



Understanding Our Natural World  
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# Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

## Annual Report

### Year Ending 31 December 2007

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## President

It has been another busy year for the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. There were a multitude of talks and excursions run by the various Special Interest Groups.

### General Club Activities

The notable general FNCV activities included:

FNCV Open Day in March. Our open day was once again a successful event in that it provided members of the Club from the different SIGs to catch up as well as attracted non-members to sample the range of activities undertaken by the Club.

The theme of the FNCV Biodiversity Symposium was research undertaken by the various FNCV Special Interest

Groups (SIGS). Eleven presentations were made by members of the Bat Group (Megan Davidson, Robert Bender), Botany Group (Karen Muscat), Fauna Survey Group (John Harris, Ray Gibson), Fungi Group (Paul George, Jurrie Hubregtse, Ed Grey), the Juniors (Wendy Clark) and Terrestrial Invertebrate Group (Alan Yen). Gary Presland made a thought-provoking speech on the importance of the general naturalist approach in the history of the FNCV, especially in excursions, and suggested that the SIGs may actually deter “beginners” – a suggestion that warrants thought. The importance of naturalists with all-round skills to act as mentors to the Juniors was reinforced by Wendy Clark. The winner of this year’s Australian Natural History Medallion is Ms

Jeanette Covacevich, a herpetologist from the Queensland Museum. The presentation ceremony was held in November, when Jeanette presented a fascinating talk on “Current *Crocodilus porosus* (saltwater crocodiles) research on Cape York Peninsula.”

The FNCV Christmas Party in December was a great success, and a great time was had by all who attended. Members were entertained by Sean Dooley who spoke about his new book “*Anoraks to Zitting Cisticola*”.

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Southern Legless Lizard, *Delma australis* Photo: J. Broadberry

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### **FNCV Government Grants**

The Club was successful in obtaining four government grants this year:

The Commonwealth Volunteer Small Equipment Grant, run by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, provided \$920 to purchase office chairs.

We received \$1,800 from the 2006-2007 Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations Programme (although we did ask for \$10,000). This is a grant scheme that assists administrative activities for voluntary organizations such as us. The Club has received GVEHO funding over the last few years which has been steadily declining.

The Marine Research Group (MRG) was successful in the joint FNCV/ Museum Victoria Envirofund grant for \$45,000 to prepare identification guides using the specialist knowledge of some MRG members: Dr Jan Watson on hydroids (feather corals and their relatives), Dr Phil Bock on bryozoans (lace corals and their relatives), Mark O'Loughlin on echinoderms (sea stars and their relatives), Sue Boyd on bivalves (clams, cockles and their relatives), and David Staples on sea spiders.

The Club has received a Water Grants scheme grant of \$18,000 to install a water tank and to incorporate this water to use in the toilets in the FNCV building. This is an important water conservation measure for the Club. Thank you to John Harris, our Vice-President, for his hard work in preparing the application.

### **The Environment Fund**

This will be reported separately.

### **Victorian Government White Paper on Biodiversity**

The FNCV was invited to participate in the public consultation process for the Government's White Paper on *Our Future Our Environment*. Karen Muscat represented the Club at an evaluation workshop on Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy, and I made a presentation to

Sir Gus Nossal (DSE Chief Scientist), Mick Murphy (Chair Stakeholder Reference Group) and Kevin Love (DSE Deputy Secretary) on the history of the FNCV and how it has contributed to the documentation and conservation of biodiversity in Victoria – data gathering, monitoring, pest management projects, identification guides, publication of *The Victorian Naturalist*, *The Field Nats News*, the numerous meetings (both general and SIG), and the biodiversity symposia. I emphasized that the FNCV has played an integral role in biodiversity work in Victoria, and has the potential to do so for a very long term into the future; naturalist groups are fundamental in documenting the lesser known groups (e.g. the success of the Fungi SIG). I suggested that the downside was the lack of financial support for the administration of naturalist groups (at both State and Commonwealth levels).

### **The Library, the Field Nats News, and The Victorian Naturalist**

These are important aspects of the FNCV that most members take for granted but the Club would not function properly without the volunteers involved in maintaining these activities. Each will be reporting separately in the Annual Report, but I wish to draw attention to the digitisation of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

Gary Presland received a Norman Wettenhall Foundation grant to digitise all back issues of *The Victorian Naturalist*. *The Victorian Naturalist* has been published continuously since 1880, making it the longest running journal of its kind in Australia. The body of information it contains is enormous but accessing the full extent of such a quantity of data has always posed problems. Gary has set up a project to create a digital archive of *The Victorian Naturalist*, which will be searchable in this way. The grant from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation will fund the digitising of all issues of *The Victorian Naturalist* from vol. 1 to vol. 120. Use of this digital archive, which will be avail-

able on DVD and on the 'net, will make searching for references almost instantaneous. This is a great step forward for the Club because it will result in greater exposure to the scientific/naturalist communities.

### **Deaths**

We regret the passing of five FNCV members:

Margaret Flattely (Peg)  
Dr. Cyrus Jones  
Cedric Ralph (in his 100th year, the Club has lost its oldest member)  
Hiromi Shirata-Seong  
Alf Triffett

### **Summary**

Despite the great number of achievements this year, the FNCV still faces problems that are common to many voluntary organizations: falling membership and less income. Today there are so many different activities that people can become involved with and so little time, so membership has declined. This starts a vicious cycle in that subscriptions need to be raised to maintain income, which in turn, loses more members. This is a problem that Council is constantly grappling with and it is trying to keep subscription increases to a minimum. Student subscriptions have been lowered in order to attract more members. The Club is relying more and more on volunteers, so again, I ask members to try and enlist new members and to get more volunteers to help run the Club.

On this note, I want to thank all the members who have generously donated their time as volunteers to the various Club functions, the Library team, *The Field Nats News* team, *The Victorian Naturalist* team, and the organizers of the various Special Interest Groups. I also wish to thank Council members for their work during the year, especially the Treasurers and the Secretary. Thank you to Helen MacNally, our Admin Officer, for keeping the Office going. Finally, thank you to the donors, sponsors and advertisers who have helped the Club.

**Alan Yen**  
**President**



## *FNCV Administration*

### Membership

Membership as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 was 788, 34 members down from the same time last year. We attracted 112 new members over the year, but unfortunately lost 146. As with previous years, the largest membership categories were Ordinary (full paying) membership and Concession members.

Our Access database continues to be maintained and updated on a voluntary basis by Leon Altoff. I would like to thank Leon for his continued support in assisting the club in this way, it is greatly appreciated. One of the more significant improvements was the ability to now record specific interests of our existing and new members within the club. This information will provide us with statistical information about our members so we can cater for them accordingly in the future.

A membership sub-committee was created to maintain current membership levels and to encourage new members to join. It was decided that a new category would be introduced to cater for students with an annual membership fee of \$25. In 2007, council decided to increase membership fees slightly with the new rates coming into effect as at 1/2/2008.

### Book Sales

Total profit from the book shop for 2007 was \$1521.14 with the new book sales system proving to be very effective. FNCV publications continue to sell at our meetings with a total profit of \$1460.59. Our newest publication, *Coastal Invertebrates of Victoria*, recorded a profit of \$430.94.

### Hall Hire

We continued to hire out our hall to various groups in 2007 and received a total income (before expenses) of \$2,863.63 (excl. GST). We have 3 groups that hire our hall on a regular basis throughout the year and we also accommodate casual hall hirers. The

hall is cleaned on a fortnightly basis ensuring the premise is ready for use by hirers as well as club members. Thank you to our club member Colin Dowzer and our club Secretary Gary Presland who gave up their time to open the hall for our hirers outside of office hours.

### Promotion

Our quarterly produced *Calendar of Events* provides details about club meetings, excursions and camps for each of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs). It is distributed to libraries, Universities and other environmental groups throughout Melbourne and Victoria and includes a membership application form for new members to join.

Our website continues to be an excellent marketing tool and assists in promoting all aspects of the club. Coming events such as Open Days, Symposiums and our annual Australian Natural History Medallion presentation are advertised through our website providing an additional method of distributing information about our activities. Many thanks to Leon Altoff for donating his time and expertise in maintaining and improving the website over the past year.

### Advertising in FNCV Publication

Paid advertising and flyer inserts placed in the *Field Nat News* (FNN) during the year totalled \$648.18. There was no income from paid advertising in *The Victorian Naturalist* this year.

Thank you to all volunteers who have assisted in the various aspects of running the club in 2007, your time and effort is gratefully appreciated.

**Helen McNally,  
Administration  
Officer.**



## *The Victorian Naturalist*

Six issues of *The Victorian Naturalist* were produced during 2007, comprising Volume 124. There were two special issues during the year: issue No. 2 contained papers presented at the FNCV Biodiversity Symposium in September 2006, while issue No. 4 focused on invertebrate conservation and, at 96 pages in length, was also the largest for the year.

The page length of issues of *The Victorian Naturalist* varied through the year. In addition to the invertebrate conservation special, there were three 64-page issues and two of 32 pages. In total, the volume contained 46 original papers (7 Research Reports, 33 Contributions, and 6 Naturalist Notes) by 85 individual authors. The Australian Natural History Medallionist for 2007 (Jeanette Covacevich) was honoured in the pages of *The Victorian Naturalist*, with an article that detailed her achievements in the field of reptile conservation.

The range of subject matter published through the year was extremely wide, with papers on a diversity of topics relating to plants and animals. In addition, Volume 124 carried 15 book reviews and two software reviews were published, as well as three tributes — to mark the passing of Jack Douglas, Arthur Farnworth, and Gretna Weste. Books returned by reviewers were donated to the FNCV library.

My thanks are extended to all the authors who supported *The Victorian Naturalist* by submitting papers on an interesting range of subjects. Throughout the year Virgil Hubregtse has provided invaluable editorial assistance in all matters relating to the production of *The Victorian Naturalist*. Dorothy Mahler has assisted also, particularly in dispensing complimentary copies to authors. Ken Bell again prepared an annual index. The work of each of these individuals is essen-

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

tial to the smooth operation of producing *The Victorian Naturalist*, and I am pleased to thank them here, as well as my fellow editors Dr Maria Gibson and Dr Gary Presland.

**Anne Morton**  
Executive Editor

## Microscopical Group

Again we have to thank the speakers and acknowledge the work they do to put on an informative evening. A special thanks to Mary Gibson for not only leading a great night, but also bringing the microscopes and associated equipment. The March and May meetings were at the cutting edge of science, but did not attract an audience as I thought they should.

The meetings for the year were as follows:

**February-** Dr. Mary Gibson led a hands-on night, introducing *Bryophytes*, the phylum of nonvascular terrestrial plants, mosses, liverworts and hornworts. After explanations, the microscopes were used to look at the minute details of these plants.

**March** – Physicist, John Ward, of digital imaging and surface analysis facility at CSIRO used S.E.M. images to show details of objects magnified x50.000. John showed and explained his technique to artificially colour the images.

**April** – Members' night. Members supplied objects for investigation. We also checked the chemicals, still at hand, that were used by past members that put some of the clubs 5000 microscope slides together.

**May** – Dr. Mark Sanderman of Agricultural Science at Latrobe University spoke on emerging parasitic infections in Australian animals. Mark gave a wide-ranging talk on recent infections and mentioned the enormous parasite load in Australian ani-



The Victorian Naturalist editorial team: (Standing, L-R) Virgil Hubregtse, Gary Presland, Anne Morton; (Seated) Maria Gibson

mals. Mark suggested we should never kiss the dog goodnight!

**June** – Marine, freshwater and air studies. Ros St. Clair of EPA Science spoke on the many areas the EPA need to get involved in to keep ahead of endemic pollution. One interesting theme was placing microscope slides to collect air particles for later observation.

**July** – Introduction to *Mycorrhiza*. Zoe Smith of the University of Melbourne explained what *Mycorrhiza* are, the symbiotic relationship between fungi and roots of green plants. Zoe described the three main types and how they were used to propagate new terrestrial orchid plants for reintroduction to selected areas.

**August** – Microscopical information reveals the evolutionary history of *Protaeaceae*. Dr. David Cantrell, chief botanist of Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium used a light microscope and a scanning electron microscope and transmission electron microscope imaging of *Protaeaceae* fossils to reveal this history. Although Western Australia has many more species, Queen-

sland has many more genera which would indicate a longer history. The T.E.M. imaging revealed details of fossil *Protaeaceae* pollen in strata 90 million years B.P. in Queensland.

**September** – Russell Ward of the Astronomical Society spoke on telescopes and telescope mirror making. Russell described the history of telescopes and with simple explanations and equipment demonstrated how to grind, polish, and test a mirror, prior to applying a reflective film of silver. He then described suitable mountings.

**October-** Linda Semeraro of A.P.I. Knoxfield described the leaf hoppers. The order *Hemiptera* are a group of insects whose main distinguishing features are their hinged piercing and sucking mouth parts. The suborder that includes the leaf hoppers is *Homoptera* and Linda described the groups and showed on a PowerPoint presentation the ones being worked on.

**November** – Members' night.

**Ray Power**  
Covenor



## *Field Nats News*

The year 2007 produced the usual 11 issues of FNN, nos 161 – 171, which were dispatched by post to members and subscribers. The Club expresses its gratitude to all contributors, editors and the layout and collation teams. Up to 30 volunteers a month work to produce the Club program, meetings and excursions as well as reports on recent events for the newsletter. All essential to the smooth functioning of our organisation.

Your editors are keen to improve the content of FNN. We enjoy receiving letters to the editor. We would really appreciate more natural history articles and observations. During 2007 we have published many photographs but would love to receive more. It is now so simple to email them in to [fnnews@vicnet.net.au](mailto:fnnews@vicnet.net.au) It is also easy these days to scan maps and diagrams, so don't hold back on those either.

The standard size of FNN each month is 12 pages, but at times we go down

to 10 pages. We help defray costs by advertising and enclosures. It is of concern that a few of our 9 SIG's seldom contribute reports to FNN, and we would really love these groups to write up their meetings and excursions more often.

The third Tuesday of the month is always a collation afternoon. Activities commence about 1 pm., some members attend earlier. We usually have every newsletter folded and labelled ready for posting by about 4 pm. Ray Power has the onerous job of organising the post boxes for the Main Centre. We thank him for his dedication. If we have 10 volunteers, the collation afternoons are enjoyable and stress free. If less than 10, getting the job done in the time available demands extra concentration. We would encourage all members (and friends) to come along; even an hour of your time is valuable to us.

The FNN has its own email address, [fnnews@vicnet.net.au](mailto:fnnews@vicnet.net.au) which is quite separate from the FNCV email. Our deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, with a little flexibility until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday if you let us know ahead of time. It is always a rush at the last, trying to fit everything in. We especially thank those many folk who are always on time with their copy. Contributors might not realize that sometimes late copy causes us to pull the layout apart and literally start again.

Table 1 acknowledges our main contributors for 2007. We apologise to anyone overlooked. We appreciate the work of Platon Vafiadis (MRG) and Rob Hamson (Geology) who make our life easy with the careful presentation of their material. Special thanks to our Office Administrator Helen McNally who breaks the back of the monthly calendar and organizes many of the advertisements.

**Dr. Noel Schleiger &  
Joan Broadberry  
Joint Editors**

**Table 1. CONTRIBUTORS TO FNN 2007**

Month	No.	Main Contributors	Collators	Pages	Encls.	Ads.
Feb.	161	Karen Muscat, Rob Hamson, Joan Broadberry, Sheila Houghton, P. Vafiadis	11	10	0	6
March	162	Karen Muscat, Rob Hamson, Noel Schleiger, Sheila Houghton, Paul George, Chris Coleborn, Clarrie Handreck, John Eichler, Platon Vafiadis	12	12	1	7
April	163	Karen Muscat, Sheila Houghton, Rob Hamson, Platon Vafiadis, John Harris, Alison Broome	9	10	0	4
May	164	Karen Muscat, Joan Broadberry, Peter Homan, Sue Bendel, Sheila Houghton, Platon Vafiadis, Roger Pierson, Paul George, Noel Schleiger	8	12	1	2
June	165	Sheila Houghton, Clem Earp, Noel Schleiger, Joan Broadberry, Platon Vafiadis, Gary Presland, Alan Yen, Sue Bendel	6	10	2	0
July	166	Sheila Houghton, Gary Presland, Alan Yen, Platon Vafiadis, Joan Broadberry, Clem Earp, Russell Thompson, Jurrrie & Virgil Hubregtse, Sue Bendel	10	12	1	6
August	167	Alan Yen, Rob Hamson, Sheila Houghton, Ray Gibson, Platon Vafiadis, Paul George, Arthur Carew, Noel Schleiger	11	10	1	3
Sept.	168	Alan Yen, Sue Bendel, Rob Hamson, Noel Schleiger, Sheila Houghton, Pat Grey, Platon Vafiadis, Sally Brewsher	10	12	2	5
Oct.	169	Alan Yen, Joan Broadberry, Rob Hamson, Arthur Carew, Ed & Pat Grey, Sheila Houghton, Sue Bendel, Platon Vafiadis, Ian Endersby	8	10	0	6
Nov.	170	Alan Yen, Sheila Houghton, Jenny Porter, Keith Marshall, Joan Broadberry, John Harris, Sue Bendel, Rob Hamson, Noel Schlieger, P. Vafiadis	9	12	0	3
Dec.- Jan. 08	171	Alan Yen, Rob Hamson, Ed Grey, Sue Bendel, Joan Broadberry, Noel Schleiger, Sheila Houghton, P. Vafiadis	13	12	1	7

## Library Report

Like other libraries we are beginning to feel the bite of technology. The year began with CSIRO informing us that we no longer qualified for the individual subscription rate we had previously been paying for the *Australian Journal of Botany*, the *Australian Journal of Zoology* and *Wildlife Research*. The institutional subscriptions for these journals were astronomical, putting them well beyond our financial resources. We protested, arguing our non-profit status, the fact that we had been receiving these publications almost since their inception, and that CSIRO derived benefit from the reviews of many of their natural history publications in *The Victorian Naturalist*. After numerous phone calls and this letter arguing our position, CSIRO agreed to supply us for another year at the individual subscription rate (which we had already paid). It seems that CSIRO was unable to reinstate us on their mailing list, and further phone calls produced only the first two issues of each journal for 2007. We can no longer provide the service of a print edition for our members, and can only hope that such members who wish to consult these journals are able to do so via the internet.

Such restraints do not apply to Parks Victoria, who produced management plans for national and marine parks at an impressive rate during 2007. Of the 75 titles added to the library this year nearly half of them came from this source. Many of the others came from the people who reviewed them for *The Victorian Naturalist*, and we thank them for donating these books to the library. We extend thanks for donations to Bill Fenner and Alan Yen, and the FSG who presented us with another book, *Yellingbo, a special place*, in memory of Bob Taylor; and to Ian Mansergh, who donated two CDs: *Victorian aerial photo mosaics 1930-1940s* v.1: *Aire to Mortlake*; v.2: *Moyhu to Yarrangobilly*. Montmorency FNC culled their library collection, and kindly offered us the result, from which we selected a number of titles. The books added this year covered various aspects of natural history, and matters

of current interest. Amongst these were: Chinnock, R.J. (n.d.) *Eremophila and allied genera: a monograph of the Myoporaceae*; Clode, D. (2006) *As if for a thousand years: a history of Victoria's land conservation and environment councils*; and *Continent of curiosities: a journey through natural history*; Museum Victoria (2006) *Melbourne's wildlife: a field guide to the fauna of Greater Melbourne*; Olsen, P. et al. (2006) *The state of Australia's birds 2006: invasive species*; Pittock, A.B. (2005) *Climate change: turning up the heat*; and Temby, I. (2005) *Wild neighbours: the human approach to living with wildlife*.

Another acquisition was a print of Jane Sutherland's *The Field Naturalists*, 1896, which now hangs just inside the library on the left of the door. The catalogue to the exhibition *The Impressionists*, mounted by the Ian Potter Gallery, stated that Jane was a member of the FNCV. This is not so, (although her younger brother, James, was), but we thought the subject matter of the painting justified our having a print. We have had fewer people coming into the library when it is open on Tuesdays, but a check of our borrowing books revealed that some 160 books and periodicals were borrowed during the year, indicating that members attending meetings are making use of the library.

As usual, enquiries have been mainly requests for information about former members, from students and family history researchers. We were also able to help a person baffled by some of the abbreviations which Jim Willis used in his *A synopsis of indigenous plants within a 10 mile radius of Creswick*.

Work has continued on cataloguing, and Gary Presland is engaged in recording our bookstock on computer, as a backup to the card file. Further progress has been made in sorting and recording archive material.

Enid Haarhoff and Gary Presland have provided me with valuable support throughout the year, and I sincerely thank them for this.

**Sheila Houghton**  
Honorary Librarian  
& Archivist



## Australian Natural History Medallion

The 2007 Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Jeanette Covacevich AM for her contribution to herpetology and conservation. The Medallion was presented by Dr Jane Melville, Senior Curator of Herpetology at the Museum of Victoria at a meeting of the FNCV in November. The presentation was followed by the recipient's address entitled "Current *Crocodylus porosus* research on Cape York Peninsula". A citation for the winner was published in *The Victorian Naturalist* 124 (6). The nomination had been made by the Queensland Naturalists' Club.

At the start of the year seven nominations were still current and one more was received. The Australian Mammal Society's nomination of Steve van Dyck lapsed after three years so there will be six nominations continuing into 2008.

Sponsorship from Andrew Isles and donations from Societies and FNCV members totalled \$1,520 for the year. As there is sufficient stock of mounted medallions to last until 2011 expenditure this year was limited to postage and engraving costs.

There was no meeting of the General Committee during the year as there were no Award Committee retirements, and any necessary business was conducted by mail and email. This was primarily a review of stationery design which incorporated a photograph of the medallion.

**Ian Endersby**  
Secretary ANHM  
General Committee



## *Botany Group*

The Botany Group has continued to attract informative speakers and visit a diverse array of interesting locations during the past year. We would like to thank Karen Muscat and Jenny Porter for organising most of these activities.

The Botany Group members wish to acknowledge the effort taken by the speakers, excursion leaders and members who made the activities interesting and enjoyable. A special thankyou to the following speakers and excursion leaders: Alan Yen, "Insect and plant interactions with emphasis on eucalypt and wattle herbivores"; Dylan Osler, "Jilpanger fauna and flora reserve"; David Cameron, "Conservation status of the Victorian flora- the current review applying the criteria of the IUCN"; David Cheal, "Fire – what we don't know"; Niels Klazenga, "Through the looking glass: an introduction to the fascinating world of bryophytes"; Leon Costermans, "Eucalypt identification for the rest of us"; Glen Jameson, "Pest plant protocol: managing your monitoring?"; Randall Robinson, "Population or individual? The importance of clonality in plants"; Alan Yen and Patrick Piggot, "The Box-iron bark thinning experiment"; Dick Thompson, "Reintroducing orchids to the wild" and Annie Lamb, "Weed spotter information session".

Thankyou to Karen Lester for assisting with the management of the Clyde – Tooradin disused railway Plains Grassland where we looked

for threatened species, *Prasophyllum frenchii* (Maroon Leek-orchid), *Dianella amoena* (Matted Flax-lily) and *Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp Everlasting). Also thankyou to Australian Ecosystems for supplying the grasses and forbs we planted at Clyde, and for follow-up watering. Thankyou to the people who assisted with the weeding and planting at Clyde.

In 2008 the Botany Group will contribute to the conservation of Victoria's biodiversity by continuing to manage Clyde with weeding days and performing botanical surveys in several Trust for Nature properties and searching for threatened species. These excursions will provide members with practical experience in some of the State's best patches of remnant vegetation. This information is helpful to land managers, when determining environmental management practices.

**Sue Bendel**  
on behalf of the  
**Botany Committee**



### *The FNCV Environment Fund*

The FNCV Environment Fund is a tax-deductible fund that was set up in 2003 to aid individuals and community groups who are involved in environmental research.

Its purposes are:  
To support and finance environ-

mental research, in particular research into the biodiversity of Victoria

To support and finance dissemination of information on the natural environment by any legitimate means, including public lectures, seminars, field trips, courses and publications

To support and finance practical projects aimed at preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of Victoria.

The Fund is administered by a committee consisting of Malcolm Calder (Chair), Barbara Burns (Secretary and Treasurer), Bob Rogers, Noel Schleiger, John Harris, Cathy Willis and Keith Loveridge.

Each year the Fund contacts the regional field naturalist clubs in Victoria and advertised in *Vic Nats News* and on the Web for grant applications. The committee meets in April to process the submissions and decide on the successful applicants.

Each project is required to be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding, with a report on completion to be published in *The Victorian Naturalist*. Successful applicants are encouraged to communicate the results of their project to the Club via articles, talks or field trips.

Donations to the Fund are tax-deductible and most welcome and gratefully accepted. Thank you to everyone who donated in 2007. Your support will enable the Fund to continue providing grants for worthy projects in the future.

**Barbara Burns**  
Secretary



<i>The projects supported in 2007</i>		
Grant Palmer - Ballarat University.	'Birds in the Rural Living Zone: the importance of nature conservation areas for maintaining assemblages', colour bands & mist nets	\$894.00
The Victoria Naturalist Team of the FNCV	To assist in creating a digital copy of the first 120 years of the Victorian Naturalist	\$1,000
FNCV Fauna Survey Group	Purchase of Funnel Traps	\$720.50

## *Geology Group*

It has been another successful and enjoyable year learning about things geological from a variety of knowledgeable and enthusiastic speakers, with five forays into the field. We are fortunate that three FNCV members were able to lead very interesting excursions – Noel

Schleiger, Roger Pierson and Ruth Robertson. Our special thanks to Fons VandenBerg who led our longest field trip in recent years, four days looking at the Snowy River Volcanics. The average attendance for the ten meetings over 2007 was

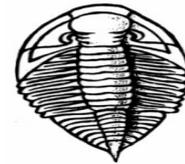
24, and for the five excursions 20.

Thanks to Clem Earp and Noel Schleiger for running the Group during April and May, and to Noel for attending and reporting back on Council meetings. Thanks also to Noel and members Ann and Lindsay Crawford for their presentations.

**Rob Hamson**  
Secretary

### Geology Meetings

Date	Topic	Speaker
February	How We Make a Geological Map Geoscience Victoria	Dr Vince Morand,
March	Standing on the Shoulders of Giants	Sarah Martin, (Australian Mesozoic insects) Monash University
April	Mass Extinction at the K-T Boundary: Evidence from Antarctica	Dr Jeff Stilwell, Monash University
May	Invasion of the Land (Transition from fish to amphibians)	Associate Prof. Anne Warren, Latrobe University
June	The Geology of the Galapagos Islands	Dr Noel Schleiger, lecturer, retired
July	Voyage to the Ross Sea, Antarctica	Ann and Lindsay Crawford, FCNV members
August	Hydrogeology of the Otway Basin	Angela Bush, Melbourne University
September	Impacts of Quaternary Climate Change and Volcanic Activity on Vegetation and Human Landscapes of the Western Plains of Victoria	Professor Peter Kershaw, Monash University
October	Granites in Victoria	Dr Allan Rossiter, consultant geologist and Bendigo RIT
November	Granite Coastlines	Dr Eric Bird, coastal geomorphologist, consultant and writer



### Geology Excursions and Field Trip

Date	Topic/Location	Leader
January	Mount Hickey and the Trawool Plateau	Dr Noel Schleiger
April	Collecting Fossils at Waurin Ponds Quarry, near Geelong	Courtesy of Alex Walker, quarry manager
July	Evidence of an Ice Age	Roger Pierson, Deakin University
September	Landscape Evolution of the Loddon Valley	Ruth Robertson, exploration geologist
November 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	The Snowy River Volcanics, Buchan Rift and Landscape Evolution in the East Gippsland Highlands	Fons VandenBerg, Geoscience Victoria

# Fungi Group

## Aims

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

## Activities

Our program of fortnightly forays attracts a wide range of people of various ages and experience and experienced guides lead each foray. The following locations were surveyed:

Bunyip State Park (90 species),  
Emerald Lake (75 species)  
Kinglake (72 species)  
Upper Yarra Reservoir (74 species),  
Greens Bush (Mornington Peninsula National Park) (67 species),  
Blackwood (83 species),  
Cathedral Range SP (105 species),  
Yarra Ranges National Park at The Beeches, Marysville (42 species),  
Dom Dom Saddle (67 species)  
Devilbend Reservoir, Mornington Peninsular (58 species), and  
Jumping Creek Reserve, Warrandyte (35 species).

In each case, the appropriate ranger was contacted prior to the survey to

check any special requirements and a copy of the survey report forwarded to them.

After each foray, a meeting was held at the FNCV clubhouse to review the records.

In 2005 the Fungi Group obtained a Research Permit from the Department of Sustainability and Environment to facilitate our project: ‘The collation of data on distribution and ecology of Victorian fungi’. From our forays this year 13 collections of fungi have been lodged with the National Herbarium (Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne).

A series of talks and workshops were held at the Blackburn FNCV clubhouse. Topics included:

1. Fungi that appear after bush fires – Geoff Lay
  2. How to prepare collections for Herbarium – workshop
  3. The *Entoloma* Question – Bruce Fuhrer
- Review of *Mycena subgalericulata* – Virgil Hubregtse

We also made three presentations

to the FNCV Biodiversity Symposium, including ‘Biodiversity: A System View’ by Jurrie Hubregtse, ‘Weedy Fungi’ by Ed Grey and ‘An overview of the FNCV Fungi Group’s activities’ by Paul George.

The Fungi Group is currently working on a third edition of the CD-ROM of fungi images. This CD-ROM will have a new look and different structured search key. We are looking forward to publishing this new version in 2008.

A web site dedicated to the Fungi Group was developed on the FNCV web service. This site describes the aims and objectives of the Group, the calendar of activities, sample reports from previous forays and photographs of the ‘Fungus of the Month’ (illustrating an interesting find from our forays).

## Interesting Finds

One of the themes we examined this year was Fungi that grow after fires. We found four such species at Bunyip. Two of these were gilled fungi: *Pholiota highlandensis* with soft reddish brown scales on its stem, and a collybioid fungus growing on burnt wood and ash. The other two were ascomycetes: a cluster of tiny orange discs of *Anthrocobia muelleri*, and pink patches of *Pyronema omphalodes*.

Ten members of the Mornington Peninsula Field Naturalists Club joined the FNCV Fungi Group for our Foray to Green’s Bush in the Mornington Peninsula. Dean Higgins, a Senior Arborist from the Mornington Peninsula Shire also joined us. We found somewhat fewer species (67) than we have found in previous years (up to 140 in 2005). Whether this was due to the late start to the season or the effects of the prolonged drought remains to be seen.

At Blackwood we again found the ‘Ear-pick’ Fungus *Auriscalpium* sp. on the same tree as previous years, and although we looked, could find it on no other tree. Another collection was made for MEL – a handful of fruit-bodies because this year the fruit-



*Cordyceps cranstouni*

bodies were much larger and none of them appeared to have stipes.

*Hygrocybe* spp. appeared to be poorly represented this year, with only a few found at Green's Bush and Cathedral Range – both usually 'hot spots' for this genus.

Our trip to Dom Dom Saddle was remarkable for the large number of vegetable caterpillars found- *Cordyceps robertsii* and *C. cranstounii*.

The Fungi Group was privileged to receive an offer from Nic McCaffrey to survey of the Devilbend Reservoir on the Mornington Peninsula. This reserve is managed by Parks Victoria and is not currently open to the public. A sighting of *Cortinarius areolatoimbricatus*, a yellow/orange Cortinar with a scaly cap was a first for many in the group. Another interesting find was *Sphaerobolus stellatus*, commonly known as the Cannon-ball Fungus because of its unusual spore dispersal action of shooting the enclosed peridioles from the star-shaped fruit bodies. (We also found this at Cathedral Range).

We were joined for our foray to Jumping Creek, Warrandyte by Bruce Fuhrer, who quickly pointed out some tiny yellow discs with a rough edge *Lamprospora tuberculata* that only

grows in moss and occasionally with liverworts. Another find identified by Bruce was a *Cortinarius* sp. 'Warrandyte Purple-zoned'. This species could be distinguished from *C. lavendulensis* by the zonation on the mauve cap.

**Paul George  
On Behalf of the  
Committee**



*Auriscalpium* sp.

## Juniors' Group

The Junior Group continues to flourish with an average attendance at meetings of around 50 – 60 people. About half of these would be junior members and the balance parents.

The President of our group, Nick Andrewes, after 5 yrs of inspiring leadership resigned to travel and work. He will be missed by us all. Many of us will retain the seeds of knowledge and inspiration he left. Myriam Amiet-Knottenbelt took up the challenge and has lead us well to date and is showing many signs of being an excellent leader.

Other junior councilors were: Georgia Lloyd as Vice President, Evannah Clark as Editor / Mailing Secretary, Gabriel Paholski as

Treasurer, Thomas Green as Club Scribe, Alex Gage as Internet Manager and Wendy Clark as Club Advisor. Also Emil Dacy-Cole, Christine Brown and Bianca Gibson.

All of the members of the Junior Council, except the Club advisor, are Teenagers- including the President.

### Meetings

The topics covered at meetings were Dolphins, Sea Dragons by members of the Junior Council, Hands on Insect Setting for Display by Wendy Clark, Flies by Dr Melanie Archer, Fungi by Dr Tom May, Tuans by Stuart Dashpur, Introduction to Microscopes by Paul George, What Rock, Mineral or Fossil is That by Rob Hamson, Our Birthday meeting, Cicadas by Wendy Clark, Carnivorous Plants by Kirril Harding and Nudibranchs by Myriam Amiet-Knottenbelt.

### Excursions

Many of these were followed by an excursion led by the speaker. Topics were: Shells at Werribee Beach led by Dr Noel Schleiger, A Moth Night with Peter Marriott, Fungi led by Dr Tom May, a series of trips to Baluk Williams Reserve to look for Orchids and insects, Fossil Hunt to Corio with Rob Hamson, Carnivorous Plants at Langwarrin led by Kirril Harding.

### Camps

At Easter we went to Jack Smith Lake Game Reserve. Approx 60 people attended it.

In June we went to Rushworth to observe Tuans and Sugar Gliders and check some nest boxes.

In October we went to Linton Bird Sanctuary and observed many birds including peregrine falcons on the nest, Eastern Barred Bandicoots and much more.

All in all a very successful year

**Wendy Clark  
Club Advisor**



*Flamulina velutipes*

**Terrestrial Invertebrate Group**

The Terrestrial Invertebrate Group’s first meeting began in February with a combined Botany Group meeting. Dr. Alan Yen discussed the Insect-Plant interactions with emphasis on Eucalypt and Wattle herbivores.

Dr. Alan Yen continued the Insect-Plant interactions talk with a field trip through Yarra Bend Park, where he led the Terrestrial Invertebrate Group together with the Botany Group for insect collecting, discussions and observations.

Ray McMahon presented a fascinating lecture in April on ant diversity in different habitats at Plenty Gorge Park-land.

Dr Melanie Archer and Dr. Alan Yen informed all members in June on how to identify the various insects. Afterwards the group used the various microscopes, keys and guides to identify the various insects.

John Wainer kept all members intrigued with his talk in August on an Introduction to Beetles and afterwards showed a collection of beetles.

The October meeting was presented by Lucy Gibson who gave her informative talk on the Golden Sunmoth (*Synemon plana*).

The final meeting in October was presented by Dr. Alan Yen on an interesting topic at a combined meeting of the Terrestrial Invertebrate and Botany Group. The topic presented was on the box-ironbark thinning experiment. That weekend both groups attended an excursion/camp to Cossticks Reserve to observe the invertebrate inhabitants and plant species.

**Sneazana Trkulja**  
On behalf of the committee



**Bat Study Group**

In 2007 the group continued to field experienced and new counters for the monthly monitoring of Grey-headed flying foxes (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) at Yarra Bend Park. The research project is headed by Dr Rodney van der Ree of the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology. Regular monitoring of numbers in camps along the eastern seaboard reveals seasonal movements of this vulnerable species in response to weather, the breeding cycle and food availability. Numbers in Melbourne in 2007 fluctuated from 18,500 in January to 3,111 in July, the lowest number of overwintering animals recorded since 2000. Melbourne now has two permanent camps of this species, the main one at Yarra Bend and a smaller camp at Eastern Park in Geelong.

FNCV members provided valuable assistance to another long-running research project at Organ Pipes National Park. In this longitudinal “bats in boxes” study, microbats are collected from artificial roost boxes monthly to be weighed, measured and examined for reproductive status and parasite burden. The project has now been running for 11 years and is the longest-running known study of its type. The oldest individual microbat is a 9-year old female. In 2007 a dead banded male Gould’s Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*) from the study was collected in St Kilda demonstrating the mobility of the male of the species.

Two talks on bats were included in the 2007 Biodiversity Symposium: Dr Megan Davidson’s talk was entitled “A short history of the Grey-headed flying fox in Victoria”, and Robert Bender presented a snapshot of the Organ Pipes bats in boxes project.

Another print run (2,000 copies) of the education pamphlet “Melbourne’s Bats” was funded by Manningham Council who will distribute the material to relevant local groups. The pamphlet was originally funded in 2006 by the FNCV Enviromentfund.

**Dr. Megan Davidson**  
for the Bat Study Group



Thanks to those involved in the production of the FNCV Annual Report

Joan Broadberry (editor)  
Noel Schleiger  
Dorothy Mahler

## *Fauna Survey Group*

Once again our group has invited a wide variety of speakers to our monthly meetings and we have been involved in a range of field trips across Victoria.

Guest speakers this year spoke on:

**February** - The Flora and Fauna of Point Nepean. Andrew Picone.

**March** - The Recovery Programs & Captive Management of Endangered Species at Healesville Sanctuary. Ian Stych

**April** - Asian Black Bear Conservation in China. David Farrar.

**May** - Wildlife of the Port Phillip Municipality. Andrew McCutcheon.

**June** - Satellite Tracking of Little Penguins. Julie McInnes.

**July** - Bats & Bugs in Boxes. Lisa Evans.

**August** - Myotis Bat Ecology. Susan Campbell

**September** - The Oriental Weather Loach, a New Fish Invader. Joanne Kearns.

**October** - Management of Urban Penguins. Tiana Preston.

**November** - Sights & Sounds of the Night. Ed McNab.

Stagwatches were held in the warmer months, in search of Leadbeater's Possum and other nocturnal fauna. Leadbeater's Possums were recorded at 4 sites out of 7 surveyed. A total effort of 61 stags were watched, with spotlighting after the stagwatch. A total of 5 individuals were recorded. We surveyed in Churchill N. Park in February. It was an extremely hot weekend, but nearly 120 bats of five different species were caught.

March saw us return to the Grampians for a final visit to this particular area for pre-fire burn surveys. Five species of bat, four reptile species & six species of mammal, including a Heath Mouse, were recorded.

At Easter, a small number of dedicated members returned to Rennick on the S.A. border, to continue a survey of remnant vegetation. Few species were trapped, except for common ones such as Bush Rats & Agile An-

techinus. Despite good efforts not a single bat was caught.

An excellent outcome was achieved on our trip to Rushworth. A total of 7 Brush-tailed Phascogales were observed in the 106 nestboxes that were checked, including two adults seen together in one box. This compares with 2 Phascogales in 2005 and 1 in 2006. Large numbers of sugar gliders were also found.

It has been some years since we last visited Holey Plains. We returned in June 2007 to conduct some post fire work in new & previously studied areas. A range of familiar birds were seen or heard & several other species were observed or trapped. egs. Sugar Gliders, Koalas, Common Froglet & Brown Tree Frog near the campsite at Harrier's Swamp. We went spotlighting on two nights and found large numbers of Ringtail Possums, along with some Sugar Gliders and Common Brushtail Possums.

We had a cold, wet trip to Yellingbo in winter, to carry out a terrestrial fauna survey. Reasonable numbers of Agile & Dusky Antechinus and Bush Rats were trapped. We followed the Woori Yallock Creek upstream for spotlighting on Saturday night, observing Common Brushtail Possums, Sugar Gliders and a Boobook Owl. It was also lovely to see how the seedlings planted in memory of Bob Taylor had grown and flourished.

The end of winter saw us travel up to the club's property at Cosstick's Reserve, near Maryborough. We camped in nearby Paddy's Ranges and during the weekend we checked nestboxes and explored both sites. We found a Ringtail Possum, two Owlet Nightjars, a lone duck egg, and surprisingly three Gould's Watled Bats sharing a box with a Brushtail Possum! The rangers provided us with afternoon tea when we visited Amherst Reservoir. It is a very picturesque location, having

several large hollow-bearing River Red Gums and a beautiful expanse of water. It is a potential site for bat trapping in the future.

In September, we stayed at Shearer's Huts, in the Murray-Sunset Nat. Park. It was a hot, windy and dusty trip. We went in search of reptiles, Mitchell's Hopping Mouse and the Little & Western Pygmy Possums in particular. One Little Pygmy Possum was found. A wide range of reptiles was seen and found, notably a Bandy Bandy, assorted dragon lizards, several legless lizards and geckoes, as well as a variety of skinks. Despite our efforts, few bats were caught in the harp traps.

A wild, wet, long weekend in November was endured by a few hardy souls, who stayed on after the departure of half the group. The summit and surrounds of Mount Bullfight were surveyed in the hope of finding the Broad-toothed Rat and Leadbeater's Possum. A single LBP was spotlighted in snowgum woodland, near the summit. Several Bush Rats were caught during trapping on an alpine heath bog. Stagwatches at lower altitudes revealed Ringtail Possums.

Our final adventure for the year took us to the Alps, behind Fall's Creek. Most work was carried out around the summit of Mount Mackay in search of the Mountain Pygmy Possum and Broad-Toothed Rat. Two Broad-Toothed Rats were captured, providing a first view of this animal for most of us there. Also trapped were several Bushrats and Dusky Antechinus. After the Alpine fires, approximately 95% of the canopy had been destroyed, leaving a bleached landscape of dead snowgums, and Mountain and Alpine Ash as far as the eye could see. The devastation is very evident. However, the herbaceous vegetation is regenerating now and the snowgums are shooting from lignotubers in the ground.

We have had another adventurous and rewarding year in our travels around the state.

**Sally Bewsher,  
Russell Thompson  
FSG Committee**



## Marine Research Group

2007 saw the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Marine Research Group joining the field Naturalists Club of Victoria as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the group in its original form. The Marine Research Group held 8 meetings and conducted field surveys in 10 locations.

An average of 15 people attended the meetings held at the Field Naturalists' hall. Our program of events was:

**February:** (10<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting) Mark O'Loughlin speaking on the Globally Unique Sea Cucumbers of the Victorian Coast.

**May:** David Morrison from the Bureau of Meteorology on the effects of the weather on tides.

**July:** Bob Burns provided a commentary on the 2007 field trip season.

**August:** Platon Vafiadis spoke on "Observations of micro Gastropods"

**September:** Alan Monger spoke on "A bit about Turrids."

**October:** Matthew Macarthur, talked about his experiences "Diving with the Kiwis amongst the Penguins".

**December:** Members' night.

Locations surveyed included Portland area, Inverloch area, Rye and Portarlington. Harold Holt Reserve at Point Nepean was surveyed with special permission from the DSE.

During our surveys *Noalda exigua* (a small bubble shell approx 5 mm long, pictured right) was found at Anderson Point at Portland and at Cape Patterson and Eagle's Nest near Inverloch. This species was last seen intertidally in Victoria in 1980.

A species similar to *Cystiscus obesula* but with different patterning and slight variation to the shell and animal was observed at several locations. Identification on this species is continuing.

Picture: *Cystiscus obesula* (left) with unidentified species (right).



The western range of 11 sea slugs were extended during our survey work at Portland.

Species at:  
Portland Bay - Anderson Point  
*Elysia furvacauda*; *Elysia sp. 1*;  
*Noalda exigua*; *Philine sp. 2*;  
*Polycera janjukia*; *Tritonia sp. 1*

Species at:  
Lee Breakwater, Portland  
*Ilbia ilbi*; *Diaphorodoris sp.*; *Cri-mora multidigitalis*; *Aegires exeches*; *Favorinus pannuceus*

A grant for Marine Research Group members to write and pub-

lish 5 field guides in conjunction with the Museum of Victoria was obtained from the Australian government's Environment fund. The books will be published over the next few years.

The existing committee remained in place.

**President:** Michael Lyons

**Secretary:** Leon Altoff

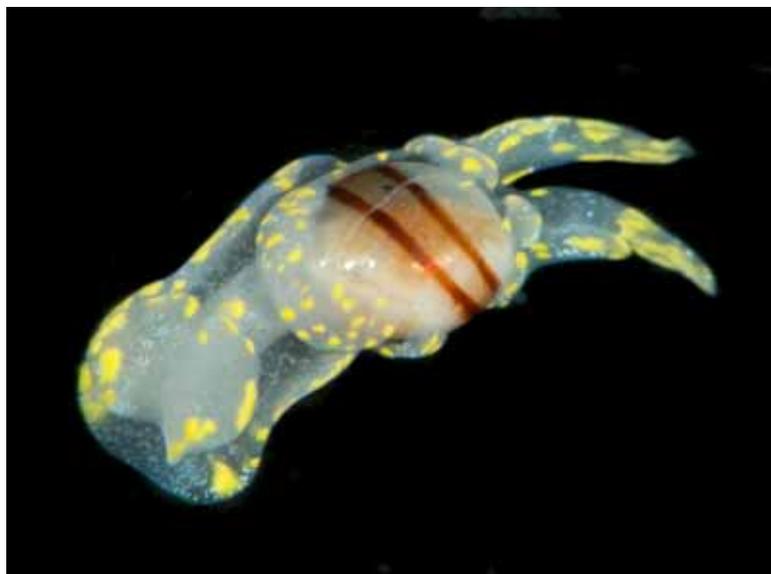
**Fieldtrip coordi-**

**nator:** Audrey Falconer

**Committee members:** Phil Bock, Platon Vafiadis

I would like to thank all our speakers for sharing their knowledge with us. I would also like to thank Platon Vafiadis for preparing the MRG page for *Field Nats News* and Audrey Falconer for coordinating our field trips. Thanks also go to Clarrie Handreck, Bob Burn, Mark O'Loughlin and the Marine Invertebrates Department of the Museum of Victoria.

**Leon Altoff**  
**Secretary**



**THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC**  
**REPORT BY COUNCIL. Year ended 31 December 2007**

1. The members of Council hereby submit the Balance sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 and the Income Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 and report as follows:

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position on Council</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Council Member Since</i>
Dr Alan Yen	President	Entomologist	2001
Karen Muscat	Councillor	Botanist	2003
John Harris	Vice President/Fauna Survey	Science Teacher	2003
Julie Barker	Treasurer	Information Technology/Accountant	2007
Barbara Burns	Councillor	Tutor	2001
Dr Gary Presland	Secretary	Retired	2005
Joan Broadberry	Councillor	Retired Teacher	2001
Dr Noel Schleiger	Councillor/ Geology	Retired	2006
Audrey Falconer	Councillor	Public Servant	2003
Maria Gibson	Councillor	Senior Lecturer	2007
<b>SIG Representative</b>	<b>Special Interest Group</b>		
Leon Altoff	Marine Research	Analyst	2003
Ray Power	Microscopy	Retired	1993
Sue Bendel	Botany	Quality Assurance Co-ordinator	2006
Paul George	Fungi Group	Information Technology	2006
Megan Davidson	Bat Group	Lecturer	2005
Snezana Trkulja	Terrestrial Invertebrates	Building industry	2006
Alexander Gage	Juniors	Student	2007
Gabriel Paholski	Juniors	Student	2007
Ray Gibson	Fauna Survey	Chemist	2006

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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 was (\$5918 net loss) (2006 net profit \$5153).
4. A review of the operations of the Club is contained in the President's Report, which forms part of this Annual Report.
5. No matters or circumstance has arisen since the end of the financial year which has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations or the state of affairs of the Club.
6. Other than as disclosed in the Annual Report, there are no significant developments likely to affect the financial results of the Club.
7. During the financial year, no member of the Council has received or become entitled to receive any benefit by reason of a contract made by the club with the councillor or with an entity which the councillor is a member or in which the councillor has a substantial interest.

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

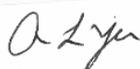
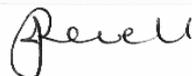
In the opinion of the members of Council,

- (a) The accompanying Income Statement is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial results of the Club for the year ended 31 December 2007.
- (b) The accompanying Balance Sheet is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Club as at 31 December 2007.
- (c) As at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Club will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

SIGNED at Blackburn on this    day of            2008 in accordance with a resolution of Council.

Alan Yen - President

Julie Barker - Treasurer

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA

INCOME STATEMENT  
Year ended 31 December 2007

		2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>INCOME</b>	Membership	\$38,220.96	\$46,417.48
<b>Bookshop</b>	Bookshop Profit	1,318.29	3,088.11
<b>Publications</b>	Profit Sale FNCV Publications	1,214.51	1,097.78
	Back issues Vic Nat	246.08	568.08
		<u>1,460.59</u>	<u>1,665.86</u>
<b>Other Earnings</b>	Hall Hire	2,863.63	2,984.56
	Loss - Openday	-435.38	309.95
	Income Biodiversity Symposium	254.55	1,945.46
	Advertising - Field Nat News	648.18	592.72
	Profit Sale FNCV products	-20.66	185.86
	Copyright Income	376.98	318.32
	Non-Member Levy	184.45	300.00
	Sundry Income	<u>134.77</u>	<u>203.97</u>
		4,008.32	6,840.64
<b>Investments</b>	Bank Interest	1,587.52	1,117.44
	Interest Income Investments	<u>16,994.99</u>	<u>16,788.00</u>
		<u>18,582.51</u>	<u>17,905.44</u>
<b>Grants, Donations</b>	Grants (*see below)	1,800.00	3,818.18
	Small Equipment Grant 920		
	Small Equipment Grant - re office chairs 920	-	
	General Donations	2,170.75	3,181.50
	Donations President's Equipment Appeal	<u>0.00</u>	38.75
		3,970.75	<u>7,038.43</u>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$67,562.44</u></b>	<b><u>\$82,956.16</u></b>
<b>* Grants</b>	Department of Sustainability & Environment - Symposiums		1,818.18
	Aust Government Department of Environment and Heritage		
	Grants to Voluntary, Environment & Heritage Organisations	<u>1,800.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
		<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$3,818.18</u>



FNCV Christmas Party

Photo: J. Broadberry

**THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA  
INCOME STATEMENT  
Year ended 31 December 2007 (continued)**

	2007	2006
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		\$
<b>Publications</b>		
Victorian Naturalist - Printing	10,856.27	11,037.54
- Postage	3,825.28	3,342.76
- Sundry expenses	0.00	124.70
	14,681.55	14,505.00
Less Environment Fund (History Symposium) Grant	0.00	-800.00
Net Cost Victorian Naturalist	\$14,681.55	\$13,705.00
Newsletter - Printing	3,837.76	3,722.50
- Postage etc	2,432.74	2,723.15
Calendar of events Printing & Postage	1,303.00	1,504.68
Junior Naturalists - Printing and Postage	728.81	884.47
Total Publications Expenses	<u>\$22,983.86</u>	<u>\$22,539.80</u>
<b>Expenditure Tied Grants</b>		
Symposiums, Biodiversity - History		1,643.56
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<u>\$44,578.58</u>	<u>\$58,772.80</u>
<b>Other Expenses</b>		\$887.00
Accounting Software Expenses		
Advertising & Publicity	\$131.82	
Annual report	75.00	78.00
Bank Fees	1,194.95	1,200.64
Depreciation Expense	4,787.00	5,699.00
Donations to Individuals & Organisations	300.00	500.00
First Aid Supplies	71.45	
FNCV Mugs	638.18	613.44
Gas, Electricity, Water	1,247.02	1,492.53
Gift Certificates		64.00
Hall Cleaning	1,260.00	1,320.00
Insurance	4,190.91	4,036.36
Internet Provider & Virus Scan	693.00	693.00
Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	337.72	331.55
Library Expenses & Subscriptions	1,281.66	859.16
Non-Library Subscriptions	270.54	174.27
Office Postage & Post Box Hire	1,638.91	1,567.23
Office Stationery etc	1,477.16	543.42
Office Telephone	640.31	937.35
Repairs & Maintenance - General	831.99	1,634.99
Repairs & Maintenance - Office Equipment	1,420.72	392.96
Rates - Council	1,267.65	548.00
Rates - Maryborough Property	406.90	257.45
Special Interest Group Expenses	374.35	218.93
Sundry Expenses	112.50	261.59
Superannuation & Workers Comp	2,232.38	2,677.45
Wages & Salaries	23,614.10	26,631.50
Total Other Expenses	<u>50,496.22</u>	<u>53,619.82</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$73,480.08</u>	<u>\$77,803.18</u>
<b>OPERATING (LOSS) / PROFIT</b>	<u><b>-\$5,917.64</b></u>	<u><b>\$5,152.98</b></u>

**THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007**

	2007	2006
<b>ASSETS</b>		\$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank of Melbourne Cheque Account - Note (3)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account - Note (3)	\$37,931.48	\$30,802.08
The Environment Fund Account - Note (3)	\$2,142.63	\$2,800.11
Petty Cash	\$50.00	\$50.00
Interest Receivable (3a)		\$1,471.02
Stock Lenses - Note (4)	\$35.00	\$96.00
Inventories (Books for Sale) - Note (4)	\$5,169.20	\$5,251.25
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$45,328.31</b>	<b>\$40,470.46</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
<b>Investments</b>		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits - Note (5)	\$101,016.65	\$94,797.61
Esanda Unsecured Notes - Note (5)	\$105,231.59	\$105,231.59
General Property Trust Units - Note (5)	\$23,851.00	\$23,851.00
Australian Ethical Investments - Note (5)	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Shares in Australian Foundation - Note (5)	\$20,220.00	\$20,220.00
	\$280,319.24	\$274,100.20
Library Holdings - Note (6)	\$49,747.30	\$49,522.44
	<b>\$330,066.54</b>	<b>\$323,622.64</b>
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Maryborough Property - Note (7)	\$13,400.00	13,400.00
Clubhouse at Cost - Note (7)	\$171,512.00	171,512.00
Clubhouse Improvements - Note (7)	\$38,988.00	38,988.00
Equipment at Cost - Note (8)	\$71,893.51	\$70,118.99
Less Accumulated Depreciation - Note (8)	-\$54,755.74	-\$49,968.74
	<b>\$241,037.77</b>	<b>\$244,050.25</b>
Total Non current Assets	\$571,104.31	\$567,672.89
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$616,432.62</b>	<b>\$608,143.35</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Sundry Creditors - Note (9)	6328.00	\$4,213.82
GST Paid - GST Collected	\$1,366.63	\$2,260.89
Grants Held for 2007- Note (9)	\$20,337.38	\$6,690.91
Funds Held in Trust - Note (9)	\$271.00	\$271.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$28,301.01</b>	<b>\$13,436.62</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$588,131.61</b>	<b>\$594,706.73</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
<b>Members Accumulated Funds</b>		
Current Year Loss/Earnings	-\$5,917.64	\$5,152.98
General Fund b/f - Note (10)	\$550,692.12	\$545,539.14
	<b>\$544,774.48</b>	<b>\$550,692.12</b>
<b>Total Specific Funds</b>		
Marine Research Fund	\$25,433.75	\$25,433.75
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund - Note (11)	548.75	548.75
FNCV Environment Fund - Note (11)	\$2,142.63	\$2,800.11
Asset Revaluation Reserve	\$13,187.00	\$13,187.00
FNCV Juniors	\$2,045.00	\$2,045.00
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$588,131.61</b>	<b>\$594,706.73</b>

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2007**

**1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members to fulfil the Council's financial reporting requirements under The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated constitution. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Club's constitution and with previous years, and are, in the opinion of the Council, appropriate to meet the needs of members.

- (a) The financial report has been prepared on a modified accrual basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption.
- (b) The requirements of Accounting Standards and other professional reporting requirements in Australia do not have mandatory applicability to The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated because it is not a "reporting entity". The Council has, however, prepared the financial report in accordance with relevant Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.
- (c) These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost and do not take into account changing money values.
- (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, with the exception of interest receivable accrued on the Bendigo Bank Term Deposit.

## THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2007-A38 (continued)

## 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(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.

## 2. REMUNERATION OF COUNCILLORS

No remuneration has been received by councillors for the year ended 31 December 2007

## 3. CASH

	2007	2006
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	\$37,931.48	\$30,802.08
Environment Fund A/c - Bank Melb.	\$2,142.63	\$2,800.11
Petty Cash	\$50.00	\$50.00
	<u>\$40,124.11</u>	<u>\$33,652.19</u>

3a. Interest Receivable	\$0.00	\$1,471.02
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## 4. STOCKS

Stock Lenses	\$35.00	\$96.00
Books for sale at lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>\$5,169.20</u>	<u>\$5,251.25</u>

## 5. INVESTMENTS

Bendigo Bank Term Deposits	\$101,016.65	\$94,797.61
Esanda Finance Corporation Unsecured Notes	\$105,231.59	\$105,231.59
General Property Trust Units - at cost (Market Value \$36450)	\$23,851.00	\$23,851.00
Australian Ethical Investments at cost (Market Value \$29288)	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Shares in Australian Foundation (Market Value \$30600)	\$20,220.00	\$20,220.00
	<u>\$280,319.24</u>	<u>\$274,100.20</u>

6. Library - Books and Journals at Council Valuation 23/5/95 plus additions at cost	\$49,747.30	\$49,522.44
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## 7. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough	\$13,400.00	\$13,400.00
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn - at cost	\$171,512.00	\$171,512.00
Improvements - at cost	<u>\$38,988.00</u>	<u>\$38,988.00</u>
	<u>\$223,900.00</u>	<u>\$223,900.00</u>

## 8. OTHER FIXED ASSETS

Plant and Equipment - at cost	\$71,893.51	\$70,118.99
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-54,755.74</u>	<u>-49,968.74</u>
	<u>\$17,137.77</u>	<u>\$20,150.25</u>

## 9. CREDITORS &amp; PROVISIONS

Sundry Trade Creditors	\$1,820.00	\$1,939.00
Creditor FNCV Environment Fund	\$2,406.00	\$1,743.09
Creditor ANHM	\$2,100.00	\$531.73
	<u>\$6,326.00</u>	<u>\$4,213.82</u>
Grants Held for 2008		
Land Care Grass Roots - Botany SIG, for Clyde Reserve	\$6,100.00	\$3,100.00
WWF Australia - Botany SIG, for Clyde Reserve	\$3,590.91	\$3,590.91
Department of Sustainability Botany SIG for Clyde Reserve	\$4,000.00	
City of Whitehorse Water Conservation Grant	\$500.00	
Norman Weirhanhall Foundation grant for digitizing Vic Nat.	<u>\$6,146.47</u>	
	<u>\$20,337.38</u>	<u>\$6,690.91</u>
Funds Held in Trust	<u>\$271.00</u>	<u>\$271.00</u>

## MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS

## 10. GENERAL FUND

Balance Brought Forward	\$550,692.12	\$545,539.14
Less Net Loss	<u>-5,917.64</u>	<u>\$5,152.98</u>
Balance at 31 December 2007	<u>\$544,774.48</u>	<u>\$550,692.12</u>

## 11. SPECIFIC FUNDS

<i>FNCV Environment Fund</i>		
Balance Brought Forward	\$2,800.11	\$3,379.91
Add Donations	1950.09	
Less Grants	<u>-2,614.50</u>	<u>-579.80</u>
Add Net Interest Earned	<u>\$6.93</u>	
Balance at 31 December 07	<u>\$2,142.63</u>	<u>\$2,800.11</u>

**FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA**  
**CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2007**  
for The Bendigo Bank Account No 123098725

		2007	2006
		\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Inflows	Net Inflows from Operations	16,242.08	\$6,676.34
	GST (net change)	( <u>\$894.26</u> )	<u>\$1,496.71</u>
	<b>Net Cash Inflow from Operations</b>	<u>\$15,347.82</u>	<u>\$8,173.05</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Outflows	Equipment Purchases	(\$1,774.52)	(\$4,006.00)
	Library Book Purchases	(\$224.86)	(\$316.01)
	Transfer to Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	(\$6,219.04)	(\$12,315.46)
	Petty Cash Float	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$50.00)</u>
	<b>Net Cash Outflow from Investing Activities</b>	<u>(\$8,218.42)</u>	<u>(\$16,687.47)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
	Grant Knox Enviro Society-FSG for Infra Red Camera	0	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<b>CHANGE IN FNCV CHEQUE A/C BALANCE for year</b>		<u>\$7,129.40</u>	<u>(\$6,514.42)</u>
	Bendigo/Bank Melb Cheque Acc Balances Start Year	<u>\$30,802.08</u>	<u>\$37,316.50</u>
	Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance End Year	<u>\$37,931.48</u>	<u>\$30,802.08</u>
Note 1	Reconciliation of Net Profit with Cash Flow from Operations		
	Net (Loss) Profit	-\$5,917.64	\$5,152.98
	add decrease in inventory & FNCV merchandise	\$143.05	\$102.65
	add depreciation	\$4,787.00	\$5,699.00
	add decrease in interest receivable	\$1,471.02	(\$1,471.02)
	add increase in creditors	\$2,112.18	(\$1,998.18)
	add increase in grants received in advance	<u>\$13,646.47</u>	<u>(\$809.09)</u>
	<b>Net Cash Inflow from Operations</b>	<u>\$16,242.08</u>	<u>\$6,676.34</u>



*Clavulina sp.*

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 2007. The Club's Council is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Club's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting requirements under the Club's constitution. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia).

I have relied on the data for years prior to that ending 31 December 2007 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 2007 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:



Susan J. Harkin, CPA  
Honorary Auditor

28<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
Blackburn