the *Junior Naturalist* and Secretary. This lightens the load for all and provides a sense of responsibility and "ownership". It has provided a very successful recipe for the club in the past and now is back on track for the future.

The major event for the year was joining the FNCV. Since 1943 the Juniors had been a separate club, though set up by the FNCV and treated as part of them. The problems with public liability insurance and incorporation forced our hand, and finally in August 2002 we officially became part of the FNCV. Though the members will see little change, there will be benefits for all.

**Meetings and Excursions**

Most of our meetings were followed by an excursion on the same topic. These are listed below.

Reptiles followed by a reptile hunt at Woodlands Reserve by Ray White
Mosses, Liverworts and Fungi with an excursion to Badger Weir by Bruce Fuhrer
History of the Earth followed by a fossil dig at Woodstock by Noel Schleiger
Flying Foxes and observation of the colony at the Botanical Gardens by Tania Loos
Sea Stars by Mark O'Loughlin
Birds in the Hand followed by an Excursion to Glenburn by Alan Reid
Land Invertebrates followed by an excursion to Starlings Gap by Max Campbell
A Practical Night on Insects by Peter Carwardine
Our Birthday meeting dress up theme was "Things that Fly"
The Easter camp was to the Otway Ranges (5 days) and the Christmas camp was to Cathedral Range (2 days).

**Wendy Clark**
**Convenor**

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## Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group held 7 meetings and undertook 7 field trips throughout 2002. On average 19 people attended our meetings with the highest attendance at our February meeting when 24 people attended. Topics ranged from marine worms to Great White Sharks!

**The program for the year was:**

| | |
|---|---|
| February | Robin Wilson from Museum Victoria spoke on marine polychaete worms |
| April | Member's night |
| May | Ken Hoppen showed a selection of his slides on sharks and other marine life |
| July | Jan Watson talked about a recent trip to Nuyts Archipelago |
| September | Steven Rodis spoke on establishing his abalone farm |
| October | Glen Agnew discussed his trip to NSW investigating an outbreak of an introduced alga. Jan Watson presented a video on Port Phillip Bay |
| December | Member's night |

Field trips are a wonderful opportunity to experience at first hand the myriad of invertebrate life forms to be found on our coasts. Trips were undertaken when suitable low tides coincided with weekends and many records were added to the Marine Research Group species database. Locations visited during 2002 included Portsea, Point Hicks and far east Gippsland, Point Lonsdale, Point Danger, San Remo and Fingal Beach.

I would like to thank all our speakers for sharing their knowledge with us. I would also like to thank Platon Vafiadis for preparing the MRG page for Field Nats News and Audrey Falconer and Leon Altoff for coordinating our field trips. Thanks also go to Clarrie Handreck, Ken Bell and Philip Bock.

**Michael Lyons, Secretary**

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## Geology Group

As usual, we had 10 talks over the year, missing December because our fourth Wednesday meeting day falls close to Christmas and similarly with January and Australia Day. Attendance at meetings averaged 31. We had two excursions earlier in the year and Waverley Gem Club also invited us out on a fossicking trip.

Thanks to everyone who contributed in whatever way to the smooth running of the Geology SIG: all our speakers, the excursion leaders, Clem Earp for chairing and writing up the reports on two meetings, Lyn Willshire for writing two reports and Bronwyn Witham for her report on her own talk in September 2001 which appeared in February 2002 FNN.

At a time in our modern world when any service is expected to cost money, it is notable that all our speakers and excursion leaders gave their services with no expectation of reward (other than the mug!) - simply the pleasure of sharing their knowledge with an appreciative audience. The success of our program depends on the generosity of these often very busy people so a special thank-you to them.

**The topics and speakers at our 2002 meetings were:**

| | |
|---|---|
| February | The Search for the Earliest Australians: Professor Jim Bowler, University of Melbourne. |
| March | Frederick McCoy and the Birth of Stratigraphic Palaeontology: Dr Doug McCann, science historian. |
| April | The Hydro-Geology and Engineering Geology of the Melbourne Area: Associate Professor Bill Bamford, University of Melbourne. |
| May | The Volcanoes of Kamchatka: Dr John Mitchell, FNCV member. |
| June | The Western District Volcanoes: Dr Chris Gray, La Trobe University. |
| July | Upper Palaeozoic Palaeontology - Argentina, Australia and Gondwana: Professor Neil Archbold, Deakin University. |
| August | The Geological History of the Bryozoans: Phil Bock, RMIT University (retired). |
| September | Victoria's Polar Dinosaurs: Dr Tom Rich, Museum Victoria. |
| October | Fossils of the Buchan Limestone: Frank Holmes, Fossil Collectors' Association of Australasia. |
| November | A Field Guide to Mars: Dr Nick Hoffman, University of Melbourne. |

**Geology excursions (with attendance) during 2002 were:**

| | |
|---|---|
| February | A Building Stones Walk in Central Melbourne, led by Robert King, DNRE (22). |
| February | Fossicking for Crystals at Powelltown with Waverley Gem Club, leader: Keith Flower. (5 FNCV joined 15 WGC members). |
| May | Wilsons Prom and the Walkerville/Cape Liptrap Area. Weekend trip with leader, Gary Wallis (West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and local resident) showing us the Prom on the Saturday, and Phil Bock showing us Walkerville and Cape Liptrap on the Sunday (19). |

**Rob Hamson, Secretary**

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## Fauna Survey Group

2002 was a busy and successful year for the Fauna Survey Group, with 26 fauna surveys at 15 locations around Victoria. The Group surveyed state and privately owned land, as part of on-going or once-off surveys. We surveyed new sites at Howe Wilderness, Glenmaggie Reservoir, Blackburn Lake, Trentham State Forest, The Cobberas, Horseshoe Bend and Hillside Farm.

Fauna monitoring continued at Mt Pilot Multi Function Reserve, Little River Earth Sanctuary, Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve, The Black Range, Rushworth State Forest, the Central Highlands, Dutson Downs Treatment Plant and Christmas Hills.

Survey techniques included cage, Elliott and harp traps (for bats), pitfall lines, hair-tubing, spotlighting, bird spotting, chance sightings, and Annabat monitoring. Trapping records were forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment for inclusion in the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife.

**Mt Pilot Multi-function Reserve –** A range of bat species were caught using harp traps.

**Little River Earth Sanctuary –** Two trips in February and October gave new members the opportunity to learn about fauna survey methods.

**The Black Range –** In March the Group wound up two years of surveys on land owned by the Black Range Landcare Group**,** south of Stawell. A female Southern Brown Bandicoot with pouch young, Yellow-footed Antechinus and a good range of reptiles were recorded. Five nest boxes installed by the Group were occupied by Sugar Gliders.

Over two years and 32 trap nights the Group contributed to the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife significantly by increasing records of bird species from 10 to 100, reptile species from 11 to 20, frog species from two to six and mammal species from nine to 18. The Group will conduct follow-up surveys in three to five years time to check nest boxes and the bandicoot population.

**Trentham State Forest –** The first of two trips was held in collaboration with the Victorian Field Naturalist Clubs Association (VFNCA) camp-out to Campaspe Downs.

Highlights were the collection of Brush-tailed Phascogale hair from hair-tubing work and the discovery of Powerful Owl scats – both found in a forest block south of Woodend. The Group's work at Trentham is, for the present, complete.

**Christmas Hills –** In May, nest boxes were checked in a continuing monitoring program for the Brush-tailed Phascogale. One Phascogale was recorded at each of two localities and 17 Sugar Gliders. Empty nest boxes needing repair were removed and then reinstalled in November. Feral bees were fumigated from two boxes.

**Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve** – We hoped to track down the New Holland Mouse in this heathland reserve near Frankston but no trace was found. However we recorded six House Mice, three Southern Bullfrogs, one Bouganville's Skink, two Lesser Long-eared Bats and four Little Forest Bats. Fifty reptile lounges were installed. The Group plans to monitor them in 2003.

**Dutson Downs Treatment Plant –** A final Dutson Downs survey caught the largest number of New Holland Mice of any weekend over the previous four years of work: an encouraging sign that the Mice population is stable.

**Rushworth State Forest –** We visited Rushworth State Forest in July and December to monitor Brush-tailed Phascogale numbers. In July nine Phascogales were found in seven nestboxes, along with 191 Sugar Gliders also in boxes. On the second camp ten nestboxes, unused since erection six years ago, were moved to areas with fewer large trees. Only one Phascogale family and a single dead animal were recorded.

**Hillside Farm, Ararat –** We surveyed remnant patches of vegetation on this farm, close to Langi Ghiran State Park. There were no major fauna species found, however, there were signs of Swamp Rats.

**Howe Hill Wilderness, Mallacoota Inlet –** A range of vegetation types were surveyed in September. Five species were found in cage and Elliot trapping, including Long-nosed Bandicoot and Tiger Snake. Pitfall trapping revealed 13 species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Seven species of bats (159 individuals) were caught with a highlight being the Large-footed Myotis. Eight species were recorded on spotlighting trips, including Sooty Owl and Yellow-bellied Glider. Over one hundred species of birds were spotted. Hair tubing was also conducted. We will return at Easter 2003 to continue surveys.

**Horseshoe Bend, Ivanhoe –** We surveyed bats on the Yarra River to celebrate Biodiversity Month in September. Two species of insectivorous bats were recorded, and three Grey-headed Flying Foxes. Four species of frogs were heard calling.

**Glenmaggie Reservoir, Heyfield –** On Melbourne Cup weekend micro bats were caught

in the harp traps, but no fauna was caught in cage or Elliot traps. A Sugar Glider and Echidna were seen and predator scats found. One hundred reptile lounges were put out, and will be monitored in Winter 2003. Hair tubing for quolls was conducted at the request of the rangers, however no quoll hairs were found.

**Blackburn Lake –** The Group joined members of the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee for an evening of bat trapping and spotlighting. Gould's Wattled Bat, Lesser Long-eared and *Vespadelus* spp. were the three species recorded.

**The Cobberas –** No traces of the Mountain Pygmy Possum were found during our Christmas camp, however, reasonable numbers of terrestrial fauna were recorded, including Agile Antechinus, Bush Rat, Dusky Antechinus, four species of bats, Alpine Bog Skink and Water Skink. Large numbers of feral horses were observed.

**Stagwatches –** Seven stagwatches in the Central Highlands were completed for the year. Three were in the Starvation Creek catchment of the Yarra, two in the Pioneer Creek and two in the Ada River catchments of the Latrobe River. Eight mammal species and four nocturnal bird species were recorded during the survey period. Highlights included a good view of a Sooty Owl, Greater Gliders gliding from their nest trees and tiny Antechinuses. Only two Leadbeater's Possums were seen for the year, both at Starvation Creek, where Yellow-bellied Gliders were also seen.

**Small Mammal Workshops –** Mark Cairns of the Pearcedale Conservation Park instructed participants in the identification of mammals. We had the opportunity to handle fauna, including Spot-tailed Quoll, Feather-tailed Glider and Sugar Glider. Mark also introduced participants to hair and scat identification.

**Meetings and Fauna Survey Committee –** There were an average of 25 members and visitors at each of the 11 meetings during the year with guest speakers giving some fascinating and highly informative presentations at 10 of the meetings.The Committee for 2002 was Sally Bewsher, Christie Dempsey, Michael Johnston, Ian Kitchen (Chairperson), Andrea Mitchell, Sophie Small (Secretary), Russell Thompson, Paul Webb and Ray White. Ann Williamson was Records Officer.

**Sophie Small, Secretary**

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## Botany Group

The Botany Group has continued the established pattern of evening lectures and weekend excursions. Subjects discussed have been:

Pollens, Biological control of weeds, Sassafras Creek rejuvenation, Alpine plants, Botanical Surveys, Invasive plants.

We have been indebted to the gracious people who gave their time and expertise, they were:

Sabine Wilkens, Katherine Legg, David McLaren, Dean Stewart, Darcy Duggan, Geoff Lay, Malcolm Calder, Anne and Marc Marsden, Jack Craw, Val Stasjic and Peter and Kathie Strickland. The Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club organised an excursion for us, this contact is valuable and could set a pattern for more excursions.

**Excursions were to:**

Royal Botanical Gardens, Pyrete Range (2), Bunyip State Park, Hobbs Rd. Bullengarook, Mt. Cannibal and Lake Mountain, as well as a weekend camp at Sunday Island. At Hobbs Rd., we were indebted to the Bullengarook Landcare Group for help, as well as hospitality.

An initial botanical survey was undertaken at the site in Bulleen of the relocation of the Botanical Gardens bats.

Following a hint in Malcolm Calder's report on the Wilsons Promontory Excursion, the group has taken on the task of carrying out a Botanical Survey of the Pyrete Range. The Range is South of Gisborne and East of the Lerderderg Gorge State Park. The Range may be declared a National Park. Permission has been granted to collect specimens for identi-

fication. The vegetation under study varies from North to South, and the area is deeply dissected. The Survey will be a long-term project, ten years may not be too long an estimate.

**Keith Marshall, Convenor**

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## Terrestrial Invertebrate Group

A new group was formed during 2002 to study all aspects of terrestrial invertebrates (including freshwater invertebrates). As most terrestrial invertebrates are insects, a large proportion of activities would naturally concern insects. The Terrestrial Invertebrate group (TIG) partly picks up the activities of the Invertebrate Survey Group, and will work in conjunction with the Entomological Society of Victoria.

An informal meeting was held on May 29 to determine the amount of interest in forming a TIG. Seventeen people came to that meeting (plus a few apologies), and it was obvious that there was support to form such a group. The TIG had its first formal meeting on 30 October. The 24 attendees (21 FNCV members and 3 visitors) were treated to a most informative talk by Dr Tim New (Zoology, La Trobe University) on butterfly transect walks for environmental monitoring. The TIG put Tim's talk into practice at Pound Bend, Warrandyte National Park, on Sunday November 10.

A small executive was established for the TIG: Alan Yen (Chair), Peter Neville (Secretary/Treasurer), Melanie Archer (Rep on FNCV Council) and Graham Riddell (Property/functions). The TIG applied to the FNCV Council for formal recognition as a Special Interest Group, and this was passed at the November Council meeting.

The executive has prepared a programme of activities for the next 12 months, including speakers every second month, field trips, and techniques workshops (including identification). The main activities over the first year will focus on introducing members to techniques (collecting, identification), and regular butterfly transect counts at Warrandyte. It is proposed that these counts will be expanded next year, and new projects will arise as interest and membership develops.

**Alan Yen, Chairperson**

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## Microscopical Group

The group maintained its small numbers for yet another year and it was thought that, as microscopes are used to further research in almost every scientific area of endeavour, combined meetings may be the way to go, but this did not prove easy to do.

It does seem strange to some that not many people are interested in microscopy as it is only with microscopes that the start of the whole web of life can be studied and understood. Even the late Dan McInnes, a microscopist for most of his life, often bemoaned what he felt was an apparent disinterest in what could be seen under a microscope. To test this hypothesis and hoping to increase interest in microscopy, the group will have some microscopes and objects on display at General Meetings for members to use.

**The meetings for the year were:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan | Members Night | | |
| Feb | Combined meeting with Marine Research Group<br>Polycheate worms | | Speaker Dr Robin Wilson |
| Mar | Modern microscopy with monitor viewing | | Speaker Roger Pierson |
| Apr | Collection and identification of mammal hair | | Speaker Maria Belvedere |
| May | Slide making | Gastropod radula | Speaker Don Cram |
| Jun | Slide making | Rock sections | Members |
| Jul | Drawing through microscopes | | Members |
| Aug | Why and how of oil immersion | | Speaker Roger Pierson |
| Sep | Identification of organisms collected at Rickets Point | | Members |
| Oct | Botanical sections | | Members |
| Nov | Members night | | |

As many members enjoyed the Members Nights this is what the last few meetings have been all about. but with a more defined direction. These meetings were to increase the ability of members in slide making, a practice that was common among members of the past. As time goes on and more experience and understanding is gained microscopy should become even more enjoyable for those concerned.

**Ray Power, Chairperson**

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## FNCV Bookshop Report

The FNCV Bookshop is a service to Club members, offering books and a limited number of CDs at a discount to club members. We endeavour to give 20% discount on all books and CDs but we can't do it on all occasions. As well as a service to Club members the Bookshop also helps towards the running of the Club by the funds it raises.

Because the book list has grown over the years, it is expensive to print and post. For this reason we did not insert a full list of books into the Club Newsletter. This year because of these costs, the list of books that appeared in the Newsletter were only those that the Club had in stock at the Club Rooms. The full list was available on request from the Club Rooms. We will endeavour to place the full list of books available through the Club, in the Newsletter, in the New Year. Members do need to be aware that prices, or availability of books can change.

The numbers of books that had been sent out this year have decreased from previous years because the full list of books did not appear in the Newsletter. We have increased the range and number of books that are on display at the Club Rooms. A new glass fronted display cabinet was purchased giving us four cabinets, allowing us to display more books and will also help to keep the books in a better condition. Again, the most popular books have been the various field guides, (Mammals of Australia, bird field guides, Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia, Bats of Australia, and various fungi books).

The Club would like to thank everyone that has bought books during the year, and hope they will continue to support the club by purchasing their books from the Club. We will endeavour to keep the books that you like to purchase, or to get them in for you. As well, we would like to thank the people who sell the books during Club meetings.

I would also like to thank Ann Williamson, Office Administrator, for the help I receive from her. I hope you all continue to enjoy your reading.

**Ray White, Bookshop Convener**

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## Australian Natural History Medallion

The 2002 Medallion was awarded to Ian Endersby for his contributions to the study and administration of natural history, particularly in the fields of ornithology and entomology. He was nominated by the Entomological Society of Victoria and a full citation of his history was published in *The Victorian Naturalist* in February 2003. The Medallion was presented by the Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, Lady Southey and Ian then gave an illustrated address entitled 'How to be a Field Naturalist'. He called for high standards in observation and recording of natural phenomena and gave numerous examples of projects involving plants, birds, insects and geology.

The General Committee usually meets every second year with its prime task at that time to replace retiring members of the Awards Committee. Marilyn Hewish, Chris Banks and Ern Perkins completed four years of valuable service to the Award Committee in 2002 and are thanked for their contributions. Replacing them are Dr Michael Clarke, Dr Kath Ralston and Professor Rob Wallis.

Seventy natural history organisations throughout Australia comprise the membership of the Australian Natural History Medallion and they are eligible to nominate recipients or have representatives on the General Committee. About fifteen of them are active in the operation of the Medallion process.

It costs about $800 per year to award the Medallion: $530 to cast, mount and engrave the Medallion and the balance in postage and stationery to call and process nominations. In kind donations from the FNCV reduce the administration cost to about $100 per year and this should be covered by donations from the member societies. In recent years the number of donations received has diminished and the medal trust fund is being depleted. An appeal will be made to members of the associated clubs this year. The structure of the ANHM Fund is not appropriate for it to seek tax deductible or philanthropic gifts in its own right. During the forthcoming year attempts will be made to seek a way to overcome this shortcoming in our fundraising ability.

**Ian Endersby, Secretary to the Medallion General Committee**.

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## Fungimap

The Fungimap scheme is jointly supported by the FNCV and the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, and continues to collect distribution and ecological data on 100 target species of fungi. By the end of 2002 there were 640 people on the mailing list, and more than 12,000 records received. The significance of the project became apparent when we were approached by the Australian Heritage Commission to contribute data to their biodiversity database, as no-one else is able to provide data on the distribution of Australian fungi. We have received a grant from the AHC to provide 10,000 records by May 2003, which is greatly facilitating the process of checking and entering records. 75% of records entered on the database have now been checked for accuracy.

After creating the Fungimap website in 1996, and hosting and maintaining it ever since, Michael McBain has handed over maintenance of the website to me as Fungimap Coordinator. The site has been moved and is now hosted by the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. We thank Michael for his contribution over the years.

Three issues of the Fungimap Newsletter were produced in 2002.

Following the success of the Fungimap CD-ROM, a Fungimap book has been initiated, which is intended to be a field guide to all 100 target species. Pat and Ed Grey together with Leon Costermans have been doing a lot of work compiling text, collecting and scanning photos and laying out pages, and numerous Fungimap volunteers have contributed photos. The book is due for publication in 2004.

In June there was a Coordinators get-together at Aldinga Beach, SA, which was attended by myself, Tom May (Convenor), and four of the regional coordinators: Pam Catcheside (SA), Bettye Rees (NSW), Katrina Syme (WA) and Sapphire McMullan-Fisher (Tas). Heino Lepp (ACT) was unable to attend. We were very fortunate to receive a $1,000 grant from the Plant Biodiversity Centre in SA, which allowed us to cover the regional coordinators travel expenses for this event, and a highly productive couple of days of meetings (discussing the future of Fungimap) and forays were had. All of the regional coordinators continued their work generating interest in fungi around the country, running workshops and forays.

In Melbourne, a Fungi Open House was held in May, giving people the opportunity to meet with Royal Botanic Gardens mycologists Tom May and Teresa Lebel. People were encouraged to bring in questions and photos for identification, and we found this to be a very efficient way of dealing with queries. Another Open House will be held in 2003.

The 2nd National Fungimap Conference will be held in Rawson, Victoria, in May 2003, and plans are well underway.

**Gudrun Evans, Fungimap Coordinator**

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*The Victorian Naturalist* Team

Merilyn Grey
Alistair Evans

Anne Morton
Dorothy Mahler

The *Field Nats News* Team

Noel Schleiger Joan Broadberry Bob Barron

# THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Year ended 31 December 2002

## REPORT BY COUNCIL

The members of Council hereby submit the Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2002 and the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended on that date and report as follows:

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

| Name | Occupation | Council Member Since |
|---|---|---|
| Mr Nick Andrewes | Student | 2002 |
| Dr Melanie Archer | Forensic Entomologist | 2002 |
| Ms Wendy Clark - President | Photographer | 1998 |
| Dr Noel Schleiger - Vice President | Education Consultant | 1990 |
| Dr Alan Yen - Vice President | Invertebrate Ecologist | 2001 |
| Ms Anne Morton - Secretary | Ecologist | 1999 |
| Ms Barbara Burns - Treasurer | Lecturer | 2001 |
| Mr Philip Bock | Lecturer | 1996 |
| Ms Merilyn Grey | Ecologist | 1999 |
| Mr Robin Hamson | Teacher | 1998 |
| Mr Ian Kitchen | Horticulturalist (retired) | 2001 |
| Mr Keith Marshall | Metallurgist (retired) | 2002 |
| Ms Jenny Porter | Biologist | 2002 |
| Mr Raymond Power | Engineer (retired) | 1993 |
| Mr Russell Thompson | Horticulturalist | 2002 |
| Mr Jim Walker | Ecologist | 2001 |

2. The principal activities and object of the Club are to stimulate interest in natural history and to preserve and protect Australian fauna and flora. No significant changes in the nature of those activities occurred during the reporting period.

3. The net loss of the club for the year ended 31st December 2002 was $507.22 (2001 loss of $31,280.48).

4. A review of the operations of the Club is contained in the Presidents Report and the Group reports, which form part of this Annual Report.

5.No matter or circumstance has arisen since the end of the financial year, which has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations or the state of affairs of the Club.

6. Other than as disclosed in the Annual Report, there are no significant developments likely to affect the financial results of the Club.

7.During the financial year, no member of the Council has received or become entitled to receive any benefit by reason of a contract made by the club with the councillor or with an entity of which the councillor is a member or in which the councillor has a substantial interest.

## THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA

### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

In the opinion of the members of Council:

(a) The accompanying Income and Expenditure Account is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the fian cial results of the Club for the year ended 31 December 2002.

(b) The accompanying Balance Sheet is draw up as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Club as at 31 December 2002.

(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 this 22 day of April 2003 in accordance with a resolution of Council.

W. Clark
President

B.Burns
Treasurer

**THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA**
**STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS**
**Year ended 31 December 2002**

| | | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME** | Membership | $36,832.34 | $29,241.36 |
| **Sales** | Bookshop sales | 10,841.52 | 15,106.14 |
| | Less Bookshop - Cost of Sales | -7,395.48 | -10,837.87 |
| | | $3,446.04 | $4,268.27 |
| **Publications** | FNCV Publications (net) | 1,757.90 | 354.82 |
| | Calendar sales (net) | 927.18 | -2,899.19) |
| | Back issues Vic Nat | $521.26 | |
| | | $3,206.34 | -$2,544.37 |
| **Other Income** | Hall Hire | 4,041.08 | 2,298.19 |
| | Profits - Excursions & Seminars | 2,047.95 | |
| | Advertising - Field Nat News | 609.54 | 365.45 |
| | Advertising - Vic Nat | 470.00 | |
| | Profit sale FNCV products | 172.27 | -74.12 |
| | Profit sale Fungimap products | 356.32 | |
| | Sundry Income | 298.62 | 78.46 |
| | Ins. Levy - Excursions (non-members) | $143.83 | |
| | | $8,139.61 | $2,667.98 |
| **Investments** | Bank Interest | 507.11 | 1,069.57 |
| | Interest Income | $16,541.41 | $16,188.32 |
| | | $17,048.52 | $17,257.89 |
| **Other Income** | Grant - Grants for Volunteer Environment and HeritageOrganisations | 7,290.00 | 7,290.00 |
| | Grant - National Bank for Fungimap | | 500.00 |
| | Donations | 2107.00 | 1284.00 |
| | Total Other Income | $9,397.00 | $9,074.00 |
| | **Total Revenue** | $78,069.85 | $59,965.13 |

## THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
## STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS
### Year ended 31 December 2002

| EXPENDITURE | | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Publications** | Vic. Nat. Printing | $22,587.09 | $17,691.22 |
| | Less Grant Deakin University McCoy issue | -3,400.50 | |
| | Postage - Vic. Nat. | 3,553.22 | |
| | Sundry expenses- Vic Nat | 438.88 | |
| | | $23,178.69 | $17,691.22 |
| | Annual report | $2,520.00 | $2,000 |
| | Newsletter Printing | 5,608.17 | 10,115.21 |
| | Newsletter Postage | 3,631.55 | |
| | Calender of events | 1822.23 | |
| | | $11,061.95 | $12,115.21 |
| | Total Publications Expenses | $36,760.64 | $29,806.43 |
| | **GROSS PROFIT** | $41,309.21 | $30,158.70 |
| **Expenses** | Advertising, Market & Pub | 719.05 | 1,501.32 |
| | Office Stationery etc | 1734.73 | 3,436.54 |
| | Library Expenses | 1891.19 | 983.80 |
| | Bank Fees | 1133.93 | 915.14 |
| | Depreciation Expense | 4355.34 | 4,285.93 |
| | Internet Provider & Virus Scan | 340.69 | 154.20 |
| | Volunteer Expenses Reimbursed | 112.58 | |
| | FNCV Mugs | 554.35 | |
| | Dues & Subscriptions | 138.18 | 921.36 |
| | Insurance | 2612.71 | 2,619.41 |
| | Council Rates | 641.40 | 807.75 |
| | General Repairs & Maintenance | 505.13 | 1,018.64 |
| | Office Equip Repairs & Maintenance | 737.41 | |
| | General Office Postage | 1336.18 | 1,139.12 |
| | Kitchen & Bathroom Expenses | 179.63 | |
| | Sundry Expenses | 442.27 | 1,915.85 |
| | Superannuation & Workers Comp | 1648.37 | 1,020.96 |
| | Wages & Salaries | 17539.50 | 13,234.00 |
| | Contracting Staff Indexing Project | | 3,525.05 |
| | Office Telephone | 873.41 | 945.85 |
| | Gas, Electricity,Water | $1,437.16 | 2,189.61 |
| | Donations | 3,100.00 | 950.00 |
| | Geology Group Expenses | 186.50 | 323.57 |
| | FNCV Publs. Royalties-prior periods | 752.34 | |
| | FSG Expenses | 1,040.58 | 142.36 |
| | Loss on Sale National Income Secs | 718.00 | |
| | | $44,730.63 | $42,030.46 |
| | **Total Expenses** | $81,491.27 | $71,836.89 |
| | **OPERATING (LOSS)** | **-$3,421.42** | **-$11,871.76** |
| **Fungimap** | Fungimap - See attached schedule (1) | $2,914.20 | 10,602.28 |
| **Adjustments** | Extraordinary FNCV Books Write Off | | -$30,000.00 |
| | NET (LOSS) | -$507.22 | -$31,269.48 |
| | Fungimap (1) | | |
| | Grant -National Bank | - | $4,500.00 |
| | Sales | 12,763.10 | $6,102.28 |
| | Interest $245.82 + Donations $21.73 | 267.55 | |
| | Less Bank fees | 116.45 | |
| | Less Operating expenses | -$10,000.00 | |
| | Net Operating Surplus | $2,914.20 | $10,602.28 |

**FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA**
**CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2002**

| | | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES** | | | |
| **Inflows** | Membership | $36,832.34 | $29,241.36 |
| | Bookshop Sales | 10,563.52 | 15,106.14 |
| | FNCV Publications - Net income | 1,757.90 | 354.82 |
| | Calendar Sales - (Net) | 1,488.18 | -3,376.19 |
| | Back Issues - Vic Nat | 521.26 | |
| | (2) Fungimap (see separate Cash Flow Statement) | | 7,117.28 |
| | Hall Hire | 4,332.74 | 2,298.19 |
| | Excursions and Seminars | 841.59 | 1206.36 |
| | Advertising Newsletter & Vic Nat | 1,079.54 | 365.45 |
| | Income Sale Products (Net) | 643.59 | |
| | Sundry Income | 442.45 | -559.66 |
| | Interest Income | 13,303.52 | 13,757.89 |
| | Grants and Donations | 9,397.00 | 9,074.00 |
| | Marine Research Funds | 421.41 | |
| | Natalie Smith Fund | 243.00 | |
| | | $81,868.04 | 74585.64 |
| **Outflows** | Cost of Bookshop Sales | -8,256.32 | -13,513.19 |
| | Printing, Postage & Exps Vic Nat | -23,178.69 | -17,691.22 |
| | Printing Annual Report | -2,520.00 | -2,011.00 |
| | Printing & Postage Newsletter & Events Calander | -11,061.95 | -10,115.21 |
| | Advertising, Marketing | -719.05 | -1,501.32 |
| | Office Stationery etc | -1,734.73 | -3,436.54 |
| | Library Expenses | -1,891.19 | -983.80 |
| | Bank Fees | -1,133.93 | -915.14 |
| | Internet Service Provider etc | -340.69 | -154.20 |
| | Dues & Subscriptions | -138.18 | -921.36 |
| | Insurance | -2,612.71 | -2,619.41 |
| | Council Rates | -641.40 | -807.75 |
| | Repairs & Maintenance | -1,242.54 | -1,018.64 |
| | General Office Postage | -1,336.18 | -1,139.12 |
| | Sundry Expenses | -1,288.83 | -1,924.34 |
| | Superannuation and Workers Comp Insurance | -2,669.33 | |
| | Wages & Salaries | -19,022.50 | -10,863.00 |
| | Contracting Staff Indexing Project | | -3,525.05 |
| | Office Telephone | -873.41 | -945.85 |
| | Gas, Electricity, Water | -1,437.10 | -2,189.61 |
| | Donations | -3,100.00 | -950.00 |
| | Geology Group Expenses | -186.50 | -836.57 |
| | FSG Expenses | -1,040.58 | |
| | Royalties (payment owing from prior periods) | -1,412.34 | |
| | ANHM | -2,266.32 | -415.24 |
| | GST Collected -$4665.26 less GST Paid $8623.44 | 3,958.18 | -1,559.46 |
| | | -86,146.29 | -80,037.02 |
| | **Net Cash Outflow from Operations** | **-4,278.25** | **-5,451.38** |
| **CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:** | | | |
| Outflows | Office Equipment | -1,118.14 | -3,564.15 |
| | Cabinets | -909.09 | |
| Inflow | Fauna Survey Equipment Fund | $1,200.00 | -3,829.25 |
| | **Net Cash Outflow from Investing Activities** | **-827.23** | **-7,393.40** |
| **CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES**: | | | |
| Inflows | Proceeds Sale National Income Securities | 7,282.00 | |
| | Proceeds Sale Esanda Debentures | 4,590.07 | |
| | FNCV Juniors | 1,600 | |
| Outflow | Transfer to Fungimap Bank A/c | -11,816.85 | |
| | **Net Cash Inflow from Financing Activities** | **1,655.22** | |
| **DECREASE IN FNCV BANK BALANCE** | | **-$3,450.26** | **-12,844.78** |
| | Balance 1/1/02 | $22,840.30 | $35,685.08 |
| | Balance 31/12/02 | $19,390.04 | $22,840.30 |

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABLITIES for the year ended December 2002**

| | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| **Assets** | | |
| **Current Assets** | | |
| FNCV Cheque Account | $19,390.04 | $22,840.30 |
| Fungimap Cheque Account | 15,558.14 | |
| The Environment Fund Account | 6,127.76 | 6,127.76 |
| Trade Debtors | 278.00 | 561.00 |
| Stocks "T" Shirts & Lenses | 365.00 | 480.00 |
| Inventories (Books for Sale) | 5,411.90 | 4,551.06 |
| **Total Current Assets** | **$47,130.84** | **$34,560.12** |
| **Non Current Assets** | | |
| AGC Debenture Stock | 57,245.00 | 53,500.00 |
| Treasury Corporation of Vic. | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| Esanda Unsecured Notes | 95,409.93 | 100,000.00 |
| General Property Trust Units | 23,851.00 | 23,851.00 |
| National Income Securities | | 8,000.00 |
| | 226,505.93 | 235,351.00 |
| ANHM Charge Account | -208.22 | 2,058.10 |
| Library Holdings | 46,429.79 | 46,429.79 |
| | **$272,727.50** | **$283,838.89** |
| **Non Current Assets** | | |
| **Property, Plant and Equipment** | | |
| Maryborough Property | 13,400.00 | 13,400.00 |
| Clubhouse at Cost | 171,512.00 | 171,512.00 |
| Clubhouse Improvements | 38,988.00 | 38,988.00 |
| Equipment at Cost | 52,763.29 | 50,736.06 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | -33,166.45 | -28,811.11 |
| | **$243,496.84** | **$245,824.95** |
| **Total Non current Assets** | **$516,224.34** | **$529,663.84** |
| **Total Assets** | **$563,355.18** | **$564,223.96** |
| **Liabilities** | | |
| **Current Liabilities** | | |
| Sundry Creditors | 243.00 | 1,206.36 |
| Provisions | | 3,760.00 |
| GST Paid - GST Collected | -630.99 | -1,931.36 |
| PAYG Payable | 888.00 | 2,371.00 |
| Royalty Liability | | 660.00 |
| Superannuation Payable | | 1,020.96 |
| Hall Hire Paid in Advance | 291.66 | |
| Funds Held in Trust | 271.00 | 271.00 |
| **Total Liabilities** | **$1,062.67** | **$7,357.96** |
| **Net Assets** | **$562,292.51** | **$556,866.00** |
| **Equity** | | |
| **Members Accumulated Funds** | | |
| Current Year Loss/Earnings | -507.22 | -31,280.48 |
| Less Fungimap (Earnings) | -2,914.20 | -10,602.28 |
| | -3,421.42 | -41,882.76 |
| General Fund | $506,251.62 | $525,738.01 |
| **Total Specific Funds** | | |
| Marie Allender Fund | | 9,018.13 |
| Alex Burns Fund | | 2,558.64 |
| Sundry Bequests | | 7,059.60 |
| Marine Research Fund | 25,267.75 | 24,846.34 |
| Fauna Survey Equipment Fund | -1,451.25 | -2,651.25 |
| Fungimap Fund | 14,731.05 | 12,864.53 |
| FNCV Environment Fund | 6,127.76 | 6,127.76 |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve | 13,187.00 | 13,187.00 |
| FNCV Juniors | 1,600 | |
| **Total Members Accumulated Funds** | **$560,692.51** | **$556,866.00** |

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2002

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost and do not take into account changing money values. The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless othewise specified.
(a) 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.
(b) 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.
( c) Income tax - The club is not liable for income tax
(d) Inventories - are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2. REMUNERATION OF COUNCILLORS

No remuneration has been received by councillors for the year ended 31 December 2002

| 3. CASH | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| FNCV A/c - Bank of Melbourne | $19,390.04 | $22,840.30 |
| Fungimap A/c - Bank of Melbourne | 15,558.14 | |
| Environment Fund A/c - Bank Melb. | 6,127.76 | 6,127.76 |
| 4. DEBTORS - Book sales | $278.00 | $561.00 |
| 5. STOCKS | | |
| "T"Shirts | 365.00 | $480.00 |
| Books for sale at lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value | 5,411.90 | 4,551.06 |
| | $5,776.90 | $5,031.06 |
| 6. INVESTMENTS | | |
| AGC Debenture Stock | 57,245.00 | 53,500.00 |
| Treasury Corporation of Vic Inscribed Stock | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| Esanda Finance Corp[oration Unsecured Notes | 95,409.93 | 100,000.00 |
| General Property Trust Units - at cost | 23,851.00 | 23,851.00 |
| National Income Securities | | 8,000.00 |
| | $226,505.93 | $235,351.00 |
| 7. Library - Books and Journals at Council Valuation 23/5/95 | $46,429.79 | $46,429.79 |
| 8. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES | | |
| Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough | $13,400.00 | $13,400.00 |
| 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn - at cost | 171,512.00 | 171,512.00 |
| Improvements | 38,988.00 | 38,988.00 |
| | $223,900.00 | $223,900.00 |
| 9. OTHER FIXED ASSETS | | |
| Plant and Equipment - at cost | 52,763.29 | 50,736.06 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | -33,166.45 | -28,811.11 |
| | $19,596.84 | $21,924.95 |
| 10. CREDITORS & PROVISIONS | | |
| Sundry Creditors | $243.00 | $1,206.36 |
| Provisions | | 3,760.00 |
| Net GST | -630.99 | -1,931.36 |
| Superannuation Payable | | 1,020.96 |
| PAYG Liability | 888.00 | 2,371.00 |
| Hall Hire Paid in Advance | 291.66 | |
| Royalty Liability | | 660.00 |
| Funds Held in Trust | 271.00 | 271.00 |
| | $1,062.67 | $7,357.96 |
| 11. MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS | | |
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| Balance Brought Forward | $483,855.25 | $525,746.50 |
| Add balance Marie Allender Fund | 9,018.13 | |
| Add balance Alex Burns Fund | 2,558.64 | |
| Add balance Sundry Bequests Fund | 7,059.60 | |
| Less Net (Deficit) Surplus | -507.22 | -31,280.48 |
| Less Fungimap Surplus | -2,914.20 | -10,602.28 |
| Add write off re old provision | 3,760.00 | |
| Balance at 31 December | $502,830.20 | $483,863.74 |
| SPECIFIC FUNDS | | |
| Marine Research Group Fund | | |
| Balance Brought Forward | $24,846.34 | $25,216.98 |
| Net Addition | 421.41 | -370.64 |
| Balance at 31 December | $25,267.75 | $24,846.34 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fauna Survey Group Fund | | |
| Balance Brought Forward | -$2,651.25 | $1,178.00 |
| Net Addition | 1,200.00 | -3,829.25 |
| Balance at 31 December | -$1,451.25 | -$2,651.25 |
| Fungimap Fund | | |
| Balance Brought Forward | $12,864.53 | $5,747.25 |
| Add Net Surplus | 2,914.20 | 10,602.28 |
| Less Adjustment re CD's ## | -1,047.68 | |
| Less Funds transferred | | -3,485.00 |
| Balance at 31 December | $14,731.05 | $12,864.53 |

(2) FUNGIMAP Bank Account - CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2002

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Inflows | | |
| Sales | 13,590.19 | |
| Interest received | 245.82 | - |
| Donations | 21.73 | 13,857.74 |
| Outflows | | |
| Bank fees | -$116.45 | |
| Operating expenses | -$10,000.00 | -10,116.45 |
| **Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities** | | **3,741.29** |
| Balance transferred from FNCV when account opened | | $11,816.85 |
| Balance 31 December 2002 | | $15,558.14 |

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC.

Scope

Insufficient time or documentation was provided to undertake a comprehensive audit of the accounts and systems of the field naturalists club for the period ending 31 December 2002.

Not withstanding I have conducted sample checks of the transaction of the above accounts and consider they represent a true and fair representation of the trading of the club over the twelve month period ending at 31 December 2001.

Qualification

In respect to financial position of the club I was unable to form an opinion in respect to several aspects of the accounts. I was unable to form independently confirm the existence of certain investments disclosed in the accounts. I have not undertaken confirmation of stock position nor of the equipment. Nor have I confirmed that the title to the clubhouse property is clear of encumbrances.

Also it, as the previous auditor pointed out unreasonable to expect the club to maintain an internal control over cash received until it is entered into the accounts. This gives rise to the possibility of funds being misappropriated.

Signed

Alister Ferguson CPA
Honorary Auditor

2nd April 2003
Canterbury

# FNCV workers

Ian Kitchen

Ann Williamson

Ray Power

Sheila Houghton

Enid Amis

Library Staff

Enid Haarhoff