

Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Annual Report



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Year Ending 31 December 2011

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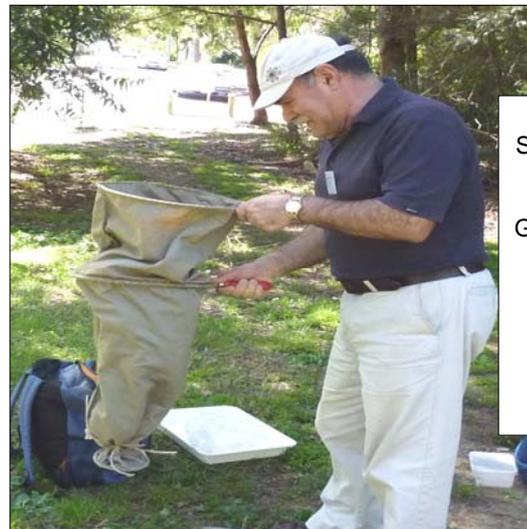
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President's Report

Well 2011 has been done and dusted and 2012 is well and truly begun so it is the time of the year to put "pen to paper" for the President's Report.

This last year, like every other, has been full of activities and then some. Not to mention headaches, disruptions and rebirth.

One of the most enjoyable parts of being President, in my opinion anyway, is taking the opportunity to surprise members with recognition of their contributions to the FNCV. This was the case at last year's AGM, when Wendy Clarke was awarded Honorary Life Membership for her services to the Juniors, as a two-time President of the FNCV and the many, many other contributions she has made. To say that Wendy was shocked and very humble to accept this honour was somewhat of an understatement.



Sieving leaf-litter for insects.

Gary Presland at a Terrestrial Invertebrates Group activity:

Photo
Alan Yen

It was latish on the 17th of June that I received a phone call from a member of the Nunawading Police, saying that she was at the hall in Blackburn with two fire trucks, and asking if I could meet here there as soon as possible. I all could think of all the way to the hall was, the archives. Hali and her husband Rob, met myself and my fiancée Kathy at the hall to see what had happened. The hall was black, with at least a couple of millimetres of soot all over the floors and every room showing signs of smoke damage. The fridge in the kitchen had caught fire and if it hadn't been for the newsagent noticing flames coming out of the roof as he left for home, it could have been a lot worse. The fire set in motion six months of events, disruptions, relocations, cleaning and refurbishing of the hall. Some of the less significant details are still being sorted out. I would like to take this opportunity to again THANK

(Continued on page 2)

Painted Dragon
Ctenophorus pictus:
Photo
Barbara Burns



those people and organisations that assisted us during this time: Toepaz Dance Studio (behind the hall), Blackburn Lake Sanctuary committee for allowing us to hold our meetings there, Gary Leete from Frame Co for providing space at his business to store all of our goods, to Hali our superstar Administration Officer, who spent many more hours than she should have, making sure that we got the best deals from the insurance, tradies etc. and to all those other people that helped out in any way throughout this time. The hall now looks like a completely different one to before the fire. The old adage, "it's an ill-wind that brings no good" comes to mind. Our time spent at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary got people thinking and talking, about how we could "spice-up" the hall in terms of appearance. One of the ways suggested and adopted was to have some themed murals painted on particular walls, with the first being completed by artist Lori Duncan in late January 2012. The cost of this mural was covered by an anonymous donor. A second mural, featuring aspects from each SIG, will be completed later this year.

In 2011, the FNCV again had a display at a number of community events such as the Whitehorse City Council's Spring Festival and the Family Day at the Rhododendron Gardens. Thank you to all the members that participated in promoting our club at these events.

During the Melbourne Cup "long-weekend", we hosted the twice-yearly SEANA camp, this time held at Phillip Island. Starting on the Saturday, activities were spread across the whole island and further afield to Wonthaggi, French Island and parts of the Bass Coast. There were approximately 120 participants from all over Victoria and into South Australia and New South Wales, including many of our own members. It was especially good to see a number of Juniors' families attending. Activities included an invertebrate workshop, bird watching, beachcombing, coastal walks, botany trips, a guided day trip to French Island, watching

muttonbirds fly-in and guided walks looking at the geology of the island. The gala dinner was held at the Cowes Golf Club with Dr Duncan Sutherland speaking on penguins and ecotourism and its impacts on the island. My thanks to the organising committee of Barbara Burns, Roger Needham, Joan Broadberry, Sally Bewsher, Ray Gibson, Victoria Aitken and Hali for assisting in this event which showcased our club very well.

In November, it was my pleasure to welcome the 2011 Australian Natural History Medallion winner, Professor John Woinarski, and guests to this important event. John was awarded the ANHM for his contribution to conservation biology. His presentation looked at "Reflections of conservation biology issues across Australia", with particular emphasis on the NT. A more thorough outline of his work was included in the February 2012 edition of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

One of the more adventurous activities of 2010, the "Sausage Sizzle" at Bunnings Nunawading, was held again this year. It happened to be scheduled for a fine, warm Sunday close to

Christmas. What better time to have it! We ran out of our initial supply of sausages, so Heather Eadon was sent off to Blackburn Square to purchase as many as she could, on more than one occasion. This sizzle raised approx. \$1700 for the Club. Thanks to the many volunteers who put in hours of toil over a hot BBQ plate, on the day.

The annual Biodiversity Symposium was held in November 2011, with the theme "Forests" which tied in with the International Year of Forests. On the Saturday the guest speakers discussed various aspects of the topic from Urban Forests to Myrtle Rust (a new disease) to the state of Forests in the Central Highlands of Victoria. The Sunday saw a smallish but enthusiastic group of people go on a bus tour, led by some of the presenters, to the central highlands area around Toolangi. Thanks to Sue Bendel for her organisation of this symposium.

In February 2012 the Council asked members to make submissions on a number of aspects of the club in what was termed "Future Directions". Can I first thank all the members that took the time to put their ideas down on paper as to what was working, needed some refinement or needed a whole new approach within the club. The Council spent the best part of a day going through each submission before coming up with the document that you will receive at the AGM. It was pleasing to note that many of the ideas that had been discussed at the Council meetings, were also ideas that individual members raised. The new council will no doubt, look to this document when considering actions over the next year.



Gala Dinner at the SEANA Camp, Phillip Island:
Photo Barbara Burns

Finally, I would like to thank a number of people for their, often behind the scenes, contributions to our Club.

To Joan Broadberry, Noel Schleiger and Sally Bewsher for their efforts as Editors of the Field Nats News.

To those members who have written a piece for publication and to the Many volunteers who collate the FNN for posting each month.

To Gary Presland, Anne Morton, Maria Gibson and Virgil Hubregtse for their continued Editorship of *The Victorian Naturalist*, the bimonthly journal of scientific research, contributions, books reviews and more.

To Hali Ferguson, our Administrative Officer, for all her work during office hours and often many hours afterwards, especially during the upheaval after the fire. It is pleasing to see Hali at our functions, in the background, helping out where she can.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of Council, whether they be elected or SIG representatives for their efforts throughout the year. It is no mean feat to turn up to meetings regardless of what else is happening just so the Council can make decisions and conduct the running of the club.

John Harris, President



Administration

2011 has been a usually busy year at the club, with the major disruption of the fire in June. This meant that meetings needed to be held elsewhere and that my job became larger and more complicated. The learning curve was steep, as I dealt with the Insurance Company and various tradesmen. It was a stressful period, but when I see how good the hall now looks, I feel that it has ultimately benefited the club.



Kitchen at Gardenia St after the fire: Photo Barbara Burns

Membership

Membership as at 31st December 2011 was 887, 67 members less than for the same time last year. We attracted 122 new members over the year, but unfortunately lost 189. The largest membership categories were Family memberships (226) and Ordinary full fee members (231)

Book Sales

Total profit from the non-club books for 2011 was only \$605 due to the fire wiping out our entire stock of books and closing the book shop for a number of months; a situation that we have not yet fully recovered from. FNCV publications continue to sell well with a total profit of \$708. The new Fungi CD continues to sell well making \$347 profit to date, we have had to reprint this CD twice since it first came out.

Hall Hire

We continued to hire out our hall to various groups in 2011 and received a total income (before expenses) of \$1428. This figure also dropped due to the fire, as we could not accommodate many casual hall hirers. We have four groups that hire our hall on a regular basis throughout the year. The hall is cleaned on a fortnightly basis ensuring the premises are ready for use by hirers as well as club members.

Promotion

Our four monthly 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. At the end of 2011 a group of talented members volunteered to update our website. This is an ongoing project, with our team not only improving the website, but keeping it up to date. Please have a

look at the new format and style.

The club participated in several community festivals, including the Whitehorse Spring Festival. This was a wonderful opportunity for members to promote the club to the general public. It is hoped that the club will be able to participate in more of these types of events in 2012, utilizing the Volunteer Register to man the stall.

Fundraising

In 2011 the club took on more fundraising to pay for the roof and meet general running costs. We had a second-hand book sale, bring in \$1600 and also sold the smoke damaged books, raising \$3034. Fundraising, including donations (\$3191) and the Bunning's Sausage sizzle (\$1730) were important sources of general funds in 2011. Club members also donated a further \$483 to the Roof Appeal.

I would like to thank the Council and all the members of the club who supported me, in what was a very stressful year. I would like to also thank the Website team, especially Rod Barker and John McCallum, for their enthusiasm and ideas for improving the website. Last, but definitely not least, a big thank you to all the volunteers who have generously contributed their time to the various aspects of running the club and have assisted me by offering their support in my role as administration officer. You are the reason I love my job.

Hali Ferguson, Administration Officer



Juniors' Group

The Juniors have had another busy but fun year. In addition to the regular events, three families from the Juniors' Group set up a stand at a Family Fun Day held at the Rhododendron gardens during the April school holidays. Hundreds of people visited us during the day and a number of new families have joined the group as a result. We have been invited back again in 2012 and plan to attend, although hopefully with a few more helpers than last year.

We have also tried to build stronger connections to other FNCV groups with speakers from several other SIGs at our meetings, and a number of Juniors and/or their parents attending camps, meetings and outings held by other groups. The Juniors also managed to fill a table at the FNCV Christ-



Members of the Juniors enjoying themselves at the Bear Gully, Cape Liptrap camp:
Photo Robyn Goode



Field Nats News

The 2011 Field Nats News (FNN) issues ran from 194 to 204 inclusive. It gave me great pleasure and satisfaction to be involved in its production.

Of prime importance are our contributors who regularly write up various Special Interest Group (SIG) excursions and meetings. Our thanks for your hard work. Without you we would not have a newsletter. (See below). It is also pleasing to see members sending in natural history observations, articles and photos. These are greatly valued and really liven up our pages. My hope is that more and more members will share with us what has caught their eye.

Our editorial team consists of myself, Dr. Noel Schleiger and Sally Bewsher. Platon Vafiadis capably lays out and edits each month's Marine Research Group page.

I would especially like to thank Hali Ferguson who edits the Calendar of Events (COE), the basis of our calendar page.

Hali provides help and back-up of all kinds including dealing with our advertisers, producing mailing labels, writing up minutes and sending out the email version of FNN.

Sheila Houghton, as honorary FNCV librarian and archivist up until May 2011, contributed a monthly column to FNN and from time to time prepared obituaries. Gary Presland has now taken over this role. In addition, Sheila undertook the mammoth task of compiling a 78 page index of FNN from 1991-2009. She is in the process of completing the index up until 2010-11. I would like to convey to her our warmest appreciation for this invaluable task.

FNN would not finally get posted out without our wonderful collation team. Their names appear in each issue, but may I take this opportunity to thank them again for their reliability and dedication. Collation is always on the third Tuesday of the month, but this year we have changed to the morning, beginning around 10 am. This allows us all to make better use of our day.

Joan Broadberry

Main contributors to FNN in 2011:

February	(194)	John Harris, Rob Hamson, Cecily Falkingham, David Gibson, Joan Broadberry, Barbara Burns, Carl Hansen, Russell Thompson
March	(195)	John Harris, Russell Thompson, Platon Vafiadis
April	(196)	John Harris, Joan Broadberry, Paul George, Platon Vafiadis
May	(197)	John Harris, Sally Bewsher, Russell Thompson, Platon Vafiadis
June	(198)	John Harris, Sally Bewsher, Gary Presland, David Gibson, Joan Broadberry, Clem Earp, Hali Ferguson, Platon Vafiadis, Sue Bendel
July	(199)	John Harris, Cecily Falkingham, David Gibson, Joan Broadberry, Raymond Gibson, Platon Vafiadis
August	(200)	John Harris, David Gibson, Paul George, Ed and Pat Grey, Joan Broadberry, Platon Vafiadis, Gary Presland
September	(201)	John Harris, Raymond Gibson, Ray Power, Sue Bendel, David Gibson, Paul George, Sheila Houghton, Platon Vafiadis, Virgil Hubregtse
October	(202)	John Harris, Alan Yen, Pat Grey, Paul George, Joan Broadberry, Platon Vafiadis
November	(203)	John Harris, David Gibson, Sheila Houghton, Ed and Pat Grey, Paul George, Raymond Gibson, Platon Vafiadis
Dec/January 12	(204)	John Harris, Joan Broadberry, Les Hanrahan, Platon Vafiadis

The Victorian Naturalist

Six issues of *The Victorian Naturalist*, comprising Volume 128, were published during 2011. This volume consisted of four issues of 32 pages each, one issue of 64 pages (which included the Index for Volume 127), and an issue of 96 pages. This resulted in the publication of 284 pages for the year, which was precisely the same as the previous year's output. The highlight of this year was the October issue, which contained most of the papers from the 2010 Biodiversity Symposium, on the subject of 'Melbourne's biodiversity — past and present.'

A total of 30 substantive papers were published in Volume 128, comprising seven Research Reports, 14 Contributions, and nine Naturalist Notes. In addition, 17 books were re-

viewed in the pages of the journal in 2011. Of these books, seven were donated by the reviewers to the FNCV library. During the year three Tributes were published, to significant members of FNCV who had passed away. The Editors were pleased to acknowledge the contributions to the Club of Hilary Weatherhead, Chriss McInnes and Peter Kelly.

I am grateful for the efforts of all members of the editorial team: co-editors Maria Gibson and Gary Presland, Editorial Assistant Virgil Hubregtse, and Administrative Assistant Dorothy Mahler. Each of them always brings professionalism, attention to detail, and support, and make it a pleasure to be part of the team of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

Anne Morton
Executive Editor, The Victorian Naturalist



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 environmental research, in particular research into the biodiversity of Victoria
- To support and finance dissemination of information on the natural environment by any legitimate means, including public lectures, seminars, field trips, courses and publications
- To support and finance practical projects aimed at preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of Victoria.

The Fund is administered by a committee consisting of Malcolm Calder (Chair), Barbara Burns (Secretary and Treasurer), Bob Rogers, Noel Schleiger, John Harris and Cathy Willis. Each year the Fund contacts the regional field naturalist clubs in Victoria and advertises in the FNCV Newsletter and on the Web for grant applications. The committee meets in April to process the submissions and decide on the successful applicants.

The projects supported in 2011 were:

Wildlife Victoria	Grey-headed Flying fox rescue kits	\$522
Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater	Garmin GPS62S unit plus protective cover	\$465
FNCV Fauna Survey Group	Two sets of electronic scales	\$160
Patrick-Jean Guay - Victoria University	Two taxidermed ducks. One Black duck and one Mallard duck to be used in talks discussing the hybridisation of these two species.	\$886

\$2033

Each project is to be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding, with a report on completion to be forwarded to the FNCV.

Donations to the fund are tax-deductible and most welcome and gratefully accepted. Thank you to everyone who donated in 2011. Your support will enable the Fund to continue providing grants for worthy projects in the future.

Barbara Burns Secretary



Botany Group

The botany group has continued to attract informative speakers and visit a diverse array of interesting locations during the 2011.

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 thank you to the following speakers and excursion leaders:

Dr Randall Robinson discussed timing for effective weed control. This involves understanding the life cycle of the weed being removed, to enable it to be targeted at the correct time.

Professor Terry Blake presented 'Climate change impacts and adaptation – physiological mechanisms in trees'. He explained how trees respond to climate change, and sadly discussed the dying of many forest trees which have survived for decades.

Geoff Carr introduced us to *Dianella* (Flax lily): its biology, ecology, distribution and cultivation. Geoff kindly brought in plants of many *Dianella* species including unusual tropical species.

Karen Lester looked at orchid recovery with interesting examples of translocation studies and pollinator baiting.

Ben Cullen spoke about 'Trust for Nature: protecting native habitats and managing threatened species'. The Botany Group plans to visit some of these properties to undertake plant identification.

Neil Armstrong speaking on aquatic plants and fish, took us through armchair travel of freshwater habitats from alpine to tropical.

Barry Stagoll introduced us to Australian ferns, and followed

this up with an interesting field trip to Badger Weir Park, where Barry identified many ferns for us.

Dr Tom Duff spoke on 'Australian plants and fire: a complex relationship in a changing environment'. He explained that there is an optimum time between burns which varies for each community. This is dependent on their lifecycles, allowing for plants to set seeds before they are burned.

David Cameron gave the group a review of the conservation status of Victorian Eucalypts, going from critically endangered to more common species. Unfortunately the field trip did not go ahead due to inclement weather, making the roads we were going to be travelling along too dangerous to transverse.

Neil McLachlan showed us his wonderful slides of the wildflowers of eastern Greenland. These were indeed interesting plants and we hope Neil will be kind enough to share more of his exciting travels with us.

We finished off the year with a members' night.

Thank you to Karen Muscat, Michael Murray and Lisa Williams for arranging our varied and interesting speakers for the year.

Thank you to Karen Lester for assisting with the management of the Clyde-Tooradin disused railway Plains Grassland (Clyde) where we searched for threatened species. Unfortunately it was too wet to look for *Prasophyllum frenchii* (Maroon Leek-orchid), this year, with much of the Grassland being under water.

In 2011 the Botany Group continued to contribute to the conservation of Victoria's biodiversity by its ongoing management of Clyde. The time spent at Clyde provided members with practical experience in one of the State's best patches of remnant vegetation.

Sue Bendel on behalf of the Botany Group



Bat Study Group

This year was not as hard on our Flying Fox population as some previous years. The weather was kinder to them and there were none of the great heat events that exact such a toll.

We have assisted in the monthly count when the bats fly out. As was remarked by Dr Rodney van der Ree at the January count, "it is the longest ever study of a Flying Fox colony in the world."

The crèche cage is still used to acclimatise the bats that have been in trouble during the year, either being orphaned through power cable accidents or tangled in inappropriate fruit tree netting. Some young ones are just found on the ground having fallen from their mothers. They are fed in the cage that is set up at the colony and, after a while, a panel is opened to allow free access. Feeding is continued until the food is not eaten.

The work of Wildlife Victoria rescuers was made easier this year when we designed a rescue kit and funded several kits for them with a grant from the FNCV Environment Fund.

One interesting but unfortunate occurrence was the sighting in Ivanhoe of a Powerful Owl with a Flying Fox that it had caught, but that is all part of the natural order of things.

The change in the range of Flying foxes now means that we have colonies in Bendigo, Geelong in Victoria and Naracoorte in South Australia. There are currently two Micro Bat projects, one at Ivanhoe and another at The Organ Pipes National Park. Our Fauna Survey Group also traps bats as part of its ongoing work.

2012 is the Year of the Bat - we scored two years for some reason, but we do not complain. In 2012, the Australasian Bat Society (ABS) will have their conference in Melbourne, which should be the highlight of the year, with many speakers ranging from the highest profile bat researchers to amateurs with a passion for these fascinating creatures. The ABS has a very broad membership, the only qualification needed being a passion for bats.

I encourage you to get involved. It's a fantastic world out there.

Ian Kitchen

Grey-headed Flying Fox baby being weighed:

Photo Ian Kitchen



Geology Group

A triumvirate oversaw the Geology group in 2011: Ruth Hoskin, Roger Needham and Kaye Oddie.

Nine meetings were held during the year and we thank all the speakers for the time and effort they put into their interesting presentations. A list of the presentations is given below. We also thank David Gibson, who continued to expertly write reports of the presentations for publication in *Field Nats News*. Thanks, too are expressed to Hali Ferguson for organising the alternate venue at Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre when the Hall was out of action due to the fire and restoration.



Basaltic layers, Summerland Bay, Phillip Island:
Photo Sally Bewsher

The only excursions held during the year were those during the SEANA Spring Camp at Phillip Island. Graeme Burgan, Information and Education Officer at Phillip Island Nature Park, led two well attended walks: the first along Summerland Peninsula with its geological features, particularly its older volcanic history, as well as its natural history features; and the second to Cape Woolamai, a granite massif, and to Cleeland Bight, to be introduced to the geomorphological processes that have shaped the area. We are grateful to Roger Needham who was the key link person for the Geology Group at SEANA

The year saw a major update of the FNCV website and we thank John McCallum who undertook this work for our Group.

Meetings: 2011

February: *Waterfalls in Victoria:* Ian Wacey & Ray Barber, authors of "250 Victorian Waterfalls"

March: *Speleothems and their connection to Palaeoclimate:* Helen Green, Melbourne Uni

May: *Travels in Greenland and Svalbard:* Neil McLachlan, Geology Group member

June: *The Geological Basis of Melbourne's History:* Dr. Gary Presland, Archaeologist & FNCV member

July: *Australian Crawl - Evidence for the Evolution of Early Tetrapods Down Under:* Dr. Tim Holland, Museum Victoria

August: *Stories from the Geoscience Collections:* Dermot Henry, Museum Victoria

September: *What's up SAM?* Dr. Frank Drost, Melbourne Uni

October: *Our Lost Serengeti of the Sea - Uncovering Australia's Extinct Marine Megafauna:* Dr. Erich Fitzgerald, Museum Victoria

November: *Trilobites:* Dr. Phil Bock, Monash University

Kaye Oddie



Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group held 8 meetings and undertook 11 field trips throughout 2011. On average 13 people attended our meetings with the highest attendance at 17 people.

The program for the year was:

- Feb** Steve Hay from SeaNet. SeaNet sits under Oceanwatch which in turn is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Steve's role seeks to improve the environmental sustainability of Australian fisheries through working with the fishing industry and organising or participating in appropriate community and industry events/projects that promote awareness not just of sustainability but awareness of the ocean itself and all creatures within it.
- April** Michael Lyons presented a brief comparison of what we know of molluscs today compared to 1900 when the Handbook of Melbourne was published. The original handbook and the talk focus on and feature Port Phillip Bay.
- May** 2011 Field Trip Roundup narrated by Bob Burn, with presentations from several members.
- Aug** Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula, Julie Marshal talked about her recent trip.
- Sept** Leon Altoff spoke on identifying the chitons of Victoria.
- Oct** Simon Branigan from the Victorian National Parks Association speaking on "VNPA's Marine Conservation Priorities and Issues for Victoria".
- Nov** Leon Altoff spoke about the MRG's participation in the DSE's bioscan of Wilsons Prom. The prom has suffered with recent fires and floods and the Bioscan looked at the effects these have had on the local flora and fauna.
- Dec** Members' night.

Field work is an important activity for the group, providing members with the opportunity to observe animals in their natural habitat and their interactions with their environment and other animals. The data and specimens collected by the Marine Research Group contribute to on-going research conducted by the group. We also identify and monitor pest species found during our field work.



Two MRG members and the local DSE biodiversity officer examine the intertidal invertebrates at Armstrong Bay near Warrnambool: All photos Leon Altoff.

2011 our field work included locations in the Mallacoota and Warrnambool areas as well as Stoney Point Jetty in Westernport and Clifton Springs in Port Phillip Bay. Mallacoota provides a unique opportunity to observe species which are

common along the east coast of Australia, but are rarely seen in the cooler waters of Bass Strait.



A new species of polychaete worm was found by the MRG at Rogers Rocks in Armstrong Bay near Warrnambool.



Found at Bastion Point, *Hydatina physis*, is a species of bubble shell opisthobranch more commonly found in NSW waters. This specimen was discovered in a particularly rich area where the planned boat ramp development is planned.

The Marine Research Group prides itself on its knowledge of marine invertebrates and works with other groups to expand their knowledge and assist with their projects.

The existing committee remained in place.

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

I would like to thank all our 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.

Leon Altoff, Secretary



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

- Three separate forays were made to Greens Bush (Morrington Peninsula National Park) in April, May and July 2011 (28, 67 and 54 species respectively),
- A weekend foray to the Otway Ranges, including Triplet Falls (56 species), Maits Rest, (59 species) and Melba Gully (107 species)
- Two forays to Bunyip State Park (Gembrook), Mortimer Reserve Picnic Ground in May and June (79 and 80 species respectively),
- Coranderrk Bushland, Healesville (88 species),
- The Beeches, near Marysville (74 species),
- Jumping Creek Reserve, Warrandyte (61 species),
- Ned's Gully, Cathedral Range, (117 species),
- Blackwood, Jack Cann Reserve (91 species), and
- Upper Yarra Reservoir, (Doctors Creek walk), Reefton (64 species),



H. chromolimonea: Photo Jurrie Hubregtse

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. All our records were also lodged with Fungimap, Inc.

Each month a meeting was held at the FNCV clubhouse to review the records.

Our foray activities are covered by 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’. This permit will cover our foray activities until March 2012.

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

- “Mushrooms, microsatellites and other molecular markers: a study of Australian *Laccaria*” Elizabeth Sheedy
- “Slime Moulds” by Paul George
- “Fungi that Grow in Water” by Fran La Fontaine
- “Tropical Fungi” by Bruce Fuhrer

A small group went to Anglesea and surveyed local bushland for fungi with Angair.

Paul George gave presentations on ‘Introduction to Fungi’ to various community groups including:

- U3A Moorleigh,
- Southbank Rotary,
- Melbourne Bushwalkers Club,
- Essendon Rotary,
- Kew Rotary,
- Warringal Conservation Society,
- Strath Creek.

“The Fungi CD”, produced by Jurrie Hubregtse, continues to sell. This useful guide contains images of 250 species that are readily identifiable in the field, together with a search key.



Members of the Fungi Group on an excursion:
Photo Carol Page

A web site dedicated to the Fungi Group exists on the FNCV web service. This site describes the aims and objectives of the Group, the calendar of activities, and is updated from time to time.

Interesting Finds

- *Radiigera* sp. Pale chocolate brown round fruitbodies (2) half-buried in clay soil. A thin outer peridium, with thick white fleshy or gelatinous peridium within. A central white columella with radiating lines in white loculate gleba. Probably immature specimens. Spores are small (~ 3.5 um diameter), globose, spiny, inamyloid. This truffle is related to *Geastrum* spp. but the outer skin does not split into rays like the Earth Stars. (Coranderrk)
- *Cystoderma clastotrichum* at The Beeches. This species is unusual in that it was growing on bare wood under *Notofagus*. The colour of the cap and stipe is yellowish orange with spots of brown near the centre of the cap. The cap has a ragged fringe of pale shaggy remnants around the margin. It has the distinctive paler ‘woolly socks’ extending half to two thirds up the stipe, and is somewhat shaggy. Microscopic analysis shows that the spores are smaller (mean = 4.6 x 2.8 um) than those of *C. muscicola*. Chains of round cells on the cap cuticle are obvious (although the clamp connections are not). *C. muscicola* is more common, is usually found in growing in deep beds of moss, tends to be somewhat paler, more yellowish than orange brown, with fluffier, almost powdery ‘socks’ that extend high up the stipe, and has larger spores (typically 6.7 x 4.1 um).
- *Lepista luscina* growing in a group in grass at Red Hill.

Paul George



Wendy Clark receiving honorary life membership at the 2010 AGM: Photo Joan Broadberry



Graham Patterson, Andy Brentnall and Gary Presland in the FNCV Office: Photo Bill Fenner



Photos:
Above. Edward and Hazel Brentnall at work at the FNN fold-up.
Opposite: Hali Ferguson at work in the office.
Below left. Ray Powers, the organiser of the FNN fold-up.
(These three photos were all taken by Bill Fenner)
Below. Roof replacement: Photo Joan Broadberry





Professor John Woinarski being awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion for 2011 for his contribution to conservation and biology. The presentation was made by Professor Lynne Selwood, president of the Royal Society of Victoria:
Photo Joan Broadberry.



Ian Kitchen helping with maintenance and cleaning of the hall after the fire:
Photo Joan Broadberry



Brush-tailed Phascogale nest Rushworth:
Photo Sally Bewsher



John Harris at Wathe Reserve after just capturing a Mitchell's Hopping Mouse (*Notomys mitchelli*):
Photo Barbara Burns



Flying Duck Orchid French Island:
Photo Barbara Burns at the SEANA Camp



Members of the FSG Group at Wathe Reserve: Photo Barbara Burns



Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

The Terrestrial Invertebrates Group program for 2011 involved three speakers, a practical working with insects day excursion, and a member's night. The topics presented by the guest speakers included an introduction to ant community structure, suburban invertebrates and the threatened Eltham Copper butterfly.

On Sunday March 20, an excursion was undertaken to the bushland reserve at the end of Gardenia Street near the FNCV headquarters. Various simple insect collecting methods were demonstrated: the use of a sweep net, a beating tray to collect insects from plants, a Rietter sieve to collect insects from soil and plant litter, and direct searching. Some specimens were taken back to the club rooms and the techniques required to prepare specimens for study were outlined. A few specimens were retained by the Juniors to rear for observation.



Members trialling different collection methods:
Photo Alan Yen.

In May, Dr Heloise Gibb from the Zoology Department at La Trobe University spoke about competition as a factor in determining the composition of ant assemblages. The more open and drier environments of Australia are ideal for ants: there are lots of species, and they are able to coexist because their behaviour (food types, times of foraging etc) are very much influenced by competition for space and other resources. Max Campbell, from RMIT, gave a fascinating talk in July on invertebrates in the urban environment. He illustrated it with a magnificent range of photos that he has taken on the diverse array of different species. One of the important messages given by Max was the encroachment by exotic invertebrates into urban systems; high on the list of aggressive exotic invaders is the European wasp. In October, the urban environment was continued by Andrea Canzano who spoke about the Eltham Copper butterfly. This is a threatened species known from small remnant habitats of eucalypt woodlands in Eltham, Greensborough, Castlemaine, Kiata and Bendigo. Andrea described how the annual larval and adult counts are conducted and invited the audience to participate in the larval counts at Eltham.

The last meeting of the year was held in November. It was a members' night when members were asked to bring specimens and photos for discussion. Several members brought a range of fascinating specimens and images, and there was so much interest, the meeting went well beyond the usual finishing time.

Alan Yen



Microscopy Group

We started off the year with a great activity night. We all enjoyed a hands on evening where we got down to the 'nitty gritty' of our microscope interests and saw microscopic animals "live in action". It was good to see all the members keen and involved. On display on this night were several of our old microscopes, huge mahogany slide cabinets, many microscopy books from the 1800's and 1900's, as well as electron microscope photographs from the CSIRO education department. Much use was made of our collection of slides on botany, geology, entomology etc. Many of these slides are between 30-100 years old and in perfect condition. Matt Kitching was on hand to instruct us in the set up and use of the Zeiss Ultra Photo Model 2 microscope, donated to us by Melbourne University. It was great to see it in action and to have a knowledgeable person to explain its capabilities.

We had three other interesting evenings over the year and we wish to thank each speaker for giving up their valuable time for our enjoyment and education.

Mohamed Mohideen from the department of Microbiology at Monash University spoke to us on intestinal probiotics. We discussed the necessity of good bacteria in the gastro intestinal tract, it being the largest immune organ in the human body. The bladder and cerebral fluid are the only part of the body without bacteria and 95% of cells in our bodies are colonic bacteria! Probiotic bacteria is present in our foods and is part of the normal flora in our bodies. An excess can be bad, for example, too much in the mouth can lead to tooth decay.

The title of the talk given by Nick Porch, Lecturer in Life and Environmental Sciences at Deakin University, was "Human Moderated Translocation and Catastrophic Extinction in the Indo-Pacific Fauna". Nick travels regularly to the beautiful islands of the indo-pacific region taking and indentifying core samples from peat bog and other areas. Samples are gently washed to separate and group the insect remnants and then the identification begins. Beetle backs, egg casings and heads parts are formed from a keratin type material that preserves very well in the right conditions – anaerobic and dry sediment areas are ideal for fossil preservation. Fossil records can identify how the area used to be and which native plants and insects are now missing. Nick has developed chronologies through radio carbon dating going back to 4000 BC. Each sample 5cm thick = 15 years of record and must be older than 300 years to be effectively dated. Nick has identified that there are now no native species present below 500m elevation. Nick has attributed these plant invaders as being brought from island to island by nomadic pacific travellers, occurring prior to known and recorded discovery or settlement of those areas.

Felicity Smith from Melbourne University began her studies at W.A. University in botany and soil sciences and then spent six years in botanical consultation, generally in rehabilitation of mining areas. She spoke on "Signs of Life in Dry Times – The Pilbara" concentrating on the plants that need to survive for up to a year without rain. Acacia are one of the main vegetation types and are very hardy. They produce large amounts of seed after drought or fire to regrow the population. Mimosa, introduced to the area, has its seeds transported along river banks during floods. Its leaves are like flattened branches – phyllodes – and can withstand harsh climates. Triodia produces seeds and flowers during drought periods and provides cover and protection for many birds and food for ants that husk the seeds and leave 'middens' piles outside their nests.

Phillippa Sterpin



Day Group

In 2011 the Day Group continued to take a broad-brush approach to the study of natural history. At times it might have seemed like it was an 'armchair' travel group, but the focus was always on some part of the natural world. As in previous years, meetings offered a variety of topics for the interest of members. And that interest remained high, with an average attendance through the year of 20 people, even during the three months of forced relocation to the Blackburn Lake Visitors' Centre. In 2011 Day Group attendees were treated to a wide diversity of subject matter, as can be seen from the following list of the year's meetings.

- 25 January** Margaret Corrick: 'Life on the banded ironstone country of Western Australia'
22 February Sally Bewsher: 'A trip to Iceland'
22 March Meredith Fletcher: 'The nature writings of Jean Galbraith'
24 May Documentary: 'The Curious Mr Catesby'
28 June Leon Costermans: 'Photography as a stimulus to environmental observation and understanding'
26 July Gary Presland: 'A quick tour through some National Parks in western USA'
23 August Ian Wacey: 'Waterfalls in Victoria'
27 Sept Sheila Houghton: 'The Yangtze & other rivers'
25 October Anne Morton: 'Travels in the Simpson Desert and Lake Eyre'
22 Nov Excursion to Antonio Park, Mitcham, led by Cecily Falkingham

The Convenor is pleased to thank all of the year's presenters and the excursion leader, who so willingly gave of their time and knowledge. He also thanks Graham Patterson for conducting the meeting in May, while the Convenor was absent overseas. A special 'thank you' is extended to Joan Broadberry who has once again provided invaluable assistance with maintaining a record of the Group's activities through the year.

Gary Presland - Day dream believer



Australian Natural History Medallion

The Australian Natural History Medallion is awarded each year to the person judged to have made the most meritorious contribution to the understanding of Australian Natural History, within the previous decade. The financing, design and procurement of the Medallion is the responsibility of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, which also appoints the Secretary to the General Committee, hosts the Medallion presentation, and provides other administrative services.

The winner of the 2011 Australian Natural History Medallion was Professor John Woinarski, who was nominated by the Northern Territory Field Naturalists Club in recognition of his work in biodiversity conservation. The Medallion was presented to the recipient by Professor Lynne Selwood, President of the Royal Society of Victoria, on Monday, 7 November 2011. The citation detailing the work of Professor Woinarski, which led to his award, was published in the February 2012 issue of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

Gary Presland
 Secretary, ANHM General Committee



Day Group. Dampier Creek excursion led by Cecily Falkingham: Photo Joan Broadberry



Library

Two events occurred in 2011 that had significant impacts on the operation of the library. The first was in May when, at the AGM, Sheila Houghton retired as Librarian and Archivist after more than 25 years of service. Sheila has left an indelible mark on both the Library and Archives, the latter of which was essentially her creation. With an eye to the history of the Club, Sheila set the archives on a footing that will allow researchers to easily access our historical holdings. Fortunately, the impact of the second event, which happened in the following month, was less enduring. The fire that occurred in the hall was discovered before seriously damaging anything in the Library. Nonetheless, the contents had to be removed and cleaned and the space refurbished, which meant there was virtually no library service for some months.

The majority of the 44 volumes added to the library during the year were donated, either as review copies, mostly from *The Victorian Naturalist*, or through the good graces of members of the Club. In these regards, thanks are due to Anne Morton, Angus Martin, Peter Fagg, Bill Fenner and Launceston FNC. A particular "thankyou" is expressed also to Penelope Pollitt, who donated the six-volume *Endemic Flora of Tasmania* by Winifred Curtis. This set was donated from the estate of Cedric Ralph who, when he died in November 2007, in his 101st year, was the oldest member of the Club.

We received a number of enquiries regarding matters of an historical nature. Perhaps the most interesting was from Professor Craig Adler in USA who is writing a history of significant biologists. As part of his research he was seeking information on David Fleay, which we were able to provide from our archives. A request to mount a poster display regarding orchid research, at the International Botany Congress, proved beyond our reach.

Enid Haarhoff and Graham Patterson have given valuable assistance in the Library and my thanks go to them.

Gary Presland
 Honorary Librarian and Archivist



Fauna Survey Group

The Fauna Survey Group has maintained a busy and varied program during 2011, with some changes to the usual activities. Several new or less-frequently-seen members have attended camps and a few threatened or rare species were recorded.

Talks

Many thanks go to the following speakers, who provided informative, diverse and even amusing talks to us during the year. It was great to hear their passion for their topics.

February. *'Development of a poison bait for management of feral cats.'* Michael Johnston, Department of Sustainability and Environment.

March. *'Fire and fauna: some responses of birds and arboreal mammals.'* Richard Loyn. Department of Sustainability and Environment.

May. *'Putting the bite back into biodiversity conservation: what roles for predators?'* Dr. Euan G. Ritchie, Lecturer in Ecology, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University.

June. *'Species Distribution Modelling. How, why and how useful is it for species information?'* Graeme Newell, Arthur Rylah Institute.

July. Australian Platypus Conservancy. Geoff Williams.

August. *'The Mallard/Pacific Black Duck Hybridisation Threat.'* Patrick-Jean Guay, Research Fellow, Victoria University.

September. *'The Ecology of the Grampians Macropod Community.'* Sarah Garnick. PhD student, Melb University.

October. *'The Ecology of High Density Koala Populations.'* Desley Whisson. Deakin University.

November. *'To run or to hide? Fire ecology of Long-nosed Potoroos and Southern Brown Bandicoots.'* Justine Smith. PhD student, Melbourne University.

December. Members' night.

Surveys held during 2011

Stagwatches were held in January, February and March. One Leadbeaters Possum was recorded.

The FSG assisted the Arthur Rylah Institute with three surveys in January, March and April, doing post-fire work. The surveys were done under the Victorian Bushfire Recovery and Reconstruction Authority (VBRRA), which involved community groups. We gained valuable experience in setting up and using remote cameras, as well as downloading the results. There were hundreds of photos to go through, both by FSG members and ARI staff. They included several surprises – a Long-nosed Bandicoot (*Perameles nasuta*), several White-footed Dunnarts (*Sminthopsis leucopus*), a Smoky Mouse (*Pseudomys fumeus*) and many more common species. We also carried out some trapping in both January and April, and made general observations on all three camps. The final document will be published soon.

Our annual trip to Rushworth State Forest to repair and check nestboxes took place in May. The results were: Total number of boxes checked: 134. Number of boxes with animals: 40. Number of Sugar Gliders: 111. Number of Brush-tailed Phascogales: 6. Total number of boxes with Brush-tailed Phascogale evidence: 30.

In June, the weather was fine and twenty three people visited the Heathlands near Cape Liptrap for the long weekend survey. No significant species were seen.

The equipment day in July was called off as a result of the

FNCV fire, but basic repairs and maintenance were carried out on camps as needed. A big effort will be required on the equipment in 2012.

In spring, we headed into north-west Victoria, to Wathe Flora and Fauna Reserve, just to the east of Wyperfeld National Park. The September camp, as always, was well attended. It was warm, cool and even wet during our stay, which reduced the number of reptiles we might otherwise have trapped or seen. However, twelve species were recorded, along with one frog species, some Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) were sighted and numerous mounds, both active and inactive, were located during our exploration of the reserve. A White-necked Heron, (*Ardea pacifica*), which had not been recorded there before, was seen on two mornings at the campsite. Six Mitchell's Hopping Mouse (*Notomys mitchelli*) were seen and one was caught by hand, causing much excitement amongst those present at the camp.



Southern Freetail Bat (*Mormopterus planiceps*):
Photo Sally Bewsher

The final camp for 2012 was held at Dergholm State Park in Western Victoria. We based ourselves at Bailey's Rocks and surveyed in the Bogolarra Block, or northern section of the park. It became hotter and hotter as the week progressed and activities were carried out accordingly. Two members were amazed to see an Eastern Brown Snake swallowing a Jacky-Dragon following a swim in the dam one day and we were all pleased to see two specimens of the Striped Worm-lizard, (*Apraisis striolata*), which had been caught in the pitline buckets. Nine reptile species, four frog species and seven bat species were found during our stay. A total of nine species were added to the fauna list for the park.

Survey work is carried out by permit holders and Fauna Survey Group members under the conditions of our DSE Flora and Fauna Permit which was granted in June 2009. All results are forwarded to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas following surveys, as required by this permit.

Other activities

During the year two committee members spoke about the Fauna Survey Group to the Juniors and three gave talks to other groups about fauna.

The Melbourne Cup weekend saw the FNCV run the SEANA camp at Phillip Island. Two FSG committee members led successful walks.

Sally Bewsher

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC
REPORT BY COUNCIL. Year ended 31 December 2011

1. The members of Council hereby submit the Balance sheet as at 31st December 2011 and the Income Statement for the year ended 31st December 2011 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>
John Harris	President	Fauna Consultant	2003
Dr Alan Yen	Councillor	Entomologist	2001
Julie Rewell	Councillor / Assistant Treasurer	Mother (Former IT Accountant)	2007
Barbara Burns	Treasurer	Retired Lecturer	2001
Joan Broadberry	Councillor	Retired Teacher	2001
Dr Noel Schleiger	Vice President/Geology	Retired	2006
Victoria Aitken	Secretary	Teacher	2009
Sally Bewsher	Councillor	Retired Teacher	2009
Ian Kitchen	Vice President/Bats	Retired	2010
Andrew Brentnall	Councillor	Retired	2011
SIG Representative	Special Interest Group		
Leon Altoff	Marine Research - joint	Analyst	1997
Audrey Falconer	Marine Research - joint	Public Servant	1997
Ray Power	Microscopy	Retired	1993
Sue Bendel	Botany	Quality Assurance Co-ordinator	2006
Jurrie Hubregtse	Fungi - joint	Retired	2011
Virgil Hubregtse	Fungi - joint	Retired	2011
Claire Ferguson	Juniors	Mother	2010
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 31st December 2011 is (\$17,298.87) (2010 net loss \$7,889).
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,

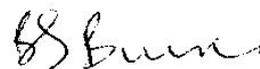
- (a) The accompanying Income Statement is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial results of the Club for the year ended 31 December 2011.
- (b) The accompanying Balance Sheet is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Club as at 31 December 2011.
- (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 2012 in accordance with a resolution of Council.

John Harris - President



Barbara Burns - Treasurer



THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
INCOME STATEMENT
Year ended 31 December 2011

		2011	2010
		\$	\$
INCOME	Membership	32720.64	38,989.92
Bookshop	Bookshop Profit	605.75	1,713.81
Publications	Profit Sale FNCV Publications	707.84	1,463.94
	Back issues Vic Nat	<u>58.18</u>	100.00
		1,371.77	3,277.75
Other income	Hall Hire	1427.82	5,721.81
	Profit Biodiversity Symposium	242.62	393.73
	Profit SEANA Camp	357.22	
	Profit Sale FNCV products		127.27
	Non-Member Levy	217.71	160.82
	Sundry Income		175.49
	Copyright Royalties	681.62	
	Junior's Camp Fees		818.19
	Fund Raising	2,224.08	
	2nd Hand book sale	<u>4634.32</u>	
		<u>9,785.39</u>	<u>7,397.21</u>
Investments	Bank Interest	386.86	406.81
	Interest Income Investments	<u>13644.3</u>	12,761.84
		14,031.16	13,168.65
Grants, Donations	Grants (*see below)	2300.00	2,300.00
	General Donations	3191.00	1,759.55
		<u>5,491.00</u>	<u>4,059.55</u>
	Total Income	\$ 63,399.96	\$ 66,893.18
EXPENDITURE	Victorian Naturalist - Printing	13514.37	9,619.20
Publications	- Postage	<u>2269.60</u>	2,762.83
	Net Cost Victorian Naturalist	15,783.97	12,382.03
	Newsletter - Printing	2704.77	2,745.77
	- Postage etc	2423.01	2,411.33
	- Advertising Income	1229.09	845.46
	Calendar of events Printing & Postage	2353.57	1,892.12
	Junior Naturalists - Printing and Postage	658.18	532.25
	Total Publications Expenses	22,694.41	19,118.04
	GROSS PROFIT	<u>40,705.55</u>	<u>47,775.14</u>
Other Expenses	Advertising - Signage and Bags	1131.85	839.01
	Annual report	75.00	100.00
	Bank Fees	1274.37	1,202.39
	Depreciation Expense	3221.00	5,198.20
	Donations Outgoing	450.00	420.00
	Gas, Electricity, Water	1481.22	1,588.24
	Christmas Party Expenses	10.00	370.77
	Hall Cleaning	1020.00	1,440.00
	Insurance	4020.91	3,452.00
	Internet Provider & Website Expenses	703.88	673.52
	Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	703.57	668.64
	Library Expenses & Subscriptions	1089.69	833.65
	Mugs	1057.60	1,000.00
	Non-Library Subscriptions	133.45	305.81
	Office Postage & Post Box Hire	2594.58	2,243.54
	Office Stationery etc	1944.46	1,993.80
	Office Telephone	548.76	517.79
	Repairs & Maintenance - General	2054.45	1,841.04
	Repairs & Maintenance - Office Equipment	1603.83	1,572.03
	Rates - Council	1392.55	1,240.85
	Rates - Maryborough Property	730.10	655.65
	Special Interest Group Expenses	140.23	153.33
	Sundry Expenses	379.81	272.90
	Travel Costs	212.50	362.50
	Superannuation	2543.42	2,194.97
	Workers Compensation Insurance	247.65	135.43
	Wages & Salaries	27239.54	24,388.54
	Total Other Expenses	58,004.42	55,684.55
	Total Expenses	\$ 80,698.83	\$ 74,782.60
	OPERATING (LOSS)	<u>\$17,298.87</u>	<u>\$17,118.04</u>
	* Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage Grants to Voluntary, Environment & Heritage Organisations	2300.00	2300.00

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

ASSETS	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account - Note (3)	13091.13	13250.90
The Environment Fund Account - Note (3)	1637.69	3312.53
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00
Prepaid Expenses - Note 4a	1600.00	7967.50
Inventories (Books for Sale) - Note (4)	<u>2342.82</u>	<u>5970.92</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>18,721.64</u>	<u>30,551.85</u>
Non Current Assets		
Investments		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits - Note (5)	200,756.51	225602.93
General Property Trust Units - Note (5) (5a)	8,100.00	8,100.00
Australian Fhical Investments - Note (5) (5a)	23,895.44	23,695.44
Shares in Australian Foundation - Note (5) (5a)	<u>20,220.00</u>	<u>20,220.00</u>
	252,771.95	277,618.37
Library Holdings - Note (6)	50320.88	50,320.88
	<u>303092.83</u>	<u>327,939.25</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment		
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)	57,957.15	38,988.00
Equipment at Cost - Note (8)	79,759.41	79,759.41
Less Accumulated Depreciation - Note (8)	<u>- 74,241.18</u>	<u>-71,020.18</u>
	248,387.38	232,639.23
Total Non current Assets	551,480.21	560,578.48
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 570,201.85</u>	<u>\$ 591,130.33</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors - Note (9)	3,679.00	
Roof Appeal Donations Carried Forward		6892.55
Payroll Tax Owing	180.00	1319.00
GST Paid - GST Collected	246.54	-147.00
Grants Held for 2010- Note (9)		836.09
Raffle proceeds Solar Panels carried forward	1,285.00	
ANHM	6,749.39	6223.57
FNCV Environment fund	3,607.49	2599.49
Bal group for equip	<u>534.59</u>	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>15,768.93</u>	<u>17,723.70</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 554,432.92</u>	<u>\$ 573,406.63</u>
EQUITY		
Members Accumulated Funds		
Current Year A/Loss	-\$17,298.87	7869.42
General Fund b/f - Note (10)	<u>528,879.60</u>	<u>536769.02</u>
	511,580.73	528,879.60
Total Specific Funds		
Marine Research Fund	25,433.75	25,433.75
Iauna Survey Equipment Fund - Note (11)	548.75	548.75
FNCV Environment Fund - Note (11)	1637.69	3312.53
Asset Revaluation Reserve	13,187.00	13,187.00
FNCV Juniors	2,045.00	2,045.00
TOTAL MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>\$ 554,432.92</u>	<u>\$ 573,406.63</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2011

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.

THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(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.

(f) *Fixed Assets* - Property is brought to account at cost, or where appropriate, at Council valuation. Plant, equipment, furniture and fittings are brought to account at cost less accumulated depreciation calculated on a straight line basis over the estimated life of the asset.

(g) *Income tax* - The club is not liable for income tax.

(h) *Inventories* - are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(i) *Grants* related to operating activities are shown in the income statement as income and offset by regular operating expenses. Grants related to the purchase of assets are deducted from the carrying amount of the asset.

2. REMUNERATION OF COUNCILLORS

No remuneration has been received by councillors for the year ended 31 December 2011

	2011	2010
3. CASH		
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	13091.13	13250.90
Environment Fund A/c - Bank Melb.	1637.69	3312.53
Petty Cash	<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
	<u>14778.82</u>	16,613.43
4a. PREPAID EXPENSES		
Roof Replacement Deposit		7,000.00
Prepaid Office Supplies	1600.00	
1/2 cost of cloth bags carried forward	<u>0.00</u>	<u>967.50</u>
	<u>1600.00</u>	7,967.50
4. STOCKS		
Books for sale at lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>2342.82</u>	<u>5970.92</u>
5. INVESTMENTS		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits	200756.51	225602.93
General Property Trust Units - at valuation	8100.00	8,100.00
Australian Ethical Investments - at valuation	23695.44	23,695.44
Shares in Australian Foundation	<u>20220.00</u>	<u>20,220.00</u>
	<u>252771.95</u>	<u>277,618.37</u>
5(a) CURRENT MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS		
General Property Trust Market Value \$ 3.07 x 1800	5526.00	\$5,292.00
Australian Ethical Investments Market Value	23151.08	24874.00
Shares in Australian Foundation Market Value	<u>20200.00</u>	<u>\$25,050.00</u>
	<u>48877.08</u>	
6. Library - Books and Journals		
at Council Valuation 23/5/95 plus additions at cost	<u>50320.88</u>	50320.88
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>57957.15</u>	<u>38,988.00</u>
	<u>242869.15</u>	<u>223,900.00</u>
8. OTHER FIXED ASSETS		
Plant and Equipment at cost	79759.41	79,750.41
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>74241.18</u>	<u>-71,020.18</u>
	<u>5518.23</u>	<u>8,739.23</u>
9. CREDITORS & PROVISIONS		
Sundry Trade Creditors Victorian Naturalist SEANA	3219.00	
	<u>460.00</u>	
	<u>3679.00</u>	
Creditor FNCV Environment Fund	3607.49	2599.49
Creditor Australian Natural History Medallion	<u>6749.39</u>	<u>6223.57</u>
	<u>10356.88</u>	<u>8,823.06</u>
Grants Held for 2011		
Bat Group Equipment Grant	534.59	679.45
Department for families, community & Indigenous Affairs		<u>156.64</u>
	<u>534.59</u>	<u>836.09</u>
MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
10. GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward	528879.60	536,769.02
Less Operating Loss	<u>-17298.87</u>	<u>-7689.42</u>
Balance at 31 December 2011	<u>511580.73</u>	<u>\$ 528,879.60</u>
11. SPECIFIC FUNDS		
<i>FNCV Environment Fund</i>		
Balance Brought Forward	3312.53	592.57
Add Donations	0.00	3000.00
Less Grants paid	-1674.02	280.00
Loss Interest - bank fees	<u>-0.62</u>	<u>-0.04</u>
Balance at 31 December 2011	<u>\$ 1,637.69</u>	<u>\$ 3,312.53</u>

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA

CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the Year Ended 31 December 2011
for The Bendigo Bank Account No 123098725

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net outflows from Operations	-5937.50	6091.71
GST (net change)	-99.54	-146.53
Net Cash outflow from Operations (Note 1)	-6037.04	-6238.24
CASH FLOWS FOR INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Outflows		
Roof expenditure (net)	-18969.15	
Deposit for Roof Renewal		-7000.00
Library Book Purchases		-131.30
Transfer to Bendigo Bank Term Deposit		-9893.01
Inflow		
Transfer from Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	24846.42	
Net Cash Outflow from Investing Activities	5877.27	-17,024.31
CASH FLOWS FOR FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Inflow		
Presidents Appeal for Roof Renewal - carried forward		6892.55
CHANGE IN FNCV CHEQUE A/C BALANCE for year	-\$ 159.77	-\$ 16,370.00
Bendigo/Bank Melb Cheque Acc Balances Start Year	13250.90	29,620.90
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance End Year	13091.13	13250.90
	-159.77	
Note 1		
<u>Reconciliation of Profit with Cash Flow from Operations</u>		
Loss	-17298.87	-7889.42
add back depreciation	3221.00	5198.2
	-14077.87	-2691.22
decrease in inventory & FNCV merchandise	3628.10	-232.71
decrease in interest receivable		4172.00
decrease in prepaid expenses	6367.50	-967.50
decrease in fund raising c/fwd	-5627.55	
increase in creditors	4073.82	-1979.69
decrease in grants held and unspent	-301.50	-4392.59
Net Cash Flow from Operations	-\$ 5,937.50	-\$ 6,091.71

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 2011. 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 2011 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 2011 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:



Susan J. Harkin, CPA
Honorary Auditor

30/3/2012
2012
Blackburn