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Foreword

This number of the Memoirs is devoted to a series of papers dealing with a five year survey of Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, the results of which are to be published in two sections. This first section contains historical, geological, hydrological, floral and faunal papers. The second section will consist of the remaining systematic papers and discussion on the ecological communities.

Prior to 1957, the fauna and flora of this Bay had not been systematically studied and in that year the National Museum of Victoria and the Fisheries and Wildlife Department commenced an ecological survey. The planning and supervision of the research work was the responsibility of Miss J. Hope Macpherson, Curator of Molluscs, National Museum, and Mr. D. D. Lynch, Superintendent of Marine Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Wildlife Department. The staffs of the two institutions were assisted throughout the survey by the Underwater Explorers and Photographers Club and the Marine Study Group of Victoria. This volunteer work force provided labour to help in the collecting and sorting of specimens and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

The increasing exploitation of Port Phillip Bay by commercial and amateur fishermen, the growing recreational interest of many of the public in marine zoology and the rapidly changing physical nature of the environment which is inevitably associated with industrial and urban development imposed a degree of urgency on the need for a study of the general ecology of the Bay at this point in time.

The two institutions have an individual and collective interest in a survey of this nature. A managed and controlled utilization of the marine resources requires a knowledge of the resources in its environment. A qualitative survey of the invertebrate fauna and flora provides a more subtle and direct measure of the biological changes which accompany physical change than does chemical monitoring, although the latter is to be developed. The Museum has a direct interest in the raw data, the material collected and the living organisms in relation to their environment.

JOHN McNALLY,
Director, National Museum.

A. DUNBAVIN BUTCHER,
Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

PORT PHILLIP SURVEY 1957-1963

PART I

Editor, J. HOPE MACPHERSON, Curator of Molluscs, National Museum
of Victoria

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