

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.



Understanding Our Natural World
Est. 1880

Annual Report Year Ending 31 December 2025

Reg. No. A0033611X
1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn Vic 3130
Telephone 9877 9860
www.fncv.org.au
email: admin@fncv.org.au

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President's Report

Introduction

My eleventh year in the role of President of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria has passed and after circa thirteen years on Council, I will not be nominating for a further term in 2026. We have maintained all of our Club and Community activities. As always, the Club's successful operation depends upon the participation of many volunteers so it is not possible to thank everyone individually for their contribution. However, let me assure everyone that, the members, Council and I greatly appreciate all support given to the Club. I thank all of our members for their cooperation and active participation for yet another year. An overview of the year's news and highlights are set out below.

Biodiversity Symposium

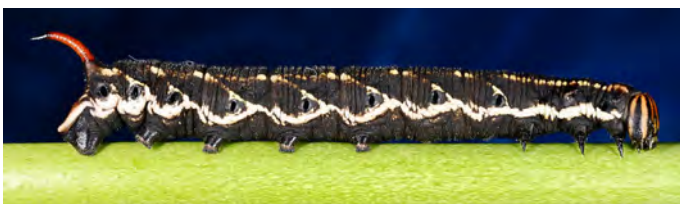
The biodiversity symposium, "Impacts on Biodiversity During the Anthropocene – 10 years on" was successfully run on March 15 -16th 2025 and received a great deal of positive feedback from those who attended. A special issue of the Victorian Naturalist, devoted to the symposium, will be issued early in 2026. I thank all of those who contributed to its success.

The Australian Natural History Medallion

The 2025 Australian Natural History Medallion has been awarded to Roger Thomas for his contribution to wildlife conservation and the promotion of science.



Max Campbell, Roger Thomas and Robert Day
Roger Thomas receiving his Medallion



Convolvulus Hawk Moth Caterpillar
Photo: Max Campbell

The medallion was presented on Monday 2nd December 2025 at a special meeting of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, by Robert Day from the Royal Society of Victoria.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The Special Interest Groups have continued to maintain their high standards in providing many interesting meetings, presenters and activities for the past year. We are indebted to the hardworking SIG leaders who kept the programs running throughout the year. The Fungi Group, Marine Research Group, Invertebrate Study Group and Fauna Survey Group are contributing significantly to the Club's research and citizen science profile. I encourage everyone to consider supporting the SIGs in the running of activities.

FNCV Website

Jurrie Hubregtse has continued to successfully run and maintain the FNCV Website which remains the principal portal for access to our Club and its activities.

Facebook

While our subscription membership has remained stable, our Facebook participants have risen to over 58,000 interested followers, increasing our visibility and profile in the broader community. Thanks to George Paras, John Harris, Andrej Hohmann, Wendy Gare, Asha Billing and Claire Ferguson, for their efforts with this online forum. A great deal of work goes into maintaining a safe online environment for all users to engage in mutually respectful dialogue.

SEANA

Thanks to Judith Sise and Ken Griffiths as our SEANA representatives in 2025.

The Victorian Naturalist, FNN and Library

As you will already know Dr Gary Presland retired from his positions of Librarian and Chief Editor of the Victorian Naturalist this year. I wish to thank Dr Presland for his long contribution as Editor and Chief Editor of *The Victorian Naturalist* for the past 23 years and for his work in the library from 2004. Gary's greatest achievement was setting up and completing, the digitisation of the Victorian Naturalist. This was done in two tranches, volumes 1-90 and, at the urging of John Harris, volumes 91-126. Gary personally managed the process including the complex and demanding task of preparing the material for scanning. The finished work, now available on a USB stick, is a valuable resource for the Club and the wider scientific community.

On behalf of the Club, I would also like to thank all the editors of Field Nats News and *The Victorian Naturalist* for their diligent work throughout the year. The workload and time commitment is enormous and both publications remain critical to our FNCV culture and activities. Dr Gary Presland, Dr Maria Gibson, Michael McBain and Virgil Hubregtse produced the Victorian Naturalist in 2025. The Field Naturalists News continues to be enjoyed by our members and many other organisations. Joan Broadberry, Wendy Gare and Sally Bewsher produced the monthly newsletter on time throughout the year.

Council Members and Office-bearers

Council, as the governing body, is responsible for all of the Club's activities, its corporate compliance and existence in accordance with the FNCV Constitution (The Rules). The attendance at Council meetings over the past year was again high, both online and in person, as required. We held a successful, well-attended Annual General Meeting in the hall during 2025. I thank all of the Council members for their efforts during the year.

I thank Barbara Burns, as Secretary and Treasurer, who continued to manage the accounts, which show an operating loss for the year necessitating a review of membership fees for 2026.

Bookshop

Once again, I thank Kathy Himbeck, supported by John Harris, for the success of this valuable service, which continues to cater to the needs of the Club.

Administration Officer

Wendy Gare continues to make an enormous contribution to the Club's ongoing success. My role as President over the past 11 years has been made possible by her efficiency and understanding of the Club and its purposes. Thank you, Wendy.

Community Participation.

Thank you to all who continue to volunteer their time and effort to sustain the profile of the Club as a leading Citizen Science organisation. It is important that we continue our delivery of presentations, seminars, symposia and attendance at public events, schools and other organisations to maintain our role as a significant and productive member of the Community.

Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration

The Strategic Plan has undergone an extensive four-year vetting process to ensure projects are catchment-scale, high priority, and within the Collaboration's capacity to deliver over the next five to ten years. It was presented to the Steering Committee on 24 November 2025 and is now awaiting final feedback from Wurundjeri before release of the final version and subsequent design and launch.

In 2026, a consultant will commence work on the Catchment-scale Litter and Stormwater Infrastructure Assessment. Progress has been steady but complex, with time required to source data, secure access, and finalise agreements across multiple councils and agencies.

Despite this, there has been strong on-ground progress. A collaborative project in Box Hill South will rehabilitate a weed-infested industrial site to enable litter monitoring and improve habitat, targeting a known pollution hotspot identified in the 2024 Alluvium Gardiners Creek assessment. Funded through an EPA fine, the project combines community-led education (KooyongKoot Alliance), council-led vegetation works (City of Whitehorse), and ongoing litter and water-quality monitoring, aligning with the GCRC Pollution and Litter Flagship Program.

Living Links

Living Links Strategic Plan for the next five years has been approved. The main focus was on conservation and greening urban degraded corridors and integrating Melbourne Water's goals into Living Links strategy. Liv-

ing Links is an urban nature program working to create a web of high quality, interconnected green spaces across Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs.

Thanks to Judith Sise as the Club's ongoing representative for these two projects.

Nature Stewards



Nature Stewards – learning in the field.

We continued with our ongoing commitment to the Nature Stewards Program which has proven to be a productive and collaborative community endeavour. Its role in educating the broader community on the importance of conserving, protecting and studying the biodiversity of Australia continues to develop and expand. Since beginning the program in February 2019, it has graduated 49 courses, with a total of 855 graduates in 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs). In 2025 six courses were run, with 105 graduates. Courses ran in the LGAs/Healthcare partners of: *Autumn* – Ballarat, Mornington, Knox, Barwon Health - Geelong Greater Queenscliff Wellbeing Local. *Spring* - Ballarat, Geelong.

Many of the graduates are taking a more active role in caring for nature through local environmental volunteering with community groups, further study and training and actions around their home.

2026 has courses planned for Autumn, Winter, and Spring.

Autumn - Ballarat, North West Hub (Merri-bek, Moon-ee Valley, Hume), Mornington, Inner East Hub (Monash, Stonnington, Whitehorse) and Knox. *Winter*- Melbourne Water Intrepid hybrid course. *Spring*- Ballarat, Whittlesea, Melbourne Water waterways hybrid course, Barwon Health - Nature Connections, Geelong.

Nature Stewards is first and foremost a Community Environmental Education Program. It is rooted in community and delivered with community engagement and support. It's success, at least in part, has been through collaboration with local partners and organisations on the ground in each program region.

Secondly, its delivery model, including field trips with local experts, is highly regarded by both participants and collaborators, with them speaking highly of its ability to connect participants with each other in their local community and ecology.

The program has also built significant program delivery infrastructure, and an ecosystem, with facilitators, subject matter experts, partners and local interest groups across Victoria. The program also has a robust monitoring and evaluation program with compelling results that has clearly validated its benefits to hosts, local organisations, and participants.

- 80%+ increase in understanding of Victorian/local ecology
- 45% positive shift in pro-environmental behaviours
- 50% increase in local community connection
- 35% increase in wellbeing

By the end of 2026, the program is on track to have delivered 60 courses, with more than 1000 alumni. Clearly, the Nature Stewards program has always fitted perfectly with the FNCV and its stated purposes and I anticipate further liaison with our Marine Research Group in 2026. Members of FNCV have been involved with course delivery and development since the outset.

I would like to thank, Dr Maddy Wilcock, Coordinator Nature Stewards Program, for her support in providing current information on the program. Nature Stewards continues to operate from the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) as Host and the website is: <https://vnpa.org.au/programs/nature-stewards/>



Red-lined Gumtree Hopper. *Eurymelops rubrovittata*

Mali Dunes

Mali Dunes continues to provide us with a field site where members and others continue to work on environmentally focussed activities including biological surveys, revegetation and property maintenance.

I thank everybody who has visited the site for both working parties and biological survey in 2025. The budget and management of Mali Dunes is to be reviewed in 2026.

The Future

The future of the Club depends upon the continuing contribution of its members. There is an immediate need to review our processes for governance and succession planning along with our strategies for the future. We need to build in greater resilience to navigate the social and economic changes that are now impacting our operations and those of the broader community. This may increase the pressure on the members of Council who are already carrying significant workloads so greater participation by our members would help share the load and would be greatly appreciated. A review of the structure of Council and the allocation of responsibilities will be considered in 2026. The increasing need for online activity, changes in software needs and the impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) will require increased investment in technology to both support and protect the Club, and guarantee its ability to provide ongoing services to its membership. The hardware and software required to run our activities must be replaced in 2026 if we are to continue to maintain our program output. Over the period of my involvement with the Club since 1973 the World has changed dramatically and the Club now needs to adapt more quickly to the challenges of a rapidly evolving social and political environment.

In Conclusion

In particular, I would like to especially thank all of the members of Club who have provided support and friendship throughout the past eleven years. We continue to operate and prosper via the collective efforts of all of you. The environment has never been at greater risk so it is essential that we maintain our role as an effective citizen science organisation, supporting the understanding of our natural world. Threatening processes are increasing both locally and globally so we must be involved in the efforts to eliminate and minimise the impacts on the natural world that we cherish and enjoy. We do this through our involvement with community collaborations, fieldwork, symposia, lectures, workshops, Nature Stewards, publications, Environment Grants, and a host of other activities in accordance with our stated purposes.

Maxwell Campbell, President



Velvet Mite Photo: Max Campbell



Administration

The FNCV office has been very busy all year, including visits from many of our members who want to pay for memberships and books, as well as just to have a chat.



Membership

Membership as at 31st December 2025 was 763, a slight decrease on last year of just under 2%. This was mainly due to student memberships reverting to previous levels, having risen by 30% in 2024.

Hall Hire

Our hall hire has remained steady for the past year, with our regulars continuing their meetings and several others hiring the hall for various classes and seminars.

Promotion

Our Calendar of Events goes out every four months to members, libraries, local councils, U3A groups and community houses. As many as possible are sent via email to save on printing and postage costs. The most up-to-date version of the calendar is always readily available on our website.

Our facebook group has continued to grow. Our facebook admins, led by George Paras, put in many, many hours to moderate the posts and keep the group focused on increasing knowledge of our natural world in a family friendly way.

Our 2025 Biodiversity Symposium was a resounding success, which attracted many participants and showcased the FNCV as a respected force in the field of natural history in Australia. In order to contain costs, the hours of office work involved in the Symposium was kept to a minimum.

Blackburn Library has asked the FNCV to set up a citizen science display in the library, which has been changed every month. The Juniors have helped with this, and we have also provided a supply of our brochures to the library to further promote the Club.

We had a display table at an Australian Conservation Foundation event at Ringwood Lawn Bowls Club in February, where Andrej Hohmann made a presentation about what the FNCV can offer. There was interest from attendees who took away with them membership forms and information about the Club.

Advertising in FNCV Publications

Paid advertising in the *Field Nat News (FNN)* during the year totalled over \$400 which helped to defray the costs of printing and postage of the FNN.

It has again been a pleasure through the year to support the FNCV by keeping the day to day administration ticking over, leaving the members free to follow their passion for learning about our natural world.

Wendy Gare, Administration Officer

The Victorian Naturalist

Five issues of volume 142 of *The Victorian Naturalist* were published for 2025, as the October and December issues were combined into a 96 page, special issue: *The Anthropocene - 10 years on*. The February, April, June and August issues were of 32 pages each. Thus a total of 224 pages were published for the year. This comprised 28 substantive papers; 4 Research Reports; 4 Contributions; 11 Symposium Papers; 8 Naturalist Notes; and 1 reflection. As well, 5 Book Reviews were published.

It was the Editors' sad duty to publish a Tribute to Dr Murray John Littlejohn, who passed away in October 2024.

On the other hand, it was the Editors' pleasure to publish the citation for the recipient of the 2024 Australian Natural History Medallion, Euan Ritchie.

In spite of all three of the Editors having been hospitalised at some time in 2025, they have managed to publish the 142nd consecutive volume of *The Victorian Naturalist*. Publication of the journal requires a team effort, and I am grateful to my co-editors Gary Presland and Michael McBain, and our assistant editor, Virgil Hubregtse. Regrettably, the end of 2025 saw the retirement of Gary, and the team will miss his knowledge, quips, dedication, and support. It has been my great pleasure to work with Gary for the last 23 years.

Throughout the year, Wendy Gare cheerfully provided administrative support in the production of *The Victorian Naturalist*, for which the team is most grateful.

Maria (Mary) Gibson



Library and Archives

Library

In terms of library use, the past year has been relatively quiet. Thirteen books and 10 periodical issues were borrowed during 2025.

There was, however, a major shift in the personnel staffing the library. As he had indicated in the June 2025 issue of the Field Nats News, Gary Presland retired from the position of Librarian in July. Christine Seow, who had been assisting Gary with indexing the archived correspondence, agreed to stay on and take on the roles involved in being the Librarian. She was joined in this task by her friend Ann Shorrocks. At about the same time, Leanne Handoll expressed her interest in volunteering in the operation of the library. Gary has thus been replaced with a team of willing workers. But since he lives within easy reach of the FNCV building, and is happy to be of assistance if needed, he can be persuaded to make occasional visits to his former second home.

A total of 10 monographs were added to the FNCV Library holdings during 2025. The majority of these were acquired as donations, most of which were copies of books that had been offered for review in *The Victorian Naturalist*. Our thanks are extended to these people, who contributed directly to the holdings of the library.

Through the year Graham Patterson has provided invaluable support in keeping the library's collection of periodicals up to date, and in chasing up borrowers who have been tardy in returning loaned items.

Archives

Archival enquiries in 2025 continued to be based largely on research external to the Club, but which took in issues relating to FNCV members or Club activities. The archival holdings of the Club are not insubstantial and once again have proved to be of great assistance to researchers in their documentation of early naturalists and their field studies in Victoria.

Donations of manuscript material, in the form of correspondence, have been made to the FNCV archives during the year. FNCV Admin Officer Wendy Gare has been of great assistance in this regard, in providing current correspondence records from the office, as well as copies of the FNCV Calendar of Events for archiving. The library staff are grateful for her assistance.

Gary Presland

Thanks to Wendy Clark and Barbara Burns for the production of the 2025 FNCV Annual Report.



Field Nats News

In 2025, 11 issues of Field Nats News (FNN), running from number 359 to 368, inclusive, were published. A major aim of Field Nats News is to provide a record of as many of the activities of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) as possible. To do this requires input from co-ordinators and members of FNCV's many Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Writing reports of camps, surveys, excursions and meetings is never easy. A huge thank you to those who put in the time and effort to do so. However, the FNCV program is never fully documented. The mantra, 'a paragraph/page and a picture', seems a good way to encourage more contributions to FNN.

Every month Max Campbell prepares a leading article, *From the President*. Invertebrates and micro-organisms have often been themes. Other subjects have included observations from his garden, the biodiversity symposium, club meetings and excursions and Mali Dunes. He has also written on anthropogenic change, leeches, spiders and carnivorous plants. *From the President* is illustrated with Max's quality images, many photographed under a microscope.

Wendy Clark has been an outstanding contributor, providing an article (often two), in each of the eleven 2025 issues. Wendy regularly reports on the Invertebrate Study Group (ISG) outings and meetings, creating a complete record of the group's program for the year. She has also shared observations from her garden and from her walks in the Blackburn Creeklands. An example being: *Look What Came Into My Garden* - FNN 359, page 4. Wendy illustrates her articles with many superb images.

Philippa Burgess has contributed a detailed report of the Microscopical Group meeting, *Fish scales and Bones Under the Microscope* - FNN 365, page 6. She regularly writes short reports on most Microscopical group meetings for the Council minutes which are then reprinted in FNN. Philippa has also produced reports for two other SIGS. The Botany Group meeting, *Lyre-birds as Ecosystem Engineers: Helping Recruitment of Plants* - FNN 365, page 11 and the Geology Group meeting, *Silcrete - What it is and How Does it Form?* Great work Philippa.

Much of the content of FNN originates from the work of the FNCV's office administrator, Wendy Gare. The four-monthly Calendar of Events is the starting point of each month's calendar. The minutes of each Council meeting provide short reports from SIG co-ordinators, details of new members, Facebook and more. Wendy supplies notices for events including the FNCV AGM, Biodiversity Symposium and Australian Natural History Medallion, helps with proofreading, solves computer problems, deals with advertisers and is a constant, much valued support.

Ray Gibson regularly contributes detailed reports of the Fauna Survey Group's (FSG) program. An example being *Eradication of Feral Cat Populations from Australian Islands* - FNN 361, page 1. In addition, he

has consistently supplied short reports to Council of FSG activities, fulfilling the goal of creating a complete record of the FSGs yearly program. His work is much appreciated.

Andrej Hohmann supplied articles on the FSG February trip to Mali Dunes including a description of monitoring Malleefowl mounds - FNN 361, page 9 and FNN 362, pages 10-11. He also contributed a short report on the Easter Mali Dunes camp, an account of guarding Jumping-jack Wattles at Mali Dunes in July and details of the successful application from the Murra Warra wind farm community grant.

Ken Griffiths regularly details the activities of the Geology Group, for the FNCV Council minutes, which are then reprinted in FNN. He is another SIG coordinator who creates a full record of the activities of the group and is to be commended for the time and effort taken.

Sue Bendel contributed several articles on the Botany Group meetings and excursions. The amount of detail and effort she put into these reports was impressive. For example, an excursion, led by Leon Costermans to the Mornington Peninsular focusing on Eucalypt identification - FNN 359, page 11-13. Sue has also kept FNN readers up to date with the City Nature Challenge and the Great Southern Bioblitz.

Andrew McCutcheon (with Wendy Clark) summarised his presentation, *The Browns - Our Familiar Bushland Butterflies* - FNN 360, pages 6 -9.

Leon Altoff provided a report on the Marine Research's trip roundup - FNN 364, page 10-11.

An overview of the Fungi Group program was contributed by Hamish Beshara - FNN 365, page 5.

Barbara Burns keeps members up to date with the FNCV Environment Fund including details of the successful recipients of grants.

Sally Bewsher has taken on the job of proofreading FNN over many years. Her attention to detail with this essential task is outstanding. In addition, Sally reported on the Fauna Survey Group survey at Annuello from September 2024. Sally's support and encouragement are invaluable.



Spotted Brown, *Heteronympha paradelpha*
NSW Photo: Andrew McCutcheon

FNCV members are encouraged to contribute their own natural history observations. Janet Davies sent FNN her *Observations of the Magnificent Bolas Spider* - FNN 361, page 4. We would love to have many more member's reports.

Gary Presland gave invaluable help with obituaries and awards.

As editor I have a major input to each FNN. In 2025 I reported on eight Day Group talks. This has been made much easier in that most speakers generously allow me to access a copy of their presentation. I also summarised the March Biodiversity Symposium, the Australian Natural History Medallion and the FNCV Christmas party. In addition, there were a variety of reminders, notices and snippets that are passed on to the editor to compose.

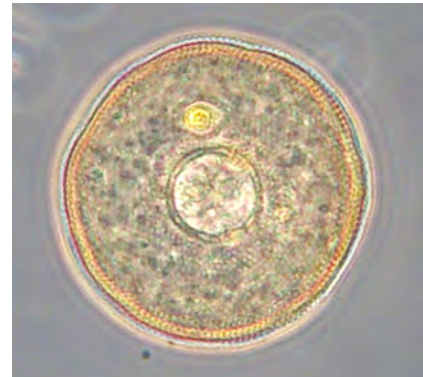
Joan Broadberry
Editor Field Nats News



Jumping Spider



Mottled Cup Moth Larva *Doratifera* sp
Photo: Wendy Clark



Arcella a testate amoeboid with a chitinous test Photo: Max Campbell

FNCV Environment Fund

The FNCV Environment Fund is a tax-deductible fund that was set up in 2003 to aid small, not-for-profit, community groups and individuals 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 John Harris (Chair), Barbara Burns (Secretary and Treasurer), Cathy Willis, Ian Moodie, Ian Temby, Bruce McGregor and Philippa Burgess. Each year, in March, the Fund contacts the regional field naturalist clubs in Victoria and advertises in the FNCV Newsletter and Facebook Page and on the Web for grant applications. The committee meets in April to process the submissions and decide on the successful applicants.

Twelve new projects were supported in 2025, to the value of \$16,003, including:

Painkalac Valley Network, a sub-group of Angair. \$2,000, to set up a baseline for the water quality of the Painkalac Estuary.

FNCV, Fauna Survey Group. \$2,000 to buy materials to construct guards for the endangered Jumping-jack Wattles at Mali Dunes, to protect them from predation by kangaroos.

Ashlen Campbell PhD candidate at Deakin. \$1,993 to purchase equipment to research the grazing impact of horses and deer on plant pollination networks in the Australian Alpine regions.

Prabhath Meegamage, PhD candidate at Melbourne University Veterinary School; \$2,000 for equipment and materials to research the fungal pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, which affects Victorian Amphibians, and how it is impacted by multiple water quality parameters.

Friends of Warrandyte State Park Nursery. \$967 to replace a heat mat at the nursery.

Maryborough Field Naturalists Club. \$500 to replace the Cosstick Wildflower Reserve sign.

The Environment Fund is always in need of funds. Thank you to everyone who donated in 2025. Your generosity enables us to continue to provide grants for worthy projects.

Barbara Burns, Secretary



Botany Group

There were two meetings and one excursion for the Botany Group during 2025. Due to a changeover of Convener mid-year, several planned meetings were unable to go ahead.

Meetings:

June: Alex Maisey; *“Lyrebirds as Ecosystem Engineers, helping plant recruitment.”* Alex’s presentation focused on his PhD work monitoring activities in many areas in northern Victoria, N.S.W and Queensland.

A two-year experiment was conducted in the Victorian Central Highlands with three experimental areas covering differing forest types. One exclusion plot, one fenced plot - hand raked simulating lyrebirds foraging and scratching and an unfenced plot as the third area. Over the two years changes in the litter and soil were tracked, and the amount of soil displaced was measured. In the unfenced and simulated test sites, seed germination and floristic richness was much increased in comparison to the compacted exclusion plot. On average, foraging by lyrebirds resulted in 155 tons per hectare of litter and soil being displaced each year.

Lyrebirds perform the displacement of leaf litter and soil when foraging for food. They use their powerful claws to rake the forest floor, exposing earth, mixing and turning over litter while seeking invertebrate prey. As ecosystem engineers they change the environment in ways that impact on other species. By disturbing the soil, they create new habitats or alter existing habitats in ways that positively affect other organisms such as plants and fungi. Bandicoots and Bettongs are also ecosystem engineers.

July: Aviya Naccarella: *“The Role of Plant-mammal interactions in restoration and how seed banks can help us understand long-term benefits of translocating ecosystem engineers”.*

Aviya’s presentation followed her practical PhD work to understand ecological interactions between mammals, plants and fungi. This work was carried out at The Briars Wildlife Sanctuary, Mornington Peninsula. Prior to the reintroduction of bandicoots to this area, extensive vegetation surveys, soil sampling, exclusion plots and soil seed bank experiments were performed.

Following the reintroduction, population monitoring and scat collection was carried out by repeated surveys. Bandicoot monitoring covered the establishment, survival and breeding rates, diet analysis - fungal and invertebrates, and assessment of seed dispersal. The results indicate that the increased diggings by bandicoots and the unique physical design of their diggings, encouraged healthy soils, increased recruitment and the creation of new habitat areas.

Aviya is an Ecologist with an interest in Ecosystem Processes. She has a Bachelor of Science from Monash and a Bachelor of Science - Honours from Latrobe. She is currently a graduate researcher at Deakin.

November: David De Angelis: *“Frog Friendly Gardening and pond construction in Greater Melbourne”.*

David discussed the many important factors to be aware of when creating a frog pond in your backyard. Different species of local frogs have differing requirements and these must be taken into account in the design of the pond. A range of water depths, attachment locations, shelter, foraging, entry and exit points must all be incorporated. This variety of alternate habitats will result in the frogs finding their most suitable location.

David spoke of the importance of a variety of plants in and around the pond, submerged, floating and emergent plants as well as small ground covers and a few taller plants around the edges. Warm and sunny areas are important and no more than 50% of the water surface should be overshadowed. David provided a comprehensive list of plants, broadly native to Melbourne, that are ideal for providing suitable frog habitats.

David has a Bachelor of Biological Science with Honours in Zoology from Latrobe. He is President of Frogs Victoria and is an environmental educator and consultant. He is an enthusiastic, long-time member of the FNCV and FSG.

Excursion:

During July, Alex led an FNCV group through known Lyrebird territories in Sherbrooke Forest. We looked at their unique nest structure, identified their scratching locations, and watched a number of them at work. Alex could identify known individuals by their call and territory area. For most of us, it was the closest and the most sightings we had ever experienced of Lyrebirds in the forest.

Philippa Burgess

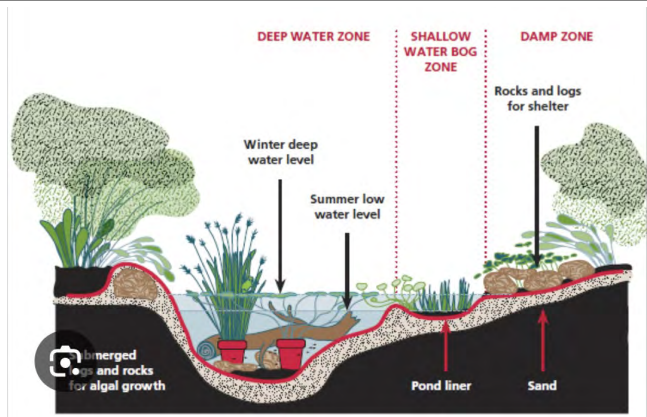


Alex Maisey at a lyrebird nest

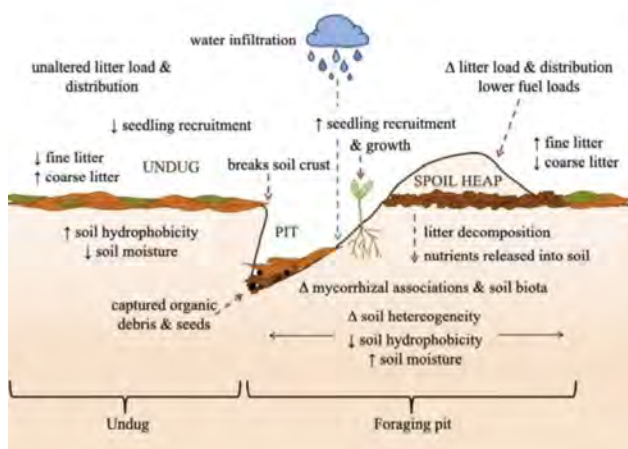
Dug over dirt forest patch.

Photo: Internet





Cross-Section of "Frog Bog"
Photo: Sustainable Gardening, Australia



Cross-Section of bandicoot diggings.
Photo: Phys.Org



Day Group

The FNCV Day Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, February to November. Members enjoy coffee and a chat from 10.30 am with the speaker scheduled at 11 am. The Day Group is a generalist group and presentations are directed towards learning more about a wide range of natural history topics in the company of friendly, like-minded people. All are welcome and we encourage members to invite their friends and family.

As they have done since 2015, Joan Broadberry and Sally Bewsher organise the program and chair the meetings. Joan summarises most meetings for Field Nats News (FNN). This is now made easier as most speakers allow access to their presentation via a memory stick.

Below is a record of the program for 2025 which, as can be seen, is wide-ranging and varied.

- February:** *The relationship we don't talk about - our population.* Speaker: Ian Penrose.
- March:** *Designing a garden for life.* Speaker: Chris Larkin.
- April:** Meeting cancelled because of Easter trips.

May: *Archibald James Campbell - ornithologist, naturalist and photographer.* Speaker: Dr Gary Presland.

June: *Touring Madagascar, with a focus on wildlife.* Speaker: Eve Kolar.

July: *Escape strategies of caterpillars, moths, butterflies and other invertebrates.* Speaker: Wendy Clark who stepped in at the last minute after a cancellation.

August: *Dreams and legacies – Four public Australian Native Gardens - Maranoa, Karwarra, Chelsea at Olin-da and Kevin Hoffman Walk at Lara.* Speaker: Nicky Zanen.

September: *Painting the bush and the Yarra River.* Speaker: Esther Schouten.

October: *Local spiders, or how to pick a good web browser.* Speaker: Ian Moodie.

November: *A three-week safari in Southern Africa.* Speaker: John Harris.

An enormous thank you to our wonderful presenters who generously volunteer their time and expertise. Without them there would be no Day Group. Thanks also to Wendy Gare who 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 all technical matters and ongoing support for the group.

Finally, my gratitude to those who helped us in finding speakers through their suggestions and contacts. However, we would always like, and need, as much assistance with the program as possible.

Joan Broadberry, Day Group Co-ordinator



Black & White Ruffed Lemur
Photo: Eve Kolar

Archibald James Campbell ornithologist, naturalist, photographer



FNCV expedition King Island 1887



Juniors' Group

Firstly, a thank you to Adam Hosken who was the Juniors Coordinator up until May 2025, before Nicole Brown was elected as the new Coordinator.

In 2025 there was a good mix of excursions and presentations in the hall and a highlight for this year has been the interaction and support we've had from many of our FNCV SIG members who have led excursions and presented to the group. This was particularly appreciated at short notice when external guest speakers were no longer able to present.

January - Presentation (Surveying for reptiles and frogs in Victoria)

The Juniors started the year with the presentation in the Hall from David De Angelis, an environmental educator, consultant and active member of the FNCV's Fauna Survey Group. David's interest in the biology and conservation of reptiles and frogs shone through in an engaging presentation.

February - Excursion (Point Cooke Marine Sanctuary)

In February Andrew Christie from Melbourne Polytechnic volunteered his time and joined the juniors on a perfect summer day to introduce 21 junior members from 15 different families to the Point Cooke Marine Sanctuary. A combination of narrow sandy beaches, rocky reefs and mud flats, this area, located on the edge of the suburbs, hosts a huge diversity of marine and coastal life. Highlights included shark eggs and plenty of southern fiddler rays.

March - Presentation (Unusual Pet Vets)

Thanks to Adam for helping to coordinate a visit from Dr Shane Simpson from the Unusual Pet Vets. Over 20 members heard about the fascinating work that Dr Shane and his colleagues do, keeping reptiles as pets and the challenges associated with the illegal export of Australian reptiles and birds. Shane also brought several reptiles from his personal collection (presented under appropriate permits) and his python, Victoria, was loved by all the junior members (less so by a couple of the parents!).

April - Excursion (Easter Camp)

Once again the Easter camp at Mali Dunes was a highlight for the Juniors. Held in conjunction with the Fauna Survey Group the Juniors helped with setting up tree guards, and were able to observe lots of night time insects. As always the walk with Mirinda and Iestyn did not disappoint and the Juniors and their families saw Mallee fowl nests and learnt about this unique bird. Other activities included a visit from the Easter Bilby, jokes, charades and quizzes.

June - Excursion (Birdwatching)

In June the Juniors braved the cold and headed out to Yellingbo for some bird watching with other SIG members. Thank you to Adam for stepping back in to lead this event. Several yellow helmeted honeyeaters were spotted, with the birds seen by all attendees. Thank you to Sue Bendel for guiding the walk and for her work at Yellingbo.

August - Excursion (Fungi Foray)

In August the Juniors went out with the Fungi Group to explore the fungi at Jumping Creek. There was lots of great spotting from young eyes and one of the non-fungi related highlights was a duck skull! Thanks to all the members of the Fungi Group for their patience with the Juniors and for sharing their passion for this truly unique Kingdom. From tiny blue fungi to large brown fruiting bodies there was plenty to observe within a short walk of the car park.

August - Presentation (The Small Things that Really Run the World!)

In August we celebrated the FNCV junior's birthday party with half a dozen families meeting up for a meal at the local Mexican Restaurant before our Club president, Max Campbell, gave a fascinating presentation on the small things that really run the world. And a birthday party wouldn't be complete without cake which was shared at the end of the night.

September - Excursion (Kyabram Fauna Park)

With school holidays and a public holiday on our regular meeting night, in September some of the juniors' families headed out of town to visit the Kyabram Fauna Park outside of Shepparton. This park has recently come under the umbrella of Zoos Victoria and is well worth checking out, especially for those families that have Zoos Victoria membership.

October - Excursion (Blackburn Lake Spotlighting)

A huge thanks to Euan Ritchie for hosting a night of spotlighting at Blackburn Lake. This event was well attended (and can you believe it we had three members called Euan in attendance!). The juniors were able to see lots of nocturnal animals that live in our local neighbourhood.

October - Presentation (How to Avoid Being Eaten!)

Wendy Clark from the Invertebrate Study Group provided the juniors with a lively presentation on the Escape Methods of Caterpillars, Moths and other Invertebrates. This was a great introduction to the Invertebrate Group and the Juniors look forward to excursions with Wendy in 2026.

November - Excursion (Tour of the Western Treatment Plant)

In November the Juniors participated in a tour of the Western Treatment Plant as part of a Community Open Day. The Western Treatment Plant contains a variety of natural habitats that provide a refuge for wildlife, including some of the world's rarest bird and frog species. Over 300 bird species have been recorded at the plant, making it one of Australia's best places for birdwatching.

While it is possible to gain access the Treatment Plant, birdwatching groups can only enter as part of a tour group. While organising this excursion the Juniors' Coordinator was able to provide support for a Melbourne Water business case to provide staff on weekends for educational tours of the Plant for groups like ours and other organisations such as Scouts. Fingers crossed we can program a bird watching tour of the Treatment Plant in 2026.

Nicole Brown



Part of a duck skull Photo: Annabelle B



Juniors from Grade 1 to Grade 6 enjoyed Point Cook
Photo: Shelly M



Possum at Blackburn Lake. Photo: Annabelle B



Tiny Blue Fungi



The Juniors meet Victoria the Snake!
Photo: Nicole B



Marine Research Group

The Marine Research Group held two meetings and undertook ten field trips throughout 2025. These were attended by small but enthusiastic groups.

Meetings

May: Our annual field trip roundup. We look at the locations we have visited and the animals we have seen. Members are encouraged to bring in images and exhibits from the field work to show to others.

December: Our annual members night. The meeting was held jointly on line and at the FNCV hall. Members brought along images, stories and research to share with the group.

We also held two induction sessions for new participants in our fieldwork.

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.

Our field work produces records of the species of marine invertebrates found along the Victorian coast and discovers new, undescribed species. We also identify and monitor pest species found during our field work. Beyond this we collaborate with Australian and overseas institutions and individual researchers.

All fieldwork is performed under collecting permits issued by DSE and DPI. In 2025 Fieldwork was carried out in the Cape Conran area, between Lorne and Anglesea and at Point Lonsdale and Clifton Springs.



Sea Slug: *Sacoproteus*. Photo L. Altoff

.DNA sequencing of Nemerteans (ribbon worms) found on our surveys was completed this year confirming 102 new species not previously described. These will be described in upcoming papers by Audrey Falconer



The DNA testing also confirmed the presence of the invasive Nemertean *Cephalothrix simula* in Victoria..
(Picture: Leon Altoff.)



Octopus tetricus was first observed in Victoria by the MRG in 2006 at Cape Conran. We observed it again during our Cape Conran surveys in 2025.
(Picture Leon Altoff.)

The existing committee remained in place.

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

I would like to thank all our members for their participation and contributions. I would also like to thank Audrey Falconer for coordinating our field trips.

Leon Altoff, Secretary



Invertebrate Study Group

Meetings 2025

We had many excellent speakers and some discussion nights. All were well attended and informative. Zooms were held in the warmer months. Members showed their photos and discussed observations.

Speakers:

The Brown Butterflies - family Satyrinae. Andrew McCutcheon informed us of his research of these butterflies. He opened our eyes to the variety, their seasonal behaviour and survival strategies.



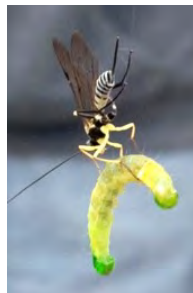
Silver Xenica, Photo: A. McCutcheon



Ants! Daniel Kurek introduced us to the Ants of Melbourne. We were astounded by the range of species and their behaviour. Melbourne is a biodiversity hot spot for ants, giving us many species to potentially observe.

Musclemant Ant *Podomyrma* sp.
Photo: W. Clark

Escape Methods of Caterpillars & other Invertebrates was presented by Wendy Clark. Survival by camouflage, mimicry, erratic flight, bad taste, and more. Also, when the methods failed or were used against them.



Wasp attacking caterpillar
Photo: Wendy Clark



Recently hatched *Coccinella transversalis* (Lady Beetle) larva attacking an aphid
Photo: Max Campbell

Lacewings of Victoria was presented to us by Ken Harris showing us the variety and beauty of these insects. These amazing predators come in an array of sizes and shapes – all with beautiful lacy wings (except one!).



Pied Lacewing *Porismus strigatus*
Photo: W. Clark

Field Trips 2025

Summer/Autumn

Kirth Kiln in Gembrook was visited in January. A small number of intrepid members surveyed the area and left just before torrential rain and winds hit the area. A revisit would be worthwhile.

Cardinia Reservoir was surveyed, a little later than we usually do and we were rewarded with different species.

Blackburn Creeklands was surveyed in the late afternoon, particularly looking for the large variety of wasps searching the tree trunks for prey.

Langwarrin Reserve provided us with an array of interesting finds as always.

Braeside Park northern end was surveyed in April with different invertebrates being found than the South end.



Lantern Fly
Rentinus dilatatus
Photo: Wendy Clark



Bee Flies
Anthrax confluens
Photo: Wendy Clark



Wingless Moth with eggs
Clouded Footman *Anestia ombrophanes*
Photo: Wendy Clark

Spring/ Summer

Jumping Creek, Warrandyte in September started the season off with low numbers of invertebrates, but interesting ones.

Mortimer Park, Gembrook was visited on a cold October day. Low numbers of species were found.

Cranbourne Gardens Bushland was surveyed in December on a warm day. The area was very dry and the species count was low, but interesting.

Velvet Ant
(Wingless Wasp)
Ephutomorpha picta
Photo: Wendy Clark



Wendy Clark
Co-ordinator



Fauna Survey Group

Overview

The field surveys undertaken in 2025 focused on localities where we are building on the knowledge and data from previous visits. Bael Bael and Warby Ranges Killawarra Forest surveys are in partnership with Parks Victoria's scientific staff, who assist with the design, fieldwork, and reporting.

This year was the 9th annual trip to Bael Bael grasslands to survey the critically endangered Plains Wanderer and other grassland species. Four Plains Wanderers were found, along with small numbers of other priority grassland fauna species.

Survey trips to parks and reserves are often at 3-year intervals and this year it was the Warby Ranges, where more data was added, and priority species like the Squirrel Glider and Speckled Warbler were recorded, and for the first time a Rose Robin.

As part of our planned program for 2025, we made several trips to the Club's conservation property and field station, Mali Dunes. Both fauna survey, and habitat and property maintenance work was undertaken.

There is an interesting and diverse population of reptiles, mammals, birds and other fauna present at the property. Two of the trips involved Malleefowl nest censuses, with the first one in February including training provided by Mirinda Thorpe. We learnt how to determine the breeding status at each mound and collect useful information for long term monitoring. Mali Dunes has a high density of Malleefowl and as such represents a valuable locality for the species. In November the mounds were again inspected by FSG members and the results reported to the Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group.

At Mali Dunes we also participated in working bees focusing on native plants recovery, and tidying and maintenance activities around the buildings. Many established plants had old tree guards removed, and others in need of protection had new tree guards installed. The rare Jumping-jack Wattles have responded quickly to protection and have put on new growth.

To monitor fauna populations, we have set out tile grids for small reptiles and mammals, and installed more nest boxes for bats and pygmy possums. Pit lines have been established and these are opened up on most visits for frog, reptile and small mammal monitoring.

During 2025 Fauna Survey Group members joined in a visit to the other Club property, the Walter and Louisa Cosstick Wildflower Reserve at Maryborough. We installed some new nest boxes, checked the ones already there, and also checked under the tiles, and set out more. We recorded a Brushtail Possum, 2 Krefft's Gliders and an Owlet Nightjar in the nest boxes. A Common Blue-tongue, an Eastern Large Striped Skink, and Garden Skinks were also seen.

The Fauna Survey Group has animal ethics approval, a scientific licence, and a research permit from DEECA to undertake all animal research.

Surveys 2025

February 15-16, Mali Dunes, Malleefowl nest census and training.

March 7-10, Bael Bael Grasslands Conservation Reserve.

April 17-23, Mali Dunes Easter survey.

Jun13-15, Warby Ranges Killawarra Forest.

Oct 30- Nov, 4: Mali Dunes.

Nov 22, Cosstick Reserve.

Meetings and Speakers 2025

February 4, **Michael Johnston**, Director, Ecolegacy Pty Ltd. Eradication of feral cat populations from Australian islands.

March 4, **Mark Anderson**, FSG member. The 'Bird Weather PUC', nature sound recorder.

April 1, **Ross MacFarlane**, Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group. 'The Malleefowl, and why we love them'.

May 6, Mali Dunes Fauna Report presented by **Andrej Hohmann** and **Raymond Gibson**. A pictorial presentation of fauna camera photos, and vertebrate and invertebrate survey photos.

June 3, **Amanda Lo Cascio**, Associate Research Fellow, Deakin University School of Life and Environmental Sciences. 'How pyrodiversity shapes bat communities in a South East Australian woodland'.

July 1, **Adam Yaney Keller**, Wildlife Ecologist and PhD candidate, Monash University. 'Disentangling the impacts of marine plastic debris and ghost gear'.

August 5, **Jake Kotevski**, Palaeontology PhD Candidate, School of BioSciences, Monash University. 'Theropods Down Under'.

September 2, **Jessica Zhou**, PhD candidate, Monash University. 'Birds in Bass Strait. Movements and implications in the age of offshore energy'.

October 7, **Xenia Munger**, PhD Candidate, Monash University. 'Risks and management of small populations: a case study with the Woylie'.

November 11, **Jack Manera**, PhD Student, School of Biological Science, Monash University. 'Noisy boats and hidden drugs: how human pollution disrupts shoaling fish and shrimp-goby mutualisms'.

December 2, Members night. Review of the years' surveys.

The attendance at the 11 meetings varied from 8 to 31 with an average of 19.

Raymond Gibson



Legless Lizard *Delma australis*
Mali Dunes Photo: Andrej Hohmann



Bearded Dragon
Bael Bael Photo: A Hohmann



Striated worm-lizard
Aprasia striolata
Mali Dunes Photo: A Hohmann



Dark-spined blind snake
Anilius bicolor
Mali Dunes Photo: A Hohmann



Eucalyptus ID in the Dome
Mali Dunes Photo: A Hohmann



Pitfall trapping
Mali Dunes Photo: A Hohmann



Malleefowl Mound Monitoring, Mali Dunes Photo: A Hohmann



Fungi Group

Between April and August 2025, the Fungi SIG was busy with forays in Victoria's bushland and forests at the height of the fungal fruiting season. Autumn and winter months in Victoria typically offer ideal conditions for fungi, however, April and May this year were unusually hot and dry, leading to a slow start to the season.

Conditions improved at the start of winter, with some fantastic observations during a weekend away. Members braved torrential rain during the Forrest forays, experiencing 69 mm, plus hail, on one day!

The forays this year were held at Tarra-Bulga National Park, Wombat State Forest, Wanderslore Sanctuary, Forrest, Great Otway National Park, Neds Gully, Cathedral Range State Park, Jack Cann Reserve, Blackwood, Badger Weir, Yarra Ranges National Park, Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve, and Jumping Creek, Warrandyte State Park.

Each foray was attended by 12 to 30 participants, from seasoned mycologists to curious families. Participants documented their finds with photographs and shared observations on iNaturalist, contributing to a growing database of Victorian fungal records in the Biodiversity Atlas of Australia and Fungimap. Over 1,500 fungal observations were submitted to iNaturalist during fungi forays, comprising 297 species.

Noteworthy finds included the arachnid parasite *Gibellula* species, the endangered Grey Jockey (*Asterophora mirabilis*), a beautiful Brown Forest Cup specimen (*Urnula campylospora*), the Austral Dripping Bonnet (*Roridomyces austrororidus*) in Tarra-Bulga, and the Stinky Squid (*Pseudocolus fusiformis*), which would look more at home in the deep sea.

Speakers we hosted at our monthly meetings:

Melvin Xu: What's a fungus? How to identify fungi.

Pam Catchside: The Fungi of Kangaroo Island – and Beyond.

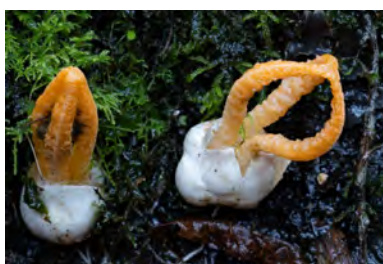
Dr Sapphire McMullen-Fisher: Australasian Fungal Conservation.

Beau Picking: Soil Microbiology.

Aviya Naccarella: Not all species are created equal. Variability in mycophagy across species, space, and time.

Luke Vaughan: Systematics of the cup fungus genus *Peziza* and *Pezizaceae* in Australia.

Microscopy nights were back in 2025, with members analysing a diverse variety of spores collected during forays under magnification. The Fungi SIG is anticipating a productive fungi season in 2026, including two overnight trips to Wilson's Prom and Lorne.



Hamish Beshara

Pseudocolus fusiformis

Photo:
Hamish Beshara



Fungi Group at Stevenson Falls Photo: H. Beshara



Geology Group

The Geology Group had 10 meetings, with attendance averaging over 21. Reports of the guest lectures in Field Nats News often had references to further reading. Ken Griffiths and Philippa Burgess shared the planning of these high standard lectures.

February. Ross Digby and Amanda Huang talked on the wide range of underground tunnels constructed worldwide. The Tunnelling Centre prepares the skilled workers. Melbourne has the NE link road tunnel, the Metro rail tunnel and the West Gate road tunnel. The Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) is planned to be tunnelling from 2026. Tunnel diameters range from 7.2 m to 15.6 m. Differing geological conditions require differing tunnelling equipment and methods. Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) may encounter hard rock, soft rock or mixed and changing rock types. A gripper TBM is suited to granite, gneiss or basalt. It grips the tunnel walls with shoes while pushing forward at the rock face with 58 cutting discs. It has a crew of 12.

March. Jack Stacey: *Dynamic ocean oxygen changes during the Devonian - implications for mass extinctions and the making of the modern world.* Oxygen first built up in the atmosphere, due to photosynthesis, more than two billion years ago. However, the balance between oxygen in the ocean remained an issue for life forms. In the late Devonian (360 Ma) one of the five great mass extinctions of life in Earth's history occurred. 75% of species, 35% genera and 19% families were lost. What was the cause? Between coral and stromatoporoid shell-remains, a marine cement of dolomite $MgCa(CO_3)_2$, a mineral of calcium and magnesium carbonate, had precipitated in reefs. In a university lab, laser/plasma mass spectrometry showed that episodic upwelling of anoxic water masses occurred. It is inferred that such events may have caused extinctions in shallow water environments such as those adjacent to carbonate reefs. Meanwhile the land plants were thriving and modern fauna opportunistically developed and thrived.

April. Ken Griffiths: *Rocks of the ACT.* At Geoscience Australia, of the 700 minerals on display, the calcite $CaCO_3$ And silica SiO_2 cabinets offered organising principles to the collection. Whereas the calcite commentary

was rather basic, the silica interpretation pointed to silicate SiO_4 molecular bonding structures. Using a big rock sample of pegmatite from the Time Walk trail outside, we 'flew' to several European museums where its mineral beryl $\text{Al}_2\text{Be}_3\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}$ was featured. The metal beryllium, being very light and hard, is used in alloys in aircraft and in spacecraft. The cyclic structure of the atomic bonds of the mineral beryl were revealed in 1926 in Cambridge, with the new x-ray diffraction technique. Ball-and-stick models celebrating this science breakthrough were found in Cambridge, London and Vienna museums. Beryl polished is the gem emerald. In the gallery of minerals at Paris, the notion of 'habit' was introduced to explain the wide variety of crystal forms of calcite. The term 'polymorph' specifies different crystal structures of the same chemical formula: aragonite/calcite, diamond/graphite or pyrite/marcasite.

May Monash excursion. Prof Sandy Cruden explained that the layout of some 20 rock types, and their lack of text interpretation, were deliberate teaching strategies. The rock samples are placed to reflect Victorian localities. Our guide walked us through the 'garden', discussing features of outcrops, such as Buchan limestone, migmatite, hornfels, slate, quartzite or basalt scoria.

May. Elowen Amos asked *Why study carbonate reefs?* Our present day coral reefs come to mind. Built by living creatures, they also are sites of diverse life. Even in the Archean era, a ridge or build-up of material at or near the sea surface occurred. Although species were not diverse at that time, a reef generally presents as an organic framework, with organisms in situ. There are builders, binders and bafflers. Microbes have an early role as binders. Reefs slow the flow of water, to the advantage of their life forms, which much later include platy algae, corals and sponges. Other reef components include marine cements, carbonate mud and physical erosion. Precipitation can occur.

June. John Webb *Silcrete - What is it and how does it form?* Primarily composed of fine quartz grains cemented with silica, silcretes can also contain opal or titanium. Silcretes can contain finely detailed fossils. Stone Age man found silcretes useful for making tools. They carried their well chosen rocks during their migration, with tool-making midden piles unearthed along migration routes. Geologists were able to discover the provenance of the silcrete, helping identify the origins of migratory peoples.

July. Ian Rutherford. *Humans want consistency, in the face of dynamic geomorphological processes, such as a river flooding.* Ian studied the lower King River, and later, the Ovens River flood plain. 'If it moves, stabilise it' was a principle he met. The removal of snags from rivers was later ceased. When the Latrobe River was straightened and de-snagged, it ran faster and incised its bed: a poor outcome. 'The key to most geomorphological management issues is to explain and predict change, seeking stability'. Response to erosion is an issue. For his PhD, Ian had worked on the impact of the geological fault across the Murray River at Barmah.

August. *The Macquarie volcanic arc: NSW gold emplacement and continental accretion.* With two video

films. Ken Griffiths showed on a geological map from 1970 where 3 or 4 folds N-S extend from the Blackburn Anticline to Studley Park Anticline. The map includes a cross section with the folds inferred to a depth of only a few hundred metres. The SE Lachlan Transect was a detailed seismic survey from Benalla to Bega in 2018 to investigate vertical faults up to 40 km in depth. Geological surveys in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra worked to interpret the new data, displayed on large sheets of paper. Ongoing, they seek to correlate the deep new data with well mapped surface geology.

September. Saini Samim: *Volcanoes and Human Origins: Tales from Turkana Basin, Kenya.* Hominin evolution traces species that lived before, and perhaps were contemporary with, Homo sapiens. From 4 Ma there were our first ancestors, 3 Ma stone tool users, 2 Ma Homo erectus walked upright and from 1 Ma migration out of Africa occurred. Homo sapiens date back to 300 ka. In the East Africa Rift Valley human and other fossils have been found near present day Lake Turkana. Dated about 1.6 Ma, a near complete skeleton known as Turkana Boy, or Nariokotome Boy, is celebrated locally with a prostrate brass statue. Volcanic ash erupted around the age of the fossils and has been utilised for four decades in attempts to determine dates. Saini published "An improved methodology for high-resolution trace-element fingerprinting of tephra layers."

October. Rachel Kirby: *Meteorites - Records of our Solar System's history.* As a planetary geologist, Rachel's field includes pre-solar grains, space dust and asteroids. Because of the gravity of Jupiter, the asteroid belt persists. Differentiation refers to a history of being molten, which enables an iron and nickel core to form. The asteroid Psyche, diameter 220 km, is metal rich, but not all of metal. It is believed to be the exposed core of a planetesimal that would have undergone a collision. Iron meteorites on Earth are believed to be of similar origin. In the field, there are meteorite falls and finds. The ratio is 1414 to 76 934. Rachel is geochemist for the Australian Desert Fireball Network, whose 50 cameras follow shooting stars and by triangulation label a likely area as a strewn field. Monash students annually search ancient surfaces (up to 30 000 ka such as the Nullarbor) for meteorite finds. Rachel found a rare large carbonaceous chondrite. (The 1969 Murchison meteorite fall was of this type).

November. Bruce Livett spoke about zebra rock. This oddly striped rock type is only found in the north west of Australia, in the East Kimberley. Though not of interest as a mineral resource, it has captured the interest of the public. It is mined locally and prepared for sale to tourists at Kununurra - worked, polished and sealed. But it is the origins of the striping in zebra rock that have been an enigma over the years. Monash University researchers identify two alternate explanations for banding. A fluid interacts with an acid-sulfate soil. But the origin and temperature of the fluid could be two fold. Either of hydrothermal origin, where Fe^{2+} ions are oxidised. Or a reaction-diffusion model where acidophilic bacteria play a catalytic role. The latter mechanism can be called bio-geo-chemistry.

Ken Griffiths



Microscopy Group

The Microscopy Group meets every second month alternating with the Invertebrate Study Group.

With our extensive collection of microscopes, and now our digital camera in action, we continue to introduce members to the world of microscopy and attract those with more experience.

We particularly enjoy viewing live, continuously active micro invertebrates and other organisms. Freshwater samples from local wetlands are always available, varying with the seasons, and with huge variety. Petrie dishes of worm castings are particularly interesting. There are always springtails, soil-mites, nematodes and many more. Members also like viewing worms slowly moving through the castings with their internal organs visible.

During June and July we had a great collection of fungi from the Club's Fungi Group's Foray trips. In particular we had specimens from the yearly visit to Wanderslore Sanctuary. Members discovered the shapes of the pore fungi or polypores, which ranged from hexagons, circular, ovoid and random. Toothed fungi, or hydroid, also have an amazing array of curved, pointed and conical tooth shaped structures. We also regularly come across microscopic invertebrates living amongst the gills.

New specimens examined included fish scales. We were aiming to identify the growth rings on the scales and therefore the age of the fish. During autumn and winter, the spacing between the circuli is less due to slower growth. In summer the circuli are spaced further apart as the fish feeds and grows more rapidly. We identified the winter bands of reduced growth as they are regularly a lighter colour and easier to spot as marking a year of growth. These growth rings are also evident in otoliths, vertebrae, fin spines, eye lenses and bones of the jaw. Staining of the scales helped identify the growth rings. We also looked at specimens of razor-sharp circular tooth like structures located in the rims of the suction cups on squid tentacles and we examined specimens of denticles in gummy shark skin.

River gravels eventually become beach sand in the rush downhill. We looked at gravel and sand from the Upper Snowy River comparing with river sands from lower tributaries. Using the Grain-size and Shape Tool from Geoscience Australia we compared size and shape of the gravels, and identified the different degradations between samples.

As well, we produced surface imprints of a variety of leaves showing guard cells and stomata. We used several coats of clear nail polish, gently peeling the strips from the leaf. We then placed this on the microscope slide for viewing. The differences between a variety of natives and exotics was then revealed.

Members regularly bring in specimens they have collected over the weeks which are always of interest. Max Campbell's videos of microscopic life continue to astound us. We also now have another member producing fabulous videography through the microscope.

Meetings are always interesting and filled with lively discussion. The probability of you finding something you have never seen before is very high!

Philippa Burgess



Bookshop

In 2025 the FNCV Bookshop sold a total of 220 books that ranged across 113 different titles covering 8 broad genres. Throughout the year an extensive range of books were available for sale on display at the Blackburn Clubrooms covering over 280 titles across topics including aquatic, children, flora, fauna, fungi, geology, invertebrate, wildlife guides, places and other general topics. A total of 13 new titles were added to the selection.

At the FNCV Symposium 'Impacts on Biodiversity During the Anthropocene – 10 years on,' held across 2 days in March 2025, the Bookshop offered book sales on both days. Over 101 titles were available with 32 at discounted prices. In total 71 books were sold across 54 different titles for a combined takings of \$1,944.50.

The bookshop provides a 20% discount on the recommended retail price of most books, covering 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 to be an incentive for non-members to join the club. The bookshop provides ongoing support to the library with the purchase of any new titles that are considered appropriate. We also manage the sale of *The Victorian Naturalist* Digital Archive Vol 1 - 137 that was released in May 2023. It is available from the Bookshop at a price of \$70 for members and \$88 for non-members.

The bookshop team extends a warm thanks to all those that have supported us throughout the year, submitting book orders and purchasing books from the hall. Due to personal commitments, Maryse had to step down from her role as bookshop assistant. Huge thanks to Maryse for all her work and time spent on various bookshop duties. The team would also like to acknowledge and thank, Wendy Gare and all those that processed the book sales from the clubrooms. The bookshop is looking for an assistant to complete clubroom-based tasks and monitor the incoming email orders and prepare them for dispatch. Anybody that is keen to help, is encouraged to contact Wendy in the office.

Orders for 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, or an electronic copy on the FNCV website.

Kathy Himbeck, Bookshop Manager

**THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC
REPORT BY COUNCIL. Year ended 31 December 2025**

The members of Council hereby submit the Income Statement for the year ended 31st December 2025 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2025, 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>Com- menced</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
Andrej Hohmann	Councillor	Public servant	2022
Judith Sise	Councillor	Retired teacher	2017
Su Dempsey	Councillor	Retired teacher	2013
Audrey Falconer	Councillor	Retired public servant	2025
William McInnes	Councillor	Retired doctor	2024
	<i>Special Interest Group Councillors</i>		
Vacant	Botany Councillor		2006
Joan Broadberry	Day Group Councillor	Retired teacher	2001
Leon Altoff	Marine Research Group Councillor	Analyst	2025
Hamish Beshara	Fungi Group Councillor	Environmental advisor	2025
Ken Griffiths	Geology Group Councillor	Retired teacher	2017
Nicole Brown	Juniors' Group Councillor	Arborist	2025
Ray Gibson	Fauna Survey Group Councillor	Retired chemist	2023
Wendy Clark	Invertebrate Study Group Councillor	Retired photographer	2022

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 2025.

3. Operating Loss of the Club for the year ended 31st December 2025 was (\$-6,349) (2024, Profit \$329)

4. A review of the operations of the Club is contained in the President's Report which is 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. 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 2025.

(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 2025.

(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 27th of April 2026 in accordance with a resolution of Council.



Maxwell Campbell – President



Barbara Burns - Treasurer

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Income Statement year ended 31/12/25

		2025	2024
INCOME	Membership	\$39,632	\$39,980
	Bookshop Profit (2024 includes the 2023 and 2024 Profit)	410	2,373
	Biodiversity Symposium	1,773	
	Hall Hire	1,565	857
	Speaker Fees, etc	3,500	
	Profit SEANA Camp, Cowes, Phillip Island	0	638
	Non-Member Levy	487	503
	Copyright Royalties - Victorian Naturalist.	3,232	4,041
	Second-hand Book Sales	123	2,294
	Interest and Franking Credits from Investments	6,155	6,393
	General Donations, Raffle , Fungi e-book .	<u>3,651</u>	<u>3,460</u>
	Total Income	<u>\$60,528</u>	<u>\$60,539</u>
EXPENDITURE	Victorian Naturalist, Printing and Postage (Less proceeds sale back issues)	5,583	6,900
	Publications		
	Newsletter, Printing and Postage (Less advertising revenue \$427)	1,825	690
	Calendar of Events, Printing and Postage	<u>1,276</u>	<u>1,325</u>
	Total Publications Expenses	<u>\$8,684</u>	<u>\$8,915</u>
Other Expenses	Annual Report Printing Cost	396	338
	Cloth Bags Used.	207	206
	Bank Fees, Credit Card, Eftpos Machine	430	412
	Depreciation Expense	2,614	1,991
	Electricity	767	727
	Hall Cleaning	1,695	1,500
	Hall Alarm	611	567
	Insurance	3,564	3,046
	Internet Provider, Website, Phone, Software	2,014	1,224
	Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies	259	238
	Library Expenses	83	190
	Donations Outgoing	273	0
	Mali Dunes Expenses - (Rates, etc. less Donations)	1,071	848
	FNCV Mugs Used	147	146
	Non-Library Subscriptions	368	336
	Office Postage	364	459
	Office Stationery, Supplies, etc	437	952
	Repairs & Maintenance Office Equipment	0	20
	Repairs & Maintenance General	2,362	1,071
	Rates (\$721) and Water (\$877) - Gardenia St	1,598	1,482
	Rates Maryborough	418	331
	Sundry, Volunteer and Xmas Expenses	212	204
	Special Interest Groups' Expenses	1,250	402
	Workers' Compensation Insurance	361	342
	Salaries and Superannuation	<u>36,692</u>	<u>34,263</u>
	Total Other Expenses	<u>\$58,193</u>	<u>\$51,295</u>
		Total Publication and Other Expenses	<u>\$66,877</u>
	OPERATING LOSS 2025	<u>(-\$6,349)</u>	<u>\$329</u>

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31/12/25

<u>ASSETS</u>	2025	2024
<u>Current Assets</u>	\$	\$
Cash at Bank - Note (3)	95,371	63,539
Petty Cash (FNCV \$50, Bookshop \$50)	100	90
Accrued Interest on Fixed Deposit	0	4,547
Stock FNCV Mugs \$145, Cloth Bags \$206, carried forward	351	706
Prepaid Cost of VicNat Searchable USB's (Bookshop Stock)	4,571	4,754
Inventories Bookshop - Note (4)	<u>11,681</u>	<u>13,086</u>
<u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>\$112,074</u>	<u>\$86,722</u>
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	65,000	104,407
Aust Foundation Shares Listed on the Stock Exchange - Note (5)	<u>20,220</u>	<u>20,220</u>
	<u>\$85,220</u>	<u>\$124,627</u>
<u>Library Holdings - Note (6)</u>	<u>\$50,321</u>	<u>\$50,321</u>
<u>Property and Equipment</u>		
Maryborough Property - Note (7)	13,400	13,400
Clubhouse at Valuation, 1 Gardenia St. Blackburn - Note (7)	1,412,000	1,412,000
Clubhouse Improvements - Note (7)	57,957	57,957
Equipment at Cost, less Accumulated Depreciation - Note (7)	7,484	7,267
Mali Dunes, Millers Road, Yanac (at cost 6/4/22).	<u>308,223</u>	<u>308,223</u>
<u>TOTAL PROPERTY and EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>\$1,799,064</u>	<u>\$1,798,847</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$2,046,679</u>	<u>\$2,060,517</u>
<u>Less LIABILITIES (All Current)</u>		
Pay as You go Payable (\$845), Net GST (\$467)	1,312	1,272
Kathy Himbeck Owes Bookshop	-100	1,813
Accrued Expenses - Vic Nat Printing	0	582
Mali Dunes Donations (for the Purchase of the Property)	103,765	103,765
Science Talent Search Fund	0	500
Landcare Australia Grant, FNCV Juniors	615	615
Grant, Murra Warra Wind Farm	2017	
Australian Natural History Medallion - Loan Account	6,904	6,141
FNCV Environment Fund - Loan Account	<u>20,564</u>	<u>27,683</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	<u>\$135,077</u>	<u>\$142,371</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$1,911,602</u>	<u>1,918,146</u>
<u>FNCV ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		
Operating Loss for 2025	-6,349	329
General Fund Brought Forward - Note (8)	606,289	605,960
Bequests, Dorothy Mahler (\$10,000), Fred Smith (\$10,000)	20,000	20,000
Marine Research Fund	24,857	24,857
Fauna Survey Equipment Fund - Note (9)	7,999	8,193
FNCV Environment Fund	715	715
Asset Revaluation Reserve - Clubhouse, Gardenia St. Blackburn Note 10)	1,240,488	1,240,488
Asset Revaluation Reserve - General	15,093	15,093
FNCV Juniors Fund	<u>2,511</u>	<u>2,511</u>
<u>TOTAL FNCV ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	<u>\$1,911,602</u>	<u>\$1,918,146</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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 professional reporting requirements in Australia do not have mandatory applicability to The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Incorporated because its reports are only for members. The Council has, however, prepared the financial report in accordance with the applicable professional reporting requirements.
- (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 their value, 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 cost.
- i) *Grants* received in relation 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 2025

3. CASH	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Club Operating Account, Bendigo Bank	\$81,639	\$50,247
FNCV Environment Fund Account, Bendigo Bank	716	716
Bookshop Account, Bendigo Bank	12,776	3,021
Bookshop Account, Westpac, Croydon	240	2,897
Bookshop Interest A/c, Westpac, Croydon	<u>0</u>	<u>6,657</u>
TOTAL CASH	<u>\$95,371</u>	<u>\$63,539</u>
4. STOCK OF BOOKS for Sale Through Bookshop, (Cost value)	<u>\$11,681</u>	<u>\$13,086</u>
5. SHARES LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE		
5000 Shares in Australian Foundation, at cost	<u>\$20,220</u>	<u>\$20,220</u>
5(a) Market Value of listed shares in Australian Foundation at 31/12/25, 5000 x \$7.19	<u>\$35,950</u>	<u>\$37,150</u>
6. LIBRARY BOOKS AND JOURNALS - At Council Valuation 23/5/95	<u>\$50,321</u>	<u>\$50,321</u>
7. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES and EQUIPMENT		
Cosstick Reserve, Maryborough – at valuation on acquisition	13,400	13,400
Mali Dunes Property - at cost, 6th April, 2022	308,223	308,223
1 Gardenia St, Blackburn - at Council valuation, November 2023	1,412,000	1,412,000
Clubhouse Improvements - at cost	57,957	57,958
Equipment - at cost \$81,372, less Accum. Depreciation (-\$73,888)	<u>7,484</u>	<u>7,269</u>
	<u>\$1,799,064</u>	<u>\$1,798,850</u>
8. GENERAL FUND - Balance Brought Forward 1.1.2025	606,289	605,960
Less Operating Loss for 2025	<u>-6,349</u>	<u>329</u>
Balance at 31 December 2025	<u>\$599,940</u>	<u>\$606,289</u>
9. Fauna Survey Equipment Fund Balance 1.1.2025	8,193	9,407
Less: Funds Spent on Equipment	<u>-194</u>	<u>-1,214</u>
Balance at 31 December 2025	<u>\$7,999</u>	<u>\$8,193</u>
10. Asset Revaluation Reserve - CLUB HOUSE,		
FNCV Council Revaluation to Blackburn Rates Notice Valuation, 30/11/23	<u>1,240,488</u>	<u>1,240,488</u>
Balance at 31 December 2025	<u>\$1,240,488</u>	<u>\$1,240,488</u>

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc.
Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2025

	<u>Inflow +,</u>	<u>Outflow (-)</u>
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net outflow from Operations (Note 1.)	-4,120	9,502
GST Bookshop and FNCV (Net change)	<u>-129</u>	<u>99</u>
Net Cash Outflow from Operations	<u>\$-4,249</u>	<u>\$9,601</u>
CASH FLOWS INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Decrease in Bendigo Bank Fixed Deposit	39,407	0
Equipment Purchased	-2,830	0
Reversal Term Deposit Interest not Received in Cash in 2024	4,547	-4,547
Phillip Island Camp, Expenses Paid in Advance, Reversed	0	1,250
Postage Paid by Office for Bookshop Repaid	<u>0</u>	<u>260</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Investing Activities	<u>\$41,124</u>	<u>-\$3,037</u>
CASH FLOWS FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Decrease in Science Talent Search Fund	-500	-500
Increase in Loan from Australian Natural History Medallion	763	-1,686
Decrease in Fauna Survey Equipment Fund	-194	-1,214
Decrease in Loan from Environment Fund	-7,119	-6,696
Increase in Grant from Murra Warra Wind Farm	2,017	<u>0</u>
Increase in Petty Cash for Bookshop	<u>-10</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Cash Outflow from Financing Activities	<u>-\$5,043</u>	<u>-\$10,096</u>
Net Cash Inflow for the Year	<u>\$31,832</u>	<u>-\$3,532</u>
Bendigo Bank Operating Account Balance Start of Year	50,247	62,418
Bendigo Bank Operating Account Balance End of Year	<u>81,639</u>	<u>50,247</u>
Increase in Bendigo Bank Operating Account	31,392	-12,171
Decrease in Westpac Bookshop A/cs	-9,314	5,615
Increase in Bendigo Bank Bookshop A/c	<u>9,754</u>	<u>3,021</u>
Total Reported Increase in Cash for year	<u>\$31,832</u>	<u>-\$3,535</u>
Note 1. Reconciliation of Loss with Cash Flow from Operations	\$	\$
Net Loss	-6,349	329
Add Back Depreciation	2,614	1,993
Add Decrease in Inventory	1,405	852
Add Decrease in Bookshop Debtors	0	4,778
Add Decrease in Stock of Mugs (\$147), Cloth Bags (\$207)	354	353
Add Increase in Pay-as-You-Go Tax	168	-38
Add Decrease in Stock of VicNat Searchable USB's	183	1,340
Less Decrease in Prepaid Bookshop Vouchers	0	-1,900
Less Decrease Bookshop Owes Kathy Himbeck for Purch Books	-1,913	1,813
<u>Less Decrease in Accrued Expenses</u>	<u>-582</u>	<u>-18</u>
Net Cash Outflow from Operations	<u>-\$4,120</u>	<u>\$9,502</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB OF VICTORIA INC. Year ended 31/12/2025

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 2025. 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 Professional Accounting requirements. 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 mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia).

I have relied on the data for years prior to that ending 31 December 2025 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 2025 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed:



Susan J. Harkin, CPA
Honorary Auditor

18 April 2026
Blackburn