NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on the 21st February at the Melbourne Camera Club Building, cnr. Dorcas & Ferrars Sts South Melbourne at 8pm. This will be a members night.

The March meeting will be on the 21st. This will also be a members night unless advised otherwise.

Raffles & Supper as usual.

Meeting dates for 2011

February 21st  March 21st  April 18th
May 16th    June 20th    August 15th
September 19th  October 17th  November 21st

There will be no meeting in July.

Office Bearers for 2011

Chairman               Fred Bunyard
Sec. Treasurer          Michael Lyons
Bulletin Editor         Val Cram
Meeting Reporter        Don Cram
Bulletin Despatch       Chris Bunyard

Committee

Michael Lyons
Don Cram
Val Cram
Branch Correspondence for ASN Geoff Macaulay
Librarian   Simon Wilson

Secretary               Michael Lyons   Tel. No. 9894 1526
Chairman                Fred Bunyard    Tel. No. 9439 2147

Printed courtesy of Steve Herberts Office, Parliamentary Member for Eltham
CHAIRMAN’S REPORT FOR 2010.

For a branch with so few members able to attend our meeting nights we have had a very good and exciting year. At the start of the year we were faced with decisions as to whether we made a change in the venue for our meetings. We had been approached by The Port Phillip EcoCentre who have a converted house set up with meeting rooms and study facilities in St. Kilda. Our February meeting was held at their facility. Further discussion on the pro’s and con’s left us deciding to stay where we were. At the same time we were considering a change of name to something on the lines of “SHELL CLUB OF VICTORIA”. This was proposed as a starting point to encourage younger members to our group. However, it was finally decided that we would continue with our current name.

One of the reasons for us considering the EcoCentre was that they had a data projector. With this in mind, we decided that we had sufficient funds to buy our own projector. Simon Wilson and Michael Lyons then purchased a projector. Having purchased the projector it was then decided that we also purchase a Laptop. We can now show DVD’s, and Slides and have all the other benefits for members and for visitors.

One of the first presentations made was some slides supplied by Simon Wilson who took them at the West Australian Shell Show. It also had shots of various dive’s that he did. Very interesting and shows how far technology has progressed in recent years.

Council continue their strange ways. Our Branch Secretary, Michael Lyons requested a list of Victorian members as we were now in the process of asking Council for our Branch rebate on subscriptions. Apparently, this can’t be done. Citing privacy laws. Michael had to submit a letter for Victorian members and Council will forward them. I hope members got them – I know I haven’t. How things change. I remember when the AUSTRALIAN SHELL NEWS came out and there would be NEW MEMBERS showing their name, address, what they collected and a welcome to The Society. Then again, we had proxy voting to elect Council Office bearers in those days. Lastly. I would like to thank all office bearers for their contribution throughout the year. Their dedication is much appreciated.

While on the subject of appreciation, I would extend a special thank you to Michael Lyons, Don Cram, Robert Burn, Lynton Stephens, Platon Vafiadis and Geoff Macauley for their articles that appear in our Branch Bulletin to broaden our knowledge. On behalf of the Committee and myself I would take this opportunity to wish all members a safe and prosperous 2011.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and happy New Year

Fred Bunyard, Chairman

Amoria (Cymbiolista) jansae Van Pel & Moolenbeek, 2010

Amoria (Cymbiolista) hunteri (Iredale, 1931) is a well-known and rather common volute from Queensland to central New South Wales. For many years, the species was said to occur in two forms, the typical hunteri form being long and slender, with a pattern of slender brown zig zag lines. Compared to the typical form, the other had a more solid, more rounded shell, a more spreading and wider outer lip, and a denser regular pattern of broader orange zig zag lines. The second form was considered by some collectors to be subfossil as it never has the high gloss of the hunteri form.

In April 2010, two Dutch malacologists decided that sufficient differences existed between the two forms to justify describing the second form as a new species, hence the name at the top of this note. The type locality of A. (C.) jansae is “Queensland, trawled off Elliott Heads”. Additional specimens were also studied from Tin Can Bay. From 80 fathoms off Cape Moreton, and from New South Wales.

Reference:

Interesting volute from Stony Point

Just when we thought Victorian shell diving was becoming boring & repetitive some recent finds have reinvigorated the Mal. Soc. divers. One such find occurred in late December of last year.

Michael Lyons & I were night diving off Stony Point on the 17th December in 10-12m of water when we came across a coarse rubble habitat a few hundred meters offshore. There is only a small window of opportunity to dive this area as strong tidal currents sweep through the narrow gap separating Stony Point from French Island. This dive therefore needs to be timed correctly to ensure we enter the water just before
the slowing flood tide, spend the majority of the slack water period in the deeper water then return to shore as the ebb tide commences.

As soon as we observe this ideal coarse rubble habitat we immediately slow down. Several specimens of the large bivalve *Eucrassatella kingicola* are sighted, a species we encounter diving nowhere else in Victoria. Dead valves of *Neotrigona margarita* litter the seabed, live specimens being fairly elusive. We have observed *Amoria undulata* in this area before and it’s not long before we see several specimens some buried in the substrate and some crawling on top.

For some reason this species from diveable depths in Victorian waters is inherently flawed and we collect very few specimens. Another characteristic of this species from Westernport Bay is that the majority of the specimens are stained a dark red sometimes purple red colour presumably by the environment in which they live. As I was observing the various specimens I collected a couple of reasonably fresh dead specimens. After a further twenty minutes or so I had collected two adult specimens that appeared to be in excellent condition. Water visibility in this area is never very good and tonight was no exception with perhaps two to three metres of horizontal visibility through the cloudy water, therefore it was probably no surprise that I had not noticed anything unusual about the live *Amoria undulata* specimens I had just collected.

It was not until I had reached my home and looked at the night finds that I realised I might have something just that little bit special. One of the volute specimens had a completely white aperture as opposed to the standard apricot yellow colour. After discussing this with some of my colleagues I realised that no one else had seen a specimen of *Amoria undulata* quite like this. At this stage we have not had a chance to return to this site to see if we can locate further specimens with this white aperture. Of course we hold a faint glimmer of hope that one day we might observe an albino or *sclateri* form specimen now that would really be something.

![Image of specimens](image.jpg)

Simon Wilson  sabredance@optusnet.com.au

Wild Life 1949

During the 1940's and 1950's Philip Crosbie Morrison (1900 - 1958) became Australia's best known naturalist. As a zoologist and journalist with commercial radio and the Australian Broadcasting Commission, he made regular national nature study broadcasts to schools and other radio listeners for 20 years. He was also editor of *Wild Life*, a monthly magazine which fostered interest in Australia's natural history and conservation, from 1938-54.

After the war my family moved to a small farm at Harkaway near Berwick Victoria, we used to listen to these radio broadcasts and were regular contributors to the magazine. My father one day found this large slug and decided to send the specimen in to be identified. Little did he know that it would be featured on a full page of the May 1949 issue which contained 45 pages with 25 articles on a wide variety of the wonders of nature.
Man-Sized Molluscs

Specimens from the Victorian Countryside

WILD LIFE. May, 1949. Page 221

Almost a record for distance from the sea—two specimens of Mediterranean snail (Helix piastra) from Mrs. E. Meikle, of Horsham, V., who found them feeding on her rose bushes. This introduced snail is a coastal form, and is now found chiefly round Geelong, Mount Gambier, and coastal W.A.

Don Cram

The November meeting will be included in the next bulletin. Ed.