



# SYDNEY SHELLER

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

## Next Meeting:

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2005**

**Easter –**

**No March Meeting**

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

1.30 for 2.00pm

There is a field trip 12th March 2005,  
Afternoon at Kurnell

View these newsletters with more  
pictures, plus references, and club  
information at  
[www.sydneyshellclub.net](http://www.sydneyshellclub.net)

## Contributions:

Please send contributions to:

**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](mailto: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: John Franklin

Vice Pres: Maureen Anderson

Secretary: Chris Barnes

### Honorary:

Raffles: Maureen Anderson

Treasurer: Peter Pienaar

Sheller Editor: Steve Dean

Librarian: John Franklin

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.



More October Shell Show  
"Shell of the show" entrants

## Some of the topics inside:

-  Sydney Harbour & NSW Updates
-  Callala Beach
-  Shark Island
-  Observations in North New Zealand
-  Important Dates

VISITING – PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*Don't forget to call in on...*

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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

[Des@phm.gov.au](mailto:Des@phm.gov.au)

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## David Tarrant

**Specimen & Commercial Shells**

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

4 Gillies Close  
Coffs Harbour 2450

**02 6652 6104**

## Callala Beach Jervis Bay

### John Franklin



Our survey of the Callala Beach area continued over the recent holiday period and the names of the many species observed have previously appeared in the "Sydney Sheller". In the past great difficulty has been experienced in identifying micro shells for many reasons including lack of equipment, lack of reference material and on many occasions the shells were too worn to be identified.

Whilst we have to live with some of the problems associated with micro shell identification, for the first-time on this occasion with the kind assistance of Ms Sandra Montague, we have now been able to establish identification of some of the micro shells observed. In this regard it must be said that what appears in the following list should not be regarded as a "first find" on a particular day. Rather what we can say is that on a given day we located a particular shell. For the future we now hope to establish a frequency sequence.

Anabathridae	<i>Pisinna albizona</i>	(Laserson, 1950)
	<i>Pisinna frauenfeldi</i>	(Frauenfeld, 1867)
Triphoridae	<i>Seilarex turritelliformis</i>	(Angas, 1877)
Columbellidae	<i>Mitrella pulla</i>	Gaskoin, 1852
	<i>Metanachis</i> sp.	
Pyramidellidae	<i>Cingulina spina</i>	(Crosse & Fischer, 1864)
	<i>Chemnitzia hofmani</i>	Angas, 1877
	<i>Syrnola tincta</i>	(Angas, 1871)
	<i>Linopyrga pascoei</i>	(Angas, 1867)
	<i>Pyrgiscus gravicosta</i>	Laserson, 1951



## Shark Island

### Sydney Harbour near Rose Bay

Shark Island is said to have resembled a shark and the shallow waters around it presented a constant danger to shipping, especially with the growth of trade in the early 19th century. Between 1880 and 1975, the island was used as an animal quarantine area, a public recreation reserve and a naval storage depot. It became part of Sydney Harbour National Park in 1975.

Residents of Sydney are indeed fortunate in that there are at least four other islands to visit, namely Clark; Rodd; Goat and Fort Denison, all of which form part of the Sydney Harbour National Park. These islands are open for visits between 9:00am to sunset every day.

Further information  
Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre  
Cadman's Cottage  
110 George Street  
The Rocks, Sydney NSW 2000  
Phone: (02) 9247 5033 – Fax: (02) 9241 3303

General inquiries: 102 George Street, The Rocks, Sydney  
Phone: 1300 361 967 of (02) 9253 4600  
Fax: (02) 9585 6555  
Website: [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

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## North New Zealand

### John Franklin

Following an uneventful flight from Sydney it was New Year's Day 2005 as we found ourselves being conducted to our hotel room in lower Queen Street, Auckland, New Zealand. The next day we drove north to the Bay of Islands visiting the beautiful little village of Puhoi and its historic pub standing there in all its glory of days gone by.

We reached our final destination by mid-afternoon. Paihia is located virtually in the centre of the Bay with its 147 uninhabited islands. After checking in we walked the short distance to the wharf to catch the express ferry for the short distance across the bay to Russell.



As we alighted from the small red ferry our excitement grew in anticipation of the realisation that shells/molluscs may be there! Our eyes searched the low tide waters edge and slowly lots of bivalves in particular came into view. After a long walk along the beach we noted that members of the Mytilidae family predominated although there was an absence of the green lipped mussel *Perna canaliculus*.





# The Sydney Sheller



Observations revealed:- *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, *Zelithyphaga truncata*, *Xenostrobus pulex*, *Modiolarca impacta*, *Saccostrea uccullata*, *Divalucina cumingi*, *Felaniella zelandica*, *Caridta aoteana*, *Spirula acquilatea*, *Paphies australis*, *Macomona liliana*, *Gari strangeri*, *Gari convexa*, *Protothaca crossicosta*.

It is interesting to note that in New Zealand there are approximately 380 species of bivalves whilst on the other hand there is a lesser number of gastropod species. Apart from a few limpets, slipper shells and whelks, the turret shell *Maoricolpus roseus* appeared rather frequently washed up high on the beach.

Of course, we had time for a short tour of Russell which is located in a horseshoe tree-lined bay with the wharf in the centre. The small business district and houses consist of freshly painted white weatherboard buildings, all very old in origin. Dividing the town from the beach is a narrow lane. Fronting the lane is the historic Duke of Marlborough hotel sitting there in pristine condition painted white with small colonial windows and a picket fence.

We returned to Paihia and spent the next few days touring the area before retracing our steps south to Watford beach, not far south of Puhoi.

It was interesting to note that at this location there was a greater proportion of gastropods although the edible pipi *Paphies australis* was still abundant. Some of the gastropods observed were:- the slipper shells, *Maoricrypta costata* and *Sigapatella novalzelandiae*; the shells *Buccinulum linea*, *Cominella adspersa* and *Cominella glandiformis*, the olive *Amalda australis* and *Trivia mercus*.

In the past there has been some debate as to whether or not true cowries exist in New Zealand. It would appear that to date only *Cypraea vitellus* and *Cypraea cernica* exist at Poor Knights Island and at the top of New Zealand to the far north.

Our next destination was Thames located about one and a half hours drive from Auckland and the main town on the Coromandel peninsula. Adjoining the town is the shallow Firth of Thames which has mud flats and salt water shallows, excellent for wading birds. For many kilometres there was little beach, in the main, mud and rocks.

Again it appeared from our observations that the bivalves predominated in numbers over the gastropods. Most of the material previously observed was again located at Thames but the green-lipped mussel was present in this locality. So also was *Cyclomactra ovata* that lives buried in the mud.

Leaving Thames we drove north to Coromandel and then across the peninsula to the Pacific Ocean. As we approached the coast the Mercury Islands came into view then Mercury Bay where Captain Cook observed the transit of Mercury in 1769. After lunch at Whitianga, a beautiful town, we drove south to Hahei and did a forty-minute walk to Cathedral Cove which was a natural arch extending over the beach. This area is a marine reserve, but we had time to observe a rather large specimen of *Maoricrypta costata*, the ribbed slipper limpet, on the beach.



Our next destination was Hot Water Beach which is a thermal area, where one can dig their own spa pool in the sand. We drove further south and then back across country to Thames to spend our last night on the peninsula.

The rest of our journey was inland, but we shall never forget that first sight of heaps and heaps of shells on Russell beach.



## Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

### Plans for the Future

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust was set up to plan the future of unique lands on Sydney Harbour including Cockatoo Island, Snapper Island, Woolwich Dock and Parklands, Middle Head-Georges Heights and the former Marine Biological Station at Watsons Bay.

On all of the lands, the Harbour Trust will conserve heritage, protect the environment and provide maximum public access.

Want to know more?

To find out more about the Harbour Trust contact:

Australia Government  
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust  
PO Box 607  
Mosman NSW 2088  
Ph: (02) 8969 2100  
Fax: (02) 8969 2120  
[www.harbourtrust.gov.au](http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au)

Sydney Harbour Week – 4-13 March 2005

You are invited to go and celebrate the remarkable diversity of Sydney Harbour. There are more than 40 events over 10 days and many of them are free. An example of the program is as follows:

Saturday	5 March	
	9:30am – 11:30am	Harbour Rock pool Discovery Tour – Fairlight – free
	10:00am – 4:00pm	Discover Scuba Diving – cost
Sunday	6 March	
	10:00am – 12:00pm	Harbour Rock pool Discovery Tour – Neilson Park – free
	10:00am – 4:00pm	Guided snorkel at Shelley Beach – cost
Wednesday	9 March	
	9:00am – 2:45pm	Three Island discovery tour – take an expedition on the “Gargale” and visit Goat Island, Fort Denison and Clark Island – cost
	6:30pm – 8:30pm	Marine Life of Sydney Harbour – presentation – free at Woollahra Council Chambers, Double Bay
Thursday	10 March	
	11:30am – 3:00pm	Picnic Day at Goat Island – tour the island – cost
Sunday	13 March	
	10:00am – 4:00pm	Shark Island Open Day – free

Program subject to change. Contact [www.sydneyharbourweek.com.au](http://www.sydneyharbourweek.com.au) for details.



## Important Dates

DATE & LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT
<b>2005</b>		
6-8 June 2005 Gold Coast, Queensland	OCSEE 2005 International Conference on Ocean/Coastal Science and Engineering Education	Dr Charles Lemckert T: (07) 5552 8574 E : <a href="http://www.gu.edu.au/school/eng/OCSEE/OCSEE.html">www.gu.edu.au/school/eng/OCSEE/OCSEE.html</a>
16-17 July 2005 Queensland	Yeppoon Shell Show	Keppel Bay Shell Club Secretary PO Box 5166 Rockhampton MC Qld 4702
19-25 July 2005 Punta Rassa, Florida, USA	34th Annual Convention of The Conchologists of America Inc. C.O.A.	Visit Conch-Net, the Conchologists of America website: <a href="http://coa.acnatsci.org/conchnet/">http://coa.acnatsci.org/conchnet/</a>
23-24 July 2005 Queensland	Townsville Shell Show	Club Secretary at 19 Farrell Street Kirawn Qld 4817 or <a href="mailto:sibby@austarnet.com.au">sibby@austarnet.com.au</a>
23-26 August 2005 Wellington, NZ	Human Impacts in the Marine Environment. A conference of the New Zealand Marine Sciences Association	<a href="http://www.nzmsr.org">http://www.nzmsr.org</a>
16-19 September 2005 Auckland, NZ	75th Anniversary of Auckland Shell Club	Ms M. Morley 25 The Boulevarde Pakaranga Auckland 1706 NZ T: 0011 64 9576 8323 Peter Poortman : <a href="mailto:poortman@xtra.co.nz">poortman@xtra.co.nz</a>
21-23 September 2005 Adelaide, SA	2005 Coasts and Ports Australasian Conference – Coastal Living – Living Coast	Plevin and Associates Pty Ltd T: (08) 8379 8222
22 October 2005 West Ryde, Sydney NSW	Annual Shell Show of the NSW Branch The Malacological Society of Australasia	There will be a lecture/discussion program dealing with topics of interest followed by an exhibition of shells taken from some of the finest collections in Australia, featuring many rare shells. Steve Dean T: (02) 9979 9521 E: <a href="mailto:steve@easy.com.au">steve@easy.com.au</a>
<b>2006</b>		
11-12 March 2006 West Ryde, Sydney NSW	Sixth National Shell Show hosted by the NSW Branch of the Malacological Society of Australasia	Information requests to Patty Jansen 27 Winchester Avenue Lindfield NSW 2070 T: (02) 9415 8098 E: <a href="mailto:patty@capricornica.com">patty@capricornica.com</a>
<b>2007</b>		
Northern Summer Belgium	World Congress of Malacology	To be advised

*Please check dates as changes can be made without notice.*



## 2005 Hilltop to Headland Environmental Lecture Series

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

The 2005 Hilltop to Headland lecture series promises to be a great success with a range of exciting topics including local wildlife, native plants, marine life and even economics.

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 has been coordinating the program for many years.

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

Extract from program:

21 September – Underwater Discoveries: George Evatt, Underwater Documentary Maker

19 October – Global Warming: Dr Leslie Hughes, Macquarie University

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## Library Corner

The Checklist of the Recent Mollusca described from New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone was Compiled and Copyright © 2004 by: Hamish G. Spencer, Richard C. Willan, Bruce A. Marshall and Tara J. Murray, last updated 26 July 2004. Please email any corrections and updates to [h.spencer@otago.ac.nz](mailto:h.spencer@otago.ac.nz) Refer also to <http://toroa.otago.ac.nz/pubs/spencer/molluscs/index.html>

The Great Barrier Reef: History, Science, Heritage: James Bowen and Margarita Bowen 2002, The Great Barrier Reef: History, Science, Heritage, Cambridge University Press, 454 pages, maps, illustrations. RRP \$79.95. This book won the Premier's History Award in 2003. James and Margarita Bowen, research fellows at Southern Cross University, have written the first multidisciplinary scientific, cultural and political history of the Great Barrier Reef. Further information: Rachel Faggetter at [Rachel@deakin.edu.au](mailto:Rachel@deakin.edu.au). The book is available from Cambridge University Press at <http://www.cambridge.org/aus/>

Another new book from New Zealand is Natural Enemies of Terrestrial Molluscs edited by G. Barker, Landcare Research, Hamilton, New Zealand, July 2004, HB 0851993192, \$195.00

As part of our Mission Statement the purpose of the library is not only to increase awareness and understanding but also to encourage research and to assist those pursuing their endeavours.

Please note that all books and materials have to date been donated to the Club. In the event that you have any books, articles and periodicals that have ceased to be of use, perhaps you could donate them to the Club to assist with research.

Your gift/donation would be greatly appreciated. Alternatively you may be able to offer them at a reduced price.

For a list of books/materials we have available in the library please refer to recent editions of the Sheller.

The Librarian  
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Seaforth NSW 2092  
[dif3@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dif3@bigpond.net.au)



## New South Wales News

With the permission of the Marine & Coastal Community Network through Tim Allen, we publish the following news articles as prepared by Roberta Dixon, which will be of interest to members. These articles appeared in Waves Vol. 10 No. 3 of Summer 2004.

### **New Draft Zoning Plan for Cape Byron**

Public submissions to the new Draft Zoning Plan and Draft Operational Plan for Cape Byron Marine Park, proposing new regulations for activities within the marine park, closed on 29 November 2004. The Draft Zoning Plan proposes:

- Sanctuary Zones – 27.5%
- Habitat Protection Zones – 19.3%
- General Use Zones – 53%
- Special Purpose Zones – 0.2%

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) is concerned the plan fully protects only 27.5% of the park, leaving almost three quarters open to fishing pressures. As the *Marine Parks Act 1997* states that marine parks should 'conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats', NPA says this requires that most marine parks be fully protected as marine sanctuaries.

Aboriginal communities are concerned that the new draft plan may prevent them fishing in the Cape Byron Marine Park. Although they acknowledge this marine park as the best way to preserve and protect the waters, they believe the Arakawal and other Bundjalung people must be able to use the water for fishing and accessing their traditional foods.

Source: Abridged from a media release by the NSW National Parks Association, 10/08/04; ABC News Online 09/08/04; and NSW Marine Parks Authority Cape Byron Marine Park Zoning Document.

Further information: For a copy of the zoning plan contact NSW MPA on (02) 6639 6200 or via the website <http://www.mpa.nsw.gov.au>.

### **Manning report finally released**

After a three year delay, a suppressed scientific report written by the NSW Government on the marine areas of the mid north coast has just been released. This report will act as the framework for identifying MPAs in the Manning Shelf Bioregion – the area between Stockton Beach (just north of Newcastle) and Nambucca Heads – and recommends a large marine park between Stockton Beach and Forster with additional MPAs to the north. The Manning assessment is one of three bioregional reports whose release has been delayed. Still withheld are those for the Hawkesbury and Bateman's Shelf due for release in April.

Source: Abridged from a media release by the National Parks Association of NSW 27/05/04 and the Great Lakes Advocate 02/06/04.

Further information: For a copy of the Manning Report contact NSW Marine Parks Authority on (02) 6639 6200.

### **Sydney Harbour floor heavily polluted**

A 15-year University of Sydney study has found that while water quality in some parts of the Sydney Harbour is the cleanest it has ever been, sediments on the bottom are among the most polluted in the world. Gavin Birch says sediment beds produced by stormwater run-off channels are the worst affected areas, with dense layers of heavy metals, chlorines and hydrocarbons polluting the harbour floor. He says because the pollutants are trapped in the sediment, people are being lulled into a false sense of security, but that something needs to be done about high levels of toxic chemicals that still enter the harbour from the catchments.

Source: ABC News Online 16/08/04.

Further information: Gavin Birch, University of Sydney on (02) 9351 2821 or [gavin@mail.usyd.edu.au](mailto:gavin@mail.usyd.edu.au).

### **Study looks for balance in coastal development**

The NSW Government and scientists from the CSIRO have launched a five year marine research project along the NSW coast looking at the best ways to allow coastal industries such as fishing, farming and tourism to grow without damaging the environment.

Tony Haymet, CSIRO's Chief of Marine Research, says striking a balance is important and claims this partnership will help pull together the science in order to help the government understand which industries can co-exist. The project is the culmination of 20 years of research and will cost \$1.5 million.

Source: ABC News Online 22/08/04

Further information: Tony Haymet on (02) 6281 8450