

SYDNEY SHELLER

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

Next Meetings:

16th December

Christmas Dinner

27th January 2007

Members talks

(1.30pm for 2pm – 4pm)

(normally 4th Saturday)

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

View these shell newsletters on line
www.sydneyshellclub.net

Submit articles or ads:

Steve Dean
PO Box 316, Mona Vale, NSW 1660
Text by disk or email only. Photos, and
disks by mail, or preferably by email to
steve@dean.as

Club Executive:

Office bearers:

President: John Franklin
Vice Pres: Maureen Anderson
Treasurer: Peter Pienaar
Secretary: Kim Bishop
Raffles: Kim Bishop
Sheller Editor: Steve Dean
Librarian: Steve Dean
Annual Shell Show Mgr: Steve Dean
Special Projects Mgr: John Dunkerley

Shell Club of Sydney Mission Statement:

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



Some of the topics inside:

- Brisbane Shell Club Trip 2006 (Cover photo)
- A Darwin Trip
- Sydney's 'Painted Ladies'
- Minutes
- Complete Shell Club Library Update

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Shoalwater Bay Boat Trip On the 'Tura' out of Gladstone August 2006

By **Bob Kershaw**
(*Haliotis Bob*)



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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, Roseville Chase NSW 2069

Barry Mead, Ron Moylan, Merv Cooper, Paula and myself joined the **Brisbane Shell Club** on a week long trip out from Gladstone. We travelled the Shoalwater Bay area checking out some of the island.



Sunny days were had but the cold wind made for jackets for most of the time. This did not stop the enthusiastic collectors, day or night!!!!

The boat, crew and food were spot on. There were plenty of fruit & salads to accompany cold meats with hot night meals. Surprisingly no fish were served (maybe this was because no worthwhile fish were caught)

The crew caught a good feed of mud crabs, which were lunch for a day. The day before, King Prawns were the go.



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Not many shells were found around the islands except for the Zebra Volutes. (The local wide spaced striped dark coloured variant of *Amoria zebra*)

One early morning at 4am, Ron and a few foolhardy souls in 15-knot winds took a tinny to a sandbar near Hunter Island, but alas came back wet and empty handed. (Full marks for trying)

One island I found very interesting was Hexham Island. I spent 5-6 hours exploring and found the rock formations, flora and bird life more prolific than on other islands we visited. Osprey and Reef Heron nests were found, plus a few Honeyeaters, Doves and Crows were seen. A large turtle was spotted in a rock pool on the opposite side of the island to where the Tura was anchored. I guess at high tide he would have moved out to sea. Quite a few turtles were seen on the reefs and islands at low tide and mostly large ones.



The best shelling was at Lamont Reef six hours out from Gladstone where melanistic cowries and a few nice cones, plus other species were found.

Three divers had a night dive under the boat. Unfortunately not much was found from their efforts. The following morning another 4am reef walk was organised and once again 15-20 knot winds prevailed. I slept in the dining area that night and at 2.10am the first sheller arose. By 3.30am they were all ready and rearing to go for the 4am start. Good to see keen shellers, but I wish I had slept in the bunkhouse. The wind kept washing water over the reef making for impossible shelling.



We had 2 good tides on that reef which made a great end to the trip. After the last reef walk Tura pulled anchor and we headed back to Gladstone arriving about 11.30pm. An early breakfast saw us on the wharf by 6.30am with the boat cleaners already preparing the boat for its next trip later the same day.

I am sure all shellers involved had a great trip and would happily repeat the adventure.



Buy Swap and Sell

(Editor – we have no way to validate the authenticity of these emails sent to us, so buyer beware)

I am collector from Russia, and would like to contact people to exchange sea shells with. I can send you my list of swap material including 100 WRS in the main - Buccinidae. Please contact via vasiv@svs.ru
Best regards, Vasily Chasovskikh, St.- Petersburg.

We are interested in purchasing shells found in Australian waters that we can buy in quantity for resale to our USA customers. We deal primarily in small and tiny shells that are not specimen quality; however, we are expanding our business to also include larger collectible shells. Please contact us at presto@copper.net
Best Regards, Jim and Rose Prestigiaco, Texas, USA

I have a mint copy of Burgess ,cowries of the world and I thought members of your club might be interested in the purchase of same. I am an ex collector. If there is any interest by your club or individual members. Please respond.
Mel Forman 1-858-487-8057 California mforman@san.rr.com

I have a collection of sea shells that I do not want anymore. Not too many. May I send you some pics and ask if your members would like to purchase them? They include a 730mm clam shell with a hole in the bottom. It used to be a wash basin in a tree house at Cairns. It has been on TV as well.
Regards, Tom Donald, Inglewood Qld, between Warwick and Goondiwindi. truecountryrealty@bigpond.com
(Editor- from the photo he can email to you, the remainder of the shells consist of around 60 common tropical indo-pacific shells, plus some large interesting land snails)

I understand your members may be interested in rare shell books. I have a number which I now wish to sell. I can email a list to anyone who is interested. If you are interested, please contact me. Thank you. Tim Greenish timgreenish@bigpond.com



Minutes of meeting 26th November 2006

1. 26th Annual Shell Show:
The Shell Show Manager reported on the Show which was very well received by all. The exhibits were of a very high standard. In particular special recognition was given to the exhibits submitted by Ron Moylan which were truly outstanding. It was also noted that Maureen Anderson won the Conchologists of America inaugural award in New South Wales for her outstanding contribution to shell collecting and in particular to the research and educational aspects of Molluscs.
2. New Zealand Shell Show 2007:
It was reported that the New Zealand Shell Show will be held at Wellington on the 27-28th January 2006. Following discussion it was noted that several members hope to go.
3. Treasurer's Report
The Treasurer reported there were still outstanding subscriptions but overall membership was on the increase.
4. RELC Meeting venue for 2007:
The President tabled a letter from the club dated 6/10/06 confirming the dates and venue of all the meetings for next year, including a special venue for the 27th Annual Shell Show. It was noted that there was a slight increase in the cost of tea and coffee and that the Club had again sponsored a raffle prize of a Dinner for two plus drinks at the Restaurant. It was also noted that due to renovations there will be some disruption to the meeting areas.
5. Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park Submission on Draft Zoning Plan:
The President reported that our submission had been well received and that the Marine Park Authority will be recommending the Ministers support for the collection of five species of shells per person per day in both the habitat protection zone and the general use zone. Whilst the collection of shells will not be permitted in any sanctuary zones or indeed some other areas, generally both live and dead shell collecting will be permissible if the Minister supports the recommendation. Members can contact Mr. Max Haste on 49163970 for an update report and clarification.
6. Bateman Marine Park:
The President reported that a similar submission on behalf of Club members was made to the Bateman Marine Park Authority and that it is anticipated that an outcome will be available early next year.
7. Molluscs 2006:
The President reported that the MSA has arranged a week long session on Molluscs to be conducted at the Wollongong University early in December 2006.
8. Library:
The Librarian reported that books had now been purchased and full details will be available in the next Sheller.
9. Christmas Dinner 16/12/2006:
Following discussion it was noted that there will be a Christmas Dinner at 7pm Saturday, the 16th December 2006 to be held in the Hawks Nest Restaurant at the Club premises. To date a table has been booked for 16 persons and members are to contact John Franklin on 99860057 or joffers@easy.com.au to confirm their attendance by NO LATER THAN 6.30pm THURSDAY 14TH December 2006.
10. Club Meetings:
It was noted that there will be no meeting in December 2006 but it was decided that there will be a formal meeting on the 27th January 2007. Some members will be absent on that day for several reasons including attendance at the New Zealand Show. Ron Moylan and Steve Dean indicated that they will be going to the Show and John Franklin will also be absent.
11. February 2007 Meeting:
The guest speaker at the February meeting will be Steve Dean talking on the subfamily Turbininae. (Turbans)
12. Promotion:
The President as well as some other members reported that they had received a promotional brochure, in this case from the Bailey-Mathews Shell Museum offering membership. It was noted that the President together with Steve Dean plan to produce a similar brochure emphasising benefits of our club membership.



13. Guest Speaker:

The President introduced Mr Phillip Colman who is an outstanding Malacologist, Conchologist and Naturalist and he discussed his life and times on several dredging vessels from the early sixties. Phillip was an employee of the Australian Museum for many years and related his enthralling experiences working with shells. Presently a great deal of his time is spent conducting school children and other guests over the rocky headland at Long Reef Sydney. He is also making a film documentary at Long reef. On behalf of the members the President thanked Phillip for his great contribution by presenting such a wonderful talk.

The meeting closed at .4.00pm

Darwin Trip July 06

By John Franklin

We arrived in Darwin on the last stage of our holiday via Alice Springs. For the time of year, early July, Darwin was certainly living up to its name, beautiful clear blue skies and 30° with just a hint of breeze along the shoreline.

Darwin has come a long way since Cyclone Tracey occurred on that catastrophic Christmas Eve some years ago.

Nowadays there is clear evidence of the magnitude of the restoration works with the city exuding a presence of vital energy.

Along the foreshore, dwellings rebuilt after the cyclone are now being demolished to make way for twenty-storey high plus hotels to satisfy no doubt the development thirst and whilst at the same time, to accommodate the ever increasing numbers of visitors. Darwin harbour is magnificent at sunset however on the other hand the beaches in the immediate vicinity are intermingled with small rocky formations and are not really interesting.

A short time after our arrival we checked into our hotel, the Saville and rushed down to Lameroo Beach almost directly opposite our hotel and only 400 metres away.

We had been told that crocodiles occasionally visit the harbour, so with a wary eye we walked along the beach only to be disappointed with what we saw. The area is subject to seven metre tides and our visit coincided with the tide coming in.

Fortunately bearing tide details in mind, the highlight of our trip was to be a midnight to almost dawn shelling excursion to Lee Point, some hours drive from Darwin.

As we approached our destination the excitement built up and when we alighted from the car in total darkness one could feel the pervasive eerie atmosphere as the cool night air rushed to meet our faces.

As we walked through the low level sandy dunes towards the beach, thoughts immediately ran to what if there were crocodiles resting on the beach just waiting for us. Our walk continued onto the beach and then finally onto the rocky strip (Lee Point) which seemed to extend for kilometres out towards the sea. The seven metre tide was running out fast.

My guide, a local, was no doubt oblivious to my thoughts (thankfully) as I followed him through the maze of rocky outcrop. I followed hesitatingly at first peering into the darkness on either side of me, watching, waiting for something to suddenly appear out of nowhere. Slowly I became reconciled to my fate and began to relax and enjoy the walk.

Time passed and suddenly there in front of me on a small sandy clearing between the rocks I found a Murex *Pterynotus bednalli*. This shell, I was told, is only observed about once a year in the area. Perhaps one of the most exciting things is the pleasure in observing shells from a very different locality. It is the difference that is important. The following is a list of shells from our observations on that night:- **Conus austroviola, Murex**





***coppingeri*, *Murex brespina macgillivrayi*, *Murex pterynotus bednalli*, *Murex cronia aurantiaca*, *Turbo petholatus* (Linne 1758), *Cypraea cylindrica* (Born 1778), *Turbo angaria tyria* (Reeve 1843), *Turbo astralium rhodostomum*, *Nerita polita*, *Strombus campbelli*, *Strombus urceus*, *Cerithiidae clypeomorus batillariaeformis*.**

During our stay in Darwin we visited the collections of several persons and a highlight was seeing the very rare volute ***Voluta gerondinsi*** Bail & Limpus, 2005 from Dirk Hartog Island, trawled by a lug boat, on the North West Shelf, Western Australia.

Time restrictions meant that we had to make an early departure, but next time we will plan a more in-depth visit.

In search of Sydney's 'Painted Ladies'

By Jack Hannan and Debra Phillis

It was a cold moonless August night when Debra and I donned our SCUBA gear and descended into the depths of Long Bay, Malabar. Our quest was the swollen pheasant shell, ***Phasianella ventricosa*** – a smaller but equally beautiful close relative of the painted lady pheasant shell, ***Phasianella australis***, of southern Australia.

We had consistently found many beach-worn specimens in the area, and had a range of clues from the literature – like “subtidal macroalgae” and “seagrass beds” – but no previous success in finding live specimens. However, it was clear to us that Long Bay supports a significant population of Sydney's ‘painted ladies’ and this SCUBA dive was the culmination of months of searching.

Considering where most of the pheasant shells were normally washed ashore, we decided to dive directly off the boat ramp on the bay's northern shore. We knew that the bay has very little seagrass, and so concentrated our efforts on the fine brown macroalga (seaweed) that dominated much of the bottom. This seaweed is similar to Sargassum in form and appearance, and grows to about 50 cm high in the area. Having already spoken to fellow club members about finding live pheasant shells, we considered our best chance of success would be to search amongst algal holdfasts or perhaps amongst the fronds.

As we moved deeper, we stopped once in a while, searching and hoping. Just as we were beginning to think that Sydney's ‘painted ladies’ would allude us once more, I spied a small living specimen amongst the fronds of the Sargassum-like seaweed. Moments later, Debra found a much bigger and more colourful specimen, and two more soon followed. All were located amongst the fronds of the same type of seaweed in around 4 to 5 metres of water – and where the fronds were well developed (at between 30 and 50 cm in length). While the same seaweed was prolific in much shallower water, even to the low tide level, the much smaller fronds (generally 10 to 20 cm in length) did not yield any specimens despite careful searching. These smaller fronds might not be as suitable for *Phasianella* as are the larger fronds in deeper water.

Given our success this time, we intend to go back soon and reacquaint ourselves with Sydney's beautiful ‘painted ladies’.



A large live ***Phasianella ventricosa*** found nestled amongst seaweed fronds.



Success at last – 4 specimens of Sydney's beautiful 'painted ladies', *Phasianella ventricosa*.

Meeting Minutes 23rd September 2006

1. Finance:

It was noted that both the President and Vice President had signed an Acknowledgment and Authority authorising our Treasurer to open the account on the Club's behalf and that he be sole signatory. The document is necessary to ensure the operation of the Club's accounts at the Commonwealth Bank. The Treasurer reported on the number of outstanding subscriptions and follow up notices will be sent seeking early payment.

2. 26TH Annual Shell Show and Conference:

The program had been printed and changes to set-up times and other matters were noted. This year it was decided to significantly reduce the number of categories, including Cassidae and Bivalves from the already amended program.

3. Draft Zoning Plan- Port Stephens NSW:

The President advised that he had received a copy of a Submission prepared by a member and apart from Spear fishing the submission also related to Shell collecting. The submission in so far as relevant to Shell Collecting was read in full to members at the meeting and it was resolved that with suitable amendments, the President also make a submission on the Club's behalf, in respect of Shell Collecting.

4. Coming events:

a. New Zealand Shell Show will be held on 27-28th January 2007 at Wellington N.Z.

b. MSA Molluscs 2006, to be held in early December 2006 at Wollongong. It was noted that whilst there was both a pre and post conference/workshop session, there was nothing in the program of interest to our Conchological enthusiasts. This is regrettable, as after having just organised the 6th National Shell and Conference in March 2006, members felt that if requested or consulted, they may well have made a contribution to Molluscs 2006.

c. 7th National Shell Show & Conference will be held 7-9th March 2008 at Newmarket Brisbane Qld.

5. Field Trips:

A field trip to Towoon Bay on 9th September 2006 was poorly attended due to bad weather. The week prior was particularly wet along the New South Wales coastline. However notwithstanding the inclement weather, it seems that there were lots of *Pyrazus ebeninus* (Bruguiere, 1792) crawling around in the sandy/muddy



conditions.

6. New Member:

The President introduced David as a new member whom together with his wife spent 3 years on Samari Island five miles off Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea. David reported on his lengthy stay on the island where he had the opportunity to both collect and purchase many beautiful molluscs.

7. Guest Speaker:

Ron Moylan gave a very interesting talk on shells generally, illustrating his talk with magnificent photographs of both shells and animals. Ron's talk was very much appreciated.

The meeting concluded at 4pm.

An extra thank you from the national show

There was a lady in a wheel chair who came to see the national show and ended up helping out at our entry desk most of the Saturday. She is not a member and had no prior contact with our shell club, having only heard about the show while talking to one of our members on a train ride from Perth. So a special thank you to Wendy Russell from Ingleburn. We had not thanked her during the show or in subsequent shellers because most of us were not even aware of her efforts – she was not seeking praise, just a very kind person

Shell Club Library Update

By Steve Dean

The Library has now completed its set of reference material on Mitridae with the addition of Cernohorsky's original paper.

The role of the library is to provide reference works to aid in shell identification, with up to date species and Genera. Therefore the material in the library has been reclassified into the following sections to help newer collectors know which publications to borrow.

IG	Identification General - many/all families and species
IS	Identification Specific - family or other narrow grouping
P	Periodicals - clubs, societies and other
A	Articles
OAP	Old dated reference books and Articles and Publications
Misc	Miscellaneous
NBG	Non-reference, picture Books to Gape at
Kids	Kids books

OAP does not stand for 'Old Age Pensioner', but the acronym may help in remembering what the category includes. These older books were great in their time, but have been superseded by younger publications. The old books now have problems with names that may have changed, and in general images are harder to see. However they still have a place in the community with superior historical information, and some of their older images still allow for better identification than younger books. The cleaning regimes they describe are dated as well.

NBG does not stand for 'No B Good". It is where less technical books that may be more interesting to non-shell collectors are placed. (Pretty pictures, but not enough technical info to aid in full species identification).

If you are not engaged in serious research into a family you will primarily use material categorised as IG, IS and P. As a further aid the most up to date references in each category have been highlighted in yellow. As there are so many new books in the library members need to limit borrowings to a one month period.



N°.	Title	Author/Comments	Date
A1	List of British Non-Marine Mollusca	A S Kennard	1941
A2	Shells take over the world - National Geographic		1949
A3	Multiform Australian Volutes	F Abbottsmith	1968
A4	Indo-Pacific Nassariidae	W O Cernohorsky	1972
A5	A Revision of the Eatoniellidae of Australia	Ponder & Yoo	1978
A6	Proceedings of the Linnean Society Vol 111		1878
A7	Proceedings of the Linnean Society, second series, Vol 1V		1989
A8	Molluscan Megadiversity: Sea Land and Freshwater- World Congress of Malacology	World C OF M, Perth, WA	2004
IG1	Bivalves of Australia Vol 1	Lamprell, K & Whitehead, T.	1992
IG2	Bivalves of Australia Vol 2	Lamprell, K & Whitehead, T	1998
IG3	Seashells of Central New South Wales	Patty Jansen	1995
IG4	Seashells of South-East Australia	Patty Jansen	2000
IG5	1001 Nudibranchs	Coleman, N.	2001
IS1	The Mitridae of the world. Part 1 - Subfamily Mitrinae (Indo-Pacific Mollusca, V3 N17)	Walter Cernohorsky	1976
IS2	Mitridae of the world. Part 2 - Mitrinae Concluded, and Subfamilies Imbricariinae and Cylindrimitrinae(Monographs of Marine Mollusca)	Walter Cernohorsky	1991
IS3	Mitridae Costellariidae	Robin & Martin	2004
IS4	Mitre Shells from the Pacific and Indian Oceans	Peter Pechar, Chris Prior, Brian Parkinson	1980
IS5	Conchological Iconography - The Family Strombidae	Conch Books	1999
IS6	Conchological Iconography - Harpidae	Conch Books	1999
IS7	Guide to Worldwide Cowries	Lorenz & Hubert	2000
IS8	New Worldwide Cowries	Lorenz	2002
IS9	Freshwater Snails of the Tropical Pacific Islands	Alison Haynes	2001
IS10	Maringellas	Robert Lipe	1991
IS11	Olividae a collectors guide	Gunther H W Sterba	2004
IS12	Olive Shells of the World	Rowland F Zeigler, Humbert C Porreca	1969
IS13	Bursidae of the World	Tiziano Cossignani	1994
Kids1	Seashore searching	Margaret Richmond	1980
Misc1	Many other articles in a binder		2006
Misc2	Registry of World Record Sizes 4th Edition	Donald L Piser	2005
NBG1	The Scallop, Studies of a shell and its influences on mankind	Eight Authors	1957
OAP1	Australian Shells	Joyce Allan	1959
OAP2	Queensland and Great Barrier Reef Shells	Rippingale, OH. & McMichael, DF.	1961
OAP3	A Reference List of Marine Molluscs of NSW	Iredale, T. & McMichael, DF.	1962
OAP5	Shells and shell collecting	S. Peter Dance	1972



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OAP6	Shells of New Guinea and the Central Indo-Pacific	Alan Hinton	1975
OAP7	Shell Collecting In Australia	Neville Coleman	1976
OAP8	Shell collectors colour guide	J & R Senders	1984
OAP9	Spiny Oyster Shells of the World Spondylus	Kevin Lamprell	1986
P1	The Sydney Sheller (From July 1998 on)		Current
P2	Australian Shell News	Newsletter of the MSA	Incomplete
P3	MSA Molluscan Research (Formerly Journal of the MSA) (From 1995 V15 on)		Current
P4	Journal of the Malacological Society of Australia (From no 1 Sep 1957)		Current
P5	The Radula MSA QLD Newsletter		Current
P6	MSA Victorian Branch Bulletin		Current
P7	South Australia - Shell Grit		Current
P8	Keppel Bay Tidings		Current
P9	Whitsunday Shell Club - Newsletter		Current
P10	Tidewatch - Townsville Shell Club		Current
P11	W.A. Shell Collector		Current
P12	Cairns Shell News		Current
P13	The Marine Zoologist Vol 1 NO. 8 (1961)	Complete Set	1961
P14	Of Sea and Shore	only a few	2006
P15	Poirieria V31	Auckland Museum Conchology Section	2005
P16	The Port Phillip Bay Shell Group, Newsletter		2005
P17	American Conchologist		2005