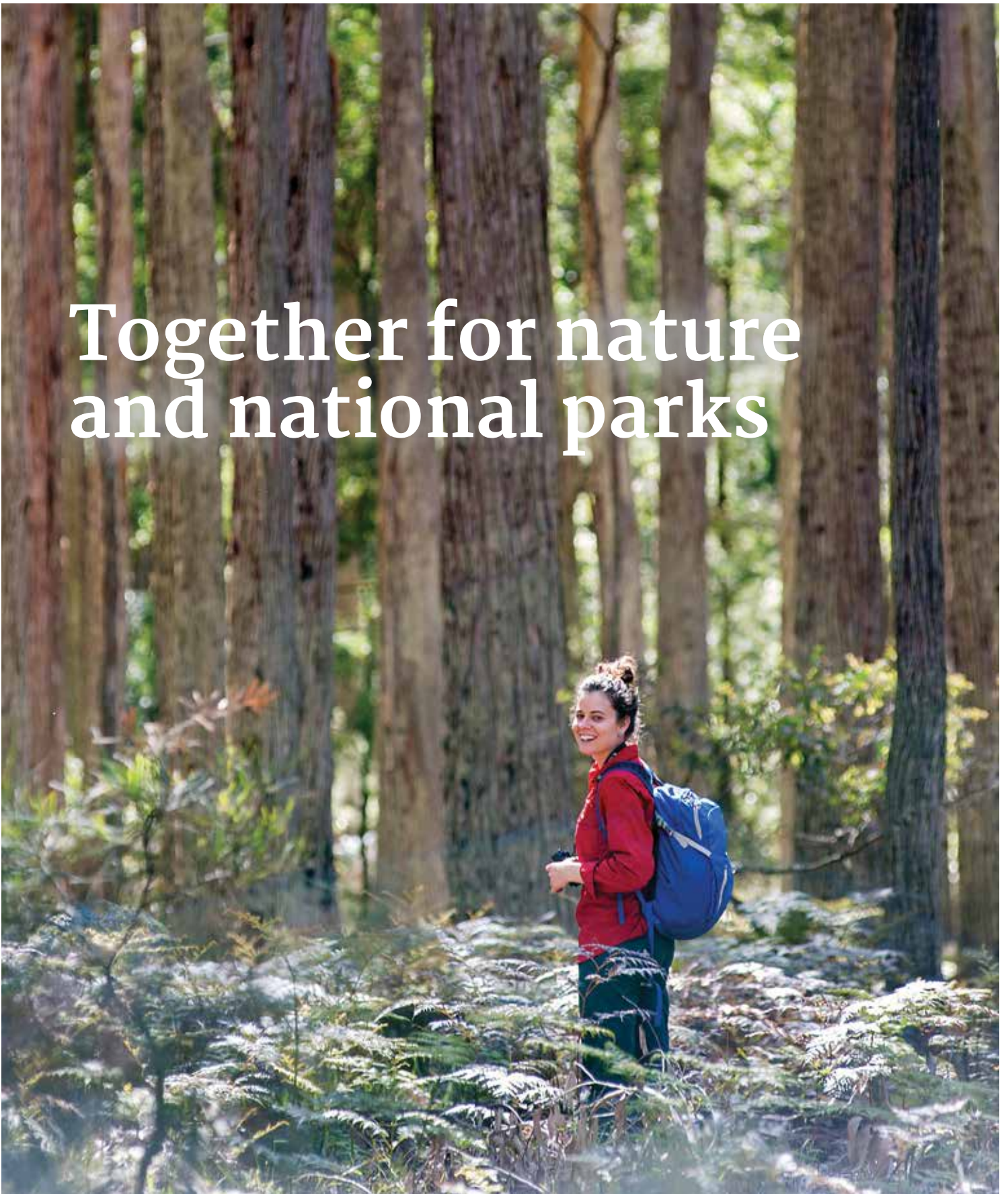


# Together for nature and national parks



VICTORIAN  
NATIONAL PARKS  
ASSOCIATION  
*Be part of nature*

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2019 - 2020



## About Us

As an independent, not-for-profit nature conservation organisation we rely on the generosity of our Members, supporters, volunteers and partners to deliver our vision for Victoria to be a place with a diverse and healthy natural environment that is protected, respected and enjoyed by all.

Since 1952, we have been helping shape the agenda for creating and managing national parks, conservation reserves and other important natural areas across land and sea. We work with all levels of government, scientists and the community to achieve long-term, best-practice environmental outcomes. We also provide opportunities for the community to enjoy and learn about nature through our bushwalking and activities program and citizen science programs NatureWatch and ReefWatch.

The Victorian National Parks Association acknowledges the many First Peoples of the area now known as Victoria, honours their continuing connection to, and caring for, Country, and supports Traditional Owner joint-management of parks and public land for conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

Our office is located on traditional land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We offer our respect to Elders past, present and future.

Front cover: Shannon Hurley, Nature Conservation Campaigner in the Wombat Forest. Photo by Sandy Scheltema.

Authorised by Matt Ruchel, Executive Director, Victorian National Parks Association, Level 3, 60 Leicester St, Carlton VIC 3053, October 2020  
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www.vnpa.org.au | ABN: 34 217 717 593

## Our People

We are governed by a Council and several committees who volunteer their time. They work together with our staff, volunteers and partners to protect nature and national parks.

### Council

- Bruce McGregor**, President (Convenor Executive, Conservation & Campaigns, Finance, Governance)
- Gerard McPhee**, Vice President (Co-convenor Conservation & Campaigns, Executive, Governance)
- Rosemary Race**, Secretary (Executive)
- Marilyne Crestias**, Treasurer (Convenor Finance, Executive, Governance)
- Lara Bickford** (Convenor Marketing & Community Engagement, Executive)
- Ann Birrell** (Convenor Governance, Executive)
- Jan Hendrik Brueggemeier**
- Michael Feller** (Co-convenor Conservation & Campaigns)
- Deborah Henry** – resigned Dec 2019 (Bushwalking & Activities Group)
- Dianne Marshall** (Conservation & Campaigns)
- Euan Moore** (Conservation & Campaigns)
- David Nugent** (Conservation & Campaigns)
- Paul Strickland** (Marketing & Community Engagement)

Note: Committee memberships in brackets

### Staff

- Matt Ruchel**, Executive Director
- Phil Ingamells**, Parks Protection Campaigner
- Shannon Hurley**, Nature Conservation Campaigner
- Jordan Crook**, Nature Conservation Campaigner (from Jan 2020)
- John Kotsiaris**, Nature Conservation Campaigner (from Feb 2020)
- Jessie Borrelle**, Digital Campaigner (from Nov 2019)
- Meg Sobey**, Publications and Online Coordinator
- Caitlin Griffith**, Manager Community Learning and Engagement
- Sera Blair**, NatureWatch Coordinator
- Kristen Agosta**, NatureWatch Project Officer
- Kade Mills**, ReefWatch Coordinator
- Nicole Mertens**, ReefWatch Project Officer
- Emily Clough**, Fundraising Manager
- Amelia Easdale**, Supporter Development
- Heath Rickard**, Finance & Operations Manager
- Charlotte Kandelaars**, Administrative Officer
- Emily Cork**, Administrative Assistant
- Sarah Day**, Conservation Projects Officer (until Dec 2019)



## President's Report

Bruce McGregor

It seems a lifetime ago when hundreds of nature-lovers gathered together on the steps of Parliament for the Nature for Life Rally on November 28. Representatives from over 40 conservation groups travelled to Melbourne to call for urgent action from the state government to better protect Victoria's nature.

Unfortunately not long after this inspiring day, the Victorian community and nature faced massive challenges with devastating bushfires in summer. Substantial areas of bushland and protected areas in eastern Victoria experienced drought, unprecedented heat and widespread fires. While burning is part of our ecosystem, hot and frequent fires are very damaging. VNPA's ongoing engagement with government on this issue is important as we press hard for more ecologically-focussed fire management.

The bushfires were of course followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and since March every Victorian has been affected with lockdowns and travel restrictions. While necessary, it has been frustrating for the

VNPA community to be cut off from our beloved national parks. Never before has the importance of nature to our wellbeing been so emphasised. VNPA constantly works to both foster and satisfy the community's thirst for knowledge and experience of our wonderful biodiversity. Over the past year we have continued to play an important role encouraging the Victorian community to appreciate our natural environment and develop a desire to protect it through direct hands-on involvement. Our events earlier in the year, such as the Great Victorian Fish Count, were well attended. Unfortunately from March, we've been unable to provide our usual NatureWatch, ReefWatch, Wild Families and bushwalking activities given the restrictions. Instead, a series of online activities have been rapidly developed and rolled out, and your enthusiastic attendance at our webinars and workshops has been affirming to both me, Council members and staff that VNPA is doing the right thing. Despite the challenges of the past year, the support and generosity of our community has ensured that we continue to strongly advocate for Victoria's national parks and other protected areas. Thank you for standing with us as we work together for nature.

As usual, this year VNPA has tackled a huge array of conservation issues and campaigns. I would like to thank Executive Director Matt Ruchel and our hardworking staff for their commitment and efforts on these conservation issues on behalf of all Members and supporters, despite the enormous challenges brought about by the bushfires and COVID-19.

One aspect of VNPA's work that I have noticed to be particularly effective is the way in which Matt and the team work with other organisations and

groups, from small groups focussed on specific local issues, to larger organisations that work across the country. This collaboration ensures VNPA's expertise in protecting nature is maximised, with the knowledge and support provided by the scientific community and our many partners.

Many thanks to our volunteer Council and Committee Members for their tenacity and hard work to support and drive the direction of VNPA. Countless meetings and discussions are key to our work and we've adapted to holding our many meetings online. I would also like to express our deepest gratitude to retiring Council Members Euan Moore and Deb Henry. Deb provided her valuable input on Council for seven years, and Euan served an impressive ten years on Council and performed the roles of both Vice-President and President during that time. We are thankful that both Euan and Deb continue to be involved in various VNPA Committees and projects.

Much of VNPA's work is supported by many volunteers who contribute to citizen science projects, campaign work, mapping, administration and mailouts, as well as organising bushwalks, excursions and other activities. While some volunteers have had a break from their commitments during the coronavirus restrictions, many others have continued to contribute from home by submitting images of marine life as part of our ReefWatch program, persistently writing to decision makers, and making submissions to stand up for nature. We greatly appreciate the valuable contribution made by our wonderful volunteers.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank our passionate community of donors, supporters and Members. Your trust, encouragement and generous financial investment is absolutely crucial to protecting nature in Victoria.

Nature for Life Rally.



PHOTO: SANDY SCHELTEMA





## The Year in Review

Executive Director Matt Ruchel

I am very pleased to thank the VNPA community for your support this past year. Despite the challenges brought about by the bushfires and coronavirus, we have achieved so much together.

Thanks to our generous Members and supporters, we've kept up the good fight, being the voice for Victoria's national parks, natural areas and the species that rely upon them – against the odds. These are just some of the achievements your support has made possible.

### Campaigning for new parks

Almost 60,000 hectares of forest and woodlands in Victoria's Central West could be protected in new national parks if the Andrews Government agrees to Victorian Environmental Assessment Council recommendations released in June 2019. And while we impatiently await an announcement, which was due in February this year, the team, including new Digital Campaigner Jessie Borrelle, has run an increasingly vocal campaign to encourage the Andrews Government to commit to creating these new parks. We're all rightly concerned about the coronavirus pandemic, but we will not let these new national parks drop off the government or public agenda.

### Protecting the integrity of national parks

This year, campaigners Phil Ingamells and Shannon Hurley have been joined by Jordan Crook and John Kotsiaris, as we work to stop inappropriate private and commercial use of national parks and conservation reserves, and speak to the value of the parks service, Parks Victoria, and their need for more funding. We have also responded to a range of park management plans, infrastructure plans and strategies to protect the integrity of the conservation estate.

### Tackling the feral problem

Our response to deer and feral horse management is ongoing. Though the Victorian Government released a draft deer strategy more than a year ago, they are yet to deliver a final plan. VNPA therefore keeps pushing for an integrated, state-wide, adequately-resourced program to manage this out-of-control feral animal.

### Great Ocean Road Authority

Despite our best efforts, the Andrews Government passed legislation to hand management of some of our most iconic national parks over to a new tourism-focused management authority. It's an alarming step backwards in nature conservation. With a proposed second-wave of legislation coming up, we will continue to keep a sharp eye on the details.

### Strategic and legislative reform

VNPA continues to work at a strategic level, ensuring that the interests of Victoria's natural environment and parks system are heard by those in power.

### Our critically endangered grasslands

The state and federal governments had committed to deliver new reserves by 2020 to protect Victoria's critically endangered grasslands threatened by Melbourne's urban sprawl – but only 10 per cent has been delivered to date. We are calling for an urgent examination of how to prioritise acquisition, protection and management of highest quality remaining conservation areas to protect this most threatened of ecosystems.

### Cornerstone of conservation

The team have also analysed recent amendments to Victoria's *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. Historically, the Act has been poorly implemented – we are now looking at how to use the refreshed tools available in the updated Act to achieve more conservation action for threatened species.

### Our bushfire response

The summer bushfires burnt over one million hectares in Victoria: 104 parks and reserves were affected, with 34 of these completely burnt-out. The habitat of over 300 threatened species has been severely impacted. Thanks to your support, VNPA provided detailed briefings to government and community on the impact the bushfires have made on the plants, animals and parks in East Gippsland.

We have made submissions to both the state and national bushfire inquiries, including the national Bushfires Royal Commission – and we'll keep engaging in these inquiries as they progress. The damage caused by the fires makes protecting un-burnt areas across the state increasingly critical.

### Challenging logging

Amid the COVID-19 shutdowns in April, the Victorian and Commonwealth governments re-signed the Regional Forestry Agreements (RFAs), locking in a further ten years of native forest logging. We provided a detailed submission highlighting the flaws and attended a number of forums, but unfortunately key issues we raised were largely ignored.

While we welcomed the Andrews Government's announcement to end native forest logging by 2030, and the new so-called 'Immediate Protected Areas' and 'Old Growth Protections', we are concerned that implementation has stalled. We are continuing to strongly encourage the government toward a faster transition to plantations, especially in the wake of the recent fires in the east.

Disappointingly, the renewed RFA enables logging in the wildlife-rich forests of Mount Cole. In December we heard that VicForests was proposing to log Mount Cole in western Victoria, so we launched a citizen science survey in the area and submitted a formal report. Subsequently the Mount Cole Grevillea has now been listed as threatened in Victoria, and saved in roped-off areas in one of the logging coupes at Mount Cole.



A VNPA volunteer surveying a Mount Cole Grevillea.



Mount Cole Grevillea.

### NatureWatch

Our NatureWatch citizen science program, lead by Dr Sera Blair, has delivered a series of successful 'Caught on Camera' wildlife monitoring seasons, compiling a mass of data for the Bunyip State Park and Wombat State Forest. This has been integral to our campaign for new parks in the Central West.

And with the support of Project Officer Kristen Agosta, Sera has also organised a number of successful 'stagwatches', where teams of volunteer observe the night-time comings and goings of possums and gliders between big old 'stag' trees. This work also supports the campaign for the creation of a Great Forest National Park.

### Protecting our seas and shores

Inappropriate private and commercial interests threaten our marine and coastal environments as much as they do on land.

### Opposing AGL

The energy giant AGL's proposal for a Gas Import Terminal is a threat to Westernport Bay, its Ramsar-listed wetland, and the diversity of marine life it sustains. We're working with fellow environment organisations to oppose this inappropriate and potentially toxic development – many thanks to all those who have emailed decision-makers and written submissions.

### Influencing policy

The final Marine and Coastal Policy was released by the Victorian Government in March. After consistent input from VNPA, the document looks promising. However, it also has some weaker elements, so we remain vigilant to ensure the policy is properly interpreted by decision-makers.

### Belfast Coastal Reserve

Our work with the local community and other groups at Belfast Coastal Reserve (between Warrnambool and Port Fairy) has kept commercial racehorse training at bay since September 2018. We're continuing to keep watch, to ensure the Hooded Plovers and beaches stay safe.

### ReefWatch

Under the careful stewardship of Kade Mills and Dr Nicole Mertens, our ReefWatch citizen science program is surging. Seven Melbourne Sea Slug Census events have been held since the inaugural Census in April 2018, recording at least 170 species of Victorian sea slugs. Six of these sea slug species were 'undescribed' by science (as close to a 'new' species as we'll get!). This year, Nicole also piloted 'Virtual Fish Counts' to showcase our marine environment to those that may not have the opportunity to experience it first-hand.

### Wild Families

Our Wild Families Program, led by Caitlin Griffith, supports families to get out and have adventures in nature, where both children and adults learn together. This

year we ran specially-tailored Great Victorian Fish Count activities with the Sudanese Australia Integrated Learning Program and the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre.

### And behind the scenes...

Much of VNPA's work happens behind the scenes. Sitting on committees, stalking the halls of Parliament House, in our offices – and lately, working from home.

Communications Coordinator Meg Sobey keeps an exacting eye on all VNPA communications, including editing *Park Watch* magazine, which as always is a valuable source of information, keeping Members, supporters and decision-makers up-to-date on nature issues across Victoria. We thank all the generous contributors of insightful articles and beautiful images.

The efforts of our hardworking finance and administrative team Heath Rickard, Charlotte Kandelaars and Emily Cork, and philanthropy team Emily Clough and Amelia Easdale are also very much appreciated.

Many thanks to our President Bruce McGregor, Council and Committee Members and volunteers for their guidance, dedication and hard work.

But most of all, I thank all within the VNPA community for sharing and supporting our vision of Victoria as a place with a diverse and healthy natural environment protected, respected and enjoyed by all.



## Thank you to our volunteers

Many thanks to the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who work with us to achieve so much for Victorian nature. We would especially like to thank those listed below.

**Bushwalking & Activities Group:** Terese Dalman (Convenor), Fred Gerardson, Deborah Henry, Darren McClelland.

**Bushwalking & Activities Leaders:** We are grateful for the hard work of all our volunteer leaders.

**Council committees:** The following volunteers (other than VNPA Councillors and staff) make a valuable contribution via committees: Russell Carrington, Russell Costello, Vimi Desai, Evelyn Feller, Mike Forster, Maelor Himbury, Bernie Mace, Darren McClelland, David Mould, Steve Platt, John Renowden, Charles Street, Wilson Swan.

**Excursions:** Larysa Kucan (Convenor).

**Grow West:** John Stirling and Terese Dalman plus VNPA planters.

**Mapping and GIS:** Tony Hampton.

**Native Vegetation & Grasslands:** Andrew Booth.

**NatureWatch:** Thank you to the amazing volunteers who have helped us develop projects and lead our research teams in the field: Kristen Agosta, Dan Beacom, Terry Coates, Christine Connelly, Charlotte Fletcher, Jasper Hails, Dr Sarah MacLagan, Lachie McBurney, David Nicholls, Jackson O'Neill, Marg Rowell, Garry Van Dijk, Ian Vaskess, Ann Williamson. Thank you also to the 250+ dedicated NatureWatch field volunteers who have assisted us with important wildlife monitoring and to the landowners who allowed us to monitor bandicoots in their backyards.

**Office Assistants:** Reg Elder, Joan McDonald, Wilson Swan, Graham Trigg, Fred Tropp-Asher, Colin Wong.

**Park Watch Mailout Team:** Mem Alexander, Rowena Church, Colin Clark, David Ellison, Jan Gay, Brian Groom, Jo Groom, Margaret Hattersley, Leonie Hudson, Ann Jacobs, Keith Lloyd, Margot Marasco, Raimonne McCutchan, Joan McDonald, Ian McDonald, Sheina Nicholls, Joan M Phillips, Mary-Lou Phillips, Barbara Prouse, Lorraine Ratcliffe, Phil Ratcliffe, Graham Trigg, Pat Witt.

**Project Hindmarsh:** Terese Dalman plus VNPA planters.

**Publications & Photography:** Jenny Barnett, Josh Bowell, Tomas Bristow, Jan Brueggemeier, Mark Darragh, Hayley Davis, Bette Devine, Ed Dunens, Geoff Durham, Evelyn Feller, Andrew Haysom, Michael Howes, Sarah MacLagan, Euan Moore, Jenny Norvick, Gayle Osborne, Ian Raymond, Peter Robertson, Sandy Scheltema, Paul Sinclair, Bernard Slattery, David Tatnall, Peter Vaughan and many other photographers, authors and interviewees.

**Research and campaign assistants:** Bill Blackburn, Louise Crisp, Claire Cordwell, James Cordwell, Evelyn Feller, Michael Feller, Geoff Lacey, Dianne Marshall, Spiro Manolopoulos, Angela Munro, Karin Traeger Hermosilla and many others in the scientific and conservation community.

### ReefWatch

**Great Victorian Fish Count:** Thank you for the enormous amount of support from the dive/snorkel community for organising over 50 surveys and the 700+ community members that participated in the fish count.

**OysterWatch:** Many thanks to Madi Anderson, Karen Barwise, Andrew Christie, Peter Dedrick, Ray Lewis, AJ Morton, Nick Olliff, Bert Parker, Nick Olliff, Sharky, Paul Sorenson, Stephen Mabbett, Sandy Webb, Kim Wright, Jacqui Younger and all of the enthusiastic community and dive club members from Academy of Scuba, Australian Diving Instruction, Disabled Divers Association, Dive2U, Deline, Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group, Marine Care Point Cooke and Marine Care Ricketts Point for their contributions to field work and data collection through the year.

**ReefWatch volunteers:** Alina Brune, Rebecca Bond, Kirsty Batchelor.

**Sea Slug Census:** Thank you to the 100+ community members who have contributed to the Sea Slug Censuses held in 2019-20. Many thanks also to Bob Burn for his insights and for his expertise in identifying Victorian sea slugs.

**Student Interns:** Kristen Agosta, Maisarah Azmi, Jessica Chapman, Cal Faubel, Iris Hickman, Bianca Jones, Wilson Swan, Tamanna Wadhvani, Shandy Mae Yap.

**Wild Families and other education activities:** Tristan Best, Bianca Jones, Alison Pouliot.

## Bushwalking and activities group

We managed to fit in a good eight months of bushwalks and activities prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members enjoyed a range of activities including walks exploring Victoria's national parks, visiting natural areas accessible by public transport, tree planting days and citizen science activities.

The principle aim of the Bushwalking and Activities Group (BWAG) is to offer an interesting and diverse program, and secondly, to provide training in bushwalking related skills such as first aid, navigation and beginner overnight hikes. In order to keep people engaged with the program, we worked with VNPA staff to reinstate an emailed program at the start of this year in addition to the printed program. We look forward to seeing how this email reminder helps to boost participation in the wonderful activities offered by our volunteer leaders. You can subscribe to it here [www.vnpa.org.au/bwag-sign-up](http://www.vnpa.org.au/bwag-sign-up)

This year we welcomed support from staff member, Caitlin Griffith which has facilitated better communication between us. The BWAG Committee is also in the midst of reviewing processes and effectiveness, with support from VNPA staff. We approached this with a 'Where to from here?' proposition. A survey is being prepared to receive feedback from our Members and will be sent out by email soon – we are looking forward to hearing your thoughts about the future direction of BWAG. We are also looking forward to sitting down and chatting with our team of leaders when we can gather together again.

The entire BWAG program relies on dedicated volunteers and their contribution as walk leaders, emergency contacts, leader mentors, excursion organisers, event coordinators and committee members. We really appreciate your time and effort to provide great experiences in our beautiful natural environment. A heartfelt thank you to you all.

We look forward to resuming a bushwalking and activities program in January 2021, or when the time is right.

Take care and keep safe.

**Terese Dalman**  
BWAG Convenor and Secretary

## Excursions group

The Excursions Group, led by volunteer leaders, conducted six day-trips by coach in 2019-2020. It was great to see 180 Members and guests attend these trips which included Bendigo, Walhalla, Point Nepean, Lorne and Anglesea for the ANGAIR Wildflower and Art Show.

Excursions encompass a variety of activities including walks in national and state parks, ambles along rail trails, as well as visiting farmers' markets and historic homes.

VNPA has been using the services of McKenzie's coaches since the early 1960s and their expert bus drivers contribute to the success of the excursions program.



Grasslands for beginners activity at Bababi Marning (Cooper Street) Grassland Nature Conservation Reserve, Melbourne.

PHOTO: VNPA

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, excursions were cancelled in March until further notice, but we look forward to running excursions again when it is safe to do so.

Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteer leaders and all the Members who attended the excursions this year.

**Larysa Kucan, Excursions Convenor**

## Financial Report

**Abridged Special Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2020.**

### Statement by Members of the Council

In the council members' opinion:

- the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The special purpose financial statements below have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and Victorian legislation the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, the Fundraising Act 1998 and associated regulations;
- the financial statements and notes below comply with the Accounting Standards;
- the financial statements and notes below give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the incorporated association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by: **Marilyne Crestias (Treasurer) & Dr Bruce McGregor (President) dated this 16th day of September 2020.**

### INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

REVENUE	2020	2019
<b>Operating Activities</b>	\$	\$
Appeals and Donations	1,101,448	983,887
Bequests	218	4,000
Grants & Sponsorship	426,618	254,003
Membership Fees	87,495	96,169
Interest income & Sundry Sales	39,087	56,328
Other Government Grants (Covid)	194,750	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,849,616</b>	<b>1,394,387</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Employment Expenses	1,166,726	915,952
Campaigns, Projects, Activities & Education	151,341	114,793
Office & Administration	147,771	147,088
Printing/Publications/Web	91,864	89,560
Accommodation & Insurance	104,258	103,334
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,661,960</b>	<b>1,370,727</b>
<b>CURRENT YEAR OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>187,656</b>	<b>23,659</b>
<b>Plus Other comprehensive income</b>		
Unrealised loss on the revaluation of financial assets	(12,143)	0
<b>GENERAL OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>	<b>175,513</b>	<b>23,659</b>

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

ASSETS	2020	2019
<b>Current</b>	\$	\$
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,552,673	1,553,004
Receivables and Inventory	12,866	17,078
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,565,539</b>	<b>1,570,082</b>
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Financial assets at fair value	289,940	
Fixed Assets (WDV)	35,168	47,304
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,890,647</b>	<b>1,617,386</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current and Non-Current	883,144	785,395
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>883,144</b>	<b>785,395</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,007,503</b>	<b>831,990</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>		
<b>Total Association Funds</b>	<b>1,007,503</b>	<b>831,990</b>

It is Council Policy to transfer all individual bequests in excess of \$25,000 to reserves. The Reserve Policy is designed to assist with future variability in income and act as a means to strengthen the long term future of VNPA. Please contact the office to get more information.

The full Independent Auditor's Report will be tabled at the Annual General Meeting as part of the Audited Financial Statements and the full text of the Report will be available at [www.vnpa.org.au](http://www.vnpa.org.au)



## Donors, partners & supporters

VNPA's work to protect Victoria's natural places is only possible thanks to the support of dedicated and generous donors and partners. Our key supporters are listed below.

### DONORS AND SUPPORTERS:

Australian Government's Communities Environment Program  
The Arnold Foundation  
Bank Australia  
The Caroline Durré Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
Coastcare Victoria  
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife  
Gras Foundation Trust  
Fairer Futures Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
The Hazel & Arthur Bruce Bequest (Equity Trustees)  
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust  
The Koshland Innovation Extension Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
Loftus-Hills Fund, a charitable fund of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation  
Malcolm Shore  
Melliodora Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
The Nature Conservancy  
Rendere Trust  
Ros & Elsie Garnet Memorial Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
Ross Trust  
Tree Pot  
Victorian Government  
WIRES and Landcare Australia  
Anonymous donors (at donors' request)

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

1st Gisborne Scouts  
Academy of Scuba  
Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club  
Aquatic Adventures  
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre  
Australian Diving Instruction  
Australian National University, Fenner School of Environment and Society  
Bayplay  
Belfast Coastal Reserve Action Group  
Birdlife Australia  
Blue Devil Consulting  
Coastcare Victoria  
Daktari Surf and Dive  
Deakin University  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning  
Dive2U  
Dive and Dive  
Dive La Trobe  
Diveline  
Earthcare St Kilda  
Eco Connect- Holistic Environmental Solutions  
Environment East Gippsland  
Environmental Justice Australia  
Environment Victoria  
Far West Friends of the Hooded Plover  
Flora Fauna Research Collective  
Friends of Barwon Bluff  
Friends of Beware Reef  
Friends of Bunyip State Park

Friends of Brisbane Ranges National Park  
Friends of Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary  
Friends of Harmers Haven  
Friends of Kurth Kiln  
Friends of Mount Worth State Park  
Friends of Mushroom Reef Marine Sanctuary  
Friends of Point Addis  
Friends of the Earth  
Geelong Environment Council  
Goongerah Environment Centre Office (GECO)  
Grassy Plains Network  
Greening Australia  
Grow West  
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club  
Hindmarsh Landcare Network  
Jawbone Sanctuary Marine Care Group  
La Trobe University  
Living Links  
Marine Care Point Cooke  
Marine Care Ricketts Point  
Melbourne University Underwater Club  
Moorabool Landcare Network  
Mornington Peninsula Scuba Dive Club  
Museums Victoria  
National Parks Australia Council  
Ocean Divers  
Parkdale Snorkelling Group  
Parks Victoria  
Polperro Dolphin Swims  
Port Phillip EcoCentre  
Portland Field Naturalists' Club  
Quarry Hill Primary School  
Red Boats

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria  
Save Our Strathbogie Forest Campaign  
Salesian College  
Save Westernport  
Scuba Culture  
Scuba Scouts  
SEAL Diving Services  
Sea All Dolphin Swims  
Simple Dive  
Somers Snorkelling Group  
Southern Cross University  
South Gippsland Conservation Society/Bunurong Coast Education  
Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Group  
Spider Crab Alliance  
Spider Crabs Melbourne  
St Kilians Primary School  
Sudanese Australia Integrated Learning  
The Royal Society of Victoria  
The University of Melbourne  
The University of Technology Sydney  
The Wilderness Society (Victoria)  
VicNature2050  
Victorian Environment Friends Network  
Victorian Sub Aqua Group  
Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network  
WaterMaarq  
Wellsford Forest Conservation Alliance  
Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council  
Wildlife of the Central Highlands (WOTCH)  
Wombat Forestcare

VNPA partnered with Parks Victoria for the Sea Slug Census at Point Lonsdale.

