

# SYDNEY SHELLER

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

## Shell Club of Sydney Mission Statement:

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

## Next Meeting:

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> December  
(normally 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday)

**Location:** Kurnell  
Meet in front of  
Cook's monument

**Time:** 3pm for  
4.43pm low tide

**Activities:** Afternoon tea  
picnic activities - scuba,  
beach shell grit, sea grass  
beds, land snails, and rocky  
intertidal zone.

## Contributions:

Please send contributions to:

**Steve Dean**  
166 Narrabeen Park Parade,  
Mona Vale NSW 2103

Text in electronic form only. Photos, and  
discs by mail, or preferably by email to  
[steve@easy.com.au](mailto:steve@easy.com.au)

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

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Alive at Shark Island, Sydney Harbour  
*Charonia lampas rubicunda* Courtesy Michael Keats

## Some of the topics inside:

- Visit to Shark Is (cover photo)
- Turbinellidae Part 16
- New web site
- Puzzles, Gossip and Classifieds
- 
-



*Pentagonaster dubeni*

## Report on a visit To Shark Island Sydney Harbour

26/10/99

By Michael Keats, Ashley Miskelly and  
Stephanie Clark

As a follow up to visits on 29/6/99 (Longitudinal Study follow up), and 13/8/99 (after the 3/8/99 oil tanker discharge) a visit was made on 26/10/99 to verify the status of the mollusc fauna on the Island.

The visiting party comprised Ms Stephanie Clark and messrs Ashley Miskelly and Michael Keats. Transport arrangements were organised courtesy of the Regional Director of the National Parks & Wildlife Service, Ms Margaret Bailey. Authority to collect was covered by a scientific permit from NSW Fisheries

The conditions for fieldwork were good with a .01 tide at 1516 hours. The weather was slightly overcast with virtually no wind. There were no other people on the Island.

Intertidal collecting effort was focused on a small rocky area on the South East side of the island. This area has a number of different microhabitats, which contain a diverse array of mollusc species.

Four principal types of activity were undertaken on the day. Under water with scuba, weed washing, beach collecting and underside examination of intertidal rocks.

The findings were varied. The most disappointing were the results from the scuba examination. Ashley reported that below 3m there was little life on essentially a sandy bottom. From 3m up to the intertidal zone there was more mollusc life. A large Ranellid, *Charonia lampas rubicunda* (see front cover) was observed and photographed before being returned. A single valve of the Venerid, *Antigonia chemnitzii (materna)* was collected.

Five common echinoid species were observed in and below the littoral zone including the "slate pencil" sea urchin, *Phyllacanthus parvispinus* Tenison-Woods, 1880, *Heliocidaris erythrogramma* (Valenciennes, 1846), *Heliocidaris tuberculata* (Lamarck, 1816), *Holopneustes purapurascens* A.Agassiz, 1972, *Centrostephanus rogersii* (A.Agassiz, 1863).

Despite a healthy abundance of other intertidal sea life, the presence of only five species is not an indication of any ecological disturbance. Unlike Vaucluse Bay about 2 kilometres to the South West where there are many different microhabitats and a total of 37 echinoid species found to



Stephanie & Ashley, weed washing



*Hydatina physis*

date, at Shark island there is only sand at depths greater than 3m. Also being an island in the middle of the harbour, there is more tidal flow and movement, a situation not favoured by sub tidal echinoid species, so species diversity is somewhat limited because of this.

It took 3 years of repeat visits with scuba to Vaucluse Bay to find 37 species, compared to an hour and a half at Shark Island, and the depths using scuba at Vaucluse reached 18m.

The abundance of the five intertidal species found were typical of what one would find in a non-polluted bay environment in new South Wales. In a similar environment for example at the East end of Shoal Bay on the upper central coast, the same five species exist in relative abundance.

In summary, while it was disappointing to find only five different species, it was not due to disturbances in habitat or ecological factors. Given more time and other areas around the Island to explore using scuba, there will no doubt be other echinoid species found.

Weed and algal washings are commonly very productive for molluscs, especially smaller species and among the more unusual finds was a living individual of *Proterato lachryma*. This specimen was large for the species and beautifully marked.

Beach collecting contained no real surprises. A fresh dead *Cypraea moneta* in good condition was the pick of the shell grit. A full list of the species from the visit from all areas examined is attached.

The most rewarding activity was intertidal collecting. The most dramatic find was a group of 6 specimens of *Hydatina physis*, one with egg mass (picture next page). The animals were all clustered together in the shade of a large rock where they would have some protection from dehydration at

very low tide. These animals were photographed. Two further live specimens were observed emerging from weed and light mud on the rising tide.

Other species photographed live included a blue ring octopus, *Haplochaena maculosa*, a brilliant red star fish, *Pentagonaster dubeni* (picture previous page), the tubinid, *Turbo imperialis*, the fissurellid, *Tugali parmophoidea*, the cowrie, *Cypraea clandestina* (picture below), and various colourful soft corals.



Notable species collected dead in the intertidal area included *Strombus mutabilis*, (3 specimens), *Natica gaulteriana*, a single valve of *Chalmys bifrons* (this is probably from a picnic meal!), *Haliotis coccoradiata*, (2 specimens each 53 mm), a single valve of the venerid, *Globovenus capricornia*, the lucinid, *Ctena bella*, and the turrids *Epidera hedleyi* and *Paradaphne botanica*

A listing of all species represented in the 26/10/99 audit is as follows. Several species of chiton were also present but not recorded.

<b>Lottidae</b>	- <i>Patelloida latistrigata</i> (Angas, 1865)	L	- <i>Cypraea caputserpentis</i> Linnaeus, 1758	D	
	- <i>Patelloida petterdi</i> (Tenison Woods, 1876)	L			
	- <i>Patelloidea alticostata</i> (Angas, 1865)	L	<b>Triviidae</b>	- <i>Proterato lachryma</i> (Sowerby, 1832)	L
	- <i>Patelloidea mufria</i> (Hedley, 1915)	L			
<b>Patellidae</b>	- <i>Patella chapmani</i> Tenison Woods, 1876	D	<b>Naticidae</b>	- <i>Natica gaulteriana</i> Recluz, 1844	D
	- <i>Cellana tramoserica</i> (Holten, 1802)	L			
<b>Haliotidae</b>	- <i>Halotis coccoradiata</i> (Reeve, 1846)	D	<b>Ranellidae</b>	- <i>Cabestana spengleri</i> Perry, 1811	L
<b>Neritidae</b>	- <i>Nerita atramentosa</i> Reeve, 1855	L		- <i>Charonia lampas rubicunda</i> (Perry, 1811)	L
	- <i>Smaragdia souverbiana</i> (Montrouzier, 1863)	L	<b>Epitoniidae</b>	- <i>Opalia australis</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	D
<b>Skeneidae</b>	- <i>Microarina surgerea</i> Laseron, 1954	L		- <i>Epitonium jukesianum</i> Forbes, 1852	L
<b>Eatonellidae</b>	- <i>Crassitonella flammea</i> (Frauenfeld, 1867)	L		- <i>Epitonium lyrum</i> (Sowerby, 1844)	D
	- <i>Eatonella atropurpura</i> (Frauenfeld, 1867)	L		- <i>Epitonium delicatulum</i> (Crosse, 1864)	D
<b>Cingulopsidae</b>	- <i>Pseudopisinnia gregaria</i> Laseron, 1950	L		- <i>Epitonium faba</i> (Iredale, 1936)	L
<b>Fissurellidae</b>	- <i>Diodora lineata</i> (Sowerby, 1835)	L	<b>Muricidae</b>	- <i>Chichoreus denudatus</i> (Perry, 1811)	D
	- <i>Montfortula rugosa</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1834)	L		- <i>Lepsiella vinosa</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	D
	- <i>Tugali parmophoidea</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1834)	L		- <i>Morula marginalba</i> Blainville, 1832	L
	- <i>Scutus antipodes</i> Montfort, 1810	L		- <i>Dicathais orbita</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	L
<b>Trochidae</b>	- <i>Herpetopoma aspersa</i> (Phillippi, 1846)	L		- <i>Agnewia tritoniformis</i> (Blainville, 1832)	D
	- <i>Calthalotia fragum</i> (Phillippi, 1848)	D		- <i>Bedeve hanleyi</i> (Angas, 1867)	L
	- <i>Austrocochlea constricta</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	L	<b>Buccinidae</b>	- <i>Cominella eburnea</i> (Reeve, 1846)	L
	- <i>Austrocochlea concamerata</i> (Wood, 1828)	D		- <i>Engina australis</i> (Pease, 1871)	D
	- <i>Clanculus floridus</i> (Phillippi, 1850)	D	<b>Nassariidae</b>	- <i>Nassarius particeps</i> (Hedley, 1915)	D
	- <i>Clanculus clangulus</i> (Wood, 1828)	L		- <i>Nassarius pauperus</i> (Gould, 1850)	D
	- <i>Stomatella imbricata</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	L		- <i>Nassarius burchardi</i> (Dunker in Phillipi, 1849)	D
	- <i>Astele scitulum</i> (Adams, 1854)	D	<b>Collumbellidae</b>	- <i>Pseudomycla dermestoidea</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	D
	- <i>Fossarina patula</i> (A. Adams & Angas, 1863)	L		- <i>Mitrella semiconvexa</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	D
	- <i>Phasianotrochus eximius</i> (Perry, 1811)	L		- <i>Pyrene scripta</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	D
	- <i>Minolops pulcherrima</i> (Angas, 1869)	L		- <i>Anachhis atkinsoni</i> (Tenison Woods, 1876)	L
<b>Turbinidae</b>	- <i>Turbo torquatus</i> Gmelin, 1791	D		- <i>Anachhis fulgida</i> (Reeve, 1859)	L
	- <i>Turbo undulatus</i> Lightfoot, 1786	D	<b>Marginellidae</b>	- <i>Cyrtiscus angasi</i> (Crosse, 1870)	L
	- <i>Turbo imperialis</i> Gmelin, 1791	L		- <i>Ovaginella ovulum</i> (Sowerby, 1846)	L
	- <i>Australium tentoriformis</i> (Jonas, 1845)	L		- <i>Alaginella ochracea</i> (Angas, 1871)	L
	- <i>Australium kesteveni</i> (Iredale, 1924)	L	<b>Rissoellidae</b>	- <i>Rissoella micra</i> (Findlay, 1924)	L
	- <i>Tricola variabilis</i> (Pease, 1861)	L		- <i>Rissoella secunda</i> (Iredale, 1924)	L
<b>Batillariidae</b>	- <i>Batillaria australis</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1854)	D/L	<b>Omalogyridae</b>	- <i>Omalogyra liliputia</i> (Laseron, 1954)	L
<b>Cerithidae</b>	- <i>Cacozeliana granarium</i> (Kiener, 1842)	L	<b>Pyramidellidae</b>	- <i>Hinemoa ligata</i> (Angas, 1877)	L
	- <i>Cacozeliana icarus</i> (Bayle, 1880)	L		- <i>Paracingula brazieri</i> (Angas, 1877)	D
<b>Dialidae</b>	- <i>Diala sulcifera scobina</i> (Laseron, 1950)	L		- <i>Pyrgulina pascoei</i> (Angas, 1867)	L
<b>Planaxidae</b>	- <i>Hinea brasiliana</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	D		- <i>Pyrgulina pseudalveata</i> (Nomura, 1936)	D
<b>Litiopidae</b>	- <i>Alaba opinosa</i> (Iredale, 1936)	D	<b>Runcinidae</b>	- <i>Runcina australis</i> Burn, 1963	L
	- <i>Stylifera translucida</i> (Hedley, 1936)	D	<b>Ilbiidae</b>	- <i>Ilbia ilbi</i> Burn, 1963	L
<b>Littorinidae</b>	- <i>Bembicium auratum</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1834)	L	<b>Mitridae</b>	- <i>Mitra cooki</i> Sowerby, 1874	D
	- <i>Bembicium nanum</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	L		- <i>Mitra carbonaria</i> Swainson, 1822	D
	- <i>Noddilittorina unifasciata</i> Gray, 1826)	L	<b>Turridae</b>	- <i>Austrodrillia angasi</i> (Crosse, 1865)	D
	- <i>Noddilittorina pyramidalis</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833)	L		- <i>Epidera hedleyi</i> (Iredale, 1931)	D
	- <i>Littorina acutispira</i> Smith, 1892	L		- <i>Paradaphne botanica</i> Hedley, 1918)	D
<b>Rissoidae</b>	- <i>Alvania novarensis</i> Frauenfeld, 1867	L	<b>Conidae</b>	- <i>Conus anemone</i> Lamarck, 1810	D
	- <i>Merelina elegans</i> (Angas, 1877)	L	<b>Hydatinidae</b>	- <i>Hydatina physis</i>	L
<b>Anabathronidae</b>	- <i>Anabathron lene</i> (Hedley, 1915)	L	<b>Bullidae</b>	- <i>Bulla botanica</i> (Hedley, 1918)	D
	- <i>Amphitalamus indicatus</i> (Frauenfeld, 1867)	L	<b>Aplysiidae</b>	- <i>Aplysia parvula</i> Guilding in Moerch, 1863	L
	- <i>Pisinna sp</i>	L		- <i>Aplysia synneysis</i> Sowerby, 1869	L
<b>Vittinellellidae</b>	- <i>Pseudolittia micans</i> (A. Adams, 1850)	D	<b>Dendrodorididae</b>	- <i>Dendrodoris denisoni</i> (Angas, 1864)	L
<b>Strombidae</b>	- <i>Strombus mutabilis</i> Swainson, 1821	D	<b>Siphonariidae</b>	- <i>Siphonaria diemensis</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833)	L
<b>Hipponicidae</b>	- <i>Antisabia foliacea</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1835)	D	<b>Nuculidae</b>	- <i>Nucula pusilla</i> Angas, 1877	L
<b>Calyptraeidae</b>	- <i>Crepidula aculeata</i> (Gmelin, 1791)	L	<b>Arcidae</b>	- <i>Babatia pistachia</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	D
<b>Cypraeidae</b>	- <i>Cypraea clandestina</i> Linnaeus, 1758	D		- <i>Anadara trapezia</i> (Deshayes, 1840)	D
	- <i>Cypraea moneta</i> Linnaeus, 1758	D		- <i>Barbatia botanica</i> (Hedley, 1916)	L

<b>Limidae</b>	- <i>Lima strangei</i>	D
<b>Pectinidae</b>	- <i>Chlamys livida</i> Lamarck, 1819	D
	- <i>Pecten fumata</i> Reeve, 1852	D
	- <i>Pecten bifrons</i> Lamarck, 1819)	D
<b>Ostreidae</b>	- <i>Saccostrea glomerata</i> Gould, 1850	L
<b>Anomiidae</b>	- <i>Anomia trigonopsis</i> Hutton, 1877	L
<b>Mytilidae</b>	- <i>Trichomya hirsuita</i> (Lamarck, 1822)	D
	- <i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i> (Lamarck, 1819)	L
	- <i>Musculus alganus</i> Laseron, 1956	L
	- <i>Trichomusculus barbatus</i> (Reeve, 1858)	L
<b>Malleidae</b>	- <i>Vulsella vulsella</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	L
<b>Galeommatidae</b>	- <i>Lasea australis</i> (Lamarck, 1818)	L
<b>Neoleptonidae</b>	- <i>Neolepton concentrica</i> (Laseron, 1953)	L
<b>Lucinidae</b>	- <i>Codakia rugifera</i> (Reeve, 1835)	D
	- <i>Ctena bella</i> (Conrad, 1834)	D
<b>Veneridae</b>	- <i>Irus crenatus</i> Lamarck, 1818	D
	- <i>Tapes dorsatus</i> (Lamarck, 1818)	D
	- <i>Antigonia chemnitzii</i> (Hanley, 1844)	D
	- <i>Globovenus capricornia</i> (Hedley, 1908)	D
<b>Corbulidae</b>	- <i>Corbula stolata</i> (Iredale, 1930)	D
<b>Mactridae</b>	- <i>Spisula trigonella</i> (Lamarck, 1819)	D
<b>Cleidotheridae</b>	- <i>Cleidotheraerus albidus</i> (Lamarck, 1819)	D

## Turbinellidae

### Part 16

By Ulrich Knodel

***Vasum ceramicum*** (Linné, 1758)  
as: ***Murex ceramicus*** Linné, 1758

This species is called the "Ceramic Vase" which surely base on the word "ceramic(s)" but if one likes to use common names - it is surely better to call it "Ceramian Vase" named after the type locality, Ceram Island in Indonesia. This large species is more or less common in several parts of the Indo-Pacific. It lives from Zanzibar and Madagascar to the Polynesian islands and from the Riukiu Islands to Australia.

The shell is thick and heavy, rather strongly spinose; the shape is fusiform with a high erected spire. It is black or dark brown in colour with white mottling. The several spiral cords are often at least partly white.

The size of the smaller adults is 85 - 100mm; the average size of large adults is about 100 - 120mm. Giants exist: up to 143mm (in my collection) Abbott (1959) reported about 148mm.

The habitat is well moved water on hard substrate off the front edge of coral reefs usually at a depth of 1 - 5m (sometimes up to a depth of 10m).



***Vasum ceramicum*** (Linné, 1758)

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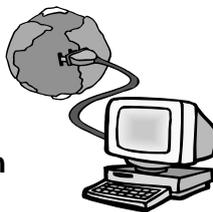
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**Members News, & Buy, Swap & Sell:**

Wanted contributions to this classified section of the sheller. Please get electronic contributions to Steve Dean, or if typing is required to Karen Barnes (See front cover for contact details)

Wanted gossip for this section of the sheller. Tell Steve Dean your news.

Dec Fort Denison Sydney, Low tides:

Day	Date	Time	Meter
Tue	21	1311	0.2
Wed	22	1406	0.1
Thur	23	1500	0.1
Fri	24	1552	0.1
Sat	25	1645	0.1
Sun	26	1738	0.2

The next National shell show will be in Adelaide, 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2000

Hi Steve.

This is a brief message to inform you that we now have a web site, illustrating some of our specimen shells. It is [www.naturesgems.com.au](http://www.naturesgems.com.au)

Please give my regards to the Sydney members in particular Des, Michael, Ron and David and families.

Regards  
Barb Collins  
Amora Shells

*(Ed. The above site contains a full on line shopping cart, database - very impressive. Barb also has two physical stores in Aust.)*

**Things To Think About:**

Why don't they just make mouse-flavoured cat food?

Isn't Disney World a people trap run by a mouse?

Whose cruel idea was it for the word "lisp" to have an "s" in it?

How come 'abbreviated' is such a long word?

Why are they called apartments,

when they're all stuck together?

Why are there 5 syllables in the word "monosyllabic"?

Tell a man that there are 400 billion stars and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint and he has to touch it.

Why does lemon juice contain "artificial ingredients" but dishwashing liquid contains "real lemons"?

Do Roman paramedics refer to IV's as "4's"?

What do little birdies see when they get knocked unconscious?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

I went for a walk last night and my kids asked me how long I'd be gone. I said, "The whole time."