



SYDNEY SHELLER

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

Next Meetings:

26th May 2007

David Lunn –
Hawaii, diving & the MSA
(1.30pm for 2pm – 4pm)

23rd June 2007

(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

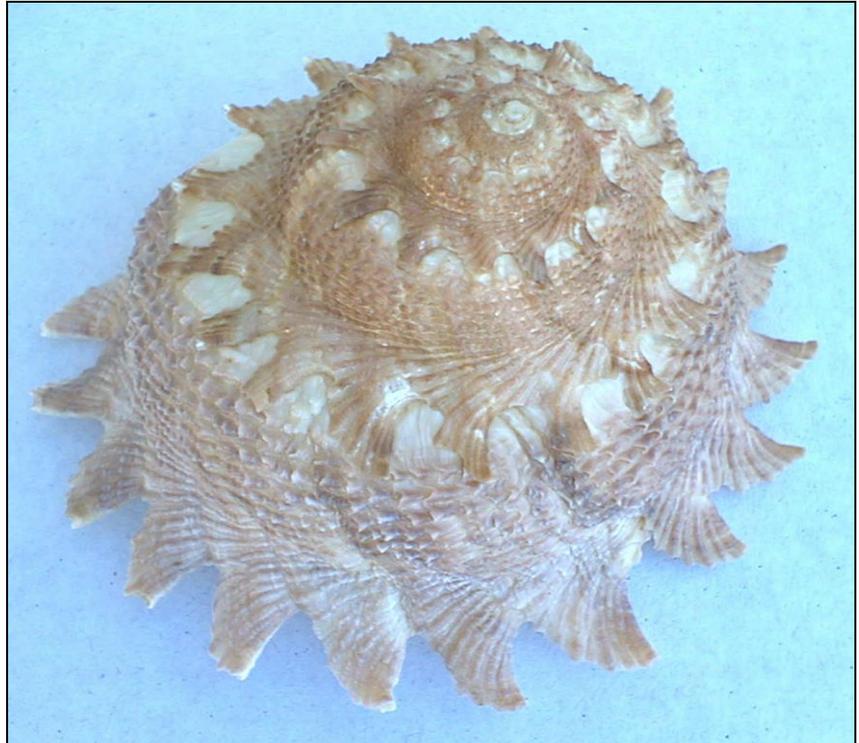
Club Executive:

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.



Astraea heliotropum (New Zealand)



Angaria delphinus (Philippines)

Some of the topics inside:

- Annual Shell Show 2007 Categories
- A new Australian Epitoniidae
- Low tides
- Turbinidae Talk (Cover Photos)



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Meeting Minutes – 24th March 2007

Meeting Opened: 2pm by John Franklin

Finance: The treasurer reported on the current status of the clubs financial affairs and on the current membership.

7th National Shell Show 7-9th March 2008: The President reminded members that the next National Shell Show will be held at Newmarket in Brisbane on the 7th to 9th March 2008.

27th Annual Shell Show 27th October 2007: There was considerable discussion on the likely shell exhibits to be displayed at the next Shell Show and it was decided to select categories members are considering exhibiting at the 2008 National, so we can prepare our national exhibits early. The meeting selected 22 categories for our annual show, including a club display. The final list as amended at the April meeting appears in this Sheller issue. Furthermore it was resolved that members will contribute to the "Club display".

Field Trips: It was noted that some members attended the field trip to Long Bay on the 18th March 2007. Steve & Keith Dean reported on their recent trip to Shell Harbour/Bass Point.

Library: Steve reported on the increasing number of books in the library and available on loan to members.

Meeting Closed at 3.30pm

Meeting Minutes – 29th April 2007

Meeting Opened: 2pm by John Franklin

Welcome: The President welcomed Mr. Ken Graham as a visitor to the meeting. Ken is a research officer of the Dept of Fisheries, now the Dept. of Primary Industries and has for many years worked on research vessels particularly on the Eastern Coast of New South Wales.

Finance: The Treasurer reported that there had been no change in membership figures.

27th Annual Shell Show: The President reported on the number of exhibits discussed at the last meeting and following discussion changes were made to the descriptions of four categories.

Donations: It was noted that the REL Club has donated a \$90.00 dinner voucher and Kim will arrange to collect the voucher and shall also conduct the raffle for the dinner voucher commencing at the May meeting. Kim also reported that at the next meeting a golden cowrie will be raffled. Members thanked Maureen for her gift of this beautiful shell.

General Business: The President reported on a new brochure issued by the NSW DPI fisheries office and advised the bag limit numbers for abalone, cockles, mussels, pipis, oysters both Sydney rock and Pacific flat, scallops and Turban snails, Sydney, Military. A maximum daily bag limit of 20 applies to any invertebrate (including mussels) not listed above.

Permits: It was noted that in order to obtain a research permit from the NSW DPI fisheries office it is a requirement that the applicant have some project in mind for research. It was noted that projects could be: Distribution analysis, surveys, photographic index program, research on any of the shell families including Cypraea, Triphoridae, Collumbellids and minute shells generally.

COA: The President reported on the forthcoming COA Conference and Convention to be held in Portland Oregon between 1-5 August 2007 and referred to the list of shell exhibits to be presented.

Field Trips: Jack Hannon reported on a recent diving trip to Botany Bay with Ashelly Miskelly. They located a rare Cassis, *Amoria undulata*, and *Tylospira scutulata* in 15 to 17 meters of water.

Publications: The President reported on the recent publication of three new shell books and in particular referred to a new Iconography on the Family Pectinidae selling for US\$364.00

Guest Speaker: Ron Moylan reported on his recent attendance at the Paris Shell Convention. It was noted that there were 65 dealers present and that the quality of the shells for sale very high. Ron took the trouble to produce photographs the venue and

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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



the dealer stalls. The members thanked Ron for his most interesting report on the Show.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

Twenty Seventh NSW Shell Show 2007 Competition Categories

No.	CATEGORY	Location	No. Specimens
1.	Shell of the show	World-wide	1
2.	Cassidae	World-wide	15
3.	Conidae	World-wide	20
4.	Conidae	Australian	20
5.	Cypraeidae	World-wide	20
6.	Cypraeidae	Australian	20
7.	Olividae (Including allied groups)	World-wide	20
8.	Mitridae including Vexillum	World-wide	20
9.	Strombidae-Lambis	World-wide	25
10.	Volutidae	World-wide	20
11.	Volitidae	Australian	20
12.	Pectinidae	World-wide	15
13.	Gastropod Family not otherwise listed	Any	15
14.	Favourite shells Gastropods	Any	20
15.	Favourite shells less than 40 mm	Any	20
16.	Shells from one Australian locality	Port Hacking to Broken Bay	15
17.	Empty (dead) collected shells	Any	15
18.	Deep sea shells 100m+	Any	15
19.	Junior collection (to 16y)	Any	15
20.	Shells named by one author	Any	15
21.	Club display	Any	Any
22.	Conchologists of America Award	Refer Notes	

Notes

- Shell Show Rules will apply.
- Shell of the Show entries can either be stand alone or part of another competitive category. Bivalves may be judged separately if enough entrants.
- No display box size restrictions.
- No restrictions on number of exhibits entered.
- Visiting the show is free. Members exhibit free.
- Dealers or collectors, with or without a display table who sell shells: Fee of first \$20 of sales.
- Conchologists of America Award. (Donated by the COA) This prestigious award is for an exhibit with a scientific educational component that best advances the interest in shells and shell collecting. The exhibit should preferably be an entry in one of the competitive categories 2-20, and if possible won its category. If there are no suitable scientific exhibits that advance the interest in shells then no COA award will be issued.
- Individual exhibits can have a competitive element that is judged in the normal way - shell quality, variety, number of specimens etc, plus a non-competitive educational or other interest section that is not judged and may contain additional specimens. For the purpose of judging the COA Award the whole exhibit will be taken into consideration.

Notice of our AGM

To be conducted at 2.00pm 23/6/07

Meeting Minutes – 26th May 2007

Meeting opened 2pm by John Franklin

Apologies: Steve Dean and Peter Pienaar.

Welcome: Mr. David Lum from Hawaii as a visitor to the meeting.



27th Annual Shell Show: The President referred to the Minutes of the last meeting and read out the amendments made to the list of exhibits at our last meeting. It was resolved to accept the amendments and discussion continued on the contributions of shells by members towards the Club display of local New South Wales shells at the forthcoming 7th National Shell Show. It was decided that the contribution of members to the display could be left to our Annual Shell Show, whereat members would submit their contribution to the display.

Secretary: Kim Bishop reported that he had now received the voucher from the WRL club for the free dinner and drinks and will commence to raffle the prize at the next meeting.

General Business:

- On behalf of members the President thanked Maureen Anderson for her kind donation of a "Golden Cowrie" as a prize for the monthly raffle.
- The President tabled an article from the SMH dated 16/5/07 which in effect was a report on the Paris Shell Show and the rather high prices paid for some very rare shells. In particular a *Cypraea mariellae* sold for \$20,000.00. It was noted that the article referred to the famous shell collector Jason Sprague from Melbourne, Victoria.
- The President also tabled a SMH article on Esme Tilbury and her work on shell decorations.
- It was noted that the COA Conference and Convention will be held at Portland Oregon, USA 1-5th August 2007.
- The President reported that the 7th National Shell show will be held in Brisbane 7-9th March 2008.
- It was reported that a new book had been published in 2006 on Tasmanian Shells entitled "A Systematic List of the Marine Mollusca of Tasmania"
- Ron Moylan reported on a recent visit to Sydney by a Darwin member of our club Mr Michael Zografakis.

Guest Speaker: Mr. David Lum the ex-Vice President of the MS. of Hawaii gave a most interesting and informative talk on his diving/ shell collecting experiences in Hawaii. He tabled some interesting shells, including *Cypraea chinensis*, *Cypraea caputserpentis* and the new and rare *Cypraea circularis takahashi* primarily found in 6-9 metres of water at Haleiwa Trench, Oahu. On behalf of the members present, the President thanked David for his contribution and the members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm.

Some low tides--NSW

An analysis showing the lowest tides for the purpose of research, club meeting dates excluded and measured at Fort Dennison. Eastern Standard Time. (Add 1 hour for daylight saving).

Height mm	Date	Time
0.29	28/8/07	Tue. 1.42pm
0.24	29/8/07	Wed. 2.30pm
0.22	30/8/07	Thu. 3.19pm
0.23	31/8/07	Fri. 4.13pm
0.28	01/9/07	Sat. 5.09pm
0.21	26/9/07	Wed. 1.27pm
0.15	27/9/07	Thu. 2.17pm
0.13	28/9/07	Fri. 3.10pm
0.15	29/9/07	Sat. 4.04pm
0.20	30/9/07	Sun. 5.02pm
0.30	24/10/07	Wed. 12.19pm
0.19	25/10/07	Thu. 1.14pm
0.12	26/10/07	Fri. 2.07pm
0.09	27/10/07	Sat. 3.01pm
0.11	28/10/07	Sun. 3.58pm
0.17	29/10/07	Mon. 4.57pm
0.25	30/10/07	Tue. 5.59pm
0.22	23/11/07	Fri. 1.04pm
0.14	24/11/07	Sat. 2.00pm
0.10	25/11/07	Sun. 2.56pm
0.11	26/11/07	Mon. 3.51pm
0.16	27/11/07	Tue. 4.46pm
0.23	28/11/07	Wed. 5.43pm
0.25	22/12/07	Sat. 1.00pm
0.17	23/12/07	Sun. 1.57pm
0.13	24/12/07	Mon. 2.50pm
0.13	25/12/07	Tue. 3.41pm
0.17	26/12/07	Wed. 4.29pm
0.23	27/12/07	Thu. 5.15pm

Tide differences at selected research areas: Zero at Botany Bay, 38min earlier at Cronulla, and 5min earlier at La Perouse.



Turbinidae

A talk by Steve Dean

I chose Turbinidae to talk about because:

Most species live intertidally or in shallow water so are easy to collect. They are the most conspicuous large shells on NSW and other rock platforms. Even just the operculums are spectacular. "Cats eyes" are familiar to most people. Once all the coralline overgrowth and seaweed is cleaned off they are very interesting and attractive shells, many of which most people do not even recognise as Turbinidae. There are not too many species & not many collectors, making getting a comprehensive collection easy and low cost. Many Turbinidae are edible, in Australia eaten by aborigines.

And the final reason - the talk acts as a trigger to force me to sort and clean my own Turbinidae collection, so I can show more interesting specimens during the talk.

When I reviewed the 2006 National Shell Show categories to see what each category description would actually include, I discovered that the common perceptions exhibitors have of what is included is sometimes a subset of what the family title actually represents and sometimes a superset. This was the case for Turbinidae.

Family Tree:

- **Superfamily Trochacea** includes the **Families Trochidae, Turbinidae and** the microshells **Skeneidae**
- **Turbinidae** includes the **9 subfamilies** listed below (the descriptions include some example species)

Micro shell families including **Colloniinae, Gabrieloninae, Mollerinae**

Angariinae: *Angaria delphinus, Angaria tyria* – Loose whorls that can separate completely



Angaria sphaerula

Prisogasterinae: Medium size Trochidae shaped with solid operculum

Liotiinae: *Austroliotia botanica, Austroliotia australis* (There are NSW species)



Liotina peronii

Turbininae: All the turbans and related Genus (There are NSW species)



Turbo cepoides



The Sydney Sheller



Tricoliinae: *Tricolia rosea* etc (like miniature Phasianellinae, and in older publications considered part of that Subfamily)
(There are NSW species)

Phasianellinae: *Phasianella ventricosa* (There are NSW species)

- The subfamily **Turbininae** (Dating back 230 million years) includes Genus:

Turbo: All the large turban shaped shells with sturdy solid spectacular operculums



Turbo argyrostoma perspicosa



Turbo chrysostomus



Turbo petholatus



Turbo cornutus cornutus



Turbo sarmaticus



Turbo torquatus



The Sydney Sheller



Bolma: Similar to Turbo or Trochidae with more ribs and nodules, and often shoulder spines near the suture



Cookia sulcata



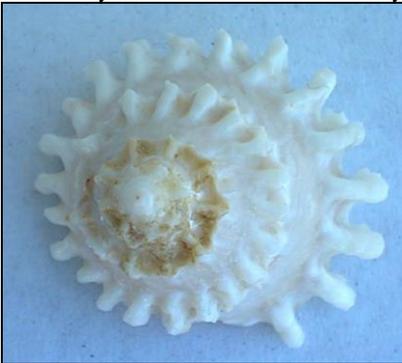
Bolma minutiradiosa

Astralium: *Astralium tentiformis*



Astralium stellare

Astraea: resemble Astralium, and according to Wilson, the only living species is from New Zealand and all the others are incorrectly named and should actually be Astralium



Astraea rotularia

Guildfordia: Look like pink Xenophoridae with spines, all deep water: *Guildfordia yoka*



Guildfordia yoka delicata



Turbinidae other info:

- From an ancient group of gastropods dating back nearly 300 million years
- Medium to very large shells, heavy and solid, most with a solid calcareous operculum that is tight fitting, interior of most species is mother of pearl.
- Turbinellidae sounds like a Turbinidae Genus but is nothing to do with Turbinidae

Genus Turbo (approximately 66 species):

- Shells of a single species are often very variable in pattern, in shoulder sharpness, and nodules/spines vs. smooth, even amongst specimens from a single location and habitat.
- Many of the species look like they could just be geographic colour and pattern variants, until you see their operculums
- Like Trochus many species of Turbo have been carved as cameos and for buttons
- NSW has 18 species of Turbinidae, including 5 species of Turbo
- **Our local *Turbo imperialis* is now again called *Turbo militaris***
(Refer to Des Beechey web site for details www.seashellsofnsw.org.au)

NSW Turbinidae total numbers of species:

Liotiinae 6
Phasianellinae 1
Tricoliinae 2
Astraliium 2
Bolma 3
Turbo 4

Trying to identify specimens? Examples of shells that look like Turbans but aren't:

Cittarium pica (Caribbean) *Diloma sinensis* (South Africa)

Cirsotrema (Elegantiscala) zografakisi

A new Australian Epitoniidae named after one of our members in Darwin.

The shell was dredged from Scott Reef in 500m of water, around 1985, and was brought to light when Michael Zografakis found it, still unnamed, in an old collection.

He sent it overseas for formal naming. Once returned, the type specimen now resides in the Northern Territory Museum, Darwin.

It is a very large and heavy species around 100mm long and 31mm wide, with about 13 whorls and blade like costae which are angled below the suture. There are also 9 spiral chords. The umbilicus is closed. The pictured shell was dead collected.

It most closely resembles *Cirsotrema rugosum*, *Cirsotrema fimbriatulum* and *Cirsotrema mituokai* but is easily distinguished from these species.





Pictures from the NZ National Show, January 2007

By Peter Pienaar

