

SYDNEY SHELLER

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

Next Meeting:

22nd May 2004

(normally 4th Saturday)

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

1.30 for 2.00pm

Topic: TBA

View old newsletters and other information about our club at www.sydneyshellclub.net
Note there are often more pictures and larger pictures than the ones in the printed version of the newsletter.

Contributions:

Please send contributions to:
Steve Dean 166 Narrabeen Park Parade, Mona Vale NSW 2103
Text by disk or email only. Photos, and disks by mail, or preferably by email to steve@dean.as

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

Club Executive:

Office bearers:

President: Patty Jansen
Vice Pres: Maureen Anderson
Secretary: Chris Barnes

Honorary:

Raffles: Maureen Anderson
Treasurer: Peter Pienaar
Sheller Editor: Steve Dean

Shell Club of Sydney Mission Statement:

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



'The Thinker' **Maureen Anderson** (Sydney) helping out on **Merv Cooper's** dealer table (Perth)

Merv is also a member of our Sydney Shell Club and came along to our meeting the Saturday after the Adelaide show as he was in Sydney visiting relatives.

Some of the topics inside:

- Adelaide National Shell Show (Cover photo)
- Great Ocean Road (VIC)
- Sydney Lecture Series
- Feb Minutes
- March Minutes



VISITING – PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Don't forget to call in on..

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Peter Pienaar
9/13-15 Chisholm Cres
Bradbury, 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

Des@phm.gov.au

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Stock includes representatives of
most families. No lists at present.

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Shells to Swap, Buy or Sell:

If you have spare shells and would like
to find someone to swap with, try listing
some of them here:

Wanted:

I am after a couple of the small non-
intertidal species of Australian Bursidae
(dredged, trawled or dived)
If you have spares of the three listed
below, for sale or swap please contact
me.

Steve Dean, Sydney Sheller Editor
steve@easy.com.au 02 9979 5736

Bursa humilis from 130-240m
Southern WA Pattern and shape are
fairly constant, so the picture in Wilson
V1 P377 is a good guide to
identification; 4.5cm

Bursa latitudo from 200m Northern
NSW and Southern QLD; 9.5cm I do not
want specimens from overseas as they
look quite different. Again the picture in
Wilson V1 P377 is a good guide to
identification

Bursa verrucosa from 40m Northern
NSW and Southern QLD; can be found
by divers; 4.5cm or smaller; On the
outside looks much like *Morula*
granulata (Mulberry whelk) I.E. It has
very prominent raised dark nodules on a
light cream background, and is similar in
size, however the shell shape and
aperture are that of a Bursa. It has fold
lines across part of the columella and
between them it can be dark orange or
red.





PORT PHILLIP BAY – GREAT OCEAN ROAD, VICTORIA

By John Franklin

We arrived at Melbourne Airport on a 38°C mid-afternoon in early January 2002 and proceeded to our hotel, located in the City.

Melbourne, Victoria's capital city, is characterised by the beautiful Yarra River, known to the original inhabitants the Wurundjeri, as Birrarung "the place of mists and shadows". Today the lower Yarra hums with activity as river boats and water taxis provide links with many venues located along the river including the maritime village of Williamstown. For the tourist there are innumerable sources of entertainment including the newly opened Federation Square which, among other services, provides the world's most comprehensive collection of Australian art.

After renewing old acquaintances it was time to put our plan into action and pursue Molluscan adventures firstly at Port Phillip Bay and then along the Great Ocean Road to Warnambool.

Travelling along the eastern side of Port Phillip Bay the weather had changed for the worse and it became cool and windy. At Safety Bay there were many shells washed up on the beach including a beautiful *Venerupis galactites* (Lamarck, 1818). Passing on we stopped off at various beaches and headlands, but the material was scant. Finally we drove to Sullivan Bay near Sorrento, where in 1803 Lieutenant-Colonel David Collins had established the first official European settlement in Victoria. A display centre tells the story of the settlement and traces the journey of 308 people in two ships from Portsmouth and how they endured life in a very harsh environment.

After visiting the centre we walked down a grassy track to the beach. Observing that there were several species of shells in the beach drift, in particular it was noted that there were numerous bivalves known as *Tawera gallinula* (Lamarck, 1818). This particular shell can grow to 45mm and characteristically has a purple inside. Standing on the beach looking back to the old settlement site gave an eerie feeling when one contemplates how the settlers must have struggled up that beach two hundred years ago with luggage, cargo and implements to be used to combat the forces of nature.

We passed on through the beautiful coastal towns of Portsea and Sorrento from where we caught the car ferry across the Bay to Queenscliff for the purpose of commencing our journey along the magnificent Great Ocean Road.

Our first point of call was Point Danger at Torquay and in poor weather conditions, the following interesting shells were located: *Mitra badia* (Reeve, 1844), *Mesoginella infelix* Jousseaume, 1875; *Alocospira oblonga* (Sowerby, 1833); *Nassarius pyrrhus* (Menke, 1843) and *Opalia australis* (Lamarck, 1822). Continuing we stopped off at many points but perhaps the best spot we located was a place called The Spit, near the picturesque coastal town of Lorne. Over a period of two days at low tide we observed: *Conus anemone* (Lamarck, 1810); *Conus aplustre* Reeve, 1843; *Ellatritia merces* (Iredale, 1924); *Cypraea angustata* Gmelin, 1791; *Cypraea comptoni* Gray, 1847; *Antisabia foliacea* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1835); *Hipponix conicus* (Schumacher, 1817); *Bembicium nanum* (Lamarck, 1822); *Haliotis scalaris emmae* Reeve, 1846; *Patelloida latistrigata* (Angas, 1865); *Scutus antipodes* Montfort, 1810; *Subnina gruneri* (Philippi, 1846); and *Clanculus flagellatus* (Philippi, 1848).

Apart from looking for Molluscs, we had planned our Victorian holiday to take in the world famous Great Ocean Road which was completed in 1932. This spectacular section of coastline between Princetown and Peterborough includes the Twelve Apostles, Lock and Gorge, London Bridge, the Grotto and the Bay of Islands. In the 1800's the waters that lap the Great Ocean Road were among the most feared in the world, claiming over 140 ships on its treacherous coastline.

So our Victorian journey ends with wonderful memories of Port Phillip Bay and the Great Ocean leaving us with the desire to return in the not too far distant future to continue our observations of those beautiful shells.

2004 Hilltop to Headland Environmental Lecture Series

Further details from John Franklin

Hilltop to Headland is an environmental lecture series that has been operating in Warringah since 1996 (Sydney's Northern Beaches). Presented by Warringah Council, the series involves environmental experts presenting free community based talks and workshops on a range of environmental topics.

The 2004 Hilltop to Headland lecture series promises to be a great success with a range of exciting topics including:-

weather forecasting, global warming, the nature of the Quarantine Service and molluscs.



Venue: Warringah Council Chambers, Civic Drive, Dee Why

Time: 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Cost: Free. Donations are welcome

Enquiries: Environment Education Team (02) 9942 2543

On the 20th October 2004 Dr. John Walker will be presenting the topic **Molluscs: Friend, Foe or Both?**

"Molluscs are one of the largest and most diverse groups of animals on earth. Humans have always valued molluscs for a variety of reasons including money, a source of pearls and as food. Molluscs were the source of Tyrian Purple, the brilliant dye that Julius Caesar decreed could only be worn by the emperor and his household. More recently we have come to recognize that some molluscs are directly harmful to humans and others are important hosts of parasites that cause serious disease in people and domestic animals.

Dr. John Walker has had an interest in molluscs as human disease agents for over 35 years. In this lecture he will explore this topic and discuss some of the disease agents that occur in Australia and in particular the small number that are found in the Sydney region."

A special thank you to all presenters who have given their time to be a part of this exciting program and to Councillor **Phil Colman** of Warringah Council who has been co-ordinating the program for the past eight years.

All lectures are held on the third Wednesday of the month from February to November in Warringah Council Chambers.

USEFUL METRIC CONVERSIONS

- 1 million phones = 1 megaphone
- 2000 mockingbirds = two kilomockingbirds
- 10 cards = 1 decacards
- 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
- 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
- 1 trillion pins = 1 terrapin
- 10 rations = 1 decoration
- 100 rations = 1 C-ration
- 10 millipedes = 1 centipede
- 3 1/3 tridents = 1 decadent
- 2 monograms = 1 diagram
- 8 nickels = 2 paradigms
- 2 wharves = 1 paradox
- Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter: Eskimo Pi
- 2000 pounds of Chinese soup: Won ton
- 1 millionth of a mouthwash: 1 microscope
- Time between slipping on a peel and hitting the pavement: 1 bananosecond
- Weight an evangelist carries with God: 1 billigram
- Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour: Knot-furlong
- 365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer because it's less filling: 1 lite year
- 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone: 1 Rod Serling
- Half of a large intestine: 1 semicolon
- 1000 aches: 1 megahurtz
- Basic unit of laryngitis: 1 hoarsepower
- Shortest distance between two jokes: A straight line (think about it for a moment)
- 1 million-million microphones: 1 megaphone
- 1 million bicycles: 2 megacycles
- 365.25 days: 1 unicycle
- 1 kilogram of falling figs: 1 Fig Newton
- 1000 grams of wet socks: 1 litre-hosen
- 2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital: 1 I.V. League
- 100 Senators: Not 1 decision



Adelaide National Shell Show

By Steve Dean

The number of dealers seemed slightly less than prior years. However the dealers that attended offered a good selection of shells ranging from quality budget specimens, up to rarities for tens of thousands of dollars, and everything in between. There were shells for both collectors and the public, and a number of new books for sale.

As always, in Adelaide the competitive shell displays were spectacular and numerous.

There were several fun categories and the exhibits in these were also very impressive:

One such category was 'black and white' where one competitor had even painted their display box in a black and white checkered pattern to contrast the black and white shells.

Another interesting category was biggest and smallest, where each species displayed had to have two mature specimens one very large and one very small. Apart from the obvious families such as cowries, there were amazing extremes from unexpected families.

Four Favorite Families generated some interesting combinations of families.

The fossil categories had some amazing specimens, and there were displays of pairs of fossils and living shells of the same species. Exhibitors did very well at finding living specimens close in size and shape to their good fossil specimens.

There were also children's' categories as well as school competitions.

Below and front cover are some general shots around the show:



Ron Moylan Dealer Table (Sydney)

Further along Doug Thorn (QLD); Mike Hart (NZ); Eng (Singapore)

There were three rows of tables. This is the middle row. It connects around to the row on the left of the picture.

The third row is off to the right.



The Sydney Sheller



Patty Jansen (Sydney) Book Dealer table across the end of two long rows of dealer tables.
John Dunkerley (Sydney) buying books.



Part of the competitive exhibit area, and some hanging school projects.



Ashley Miskelly (Sydney) Urchin Dealer table.

NSW members in attendance but not shown in the photos included myself (Steve Dean), John Franklin, Chris & Karen Barnes.

At the Delegates meeting the Sydney Shell Club won the bid to run the National Shell Show in 2006. We then put out our flyers, which were all taken.

Shell Club Minutes 28/2/2004

The meeting was opened by P. Jansen at 1.58 pm.

Field Trips Maureen Anderson reported on a club trip to Bass Point near Shellharbour south of Sydney.

Steve Dean reported on a successful shelling trip to northern NSW, as far north as Ballina and back down to Woolgoolga. Steve displayed five very fresh, dark and fabulous specimens of *Cypraea tigris* Linnaeus 1758, collected by himself, son Peter and father Keith at a top secret location during the trip.

Ron Moylan displayed some examples of *Amoria maculata* (Swainson, 1822); volutes with a great range of pattern variation. Group discussion, re- National Shell Show Adelaide 20/21 March, it was agreed to still hold the NSW Branch meeting the following Saturday 27th March as scheduled, as a number of members indicated they would be attending.

General Business

Patty to be reimbursed for paying registration fee for Branch ABN.

Secretary to send letter of thanks to RELC general manager re- Dinner donation.

Secretary to send letter to all other MSA branches, declaring NSW branch interest in hosting the Sixth NSS in Sydney 2006.

Secretary to E-mail Des Beechey and Chris Ann Urquhart re- member reimbursement from MSA National.

Note - the meeting unanimously agreed upon Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club as the venue for the proposed Sixth National Shell Show 2006 Sydney.

Secretary to send letter to Cheryl Sutton, functions manager at RELC declaring interest in booking rooms for 10th, 11th and 12th of March 2006 for the Sixth NSS Sydney 2006, as previously discussed with John Franklin.

Steve Dean and J. Franklin are to draft a flyer for the 6th NSS Sydney 2006, to be distributed at the 5th NSS Adelaide 20th, 21st March 2004.

Sixth NSS Sydney 2006 committee members - Patty Jansen, John Franklin, Steve Dean and Adrian Browne.

Meeting closed at 3.05pm. C. Barnes, Secretary



Shell Club Minutes 27/3/2004

The meeting was opened by P. Jansen at 2.16 pm.
Apologies - A. Miskelly, P. Pienaar.

Field Trips

Topic of a group discussion was of course the 5th NSS Adelaide the previous week. The meeting was basically an informal talk, Merv Cooper was in attendance and seemed to enjoy the afternoon.

General Business

As Des Beechey was at the meeting, he explained the position on MSA National membership reimbursements to branches, and the criteria involved in assessing this sum. As the number of members who attend more than fifty percent of meetings is quite low this would be reflected in the final figure. It will be necessary to discuss the matter with Chris Ann Urquhart for a resolution.

Meeting closed at 2.30pm. C. Barnes, Secretary
