

# The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.

## Annual Report



Understanding Our Natural World  
Est. 1880

Year Ending 31 December 2020

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INDEX	page
President's Report	1-3
FNCV Administration	3-4
Terrestrial Invertebrates Group	4
Field Nats News	5
FNCV Environment Fund	6
Australian Natural History Medallion	6
Geology Group	7
Marine Research Group	8
Day Group and Microscopy	8
Botany Group	9
Fungi Group	9
Bookshop	9
Juniors Group	10-11
Library and Archives,	11
Fauna Survey Group	12-13
<i>The Victorian Naturalist</i>	14
Report by Council	15
Income Statement	16
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	17-18
Cash Flow Statement	19
Audit Report	20

## President's Report

### Introduction

My sixth year in the role of President of the FNCV has been interesting to say the least. COVID-19 has certainly forced us to change virtually everything we do and how we do it. Many of the activities we have accepted as normal and enjoyable for the past 140 years have been dramatically impacted by necessary and essential rules with new safety requirements. As a Club we have responded decisively and effectively to the novel *modus operandi*. First and foremost, Council has placed the health and safety of our membership as its highest priority. All of you responded positively and cooperatively to all of the changes and restrictions we have needed to embrace despite the associated frustration and disappointment. The rapid adoption, acceptance and implementation of new technology such as Zoom, has enabled us to continue our delivery of meetings and guest presentations for the SIGs and has facilitated the uninterrupted conduct of Council business and a delayed Annual General Meeting. In one way or another Zoom and online meetings will now remain a feature of our future operation. It has also streamlined the conduct of business associated with the Australian Natural History Medallion. We are planning to run field excursions and restore physical meetings in the hall for 2021 as soon as restrictions permit it and we are able to safely run them. This will involve total compliance with the cur-



Hover Fly.

Photo Max  
Campbell.



Community education in the You Yangs, 2020,  
**Nature Stewards.** (Photo care of Nature Stewards).

rent COVID safe rules. Contractors are being engaged to upgrade the hand washing and drying facilities in the toilets to meet current standards of hygiene. This will also lower the risk of transmission of colds and influenza. The audio-visual equipment in the hall was further upgraded this year but has yet to be unpacked and installed. That will be done in February next year depending upon the COVID-19 restrictions.

I remain dedicated to the successful and safe delivery of the Club's activities and have continued to attend as many of them as possible albeit, many now via Zoom. In spite of the severe challenges of 2020, the Club is thriving and our role in the community is increasing. As ever, our variety of activities involve many dedicated people so it is not possible to cover all events or to thank everyone for the contributions they make. If I have not mentioned you or your activity in the following summary let me assure you that, as always, your efforts are greatly appreciated by me and your fellow Club members. Details of the year's news and highlights are set out below.

### **Biodiversity Symposium**

Unfortunately, under the extremely unpredictable circumstances we faced it was not possible to organise the planned Symposium for 2020. We are looking at the feasibility of holding our next Symposium in 2021.

### **The Australian Natural History Medallion**

The 2020 Australian Natural History Medallion was awarded to Craig Morley, Geelong Field Naturalists Club for his contribution to Ornithology, Conservation and Education. The FNCV extends its congratulations to Craig.

### **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**

The Special Interest Groups provide many interesting meetings, presenters and activities every year and, though face-to-face meetings were not possible during most of 2020 and excursions were limited, we are indebted to the hardworking SIG leaders who did their best, through Zoom and in other innovative ways to keep their group running. The Juniors' Group, in particular, is thriving under the guidance of Dr Patricia Amaya Cruz who has continued as volunteer co-ordinator. I thank Patricia on behalf of the FNCV. Michael Lyons now represents the Marine Research Group on Council replacing Leon and Audrey whom we thank for their many years of input.

### **FNCV Website and Facebook**

The FNCV website is still our principal portal for the world to contact us and a place where we can showcase our capabilities and facilities and highlight our activities. Once again, I thank Jurrie Hubregtse who has continued to successfully run and maintain the site.

While our subscription membership has remained fairly stable our Facebook membership has risen to around 17,000+ interested followers, increasing our visibility and profile in the broader community. Thanks to John Harris, Andrej Hohmann, Wendy Gare and Claire Ferguson for their continued efforts with this online forum. It has also proven very useful for advertising our Zoom presentations to a wider audience.

### **The Victorian Naturalist, FNN and Library**

I wish to thank Dr Gary Presland for his continuing and

tireless work as Chief Editor of The Victorian Naturalist and for his ongoing contribution as FNCV Librarian. On behalf of the Club I would also like to thank all those involved in the production of the Field Nats News and The Victorian Naturalist for their diligent work under difficult conditions. The workload and time commitment is enormous and both publications are critical to our FNCV culture and activities. COVID-19 restrictions demanded that adjustments had to be made to do the work remotely rather than in the office but Dr Gary Presland, Dr Maria Gibson, Sue Forster, Virgil Hubregtse, Joan Broadberry and Sally Bewsher continued to produce timely publications of the highest standard.

During lockdown the Field Naturalists News was well-received and enjoyed by all and continued to keep us entertained and in touch with Nature during isolation.

### **Council Members and Office-bearers**

Council, as the governing body of the FNCV, bears full responsibility for all of the Club's activities and its corporate existence. The attendance at Council meetings over the past year was very high, due, in part, to the convenience of Zoom. Everyone on Council committed themselves to developing the skills and technology needed to successfully use the Zoom platform. I thank them all for a sterling effort and for rapidly adapting to considerable change at very short notice. As previously indicated, we were also able to successfully hold our Annual General Meeting via Zoom.

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

For many years, Andy Brentnall and Brendan Murphy have both supported the Club and its activities and continue to do so. Once again, I thank them for their considerable financial and other contributions.

### **Bookshop**

Even COVID-19 did not stop us avid book buyers from using the bookshop. I must congratulate Kathy Himbeck for her outstanding management under which this operation continues to prosper and cater to the needs of the Club despite this years difficulties. Thank you, Kathy and John.

### **Administration Officer**

There are not enough words to describe the brilliant contribution that Wendy Gare makes to keep the FNCV running so smoothly. We are privileged to have an incredibly resourceful, dedicated and efficient Administration Officer who worked cheerfully, without complaint, through the difficulties and isolation of the past 12 months. Thank you, Wendy! I would also like to thank Colin Gare for his contribution over the year.

### **Community Participation.**

Community programs were necessarily limited during 2020 because of the COVID-19 epidemic and enforced lockdowns. We maintained our commitment to the Nature Stewards Program which rapidly adapted to a Zoom-based delivery mode. 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 role as a significant and productive member of the community. Some of our members have worked with the community via Zoom.

### LabRats

Through the Juniors Group, the FNCV has become involved in LabRats. This is another important way in which we are engaged in community education; in this instance with children. The LabRats Science Club has been creating opportunities for bright young minds, aged between 10 to 15, and passionate researchers (and naturalists) to interact meaningfully. The club is administrated through PRIMESCI (Swinburne University) and is housed at the Australian Synchrotron. The club was started 11 years ago because Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich wanted to address the unmet needs of children who were keenly interested in science. Many like-minded researchers, scientists, naturalists, engineers, and organisations from various fields have since joined LabRats on this journey to raise the bar and inspire the generations to come. I am very pleased that the FNCV is now involved in the programs. I extend my congratulations to Lydia Low and Patricia Amaya Cruz for their outstanding work and, in particular, with the FNCV Juniors Group.

### Nature Stewards

We have continued to enhance our role in educating the broader community on the importance of conserving, protecting and studying the amazing biodiversity of Australia. Nature Stewards, of which FNCV is a sponsor, had another successful year and is again set to continue and grow. Other sponsors include VNPA, ParksVic, DELWP and, increasingly, Local Government. Nature Stewards is proving to be a productive and collaborative community endeavour.

An overview of Nature Stewards 2020 activity is:

- 7 programs were run across Melbourne, Geelong, Melton, and Manningham.
- All ran successfully online, 2 programs only (regional) had the opportunity for small group field sessions.
- 132 alumni (of 146 who started), retention at 90%.
- Age ranged from 18 - 79 yrs.
- Average program satisfaction, 6.5 / 7.
- 60% reported an increase in nature connections and confidence to take part in volunteering.
- 40% reported a positive change in behaviour towards starting or continuing volunteering.
- 30% reported an increase in well-being.
- Over 45% reported an increase in connection with the local Aboriginal and wider community.

A nice way to round things out is a quote from a student:

*"This program is an excellent, broad introduction to the local/ Victorian environment and the significant issues it faces, along with the many ways that we can assist in its protection. The program has connected and fleshed out bits of prior knowledge I had, and will lead me into more thorough reading of books and other publications, from those recommended over the ten weeks. What I have really appreciated about the course is the bringing together of so much useful information, that might have otherwise taken me years to pick up by attending one-off events, or occasional reading. A very convenient package!"*

*"Thank so much for offering this in Geelong in a very accessible way – no exams etc, good entry level information, great facilitator and presenters."* Margot, Geelong, Spring 2020.

It is likely that COVID-19 will cause more inconvenience in 2021 but I have no doubt that the FNCV will continue to cope and adapt to any challenges that arise, as it has always done. Once again, I thank you all for the privilege of being elected President of the FNCV for a sixth year.

**Maxwell Campbell, President**



## Administration

The FNCV office has felt the force of COVID restrictions for most of the year. The publication of *The Victorian Naturalist* journal was fortunately a "permitted activity" under the COVID rules which therefore allowed the Administration Officer to attend the Club as a solo worker whose work could not be completed from home. Consequently Club members were able to receive all of their normal publications via the office from the editors of the journal and the Field Nats News, who were all diligently working from home. All of the other normal duties such as subscription activities and account keeping were able to be processed in a very lonely office and echoing hall. Unfortunately my assistant Andy Brentnall wasn't allowed to attend and he was sadly missed.



Wendy Gare.

### Publications

Early in the year our Field Nats News collation had to be suspended, so 15 of the 41 members who did not have an email address kindly agreed to receive the newsletter electronically using the email of a family member or friend. The remainder received a paper copy printed in the office so that they didn't miss any issues. By the end of 2020 all 81 members who prefer the FNN to be posted to them are back to receiving the paper copy as they did pre-COVID.

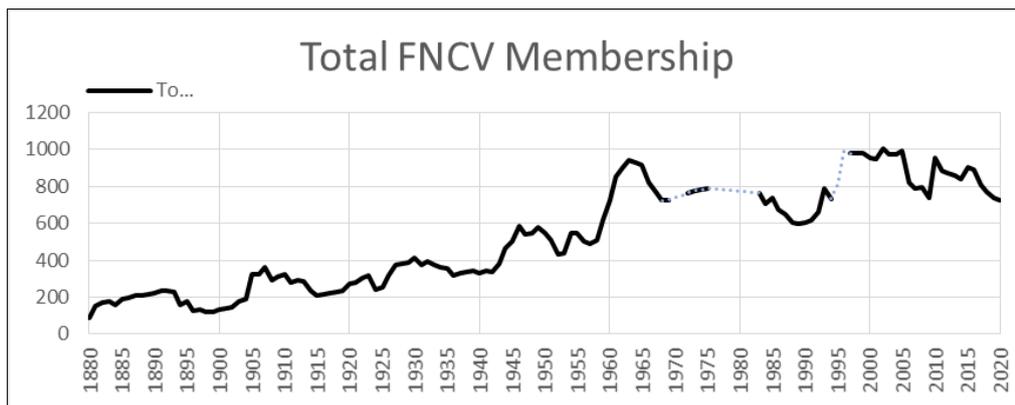
During 2020 the number of members having *The Victorian Naturalist* emailed has increased by 5% to 58%. Of the remaining 42%, three quarters do have an email address, but still prefer to receive the hard copy. Hopefully those members will become more accustomed to reading journals on-line and, over time, will swap to email which will save a considerable amount of paper, printing and postage.

*The Junior Naturalist*, the newsletter of our Juniors Group, is now being emailed to 47 families. The Juniors have moved with the times, and no printed newsletters are produced.

**Membership**

Membership, as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, was 726, only 13 members down from last year. The decline in memberships slowed during 2020 and, at the time of writing this report in

March 2021 memberships are steadily increasing. I thought you might enjoy this graph showing numbers of FNCV memberships since the Club's inception in 1880 which I have collated with help from our archivist, Dr Gary Presland. No records could be found of the total numbers for several years during the 1970s to 1990s.



**Hall Hire.**

Our hall hire income has plummeted due to COVID restrictions as only very few meetings were held early in the year, prior to lockdown. Most of the hire fees were reimbursed, leaving net revenue from hirers of \$373.

**Promotion**

Only the February to May edition of the Calendar of Events, which is normally produced three times per year, was published, and most of the events listed in it had to be cancelled. To keep in touch with our members, and to provide some naturalist reading during lockdown, we emailed them the newsletters of other naturalist clubs from various states and other Victorian clubs. These were well received, instigating much positive feedback.

**Website and Facebook**

Our website, looked after by webmaster Jurrie Hubregtse, is very informative and our Facebook Group, by December 2020, had increased to over 17,000 members. The Facebook Group has a flow of interesting photos and identification of flora, fauna and fungi by members. The moderators have been careful to keep discussions limited to educational, family friendly topics and language, and to avoid inflammatory discussions. New rules for group members were introduced in the middle of the year to help keep the discussions in line. Thank you to the moderators for the many, many hours they spent looking after the group: John Harris, Clare Ferguson and Andrej Hohmann.

There were no festivals or symposia in 2020 due to COVID, and no fundraising events were held. The Council meetings were all on Zoom, and it was a pleasure to chat to the Councillors once a month. My thanks to our President Max Campbell for his guidance via many phone calls through the year – in fact, leading remotely.

**Wendy Gare, Administration Officer**



**Terrestrial Invertebrates Group**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Terrestrial Invertebrate Group held no formal meetings and had four field trips only, January 19<sup>th</sup> to Warburton, February 2<sup>nd</sup> to Birdland, Belgrave, 16<sup>th</sup> February to Toolangi and 1<sup>st</sup> March to Westerfolds. Hopefully we will be able to return to normal activities in 2021. Thanks to Reiner Richter for organising and leading the excursions in 2020 under very trying circumstances.

**Maxwell Campbell**



A katydid photographed at Birdland. Max Campbell.

**Thanks to Barbara Burns for the production of the 2020 FNCV Annual Report.**

## Field Nats News

In 2020 11 issues of Field Nats News (FNN) were published, running from number 304 to 314 inclusive.

The first three issues, 304 to 306, followed the usual format with a calendar of events for the month, members' observations, library and bookshop news, brief reports from SIG's taken from council minutes, etc. Reiner Richter contributed reports on four Terrestrial Invertebrates Group excursions and I summarised two Day Group meetings.

FNN 306 was almost complete, when everything changed. On the 16th March 2020 the president and Council sent an email to members cancelling all FNCV meetings and excursions because of the declared COVID-19 pandemic. We put a slash over the April 2020 calendar in FNN 306 and cancelled collation.



Sally, Wendy and Joan. Photo Gary Presland.

Many things were different for the remainder of 2020. The editorial team could no longer work together at Blackburn. Wendy Gare was still able to come into the office, but Sally Bewsher and I had to adjust to working from home. We learned to communicate with each other by long phone calls, even to the extent of Sally and I doing remote proofreading and corrections. Technology helped a great deal. For example, Wendy found a way of sending large publisher documents using a program called Wettransfer. It was not ideal, but working from home did allow me to spend more time on the newsletter.

FNN 306 and the next eight issues of FNN had to be sent out by email as the collation team could not meet. Members who wanted a paper version were asked to get a relative or friend to print it for them. Being fully digital had advantages. We saved on printing and postage, but most importantly, not having to send FNN to the printers, gave us an extra week to work on it. Also the newsletter was not limited to 12 pages, and could be any size and even have an uneven number of pages.

Issues 307 to 309 were partly filled by publishing reports from SIG activities held earlier in the year. Many thanks to John Eichler for his two articles on surveys undertaken by the Marine Research Group in the Corner Inlet and Port Campbell areas. Also thanks to

Reiner for a TIG report on Westerfolds Park and his discovery of *Aurisalpium sp blackwod*, a rare fungi. Thanks to Virgil Hubgretse for summarizing the meeting held at the Royal Botanic Gardens in March on the Red listing of Australian Fungi and to Andrej Hohmann for his comprehensive account of the Fauna Survey Group in *Hunt for the Plains Wanderer*.

From mid March the FNCV program almost ceased to operate and an attempt to compile a calendar of events from June to September 2020 was abandoned. Due to Victoria's first and second waves of COVID-19, the FNCV held no face-to-face events for the rest of the 2020, though some SIGs held meetings via Zoom. Thanks to Ruth Hoskin for reporting on the Zoom geology meetings. The monthly FNCV Council meeting, the AGM and Australian Natural History Medallion presentation were also held via Zoom and FNN was able to report on them. Special thanks to Max for the enormous amount of work he did in facilitating this.

The question to be faced was, would it be possible to continue to produce a newsletter for an organisation with a severely curtailed program? The answer was a resounding yes! A challenge to members to keep Field Nats News alive with their observations and nature notes was included in FNN 306. It evoked an immediate response, which continued throughout 2020. My inbox received a flood of members' observations, articles and images. Many were from those who had never before sent anything into FNN. The character of FNN changed, as a unique opportunity for field naturalists to share their knowledge and learn from each other opened up. It was something so positive we will try hard for it to continue.

Space allows me to detail only some of the longer contributions. Geoff Boyes wrote of biodiversity in his garden, Ian Temby of the rediscovery of *Rakalis* on his property, Virgil of the fungi in her garden, Sue Forster of the finding of a lost Yellow Box Woodland, Carol Page of a first ALA record of the European Tube Wasp and Reiner taught us about garden spiders. Wendy Clark wrote a delightful, four-part account with stunning images, titled, *Lifecycles and Behaviours in Blackburn Creeklands*, Barbara Burns produced a monthly nature quiz, John Harris provided a challenging crossword competition and entertained us with an account of how he stayed sane in lockdown. I took the opportunity to write an occasional column, *From the Editor* and, unsuccessfully (I think), tried to establish a members' photo page. I also wrote accounts of visits to Trin Warren Tam-boore, Royal Park, West Gate Park and Westerfolds Park.

Many thanks, in no particular order, to Joan Hales, Barbara Burns. Judy Smart, Patricia Amaya, Chaquen and Glelb Beliakov, Cecily Falkingham, Kaye Oddie, Michael Lyons, Carol Page, Julia Davis, Sally Bewsher, Sue Bendel, Anne Phefley, Edward Brentnall, Lauren Burns, Alan Monger, Ruth Ault, Val La May, Catherine Carlyle, Sue Tardif and Lois Martin for their many and varied natural history observations. Particular thanks to John Eichler, Reiner Richter and Wendy Clark who together provided a wealth of contributions.

**Joan Broadberry Editor**

## 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.

Donations of \$6,850 were received in 2020, including a large donation of \$3,000.

The projects supported in 2020 were:

- Bendigo Field Naturalists Club. 3 Motic Red 30S Microscopes for use by members and the public - \$1,000.
- Friends of Sassafras Creek. 4 Bushnell Trophy Cam Trail cameras to help confirm and extend the sightings of animals and birds along Sassafras Creek - \$900.
- Friends of Grove Street Reserve, Eltham. Habitat Restoration of Grove St. Reserve including creating chainsaw hollows and nest boxes and planting indigenous vegetation. The work is in cooperation with the Nillumbik Council - \$1,000.
- Kinglake Friends of the Forest and Wildlife of the Central Highlands (WOTCH). For each group an approved GPS unit was purchased for use in reporting threatened species to DELWP to stop timber harvesting in those location - \$1,359.

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

**Barbara Burns, Secretary**

## Australian Natural History Medallion

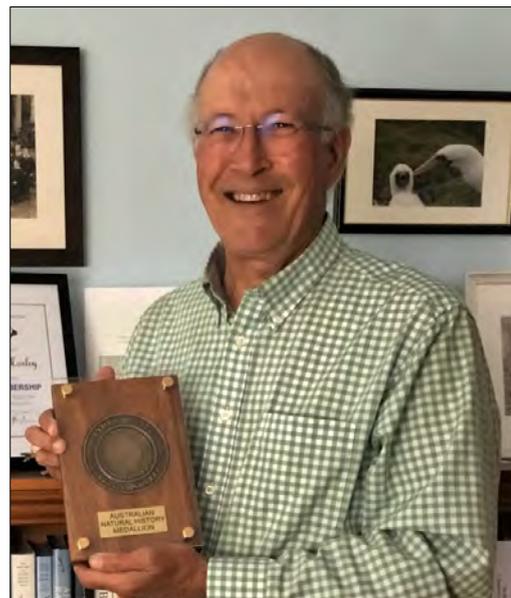
During 2020 the business relating to the ANHM was conducted via email and Zoom. This has opened up many opportunities for broader representation for organisations across Australia. The tyranny of distance can now be overcome and Zoom committee meetings will be a priority for 2021.

Craig Morley was awarded the 2020 Australian Natural History Medallion for his contribution to Ornithology, Conservation and Education. He was nominated by the Geelong Field Naturalists Club.

Craig has demonstrated a strong commitment to ornithology, conservation and the education of others over more than forty years. His highly developed knowledge of the birds of the Geelong Region and beyond has been refined by decades of study, experience in the field and interaction with the wider ornithological community.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions in Melbourne, it was not possible for the presentation of the medallion to be organised in the usual way through a reception hosted by the FNCV. Therefore, a combined Zoom meeting of the Geelong Field Naturalist Club (GFNC) and the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria was arranged to coincide with the normal GFNC December meeting. Invited guests were also present. Nick Williams, representing the Royal Society of Victoria, gave the citation. The medallion itself was then presented to Craig by Graham Possingham, Secretary of the GFNC. After the

presentation Craig gave an interesting talk based on his research, titled *"Australian Hobbies breeding in an urban parkland, some insights"*. From 1992-1994 Craig intensively studied a breeding pair of Australian Hobbies and has published a detailed report on the diet, prey partitioning and hunting behavior of these birds in Australian Field Ornithology.



Craig Morley with his medallion.  
Photo Max Campbell.

**Maxwell Campbell, Secretary, ANHM**



## Geology Group

As with all FNCV activities, our face-to-face Geology SIG meetings ground to a halt after the first talk of 2020. However, using Zoom, we were able to run three meetings at the end of the year which proved to be very popular. The electronic meetings were well attended with an average of 38 members and visitors and, using the Zoom program, allowed many of our non-Melbourne and infirm members to join in. Many thanks to Max Campbell for his proficiency in making sure the presentations went smoothly

We started the year in February with a presentation from an upcoming palaeontologist, Ruairidh Duncan, an Honours Student at Swinburne University, who spoke on the world-wide Polar Ornithopod Dinosaur fossil discoveries. He gave a comprehensive description of Polar Dinosaurs particularly the extensive finds in the Arctic. Similar dinosaurs have been found in Victorian Cretaceous (113-103 million years ago) sites in the Otways (the Eumella Formation and along the coast at Eric the Redsites), Gippsland (Flat Rock area where a part-fossil of a Qantasaurus was discovered) as well as the feathers and other evidence found at Koonwarra. These finds are similar to those in Queensland, NSW and New Zealand. At that time, Eastern Australia would have been covered in temperate rainforest and, particularly the southern states, would have been sited much further south and joined to the Antarctic.

In September, via Zoom, Professor Ian Rutherford spoke on River Avulsions (rivers which change course) worldwide and in Australia. He described these avulsions as either natural or man-made. Changes of course frequently occur on river flood plains where the water flow slows down and becomes subject to floods which may then alter the course of the river. Since river flats are often highly populated because of their rich soil, a sudden change in the river course can cause considerable hardship and have major legal implications. In addition to looking at recent examples (e.g. in India, Bangladesh, US and China), our speaker described local examples such as those on the Thompson and Murray Rivers.

In October, again via Zoom, Professor Susan Lawrence gave a fascinating talk on the effects of historic mining on Victoria's rivers. Her research found that copious amounts of sludge remain downstream from mining towns as a legacy of the intensive mining after the 1850's by puddling, dredging or deep lead mining where natural waterways were used to dispose of polluted waste. Sludge debris can be still seen clearly in the banks of the rivers and, as this debris was polluted to a lesser or greater extent, it is still unproductive land with a raised flood plain bed. Only 20% of sludged land is at present used for cropping or grazing.

November's Zoom talk was given by Professor Ray

Cas, School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University. He spoke on the sometimes massive swings in the Earth's climate throughout history. He described possible reasons for these changes and compared them to our present climatic situation. The catalysts for changes in climate discussed included:

- 1) Solar Insolation which he described as the amount of solar energy reaching Earth which appears to swing in 11 year cycles but at present is not affecting the Earth's climate.
- 2) The orbital behaviours of the Earth - Milankovitch Cycles - which correlate with Ice Ages.
- 3) Vulcanism which has been shown to influence climate quite dramatically at various times in the Earth's history but is not at a dangerous stage at present.
- 4) Deforestation, which is one of the major ecological problems currently facing us.
- 5) Changes in ocean currents. Plate Tectonics and the associated drift of continents do influence wind patterns and sea currents but this is a long term effect and is not seen as a present threat.

Except for point 4. none of the above were seen as causing the present startling and rapid change in greenhouse gasses and the conclusion reached was that anthropogenic actions such as burning of fossil fuels have tipped the climate balance. Professor Cas pointed out that the levels of both CO<sub>2</sub> and Methane have increased dramatically over the past 100-150 years and that this will have dramatic effects on our future climate. This was a most interesting and pertinent talk which was supported by rigorous statistics.

The following is a list of speakers and their topics.

**February.** *Victorian Polar Ornithopod Dinosaurs.* Speaker: Ruairidh Duncan, Honours Student, Swinburne University.

**September.** *River Avulsions (Deltas): When Good Rivers Go Bad.* Speaker: Professor Ian Rutherford, University of Melbourne.

**October.** *Rivers of Gold Project: Understanding How Mining Shaped Victoria's Rivers.* Speaker: Professor Susan Lawrence, Department of Archaeology and History, La Trobe University.

**November.** *The many factors causing climate change; climate change throughout Earth's history; and the question of whether anthropogenic greenhouse gases are the cause of recent global warming.* Speaker: Retired Professor, Ray Cas, School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University.

Ruth Hoskin continues to act as the Geology SIG representative on Council.

**Ruth Hoskin**



## Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group program for 2020 was severely limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our only meeting for the year was held in February and was attended by 17 people. Our speaker was Karina Cook who spoke on the World Whale Conference held in Harvey Bay.

Nine days of field work were held prior to the cessation of activities due to the lockdown.

### 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 (very small snails), Holothuroidea (sea cucumbers), Amphipoda and Isopoda (small crustaceans), 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.



Audrey Falconer collecting samples from the reef at Wreck Beach Moonlight Head where in 2020 the MRG recorded 108 species of marine invertebrate.

Photo Leon Altoff.

Our field work produces records of the species of marine invertebrates found along the Victorian coast and we occasionally discover new, undescribed species. We also identify and monitor pest species found when we are out in the field. 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.

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

I would like to thank Audrey Falconer for coordinating our field trips.

**Leon Altoff, Secretary**

## Day Group

The FNCV Day Group meets at 10.30 am on the fourth Tuesday of the month, February to November, with the speaker scheduled at 11 am. It is a generalist group and presentations or excursions are directed towards learning more about a wide range of natural history topics in the company of friendly, like-minded people. All FNCV members are welcome, along with friends, family and visitors.

As they have done since 2015, Sally Bewsher and Joan Broadberry prepare the program and chair the meetings. Joan liaises with the speakers and usually writes a summary of the meeting or activity for inclusion in Field Nats News. Andy Brentnall sets up the hall and Wendy Gare sends out promos, passes on details of possible speakers, puts out morning tea and much more. Special thanks to Max Campbell for his invaluable assistance with technical matters.

At the beginning of 2020 we were all set to go, with our program published for February to May, but only the February meeting, *Studying Komodo Dragons in Indonesia*, presented by Alyson Fysh, took place. In March, as we are all aware, all FNCV meetings and excursions were cancelled due to the pandemic. Speakers that had been booked were contacted and cancelled. As it transpired, no more Day Group meetings were held for 2020 due to Melbourne's second wave of COVID-19.

**Joan Broadberry**



## Microscopy Group

Due to COVID-19 and the Victorian lockdown the Microscopy Group were not able to run any activities in 2020.

**Philippa Burgess**



## Botany Group

The only activity carried out for the year by the Botany Group was a Zoom meeting on February 20th 2020. The group was treated to a virtual trip of all the Australian States as Geoff Lay showed selections of his camera images of plants and environments, collected over 50 years. Notably, all the plants were identified, but the organising principle was the localities, or commonalities from different localities - wet or dry, high or low. Fifteen people registered for the Zoom presentation.

Further meetings and excursions in 2020 for the Botany Group were cancelled due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

### Ken Griffiths



*Chionochloa frigid*, Alpine meadow, near Schlink Pass, NSW. Biogeography molecular studies suggest the species is from NZ originally.  
Photo Ken Griffiths.



## Bookshop

The restrictions placed upon us, for most of the year, meant a greater reliance on our postal service to dispense the book orders. Even though the extensive range of books available on the shelves, were not able to be perused as usual, a significant number of people emailed through their book orders. Whilst not as profitable as in recent previous years, the bookshop still made a profit of \$1,590. In light of the challenging year, this amount is impressive when there was no access to the clubrooms for any group meetings and no events were hosted by the FNCV.

Many thanks for the ongoing support from members, and to all that have purchased books through the FNCV bookshop. The bookshop provides a 20% discount on the recommended retail price of most books, covering a range of topics associated with our natural environment. The running of the bookshop is a voluntary position and aims to provide a service to existing members but also as an incentive for new members to join the Club.

Across the year the FNCV Bookshop sold a total of 371 books that ranged across 187 different titles covering 10 broad genres. Whilst a number of new titles were available for sale this was greatly reduced compared to previous years as less new titles were available, again an influence of the pandemic.

Orders for specific books are continuing to be encouraged as there is limited space available to stock the full range of titles that are of interest to members. The full selection can be viewed from the bookshop catalogue, with a printed copy available at the clubrooms. An electronic copy is available on the FNCV website. Titles new to the bookshop or titles soon to be published are promoted in the FNN. A bookshop article was included in the FNN across five editions, highlighting 28 titles.

The bookshop also provides an opportunity to anybody that needs to down size their valuable library and would like their books to find new homes in other similarly valued personal libraries. The bookshop is able to accept, promote and sell small numbers of good quality, second-hand books. These books are advertised in the FNN or in the catalogue and cover a range of topics, but you must get in quick!

### Kathy Himbeck, Bookshop Manager



Eucalyptus Tip-wilting Bug (*Amorbus alternates* - nymph).  
Photo Max Campbell.



## 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 fungi in Victoria.

### Activities

#### 1. Forays

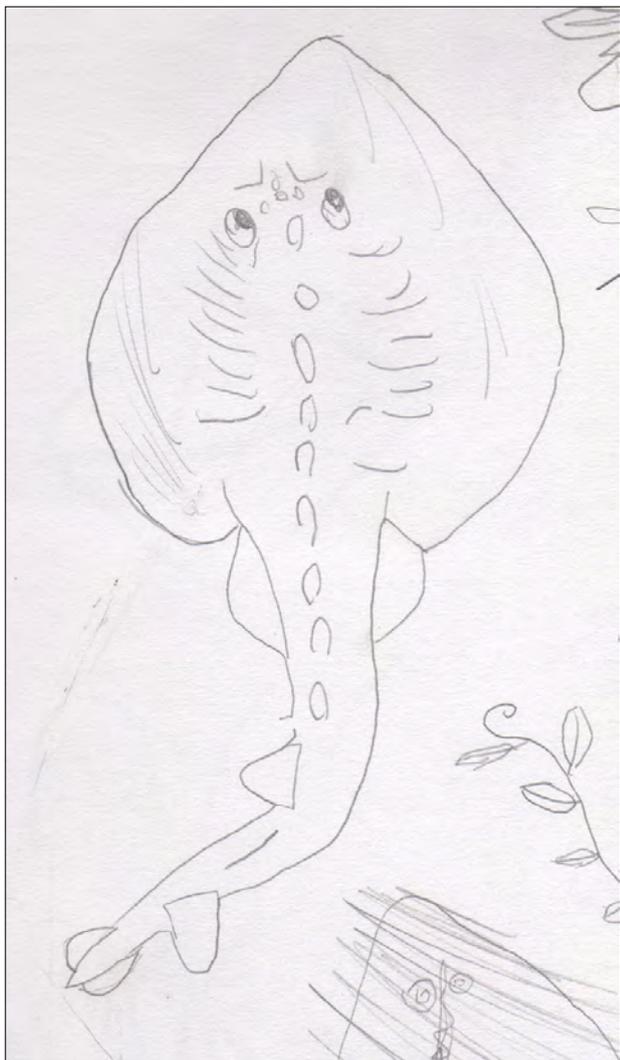
Unfortunately, because of restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our planned program of forays could not be carried out. This was a pity, because there was plenty of rain, and we could only imagine what we were missing out on.

#### 2. Meetings

It was possible to hold only the first meeting for the year. On 2 March, Dr Tom May, Senior Research Scientist (Mycology) at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, gave a presentation titled *Australian Fungi From Red Listing to On Ground Action*. This meeting was well attended, with 25 members and 8 visitors present.

Jurrie and Virgil Hubregtse





Southern Fiddler Ray.  
Drawing by Phineas Wilton.



Wind Turbines. Photo courtesy Paul Villiers.



Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike. Photo Gleb Beliakov.



## Library and Archives

### Library

In 2020 the Library was able to operate fully only until 24 March, after which the protracted COVID lockdown made it difficult and inadvisable to offer a service. As a result, this report only refers to library activities that took place during the first eleven weeks of the year.

A total of 10 new volumes were added to the FNCV Library collection in that time, and 13 books and eight periodical issues were borrowed.

### Archives

Archival enquiries in 2020 continued to be based largely on research external to the Club, but which took in issues relating to FNCV members or activities. During the year the Club was a major contributor to work in progress on two substantial publications, focusing on early members of the FNCV.

Through the foreshortened reporting period Graham Patterson provided invaluable support in keeping the library's collection of periodicals up to date. I thank him for that work and for his ready assistance and cheery company. Not long before we were forced to call a halt to attendance at the library, Wendy Shepherd had begun entering data in Series Description Lists in the archives. I thank her for her assistance in the limited time available. I also wish to thank Kathy Himbeck for her service of acquiring books for the library from bookshop funds.

During the period of lockdown Wendy Gare monitored the library email account and forwarded relevant message to the librarian. She also emailed to members all the newsletters that were received in digital form, from other organisations. I am pleased to thank her for her assistance in these regards.

**Dr Gary Presland**  
Honorary Librarian and Archivist



## Fauna Survey Group

Because of the COVID-19 lockdown only three trips were completed this year. All were in partnership with the Parks Victoria Science and Management Effectiveness branch. Important trips to East Gippsland to search for rare species in unburnt bushland had to be cancelled but are expected to go ahead in 2021.

Our first survey for the year, in January, was to Point Nepean National Park. Survey activities included Elliott trapping and deployment of wildlife cameras in both the Point Nepean and Mornington Peninsula National Parks. This was the only time in 2020 that cameras and traps were used. The highlights were finding White-footed Dunnarts and Long-nosed Bandicoots in a few locations, along with Swamp Rats, Echidnas and Black Wallabies. We stayed in comfortable quarters adjacent to the old Quarantine Station.

The trip to the Mallee in February was a reptile survey to the Hattah Kulkyn National Park. The main activity was spotlighting along tracks and roads at night where nocturnal reptiles such as Bandy Bandy, Mitchell's Short-tailed Snake, Spiny Gecko, and Beaded Gecko were seen. There were also some daylight sightings of reptiles. We camped at Hattah and had good birdwatching, with a couple of highlights being stilts and avocets at Lake Mournpool.

The only other survey for 2020 was the March trip to Bael Bael Grassland NCR. This year was the fourth in the series of annual surveys and again we were joined by Friends of Terrick Terrick NP and Parks Victoria staff. The day prior to our arrival, heavy rain made the access tracks in the reserve impassable, so the first night was spent looking for frogs at Wandella NCR near Kerang.

The primary survey activity at Bael Bael is systematic spotlighting of transects from slow moving vehicles, and in some cases on foot, searching for the highly endangered Plains Wanderer. More leisurely daylight activities included habitat assessment, bird and reptile surveys at a dry salt lake and in Black Box woodland at Yassom Swamp, and a trip to Lake Cullen for birdwatching.

A number of new species for the reserve were recorded during the first three trips but not the Plains Wanderer. This time our efforts were rewarded when four Plains Wanderers were seen and two were heard, a great result and a testament to the effective management of the grassland habitat for this species by Parks Victoria and the efforts of the volunteers. This time Curl Snakes, geckos, and Fat-tailed Dunnarts were recorded in higher numbers than on previous surveys.

### MEETINGS 2020

**February:** Dr Kevin Rowe, Senior Curator of Mammals, Museums Victoria. *'Biogeography of Murine Rodents, from adaptive radiations to threatened species.'*



Female Plains Wanderer.  
Photo Andrej Hohmann.

**March:** Angela Simms, Masters Student, Macquarie University. *Ecology of the Sulawesi Forest Turtle.*

**June:** Emily Scicluna, PhD Candidate, Department of Zoology, Latrobe University. *Behavioural Traits of the Fat-tailed Dunnart.*

**October:** Jacinta Humphrey, PhD candidate, Research Centre for Future Landscapes, Latrobe University. *Birds in the Burbs.*

**November:** McKenzie Kwak, Parasitologist, National University of Singapore. *Outbreak. The ecology of disease.*

The February and March meetings were at the hall, the June, October and November meetings were online. All other meetings were cancelled.

### SURVEYS

- Pt Nepean, National Park, 24-27<sup>th</sup> January.
- Hattah, 20-24<sup>th</sup> February.
- Bael Bael, 6-9<sup>th</sup> March.

### Raymond Gibson



Three Ringtail Possums. Photo Max Campbell.

Curl Snake.  
Photo Asha Billing.



Searching for  
reptiles at Bael Bael  
NCR.  
Photo Asha Billing.

Tessellated Gecko.  
Photo Asha Billing.



## *The Victorian Naturalist*

Despite government-imposed restrictions on movement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, production of volume 137 of *The Victorian Naturalist* was achieved without any major problems over the entirety of 2020.

At the beginning of the initial lockdown period, in March 2020, a lap-top with the Adobe Creative Suite installed was borrowed from the FNCV library and used to lay out issues 2–6 of volume 137. All correspondence relating to matters of production was conducted via the Executive Editor's private email account. After 19 March the editors and our administration assistant did not meet again in 2020.



Vic Nat team 2020, Gary, Sue, Maria and Virgil.  
Photo Wendy Clark.

The COVID restrictions seemed to have a positive effect on the submitting of manuscripts for publication in the journal; through the year there was a greater-than-usual flow of papers being offered. This was particularly the case regarding papers for the December issue, which was a 'Special' focusing on fungi, plant, and vertebrate pest species in Australia.

Volume 137 comprised five issues of 32 pages each (including one which contained the Index for Volume 136), and one issue of 128 pages. This spread resulted in the publication of 284 pages for the year, which was significantly higher than any volume since 122, published in 2006. A total of 46 substantive papers were published in 2020, consisting of three Research Reports, 19 Contributions, and 13 Naturalist Notes. The 'Special' issue was the final number for the year, comprising 14 contributions and a naturalist note, gathered together on the theme of pest species in Australia. In addition, three books were reviewed in the pages of the journal in 2020.

It was the Editors' pleasure also to publish the citation for the 2019 recipient of the Australian Natural History Medallion, Simon Grove.

I am grateful, as ever, 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 their 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*. In addition, the editors were pleased to have the assistance of Dr Desley Whisson of Deakin University as a guest editor for the December 'Pest' issue. Desley's editorial input as well as the marshalling of contributors, and her refereeing of papers was of inestimable assistance, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to her.

During the period of lockdown Wendy Gare monitored the email account of *The Victorian Naturalist* and forwarded relevant message to the executive editor. This was pivotal in maintaining the output of the journal, and I am pleased to thank her for the assistance this provided.

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



Cygnets.  
Photo Gleb Beliakov,  
FNCV Juniors.

**THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC  
REPORT BY COUNCIL. Year ended 31 December 2020**

The members of Council hereby submit the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and the Income Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and report as follows:

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position on Council</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>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
Susan Bendel	Councillor	Retired	2006
Judith Sise	Councillor	Teacher	2017
	<i>Special Interest Group Councillors</i>		
Joan Broadberry	Day Group Councillor	Retired teacher	2001
Michael Lyons	Marine Research Group Councillor	Scheduler	2020
Geoff Lay	Fungi Group Councillor	Retired	2016
Ken Griffiths	Botany Group Councillor	Retired teacher	2017
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 Group 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 was \$15,631 (2019 \$12,522)
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 displayed in the Annual Report, there are no significant developments likely to affect the financial results of the Club. The COVID-19 pandemic will not have a significant effect on the financial results.
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 2020
- (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 2020.
- (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 26th day of April 2021 in accordance with a resolution of Council.



Maxwell Campbell – President



Barbara Burns - Treasurer

**The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Income Statement year ended 31/12/20**

		2020	2019
		\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>	Membership	36,486	37,330
	Bookshop Profit	1,590	4,374
	Hall Hire	373	4,088
	Profit Biodiversity Symposium		3,495
	Government COVID-19 Cash Flow Grant	9,751	
	Fees Speakers		50
	Non-Member Levy	105	503
	Copyright Royalties - Vic Naturalist.	3,650	3,570
	Fund Raising		186
	Sundry Income		104
	2nd Hand Book Sale		1,072
	Interest and Franking Credits from Investments	7,104	10,119
	General Donations and Fungi e-book (\$365)	<u>3,353</u>	<u>3,498</u>
	<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b><u>\$62,412</u></b>	<b><u>\$68,389</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	Victorian Naturalist, Printing and Postage	4,941	6,283
	<b>Publications</b>		
	Newsletter, Printing and Postage (less Advertising \$91)	863	1,473
	Calendar of events, Printing and Postage	<u>473</u>	<u>1,462</u>
	<b><u>Total Publications Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>6,277</u></b>	<b><u>9,218</u></b>
<b>Other</b>	Annual Report Printing Cost	200	235
<b>Expenses</b>	Bank Fees, Credit Card, Eftpos machine	468	637
	Depreciation Expense	3,586	2,502
	Advertising, Marketing and Publicity	0	421
	Electricity	303	440
	Hall Cleaning	480	1,008
	Insurance	1,506	1,437
	Internet Provider, Website Expenses & Phone	1,188	1,209
	Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	43	142
	Library Expenses and Subscriptions	819	1,054
	Non-Library Subscriptions	293	182
	Office Postage and Post Office Box Hire	561	504
	Office Stationery Supplies etc	710	955
	Repairs & Maintenance		4,525
	Rates (\$300) and water (\$14) - Gardenia St	314	317
	Rates Maryborough	263	252
	Hall Alarm	516	509
	FNCV Mugs		525
	Sundry Expenses	192	164
	Purchase of Software	306	160
	Special Interest Group Expenses		176
	Workers' Compensation Insurance	204	198
	Wages, Salaries and Superannuation	<u>28,552</u>	<u>29,097</u>
	<b><u>Total Other Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>\$40,504</u></b>	<b><u>46,649</u></b>
	<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>46,781</u></b>	<b><u>55,867</u></b>
	<b><u>Net Operating Profit</u></b>	<b><u>\$15,631</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,522</u></b>

**The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31/12/20**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	\$	\$
Cash at Bank - Note (3)	75,666	54,368
Environment Fund A/c - Bendigo Bank	716	616
Petty Cash (FNCV \$50, Bookshop \$40)	90	90
Stock Goodwill Wine \$240, plus Stock FNCV Mugs \$585	825	873
Sundry Debtors Bookshop	2,118	1,318
Inventories Bookshop - Note (4)	<u>9,986</u>	<u>9,563</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b><u>89,401</u></b>	<b><u>66,828</u></b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
<u>Investments</u>		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits	204,133	242,904
Shares Listed on the Stock Exchange - Note (5)	<u>84,731</u>	<u>54,611</u>
	<b><u>288,864</u></b>	<b><u>297,515</u></b>
<u>Library Holdings - Note (6)</u>	<b><u>50,321</u></b>	<b><u>50,321</u></b>
<u>Property, Plant and Equipment</u>		
Maryborough Property - Note (7)	13,400	13,400
Clubhouse at Valuation, 1 Gardenia St. Blackburn - Note (7)	769,000	769,000
Clubhouse Improvements - Note (7)	57,958	57,958
Equipment at Cost Less Accumulated Depreciation - Note (7)	<u>9,739</u>	<u>7,956</u>
	<b><u>850,097</u></b>	<b><u>848,314</u></b>
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b><u>1,189,282</u></b>	<b><u>1,196,150</u></b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,278,683</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,262,978</u></b>
<b>Less LIABILITIES (Current)</b>		
Trade Creditors Victorian Naturalist		668
Pay as You go Payable	662	542
GST Paid less GST Collected	867	391
Bookshop Administration Account	-30	169
Science Talent Search Fund	1,000	2,000
Landcare Australia Grant, FNCV Juniors		5,451
Australian Natural History Medallion - Loan Account	6,717	6,143
FNCV Environment Fund - Loan Account	12,813	12,762
Government COVID-19 Cash flow Grant Deferred (Bathroom modifications)	<u>6,558</u>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>28,587</u></b>	<b><u>28,126</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$1,250,096</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,234,852</u></b>
<b>MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Current Year - Profit	15,631	12,522
General Fund brought forward - Note (8)	<u>563,674</u>	<u>551,152</u>
	579,305	563,674
Bequests, Dorothy Mahler (\$10,000), Fred Smith (\$10,000)	20,000	20,000
Marine Research Fund (B/f \$25,434 less paid out for expenses \$577)	24,857	25,434
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund (B/f \$10,503 less paid in \$90)	10,593	10,503
FNCV Environment Fund	715	615
Asset Revaluation Reserve - Clubhouse	597,488	597,488
Asset Revaluation Reserve - General	15,093	15,093
FNCV Juniors	<u>2,045</u>	<u>2,045</u>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b><u>\$1,250,096</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,234,852</u></b>

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2020**

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 2020

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
3. CASH	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	60,020	39,089
Bookshop A/c Westpac Croydon	3,491	5,131
Bookshop Interest Bearing Account, Westpac Croydon	<u>12,155</u>	<u>10,148</u>
	<u>15,646</u>	<u>15,279</u>
TOTAL CASH	<u>75,666</u>	<u>54,368</u>
4. STOCK OF BOOKS for sale, at the lower of Cost or Net Realisable Value	<u>9,986</u>	<u>9,563</u>
5. SHARES LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE		
Shares in Australian Foundation, at cost	37,753	37,753
Shares in Argo Investments, at cost	16,858	<u>16,858</u>
Shares in Milton Corporation, at cost	14,882	
Shares in AUI Investment Company, at cost	<u>15,238</u>	<u>84,731</u>
5(a) MARKET VALUE OF LISTED SHARES 31/12/20		
Shares in Australian Foundation - Market Value, 7300 x \$7.30	53,290	51,903
Shares in Argo Investments - Market Value, 2300 x \$8.37	19,251	<u>20,309</u>
Shares in Milton Corporation - Market Value, 3200 x \$4.77	15,264	
Shares in AUI Investment Company - Market Value, 1600 x \$9.14	<u>14,624</u>	<u>102,429</u>
	<u>102,429</u>	<u>72,212</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		
Cossticks Reserve, Maryborough - at valuation	13,400	13,400
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn - at valuation	769,000	769,000
Improvements - at cost	57,958	57,958
Plant and Equipment - at cost	\$71,995	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$(62,256)</u>	<u>7,956</u>
	<u>9,739</u>	<u>7,956</u>
	<u>850,097</u>	<u>848,314</u>
8. GENERAL FUND		
Balance Brought Forward	563,674	551,152
Add Net Profit for 2020	<u>15,631</u>	<u>12,522</u>
Balance at 31 December 2020	<u>\$579,305</u>	<u>\$563,674</u>

<u>The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.</u>		
<u>Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2020.</u>		
	<u>Inflow +, Outflow (-)</u>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Net inflow from Operations (Note 1.)	17,494	14,297
GST (net change)	476	501
<b>Net Cash Inflow from Operations</b>	<b><u>17,970</u></b>	<b><u>14,798</u></b>
<b>CASH FLOWS INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Equipment Purchased	-5,369	-960
Increase in Fauna Survey Group Equipment Fund	90	-646
Transfer from Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	38,771	
Purchase of Listed Shares	-30,120	—
<b>Net Cash Inflow from Investing Activities</b>	<b><u>\$3,372</u></b>	<b><u>\$-1,606</u></b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Decrease in Science Talent Search Fund	-1,000	-1,000
Decrease in Loan to Parks Victoria		1,050
Decrease in Bookshop account with FNCV	-199	
Decrease in Landcare Grant FNCV Juniors	-5,451	5,451
Increase in Loan from Australian Natural History Medallion	574	
Increase in Loan from Environment Fund	151	2,857
Government Cash Flow COVID -19 Grant Deferred	6,558	
Decrease in Marine Research Fund	-577	—
<b>Net Cash Outflow from Financing Activities</b>	<b><u>\$56</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,358</u></b>
<b>Net Cash Inflow for the Year</b>	<b><u>21,398</u></b>	<b><u>21,550</u></b>
<b>CHANGE In FNCV CHEQUE A/C's BALANCE for year</b>	<b><u>\$21,398</u></b>	<b><u>\$21,550</u></b>
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance Start of Year	39,089	20,523
Bendigo Bank Cheque Account Balance End of Year	<u>60,019</u>	<u>39,089</u>
<b>Increase in Bendigo Bank Account</b>	<b>20,930</b>	<b>18,566</b>
<b>Increase in Environment Fund Bendigo Bank Account</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Increase in Westpac Bookshop Accounts</b>	<b><u>368</u></b>	<b><u>2,984</u></b>
<b>Total increase in Cash for year</b>	<b><u>\$21,398</u></b>	<b><u>\$21,550</u></b>
<b><u>Note 1. Reconciliation of Profit with Cash Flow from Operations</u></b>		
Net Profit	\$15,631	\$12,522
add back depreciation	3,586	2,502
increase in inventories	-423	-1,686
increase in bookshop debtors	-800	128
decrease in stock of Goodwill wine	48	468
decrease in trade creditors	-668	-91
increase in Pay as You Go tax owing	120	102
decrease in Bookshop account GST		-233
decrease in stock FNCV mugs		<u>585</u>
<b>Net Cash inflow from Operations</b>	<b><u>\$17,494</u></b>	<b><u>\$14,297</u></b>

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 2020. 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 2020 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 2020 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:



Susan J. Harkin, CPA  
Honorary Auditor

23/04/2021  
Blackburn