

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:

26th August 2000
(normally 4th Saturday)

**Ryde Eastwood
Leagues Club**
117 Ryedale Rd
West Ryde, Sydney

1.30 for 2.00pm

**Seminar: Shells on fossil
sharks teeth - Adrian Brown**

Contributions:

Please send contributions to:
Steve Dean

**166 Narrabeen Park Parade,
Mona Vale NSW 2103**

Text in electronic form only. Photos, and discs by mail, or preferably by email to steve@dean.as

If you cannot get your text onto disc, then **Karen Barnes** may be prepared to type it for you - send material to:

**177-9 Severn St
Maroubra NSW 2035**

Office - Bearers:

President: Patty Jansen
Vice Pres: Maureen Anderson
Secretary: Chris & Karen Barnes
Treasurer: Peter Pienaar
Sheller Editor: Steve Dean
Raffles: Maureen Anderson
(The executive plans the field trips)



Egg-cowries (Ovulidae) are a group of snails, which feed on soft-corals. In most cases they have evolved flaps of skin, which almost completely cover the shell. Often the skin flaps are brightly coloured, in some species as camouflage. In this species it is thought the bright colours are a warning to potential predators. Soft-corals have many poisonous chemicals in their tissues and egg-cowries take some and store them in their skin (25mm).

*The above picture and text are from the new look web pages of the Australian Museum web site, Malacology section, as an example of what can be viewed.
<http://www.austmus.gov.au/science/division/invert/mal/gallery/ovulid.htm>*

Some of the topics inside:

- News and Classifieds
- Club AGM June 2000
- May minutes
- June Minutes
- Club shell show details
- Another large shell list

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**Members News, &
Buy, Swap & Sell:**

I have available several Marine
Invertebrates from the South Atlantic
Ocean and some from the Antarctic
area. Sponges, Holoturoidea,
Nudibranchia, Sea Urchin, Crabs, etc.

I also have Seashells,
(Volutas, Trophon, Pecten, Murex, Margine
lla, etc.) Bivalves and Micromollusca
from deep water. Land, three, and fresh
water bivalve and gasteropoda.

If you need further information and
prices of these species, please contact
me. It will be a pleasure to assist you.
Free list and photos available.

Sincerely,
Helen Racz
showcasefromuruguay@info-red.com

Kev Lamprell [K.Lamprell@uq.net.au]
Has advised he will not be available on
email for about three weeks due to a
hospital visit.

From: Agatino Reitano
[<mailto:tinohawk@yahoo.it>]
Subject: exchange land snails

I've have all the Sicilian land snails!
Are you interested in exchange?

Editor. There were no articles
contributed last month or this month, so
this Sheller is being printed to distribute
meeting minutes, including the AGM and
to advise the presentation topics for
upcoming meetings. There is very little
new material on the Net that has not
already been reviewed in previous
Shellers.

Steve Dean - Last weekend I was in
Cairns and I would like to thank Tasi for
taking me to one of his favourite
mainland reef locations for a day of
collecting. I gained a variety of
specimens that I did not already have. It
was a toss up between cleaning them
and preparing the Sheller. As well as
collecting shells Tasi collected shrimp
and crabs to feed to his two pet stone
fish, and live murex to feed to the club's
pet Melo - Murex are its favourite food.

RON MOYLAN**Solomon Island****Specimen Shells**

02 9949 4241 Tel.
02 9907 9523 Fax.

**Sydney Sheller
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The Sydney Sheller is provided to
members of the Sydney Shell Club.

Anyone can be a member.
Membership runs from July.
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To subscribe/become a member send
payment and your details to our treasurer:

Peter Pienaar
pienaar@mania.com.au
9/13-15 Chisholm Cres
Bradbury NSW 2560

Or to the Sheller Editor, Steve Dean

Note: The Sydney Shell Club is a branch of
the Malacological Society of Australasia
(MSA) It is preferred that you are also a
member of the MSA. MSA membership
can be organised through Des Beechey

Des@phm.gov.au
26 Malga Ave
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Minutes of the AGM

of the NSW Branch of the Malacological Society of Australasia Limited ACN 067 894 848
Held in a meeting room at Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club on 24/06/2000

The meeting was opened by the President and Chairperson Patty Jansen at 2.05pm.

Apologies were received from Des Beechey, Steve and Keith Dean .

The minutes of the previous AGM held 26/06/99 were moved accepted as read by Michael Keats (published in the July 1999 "Sydney Sheller") seconded by John Dunkerley.

Michael moved that the Presidents Report be published in the next issue of the "Sydney Sheller". Seconded by Peter Pienaar.

Michael moved a vote of thanks to Patty for her work in the running and organisation of the Club.

Treasurer's Report:

Peter Pienaar reported a current end of year balance of \$102.92 and handed out a report to the meeting.

The club still owes the MSA a commission on shell posters sold. The club made \$245 more this year than last due to poster sales and subscriptions to/ back issues of the "Sydney Sheller" Maureen Anderson wished it known that no money was expended on Raffle prizes over the last year due to generous donations from club members.

M. Keats moved that the treasurers report be accepted, seconded J. Dunkerley.

Peter reminded the meeting that \$25 for subscription renewal is now due.

P. Jansen - President, unopposed.
M. Anderson - Vice President, unopposed.
C. & K. Barnes - Secretary unopposed.
S. Dean - "Sheller" Editor unopposed.
K. Barnes - "Sheller" Assistant Editor unopposed.
P. Pienaar - Treasurer unopposed.
M. Anderson - Raffles Officer unopposed.

Presentation Schedule 2000/2001

<u>Month/ Year</u>	<u>Meeting Speaker</u>	<u>Proposed Subject</u>
July 2000	Ashley Miskelly	Marine Photography
August 2000	Adrian Browne	Shells which live on Fossil Sharks Teeth Megalodon
September 2000	Michael Keats	Epitoniidae
October 2000	Ron Moylan	Annual Shell Show
November 2000	Stephanie Clark & Peter Pienaar	Shell Quiz
December 2000	Christmas Field Meeting	Callala Bay, Huskisson
January 2001	All Members	5min shell related topic
February 2001	Ron Moylan	Diving in the Coral Sea
March 2001	Winston Ponder	Hydroprovanidae (to be confirmed)
April 2001	Michael Keats	Auction
May 2001	TBA	TBA

The meeting was closed at 2.40pm

C. & K. Barnes Secretary.

May Minutes

27/05/2000.

Meeting opened P. Jansen at 2:05pm. Apologies D. Beechey, P. Pienaar, R. Moylan and A. Miskelly. Visitors Jim Cootes and Peter Middlefart were warmly welcomed.

Field Trip Reports

C. Barnes reported finding a *Pyrene varians* (Sowerby, 1832) and a specimen of *Vexilla vexillum* (Gmelin 1791) from Kurnell, both unusually far south. He also reported collecting a 40mm specimen of *Haliotis brazieri* Angas, 1859 (sub fossil ?) and displayed two species of *Smaragdia* from Penrhyn beach demonstrating quite a variation in colour and form which are apparently common characteristics of the family *Neritidae*.

M. Keats reported on a recent visit to Shelly Beach (Cronulla) where he had acquired approximately 20kg of shell grit and was working through it. Michael imagined that there would be at least 200 species though, "nothing outstanding yet".

E. Uhle exhibited a large display case of *Cypraeidae* collected in and around Sydney including examples of *C. cribaria*, *C. isabella*, *C. ziczac*, *C. miliaris* and *C. quadrimaculata*.

M. Anderson displayed some photos and fossil *Marginella sp* shells from the Murbko Lens.

Book Reviews

P. Jansen with the latest edition of *La Conchiglia*, *American Conchologist* (March 2000) and *Siratus* magazine from the Brazilian Shell Club. The CSIRO has produced a CD, "Freshwater and Estuarine Molluscs" the authors are Winston Ponder, Stephanie Clark and M.J. Dallwitz. The CD has 326 species of shells including all freshwater species from NSW. There is an identification key which allows you to select features and identify specimens. Cost \$99.

M. Keats distributed Volume 7 N^o 1 of *NSW Regional Ripples and Waves* to the meeting. Thank you Michael, everyone appreciates your efforts.

General Business

Note: Peter Pienaar wishes to remind everyone that they need to renew annual NSW Branch and national MSA memberships.

The next Meeting will include the Annual General Meeting.

Letter from John Phillips from the South Australian Branch of the MSA will be in Sydney in October and would like to attend the meeting and will bring some shells for swap or sale.

M. Keats has received a letter from Yens Hemmen. A new museum in Germany is looking for any shells from Christmas Island. Patty has the phone/fax number of the President of the Natural History Society on Christmas Island and will forward to Michael.

Presentations

Dr Peter Middlefart from Denmark has spent the last two years working at the Australian Museum for Dr Winston Ponder. Peter is co-editor of the MSA national newsletter "*Australasian Shell News*" and is about to investigate micro bivalves.

Peter gave a slide presentation of his involvement in malacology and marine biology, beginning in Norway with a study on plankton recycling and ice age nutrients. This was followed by a move to warmer pastures in Thailand where he was involved with the Phuket Aquarium and its reference collection of seashells. Peter discussed how his study on the life cycle of a number of the Muricidae required him to build a wash through wet lab (including a sand filtration system).

A number of species had their egg capsule structure and larval or veliger stages displayed using slides taken by a scanning electron microscope. The protoconch and its micro sculpture can be used as a tool to identify species. Peter answered questions from the group including those about veliger settling time and possible distribution of species.

P. Jansen offered a vote of thanks for Peter's efforts which included a train trip from Wollongong.

Next Meeting 24th June, at 2.00pm, to be immediately followed by the AGM. Meeting closed at 3:09pm. C. & K. Barnes Secretary

June Minutes

24/06/2000.

Meeting opened P. Jansen at 2:41pm. Apologies D. Beechey, K. & S. Dean

Field Trip Reports

R. Moylan reported on a recent sailing trip from the Solomon Islands. Ron stopped at East Diamond Islet to wait for an improvement in the weather before moving on to Cairns. A world record size (103mm) *Cymbiola perplicata* (Hedley, 1902) was found and is believed to increase the record by 6mm. The family

clam farms have been shut down for the past 15 months as vandals destroyed the generator.

M. Keats reported on a visit to Jibbon Head near Bundeena. On the ocean side there was a half metre thick shell drift from which he obtained some Epitoniidae, Mitridae and Cypraeidae. Michael had to contend with cold weather and gale force winds but thought the trip worthwhile.

Michael has also obtained a new Scientific Research Permit from Department of Fisheries. The permit specifies that the holder must supervise others if in a group, when picking up shells in restricted zones.

A. Miskelly paid another visit to Bottle & Glass Rocks and observed a live *Pinna sp* bivalve greater than 300mm, some dead Brachiopods and a very large and dark (possibly deformed) *Cypraea caputserpentis* Linnaeus, 1758.

C. Barnes reported finding *Cymatium labiosum* (Wood 1828) from Penrhyn Beach, *Pyrene varians* (Sowerby, 1832) and *Belloliva exquisita* (Angus, 1871) from Little Bay. A trip to Yarra Bay yielded a specimen of *Trigonostoma amasia* (Iredale, 1930). Finally a trip to Shelly Beach, Cronulla produced a number of Cypraeidae and Collumbellidae species, plus Olividae species *Belloliva triticea* (Duclos, 1835) and *Zemira australis* (Sowerby, 1833). All specimens named were beach collected at the tide mark.

New Shell Acquisitions

M. Keats acquired a collection of marine gastropod and bivalve fossils from Callow beds in Belgium collected by J Gaze in 1982.

M. Anderson displayed a specimen of *Cypraea stolidia* Linnaeus, 1758 form "crossei" from New Caledonia which had an interesting healed break possibly from a fish bite.

Book Reviews

Vita Marina
American Conchologist, June 2000
Crustacea Guide of the World (doesn't have any shells but is very interesting)

General Business

There are two Shell exhibitions: "Cornish Shell Art" in The Rocks and "The Spell of the Shell" in the Susannah Place Museum.

Next Meeting 22nd July, at 2.00pm.

Meeting closed at 3.00pm.
C. & K. Barnes, Secretary

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH ANNUAL SHELL SHOW Saturday 28th October 2000

Entry Fee: \$3.00 per entry, exhibitors may enter up to 3 entries per category.
Non Entry Penalty: \$5.00 per person.

CATEGORIES

Display of 'White Coloured' Shells:

10 pieces minimum – any size – colour "white" to dominate external portion of shell.

Display of Cones:

15 Favourite pieces – size above 60mm.

Display of Cowries:

15 Favourites pieces – size above 60mm.

Display of Cowries:

Minimum 15 pieces - size 30 to 50mm.

Display of Cowries:

Minimum 20 pieces – size under 28mm.

Display of Volutes:

Endemic to Australia – size above 60mm – minimum 12 pieces.

Display of Volutes:

Worldwide – minimum 12 pieces – no size restrictions.

Display of Murex:

12 Favourite pieces – any size.

Display of Mitres:

20 pieces minimum.

Display of Harps:

15 pieces minimum.

Display of Marginella:

20 pieces minimum.

JUDGING:

Judges will consider, where applicable:-

- *Quality and perfection of specimens
- *Correct identification and number in display.
- *Quality of display, aesthetic appeal.
- *Where specific sizes are nominated specimens must be mature.

Kevin Lamprell

An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the world.

For his first chapter he decided to write about famous Australian cathedrals. So he bought a plane ticket and took a trip to Darwin, thinking that he would work his way across the country from north to south, west to east.

On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read "\$10,000 per call". The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way.

Next stop was in Alice. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Darwin and he asked a nearby nun what it's purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God. "O.K., thank you", said the American.

He then travelled to Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra, and Sydney, and in every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same "\$10,000 per call" sign under it.

Finally, the American arrived in Brisbane, and again, there was same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read "25 cents per call."

The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign. "Father, I've travelled all over Australia and I've seen this same Golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to heaven, but in all the other States the price per call was \$10,000. Why is it so cheap here?"

The priest smiled and answered, "You're in Queensland now son, it's a local call".

Another web shell list

(Shown here one or two from each family, from 10 page list)

MARTHE BELLOCQ
Urb. San Miguel, 102
29600 Marbella (Malaga) Spain
PHONE: +34-952 82 11 57
FAX: +34-952 77 25 81
E-mail: gubel@arrakis.es

SPECIMEN SHELLS West Africa - Mediterranean

PYRAMIDELLIDAE					
Tiberia minuscula Monterosato	Italy	deep water, rare	4mm	F+	
25.00					
RANELLIDAE					
Charonia lampas lampas Linné	S.Spain	w/o	150mm	F/F+	8.00
Cymatium parthenopeum Von Salis	S.Spain	w/o and periostracum	100mm		
Cymatium parthenopeum Von Salis	S.Spain	w/o and periostracum	123mm		
Distorsio smithii Von Maltzan	Guinea	w/o	40mm	F+	6.00
Gyrineum louisae Lewis	Canary Is.,				
extremely rare, seldom offered 15mm F+/GEM 350.00					
Ranella olearia Linné	S.Spain	w/o and periostracum	110mm	F+	6.00
RETUSIDAE					
Pyrrunculus hoernesii Weinkauff	S.Spain		2-3mm	F+	5.00
Retusa leptoneilema Brusina	Italy		1.7mm	F+	4.00
Retusa truncatula Bruguière	S.Spain		2mm	F+	4.00
Volvulella acuminata Bruguière	S.Spain		1-2mm	F+	3.00
RINGICULIDAE					
Ringicula conformis Monterosato	S.Spain		4mm	F+/GEM	2.00
RISSEOELLIDAE					
Rissoella opalina Jeffreys	S.Spain		0.7mm	F+	3.00
RISSOIDAE					
Alvania canariensis d'Orbigny	Canary Is.		1mm	F+	3.00
Alvania colossophilus Oberling	Turkey		4mm	F+	9.00
Pusillina inconspicua Alder	S.Spain		1mm	F+	3.00
Pusillina interrupta Adams	S.Spain		1.5mm	F+	3.00
Zebina browniana d'Orbigny	S.Spain		3mm	F+/GEM	4.00
SCISSURELLIDAE					
Sinezona cingulata Costa	S.Spain		0.5mm	F+/GEM	7.00
SKENEIDAE					
Cirsonella romettensis Seguenza	Italy	w/o, deep water, rare	2mm		
F+/GEM 40.00					
SKENEOPSISIDAE					
Skeneopsis planorbis Fabricius	S.Spain		1mm	F+/GEM	2.00
Skeneopsis sultanarum Gofas	S.Spain		1mm	F+/GEM	4.00
STROMBIDAE					
Strombus persicus Swainson	Cyprus	w/o	46mm	F+	8.00
TEREBRIDAE					
Hastula lepida Hinds	Canary Is.	large specimens	27mm	F	5.00
Terebra histrio Deshayes	W.Sahara	uncommon	35mm		
F+/GEM 18.00					
TORNIDAE					
Tornus subcarinatus Montagu	S.Spain		2mm	F+	3.00
TRICOLIIDAE					
Tricolia nordsiecki Talavera	S.Spain	w/o	1mm	F+	3.00
Tricolia speciosa Von Muehlfeldt	Italy	w/o	8mm	F+	2.00
TRIVIIDAE					
Trivia monacha Da Costa	S.Spain		9mm	F+/GEM	2.00
Trivia pulex Solander	S.Spain		5mm	F+	2.00

OTHERS: TROCHIDAE, TURBINIDAE, TURRIDAE, TURRITELLIDAE, TYLODINIDAE, VANIKORIDAE, VASIDAE, VELUTINIDAE, VOLUTIDAE, XENOPHORIDAE

