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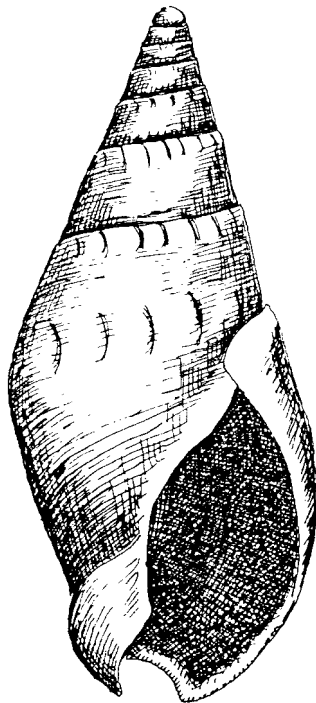
# THE SYDNEY SHELLER

Newsletter  
of  
THE SHELL CLUB OF SYDNEY

[NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH  
THE MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA LIMITED ACN 067 894 848]

DEDICATED TO  
THE INVESTIGATION AND PRESERVATION OF MOLLUSCAN FAUNA  
AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

JUNE 1998



*Cyllene rozana* [Inedale, 1924]  
Illustration by Patty Jansen

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THE SHELL CLUB OF SYDNEY

THE MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA, NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH.

*Our mission statement is:- "To appreciate, understand and preserve shells and their environments and share this with others".*

PRESIDENT : Michael Keats, Phone/Fax (02) 9144-2096

SECRETARY : Chris Barnes, Phone (02) 9314-1720

TREASURER : John Dunkerley, 36 Apollo Ave., Baulkham Hills, NSW, 2153

VICE PRESIDENT : Des Beechey

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HONORARY MEMBER : Francis McCamley

\* \* \* \* \*

FIELD TRIPS : Ashley Miskelly & Ernie Uhle

RAFFLES : John Dunkerley & Shanti Oetama

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE : Ron Moylan, John Dunkerley & Stephanie Clark

REFRESHMENTS COMMITTEE : Karen Wadwell & Io Myers

SHELL SHOW COMMITTEE : Io Myers, Ron Moylan, Des Beechey, Michael Keats & Ernie Uhle (Special Projects Officer)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR : David Woodhouse, Phone (02) 9896-3675, PO Box 901, Toongabbie, NSW, 2146.

MEETINGS:- The NSW Branch meets on the 4th Saturday of each month except December & January, in the rooms of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW, Education Centre, Taronga Zoo, Mosman, NSW, at 2.00PM. Entry to the Centre is via the Staff Car Park in Whiting Beach Road almost opposite Prince Albert Street. Ask the Gatekeeper for directions.

\* \* \* \* \* THIS MEETING \* \* \* \* \*

*Annual General Meeting &  
Identification of Shell Specimens - Olividae - Bob Reed to lead.*

\* \* \* \* \* FIELD TRIP \* \* \* \* \*

*Field trip to Shank Island, Sydney Harbour is in planning stage.  
More advice to follow.*

\* \* \* \* \* NEXT MEETING \* \* \* \* \*

*25-7-98 To be decided.*

\* \* \* \* \* AUGUST MEETING \* \* \* \* \*

"THE SYDNEY SHELLER" - EDITOR RETIRES

As many of you are already aware this will be my last edition of "The Sydney Sheller". When I took over from Jules Leroi in 1991 "The Sydney Sheller" was a publication of the Conchology Section, Royal Zoological Society of NSW. I had no idea I would be still producing the newsletter seven years later!

HISTORY. My first edition was in May 1991. Twenty five copies were produced and on the cover was a laser colour photocopy of Bate Bay, Kurnell from Potter Point. In August 1991 we saw the first of Patty Jansen's illustrations on the cover and the first of her wonderfully illustrated articles "Some Common Sydney Marginellidae". The November 1991 issue contained a warning regarding Byne's Disease by Thora Whithead and Kay Rutland's recollections of "Early Memories of Shell Collecting in Sydney". March 1992 saw the first article submitted from overseas with Ulrich Knodel's "A Taxonomic History of Columbariinae". The first colour photograph appeared in the November 1992 edition featuring a live Hydatina physis illustrating Des Beechey's "Interesting Shell Number 9". Michael Keats commenced his series of articles in February 1993 with "Literature on Marine Molluscs - Where To Go And Find It". In October 1993 41 copies of the newsletter were being produced with a conservative estimate of the readership being 65. November 1993 saw Michael Keats' first article dealing with the status of molluscan marine life in Sydney Harbour with "Mortlake Point, Parramatta River". In January 1994 "The Sydney Sheller" became a joint publication of the Conchology Section, Royal Zoological Society of NSW and the NSW Branch of the Malacological Society of Australasia. Subscriptions were introduced for non members. February 1994 saw the introduction of regular colour photographs. In May 1994 photographs of the fossil Umbilia gastrolax (McCoy, 1875) were featured. In February 1995 "The Sydney Sheller" changed to the present A3 format. In April 1995 a special issue was produced dedicated to Shark Island, Sydney Harbour. On 1st January 1996 the club parted company with RZS of NSW with the newsletter becoming the publication of the NSW Branch of the MSA. In February 1996 a special issue was produced in recognition and appreciation of the works of Miss Gertrude Thornley. In October 1996 subscriptions to the newsletter were discontinued and receipt of magazine was dependant on the payment of a Branch Fee. The January/February 1997 edition of "The Sydney Sheller" was a special edition to acknowledge Francis McCamley's outstanding dedication to Conchology in Australia. Currently forty five copies are produced and sent to most shell clubs in Australia, the Australian Museum, various gratis recipients and issued to club members.

THANKS. The work has been a great pleasure and a huge learning process for someone who had little interest in sea shells. It was an honour to edit the special edition for Francis McCamley. Frank worked so hard for the club over so many years. Another enjoyment was the production of the special issue for Gertrude Thornley - she had such love of shells and an incredible talent for passing on information about them. I thank those who gave me the encouragement over the years to continue with "The Sydney Sheller" especially Kevin Lamprell, Michael Keats and Elizabeth Woodhouse. Throughout my term as Editor, the supply of good quality articles made the production of newsletter an easy job. For their articles I thank the main contributors Michael Keats, Patty Jansen, Ulrich Knodel and Michael Shea. For all the folk who contributed I thank you. For the Minutes of each meeting I thank Gary Sutherland, Chris Barnes & Karen Wadwell. A special thanks to Patty Jansen for the use of her fine illustrations of Sydney shells on the covers of most newsletters. Thanks to Michael Keats and Trudy Robinson for their work on the photocopier.

THE FUTURE. One would hope that "The Sydney Sheller" could continue as a monthly presentation to keep members who cannot attend meetings fully informed of Club activities. Up-to-date information, in advance, needs to be provided by the Programme Committee and Field Trip Organizers. The Minutes of the monthly meetings should continue to be published or alternatively an accurate and comprehensive "Club News" column produced by the Secretary or President would perhaps be more interesting. The new editor could make his or her task easier if access to a document scanning computer was available. Production expenses could be saved if photographs were only reproduced if the subjects were new to science or rare. The editors task would be simplified if someone else was responsible for the distribution of the newsletter. In any case all this will be up to the new Editor! Meanwhile I will be refocusing my efforts on photographing NSW land snails.

**SECOND AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SHELL SHOW  
11 - 12 APRIL 1998  
MANLY PACIFIC PARKROYAL HOTEL**

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE EVENT FROM A DEALERS ASPECT**

**The Venue:** The Grand Ballroom - 16 metres x 32 metres.  
A magnificently presented area with floor to ceiling windows along the 32 metre, eastern elevation - overlooking Manly Beach from the first floor level. Natural light was supplemented with the Ballroom lights providing a high standard of light levels throughout.

The Ballroom was fully air-conditioned ensuring ideal comfort conditions.

Dealers tables were provided around the three perimeter walls, comfortably positioned with adequate dealers space behind for stock and storage of carry boxes and ample seating available. All tables were presented with full drape white tablecloths affording a pleasing uniform background for the display material.

The exhibitors tables were located in rows down the centre of the Ballroom with ample room for the Public/Collectors to view both the Exhibits and the Dealers material whilst circulating the Ballroom. Favourable comments were received from Dealers, Exhibitors and the Public alike for the wonderful and aesthetically pleasing display of material in one large area, each complimenting the other.

The Dealers too, felt more involved with the total event, being able to participate in many activities, spot prizes and auctioning of material as it occurred throughout the event and each within eye contact of one another.

**Access:** Dealers were able to unload material in the basement carpark, directly to lifts up to the Ballroom Reception Level and avail the use of the hotel's mobile trolleys for easy transfer into the Ballroom.

This facilitated the delivery and cartage to and from the venue, particularly in light of the inclement weather which threatened on the actual event days and was indeed comforting to know one could arrive and depart without effort or concerns of water spoilt material.

**Hotel Facilities:** The Staff were most obliging and co-operative and provided after hours security.  
Coffee Tea and biscuits were available at the Ballroom Reception area immediately outside the entry door enabling a quick break without leaving the venue level.

A Bar and Bistro were also on the same level for those wishing a more private area to clinch a deal or relax and enjoy the Manly Beach vista during a lunch break.

**Summary:** Most of the Dealers considered the event a huge success with many requests to stage a similar event in the not too distant future.

TURBINELLIDAE - AN ATTRACTIVE SHELL FAMILY.*Part II*

By Ulrich Knodel

Vasum muricatum (Born, 1778)

The "Caribbean Vase" has a chalky white shell which is usually hidden by a very thick blackish-brown periostracum. The shell is solid and heavy; the spire moderately erected; the spines (on the shoulder and near the base) short; strong spiral cords are present. The aperture is white, in juveniles pinkish; five strong columellar folds are present (of which the first and third are twice as large as the others). The size of the shell is 60 - 100 mms., seldom 125 mms. or up.

This species is rather common in shallow water where it preys on worms and clams. Usually not deeper than two metres but shells from 15 metres were reported from off Florida. The typical habitat is sandy bottom and it "is almost always found in association with turtle grass" (Vokes, 1966)... "but is sometimes found on relatively exposed rocks" (Abbott, 1950).

It is known from very southern Florida (not from the Bahamas) to Puerto Rico and from Colombia northward to the Bay of Campeche in the Gulf of Mexico. It has been known as a fossil since the Cubagua Formation of Venezuela (late Miocene-early Pliocene).

Vasum caestus looks rather similar and is reported (probably incorrectly?) to be a subspecies of V. muricatum.



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE NSW BRANCH OF THE  
MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA LIMITED  
ACN 067 894 848**

**for the year ended 30 June 1998**

Members, Visitors. Ladies and Gentlemen,

1998 has been a year of considerable performance and achievement by the Branch. Members participated in a workshop to determine the priorities of activities to be undertaken.

The Branch planned and staged the biggest event since its inception - the Second Australian National Shell Show - on behalf of the Malacological Society of Australasia.

The pressure of commitment has had an impact on all members and the office bearers in particular. There has been more interaction with the community at large and sponsors in particular than any one could have foreseen.

The outcomes of both the workshop and the Second Australian National Shell Show are yet to fully sink in as to what they mean to the Branch and the MSA nationally.

One of the very good outcomes from the Show was the holding of a meeting to determine the host organisation for the 3rd Australian National Shell Show - the meeting for the first time of representatives of MSA Branches and Affiliated organisations.

This group of people showed enormous goodwill to each other and a recognition of the need for a united national approach to the issues confronting shell collectors.

**THE SECOND AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SHELL SHOW**

As a member of the steering committee chaired by Lady Io Myers I never doubted that the event would be an outstanding success.

From the basic research in establishing feasibility, setting the budget, selecting the right venue, raising the funds, setting the timelines, and the sheer volume of planning and delivery to each and every deadline the committee members responded to every call.

The willing help and co-operation of the media, particularly the local press gave us free publicity that major corporations can only dream about. The Children's Colouring in Competition gave us an 'in' with young people and a great opportunity to show our face to the community at large.

The support of the Manly Chamber of Commerce, Manly Wharf Management and the Manly Daily gave on the ground support which supplemented the generous

sponsorship of the Shell Company, ERA, Claude Fay, Amcor Packaging and MSA National.

A legacy of the event is a poster of the Common Sea Shells of Sydney. This initiative is an ongoing marketing tool for the Branch and the Society which will be promoted directly to Secondary Schools as well as to the public.

The putting of Sydney on the international shell map did not just happen. I pay a public tribute to my fellow Steering Committee members, Chairman, Lady lo Myers, Ron Moylan and Des Beechey for 18 months of conscientious toil and dedication.

A detailed report on the Show appeared in the May 1998 issue of the Sydney Sheller. To the Late Harry Ford if he could hear I say thank you for your determination that the NSW Branch hold such a Show. Harry we did you proud.

### **OUR FUTURES WORKSHOP**

In September 1997 the members put aside a full meeting to decide what they wanted from participating in their club. The top five priorities in rank order are:-

- \* Field Trips
- \* Identification of Shell Specimens
- \* Focus on purpose
- \* Our public image
- \* Our meetings

A mission statement was also adopted "To appreciate, understand and preserve shells and their environments and share this with others"

The full report was published as a special edition of the Sydney Sheller

### **THE N.S.W. SPECIMEN SHELL FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Politics and a lack of concern by the Senior staff of NSW Fisheries has effectively killed the hard work of Dr Ponder myself and others to develop a workable Specimen Shell Fishery Management Plan for NSW. There is in existence a document which is all but complete for the Directors signature but it is gathering dust and will probably continue to do so until there is a change of State Government.

In the meantime the movement of shells of NSW origin overseas continues to occur illegally. The combined apathy of many Government Departments has meant that those who would exchange material overseas do so but always run the risk that sometime in the future they could face prosecution.

The issue remains one on the agenda for both MSA NSW and MSA National.

As an aside it is worth noting that there was a unrestricted movement of shells for the overseas dealers who participated in the Second Australian National Shell Show. One dealer was confronted by Australian Customs. The only concern was that there were no live giant African snails (*Achatidea* Sp) in his luggage.

### **REGISTRATION OF BUSINESS NAME**

One of the outcomes of the Workshop was a recognition of the reality that the Society's name was not indicating to potential members and the public at large that there was a shell club in Sydney.

Following approval from MSA National application was made to register the Sydney Shell Club as a trading name with the Registrar of Business Names. Given that MSA is a Company, our formal name is unchanged. The Registrar approved the Shell Club of Sydney as a trading name. Our preference of the Sydney Shell Club was not approved for technical/legal reasons.

### **THE PROGRAM FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS - IN REVIEW**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>May 1997</b>       | Ron Moylan showed his video of the First Australian National Shell Show held in Adelaide. The video provided members with the opportunity to "walk around the show" and gain an appreciation of the South Australian Society's approach. Opportunity was taken to speak about how the NSW Steering Committee was proposing to improve on the event. |
| <b>June 1997</b>      | Phil Coleman from the Australian Museum spoke of his life long fascination with molluscs. Phil moved from collector to educator and now takes groups of people, particularly young people to Long Reef to explain environmental issues.   |
| <b>July 1997</b>      | The Chinaman's Beach story. Michael Keats presented a talk and displayed a comprehensive collection of the molluscs of Chinaman's Beach, an area he is passionately interested in within Sydney Harbour. Many rare species are readily collected from this beach which has a very significant position vis a vis with Sydney Heads.                 |
| <b>August 1997</b>    | Dr Gee Chapman from the Institute of Marine Ecology is working on the processes of dispersal of marine invertebrates. She was able to disprove a number of commonly held beliefs regarding seasons and equilibrium. Currently a variety of hypotheses are being tested on intertidal reefs.   |
| <b>September 1997</b> | Our Futures Workshop. The outcomes of this activity have already been documented. It is a process which will need to be repeated every few years to ensure that the activities of the Branch are in conformity with membership desires.   |



- October 1997** Branch Annual Shell Show. Under the baton of Ron Moylan the event was used as a curtain raiser for the Second Australian National Shell Show to be held in April 1998. A number of logistical ideas were tested and the proposed uniform display cases were trialed.
- November 1997** A duo presentation by members Ashley Miskelly and Ernie Uhle on Echinoids and the Mollusc fauna of Botany Bay again reminded members of the incredible variety and diversity of the mollusc fauna of the Sydney area. A fascinating aspect of Ernie's talk was the use he makes of octopi to act as primary shell collectors. Octopus nests are a great place to collect fresh dead species of all bivalves and often other surprising items.
- December 1997** No formal meeting however many members participated in the Branch stand at Ocean Care Day held at Manly on 7/12/97. The purpose of the stand was to provide a curtain raiser for the Second Australian National Shell Show. It also launched the poster on Common Molluscs of Sydney.
- Des and Bernice Beechey made their home available for the annual Christmas party which was enjoyed by all.
- January 1998** In accordance with what is now a tradition there was no meeting in January. In place of a meeting there was a field trip to Fingal Bay. There was excellent participation and the finds were very encouraging.
- February 1998** The suspension of normal business was agreed to allow fulsome discussion of all the issues involving members in the Second Australian National Shell Show. Members received duties lists and an update report on all the Show issues.
- March 1998** The March Meeting was held at the Heritage Centre at Manly Wharf. Again normal business was suspended while members got stuck into preparation of registration kits for the public attending the Show. Some 2500 kits were prepared.
- April 1998** Even though the Show occurred on the second weekend the ordinary meeting still proceeded. A shell collection was auctioned and Des Beeches gave a very informative paper on shell design, structure and possible function of morphology.
- May 1998** A workshop on the Epitoniidae was lead by Patty Jansen. All members were encouraged to bring in specimens for identification. Michael Keats brought in literature to assist with the process.

## MEMBERSHIP

During the year we lost our most distinguished amateur member, Gertie Thornley. Gertie will be remembered for her enormous contribution and a willingness to share. The creation of the Gertie Thornley perpetual trophy for the most outstanding exhibit in the Volutidae will enshrine her name with her most notable work.

Branch membership has continued to decline. The combined impact of local no collection areas, a school education philosophy of look don't touch or take and growing world wide opinion that taking animals of any kind is bad is forcing amateur and professional students of conchology and malacology into a very confined area which is increasingly confined to attachment to museums and academia.

World wide the problem is no different. The attitude of user pays and every activity of government being increasingly funded by those who use the service means fewer researchers being employed and those who are being forced to spend large amounts of time fund-raising and marketing their research, not practising science for science sake.

The Second Australian National Shell Show did achieve our aim of greater public exposure but not one new member has yet joined our ranks.

We have had former member Patty Jansen rejoin us following her relocation from Townsville to Sydney. Garry Sutherland and his family have also dropped in to see how we are faring. We hope to see Garry and his family a lot more in the future.

## OFFICE BEARERS

With the decline in membership thanking the office bearers is like thanking the Sydney based membership!

Chris Barnes and Karen Wadwell are a strong team looking after the Secretarial and refreshments - both essential functions for the Society to operate. Thank you both.

John Dunkerley our Treasurer has done a sterling job looking after our finances. As a result of the Show there will be some more resources to look after. In particular we should enjoy ongoing sales of the poster of Common Sydney Sea Shells

Des Beechey, Vice President has provided the essential back up for all kinds of situations for which I cannot thank him enough.

Field trip organisers Ernie Uhle and Ashley Miskelly have arranged many trips since the workshop identified the strong demand for this activity. 1998 - 99 should see these guys busier than ever. Keep up the good work.

Shanti Oetama has been a more than willing helper to assist John Dunkerley in our raffle fund-raising each meeting. Thank you Shanti.

take advantage of marketing and membership opportunities. The detailed accounts for the last 12 months are included in this issue of the Sydney Sheller.

John, the job you do is crucial to our future. Thank you for what you have done so willingly.

## FIELD TRIPS

A hobby such as ours is ultimately dependent on field work. Unless we are out there discovering what there is we become arm chair collectors and disconnected from reality.

The reaffirmation by the workshop that field activity is our prime objective is fundamental.

Field trips were held to Port Stephens, Catherine Hill Bay and Kurnell. While 3 trips may sound short of the mark in terms of our goals the whole membership has been focused on the Second Australian National Shell Show. Four field trips were arranged in conjunction with that event.

Co ordination of people to participate, choosing the right tide and then picking the weather often makes achievement of the activity a very difficult one. Our target is 6 for the next 12 months.

Field trip reports are a must. The Sydney Sheller is always keen to publish the latest findings. The more we document the better data we are creating for the monitoring of future trends in so many areas.

## THE SYDNEY SHELLER - ARTICLES OF IMPORTANCE

<b>July 1997</b>	Field trip to Shoal Bay An examination of the regular cidaroid Echinoid <i>Gonicidaris tubaria</i>
<b>August 1997</b>	Turbinellidae Part 9 The largest Paryphanta in the World The Mollusc Fauna of Chinaman's Beach <i>Antigona materna</i> found at Bottle & Glass Rocks
<b>September 1997</b>	An interesting observation of <i>Circe scripta</i> <i>Clementia</i> and <i>Lutraria crassiplica</i> Coastal conservation in Vanuatu Update of the Echinoid fauna of Bottle & Glass Rocks <i>Daphenella botanica</i>
<b>October 1997</b>	Notes on the Pliocene - Pleistocene mollusc deposit at Myaring Bridge Biodiversity: UK steering group report
<b>November - December 1997</b>	Placamen Species from Sydney Harbour

Mollusc Fauna of Chinaman's Beach Part 2

**January-  
February 1998**

The occurrence of *Cymbiola magnifica* around  
Sydney  
Notes on a field trip to Fingal Bay  
Family Cardillidae and *Cardilia semisulcata*  
Field trip to Kurnell  
Macro Molluscs of Sutherland Point

**March 1998**

*Mitraguraleus mitralis*  
Turbinellidae Part 10  
Beach Mollusc fauna of Cabbage Tree Bay  
Mortlake Point, Parramatta River

**April 1998**

*Colus (Fusinus) consetti*  
Washaway Beach Sydney Harbour - The Shell  
Species El Dorado of NSW?

**May 1998**

Reports on the Second Australian National Shell Show by  
Chris Barnes, Karen Wadwell, Graeme Annabell and Michael  
Keats.

**CONCLUDING COMMENTS**

1997-1998 has been a year of significant activity and reassessment of the role and function of the NSW Branch. The Branch members have achieved much and the Branch is now well resourced and demonstrated its capacity to mix with the best on the world scene. Whilst I have had a pivotal role in this activity it is time that another member took the reins and moved the organisation in a new direction.

To those who say please do another year I say thank you, but no. The fact is your organisation needs a new more energetic driver. As with any role when you have been there for more than 7 years you stale and become a victim of the formula for change which you pushed so hard for.

To the incoming Chairperson whoever he or she may be I will be a loyal supporter and that person and the membership can be sure of my contribution. I am looking forward to being an ordinary member and supporting our hobby and interest to the fullest extent that I can in any non office - bearer arena that I can.

Thank you all for the years of support. May we all go forward and continue to enjoy our interest to the full.

  
Michael Keats  
Branch President

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SHELL CLUB OF SYDNEY(NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH OF THE MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA LIMITED ACN 067 894 848)YEAR ENDED MAY 1998

<u>OPENING BALANCE</u>		1042.23
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RECEIPTS

1. RAFFLES		
1997 MAY	34.00	
JUNE	34.50	
JULY	29.30	
AUGUST	26.55	
SEPT	31.00	
OCT	28.50	
NOV	16.25	
1998 FEB	39.00	
APRIL	43.90	283.00
2. NSW BRANCH MEMBERSHIPS		440.00
3. MISCELLANEOUS		
* AUCTIONS - COMMISSIONS	12.00	
* SHELL SHOW 1997	64.00	
* BANK INTEREST	0.87	
* REIMBURSEMENT OF PRIZES FOR NAT. SHOW	25.00	101.87
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>824.87</u> <u>1867.10</u>

OUTLAYS

1. THE SYDNEY SHELLER (MAY 97 - APRIL 98)	598.70	
2. SHELL SHOW COSTS	193.00	
3. RAFFLE PRIZES	165.90	
4. PAPER	257.66	
5. COST OF REGISTRATION OF CLUB NAME (THE SHELL CLUB OF SYDNEY)	100.00	
6. BANK COSTS / GOVT. DUTY	23.35	
7. OTHER		
* AFTERNOON TEAS	40.00	
* GIFT FOR SPEAKER	11.50	
* STAMPS / STATIONERY	9.95	61.45
TOTAL OUTLAYS		<u>1400.06</u>
BALANCE AS AT 23RD MAY 1998		<u><u>467.04</u></u>

JOHN DUNKERLEY.  
TREASURER.



Minutes of The NSW Branch of the Malacological Society of Australasia Limited ACN 067 894 848 held in the Rooms of the RZS at Taronga Zoo on 23/5/98.

The meeting was opened by M. Keats at 2.02pm.

Apologies were received from Io Myers (in Mackay), Peter Pienaar, Frank & Kath McCamley, Ernie Uhle, Steve Dean, Elizabeth Woodhouse and other standing apologies.

A precis of the Minutes of the meeting held 25/04/98 were read by the Secretary.

**Matters arising**

An attempt to sell the remainder of the posters left over from the Shell Show to High Schools is being made.

Bob Reed raised the point that several people had not been able to attend Ashley Miskelly's talk at the Shell Show and asked if it would be possible for Ashley to repeat this at a later date. The July meeting was suggested.

Letter from Chris Bunyard from Port Phillip Bay Shell Group offering congratulations on the success of the Sydney Shell Show to the Show Committee and offering to hold the 3rd National Shell Show in 1999.

It was decided to hand this letter on to Des Beechey as per decision in the April Minutes.

**Correspondence**

Ulrich Knodel has completed Parts 11 & 12 of his *Turbinellidae* papers. These have been handed to the Editor of the *Sydney Sheller* for publication.

Michael Keats informed the meeting that he will not be standing in any official capacity at the AGM 27/06/98.

Michael has prepared a draft letter to the RZS in regard to the tenure of rooms which the incoming President will need to deal with early in the next period of office for time beyond January 1999.

**Treasurers Report - (May ' 98 )**

John Dunkerley reported:

<u>Opening balance</u>	+ \$461.66
Receipts:	
April Raffle	\$ 43.90
Commission from Auction	\$ 11.50
Bank Interest	\$ 0.24
	<u>\$517.30</u>
Outlays	
<i>Sydney Sheller</i> - April	\$ 34.75
Afternoon teas	\$ 5.00
Raffle Prize	\$ 6.00
Bank Charges (chq)	\$ 5.00
Govt Duty	\$ 0.01
	<u>+\$466.54</u>
February Reconciliation	.50
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>\$467.04</u>

The Treasurer mentioned that overall funds were down a little as a raffle was not held in March. In addition refunds are due from MSA National. NSW Branch membership fees are due at the end of June and will be unchanged.

### Reports

The Environmental Officer from Leichhardt Council is investigating the local molluscan fauna and has asked for copies of Michael Keats' surveys of the areas.

Ashley Miskelly reported that he has been involved in helping mount a Biodiversity Display for the Australian Museum; this will be open in September.

### Program Committee:

Field trips- Ashley Miskelly advised that a field trip to Shark Island is in the planning stage. A visit to Ashley's private museum collection in the Blue Mountains will be combined with the August Branch meeting. NOTE: Wear warm clothes. Maps & address to be supplied.

September meeting: Ron Moylan will give an update on clam farming in the Solomon Islands.

October Meeting: Branch Shell Show.

The Sydney Sheller The editor, D. Woodhouse issued the March edition of the " Sydney Sheller".

### Raffle

John Dunkerley reported that the raffle raised \$26.50

An auction raised \$112.00.

### Presentations

Patty Jansen led the workshop on *Epitoniidae sp.* with a short talk on the features of these shells. The family is largely unexplored; T. Iredale named approximately 30 species from NSW. The North Queensland species are generally unnamed and have a wide ranging distribution. She outlined the difficulty of identification, as photographs and number of ribs are not really suitable criteria for identification purposes. Shape, axial lamellae, sculpture and pattern, via the use of a microscope, are far more useful ways to identify species. Two microscopes were available for Club members to assist with the identification process.

Next Meeting Saturday 27/06/98 at 2.00pm followed by the AGM in the Rooms of the RZS at Taronga Zoo.

Bob Reed will be leading a workshop on the Family Olividae.

Meeting suspended at 2.41pm.

C. Barnes  
Secretary

M. Keats  
President