September 1998

THE SYDNEY SHELLER

Newsletter of the Shell Club of Sydney
NSW Branch, The Malacological Society of Australasia Limited ACN 067 894 848

Shell Club of Sydney Mission Statement:

To appreciate, understand and preserve shells and their environment and to share this with others.

Next Meeting:

Date: **24th Oct. 98**
(normally 4th Saturday)
Location: **Taronga Zoo**
(via staff car park)
Time: **2.00pm**
Seminar: **Ron Moylan**
Shell Show

Contributions:

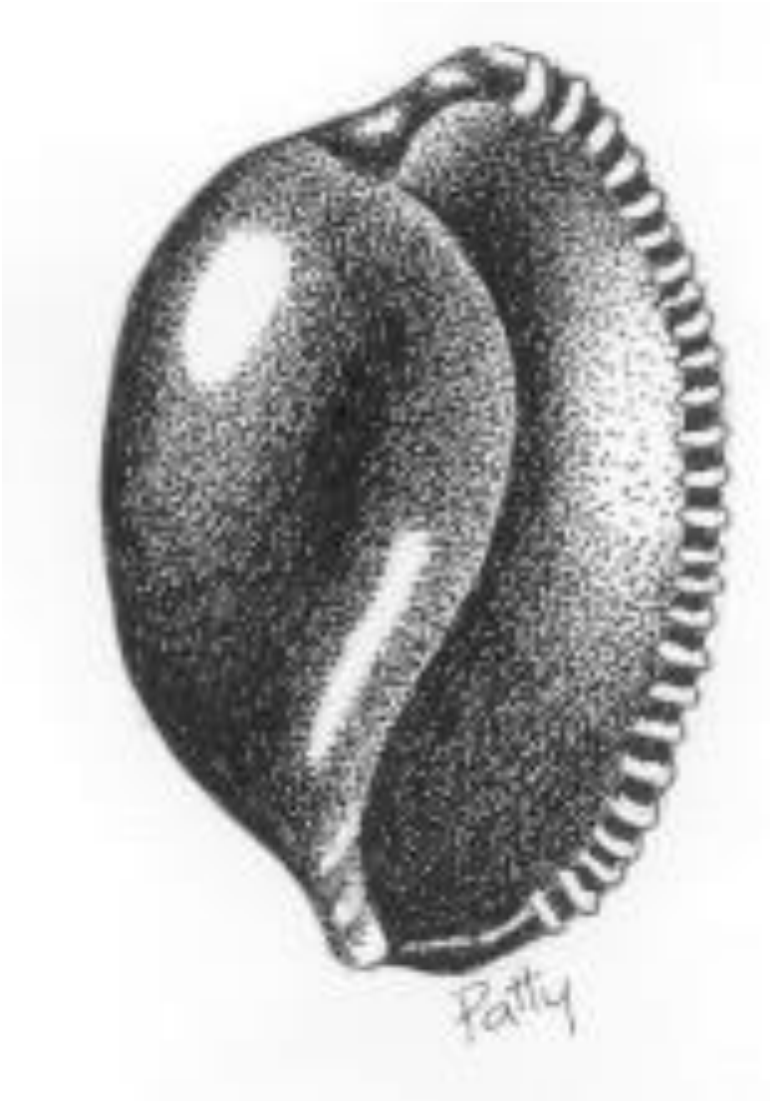
Please send contributions to:
Steve Dean
166 Narrabeen Park Parade,
Mona Vale NSW 2103
Photos, and disc files of articles by mail, or preferably by email to
steve@easy.com.au

If you cannot get your text onto disc, then **Karen Wadwell** may be prepared to type it for you - send material to:
1/7-9 Severn St
Maroubra NSW 2035

Office - Bearers:

President:	Des Beechey
Vice Pres:	Patty Jansen
Secretary:	Chris Barnes
Treasurer:	John Dunkerley
Field Trips:	Ashley Miskelly
Sheller Editor:	Steve Dean

Executive Management Committee: Des Beechey, Chris Barnes, Steve Dean and Ashley Miskelly



Chimaeria incomparabilis
Courtesy Patty Jansen

Some of the topics inside:

Conidae Pain Killers

Following from Dr Bruce Levitt's seminar, a recent article from the Daily Telegraph (18/8/98) reported that the drug SNX - 111 (Zirconotide) has been produced from *Conus magus* .This experimental drug has been successfully used in the treatment of pain in patients with terminal cancer, shingles, AIDS and the phantom pain of amputees.

The head of the pain centre at Royal North Shore Hospital, Professor Michael Cousins is planning to trial the drug during dental extractions and hopes that it will help alleviate the "phantom "pain where the tooth has been removed. The drug is a breakthrough in pain management as it is not addictive like morphine, has few side effects but is more potent than opiate type drugs.

Book Review

By Patty Jansen:

A revision of the Scaphopoda from Australian waters (Mollusca)

By Kevin L. Lamprell and John M. Healy, June 1998

Records of the Australian Museum, Supplement 24: 1-189

The scaphopods, or tusk shells, are well-represented in the Australian molluscan fauna, especially in northern Australia. However, up till now it has been virtually impossible to identify many of these species, because any literature was scarce, more than 40 years old, and concentrated on southern Australian species.

Enter this long-awaited volume. Kevin and John have spent years working on this volume, examining the scaphopod collections from Australian and overseas institutions and all type specimens.

This work for the first time describes and reviews the entire Australian scaphopod fauna. A total of 108 species belonging to both scaphopod orders, eight families, and 16 genera, are described. The species are illustrated in black and white photographs, and meticulous black and white line drawings.

The work describes 47 new species, and records many species from Australia for the first time. Many species are photographed for the first time. Also, the parameters of a number of genera were revised according to radular ultrastructure and shell morphology. Many long-standing identification errors are rectified through study of the original type material. For each species an Australian distribution map is provided, but ranges outside Australia are mentioned.

Kevin Lamprell is a well-known author on the Australian molluscan fauna, especially bivalves. He has co-authored three books on Australian bivalves, Bivalves of Australia Vol. 1 and the recently published Bivalves of Australia Vol. 2, and Spondylus, spiny oyster shells of the world. He has also co-authored many scientific publications describing new species.

John Healy is a senior research fellow at the University of Queensland. He has been working with Kevin for a number of years, and has co-authored many publications describing new species of bivalves or scaphopods. He is known for his scientific work on the taxonomic importance of molluscan spermatozoa.

Scaphopods is going to be a volume of importance for all general collectors of Australian and Indo-Pacific shells. Although published in a rather scientific journal, it is really very useful for collectors. Even the fact that the pictures are not in colour does not make too much difference. I wonder how much colour photos would have added in appeal of this work: most of the shells are white anyway! One of the drawbacks might be that all shells look the same in the photos. Unfortunately, Scaphopods do have a tendency to look alike, and when the authors had just embarked on this project, I heard Kevin utter many words of regret he ever started it in the first place. But they have devised a great way of identifying the Scaphopods by looking at their cross-sections at the top and bottom. These features are illustrated in line drawings, and add much to the value of this work and set a standard for identifying Scaphopods worldwide.

Open the bottom drawers of your shell cabinet and start identifying your Scaphopods!

Correction

The editor's word processor dynamically checks the validity of web addresses. As I was not on line when I printed the August news letter, it could not verify the two addresses for the article on Cowry Web Sites, so it removed them.

The URL for the Cowry Archive site should have been:
www.geocities.com/~makuabob/

and for the most recent year, 1981:
www.geocities.com/The Tropics/Paradise/6061/HSN81.HTM

Microshells

Patty Jansen has established a great web site about Microshells, focussing on Australian Microshells. It includes Pictures, drawings, descriptions, links and other useful information. The web site Homepage is located at:
www.ozemail.com.au/~filejest

The Australian Microshell Homepage now includes a reasonably complete listing of the Australian Scissurellidae. Comments are invited, especially those of a taxonomic nature.

The sheller editor has included examples taken verbatim from Patty's web pages to wet your appetite, as follows:

Firstly is the most important web page to get you started,

How to collect Microshells:

"Collecting microshells is easy, it doesn't get you tired or dirty, doesn't necessarily occupy a lot of time, doesn't cost much, and on top of all that - it is quite easy to instruct somebody else to do it for you.

All you need is a plastic bag, or some other form of container. You find a deposit of shell grit on the beach and scoop a couple of hand fulls of shell grit in the bag. Pronto! Finished!
Oh, well, I did say something about finding the deposit of shell grit. That can be a little difficult. If there is any shell grit at all, you will usually find it in the mid to high tide level on the sandy beach, or right at the point where there is a gradient change in the beach slope. The beaches that are most

likely to have a good deposit of shell grit are usually those that are not exposed to the full force of the waves. The shell grit can be found washed up next to either end of a beach between rocky headlands, or all along the high tide line. If there are mangroves it may pay to wonder over to where they are; their roots often trap small material which washed up on the beach behind them. If there is a creek entrance, that is the first place I would be heading; you often find excellent shell grit on either side of a creek or river mouth, especially after rain.

It is a good idea to wash your shell grit when you come home; salt crystals can damage your shells over the years. I usually put the grit in an old cloth nappy, tie up the corners and dunk it into a bucket of water. I then go into the garden and swing the bundle until it doesn't drip any more. I tip the contents onto an old newspaper and leave them for at least a couple of days.

I have an assortment of kitchen sieves and splatter screens (all from the department store kitchen department) to separate the grit into manageable portions of various sized particles. I separate as much sand and rubbish from the shell grit as my sieves will allow me to. This will vary with the source of the shell grit and the types of shells I am hoping to get (some can be awfully small).

Next comes the hard bit - you really need a microscope to sort through shell grit. A low-power, binocular dissecting microscope' is ideal. The magnification should be in the range 5X to 60X at the most. Funnily enough, these microscopes are more expensive than their more powerful counterparts, but can sometimes be picked up second hand through Universities. If you wish to buy a new one, look in the lab supplies' section of the yellow pages, and shop around. Make sure you know what you want, but as with all things, you usually get what you pay for. You don't need an expensive light source for sorting microshells (although this type of light can be very, very useful if you ever wanted to photograph your beauties); an ordinary desk light will do."

Secondly are three examples of how the shells are presented in the web pages:

***Dentimitrella tayloriana* Reeve, 1859**
The shell is high-spired; the sides of the spire are slightly convex. The whorls are flat and smooth; the sutures are visible, but barely impressed. The shell surface is smooth and polished, covered in a thin periostracum. The outer lip is sharp and dentate within. The colour consists of patterns of brown on a white background. A row of sharply defined brown circles just below the sutures is characteristic for this species.
Size: 11mm.
Range: Central New South Wales to Victoria, including Tasmania.
Remarks: This is one of the most common species of Columbellidae on Sydney's beaches.

***Belloliva triticea* Duclos, 1835**
The shell is narrow and high-spired. The whorls are slightly rounded. The shell surface is completely smooth. The colour is very characteristic: three rows of brown spots encircle the last whorl on a white background. Sometimes there is a black encircling line between the second and the third row of spots.
Size: 9mm.
Range: Central New South Wales to southern Western Australia, including Tasmania.

***Sinezona carinata* (A. Adams, 1862 (non Watson, 1886))**
Diagnosis: A medium-sized shell, rather thin. The sculpture consists of three to four strong spiral keels below the selenizone. There is a distinct concave zone below the selenizone. Crossing these keels is fine axial sculpture, which is usually more prominent on the base. The area above the selenizone does not have spiral sculpture, only irregular axial ribs.
Range: NT to Bunbury, WA; New Hebrides; intertidal to 286 m. Also from New Hebrides, Pleistocene
Size: 2 mm
Remarks: The relationship between this species and *S. atkinsoni* is unclear. The two species appear closely related. S. carinata tends to have stronger spiral and axial sculpture and the concave zone below the selenizone is more prominent. The two also have distinct ranges.

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum

Another web related article. The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum is a high profile new shell museum (in USA) that has had lots of support and involvement from the shell-collecting community over the last few years. It has a basic web site with a photo virtual tour of some of its exhibits.

The site is located at:
www.uwp.edu/academic/biology/bmsm/bm_shell.htm

The above picture is part of the photo virtual tour of the exhibits. It was taken from the web pages in the section on the “Kingdom of the Land shells”

The Mollusc Fauna of Bottle and Glass Rocks and surrounding areas.

(Sydney Harbour)
151 16’ 5” E , 33 50’ 55” S

By Michael Keats

Ranking among the many great mollusc environments of Sydney Harbour, Bottle and Glass Rocks provides a breathtaking diversity of habitats, water depths and physical conditions which challenge the array of conditions on tropical islands.

The revised species list included in this article covers an expanded sampling area of nearly half a square kilometre. This is mainly due to the efforts of NSW Branch members, Ashley Miskelly and Ernie Uhle. With scuba they have been able to explore the micro environments down to 18m.

We now know that there are underwater rock walls, sea caves, weed beds, kelp forests, grit areas, sand patches plus a range of artificial habitats from human discards.

The range of species being found continues to grow and impress. One of the hardest decisions in writing this article now is to know whether it is the time to stop or to wait for yet more discoveries.

It was only in June this year that two magnificent live specimens of ***Bursa bufo*** were discovered. ***Turbo exquisita*** is now being found in numbers and with incredible colour variations. On 11th July came news of more discoveries. ***Ericusa sowerbyi*** fresh dead and ***Morula echinata*** alive at 11 metres. When do you stop?

The number of “tropical” species in the list continues to expand. ***Strombus vomer*** is an example.

Allied with the mollusc fauna is an amazing Echinoid fauna - more than 30 species to date and more discoveries being made.

Give two hundred years plus of human impact Sydney Harbour still has an incredible diverse biota. We should all be donning scuba so that the discovery process can give us a real data base of the shell fauna.

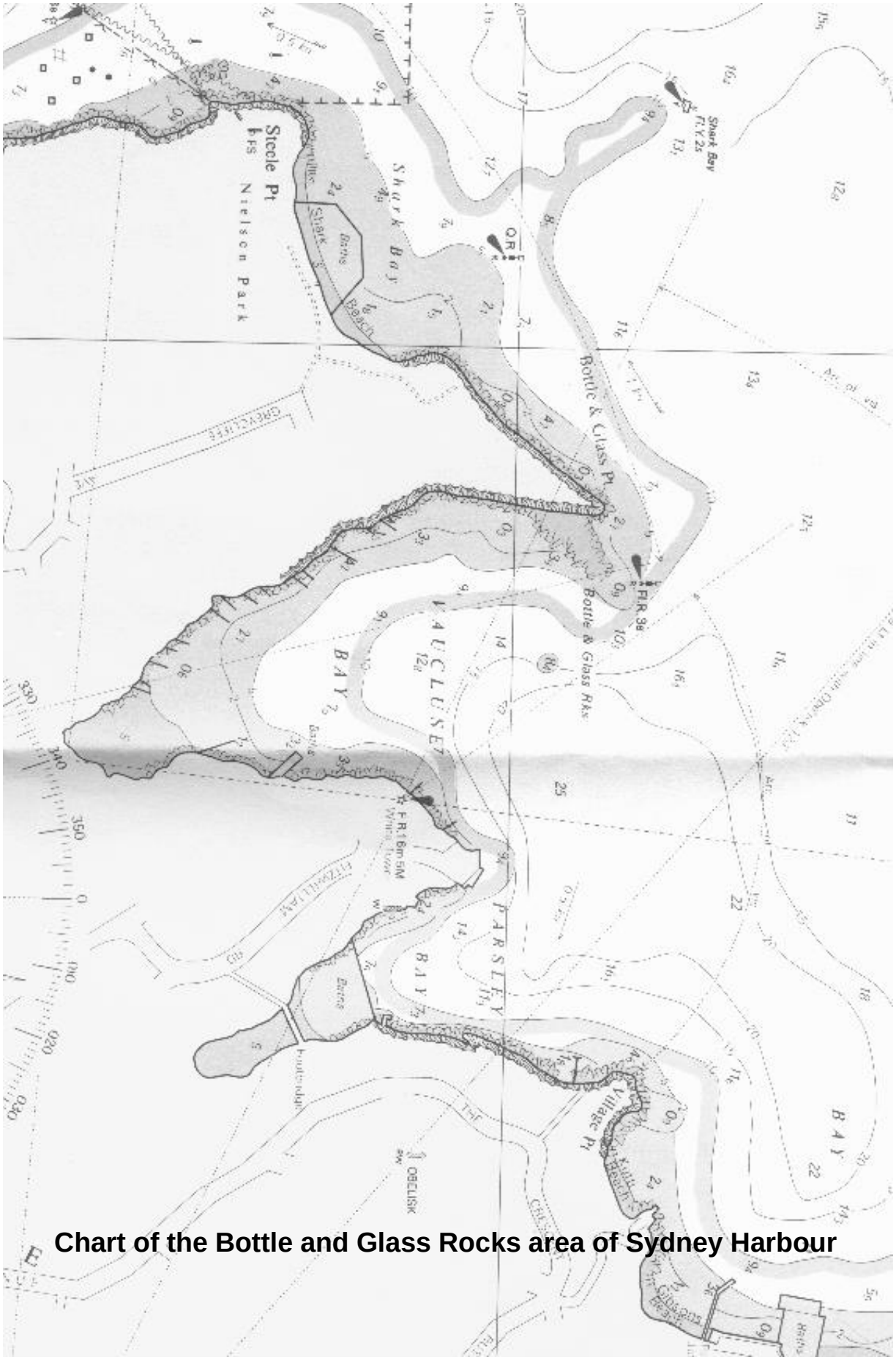


Chart of the Bottle and Glass Rocks area of Sydney Harbour

Peter Morison, the Environmental Officer at Woollahra Council has an indirect interest in Sponges. He reports the existence of many unusual species in the area from Bottle and Glass Rocks to Camp Cove.

List of the Mollusc Fauna at Bottle and Glass Rocks, Sydney Harbour covering the period December 1996 to July 1998.

The Gastropods

Patellidae	Cellana tramoserica (Holten, 1802) Alive on intertidal rocks Patella chapmani Tenison Woods, 1876 Patella peroni Blainville, 1825
Lottiidae	Patelloida alticostata (Angas, 1865) Patelloida mufria (Hedley, 1915 Patelloida latistrigata (Angas, 1865) Patelloida insignis (Menke, 1843)
Neritidae	Nerita atramentosa Reeve, 1855 Common on intertidal rocks Nerita albicilla Linnaeus, 1758 Smaragdia souverbiana (Gassies, 1861) Dead in grit Smaragdia tragena (Iredale, 1936) dead in grit
Haliotidae	Haliotis brazieri Angas, 1859 Live under small rocks 14.8m Haliotis hargravesi Cox, 1869 Dead in shell rubble 13m Haliotis rubra Leach, 1814 Haliotis coccoradiata Reeve, 1846
Fissurellidae	Amblychilepas nigrita (Sowerby, 1822) Montfortula rugosa (Quoy & Gaimard, 1834) Live on rocks Notomella candida (A. Adams, 1851) Scutus antipodes Montfort, 1810 Common under intertidal rocks Tugali parmophoidea (Quoy & Gaimard, 1834) 37mm Diodora lineata (Sowerby, 1835) Alive under intertidal rocks
Liotiidae	Austroliotia botanica (Hedley, 1915)
Turbinidae	Australium tentoriforme (Jonas, 1845)commom Australium squamiferum (Koch, 1844) Ninella torquata (Gmelin, 1791) Not found alive Subninella undulata (Lightfoot, 1786) Turbo exquisitus Angas, 1877Fresh dead specimens many colours 30mm 9.8 - 13.5 m dead amongst coarse shell grit / under small rocks Shells always inhabitated by hertmit crabs Turbo imperialis Gmelin, 1791 Alive in quantity
Phasianellidae	Tricolia variabilis Pease, 1861
Trochidae	Eucheleus aspersus (Philippi, 1846) Granata imbricata (Lamarck, 1822) Clanculus brunneus A. Adams, 1853 Clanculus clangulus (Wood, 1828) Clanculus floridus (Philippi, 1848) Clanculus maugeri (Wood, 1828) Clanculus plebejus (Philippi, 1851) Austrocochlea constricta (Lamarck,1822) Cantharidella picturata (A. Adams & Angas, 1864) Eurytrochus strangei (A. Adams, 1853) Notogibbula bicarinata (A. Adams, 1854) Dead on shell grit 3m Phasianotrochus eximius (Perry, 1811) Odonotrochus indistinctus (Wood, 1828) Gena impetusa (Burrows, 1815) Astelena scitula (A. Adams, 1855) Ethminolia probabilis Iredale, 1924 Talopena gloriola Iredale, 1929 Bankivia fasciata (Menke, 1830) Leiopyrga lineolaris (Gould, 1861) Monilea callifera (Lamarck, 1822) dead on shell rubble, 10m
Skeneidae	Cirsonella weldi Tenison Woods, 1877 Crossea cocinna (Angas, 1868)
Litiopidae	Alaba opinosa (Iredale, 1936)
Cerithiidae	Bittium granarium (Kiener, 1842) Velacumantis australis Quoy & Gaimard, 1834 Zeacumantis subcarinatus (Sowerby, 1855) Common in supra tidal pools
Planaxidae	Hinea braziliana (lamarck, 1822)
Turritellidae	Gazameda gunni (Reeve, 1849) Maoricolpus roseus (Quoy & Gaimard, 1834) Live specimens found of this NZ import on shell rubble 10m
Siliquariidae	Pyxipoma weldi Tenison Woods, 1875 Siliquaria ponderosa Morch, 1860 Dead 90mm
Littorinidae	Bembicium auratum (Quoy & Gaimard, 1834) Bembicium nanum (Lamarck, 1822) Nodilittorina unifasciata Gray, 1826
Anabathridae	Pisinna albizona (Laseron, 1950)
Rissoidae	Rissoina angasi Pease, 1872 Rissoina crassa Angas, 1871
Iravadiidae	Nozeba topaziaca (Hedley, 1908)
Vitrinellidae	Callomphala lucida Angas, 1864
Caecidae	Caecum amputatum Hedley, 1893
Struthiolariidae	Tylospira scutula (Leach, 1814)
Strombidae	Strombus mutabilis Swainson,1821 Strombus luhuanus Linnaeus, 1758 Significant colony Strombus vomer Roding, 1798 One specimen good condition dead at base of boulder 10m
Hipponicidae	Antisabia foliacea (Quoy & Gaimard,1834)
Vanikoridae	Vanikoro orbignyana Recluz, 1843
Calyptraeidae	Crepidula aculeata (Gmelim, 1795) Sigapatella calyptraeformis (Lamarck,1822) Chelia flindersi Cotton, 1935 One specimen 25 mm .One live specimen 10m on an old bottle
Cypraeidae	Cypraea caputserpentis Linnaeus, 1758 live Cypraea erosa Linnaeus, 1758 fresh dead Cypraea labrolineata Gaskoin, 1848 Live 12 mm Cypraea vitellus Linnaeus, 1758 Live 56 mm live in cave 3m Cypraea flaveola Linnaeus, 1758 Cypraea cernica Sowerby, 1870 Cypraea xanthadon Sowerby,1822 live Cypraea subviridis Reeve, 1835 Fresh dead with bore hole on shell grit 12m Cypraea clandestina Linnaeus, 1758 live Cypraea fimbriata Gmelin, 1791live under rock 12m Cypraea carneola Linnaeus, 1758 dead on boulder 2m
Triviidae	Ellatrivia merces Iredale, 1924
Eratoiidae	Proterato lachryma (Sowerby, 1832)
Naticidae	Natica pseustes Watson, 1887 Taenea saggitata (Menke, 1843) Polinices melastomus (Swainson, 1821) Neverita didyma (Roding, 1798) Mammilla simiae Deshayes, 1838 Eunatica linneana (Recluz, 1843)
Bursidae	Bursa bufo (Roding, 1798) Live in fine condition on rock wall 6m
Cassidae	Phalium labiatum (Perry, 1811) Phalium pyrum Lamarck, 1822
Tonnidae	Tonna variegata (Lamarck, 1822) dead on weed 8m
Ranellidae	Cymatium labiosa Wood, 1828 Ranella australasia (Perry, 1811) Sassia parkinsonia (Perry, 1811) 37mm Cabestana spengleri Perry, 1811 Mating pairs observed in quantity in the intertidal zone Charonia lampas rubicunda (Perry, 1811) live on shell grit 5m Cymatium exaratum (Reeve, 1844) Cymatium pathenopeum (von Salis, 1793)
Triphoridae	Hedleytriphora fasciata Tennison Woods, 1879 Triphora sp,
Epitoniidae	Epitonium minora (Iredale, 1936) Opalia australis Lamarck, 1822 Live 37 mm
Eulimidae	Pictobalcis articulata (Sowerby, 1834)
Muricidae	Chichoreus denudatus (Perry, 1811) 45 mm outstanding specimen dead in shell rubble 3m Prototyphis angasi (Crosse, 1863) dead in shell rubble 5m Bediva paivae (Crosse, 1864) Dicathais orbita (Gmelin, 1791) Cronia aurantica (Hombron & Jacquinot, 1853) 40 mm Lepsiella reticulata Blainville, 1832 Morula marginalba (Blainville, 1832) Agnewia tritoniformis (Blainville, 1832) Morula echinata (Reeve, 1846) live under rock 11m

Buccinidae	Cominella eburnea Fischer, 1864
Nassaridae	Nassarius nigellus Reeve, 1854 Nassarius burchardi (Dunker in Philippi, 1849) Nassarius pauperus Gould, 1850 Nassarius particeps (Hedley, 1915)
Fasciolariidae	Fractolatirus normalis Iredale, 1936
Collumbellidae	Pyrene scripta (Lamarck, 1822) Dentimitrella semiconvexa Lamarck,1822 Dentimitrella lincolnensis Reeve, 1859 Dentimitrella peroniana Hedley, 1913 Aesopus pleurisulcatus Reeve, 1859 Parviterebra brazieri Angas, 1875 Macrozafra succinea Hervier, 1899 Pseudamycla dermestoida (Lamarck,1822)
Volutidae	Voluta magnifica (Gebauer, 1802) Juvenile crabbed Ericusa sowerbyi (Kiener, 1839) Mature crabbed
Olividae	Alcospira oblonga (Sowerby, 1830) Alcospira monilifera (Reeve, 1864) Zemira australis Sowerby, 1841 dead on sand 6m
Olivellidae	Olivella leucozona A. Adams & Angas, 1864 Belloliva exquisita (Angas, 1861)
Marginellidae	Mesoginella infelix (Jousseaume,1875) Mesoginella sinuata (Laseron, 1948) Austroginella muscaria (Lamark, 1822)
Mitridae	Mitra carbonaria Swainson, 1822 Mitra badia Reeve, 1845 Mitra cookii Sowerby, 1874 Mitra solida Verco, 1896 fresh dead 7m on shell rubble Cancilla strangei (Angas, 1867)
Turridae	Epidera hedleyi (Iredale, 1931) Paradrillia coxi (Angas, 1867) Paradrillia metcalfei (Angas, 1867) Etrema bicolor (Angas, 1871) Austrodrillia angasi (Crosse, 1863) Tomopleura subtilinea (Hedley, 1922) Turrid sp Gemmula diomedea Powell, 1964 30 mm at 15m dead on shell rubble
Conidae	Conus anemone Lamarck, 1810 Conus papilliferus Sowerby 1834
Mangellinae	Euguraleus jacksonensis (Angas, 1867)
Terebridae	Terebra amoena Deshayes, 1859 Duplicaria bernardii (Deshayes, 1857) Duplicara australis (Smith, 1873)
Architectonicidae	Philippia lutea (Lamarck, 1822)
Pyramidellidae	Syrnola manifesta Hedley, 1912 Chemnitzia hofmani Angas, 1867
Acteonidae	Pupa fumata (Reeve, 1865) Pupua nivea (Angas, 1871)
Ringiculidae	Ringicula dolaris Gould, 1850
Scaphandridae	Cylichna arachis (Quoy & Gaimard, 1853) Acteocina fusiformis (A.Adams, 1854)
Umbraculidae	Umbraculum umbraculum (Lightfoot, 1786)
Bullidae	Bulla quoyi Gray, 1843
Bullinidae	Bullinea lineata (Gray, 1825)
Haminoeidae	Haminoea tenera A.Adams, 1850
Siphonaridae	Siphonaria funiculata Reeve, 1856 Siphonaria denticulata Quoy & Gaimard, 1833

The Bivalves

Nuculanidae	Nunculana crassa (Hinds, 1843)
Arcidae	Anadara trapezia (Deshayes, 1840) Barbatia pistachia (lamarck, 1819)
Mytilidae	Trichomya hirsuta (Lamarck, 1819) Lanistina impacta (Hermann, 1782) Mytilis edulis (Lamarck, 1819) Musculus varicosus (Gould,1861) Modiolus peronianus Gould, 1850 Pair 6mm
Limidae	Limatula strangei (Sowerby, 1872) Lima orientalis (A.Adams & Reeve,1850)
Pteriidae	Pinctada margaritifera (Linnaeus, 1758)
Ostreidae	Saccostrea glomerata Gould, 1850 Ostrea angasi Sowerby, 1871
Spondylidae	Spondylus tenellus Reeve, 1856 Magnificent coloured pairs
Pectinidae	Scaeochlamys livida (Lamarck, 1819) Mimachlamys asperrima (Lamarck, 1819) Pecten fumatus Reeve, 1852 Fresh dead pairs
Anomidae	Anomia descripta Iredale, 1936
Trigonidae	Neotrigonia lamarckii (Gray, 1838) Fresh dead pairs 25 mm in shell rubble Neotrigonia strangei (A.Adams, 1854) Fresh dead 28 mm
Lucinidae	Codakia rugifera (Reeve, 1835) Monilitora ramsayi (Smith, 1855) Pairs Anadontia ommissa (Iredale, 1930) Divalucina cumingi Adams & Angas, 1863
Kellidae	Kellia sp
Carditidae	Cardita excavata Deshayes, 1854
Cardidae	Acrosterigma kerslakae Healy & Lamprell,1992 Acrosterigma reeveanun (Dunker,1852) Acrosterigma cygnorum (Deshayes,1855) Pair 26 mm dead in shell rubble 14m Fulvia tenuicostata (Lamarck, 1819) Pairs 40mm+
Thraciidae	Thracia modesta Angas, 1867
Laternulidae	Laterna creccina (Reeve, 1860)
Myochamidae	Myadora royana Iredale, 1924
Mactridae	Lutraria rhychanea Jonas, 1844
Solenidae	Solen vaginoides Lamarck, 1818 Pairs
Tellinidae	Tellina deltoidalis Lamarck, 1818 Tellina remies Linnaeus, 1758 Leporimetis spectabilis (Hanley, 1844) Single valves 30mm
Donacidae	Donax deltoides Lamarck, 1818
Psammobidae	Gari truncata (Linnaeus, 1767) Abra simplex Sowerby, 1867
Veneridae	Antigona persimilis (Iredale, 1930) Several pairs 40 mm dead in shell rubble 13m Antigonia materna (Iredale, 1929) Live pairs 108 mm Antigonia chemnitzi (Hanley, 1844)live on shell grit 15m Antigona lammellaris dead in shell grit 9m Circe scripta (Linnaeus, 1758) Live 67 mm outstanding live on shell grit 3m Tawera lagopus (Lamarck, 1818) live on shell grit 6m Bassina disjecta (Perry, 1811) Pairs 45 mm dead in shell rubble at 15m Katelysia rhytiphora (Lamy, 1937) Eumarcia fumigata (Sowerby, 1853) Irus crenutus (Lamarck, 1818) Irus cumingii (Deshayes, 1854) Venerupis anomala (Lamarck, 1818) Dosina sculpta (Hanley, 1845) Tapes dosatus (Lamarck, 1818) Callista kingii (Gray, 1826) Callista diemensis (Hanley, 1844) Clementia papyracea (Gray, 1825) Pairs in poor condition Paphia crassiscula (Lamarck, 1818) Placamen placidum (Philippi, 1844)
Petricolidae	Petricola divergens (Gmelin, 1791)
Corbulidae	Corbula stolata (Iredale, 1930) Pairs 20 mm
Cleidothaeridae	Cleidothaerus albidus (Lamarck, 1819)

Executive Committee Meeting

NSW Branch of the Malacological Society of Australasia.

The meeting was held on the 22nd August 1998 at the home of Ashley Miskelly, Blackheath NSW at 3.30pm, following the monthly meeting.

Present: Des Beechey, Ashley Miskelly, Steve Dean, Chris Barnes.
David Woodhouse and Karen Wadwell attended as observers.

Presentations at monthly meetings by members:

It was discussed that as a standard, presentations should include some form of visual material eg: overheads and slides.

All committee members were to investigate prices for the acquisition of an overhead projector.

Chris Barnes is to produce a list of members addresses and telephone numbers for publication in the Sydney Sheller to facilitate communication.

Steve Dean is to investigate the setting up of a web page for the branch.

Steve is also to approach interested parties regarding advertising in the Sheller, with costs to be negotiated.

Ron Moylan is currently investigating the possibility of a field trip to the Solomon Islands in 1999. (Tide times will need to be investigated).

John Dunkerley is to handle the subscription fees for branch membership.

The treasurers report in the minutes is to be minimised, only noting larger expenditures and incomes.

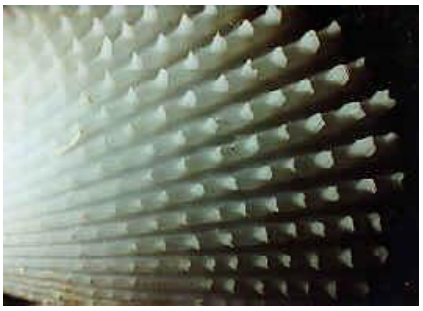
Des Beechey is to contact Dr Chris Dickman of the RZS re continued use of the meeting rooms.

Chris Barnes
Secretary

Puzzle Section

Guess what shells these are. Their names are twins:

No. 1



No. 2
Clue: Background is white, blotches are orange to red.

What you can do for the next issues:

There is now a human interest news section in the Sheller about things members have done, or are going to do. Please contribute individual items up to about 50 words, about yourself, or 'dob' in others. You only need to call and give me the details.

You will notice that this issue includes a number of boxed black and white adds. In future issues a fee will be required for these.

I have also introducing a classifieds Buy, Swap and Sell section that is **free** for members. Initially it will be combined with the human interest news section. Adds should contain no more than 50 words, or up to 7 lines of 9 point, text only. Please contribute.

Also don't forget to write any articles you have been considering.

Ashley's Collection

Last month's meeting to view Ashley's private collection was very successful. All those that attended enjoyed themselves and were very impressed with the effort Ashley had put in both for the quality of his specimens and in how he displayed them.

Since then disaster has struck, thieves have taken his whole collection, his bottle collection, and his antiques.

Upon hearing this news the immediate reaction is to wonder if it somehow related to his having the open day showing his collections to our members. This does not seem to be the case. While the thieves seemed to be professional they did not know much about shells. They left the labels, thus significantly reducing the value of the shells. Also they robbed thirty houses in the immediate area over an eight week period.

Anything any of us can do to help Ashley start to rebuild his collection, would be worthwhile.

As we have all seen his collection in detail, and many are unique specimens, one of the most useful thing we can do is keep a watchful eye out for any of his collection to turn up for sale or swap. If you do come across anything even slightly suspicious, I am sure Ashley would like to follow it up. He could be contacted at 02 9489 2543.

Sheller Costs

Where an issue does not require colour, and when I have time to get to a low cost copier. The total cost of a Sheller issue can be as low as $40 ($21 printing, and less than $20 for postage and production incidentals)

At the other end of the spectrum, a large issue, with two colour pages, and colour plates that require resizing, could cost as much as $80 to $100.

Thanks go to Lady Io Myers and to Michael Keats who have offered to sponsor the additional costs associated with colour for up to two issues each per year. (Issues will only contain colour if hard copy colour photos or print outs are sent to me. They do not have to be the correct size, but less than A4 is preferred.)

Members News, & Buy, Swap & Sell:

Wanted contributions to this classified section of the sheller. Please get contributions to Steve Dean or Karen Wadwell. (See front cover for contact details)

Wanted gossip for this section of the sheller. See above.

Kay Rutland, a former member is keen to get back to meetings, but has no transport. If anyone goes near North Sydney on their way to and from meetings, could you give her a call and see if she is available to attend subsequent meetings. Call her on 99558040

Nathan Keats, a former junior member, got married this month. Rumour has it that his wife now wants him to take up shell collecting to keep him in check. He hasn't collected since he was nine.

Lady Io Myers and Sir Rupert Myers are currently enjoying holidays at Port Douglas, where Io expects to do some industrious collecting.

Des Beechey is currently studying Columbellidae (Dove shells), specifically the subgenus Dentimitrella. He would like to borrow specimens form anyone who has them. Especially specimens form around Sydney.

The RZS has confirmed that it wants us to cease using its meeting rooms by the end of this year. Your thoughts on alternatives are welcome.

Bill Rudman a Resident Scientist in the Malacology section of the Australian Museum, has been in hospital at short notice for a Heart Bypass. We wish him well, and a speedy recovery.

Des Beechey is not at the meeting this month because he is spending the weekend looking for microshells at pebbly beach, NSW south coast.

Voluta pulchra cracenta

Puzzle answers:
No. 1 Lima lima
No. 2 Mitra mitra