

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

Annual Report



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Year Ending 31 December 2017

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President's Report

I have now performed the role as President of the FNCV for three years and 2017 was yet another very enjoyable and productive time for me. Since the Club's activities are so varied and numerous it is not possible to cover all events or to thank everyone for the diverse contributions they make. If I have not mentioned you or your activity in the following summary let me assure you that, as always, your efforts are greatly appreciated by me and your fellow Club members.

Details of the years' news and highlights are set out below.

Two successful Symposia were run by the FNCV in 2017. The annual Biodiversity Symposium, "Marine Biodiversity in the 21st Century" took place on the 19th and 20th of August. Sixteen experts presented on highly interesting and relevant topics. The Fauna Survey Group ran an equally successful "Birds of Victoria" seminar on October 21st and 22nd. I received a great deal of positive feedback for these events from both presenters and attendees. It is something we do well and shall continue to do in the future. There is a great deal of work involved in such events and everyone who helped in their running and organisation is to be congratulated.

2017 was a landmark year for the Marine Research Group as it marked the 60th anniversary of the group's inception and the 20th year of its merger with the FNCV.

The 2017 Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Associate Professor Paul Adam for his contribution to conservation, natural history and education. He was nominated

(Continued on page 2)



Leon Altoff and Audrey Falconer working on marine samples in their mobile laboratory, set up at Mallacoota to process the results of the Marine Group's March survey.

Photo Barbara Burns.

(Continued from page 1)

by the Linnean Society of New South Wales. The medallion was presented by David Zerman, the President of the Royal Society of Victoria. After receiving the award, Paul gave a presentation titled - "Opportunities and Challenges for Natural History in the Twenty-first Century." The FNCV extends its congratulations to Paul.

In 2017 the FNCV was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Dr Alan Louey Yen on 20th March. Alan was a well-known and highly-respected member, and a former President of the Club. He served the FNCV at Council level for ten years, from 2001 to 2010, and also took a leading role in many other Club activities over a period of almost 30 years.

The Club received a letter from its Patron, the Hon. Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, expressing her pleasure in having that connection to the Club. She writes, in conclusion, "Life in our State is so much richer because of the generosity of those who seek, each in their own way, to contribute to the 'Peace and Prosperity' of which our State motto speaks. I can only say, as Governor, how grateful I am for everything you and your colleagues do for Victoria. I would be grateful if you would please pass on to everyone at The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria my and my husband's heartfelt thanks." (FNN 277)

The Special Interest Groups provide many interesting meetings, presenters and excursions every year and 2017 was no exception. I attended as many as I could manage. The opportunity to hear interesting presentations on relevant topics and discuss issues with fellow naturalists is always stimulating. I thank all of the SIG leaders and organisers for their continued hard work. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Reiner Reichter's efforts in organising and running regular, photographic field excursions to capture macro images of our invertebrates. These excursions have proven to be very popular.

The FNCV was represented at a number of public events during 2017, including the Wattle Park Centenary Celebration on the 1st April, where I was able to speak on the role of FNCV in the creation of the Park and other reserves in general.

On Monday October 23rd 2017, as President of FNCV, I had the pleasure of presenting Science Talent Quest awards to 117 junior and intermediate secondary school students. The cheques and medallions were greatly appreciated by the recipients and, of course, their proud parents. It was very encouraging to see so many young and enthusiastic pupils engaged in science. I received numerous words of appreciation from parents and students who had received FNCV sponsorship and for the Club's support for the awards. In total, 52 awards were supported by FNCV and by a sponsorship in the name of Dr. Noel Schleiger. It is a great reminder of our effective commitment to community education.

On Wednesday 1st March I attended the Supporters' "Thank You" Event at Museum Victoria. The new director, Lynley Marshall, was introduced and the guests were invited to participate in short tours of the facilities and laboratories. I presented her with a copy of Dr Gary Presland's book "Understanding Our Natural World" on behalf of the Club, which she was pleased to receive.

Members of FNCV represented us at the Whitehorse Spring Festival, Music in the Wetlands and Bioblitzes. FNCV members also gave presentations to local councils and community groups. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and effort

to sustain the profile of the Club. It is important that we continue our delivery of presentations, seminars, symposia and attendance at public events to maintain our status and integrity as an important and productive member of the community.

The FNCV website is our principal portal for the world to contact us and a place where we can showcase our capabilities and facilities. I thank Jurrie Hubregtse who has continued to successfully run and maintain the site. Struan Campbell has maintained the integrity of the office computer system during 2017. On behalf of the Club I thank him for his contribution. I also thank Colin Gare for providing essential technical support throughout the year.

While our subscription membership has remained fairly stable our Facebook membership has risen to nearly 8000 interested followers which has certainly increased our visibility and profile in the broader community. Thanks to Ian Kitchen, John Harris and Claire Ferguson for their continued efforts with this online forum.

I thank Dr Gary Presland for his work on the production of *The Victorian Naturalist* and for his contribution as FNCV Librarian. On behalf of the Club I would also like to thank the editors of Field Nat News and *The Victorian Naturalist* for their diligent work. The workload and time commitment is enormous and both publications are critical to our FNCV culture and activities. Joan and Sally, Gary, Maria, Sue and Virgil have nevertheless produced timely publications of the highest standard.

In this report I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the generous contributions from two long standing club members. Firstly, Andy Brentnall for his financial contributions in addition to his dedicated and continuing support of the Club; secondly, Brendan Murphy for his continued support of the FNCV and his generous contributions to the Science Talent Quest. I take this opportunity to thank them both for their input and involvement over many years.

The Council is the operational core and governing body of the FNCV and it bears responsibility for all of the Club's activities and its corporate existence. I extend my thanks to all Club Councillors and members who support activities such as the book sale, symposia, Christmas function, special dinners and working bees.

Barbara Burns, as treasurer, efficiently manages the accounts, which again show a healthy financial position.

Thanks to the outstanding contribution from Kathy Himbeck the FNCV bookshop continues to prosper and cater to the needs of the Club. Like many of you, I remain a frequent and dedicated customer. Thank you Kathy.

Wendy Gare, continues to manage the office and support our activities at the highest level of efficiency and dedication. Thank you Wendy, the roles of Councillors and President would be very difficult without you.

Finally I thank you all for the privilege of being elected President of the FNCV for a third year. I have enjoyed the experience immensely. I believe that we need to continue to further enhance our role in educating the broader community on the importance of conserving, protecting and studying the amazing biodiversity of Australia. These are challenging times for those trying to protect and preserve our natural treasures which continue to be threatened on every front. We will need to take advantage of opportunities to participate as stakeholders whenever we can.

Maxwell Campbell, President.



Administration

The FNCV office is ticking along nicely with no major dramas. Andy Brentnall has again helped with the office work, which is very much appreciated. I've also had a lot of help from Rhys Freeman, a Club member who is an Access database expert. He's managed to organise our membership database so that renewals and receipts can be sent by email, which saves on postage costs. There are now only 62 members (other than institutions) without an email address.

Membership

Membership as at 31st December 2017 was 811 which is slightly down from last year. We attracted 95 new members over the 12 months but unfortunately lost 173. The decreases are spread evenly across all the categories. We have 291 single members, 314 family members, 37 junior members and 40 students. The remainder is institutions and clubs. This year we have eight new Long Term members who will be presented with their certificates at the AGM.



Wendy Gare.

Electronic Delivery of *The Victorian Naturalist*

The number of members who download their journal on-line has increased slightly from 45% of those with an email address to 48%. We will be trying to persuade more members to take the plunge in 2018.

Hall Hire

Money received from hiring out our hall has remained steady, with a slight decrease due to the hirer who increased their hire days last year, dropping them back to their previous levels.

Promotion

Our calendar of events is sent three times a year to over 200 organisations including libraries, U3A centres, neighbourhood houses, other naturalist clubs and like-minded organisations, promoting the Club's activities to people who otherwise may not be aware of us.

In addition emails are sent to all members to jog their memories about upcoming meetings and excursions, to maximise attendance.

Our website www.fncv.org.au is running smoothly thanks to our webmaster Jurrie Hubregtse who diligently keeps it up-to-date. It is responsible for attracting many of our new members, although word of mouth is still the way most people hear about us – so keep spreading the word!

Our popular Facebook page is increasing exponentially – we now have over 8000 followers who post beautiful photos, identify plants and animals and have lively debates about all sorts of naturalist ethical dilemmas. Thank you to the moderators Ian Kitchen, Claire Ferguson and John Harris.

As usual we participated in the Whitehorse Spring Festival where our stall was particularly successful with lots of visitors. We had activities set up for children with volunteers from the Club helping out. Thank you to: Ruth Hoskin, Patricia Amaya, Ray Gibson, Andy Brentnall, Jackie Waring, Rob & Beth Ham-

son, Anne Warren, Cecily Falkingham and to Philippa Burgess who organised the day.

The Fauna Survey Group seminar on the Birds of Victoria was very successful, as was the Biodiversity Symposium which this year concentrated on Marine matters. These weekend seminars with many expert speakers help to raise the profile of the Club and are always popular.

Fundraising

Goodwill Wines have proved popular with our members who have ordered sufficient quantities to raise over \$600 for the Club during the year. Our second-hand book sale raised over \$1,700, so although it involves a lot of work, it is definitely worth it. The bookshop sold some second hand books which had been donated to the Club and raised a further \$500. We also raised over \$200 from our Christmas raffle.

First Aid Training

In September we held a one day first aid course in the hall for 19 Club members and myself, giving the successful participants two certificates each in *Providing First Aid* and *Providing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation*. We hope this knowledge won't need to be used, but if it is ever necessary, we'll be better equipped to help.

Finally I would like to thank our Council members who contribute many hours to the running of the Club, and make my work easier.

Wendy Gare, Administration Officer.



Library

A total of 25 new volumes were added to the FNCV Library collection during 2017. These were acquired primarily through purchase or donation. The Library continues to benefit from members of the Club who generously donate books and offer material for deposit in the FNCV archives. The Library also received copies of a few books that were reviewed in *The Victorian Naturalist*. My thanks are extended to these people, who contributed directly to the holdings of the Library. I also thank Kathy Himbeck, the FNCV Books Sales Officer, who facilitated purchase of a number of volumes.

Forty-seven books and 24 periodicals were borrowed during the year. This usage closely parallels that of the previous year.

Archives

Archival enquiries during the year continued to be based largely on research external to the Club, but which took in issues relating to FNCV members or activities. The archival holdings of the Club are not insubstantial and have proved time and again to be of great assistance to the Archivist in his current pursuit of compiling a complete list of all members of the FNCV.

Through the year Graham Patterson has provided invaluable support in keeping the library's collection of periodicals up to date. Yvonne Fitzmaurice has worked to great effect also, in adding to the Series Description Lists of correspondence, held the archives. My thanks go to both of them for their ready assistance and cheery company. I also wish to thank Kathy Himbeck for her service of acquiring books for the library from bookshop funds.

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

Field Nats News

In 2017 the 11 issues of Field Nats News' (FNN) ran from number 271 to 281 inclusive. Once again I would like to thank and acknowledge all those involved in its production for their hard work. Sally Bewsher is a meticulous proof-reader and assists in numerous other ways. Gary Presland contributes library news, archival material, obituaries and regular cups of brewed coffee. Gary also generously stood in for me as editor while I was travelling. Material first produced by Wendy Gare, for example the four monthly calendar of events and FNCV council minutes, provide a starting point for much of the FNN copy. In addition Wendy fields numerous emails, assists with the mail out, solves computer problems and much more. It would be difficult to produce FNN to the high standard we wish to achieve without her assistance. Thanks also to Jurrrie Hubregtse who so ably posts FNN on the FNCV website each month, and special thanks to Pat Grey, who delivers us a carefully prepared index in December each year.



Sally, Wendy and Joan.
Photo Gary Presland.

Most important of all are those who contribute reports and articles to FNN. The following is a list, in no particular order of those who have made substantial contributions in 2017: Maxwell Campbell, Pat and Ed Grey, Joan Broadberry, John Harris, Platon Vafiadis, Wendy Gare, Cecily Falkingham, Gary Presland, Kaye Oddie, Ruth Hoskin, Virgil Hubregtse, Audrey Falconer, Ken Griffiths, Raymond Gibson, Sally Bewsher, Robin Drury, Patricia Amaya, Rob Hamson, Phillipa Burgess, Peter Homan and Barbara Burns.

It has been very pleasing to receive an increasing number of nature notes and images for our members' page. Please continue to share with us what has caught your eye.

Collation takes place in the hall at about 10 am on the third Tuesday of each month. We have a reliable and hardworking team of volunteers led by Sheina Nicholls to do this work. Thanks to Andy Brentnall who sets up the hall.

The job of editing the FNCV's monthly newsletter always gives me great satisfaction, pride and pleasure. Much of this comes from interacting with the team of wonderful people who share the task of producing it with me.

Joan Broadberry.

The Victorian Naturalist

Production of *The Victorian Naturalist* has continued without problems for the 134th consecutive year. Six issues of the journal, comprising Volume 134, were published during 2017. This volume consisted of five issues of 32 pages (including one which contained the Index for Volume 133), and one issue of 64 pages. This spread resulted in the publication of 220 pages for the year, which was the same as the previous year's output.

A total of 24 substantive papers were published in Volume 134, comprising 11 Research Reports, seven Contributions, two Symposium Papers, and four Naturalist Notes. The category of 'Symposium Paper' has been developed this year, as a means of expediting papers that have been derived from FNCV Symposia and other conferences. There was no 'Special' issue as such in 2017, but the final issue for the year, comprising 64 pages, contained three papers - one of which was presented as a Research Report - that stemmed from the Fauna Survey Group's 'Reptiles and Amphibians' Symposium, held in October 2016.



Vic Nat team 2017, Gary, Sue, Maria and Virgil.
Photo Wendy Clark.

In addition, 12 books were reviewed in the pages of the journal in 2017. Of these books, two were donated by the reviewers to the FNCV library; these were *Australian Alps: Kosciuszko, Alpine and Namadgi national parks* and *Discovering Australian flora: an Australian national botanic gardens experience*.

It was the Editors' sad duty to publish a tribute to a former president of the FNCV, the late Dr Alan Louey Yen, who passed away in March 2017.

I am grateful for the efforts throughout the year of all members of the editorial team: my co-editors Dr Maria Gibson and Sue Forster, and our editorial assistant Virgil Hubregtse. They all approached the roles with dedication, enthusiasm and attention to detail, and were a constant support. All this, plus their unfailing cheerfulness, has made it a pleasure to be part of the team of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

Dr Gary Presland.

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 and education. Its purposes are:

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

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

The projects supported in 2017 were:

- Travis A Heafield. Masters Student, University of Melbourne. "Multi-gene species delimitation in Australasian members of the genus *Laccaria*." (Define the species boundaries of this Mushroom forming fungi). Co- supervisor Tom May, \$1000.
- Friends of Warrandyte State Park. Second computer to assist in the work of FOWSP. Lenovo Laptop, \$500.
- Friends of the Box-Ironbank Forests, Mt Alexander Region. Contribution to the production of "Acacias of the Mt Alexander Region, A Field Guide", \$1000.

Thank you to everyone who donated in 2017. Your support will enable the Fund to continue providing grants for worthy projects in the future.

Barbara Burns, Secretary.

Australian Natural History Medallion

The Australian Natural History Medallion has been awarded annually since 1940, 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 2017 Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Associate Professor Paul Adam for his contribution to conservation, natural history and education. He was nominated by the Linnean Society of New South Wales. The medallion was presented by David Zerman the president of the Royal Society of Victoria. The citation, detailing the work of Associate Professor Adam, was published in the February 2018 issue of *The Victorian Naturalist*.

I thank the members of the Award Committee for their efforts in 2017 and Dr Gary Presland for his support and advice during the year. The FNCV staff and members who organised the award function are to be congratulated for a very successful event.

**Maxwell Campbell,
Secretary, ANHM General Committee.**



Geology Group

The Geology Special Interest Group continued to attract interesting speakers and good attendances at meetings during 2017. Our topics ranged from geological explorations of areas such as the New Zealand Oamaru limestones, gold nuggets in the Bendigo-Ballarat region, Tasmanian mountains and granitic minerals in Victoria. Other speakers led broader geological subjects including exploring biological taxonomy, particularly in relation to web of life diagrams, a presentation of how a large organisation has integrated geological, cultural and historic factors into its planning and a general overview of how earthquakes change landscapes. We were also taken on a fascinating journey into Pre-Cambrian life by looking through the microscope with Maxwell Campbell and, as a lighter wind-up to the year, treated to a complex story associated with a small gold nugget in the Melbourne Museum mineral collection.

We thank the leaders of our two excursions, Phil Bock who led us through Studley Park's interesting geology and Dr Julie Boyce and Dr Jim Driscoll who explained the fascinating details of Victorian geology as demonstrated in the Monash Earth Sciences Garden.

A list of the speakers and their topics are as follows:

February 22nd, "Oamaru Limestone." Speaker: Mary Chapman. Landscape Architect and project Manager with Melbourne City Council.

March 22nd, "How Names have changed! The New Taxonomy for Biology". Speaker: Phil Bock. Nunawading U3A Geology lecturer and retired senior academic.

April 22nd, Excursion: Studley Park. Leader: Phil Bock.

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April 26th, "Origin of Gold nuggets in the Bendigo-Ballarat zone of the Lachlan Fold Belt." Speaker: Dr Peter Jackson. Retired Academic and Geologist.

May 24th, "Earthquakes and Landscapes." Speaker: Dr Mark Quigley, Associate Professor in Active Tectonics and Geomorphology. School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne.

June 28th, "Minerals of the Granites with an emphasis on Victorian Deposits." Speaker: John Bosworth, Life Member of Mineralogy Society of Victoria, volunteer at Museum Victoria Geosciences Department (Mineralogy).

July 26th, "Life in the Pre-Cambrian – a microscopic journey of early invertebrate life." Speaker: Maxwell Campbell. President of FNCV, Administrator and photographer of all things small.

July 29th, Excursion: Monash Earth Sciences Garden. Leader: Dr Julie Boyce and Dr Jim Driscoll, School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University.

August 23rd, "Resources for Tasmanian Geology from a mountain walker." Speaker: Ken Griffiths, a member of the Geology SIG, long time mountain walker, with interests in geology and the history of science.

September 27th, "Integration of Melbourne Water's Cultural Heritage." Speaker: Paul Balassone, MSc, Heritage Co-ordinator, Melbourne Water.

October 25th, Particular thanks to Max Campbell who filled in for the prospective speaker. Max showed some of his video clips of microscopic pond life.

November 22nd, "The providence of provenance: a 'ripping yarn' of gold, travellers and shipwreck." Dr Dermot Henry, Acting Head of Sciences, Museum Victoria.

Many thanks to all the speakers for giving their time and expertise to the group. The meetings were well attended with numbers ranging from 12 to 31 with an average of 22 attendees. Thanks also to Max Campbell for his support especially with the electronics and to Andy Brentnall who always arrived early to make sure the room was ready. Ruth Hoskin continues as the Geology SIG Council Representative.

Ruth Hoskin

Photo Max Campbell from the Black Range excursion in November 2017.

Capusa stenophara.



Terrestrial Invertebrates Group

The Terrestrial Invertebrates Group held five meetings in 2017 with an average of 14 attendees per meeting. The subjects covered included arthropod evolution, dragonflies, chrysomelid beetles, protozoa, close up photography and member's nights where field excursions and photographic results were discussed in detail by the members. There is strong support for continuing the discussion sessions next year.

There were five field excursions during the year to photograph invertebrates *en situ*. Locations included Langwarrin, Black Ranges, Western Grampians and Wonga Park. Poor weather saw the cancellation of a planned excursion to the Upper Yarra. There is an increasing interest in these photographic excursions and more are planned for 2018. Reiner Richter is to be congratulated for organising these trips.

Maxwell Campbell.



Weevil.
Photo Max Campbell.



Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group held five meetings and undertook 10 field trips throughout 2017. The average at meetings was 11 people with 15 being the highest attendance.

The Meeting Program for the year was:

- Febr Meeting cancelled.
- April Cecilia Power spoke about her research into the detection of ciliate parasite *M.avidus* in Southern blue fin tuna sea cages at Port Lincoln, South Australia using biofouling samples and molecular techniques.
- May Was our annual field trip roundup. We looked at images of the locations we visited and the animals we saw. Members were encouraged to bring in photos and exhibits from the field work to show to others.
- Aug Marine Biodiversity Symposium. No meeting was held this month.
- Sept Kent Stannard spoke about the research being done on white sharks including the current tagging and tracking programs around Australia.
- Oct Mel Mackenzie from Museum Victoria spoke about the recent research voyage to study Australia's eastern abyss, a dark and largely unexplored habitat found deep beneath the ocean surface.
- Dec Was our annual members night where images and stories from the year's activities were shared with the group.

Marine Biodiversity Symposium

The FNCV presented a two day program "Marine Biodiversity in the 21st century", on the weekend of Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th August. These dates celebrated the 60th birthday of the Marine Research Group and the 20th anniversary of its merger with the FNCV. The symposium covered aspects of Marine Biodiversity with an emphasis on the Victorian marine environment.

Topics included sea slugs, marine mammals, hydroids, saltmarshes, sea grasses, bryozoans, environmental impacts of plastics, echinoderm reproduction, intertidal zones, sub-tidal vegetation, invasive marine species, shark conservation, abalone ecology, global marine biodiversity, Victoria's marine parks, short-tailed shearwaters and more.



The anemone *Anthothoe albocincta* observed at Marengo.
Photo Leon Altoff.

Field Work

Field work is an important activity for the group, providing members with the opportunity to observe animals in their natural habitat and their interactions with their environment and other animals. The data and specimens collected by the Marine Research Group contribute to on-going research conducted by the group. MRG members are actively researching Opisthobranchia (sea slugs and related animals), micro-Gastropoda (small snails), Holothuroidea (sea cucumbers), Amphipoda and Isopoda (small crustaceans),



Observing marine invertebrates in their natural habitat is the cornerstone of research performed by the group.
Photo Leon Altoff.

Ascidians, Stauromedusae (stalked jellyfish), and Nemertea (ribbon worms), as well as conducting a general study of marine invertebrates to increase their own knowledge and that of others.

Our field work produces records of the species of marine invertebrates found along the Victorian coast. We also identify and monitor pest species found during our field work. Beyond this we collaborate with Australian and overseas institutions. All fieldwork is performed under collecting permits issued by DELWP and DPI.

The existing committee remained in place in 2017.

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|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 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 Audrey Falconer for coordinating our field trips.

Leon Altoff, Secretary.

Thanks to Barbara Burns for the production of the FNCV Annual Report 2017.



Juniors' Group

The Juniors' Group continued to be led by Claire Ferguson and fellow council members through 2017, but went through a leadership transition as Claire passed on her role as group leader to Patricia Amaya. Patricia and her family have been active Junior members for several years now attending meetings, excursions and camps.

During the year Jenny Jones and Bridie Bergin handed over their newsletter editor position on to the Wilton family, another involved Junior family who are very creative, an excellent fit for this role.



Visit to the Organ Pipes National Park.

This year attendances at some events were down due to poor weather for outings, families with younger children who struggle to attend night meetings and some activities and less involvement by older members as they increase their commitments outside the club. No promotional events were attended this year due to the uncertainty of leadership earlier in the year.

The group celebrated its 74th birthday with a fungi theme which included a "Fungi" cake made by a friend of Patricia's which was eaten along with a great spread of party food brought along by members. We had a selection of fungi costumes to guess in our costume parade, games were played and a quick reminder of the beginnings of our club was presented by Claire.

It is the input from our members, both from the Juniors' group and other SIGs, that makes our club unique.

Meetings

- January:** Council Member talks.
February: Max Campbell (FNCV), "Single Celled Animals".
March: Jono Stevenson (Park ranger), "Our Unique Southern Oceans".
April: Maria Gibson (FNCV), "Lichen, Strange Liasons".
May: James Murray (Mt Burnett Observatory educator), "Astronomy".
June: John Eichler (FNCV), "The Seashore – what lives where?"
July: Robin Drury (FNCV), "Monitoring Biodiversity with Cameras".

- August:** Juniors' 74th Birthday Party, Theme "Fungi".
September: Meeting cancelled due to public holiday.
October: Jordan Crook (WOTCH), "Wildlife and Plants of the Great National Forest".
November: Diana Gentu (Environmentalist), "Getting Active on the Environment".

Excursions

- January:** Queenscliff Marine Trip.
February: Rickett's Point beach day cancelled due to poor weather.
March: Ponding with Max Campbell at Jells Park.
April: Mali Dunes Easter Camp.
May: Fungi Foray to Bunyip.
June: Mount Burnett Observatory.
July: St Kilda penguin research.
August: Organ Pipes National Park with Robert Irvine.
September: Frogging at Braeside Park - postponed due to high winds.
October: Blackburn Lake wildflowers with Elaine.
November: Toolangi Giant Trees tour with Jordan Crook.
December: No excursion.

Easter Camp to Mali Dunes near Big Desert:

The group stayed on Sue Fox's property at Yanak North. Activities included nature walks around the Trust for Nature property, guided walks with Sue to view native vegetation and Mallee Fowl nests, a visit to southern part of the Big Desert, a scavenger hunt, the annual visit by the Easter Bilby and a camp concert.

Cup Weekend Camp – Baw Baw National Park

We stayed at Edski lodge in the ski village. Activities included visiting Mushroom rocks and Walhalla and a talk from a Baw Baw frog research team member.

Report Claire Ferguson.



Enjoying the snow at Mt. Baw Baw National Park, cup weekend camp.



Junior's Group Photo.



Scavenger hunt.

**All photos by
Scott Ferguson.**

Below - Ponding at Jells Park.



Examining samples on Queenscliff marine excursion.





Botany Group

The Botany Group has continued to attract informative and interesting speakers. The group wish to acknowledge the effort taken by the speakers and members who made the year's activities interesting and enjoyable. A special thank you to Heather Eadon for assisting in arranging speakers and setting up the hall for meetings.

Details of the speakers for 2017 are set out below.

Dr Jeff Yugovic presented on "When predators go missing: native mammal herbivore imbalance in south east Australia". Jeff observed the vegetation in an area of the Mornington Peninsula over several years and noticed that after continued fox control, the trees in the area were overly grazed, became stressed and many died and so were no longer able to provide habitat. Jeff showed us how to recognise the difference in over-browsing by ring-tail possums and brushtail possums. He argued that in circumstances like these, there was an argument for not baiting foxes, as foxes were needed to keep the number of possums in check, in the absence of other predators.

Sue Bendel presented on the flora of Annuello Flora and Fauna Reserve in the mallee. Sue organised the presentation by family and showed the common species which would be easily observed on a visit to the reserve. Some important threatened species were also shown. Thank you to the late Russell Best who provided many of the photos for the presentation.

Dr Ken Walker, entomologist and founder of Museum Victoria's Bowerbird project, introduced members to the use of Bowerbird, an online data base administered by Melbourne Museum. Ken explained to us how we could access Bowerbird and observe natural history as varied as fungi, marine invertebrates, flora and fauna. Information on Bowerbird includes the name of the organism, its classification, location and one or more photos. Ken demonstrated the use of Bowerbird, showing us that the data base had several collections of data which may consist of observations from certain locations only. Ken also showed us how we could create our own collections of organisms and add them to other collections entries. Entries are verified and periodically added into the Atlas of Living Australia.

Dr Matt Dell presented on his PhD, "Botanical history and geography across Bass Strait, Part 2". He had presented Part 1 earlier in the year at a Manningham environment seminar. Matt did a quick review of Part 1 and then explained that there was an east-west divide in vegetation on either side of Wilsons Promontory due to the historic land bridge to Tasmania when sea levels were lower. Vegetation was more similar north-south from the Victorian coastline to Flinders Island, than it was east-west on either side of Wilsons Promontory.

He included in his presentation historic photos of vegetation on Flinders Island that were taken on early survey expeditions by members of the FNCV and which were some of the first photos published in the Victorian Naturalist. Referring to the photos he also gave us a fascinating account of the early FNCV surveys.

Dr Andrew Drinnan presented on Systems Gardens at the University of Melbourne. He explained that System Gardens were set up as teaching gardens for apothecary students and also had plants positioned in families and genera to teach botany students. Andrew had many

photos and diagrams of the Systems Gardens, and explained their historic significance and how they have changed over time as land has been removed for building construction. These gardens can be visited during normal university hours or on university open days.

John Harris presented on "Wildflowers of the Kwongan." John took us on armchair travel through this botanical region of Western Australia, with his magnificent photos of spectacular wildflowers. Definitely an area worth a visit during the spring.

Linda Parker presented on the findings of her PhD, "Aspects of the ecology of the Tall Astelia," a threatened rainforest herb. Linda studied populations of this plant found in rainforest gullies in the Central Highlands and the Otways. She explained that these clumping plants had very low recruitment in the forests with one reason being the lack of light, as they were only able to grow faster and reproduce where trees had fallen and there was a gap in the canopy. As a treat, Linda brought some pots of Tall Astelia which members of the botany group were able to take home. Linda pointed out that Tall Astelia kept in pots was able to reproduce easily by means of pups.



Systems Garden, University of Melbourne. Photo from University of Melbourne Website.

Dr Desley Whisson presented on "The life of the southern koala, diet, habitat and other interesting stuff". Desley focused on the trees that were used for food and shelter as well as some interesting examples of populations of koalas in different regions of Victoria. Unfortunately, many populations are in decline due to fragmentation of habitats, resulting in starvation as their feed trees become stressed and die. The "other interesting stuff" consisted of footage of a male koala chasing a female down a tree but who was unsuccessful in his attempt to mate. Desley provided us all with a question sheet about koalas, where we were supposed to call out bingo on completion of the answers. Many of us completed the sheet, but no one called out bingo as we were all enjoying the presentation too much to disturb it.

Thank you again to Karen Lester for assisting with the management of the Clyde-Tooradin disused railway Plains Grassland area. We did some monitoring of threatened species this year and the grasslands were looking good.

Sue Bendel, on behalf of the Botany Committee.



Day Group

Over the past year, the Day Group has again had a variety of speakers, as well as one excursion. Attendance at each meeting has been consistent, usually with twenty or more people present. Six of the nine gatherings have welcomed visitors or friends. There is an opportunity to meet and chat with others over morning tea prior to the talk and time for questions and discussion at the end. This year most of our speakers were from within the FNCV. As always, our grateful thanks go to those who generously volunteered their time to prepare and share their knowledge and experiences with us.

Day Group Program 2017

- February:** "Associations between birds and plants". Speaker Janet Hand from Birdlife Australia.
- March:** "*Florida, Bahamas & Mexico*". Speaker John Harris.
- April:** No meeting. Anzac Day.
- May:** A morning walk in the Dandenong Ranges. Leader Sally Bewsher.
- June:** "An introduction to Freshwater Protozoans". Speaker Maxwell Campbell.



Day Group lunching after their walk at Grants Reserve.
Photo Joan Broadberry.

- July:** "The natural history of Western Australia's Abrolhos Islands, (where the Batavia was wrecked in 1647)". Speaker Joan Broadberry.
- August:** Members' morning. "Images from Sri Lanka." Speakers: Hazel and Edward Brentnall. "Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways". Speaker Rob Hamson.
- Sept:** "Melbourne's Boggy Beginnings". Speaker Gary Presland.
- Oct:** "Fauna Monitoring with Remote Cameras". Speaker Robin Drury.
- Nov:** "Introduction to Marine Biology". Speaker John Eichler.

Thanks to Joan Broadberry who writes a summary of our monthly event for inclusion in Field Nats News, to Andy Brentnall for setting up the hall, to Wendy Gare who regularly puts out morning tea and to Gary Presland and

Max Campbell for their invaluable assistance with technical matters.

Joan and I always welcome suggestions and ideas for new speakers or activities, so please approach us if you would like to help or know of someone who might contribute to the program.

All FNCV members are most welcome at the Day Group, along with friends, family and visitors. We meet on the fourth Tuesday morning of the month, February to November. Presentations or excursions are directed towards learning more about an aspect of natural history in the company of friendly, like-minded people. We do hope you can join us during 2018.

Sally Bewsher.



Bookshop

The FNCV bookshop provides a 20% discount on the recommended retail price of most books, covering a range of topics associated with natural environment. The bookshop aims to provide a service to existing members but also to act as an incentive for new members to join the club. Each year the shop has gone from strength to strength, due to the support from members, so many thanks to all those who have purchased from us.

Across the year the FNCV Bookshop sold a total of 407 books that ranged across 181 different titles covering nine broad topics. An extensive range of books covering various aspects of natural history were available from the shelves including 18 aquatic, 26 children's, 45 flora, 59 fauna, 5 fungi, 3 geology, 28 invertebrate, 7 places, 43 general and 34 special/second-hand. A total of 107 new titles were added in 2017 to the selection available. Bookshop profit for the year was \$4,968.

As space is limited and it is impossible to stock a copy of all titles that are of interest to members, orders have been encouraged. The full selection can be viewed from the bookshop catalogue. A printed copy is available to view at the clubrooms and is also available on the FNCV website. New or upcoming titles that have either been recently published or were not previously available from the bookshop are promoted in the FNN, keeping members up-to-date on the latest releases.

The FNCV Bookshop provided support to the two FNCV Symposiums' "Marine Biodiversity in the 21st Century", held in August and "Birds of Victoria", held in October. A specific catalogue was created for each event that included books relevant to these areas that are not generally stocked, with discounted prices offered to all attendees. A total of 69 books were sold over the combined four days.

A small collection of second-hand books is available for sale at the clubrooms that originated from the kind donation, by a long time member, of a much loved book collection that was not able to be kept due to the need to down-size. The books are of relatively recent editions, are all in good condition, are across a range of topics and are individually priced. The donation of second hand books from members that are of reasonable value will be accepted by the bookshop. Contact Kathy at bookshop@fncv.org.au.

Kathy Himbeck, Bookshop Manager.



Fauna Survey Group

Surveys and Field Trips

In 2017 the Fauna Survey Group conducted 13 surveys in locations around Victoria and had speakers at each of our 11 monthly meetings. In October we held a bird symposium, where the attendees listened to 13 speakers present on an interesting range of avian-related topics. We thank all of our presenters for giving us their time and sharing their passion, research and knowledge.

Our partnership with the Science and Management Effectiveness Branch of Parks Victoria continued in 2017 with surveys for grassland species at Baal Baal Nature Conservation Reserve near Kerang, for threatened mallee birds and other fauna, at Annuello in northern Victoria and for Swamp Skink (*Lissolepis coventryi*) on the Mornington Peninsula.

Baal Baal NCR saw the group burning the midnight oil in search of elusive grassland species such as Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*), Hooded Scaly-foot (*Pygopus schraderi*) and Fat-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*). Of the three only the Fat-tailed Dunnart (a near-threatened species) was recorded. However three other threatened species were found as well as another 14 species not previously recorded in the reserve.

The survey at Annuello was the subject of a Parks Victoria video as well as an ABC radio show. In addition to our flirtation with media stardom, we witnessed the breeding activity of a pair of Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), the homeward journey of hundreds of Regent Parrots (*Polytelisanthoepus onarchoides*) and the flocking of some 400 woodswallows.

On the Mornington Peninsula we used cameras, Elliott traps and roof tiles and discovered Swamp Skinks at five of our nine sites.

As well as Parks Victoria, other organisations we worked with in 2017 were the Cardinia Environment Coalition (Beaconsfield NCR), Southern Ark (Cape Conran) and Friends of the Winton Wetlands.

At Beaconsfield Reservoir our Elliott and bat traps, as well as our cameras and incidental surveys detected 51 vertebrate species (three amphibians, 31 birds and 17 mammals). In addition a White-lipped Snake (*Drysdalia coronoides*) was recorded near the creek at the northern end of the reservoir during the camera collection. At Cape Conran we assisted Southern Ark in checking traps as well as putting out remote cameras. As well as the usual suspects we were rewarded with trapping Long-nosed Potoroos (*Potoroustridactyl stridactylus*). Our cameras detected an Eastern Pygmy Possum (*Cercartetus nanus*) and at our night-time trip to the local wetlands we came across a few Green and Golden Bell Frogs (*Litoria aurea*). At Winton Wetlands, where we used funnel trap lines, we captured and released a number of reptile species including Eastern Brown Snake (*Pseudonaja textilis*), Dwyers Snake (*Parasuta dwyeri*), Red-bellied Black Snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*), Southern Rainbow Skink (*Carliat etradactyla*) and Boulenger's Skink (*Morethia boulengeri*).

Other surveys were at Braeside Park and Rushworth State Forest.

At Braeside Park we followed up a previous survey, but used different techniques including cameras on a drift fence with

the aim of detecting reptiles. The survey enabled us to add Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*), Common Blue-tongued Lizard (*Tiliqua scincoides*), Common Long-necked Turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*) and Eastern Three-lined Skink (*Acritoscincus duperreyi*) to the list we had developed. The drift fence cameras detected five species of reptile, four mammals and three birds.

On the annual May trip to Rushworth we found Sugar Gliders and Brush-tailed Phascogales (*Phascogale tapoatafa*) still making themselves at home in our nest-boxes.

Speakers and Meetings

- **February** - Stefanie Rog, PhD Candidate, Monash University, "Terrestrial vertebrates in mangroves along the East Coast of Australia - discussion of a novel field design and findings".
- **March** - Zac Lewis, Development Executive, Australian Wildlife Conservancy, "The work of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy".
- **April** - Simon Verdon, PhD candidate, La Trobe University "Mallee emu-wren and fire: a balancing act".
- **May** - Robin Drury, Fauna Survey Group, "Using cameras to survey for arboreal mammals – the work of the Fauna Survey Group, FNCV".
- **June** - Nick Bradsworth, "Spatial ecology of the Powerful Owl".



Green & Golden Bell Frog. Photo Ray Gibson.

- **July** - Dr Matt Anderson, Oklahoma State University, "Discussion of the natural history of the west Texas (USA) ecotone, with emphasis on lizard behavioural ecology".
- **August** - Dr Jeff Yugovic, Consultant Ecologist, "When predators go missing: native mammal herbivore imbalance and the predator-prey ecology of southeast Australia".
- **September** - John Harris, Fauna Survey Group, "Fauna of Currawong Bush Park and 100 Acres Reserve".
- **October** - Ruby Albury, Fauna Survey Group, "The amphibians of Costa Rica".
- **November** - Mark Smith, Fauna Survey Group, "Journey through Southern Africa".
- **December** - Robin Drury, Fauna Survey Group, "Fauna Survey Group – done and dusted for 2017".

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)



White-lipped Snake. Photo Nick Gale.

Symposium Speakers

- Dean Ingerswen, Threatened Bird Program manager, Bird-life Australia, "The Regent Honeyeater Report".
- Max Campbell, President FNCV, "Animal ethics issues in research".
- Martin Scuffins, Raptor handler and biologist, Leigh Valley Hawk and Owl Sanctuary, "Nurturing the Fierce – the rehabilitation and conservation of birds of prey".
- Cecilia Imre, Environmental Coordinator, Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, "Helmeted Honeyeater recovery program – past, present and future".
- Alex Maisey, PhD Candidate, La Trobe University, "Conservation of the Superb Lyrebird on the urban fringe of Melbourne".
- Renée Mead, Project Officer, Beach-nesting Birds – Bird-life Australia, "Beach-nesting Birds Project – Then and Now".
- Peter Menkhorst, Principal Scientist, Arthur Rylah Institute, Author, "Producing the Australian Bird Guide".
- Dr. William Steele, Senior Wildlife Scientist, Melbourne Water, "Melbourne Water's Western Treatment Plant".



Swamp Skink. Photo Nick Gale.

- Bruce Robertson, Ornithologist and Retired Vet, "Cape Barren Geese".
- Nick Bradsworth, Deakin University Honours Graduate, "Urban Powerful Owl spatial ecology".
- Mike Honeyman, Ornithologist, Jacobs, "Results from a study of Melbourne's urban Eastern Yellow Robins".
- Simon Verdon, PhD Candidate, La Trobe University, "Saving the Mallee emu-wren: Translocations, burning and everything between".
- Dr. Mark Antos, Acting Manager, Science and Management Effectiveness, Parks Victoria, "The trials and tribulations of the Plains-wanderer and other fauna in a dynamic grassy landscape".

Robin Drury.



Microscopy Group

Over the past few months the Microscope Group have increased the collection of microscopes by over 40, due to the generous donation from Mr John Walsh and family of 'micrographia' website. With the microscopes we received many spare parts and associated microscope paraphernalia.

We were also excited to receive 35 dissecting microscopes from RMIT, in full working order, yet now obsolete due to digital technology.

Our group enjoyed sessions of micro videography of freshwater micro-invertebrates from ponds and stagnant waters, and terrestrial micro-invertebrates from soil, leaf litter mosses and garden plant infestations. It is a dangerous world down there for our exquisite and benign looking aquatic micro-invertebrates. Their gentle and entrancing movements hide their ultimate aim of hunt, capture, absorb! To view this process on the huge screen at 200x + is not for the faint-hearted.

Methods of catching their prey include ;

- excreting musilage which lures their prey,
- using inbuilt nets to catch prey,
- network of paralysing filaments,
- creating a water current directing the flow into their mouths,
- creeping up on their prey and engulfing them in their transparent bodies and slowly digesting them.

The following is a list of some of the micro-invertebrates we viewed. Photos and further information can be found on the internet and fabulous videos can be found on YouTube. Protozoa, Paramecium, Rotifers, Frontonia, Euglena, Diffugia, Ostracods and Tetrahymena.

An idea for 2018 is the possibility of botanical dissection workshops using basic homemade dissecting tools.

Phillipa Burgess.

**THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC:
REPORT BY COUNCIL. Year ended 31 December 2017**

The members of Council hereby submit the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2017 and the Income Statement for the year ended 31st December 2017 and report as follows:

1. 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>Commenced</i>
Maxwell Campbell	President	Retired	2013
Philippa Burgess	Vice President/Microscopy Councillor	Artist	2012
Barbara Burns	Treasurer/Secretary	Retired lecturer	2001
John Harris	Councillor	Wildlife consultant	2003
Andrew Brentnall	Councillor/Correspondence Officer	Retired engineer	2011
Audrey Falconer	Councillor	Public servant	1997
Ken Griffiths	Councillor	Retired teacher	2017
Judith Sise	Councillor	Teacher	2017
	<i>Special Interest Group Councillors</i>		
Joan Broadberry	Day Group Councillor	Retired teacher	2001
Leon Altoff	Marine Research Group Councillor	Analyst	1997
Geoff Lay	Fungi Group Councillor	Retired	2016
Susan Bendel	Botany Group Councillor	Quality Assurance	2006
Patricia Amaya	Juniors Group Councillor	Doctor G.P.	2017
Ruth Hoskin	Geology Group Councillor	Retired	2012
Su Dempsey	Fauna Survey Group Councillor	Retired	2013
<i>Vacant</i>	Terrestrial invertebrates Gp Councillor		

2. The principal activities and objects of the Club are to stimulate interest in natural history and to preserve and protect Australian fauna and flora. No significant changes in the nature of those activities occurred during the reporting period.
3. The net profit of the Club for the year ended 31st December 2017 is \$10,296 (2016 \$8,442).
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 displayed in the Annual Report, there are no significant developments likely to affect the financial results of the Club.
7. During the financial year, no member of the Council has received or become entitled to receive any benefit by reason of a contract made by the Club with the councillor or with an entity of which the councillor is a member or in which the councillor has a substantial interest.

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

In the opinion of the members of Council,

- (a) The accompanying Income Statement is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial results of the Club for the year ended 31 December 2017.
- (b) The accompanying Statement of Assets and Liabilities is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Club as at 31 December 2017.
- (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 7th day of April 2018 in accordance with a resolution of Council.



Maxwell Campbell – President



Barbara Burns - Treasurer

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Income Statement year ended 31/12/17

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Membership	38,531	40,586
Bookshop Profit	4,969	3,457
Hall Hire	3,634	4,844
Profit Marine Biodiversity Symposium	2,432	
Seminar (Birds of Victoria 2017)	531	924
Sale FNCV Products	-87	200
Non-Member Levy	118	347
Copyright Royalties - Vic Nat. & Sale of Back issues	3,637	1,744
Fund Raising	213	274
Sundry Income	44	295
2nd Hand Book Sale	1,710	
Goodwill Wine	421	169
Interest & Franking Credits from Investments	9,299	9,816
General Donations and Fungi e-book (\$320)	<u>2,959</u>	<u>5,128</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>68,411</u>	<u>67,784</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Victorian Naturalist - Printing & Postage	8,440	10,113
Publications		
Newsletter - Printing & Postage	2,172	2,725
Calendar of events - Printing & Postage	1,610	1,630
Junior Naturalist - Printing and Postage	<u> </u>	<u>456</u>
Total Publications Expenses	<u>12,222</u>	<u>14,924</u>
Other Expenses		
Bank Fees, Credit Card, Eftpos	639	684
Depreciation Expense	3,492	4,132
Donations Outgoing		200
Gas, Electricity, Water	699	780
Hall Cleaning	948	832
Insurance	1,292	1,560
Internet Provider & Website Expenses	531	553
Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies & Christmas Exps	232	247
Library Expenses & Subscriptions	887	781
Non-Library Subscriptions	348	168
Office Postage	1,144	1,090
Office Stationery, Printing etc	900	1,268
Office Telephone	813	750
Repairs & Maintenance	1,081	790
Rates - Gardenia St & Maryborough Property	516	511
Hall Alarm	458	458
FNCV Mugs	336	
Sundry Expenses	59	340
Purchase of Software	112	52
First Aid Course	570	
Workers' Compensation Insurance	185	179
Wages, Salaries & Superannuation	<u>30,651</u>	<u>29,043</u>
<u>Total Other Expenses</u>	<u>45,893</u>	<u>44,418</u>
Total Expenses	<u>58,115</u>	<u>59,342</u>
<u>OPERATING PROFIT</u>	<u>\$10,296</u>	<u>\$8,442</u>

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31/12/17

ASSETS	2017	2016
Current Assets	\$	\$
Cash at Bank - Note (3)	24,771	26,457
Environment Fund A/c - Bank Melbourne	616	616
Petty Cash - Note (3a)	90	50
Sundry Debtors Bookshop	1,504	661
Stock Club Jackets	0	280
Inventories (Books for Sale) - Note (4)	<u>7,735</u>	<u>5,958</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>34,716</u>	<u>34,022</u>
Non-Current Assets		
<u>Investments</u>		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits -	250,004	235,702
Shares Listed on the Stock Exchange - Note (5)	<u>54,611</u>	<u>54,611</u>
	<u>304,615</u>	<u>290,313</u>
<u>Library Holdings</u> - Note (6)	<u>50,321</u>	<u>50,321</u>
<u>Property, Plant and Equipment</u>		
Maryborough Property - Note (7)	13,400	13,400
Clubhouse at Valuation - Note (7)	769,000	769,000
Clubhouse Improvements - Note (7)	57,958	
Equipment at Cost Less Accumulated Depreciation - Note (7)	<u>6,819</u>	<u>10,311</u>
	<u>847,177</u>	<u>850,667</u>
Total Non-current Assets	<u>1,202,113</u>	<u>1,191,301</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$1,236,829</u>	<u>\$1,225,323</u>
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors Victorian Naturalist	1,062	1,184
Pay as You go Payable	718	417
GST Paid - GST Collected	70	-64
Bookshop account GST	32	386
Owing by Bookshop Account	-43	164
Science Talent Search Fund in Memory of Noel Schleiger	0	1,000
Science Talent Search Fund FNCV	4,000	5,000
SEANA Camp Healesville - Amts paid to be reimbursed	1,452	
Australian Natural History Medallion - Loan Account	6,788	6,345
FNCV Environment Fund - Loan Account	<u>6,563</u>	<u>5,474</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	<u>20,642</u>	<u>\$19,906</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>1,216,187</u>	<u>\$1,205,417</u>
Members' Accumulated Funds		
Current Year - Profit	10,296	8,442
General Fund brought forward - Note (8)	533,236	524,793
Bequests Dorothy Mahler (\$10,000), Fred Smith (\$10,000)	20,000	20,000
Marine Research Fund	25,434	25,434
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund - (Note 9)	11,979	11,506
FNCV Environment Fund	615	615
Asset Revaluation Reserve - Clubhouse	597,488	597,488
Asset Revaluation Reserve - General	15,093	15,093
FNCV Juniors	<u>2,046</u>	<u>2,046</u>
<u>TOTAL MEMBERS' ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	<u>\$1,216,187</u>	<u>\$1,205,417</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2017

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

(a) The financial report has been prepared on a modified accrual basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption.

(b) The requirements of Accounting Standards and other professional reporting requirements in Australia do not have mandatory applicability to The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated because it is not a "reporting entity". The Council has, however, prepared the financial report in accordance with relevant Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

(c) These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost and do not take into account changing money values except for the revaluation of some fixed assets, all of which are noted in the accounts.

(d) The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise specified.

(e) *Investments* - are valued either at cost less amounts written off for permanent diminution in the value of investments, or at Council valuation. Dividends and interest are brought to account when received.

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

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

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

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

2. No Remuneration has been received by councillors for the year ended 31 December 2017

	\$ 2017	\$ 2016
3. CASH		
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	15,511	19,590
Bookshop A/c Westpac Croydon	2,655	2,281
Bookshop Interest Bearing Account, Westpac Croydon	<u>6,605</u>	<u>4,586</u>
	<u>24,771</u>	<u>26,457</u>
3a. PETTY CASH, FNCV, \$50 + Petty Cash Bookshop \$40	<u>90</u>	<u>50</u>
4. STOCK OF BOOK for sale, at the lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>7,735</u>	<u>5,958</u>
5. SHARES LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE		
Shares in Australian Foundation, at cost	37,753	37,753
Shares in Argo Investments, at cost	<u>16,858</u>	<u>16,858</u>
	<u>54,611</u>	<u>54,611</u>
5(a) CURRENT MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS		
Shares in Australian Foundation - Market Value, 7300 x \$6.24	45,552	42,048
Shares in Argo Investments 2300 x \$7.95	<u>18,285</u>	<u>17,158</u>
	<u>63,837</u>	<u>59,206</u>
6. LIBRARY BOOKS AND JOURNALS - At Council Valuation 23/5/95 plus additions at cost	<u>50,321</u>	<u>50,321</u>
7. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES and EQUIPMENT		
Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough- at valuation	13,400	13,400
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn - at valuation	769,000	769,000
Improvements - at cost	57,958	
Plant and Equipment - at cost	\$58,844	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(52,025)</u>	<u>10,310</u>
	<u>\$847,177</u>	<u>\$850,667</u>
8. GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward	533,236	524,794
Add Net Profit for 2017	<u>10,296</u>	<u>8,442</u>
<u>Balance at 31 December 2017</u>	<u>543,532</u>	<u>533,236</u>
9. SPECIFIC FUNDS		
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund Balance Brought Forward	11,506	4,495
Received \$3,548, less paid out for equipment \$3,075	<u>473</u>	<u>7,011</u>
<u>Balance 31 December 2017</u>	<u>11,979</u>	<u>11,506</u>

**The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December
2017**

	<u>Inflow +, Outflow (-)</u>	
	2017	2016
CASH FLOWS OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	\$	\$
Net inflow from Operations (Note 1)	11,067	-1,670
GST (net change)	<u>134</u>	<u>-574</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Operations	<u>11,201</u>	<u>-2,244</u>
 CASH FLOWS INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Equipment Purchased	0	-988
Transfer to Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	<u>-14,302</u>	<u>-6,325</u>
Net Cash Outflow from Investing Activities	<u>-14,302</u>	<u>-7,313</u>
 CASH FLOWS FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Increase in Fauna Survey Group Equipment Fund	471	7,011
Decrease in Science Talent Search Funds	-2,000	4,000
Increase in Bookshop Petty Cash	-40	
Increase in Loan to SEANA	1,452	
Increase in Loans to Environment Fund & ANHM	<u>1,532</u>	<u>1,357</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Financing Activities	<u>1,415</u>	<u>12,368</u>
Net Cash Outflow for the Year	<u>-\$1,686</u>	<u>\$2,811</u>
CHANGE IN FNCV CHEQUE A/C's BALANCE for year	<u>-\$1,686</u>	<u>\$2,811</u>
 Bendigo Bank Cheque Acc Balance Start of Year	19,590	16,518
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance End of Year	<u>15,511</u>	<u>19,590</u>
Net decrease in Bendigo Bank Account	<u>-4,079</u>	<u>3,072</u>
Increase in Westpac Bookshop accounts	<u>2,393</u>	<u>-261</u>
<u>Total decrease in Cash for year</u>	<u>-\$1,686</u>	<u>\$2,811</u>

Note 1. Reconciliation of Profit with Cash Flow from Operations

Net Profit	10,297	8,442
add back depreciation	3,492	4,132
increase in inventories /decrease in club jackets (\$280)	-1,497	-92
increase in bookshop debtors & amount owing by bookshop	-1,404	-261
decrease in interest income owing	0	2,621
decrease in hall hire receipts received in advance	0	-2,323
decrease in trade creditors	-122	-1,546
increase in Pay as You Go tax owing	301	122
decrease in grants held and unspent	<u>0</u>	<u>-12,765</u>
<u>Net Cash outflow from Operations</u>	<u>\$11,067</u>	<u>-\$1,670</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC

Scope

I have audited the attached special purpose financial report comprising the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and Notes to the Financial Statements, of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated, for the year ended 31 December 2017. The Club's Council is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Club's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

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

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

I have relied on the data for years prior to that ending 31 December 2017 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.

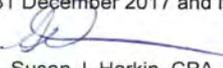
Qualification

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 2017 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:


Susan J. Harkin, CPA
Honorary Auditor

7/4/ 2018
Blackburn