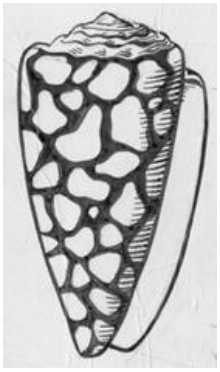

Conus marmoreus Linne

THE MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALASIA Inc.
VICTORIAN BRANCH BULLETIN

(Mailed to financial members of the Society within Victoria)

Price 50¢

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VIC. BR. BULL. NO. 291 FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on the 19th of February at the Melbourne Camera Club Building, cnr. Dorcas & Ferrars Sts South Melbourne at 8pm.

The next meeting will be held on April 16th.

Meetings for the remainder of 2018

It has been decided to reduce the number of meetings of the Victorian Branch of the Malacological Society of Australasia from 9 per year to 6.

Dates for 2018 are: Date Topic

April 16th – 5 Favorite self-collected shells

June 18th – 10 Shells from your favorite family

August 20th – Range extensions or unusual locations

October 15th – Angus Hawke will speak on fossils

November 19th – Christmas meeting "Mega" buy/swap/sell

Each meeting will also be an opportunity to trade or sell any shells or books – so come along, you never know what you might find and the more people who attend the better!

Office Bearers for 2018

Sec. Treasurer Michael Lyons
MSA Council Representative Platon Vafiadis
Bulletin Editors Val &Don Cram
Meeting Reporter Michael Lyons
Branch Correspondence for ASN Geoff Macaulay
Librarian Simon Wilson

Committee

Michael Lyons
Don Cram
Val Cram

Currently Branch Bulletin issues from VBB169- 288 can be accessed via the Society's website which includes an index 1-276 . http://www.malsocaus.org/?page_id=91
Bulletins mentioned in this issue prior to 169 can be obtained from the editors in PDF form on request.

Secretary / Treasurer Michael Lyons Tel. No. 9894 1526

Acting Chairman's Report for 2017

It is hard to believe another year has almost come to an end. As has been a familiar theme to all my Acting Chairman's reports I find myself again lamenting the fact that we are not seeing or even getting inquiries from potential new members. Surely there are more people out there who share our enthusiasm for molluscs and natural history generally. The question remains; how do we reach them?
Monthly Branch meetings have continued, and all meetings were member's nights with contributions from everyone, with topics including expeditions to Tasmania, recent collection additions, new books and travelling though the UK.
Thanks go to Don and Val Cram for their ongoing editing and production of our Branch Bulletin and for everyone who has provided content throughout the year. Thanks also go to Simon Wilson for being librarian, supplying refreshments and helping take minutes at our meetings.
It was exciting to see a paper by Victorian Branch members, Lynton Stephens and Platon Vafiadis of the first Australian records of Scalaronoba and describing two new species from Victoria in the society's journal, *Molluscan Research* earlier in the year and I congratulate them on their efforts.

I would like to wish all members a happy and prosperous 2018 and a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Michael Lyons acting Chairman

M.S.A Victorian Branch Financial Statement 31/01/2018

Balance as at 31/01/17			$2177.34
Receipts			
Bank interest	$13.20		
	$13.20		
		$13.20	
		$2190.54	
Expenses			
Subscriptions to other clubs	$55.39		
Room rental	$360.00		
	$415.39		
			$415.39
Balance at 31/01/2018			**$1775.15**

Farewell Jessica Hope Macpherson – 1919-2018 (Mrs. Ian Black)

As we approach our target sixty posts for the MSA turns 60 initiative, it is with sadness that we farewell the last of the founding members of the MSA, the late J. (Jessica) Hope Black (nee Macpherson) who passed away in Melbourne, Victoria on Thursday 25 January 2018, just short of her ninety ninth birthday. Hers was an extraordinary life which broke new ground in forging the active participation of women in a scientific career. After graduating in Science at The University of Melbourne, she was appointed Curator of Conchology at the National Museum of Victoria from 1946 until 1965 (when she had to relinquish her position after marrying, in accordance with the public service laws of the time - Carland, 2011). Her appointment and the scientific rigour that it brought to the collections was instrumental in encouraging the late Charles Gabriel to donate his important collection to the museum, thus securing key Victorian molluscan types, valuable documents and literature for posterity (Burn, personal communication).

Having published several papers amongst which she also described a number of mollusca, Hope also revised W.L. May's "*Illustrated index of Tasmanian Shells*" in 1958 (see post #52) and, with Gabriel, published the outstanding "*Marine Molluscs of Victoria*" in 1962 (see post #13). She took part in several scientific surveys, including the Port Phillip Bay surveys from 1957 to 1963 and an Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition to Macquarie Island in 1959, where she was one of four participating women (Carland, 2011). Her enthusiasm made her a great advocate for amateur science, and the museum became a welcoming place of collaboration and great benefit to all involved. This tradition was continued by her successor, the late Dr. Brian Smith, and remains strong to this day.

Hope's later working years were spent as a science teacher in Victorian rural secondary schools (Carland, 2011). She had also undertaken a personal project to compile a brief biography of each contributor to Australian malacology, entitled, "*Encyclopaedia of Malacologists*" (Burn, personal communication). This work was never completed to publication stage, but a manuscript exists (Burn, personal communication) and it is insightful to see what she mentions of herself and which of her achievements she particularly highlights. Under the name "Black" she has a note stating "see Macpherson, Jessica Hope." Under "Macpherson, Jessica Hope (Mrs. Ian Black)" she provides the following information: "1919. Born Hamilton, Victoria. Curator of Molluscs, Museum of Victoria 1946-1965. Foundation member, Malacological Society of Victoria* and of Marine Study Group. President, Malacological Society of Australia, 1973. Author of a number of papers and '*Marine Molluscs of Victoria*'. Editor of Port Phillip Survey 1957-1963, No. 27, 1966; No. 32, 1971" (Burn, personal communication). This entry is likely to have been completed some 10 to 15 years ago and hints that in her scientific work, Hope preferred to be known by her maiden name (Burn, personal communication). (However exceptions to this are her contribution to a chapter on molluscan egg masses in "*Marine Invertebrates of Southern Australia, Volume 2"*, 1989, and also her account entitled 'History of discovery' in "*The Southern Synthesis"*, 1998, where she used her married name).
(* - more correctly, this should have read "Malacological Club of Victoria" – see Vafiadis in Newsletter of the MSA, no. 159, 2016).

Hope was honoured by being inducted into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll at a ceremony in Parliament House on 6th March, 2012 (Carland, in Cram 2012). *Phyllodesmium macphersonae* (Burn, 1962)
Even into her late 80s and early 90s, Hope often attended the annual Christmas lunch of the Marine Invertebrate Lab at Museum Victoria, her quiet presence inspiring all. I also had the good personal fortune to have received a letter from her in 2009 after sending her some sea slug images.
As this series of 60 posts to celebrate the MSA now nears its completion, having begun with Hope as its foundation in marking the MSA's 60th anniversary, it is fitting that she is now also present towards its conclusion. Let us carry on her productive legacy!

Acknowledgements
Many thanks to Robert Burn and Don and Val Cram for valuable information and discussion, and to Don Cram for the photograph of Hope Macpherson.

Platon Vafiadis

Further reading:
Carland, R. (2011). Hope Black nee Macpherson, Curator of Molluscs (1919-2018) in Museums Victoria Collections https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/8027
Accessed 30 January 2018. (This on-line archival record contains many interesting biographical details, documents and photographs).

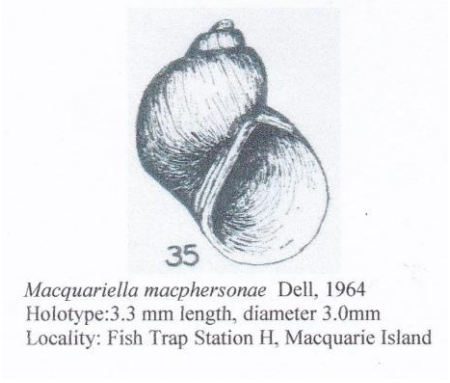
Cram, D. (2012). Hope Black honoured. *Victorian Branch Bulletin of the Malacological Society of Australasia*, 263 (April/May), 2012: 2-3.

Photograph: supplied by Don Cram **of** Hope Macpherson signing his copy of "Marine Molluscs of Victoria", 5th February, 2012.

Hope Macpherson, **1919-2018**

During her time (1946-1964) as Curator of Molluscs, National museum of Victoria, Hope described at least 17 new species of molluscs and provided new names for two of her species found to be preoccupied. The following alphabetical list of species might not be complete and the genera are those to which they were originally assigned.

a*ethiops, Peristernia,* Macpherson, 1959
alychonopsis, Dipnelix, Macpherson, 1954
ater, Chiazacmaea, Macpherson 1955
brazenori, Charopa, Gabriel & Macpherson, 1947
cryptolirata, Chiazacmea, Macpherson, 1955
espinosus, Murex (Murex), Macpherson 1959
gabrieli, Myodora, Macpherson 1951
glabra, Coxiella, Macpherson, 1957
glauerti, Coxiella, Macpherson 1957
granulosa, Notoacmaea, Macpherson, 1955
griggiana, Pugilina, Macpherson, 1959
kurtzi, Tudicula (Tudicula), Macpherson, 1964
latilirata, Myodora, Macpherson, 1958 – new name for *Myodora gabrieli* preoccupied
minima, Coxiella, Macpherson, 1954
multispirus, Bothriembryon, Macpherson, 1951
rosea, Alocospira, Macpherson,1959
rufimaculosus, Conus, Macpherson, 1959
snoweyensis, Charopa, Gabriel & Macpherson, 1947
tweedianus, Murex, Macpherson, 1962 – new name for *Murex espinosus* preoccupied



Macquariella macphersonae Dell, 1964
Holotype:3.3 mm length, diameter 3.0mm
Locality: Fish Trap Station H, Macquarie Island

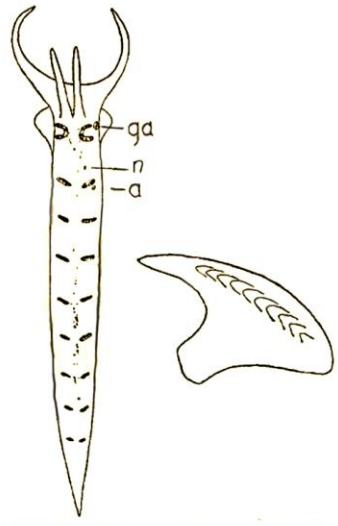
Tudicla rasilistoma Abbott, 1959 was to have been described as a new species by Macpherson in 1959, but delays in publication allowed Tucker Abbott to first publish her manuscript name in his 1959 revision of the genus.

Three molluscan and one holothuroid species honour Hope's name in perpetuity.

Mollusca: *Macquariella macphersonae* Dell, 1964, Macquarie Island
Mitramorpha macphersonae (Gabriel, 1956), King Island
Phyllodesmium macphersonae (Burn,1962),widespread Indo-Pacific
Holothuria: *Trachythyone macphersonae* Pawson, 1962, Macquarie Island

Phyllodesmium macphersonae (Burn, 1962) Live specimen Point Lonsdale, Saturday 21 April, 2007; extended length in the order of 15mm; found by Robert Burn, crawling on algae in a lower littoral pool (it was not collected). Photo- Platon Vafiadis

Line drawing from original description, Burn 1962 →



Text figs. 19–20.—*Cratena macphersonæ* sp. nov. 19—Liver system, 20—Lateral


Mitromorpha macphersonae (Gabriel, 1956)
Holotype: 5mm length, diameter 2.75mm
Locality: South-East of King Island
Bass Strait 14m.

Robert Burn

Interesting distributional records, #7 – northern New South Wales.

Between 2008 and 2017 I had opportunities to visit northern New South Wales (specifically, the areas between Coffs Harbour and Yamba) on several occasions. A highly diverse area located about midway between Brisbane and Sydney, it is not too surprising that the molluscan fauna of this area seems to be very under-surveyed, with many new observations to be made. Analysis of shellgrit samples yielded almost 2000 lots, which are now in my collection.

I will cover here just a few of the more pertinent finds, from a distributional point of view. These are confined only to species above about 5mm in size. Many other interesting finds exist amongst the micromolluscs that were collected. A couple of the records presented here have been mentioned in an earlier article (Stephens, 2008), but I've taken the opportunity here to provide some photographs. NSW is lucky to now have a highly advanced website, compiled by Des Beechey, against which finds can be compared. There are several local collectors and researchers in the area who are making their own interesting observations. I was able to view several of these collections and they certainly contain some highly interesting records. For other pertinent reading see Smith (2010), Tarrant (2016), Riek (2017) and Harasti (2017).

FISSURELLIDAE: *Cranopsis exquisita* A. Adams, 1853 (fig. B). This was a beautiful find, identified with the help of Wilson (1993: 58), who listed it as *Rimula exquisitor* Adams, 1853 and reported it from Mast Head Reef, QLD. The World Online Register of Marine Species (WORMS) has it placed in *Cranopsis*. *C. exquisita* seems to be a new record for New South Wales, being absent from Beechey (2005). The figured shell is slightly damaged on the margin and measures 7.7mm. It was found at Mulloway on 13 Sep 2013.

NATICIDAE: *Natica lineozona* Jousseaume, 1874 (fig. H). Two examples of this beautiful shell were found at Minnie Water on 11 Mar 2008, as noted in a previous bulletin (Stephens, 2008). This species also appears to be a new record for New South Wales, not featured by Beechey (2017). More recently I saw another specimen in the collection of Trevor Cooke, collected even further south (locality not recorded but Coffs Harbour area, probably Emerald Beach or Boambee Beach). Wilson (1993) reported it from "north QLD", so its occurrence in NSW is unexpected. Shells similar to this have sometimes been known as *Natica insecta* Jousseaume, 1874, see Okutani (ed) (2000) for example. *N. lineozona* has been figured by Cernohorsky (1971) and Poppe (ed) (2008a). I am unaware of whether there is any difference between them, or whether they are synonymous. *N. insecta* seems to be absent from WORMS at the time of writing. A syntype of *N. lineozona* is featured on WORMS, and a slightly different alleged syntype at www.gastropods.com.

BUCCINIDAE: *Engina alveolata* (Kiener, 1836) (figs. G&I). A single sub-adult specimen of this tropical Indo-Pacific species was found at Minnie Water on 10 Mar 2008. This has already been noted (Stephens, 2008) but a photograph is provided here. Other NSW specimens have been found at Hastings Point, north of Byron Bay, by Denis Riek, who figured the living animal, see Riek (2017). *E. alveolata* is a recent record for NSW, not reported by Beechey (2017) or Wilson (1993).

"TURRIDAE": *Anarithma metula* (Hinds, 1843) (figs. A&C). Placed in the family Mitromorphidae by WORMS. A single 4.8mm specimen was found at Mulloway on 28 Sep 2013. It is a rather widespread tropical species, illustrated by Poppe (2008) and Okutani (ed) (2000). The Australian Museum's database indicates one specimen (C.374239) from off Broken Bay, collected in 1979. Many specimens are recorded from the Lord Howe Island area, but it appears to be rare in mainland NSW.

"TURRIDAE": *Clavus bilineatus* (Reeve, 1845) (fig. F). Placed in Drillidae by WORMS. A single, rather worn specimen, measuring 10mm, was found at Mulloway on 28 Sep 2013. Reported from Townsville, QLD, by Wilson (1994), it appears to be a new NSW record.

"TURRIDAE": *Lovellona atramentosa* (Reeve, 1849) (fig. D). Placed in Mitromorphidae by WORMS. One damaged specimen was found at Mulloway. Reported as far south as Caloundra in the Australian Museum database.

TEREBRIDAE: *Terebra* sp. (fig. E). I've had trouble identifying this species, however it doesn't seem to be conspecific with anything figured by Beechey (2017). It is superficially similar to *Terebra amoena Deshayes, 1859* and *Terebra columellaris* Hinds, 1844, both reported from Queensland by Wilson (1994), however both of those have more than one spiral groove according to Bratcher & Cernohorsky (1987) and Wilson (1994). It is possible that all trace of these was obliterated through wear in the available specimens. *Terebra loisae* E. A. Smith, 1903, described from South Africa, is extremely similar in pigmentation, but similarly should exhibit multiple interrupted subsutural grooves (or rows of spiral punctae in the axial

interstices). These shells are not particularly rare in northern NSW, however most are encountered in very worn condition.

Beechey, D. L. (2017). *Seashells of New South Wales*. Available online at http://www.seashellsofnsw.org.au [Accessed on 7 Dec 2017.]
Bratcher, T. & Cernohorsky, W. O. (1987). *Living Terebras of the world – a monograph of the Recent Terebridae of the world*. Madison Publishing Associates, New York, USA. 240pp.
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Wilson, B. R. (1993). *Australian marine shells, volume 1*. Odyssey Publications, Kallaroo, WA. 407pp.
Wilson, B. R. (1994). *Australian marine shells, volume 2*. Odyssey Publications, Kallaroo, WA. 370pp.

Lynton Stephens

Caption to figure:**A&C** = *Anarithma metula* (Hinds, 1843). Mulloway. 4.8mm. **B** = *Cranopsis exquisita* (A. Adams, 1853) Mulloway. 7.7mm. **D** = *Lovellona atramentosa* (Reeve, 1849). Mulloway. 7mm. **E** = *Terebra sp.* Emerald Beach. 17mm. **F** = *Clavus bilineatus* (Reeve, 1845). Mulloway. 10mm. **G&I** = *Engina alveolata* (Kiener, 1836). Minnie Water. 9mm. **H** = *Natica lineozona* Jousseaume, 1874. 11mm.

DAVID LONG

A prominent member of the Malacological Society in the early 1970's, David Long, died in Cheltenham Hospital, England, on 12th February, 2018. David was introduced to the Victorian Branch of the MSA in June, 1970 (Vic. Branch Bulletin No. 9), having arrived in Melbourne in July, 1969 with his wife, Pat, and daughter Julia. (Tragically, Julia died in a road accident in early 1970.) David was a British Public Servant, on secondment to Australia from the Department of Defence. During their stay in Melbourne a son, Ben, was born.
Soon after their arrival in Melbourne, David joined the Marine Study Group (which later became the Marine Research Group). At that time, the MSG was heavily involved with its littoral survey of Western Port Bay and David, having become president, oversaw the production of an Interim Report in August, 1971. David also held office in the MSA and was extremely active with both groups, giving talks and writing articles in the newsletters as well as organising and attending field trips.

His particular interest was terrestrial molluscs, both fossil and recent, particularly those of Great Britain. However, once in Victoria he quickly acquainted himself with the local fauna, both terrestrial and marine. He always had trouble with the proliferation of names, both genera and species, by Tom Iredale, but otherwise he was very quick to become an accurate recorder of our molluscs.
Apart from a number of short articles written for the Victorian Branch Bulletin, David had three papers published, that I am aware of, on Victorian molluscs:

- Victorian Non-Marine Molluscs – 7: the Introduced Zonitids. Victorian Naturalist Vol. 88, No. 12, Dec. 1971
- Zonitid Snails (Gastropoda: Pulmonata) Introduced into Victoria. Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria 33, Feb. 1972 pp 115-120
- Late Eocene and Early Oligocene Turridae (Gastropoda: Prosobranchiata) of the Browns Creek and Glen Aire Clays, Victoria, Australia. Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria 42, 1981, pp 15-59

David, Pat and Ben departed Melbourne in late 1972 and, apart from a couple of years in Cyprus, he spent the rest of his working life in England. In retirement, David carried out many surveys of local snail fauna in the west of England. He was a long-term member of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and also retained his membership of the MSA for the rest of his life.

Alan Monger

Looking for snails at Tower Hill, near Warrnambool Nov. 1970. David Long's back view far left; Brian Smith standing third from right.

At left, Pat and David Long at Gloucester Cathedral, 1990

Range-changes in Tasmanian intertidal molluscs

"Range changes as a result of climate change within a discrete region are expected to be observed as an expansion of the pole-ward limit for 'warmer' species because areas that were too cold to occupy increase in temperature, whereas for 'cooler' species, a retraction of the equator-ward range edge as areas warm above tolerance thresholds." (Pitt et al., 2010). In order to test this statement these writers revisited intertidal sites along the east coast of Tasmania for which faunal lists were available from the intertidal zonation studies of Bennett & Pope (1960), and compared those results with their own new data taken 50 years later.

Among the nine intertidal molluscs surveyed, southward range extensions of an average of 115km (range 20-235km) were noted *Austrolittorina unifasciata* had the shortest, *Cominella lineolata* the longest range extensions. Should sea surface tempertature in south-eastern Australia continue to rise at the same rate as it has since 1944, that is 0.22º per decade (Pitt et al., 2010), these molluscs and other intertidal fauna are expected to continue their march southward. Southward range extensions compress the habitats of endemic southern Tasmanian species, until there is nowhere left for the latter to go.

As the writers of this paper say "There is no land below [ie South] Tasmania until Macquarie Island, a distance of some 1500km, representing considerable dispersal and temperature-tolerance barriers."

References

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Pitt, N.R., Poloczanska, E.S. & Hobday, A.J., 2010. Climate-driven range changes in Tasmanian intertidal fauna. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 61: 963-970.

Robert Burn

September Meeting notes

Michael Lyons presented slides of some Victorian chitons with close up shots showing detail of valve sculpture. Photos were a selection of chitons found at Portsea and included *Chiton exoptanda, C. bednalli, C. tricostalis, C. diaphorus, C. calliozonus, Ischnochiton purus,* and *I. smaragdinus*

Don & Val Cram showed images taken during their recent trip to The UK and Ireland.

October meeting notes

Geoff Macaulay **b**rought in a selection of Amphidromus landsnails from Vietnam, Indonesia, Timor and the Philippines highlighting their diversity of form and colouration. He also showed recent finds taken whilst diving off Portsea.
Geoff tabled a recent addition to his library; Recent Fasciolariidae by Daniel Mallard and Alain Robin
Geoff also ran through a presentation called 'Snails with Snorkels' that Richard Goldberg had posted to Facebook.
Don Cram gave us a talk on a recent trip to Mount Gambier and the Murray River mouth with Val. Locations visited included Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island, Victor Harbour. Don and Val took a tour of the mouth of the Murray and the barrages used to prevent seawater entering too far into the system.
Don also showed slides of a visit to Nangiloc in 1969 where he collected the freshwater snail, *Notopala hanleyi*, which is now extinct in the Murray River.

Platon Vafiadis brought in three books:
Marine Molluscs of Japan 2nd edition edited by T. Okutani, published in two volumes and featuring an additional 800 species when compared to the first edition.
Australian Echinoderms Biology, Ecology and Evolution. Edited by: Maria Byrne, Timothy O'Hara
Cephalopods of Australia and Sub-Antarctic Territories by Amanda Reid.

Angus Hawke showed us a spectacular example of *Zoila gigas* from Muddy Creek, some Muricids, Conus, Pectens, Cypraeids and Spondulus from the Philippines. He also had some rarities including a sinistral *Conus flavus*, a *Cypraea moneta/caputserpentis* hybrid and an example of the tiny and rare Volute, *Lyria mikoi*.

Michael Lyons