

Together for nature and national parks



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 longterm, 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: Our Nature Conservation Campaigner Shannon Hurley (L) and Wombat Forestcare's Convenor Gayle Osborne (R) in the Wombat Forest, which is to be protected in a new Wombat-Lerderberg National Park. Photo: Sandy Scheltens

Back cover: The stunning wetlands of Westernport Bay have been saved from AGL's damaging fossil fuel plans. Photo: Jarrod Board.

Authorised by Matt Ruchel, Executive Director, Victorian National Parks Association. September 2021
Level 3, 60 Leicester St, Carlton VIC 3053.
(03) 9341 6500 | vnpa@vnpa.org.au
www.vnpa.org.au | ABN: 34 217 717 593



Our people give voice to Victoria's wildlife. Red-necked Stint are just one of the many waterbirds of Westernport Bay that we worked hard to safeguard from damaging development proposals.

PHOTO: PATRICK KAVANAGH, FLICKR CC

Our People

We are governed by a Council of elected Members 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)
David Nugent, Secretary
(Conservation & Campaigns)
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)
Dianne Marshall
(Conservation & Campaigns)
Rosemary Race
Doug Robinson
(Conservation & Campaigns)
Paul Strickland

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
John Kotsiaris, Nature Conservation Campaigner (until July 2021)
Jessie Borrelle, Digital Campaigner
Meg Sobey, Publications and Online Coordinator
Adrian Marshall, Facilitator Grassy Plains Network
Caitlin Griffith, Manager Community Learning and Engagement (long service leave from May 2021)
Sera Blair, NatureWatch Coordinator / Acting Manager Community Learning and Engagement
Rachel Nalliah, NatureWatch Project Officer
Kristen Agosta, NatureWatch Project Officer
Kade Mills, ReefWatch Coordinator
Nicole Mertens, Conservation Project Officer
Emily Clough, Fundraising Manager
Amelia Easdale, Supporter Development
Heath Rickard, Finance & Operations Manager
Charlotte Kandelaars, Administrative Officer
Emily Cork, Administrative Assistant



President's Report

Bruce McGregor

The past year has thrown up enormous challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic ranged through our lives. During the months of lockdown, many people have sought solace in nature during their daily exercise. Never have the open spaces, urban parks, and waterways been enjoyed so much by so many. In a perverse sort of way, the critical importance of nature and parks for the wellbeing of people could not have been demonstrated more to our political leadership.

The necessary COVID-19 restrictions on movement and meetings resulted in many VNPA activities being curtailed. And it has been impressive to see how our staff have responded to these challenges in their usual enthusiastic manner, rescheduling activities and delivering more online events.

Our vision of Victoria as a place with a diverse and healthy natural environment protected, respected and enjoyed by all remains our focus. This means we have continued advocating for better protections for Victoria's natural environment and wildlife; standing up to inappropriate private and commercial use of parks and reserves; pressing

hard for more ecologically-focussed fire management; calling for better control of pest plants and animals; influencing legislative reform; and pushing for increased parks funding.

We had a major campaign breakthrough with the Victorian Government announcing that it would accept, in part, recommendations to establish new parks in Victoria's central west. This will be the largest addition to our parks estate in over a decade. While the announcement of new national parks and conservation reserves is to be commended, the government have cherry-picked the VEAC recommendations they accepted and acquiesced to a very small and declining group of resource grabbers. Apparently, the government is yet to comprehend that our native forests are both greatly valued and appreciated by most Victorians, and that these same forests are under continual and increasing threat by human-induced climate change.

The community campaign to save Westernport Bay, in which VNPA played a leading role, resulted in the defeat of AGL's proposal for a gas import terminal. We are working to safeguard

against further damaging proposals for this important environmental treasure, which has many existing and long-standing nature conservation reserves already in place.

As usual, this year VNPA has tackled a huge array of other conservation issues and campaigns, which are summarised in the Executive Director's report. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Executive Director Matt Ruchel and our hardworking staff for their commitment and efforts on behalf of all Members and supporters.

I would also like to thank all our volunteer Council and Committee Members for their commitment and hard work to support and drive the direction of the organisation. In the past year, the Council and the committees have worked hard to update and focus our strategic plan, our financial planning, our Indigenous and volunteer engagement policies and numerous conservation policies. These are important documents that will guide our organisation. Countless meetings and discussions are key to our work, and we've adapted to holding our many meetings online. It has been my pleasure to help govern the VNPA over the past three years in the role of President.

While some of our volunteers have had a break from their commitments during the coronavirus restrictions, many others have continued to contribute from home, including by submitting images of marine life as part of our ReefWatch program, persistently writing to decision-makers, and making submissions to speak up for nature. It has also been possible to safely run some citizen science and bushwalking activities in between lockdowns. Thank you very much to all staff, activity leaders and volunteers for adapting to the constantly changing coronavirus restrictions to provide opportunities to connect with nature.

Finally, on behalf of the VNPA Council, I would like to sincerely thank our passionate community of donors, supporters and Members. Your trust, encouragement and generous financial investment are absolutely crucial to protecting nature in Victoria. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to advocate for nature together.

Shannon Hurley, Nature Conservation Campaigner (L) and Gayle Osborne Wombat Forestcare Convenor (R) deliver our Greater Glider artwork and formal letter asking for central west national parks to Macedon MP Mary-Anne Thomas.



PHOTO: VNPA



The Year in Review

Executive Director, Matt Ruchel

I am so grateful to the VNPA community for another fantastic year, despite the ongoing uncertainty we've all experienced with the coronavirus pandemic. Our achievements as an organisation are a testament to the support of our community.

Together with our generous Members and supporters, we've continued our advocacy as the voice for Victoria's national parks, natural areas and the species that rely upon them.

This is just some of the work we've been able to do this year, with your help:

Westernport win!

Westernport Bay – a beautiful marine environment that is home to Little Penguins, Australian Fur Seals, mangroves and seagrass meadows – was recognised for its important ecosystem values and rightly protected from the unacceptable environmental effects of AGL's proposed gas import terminal at Crib Point.

Thanks to a strong partnership between campaigner Shannon Hurley, other environment groups and the local community, we successfully campaigned for the Andrews Government to condemn and prohibit the unacceptable environmental effects of a gas terminal in this Ramsar wetland of international significance. We will use this momentum going forward to secure permanent protections for Westernport Bay.

Commitment for new national parks in the central west!

We have reached a very exciting milestone in our campaign for new parks in the central west. The Victorian Government has finally committed to create Wombat-Lerderderg, Mount Buangor and Pyrenees national parks, along with some other parks and reserves, including one at Wellsford. This announcement protects 50,000 hectares of habitat, which supports 370 rare and threatened animals, plants and insects.

While the announcement is a breakthrough, there is still work to do to ensure that the forests are properly protected from logging, which is currently set to continue until 2030 in some areas proposed as parks.

As we continue calling for the swift end of logging in native forests across Victoria, campaigners Shannon Hurley, Jessie Borrelle, Jordan Crook and the team are working to make sure these central west national parks and conservation areas are legislated quickly without compromise for nature.

Dealing with more than one million deer

With the Victorian Government's final Deer Control Strategy released at the end of 2020, Phil Ingamells' continued advocacy helped secure a critical \$18 million allocation from the state government, as well as additional funding following the Black Summer bushfires, to control feral deer. To ensure that funding is used towards the best possible outcomes for native wildlife, we produced a submission for the review of the Wildlife Act 1975 recommending that deer be listed as pest species. As deer numbers in Victoria grow and their populations spread into both our cities and national parks, we are committed to making sure that this issue remains on the public agenda.

A brighter future for Wilsons Promontory National Park

We continue to call for better protection, management and funding for our beloved Prom. This has resulted in funding commitments for a 'Prom Sanctuary' to recognise the park's unique values, including a predator-proof fence along the Yanakie Isthmus to promote pest animal control and the reintroduction of lost native animals; a revitalised research centre; and walking track upgrades. Phil Ingamells continues to monitor these plans closely.

Concerned community members protest AGL's proposed gas terminal for Westernport Bay on Parliament steps in March 2021.



A commitment to deliver a new Wombat-Lerderderg National Park is important for nature and the next generation to enjoy.

Protecting Hooded Plovers at Belfast Coastal Reserve

The five-year-long campaign to stop racehorses from training at Belfast Coastal Reserve is nearing a successful conclusion. The vulnerable Hooded Plover is a shorebird nesting along the beach, and massive racehorses galloping across the nests has the devastating effect of crushing plover eggs and chicks. Shannon Hurley, together with other environmental groups, achieved a declaration from the Warrnambool City Councillors that there would be 'no more horse training' at Belfast. Now we just need to make sure protections are in place to protect the Hooded Plover for good.

Guarding our grasslands

Grasslands are some of Victoria's most overlooked ecosystems. Once covering a third of Victoria, now as little as 5 per cent of those grasslands remain, despite being vital ecosystems that support a host of endemic plants and animals. The state and federal governments have failed in their commitment to protect 20 per cent of the Victorian Volcanic Plains

by 2020. In fact, they had only acquired 10 per cent of the land they had originally committed to – and much of it is of lower ecological importance than the land cleared for development. Adrian Marshall, the new Facilitator for the Grassy Plains Network, and campaigner Jordan Crook, are advocating to acquire and protect remaining grasslands of higher ecological quality to continue our work to protect our critically endangered grasslands.

Responding to fire in a changing climate

Phillip Ingamells, with the support of John Kotsiaris, produced detailed submissions for four important state and federal inquiries in the wake of the 2019–20 fire season. Each submission was focused on the long-term protection of Victoria's great natural heritage, while making no compromise for the safety of the community. VNPA continues to advocate, analyse, and follow up on the recommendations to ensure that our scientifically-backed concerns regarding the damage control-burning can do to our natural areas remain a strong issue as we prepare for future fire seasons.

'After the Fires' report

In Victoria, the Black Summer bushfires burnt 1.25 million hectares of forest, much of which was already fragmented – making the remaining unburnt areas critical for ongoing conservation efforts. The *After the Fires* report, produced by Jordan Crook along with local conservation groups, identified ten unburnt wildlife refuge areas and exposed the abominable plans for 553 logging coupes (20,000 hectares), despite the Victorian environment department's recommendation that logging should stop in key unburnt areas to allow for wildlife recovery.

This report has five recommendations to safeguard and allow the recovery of threatened species and their habitat after the bushfires, and was used to brief decision-makers and stakeholders. It is also a key resource for continuing advocacy for better protection of unburnt forests and is providing focus areas for wildlife monitoring efforts by local community groups and our NatureWatch program.



PHOTO: @JULIAN MEEHAN



PHOTO: SHANNON HURLEY

ReefWatch volunteer snorkelers at Mushroom Reef for the Westernport BioBlitz.

Protecting Western Port Woodlands

The Gippsland Plain bioregion has been severely affected by land clearing, with consequences such as habitat loss and fragmentation. The Westernport Woodlands are an important remaining habitat area with stronghold populations of threatened flora and fungi, including the weird and wonderful Tea-tree Fingers fungus. With private landowners in the region, Jordan Crook and the team, with mapping support from Blake Nisbet, have advocated for nature conservation, and the prevention of extractive industries, such as sand mining in these important natural environments.

Spider Crab conundrum

The Giant Spider Crab aggregation is one of Victoria's remarkable natural phenomena, with thousands of crabs coming into Port Phillip Bay in the middle of winter. Divers and fishers flock to the area for the spectacle – and the harvest. This year, however, the crabs stayed

out in deeper water. While we don't know enough about this mysterious species to know whether this is a direct impact of overfishing in previous years, Shannon Hurley and the team will continue our efforts with local groups to protect the Spider Crabs and make sure that this amazing species is being properly managed and protected.

Getting out into nature

When safe to do so, we were delighted to offer opportunities for our community to get involved with our work through citizen science programs and activities on land and in water. We also helped our community engage with nature from home during the ongoing pandemic via webinars and online resources.

NatureWatch

Our new Life After Fire citizen science project, led by Sera Blair and Rachel Nalliah, with fantastic work by Kristen Agosta, supports volunteers to monitor wildlife in East Gippsland and assist

the recovery and protection of fire-affected areas. This year, volunteers also participated in forest tours of the proposed Great Forest National Park, which included spotlighting and 'stagwatching' for Greater Gliders.

Wild Families

Caitlin Griffith and Nicole Mertens were delighted to continue to offer the Wild Families program to our community when we needed it most. Over the last year, our activity sheets have inspired families to discover and learn about the nature around them.

ReefWatch

Our ReefWatch citizen science program, led by Kade Mills and Nicole Mertens, launched a new project, Marine Life of Victoria, using the iNaturalist platform. This will enhance our understanding of, and in turn our ability to conserve, marine life. To date, 76 volunteers have entered 12,032 observations of 806 species in our marine waters, many of which can only be found in the Southern Ocean.

And behind the scenes...

Our dedicated team works hard behind the scenes to keep the VNPA running. Between committee meetings, liaising with politicians and stakeholders, and keeping our community up to date about our work, I am very proud of what we have achieved over the last year, especially with the challenges of continuing to work from home.

Meg Sobey our Communications Coordinator keeps VNPA's voice loud and clear, especially as editor of *Park Watch* magazine which is one of VNPA's best tools to keep supporters and decision-makers well informed of nature issues in Victoria. Thanks also to those in our community who have generously contributed their words and images for *Park Watch*.

Heath Rickard, Finance and Operations Manager, has worked

extremely hard to manage everything from tech to finance, and the administrative team, Charlotte Kandelaars and Emily Cork, continued to do an excellent job coordinating membership and processing generous donations from our supporters. Our philanthropy team, Emily Clough and Amelia Easdale, have stewarded fantastic relationships in the VNPA community that ensure we have the power to win our campaigns.

My appreciation goes to our President Bruce McGregor, the Council and Committee Members and volunteers for their continued dedication to nature in Victoria.

And finally, 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.

Rachel Nalliah, NatureWatch Project Officer, sets up a wildlife camera on a citizen science field trip to the Wombat Forest.



PHOTO: VNPA

Bushwalking and activities group

Despite the challenges planning and delivering a program during the coronavirus pandemic we have been able to run some activities over the past year – a real achievement given the circumstances. Well done to staff, committee members and activity leaders for adapting to new protocols and delivering these activities safely. Members enjoyed a range of activities including walks exploring Victoria's national parks, visiting natural areas accessible by public transport, and citizen science activities. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 we were unable to run any excursions by coach.

With limited activities on offer we have been advertising walks when appropriate via our website and email, rather than a printed program. You can subscribe to receive emails at www.vnpa.org.au/bwag-sign-up

Together with staff, the BWAG Committee is working on a way forward for the bushwalking and activities program. A review completed in recent months has identified a number of ways to develop a more sustainable and practical model for running the program. This includes recruiting more volunteers to get involved in its delivery – to find out more please email vnpa@vnpa.org.au

The entire BWAG program relies on dedicated volunteers and their contributions as activity 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.

Terese Dalman, BWAG Convenor

The NatureWatch program ran two Great Forest Tours to introduce our supporters to Victoria's iconic Mountain Ash forests and to learn about the community campaign for the creation of the Great Forest National Park.



Financial Report

Abridged Audited Special Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2021.

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 2021 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 30th day of September 2021.

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021		
REVENUE	2021	2020
Operating Activities	\$	\$
Appeals and Donations	1,569,108	1,101,448
Bequests	70,000	218
Grants & Sponsorship	338,254	426,618
Membership Fees	84,537	87,495
Interest income & Sundry Sales	42,898	39,087
Other Government Grants (Covid)	224,750	194,750
Total Income	2,329,547	1,849,616
EXPENDITURE		
Employment Expenses	1,285,948	1,166,726
Campaigns, Projects, Activities & Education	203,390	151,341
Office & Administration	130,852	147,771
Printing/Publications/Web	112,342	91,864
Accommodation & Insurance	104,265	104,258
Total Expenses	1,836,797	1,661,960
CURRENT YEAR OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	492,750	187,656
Plus Other comprehensive income		
Unrealised loss on the revaluation of financial assets	29,157	(12,143)
GENERAL OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	521,907	175,513

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2021		
ASSETS	2021	2020
Current	\$	\$
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,769,913	1,552,673
Receivables and Inventory	9,409	12,866
Total Current Assets	1,779,322	1,565,539
Non-Current		
Financial assets at fair value	432,468	289,940
Fixed Assets (WDV)	35,491	35,168
Right-of-use-assets	231,466	
TOTAL ASSETS	2,478,747	1,890,647
LIABILITIES		
Current and Non-Current	949,337	883,144
TOTAL LIABILITIES	949,337	883,144
NET ASSETS	1,529,410	1,007,503
Funded by:		
Total Association Funds	1,529,410	1,007,503

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.

Thank you to our supporters

Our work protecting Victoria's natural places is only possible thanks to the generous support of our wonderful donors and philanthropic supporters. We would especially like to acknowledge the following supporters.

The Arnold Foundation
Australian Government's Communities Environment Program
The Australia Institute
B & A Miller Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation
Bank Australia
The Caroline Durré Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation
The Coalition (Solutions)
Dominic & Anne Gallace Family Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation

EC Curwen-Walker Charitable Trust
Fairer Futures Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife
Gras Foundation Trust
Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
The Ian Potter Foundation
JRA Support Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation
Landcare Australia
The Limb Family Foundation
Malcolm Shore

Melliadora Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation
Rendere Trust
Ros & Elsie Garnet Memorial Fund, sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation
Ross Trust
S.T.A.F. - Allan Sisson and Vera McMahon Donation
Tree Pot
Victorian Government
WIRES

Thank you to our partners

We are grateful to collaborate with many other groups to advocate for nature and deliver our community engagement programs. Our key project partners are listed below.

Australian Diving Instruction	Friends of Harmers Haven	Save Westernport
Australian National University, Fenner School of Environment and Society	Friends of Leadbeater's Possum	Scuba Culture
Bass Straight Aquatic Club	Friends of Mushroom Reef Marine Sanctuary	Scuba Scouts
Belfast Coastal Reserve Action Group	Friends of Point Addis	SEAL Diving Services
Birdlife Australia	Friends of the Earth	Sea All Dolphin Swims
Coastcare Victoria	Gippsland Environment Group	Simple Dive
Crib Point Action Group	Goongerah Environment Centre Office (GECO)	Somers Snorkelling Group
Daktari Surf and Dive	Grassy Plains Network	Southern Cross University
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Grow West	Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Group
Dive2U	Hindmarsh Landcare Network	Spider Crab Alliance
Dive and Dive	Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association	Spider Crabs Melbourne
Dive La Trobe	Jawbone Sanctuary Marine Care Group	The University of Technology Sydney
Diveline	Marine Care Point Cooke	The Wilderness Society (Victoria)
Eco Connect- Holistic Environmental Solutions	Marine Care Ricketts Point	Victorian Environment Friends Network
Environment East Gippsland	Mornington Peninsula Scuba Dive Club	Victorian Sub Aqua Group
Environmental Justice Australia	Museums Victoria	WaterMaarq
Environment Victoria	National Parks Australia Council	Wellsford Forest Conservation Alliance
Friends of Barwon Bluff	Ocean Divers	Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council
Friends of Beware Reef	Parks Victoria	Wildlife of the Central Highlands (WOTCH)
Friends of Bunyip State Park	Phillip Island Conservation Society	Wombat Forestcare
Friends of Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary	Polperro Dolphin Swims	Victorian Deer Control Community Network
	Port Phillip EcoCentre	

Winner of the Best Photo award, Jeremy Bishop captured this image of a diminutive dorid nudibranch during the March 2021 Sea Slug Census. This was the first time that the species *Okenia* sp. RB2 had been spotted during a Census.



PHOTO: JEREMY BISHOP



Sera Blair, NatureWatch Coordinator (L), Rachel Nalliah, NatureWatch Project Officer (M), and volunteer Cody McCormack (R) thank the VNPA community for supporting our work protecting nature.

PHOTO: VNPA

Thank you to our volunteers

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

Bushwalking & Activities Group:

Terese Dalman (Convenor), Fred Gerardson, Deborah Henry, Darren McClelland.

Bushwalking & Activities Group

leaders: we are grateful for all the hard work of all our volunteers leaders.

Council Committees: the following volunteers (other than Councillors and staff) make a valuable contribution to committees: Russell Costello, Vimi Desai, Evelyn Feller, Mike Forster, Maelor Himbury, Leigh Hogarty, Bernie Mace, Darren McClelland, Euan Moore, Steve Platt, John Renowden, Isolde Scherrer, Charles Street, Wilson Swan.

Excursions: Larysa Kucan (Convenor)

Grassy Plains Network: Andrew Booth, Bonnie Gelman, Ken Griffiths, Maelor Himbury, Yvonne Ingeme, Stuart McCallum, Paula McGlashan, Peter McGrath, Graham Moore, Megan O'Shea, Frances Overmars, Deb Reynolds, Lynlee Tozer, David Tsardakis, Reto Zollinger.

NatureWatch:

Thank you to the amazing volunteers who have helped us develop projects and lead our research teams in the field: Maxine Andrews, Tessa Campisi, Marilyn Crestias, Jasper Hails, Lesley Haine, Margie Hall, Flynn Helmer, Max Helmer, Michael Helmer, Narelle Kossatz, Jessica Krempp, James MacNeil, Lachie McBurney, Cody McCormack, Jennifer Meers, Allan Milne, Diana Shrimpton, Jake Thomas, Mick Thomas, Oscar Thomas, Garry Van Dijk, Ian Vaskess.

Office Assistants: Reg Elder, Joan McDonald, Graham Trigg, Colin Wong.

Pro bono financial advice:

Katherine Isbrandt, About Retirement.

Publications & Photography:

Josh Bowell, Jan Brueggemeier, Ed Dunens, Geoff Durham, Michael Howes, Euan Moore, Gayle Osborne, Sandy Scheltema, David Tatnall and many other photographers and authors.

ReefWatch:

Alina Brune
Great Victorian Fish Count: Australian Diving Instruction, Dive2U, Diveline, Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group, Marine Care Point Cooke, Marine Care Ricketts Point, Jacqui Younger

Sea Slug Census: Thank you to the 75+ community members who have contributed to the Sea Slug Censuses held in 2020-21. Many thanks also to Bob Burn for his insights and for his expertise in identifying Victorian sea slugs.

Research and Campaign Assistants:

Bill Blackburn, Louise Crisp, Evelyn Feller, Michael Feller, Geoff Lacey, Conor Logan, Steve Meacher, Robert Pergl and many others in the scientific and conservation community.

Student Interns: India Ambler, Laney Callahan, Shandy Mae Yap.

French Island, Westernport Bay,
now safe from AGL's proposed
gas import terminal.

