

SYDNEY SHELLER

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

Next Meetings:

Land Snails - Jan 08

Volutidae - Feb 08

Harpidae - Mar 08

Muricidae - Apr 08

Strombidae - May 08

(1.30pm for 2pm – 4pm)

(normally 4th Saturday)

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

View old 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: Steve Dean
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: Vacant
MSA Delegate: Chris Barnes

Shell Club of Sydney Mission Statement:

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



Educational COA exhibit in the Strombidae Category at
The Sydney Annual Shell Show
Winning COA exhibit - Sandra Montague

Some of the topics inside:

- 2007 Annual Shell Show (Cover photo)
- Collecting Near Darwin
- Minutes
-
-



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Australia 2560

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
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Annual Shell Show 2007

1. COA exhibits *(here and on front cover):*



Educational COA exhibit in the Conidae Category – John Franklin



Sandra Montague with her COA winner's award



2. General Exhibits Follow:



The Sydney Sheller





The Sydney Sheller



Annual Shell Show 2007 Results			
Category	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Shell of the Show	Kim Bishop	-	-
Conidae WW	Ron Moylan	John Franklin	Peter Pienaar
Conidae Aust	Ron Moylan	John Franklin	-
Deep Sea 100mm+ WW	Ron Moylan	Trevor Appleton	Steve Dean
Cypraeidae WW	Ron Moylan	Steve Dean	-
Cypraeidae Aust	Ron Moylan	-	-
Mitridae, Cost. Vex.	Ron Moylan	Steve Dean	Steve Dean
Strombidae, Lambis	Sandra Montague	-	-
Junior to 16 Y	Ambrose Tant-Phillis	Zac Franklin	Jonah Franklin
Volutidae WW	Ron Moylan	Peter Pienaar	Trevor Appleton
Volutidae Aust	Ron Moylan	Trevor Appleton	-
Favourite 20 Gastropods	Trevor Appleton	-	-
Shells around Sydney	Kim Bishop	Steve Dean	-
Dead Collected	Jack Hannan	Sandra Montague	Michael Heigh
COA judging	Sandra Montague	John Franklin	-
Best Contribution to Show	Ron Moylan	-	-
Best of the Best	Ron Moylan	-	-

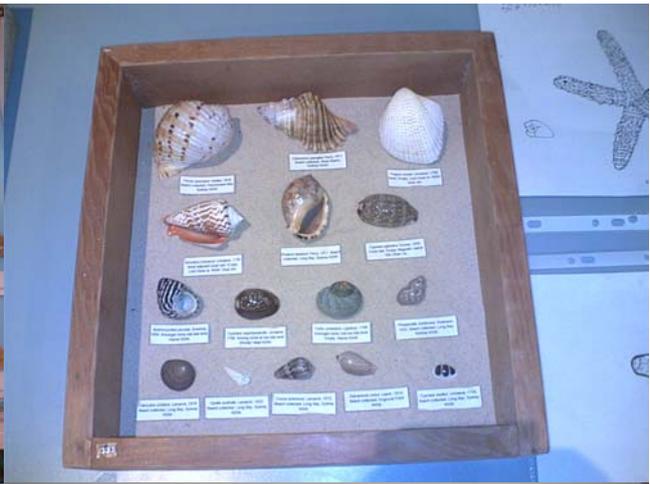




The Sydney Sheller



The Sydney Sheller





Collecting near Darwin

Alan W. Klishans

Sorry I couldn't make it to the 2006 National Shell Show in Sydney 2006. I was glad to meet John Franklin when he visited Darwin shortly after the shell show.

In October 2007 I had a visitor from Port Hedland W.A. We went out to look for shells on a Saturday, Sunday and Monday. There were 0.06 m tides in the middle of the day on the Saturday and Monday, while on Sunday it was a minus 0.09 m low tide! This means an 8.15 m range from high to low tides. We only get tides as good as these every two or three years, and on weekends almost never. (Although there are more good tides in November, and again in April/May 08)

There were westerly winds which negate these tides in some areas. Therefore choice of site was critical.

On the first day (Saturday) we chose a site, where in 1993 I found an 83mm *Pterynotus bednalli*. (At the time I couldn't keep it because the friend I was with would have nagged me for months after. So I sold my share in order to keep the friendship.)

It turned out the wind wasn't exactly to our advantage because it was NW with strong gusts from the north so a kind of cross wind not allowing access to the north. As luck has it, at the location this led us to, we found ten *Conus viola*. Two were huge - one live, one fresh dead with normal colouring. The other smaller shells had red, pink or yellow orange colours all of which I consider unusual.

Two other local Darwin boys also were collecting but some miles away. They also found ten *Conus viola*, but theirs were normal size and the usual dark brown with purple grey background.

We also found two *Pterynotus bednalli*. Mine was 30mm orange brown and broken on one wing, my friend's one was white, around 68mm, all wings were thin but a perfect shell.

As we were leaving a cloud came off the sea and dumped 80mm rain in the distance on the bitumen road, but not on the dirt track we used to drive here on, so we were not trapped. The rain was then heavy all the way to my home. (100km)

On the second day (Sunday) we were very surprised to find the dirt track was still dry because during the night we had received more rain at my place. During the night the sea had deposited several inches to two feet deep grey sticky mangrove mud over the reef so you couldn't recognise rocks and features that were there yesterday and couldn't see in the water even at 2 inches depth. Less finds were made on this day but I did get two tiny *Pterynotus bednalli* which were perfect fresh dead.

Where I had put my bucket I could make out in the mangrove mud among living corals a very bryozoan encrusted *Pterynotus bednalli* but reasonably fresh dead shell. It probably died a couple of months ago. This shell is almost completely white, all wings well formed and perfect. It is 80 mm exactly and now the biggest one in my collection. It is more perfect than the 83 mm I had to part with in 1993, but it lacks all the dark chocolate marks on the edge of aperture and wings.

This location is very remote, so it is unlikely that I will come here again by myself for years to come. You have to deal with the threat of wild animals, and camping is out of the question.

On the Monday my friend insisted we go again. We decided to try to get to a very long reef some 5 km further to the north. I once found a *Chicoreus cornucervi* there but no one has explored the reef properly because it is so big. On the way to the site we noticed that rain had fallen patchily in places because some of the road was dry and some wet and in some places were



large pools of water. When we started onto the dirt track the road seemed impassable so we backed out. After about 30 seconds my friend said he still wants to try. So we went offroad - off the track altogether, sticking to dry areas and squeezing between trees so precisely that in one place there was only 1 cm gap between the vehicle and the two trees we passed between. In other places we came to black mud. This was a bit different because we had to weave the vehicle in arcs up to 40 degrees off course to ensure only one wheel went in at a time, keeping the other three on the iron stone ridges. In this way we were able cover the 30km to get back to a point close to where we had stopped the day before.

From here we tried another track running parallel with the coast. We needed to ford a creek which was fairly easy but we then came to soft sand. It was still possible to go carefully. We made it to the spot we wanted, but not as early as we would have liked. We then ran across the ironstone reef ramparts until we reached the sea and the corals etc. My friend said all us shell collectors are totally mad to do this.

I went a long way out, on soft sand, lots of pebbles, shell grit and ironstone outcrops and many domed corals with areas of grey sticky mangrove mud where you sink. Here where the domed corals are abundant is an *Angaria sp.* distinct from *Angaria delphinus*, and which people call *Angaria tyria* Reeve. But after 20 years of finding these in this precise habitat in mud and among domed corals I believe this is a distinct species. According to the Angaria book *Angaria tyria* has purple zones in the colouration. This species never has these purple zones. It is very spinous with long thin curved spines at the shoulder of both young and adult shells. The sculpture differs particularly with folded ridges from the spire to shoulder of each whorl. In this way it does resemble *Angaria sphaerula* but it isn't the right shape either. So I generally call it *Angaria delphinus* "variety outer reef, in mud among corals". *Angaria delphinus* proper is higher up in intertidal zone and always on hard surfaces in the open. I found five, 3 were alive, two fresh dead so I gave them to my friend.

He called me over in excitement. He had found a large black *Chicoreus cornucervi* Roding which was fresh dead. I soon found another black one but alive. It was attached to a stone buried in the mangrove mud and was alive despite only seeing the top of the fronds sticking out of this mud. He then found another live one and two more fresh dead.

We also got three large *Turbo petholatus* between us.

We packed up all our gear and returned much the way we had come but a little easier since some of the rain on the dirt track had evaporated and sections were now dry. My friend was pleased with all the Angarias & Chicoreus all of which went into his freezer for transport to his home.

We have another set of very low tides at end of November 07 but a new destination will be planned then. Anyone from Shell Club of Sydney is welcome to come to Darwin to try their luck at finding our elusive shells. Sending kind wishes to all you people in Sydney.

Minutes 22 September 2007

The President, Steve Dean, opened the meeting at 2.15pm.

Attendance Steve Dean, Maureen Anderson, Peter Pienaar, Ron Moylan, Chris Barnes, Keith Dean, Sandra Montague, Steven Jones, Kim Bishop

Apologies were received from Bob Snedic.

Correspondence Nil

Finance Bank Account Balance is creeping up slowly post national show, but has a way to go. Reported by Peter Pienaar, Treasurer.

Library Nil

The Sheller Latest issue is due out next week.

Field Trips Nil

Coming Events Steve Dean announced details of the Twenty Seventh NSW Shell Show to be held 27th October 2007. Details to be listed in the next issue of The Sheller.

Acquisitions

Chris Barnes reported on the purchase of a melanistic *Cypraea thersites* taken by diver off Stansbury, South Australia.

General Business

Kim Bishop, Secretary has delivered a letter to the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club seeking the use of a meeting room for 2008, provision of tea and coffee, use of the Ryedale Room Saturday 25th October 2008 for our Annual Show and donation of a Dinner for Two Voucher.



Membership Renewal Forms have been prepared by Kim Bishop and handed to Steve Dean for mailing with the next issue of Sydney Sheller.

Chris Barnes reported on the need to have a current fishing licence to collect shells.

Steve Dean tabled an email dated 8 September 2007 from Anna Dimaano, Sta.Cruz Shell Gallery Phillipines Inc, Cebu, Phillipines, advising that Benjamin and Annabell Dimaano would be in Sydney at the end of September and that if any one was interested in purchasing shells from the Phillipines, South Africa and Mexico to contact them at stacruzshell@yahoo.com.

Steve also reported that he had received an email from Des Beechey advising that he had added Vermetidae, Siliquariidae and Hipponicidae families to the website The Seashells of New South Wales at www.seashellsofnsw.org.au

Due to exams Chris had not been able to fully prepare for his presentation on the Olividae. Therefore Ron Moylan gave an introductory presentation with Chris to complete it in November. Also Maureen gave a presentation on shelling in Hawaii.

Cake Roster:

October	Everyone
November	Chris Barnes
December	not required
January 2008	Maureen Anderson
February	Kim Bishop
March	Ron Moylan
April	Bob Snedic
May	Sandra Montague
June	Peter Pienaar

The meeting closed at 3.01pm, Kim Bishop, Secretary.

A presentation followed by Maureen Anderson on her trip to Hawaii.

A presentation followed by Ron Moylan on the Olividae family.

Awards:

Largest shell:	<i>Oliva porphyria</i> exhibited by Ron Moylan.
Smallest Shell:	<i>Oliva buloui</i> exhibited by Ron Moylan.
Shell of the Day:	<i>Oliva textilina</i> exhibited by Ron Moylan.

Minutes 24 Nov 2007

The President, Steve Dean, opened the meeting at 2.19pm.

Attendance

Members Steve Dean, Maureen Anderson, Peter Pienaar, Ron Moylan, Chris Barnes, Keith Dean, Sandra Montague, Bob Snedic, Steven Jones, Kim Bishop,

Apologies Nil

Correspondence

Kim Bishop tabled a letter dated 8 November 2007 from Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club confirming that all dates for 2008 requested in our letter dated 29 September 2007 have been booked. Also a letter dated 9 November 2007 from Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club confirming their donation of a Dinner for Two Voucher for a complimentary three course dinner or lunch in the Hawks Nest Restaurant to the value of \$70 plus drinks not exceeding \$20 expiring 12 January 2008.

President's Report

Steve reported that he has written to COA regarding the Conchologist of America Award 2007 won by Sandra Montague.

The Sheller

Steve appealed for articles of interest for future editions of The Sheller and sought a summary in bullet point form of each monthly presentation for inclusion in The Sheller. A heavy-duty stapler has been purchased to staple editions of The Sheller.

Library

Steve reported that no new books had been purchased. A number of regular publications have been received and were passed around including publications from Malacological Society of Australasia Inc, Queensland MSA, Keppel Bay Tidings and others.

Coming Events



The president reported on the forthcoming Seventh National Shell Show to be held in Brisbane 7th-9th March 2008 and handed out November 2007 Update from Queensland Branch of the Malacological Society of Australasia. The Shell Club of Sydney web site has been recently updated and includes up to date rosters for provision of afternoon tea and presentations at our monthly meetings.

Other Reports

Steve brought in an unusual South American limpet shaped shell and asked member to guess what family it belonged to.

Field Trips

Chris Barnes reported on a successful shelling trip during the last week in October to Yamba. Among his findings was a freak *Cypraea tigris* 93mm with a flattened dorsum, and two crabbed *Peristernia nassatula* located at Woody Head, and a *Conus textile*, a *Conus miles* and two *Cypraea arabica* from nearby Iluka.

Ron Moylan reported on a recent trip to the east coast of Tasmania and brought back a trawled Ranellidae -*Argobuccinum pustulosum f. tumidum*

Acquisitions

None

General Business

Following a discussion it was noted that our club's Christmas dinner will be at 7.00pm Saturday 15th December 2007 to be held at the Hawks Nest Restaurant at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club with The Dinner for Two Voucher donated by the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club to be raffled at the dinner.

Kim Bishop to book two tables for 15-18 people.

The meeting closed at 3.14pm.

Presentations:

1. A presentation followed by Chris Barnes on the Olividae family. He brought along an interesting cross section of unusual olives.

2. This was followed by a demonstration by Steve Dean of a portable dental ultrasonic cleaning unit suitable for cleaning fragile shells and hard to remove shell growths. As well as removing barnacles, worm tubes and oysters, it even removed brown staining off deep water volutes and cones. Members had turns at cleaning muricids and other shells, and found the task relaxing and therapeutic. At the conclusion of the demonstration the members present voted to purchase the cleaning unit. Further it was decided that members could then borrow it for a month by collecting it one meeting and returning it the next. A borrowing fee of \$50 covers an individual members borrowings for one calendar year. (In a few years, once the unit is paid for we will review the borrowing fees)

New Zealand National Show

Heather Smith

Hi!
Long term planning for a trip to N.Z ??
Our NZ National shell show is being planned for March 27th 28th 29th 2009 in Auckland at the same venue as last time in Pakaranga. We are trying to organise our national shell show in the alternate years from the Aussie National Shell shows. Also planning a lunch at my place on the Monday and maybe a trip to the far north for 4 or 5 days after the show??? So if you are long term planning a trip to nz march 2009 is the time to do it!!!

A married couple are lying in bed together on the morning of their tenth wedding anniversary when the wife says "Darling, as this is such a special occasion I think that it is time I made a confession....."

Before we were married I was a hooker for eight years." The husband ponders for a moment and then looks into his wife's eyes and says "My love, you have been a perfect wife for ten years, I cannot hold your past against you, in fact maybe you could show me a few tricks of the trade and spice up our sex life a bit!"

She said "I don't think you understand, my name was Brian and I played for the Warriors."