



SYDNEY SHELLER

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

Next Meetings:

Cancellariidae – Aug 08
Steve Dean

Shells & Stamps – Sep
Peter Pienaar

Annual Show – Oct 08
Rare Sydney Shells Nov
Chris Barnes
(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:

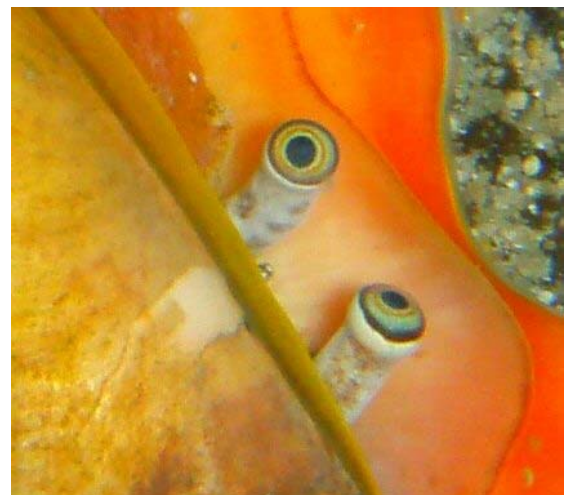
President: Steve Dean
Vice Pres: Maureen Anderson
Treasurer: Peter Pienaar
Secretary: Kim Bishop
Raffles: Kim Bishop
Sheller Editor: Steve Dean
Librarian: Steve Dean
Annual Shell Show Mgr: Steve Dean
Special Projects Mgr: Vacant
MSA Delegate: Chris Barnes

Shell Club of Sydney Mission Statement:

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



Who's looking at who:



Some of the topics inside:

- Sydney Strombs (Cover photo)
- Articles from newspaper clippings
- Email ads sent to us
- Strombidae talk – May Meeting
- AGM, Minutes and President Report



VISITING – PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Don't forget to call in on..

PERTH SHELL DISTRIBUTORS

CRAZY CRABS *TM*

SPECIMEN SEA SHELLS FOR COLLECTORS
CORALS LARGE AND SMALL
WHALES TEETH
SHARK JAWS (FULL)
GEM STONES (WORLD WIDE)
ANIMAL SKULLS & BONES

Buyer and Seller of Quality WA Shells

Phone +61 8 9528 2722

Fax + 61 8 9528 2733

merv@perthshells.com

www.perthshells.com

SHOWROOM:
12 AMBROSE STREET
ROCKINGHAM, PERTH, WA 6017

P.O. BOX 7037
SAFETY BAY WA 6169



OVER 1 MILLION SHELLS IN STOCK !

Australia's Leading Suppliers
of Worldwide Specimen Seashells
We buy, sell, exchange and whole-sale
Marine and Land Shells



Reef Guides & Fish Guides

SEASHELL BOOKS

Australian Distributors

BUY DIRECT ONLINE



DECOSHELLS & STARFISH
FOR INTERIOR DESIGN & DECORATION

5 Ealing Mews, Kingsley, WA 6026
Ph: 08 - 9409 9807 Fax: 08 - 9409 9689
shells@seashells.net.au



visit our
website

www.australianseashells.com
for more information



High Quality
Low Prices
Free Lists

MIQUE'S MOLLUSCS

7078 Westmoreland Drive
Warrenton, Virginia, USA
20187-4451

Tel: (540) 347-3839

E-Mail:

miques.molluscs.shells@erols.com



Worldwide • Best Brazilian Material
Marine • Land • Freshwater
Rare & Common

E-mail list by Family on your request!

www.femorale.com

Jose and Marcus Coltro

Cx.P. 15011 São Paulo – SP – Brazil 01519-970

Phone +55 11 5081 7261

Fax +55 11 5081 7298

shells@femorale.com

VISA - MasterCard - AMEX - Diners - Paypal

SPECIMEN SHELLS SALES

★ BUY ★ SELL ★ TRADE ★

- Worldwide Specimen Shells
- Free Price List with Size & Grade
- Satisfaction Guaranteed or Money Refunded
- Dedicated to Service, Integrity and Reliability



1094 Calle Empinado
Novato, California 94949
Dan Spelling
(415) 382-1126
Fax (415) 883-6810

Want your own sheller copies?

Membership + Sheller, **AU\$50** /yr.
Junior Member + Sheller, **AU\$15** /yr.
Student/Pensioner + Sheller, **AU\$25**/yr
Additional Family Member **AU\$5** /yr.

Includes Shellers folded & Aust. postage
(Shellers produced when there are enough articles,
maximum of 10 issues per year)

A4 envelopes non-folded, add **\$18** /yr
International postage add **\$10** /year

To subscribe send payment & details to:

Peter Pienaar
PO Box 901
Campbelltown, NSW
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
desbee@optushome.com.au
26 Malga Ave, Roseville Chase NSW 2069



This Spot Available

This small size (5.4x6.2) A\$40/year

Mid size (7.9x6.2) A\$60/year

Large Size (11.7x6.2) A\$80/year



The “Strombs of Sydney” - *Strombus luhuanus*

Jack Hannan

Many people would be surprised at some of the tropical molluscs found around Sydney – with cowries, cone shells and strombs all being relatively common in certain areas. Of all the medium-sized tropical molluscs likely to be found around Sydney, it is the red-lipped stromb, *Strombus luhuanus* that first comes to mind. While a handful other tropical molluscs may be found, including some pretty large cowries such as the milk-spot cowry *Cypraea vitellus*, these are far more difficult to find alive. Other species of stromb may be found in Sydney, such as *Strombus mutabilis*, but these are smaller and also much more elusive.

In the Sydney area, *Strombus luhuanus* favours semi-protected bays that have good clean water. It is typically found over sandy rubble or amongst seagrass in depths ranging from just below low tide level down to several metres. It often occurs in ‘colonies’, where dozens of individuals may be present in the area of a typical living room. Whilst these colonies are nothing like the thousands of individuals often found massed together at some tropical locations, they are still quite impressive considering our colder waters. Furthermore, this particular species tends to remain exposed throughout the day, making them slightly easier to observe than is the case with many other species of stromb.

Places where *Strombus luhuanus* can be found around Sydney include Bottle and Glass Rocks in Sydney Harbour, Little Bay in Sydney’s East and Cabbage Tree Bay near Manly. However, many of the shells found are likely to be juvenile or sub-adult and, as the colonies are often relatively limited in size, it pays to be selective in any collecting. If you find only juveniles at a location, it will often be worth returning some months later to see if any have grown through to adulthood. The best specimens are likely to be young adults (with an intact periostracum as in the living specimen illustrated) rather than the thickly encrusted older age specimens sometimes observed.

It should also be noted that the collection of live or crabbed molluscs is prohibited at Cabbage Tree Bay, and any collecting in Sydney Harbour needs to be in accordance with the Intertidal Protected Zone provisions for that waterway.

A view of the *Strombus luhuanus* from Sydney’s Little Bay, shown on the front cover – after cleaning



Three other specimens from the Sydney area, including two adults with differing internal colouration and a smaller juvenile (on right).



Hang on snail!!

News article

A Hornsby High School year 10 high school student received the NSW young scientist of the year award for her study of holding power of *Nerita atramentosa* as salinity in her test tank was altered.

If global warming reduces salinity, she wanted to see if this then had an effect on mollusc ability to cling onto surfaces. Loops were glued onto each of 10 shells (collected from general populations at La Perouse (Botany Bay)). Each snail was attached by line to a pulley and weights added until it lost its grip on the fish tank wall.

The result - reduced salinity equates to reduced holding power.



Box Jellyfish

News article

Climate change is making the Oceans off NSW warmer and more acidic. The CSIRO advise that by 2070 NSW may have Dugongs and Box Jellyfish

Australia's first cul-de-sac creature

News Article

Most creatures are part of the overall food chain – small creatures in large quantities eating plant material, then acting as the food for smaller numbers of larger species, and so on up the line. A cul-de-sac species is one that consumes the creatures or plants at the bottom of the chain but does not in turn get consumed or pass on other benefits up the line. IE it is a dead end in the food chain.

Scientists have identified that *Pyrazus ebeninus* (The Sydney Mud Whelk) is a cul-de-sac species. It lives on mud flats intertidally and subtidally in large numbers. It has a huge appetite for the nutrients in the sediments it inhabits, in particular decaying plant material. This material is the normal food for small worms, crustaceans and shellfish, which are the main food source of small fishes, which in turn are the main food of our fish stocks for human consumption.

Pyrazus ebeninus has a very solid shell, with adult shells too tough for small predators to crush or drill through, so has no known natural enemies.

In other parts of the world introduced cul-de-sac creatures have wiped out complete fisheries. *Pyrazus ebeninus* is native to NSW and based on Aboriginal middens has been here in large numbers for a very long time without problems. So the main thing we need to be watching for is human activity that results in the *Pyrazus ebeninus* population growing.





Next NZ National - 2009

The next National Shell Show in NZ is hosted by the Conchology Section of the Auckland Museum Institute. 27-29 March 2009 Pakuranga Community & Cultural Centre, Auckland contact peter.poortman@xtra.co.nz

Less large sharks means less bivalves

News Article

Along the Atlantic coast of the USA Fisheries have targeted Large sharks. (As many as 75 million are taken each year worldwide). Along the Atlantic coast Tiger Sharks and Hammer Heads have declined more than 97% and Smooth Hammerheads and Bull Sharks have declined more than 99% since the 1970s. (the last 35 years)

This in turn has resulted in a sharp increase in the species that they would normally eat (Rays, Skates and smaller Sharks). These species that eat shellfish including scallops, oysters, and calms. As they are migratory species the concern is that as they pass over beds of shell fish they may drive down populations to the point where the shellfish cannot recover.

Urchin Book - Ad

Henk van Noordenburg

Hello, I live in the Netherlands. Since 1989 I have been studying and collecting recent echinoids. I just finished writing a book about sea urchins of the Philippines.

The book: "Sea urchins of the Philippines" is the first in a series of three about these wonderful and interesting creatures that occur in the Philippine seas. A large number of the described species also occur in the Australian seas also. In part I, 69 species of irregular sea urchins are described and photographed in detail.

The book (153 pages, 72 plates) comes in a hardcover field guide format (15 x21.5 cm), is sewed and fully illustrated in colour and printed on high gloss paper (200 grams). Two pages are dedicated to every species. On the left page, there is the detailed species description and on the right page there is a colour plate with high quality photographs illustrating each species. This book is an excellent identification guide for most of the irregular sea urchins occurring in Philippine waters and the tropical Indo-Pacific.

If you would like to see pictures please visit the website www.artificialharmonics.nl

Best wishes from the Netherlands, Henk



Unverified Ad

Sonia Fuschi

My Company is Shelline Group www.shellinegroup.com Based in Italy, we deal with selected shells for collectors and would like to let members of "The Sydney Shell Club" know about us. shellinegroup@shellinegroup.com



The Shell Club of Sydney Minutes of the AGM, held at Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, Saturday 28 June 2008

The President, Steve Dean opened the meeting at 2.23pm.

Attendance Steve Dean, Maureen Anderson , Peter Pienaar, Ron Moylan, Keith Dean, Sandra Montague, Bob Snedic , Steve Jones, John Franklin, Trevor Appleton, Des Beechey, Bernice Beechey and Kim Bishop.

Apologies were received from David Abbott and Michael Heigh.

Notice of AGM

In lieu of submitting advance notice of the Annual General Meeting in the "Sydney Sheller" a vote was taken to approve the Annual General Meeting to be held today.

Minutes of Previous AGM held 23 June 2007

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held 23 June 2007 published in the June - September 2007 "Sydney Sheller" were taken as read, moved by Peter Pienaar and seconded by Keith Dean.

President's Report

The President reported on the events of the last year. The report to be published in the "Sydney Sheller".

Treasurer's Report

Peter Pienaar tabled an Income and Expenditure Report for the year and handed out to the meeting. The treasurer recommended that no increase in fees apply this year. The following annual fees apply commencing 1 July 2008, moved by Maureen Anderson and seconded by John Franklin.

Membership	\$50
Junior Member	\$15
Student and Pensioner Member	\$25
International Postage Add	\$10
Additional Family Members	\$ 5

Advertising Fees in "Sydney Sheller"	
60x120mm	\$80
60x77mm	\$60
60x57mm	\$40

Election of Office Bearers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Moved By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
President	Steve Dean	Ron Moylan	John Franklin
Vice President	Maureen Anderson	Steve Dean	Sandra Montague
Treasurer	Peter Pienaar	Ron Moylan	John Franklin
Secretary	Kim Bishop	Maureen Anderson	Ron Moylan

Honorary Positions

Sheller Editor	Steve Dean
Librarian	Steve Dean
Shell Show Manager	Steve Dean
Special Projects	To be confirmed
Raffles	Bob Snedic
MSA Representative	Chris Barnes

The meeting closed at 2.47pm.

Meeting Minutes - 28 June 2008

The President, Steve Dean, opened the meeting at 2.47pm.

Attendance Steve Dean, Maureen Anderson , Peter Pienaar, Ron Moylan, Keith Dean, Sandra Montague, Bob Snedic , Steve Jones, John Franklin, Trevor Appleton, Des Beechey, Bernice Beechey and Kim Bishop.



Apologies were received from David Abbott and Michael Heigh.

Correspondence

An email from a resident of Ryde was tabled. The email referred to a collection of shells for sale consisting mainly of cowries, cones, murex and land snails, value estimated to be around \$450. Anyone interested in viewing the collection please contact Steve Dean. An email from Gordon Thorpe dated 13 June 2008 was tabled. Mr Thorpe is enquiring about the October Shell Show and possibility of selling shells he is sourcing from South East Asia. Kim Bishop to contact Mr Thorpe. An email from john@shelltistic.com was tabled. The email referred to a new website www.shelltistic.com offering mainly land snails for sale.

Finance No change reported by Peter Pienaar.

President's Report Nil .

Sydney Sheller Delayed issues should be printed and posted this month. Contributions for future Shellers are welcome.

Library

A large selection of books are available for borrowing from the library, contact Steve Dean for your requirements. Bob Snedic displayed a new book titled Encyclopedia of Marine Gastropods by Alain Robin, available from Hugh Morrison for \$150.00. This publication provides a comprehensive guide to worldwide shells. After a discussion it was decided that this would be a suitable addition to the club library.

Coming Events

July 12-13, 2008: Keppel Bay Shell Show, Yeppoon, Qld.

July 19-20, 2008: Townsville Shell Show, Townsville Qld.

Fishers Ghost Stamp Fare, November 2008. Peter Pienaar is seeking assistance setting up an exhibit matching stamps featuring shells with shell specimens. Please let Peter know if you can assist.

Other Reports

Des Beechey provided an update on his website www.seashellofns.org.au The Strombidae, Struthiolariidae and Planaxidae families have recently been added. The website has been further enhanced with the addition of an Alphabetic Table of Contents.

Field Trips, Shows and Club Visits

Ron Moylan advised that he will be attending the Keppel Bay Shell Show, Yeppoon in July and it was reported that Jack Hannan will be attending the Townsville Shell Show also in July.

Acquisitions

Ron Moylan reported on the recent acquisition of a number of Western Australian Zoila including rosselli satiata and thalamega.

General Business

An email was sent to club members on 27 June 2008 by Steve Dean advising that Des Beechey has offered to run a workshop on Epitoniidae identification (primarily New South Wales) at his home. A number of club members have expressed their interest in attending this workshop and the date is to be confirmed shortly.

Steve Dean advised that he had received information that a pea sized orange pearl collected by a Queensland fisherman from a Melo melo was valued by Sotheby's at \$16,000 and is to be auctioned in Hong Kong. So don't discard uninteresting pearls found in shells.

A number of freak tiger cowries from Kenya were on display on behalf of a woman who sources them from her father in Kenya. Anyone interested in their purchase can submit offers through Steve Dean.

Raffle

First Prize: Keith Dean, Second Prize: Kim Bishop and Third Prize: Trevor Appleton.

The meeting closed at 3.31 pm.

Presentation

A presentation followed by John Franklin on the Conidae family.

Presidents Report to the AGM - 28 June 2008

Steve Dean

At our meetings we have tried a new format where a speaker is selected from amongst the members. They introduce a shell topic and then everyone else can also contribute. This has worked quite well and ensured we have had good presentations and discussion at each meeting. The goal was to choose presenters not necessarily expert in the particular family, who would go away and improve their own knowledge as part of their preparation. In fact each presenter so far has been able to compete enough research to give extended in depth talks, going far longer than the 10 -15 minute introduction I had originally envisaged. Never the less this has not dampened subsequent contribution by other members.



As part of this, all members were meant to bring in their favorite and most interesting specimens from that family, to compliment the material brought along by the presenter. While all presenters have brought along good quantities of interesting material, other members have not always brought their favorite specimens along. So the monthly fun competition to judge biggest, smallest, and best in the family has not happened in all months. We will review the competition over the next months.

Through the year we have had a modest number of interstate and overseas visitors.

Our membership numbers have increased by 10%

Last year our October shell show was again a success. There was a good number of very professional “national show quality” exhibits. The guest speaker was great, and the collection that was Auctioned left members very happy with their purchases and with the prices they paid. The Educational displays were a very high standard, resulting in another “Conchologists Of America” award to one of our members – Sandra.

The National Show in Queensland purchased all our left over display boxes. At the national we were well represented both in numbers attending and numbers competing.

Over the year we have not had many field trips, primarily because this year suitable tides have not fallen on available weekends, or the weather was unsuitable. However we have had good numbers attending at each meeting.

Over the year quite a few members have changed their focus on which families they collect. This has resulted in complete families changing hands, which in turn strengthens the collections of those still in each family.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the members who have contributed through the year, in executive positions, voluntary positions, presentations, providing cakes, donating raffle prizes, or in general helping with the success of the club.

Steve Dean
President

Family Strombidae – May meeting presentation

Sandra Montague

There are five genus in this family, and many species and sub-species. Early members of this family have been found as fossils in rocks of the Upper Cretaceous period, some 100-70 million years Before Present. The family was earlier called Rombus. The first record I have found of a *Strombus* is *Strombus coronatus*, found in Italy, dating to the Pliocene period, some 20-18 million years BP.





The Sydney Sheller



The five recent genus of this family are Tibia, Rimella, Terebellum, Lambis and Strombus. There is considerable difference in shapes, sizes and weights between genus and often within each genus as well.

New species of Strombidae are being found – e.g. ***Strombus klineorum***, by Abbott in 1960, ***Strombus kleckhamae boholensis***, by Muhlhausser in 1981, ***Strombus vittatus entropi***, by Man in't Veld & Visser, and ***Strombus aurora***, discovered in 2002, and still to be attributed. (See below for a new species 2008)

The family are herbivores, grazing on seagrass, algae and detritus. They move by digging their operculum into the substrata and retracting their foot, thus leaping rather than gliding forward.

Predators include fish, crabs, crustaceans, turtles, sharks, rays and man.

Colour variations within a species are common – for example ***Strombus urceus*** can have upward of six different colour types. ***Strombus gigas*** can have their large, flaring lip coloured bright pink, yellow, orange, or peach.



Strombus gigas is the largest of the family. Left undisturbed in suitable colonies, the gigas can live for upward of 20 years. Perhaps one gigas in 10,000 will produce a “pearl” and of those produced only 1 in 100 is of gem quality. It is not a nacreous pearl, but has a composition closer to a human kidney stone, being made of calcium carbonate in the form of calcite. Their “flame” structure is distinctive and beautiful. They come in as many shapes and sizes as our kidney stones. (The pictured pearl belongs to Maureen Anderson)

The gigas shell can resist fracture of 100 to 1000 times better than calcite equivalent to the mineral that makes up 99% its shell. The shell has a thin innermost layer, often nacreous in appearance, and the outer shell is of thick, calcareous material. The calcium carbonate material is most often aragonite, but may be a combination of calcite and aragonite. The shell can withstand such incredible pressure because the aragonite breaks like chalk. Each aragonite crystal is surrounded by a protein, which changes the toughness by allowing fractures to spread without shattering the mineral. Instead of one massive crack, it spreads many small fractures along the lines of protein in the outer or inner of three shell layers.



Researchers are looking at this phenomenon with a view to applications for aerospace vehicles, bridges, constructions materials, and military uses.

Such a colourful, variable, wonderful family!

Rare Solomon's world record smallest, dwarf shells:

On his return from his recent Solomon Is trip Ron showed us some of the more unusual items he found.



A colony of dwarf ***Strombus bulla*** (Shown next to a normal sized ***S. bulla***. Including multiple specimens smaller than the previous world record smallest specimens for this species.)



The Sydney Sheller



Colonies of what look like dwarf *Strombus plicatus* sp. (While these look similar to *S. plicatus* they are going to be named as a new species/subspecies by the Stromb experts)



The Solomons cone named after Ron *Conus moylani*

Other shells Kim brought along to the same meeting:

Cypraea armeniaca (on the right, form *westralis*)

