



# SYDNEY SHELLER

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

## Next Meeting:

**22nd March 2003**

(normally 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday)

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

1.30 for 2.00pm

**Topic: Patty - Books**



Long Bay Field Trip. (Rock Platform in front of beach, end of bay. Left to Right: Peter Dean, Keith Dean, Steve Dean, Pieter Honkoop, Ashley Miskelley, Canine Camera & tripod)

## 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](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: Patty Jansen  
Vice Pres: Maureen Anderson  
Secretary: Chris & Karen Barnes

### Honorary:

Raffles: Maureen Anderson  
Treasurer: John Franklin  
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.



*Chryseulima brazieri*.



*Linopyrga pascoei*

## Some of the topics inside:

- Cake and presentation Roster
- Minutes
- Long Bay Field Trip (cover photo)
- Little Bay Field Trip
- Environmental Lectures



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## David Tarrant

### Specimen & Commercial Shells

#### Retail & Wholesale

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

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Coffs Harbour 2450

**02 6652 6104**

## Shells to Swap:

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

**Check out our  
club's new web site:**

[www.sydneyshellclub.net](http://www.sydneyshellclub.net)

## Ron Moylan

[  
Solomon Island  
ζ χ ι  
Specimen Shells

**02 9949 4241 Tel.  
02 9907 9523 Fax.**

## Easynet ISP

Owner Steve Dean  
(Sheller Editor)  
[steve@dean.as](mailto:steve@dean.as)  
+61 2 9437 9290

Is your web address  
one of those long  
.mus or .gov types?

We can get you one that is short and  
points to the same web pages.

## Cake roster

March	Adrian
April	Michael
May	Ron
June	Chris

## Presentation Plan

March	Des - Website
April	Patty - Books
May	Michael -Kangaroo Is
June	Ron - Swains

VISITING – PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
*Don't forget to call in on..*

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John Franklin  
51 Grandview Grove  
Seaforth, NSW  
Australia 2092

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)  
26 Malga Ave, Roseville Chase NSW 2069

## Next Issue Preview:

### Dredging in Broken Bay



Live Marginellidae



## An interesting find at Long Bay

By Michael Keats

The NSW Branch of the MSA held the 2002 Christmas picnic at Long Bay on the 21<sup>st</sup> December. The low tide was late in the afternoon with a suggested get together time of 3.00 p.m.

As the area is "off limits" for live collecting I focussed my efforts to extracting as much as I could from the very rich beach wash and grit on the north side of the bay, a few metres east of the boat ramp.

"My bag" of goodies was impressive with great variety. (Lots of *Cypraea*, *Conus*, Trochid, Collumbellid and Epitonid species. The quality of the material is also very acceptable. The find of the day for me was a single specimen of the Thaid, *Pinaxia versicolor* (Gray, 1839). The collected specimen is 11 mm in length.

Obtaining an ID for this little beast took some research. The key document which helped was one of Bernard Cotton's publications for the Malacological Club of Victoria, dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 1956 "Publication No. 1 Family Thaididae". The illustration tends to exaggerate the diagnostic features which is a help. Cotton's description was very simple. 'Variegated purple. Yellowish, narrow brown spiral bands. Three-quarters of one inch. Q., Caloundra'

Armed with this information I then consulted Barry Wilson's Australian Marine Shells Vol 2. If ever there was a case for not relying on colour as a guide this was it! Barry's choice of material to illustrate this species must be at the opposite extreme of the colour range to my specimen. It is bright yellow! His description is more helpful and I am now 90% sure of the ID.

It reads "Thin-shelled, ovate to obconical, spire low, body whorl inflated and with sharply angulate shoulder, siphon canal short, wide, open; suture slightly channelled, with a weakly nodulose, irregular sub-sutural rib; sub sutural ramp steep, spirally striate, shoulders coronate, at least on the early whorls; aperture wide, outer lip thin, columella smooth. Yellow-orange with darker flames at the shoulders and spiral rows of short brown lines encircling the body whorl.

2.3 cm. Indo –West Pacific; Barrow I., W.A to Central NSW

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## Also at the Long Bay Field Trip

By Steve Dean

Different members went to different areas around the bay. At the head of the bay there is a beach and some people focused on the shell grit on this beach. The most interesting finds here included a few *Marinella haswelli*. (This is the only chocolate coloured Margin in NSW most of the 48 or so species are white or cream, and three species have pale bands).

At the northern end of the beach there is a rock platform with suitable rocks for turning. The most common species here was *Cypraea caputserpentis* although many had very worn dorsums due to chemicals in a storm water drain that runs over them at this end of the beach. There were a number of interesting small shells observed here, including: *Linopyrga pascoei* and *Chryseulima brazieri*. (See front cover)

The bay is long and thin, hence its name. Half way along the northern rock platform is a boat ramp over rock, and next to it a sandy beach covered in small shells. (This is where Michael found the shells referred to in his article) The rock platform in front of this small beach has many good rocks to look under. Here there was a good number of *Elatrivia merces* alive, some juvenile some mature. There were also many *Conus anemone* in the sand under the rocks.



Ashley went for a dive in the bay to see what was there. He said it was full of sting rays. He brought back some shells to photograph at the shores edge, including *Phasianella ventricosa* alive. None of us had seen these alive in Sydney before.



## Field Day 16/02/03 Notes and Observations

By John Franklin

Little Bay is located behind Prince Henry Hospital (the old Coast Hospital) and adjoins the Coast Golf Course. Literally the bay is surrounded by Golf Courses, with St. Michaels Golf Club to the north and Randwick Golf Club to the south.

The area forms steep to gentle grassy slopes to a sandy beach. In recent times the bay has become rather shallow due to the sand being washed in from the ocean.

Observations took place under a rather dull sky with a low tide occurring at 3:15pm on the 16th February 2003.

### Class Gastropoda

#### **Turbinidae:**

*Astraea tentoriiforme* (Jonas 1845)  
*Astrarium kesteveni*, Iredale 1924  
*Turbo imperialis*, Gmelin 1791  
*Subnivalia undulata* (Lightfoot 1786)  
*Nivalia torquata* (Gmelin 1791)

#### **Nacellidae:**

*Cellana tramoserica* (Holten 1802)

#### **Lottiidae:**

*Patelloida alticostata* (Angas 1865)

#### **Haliotidae:**

*Haliotis rubra rubra*, Leach 1814

#### **Fissurellidae:**

*Scutus antipodes*, Montfort 1810

#### **Trochidae:**

*Clanculus brunneus*, A. Adams 1853  
*Clanculus clanculus* (Wood 1828)  
*Austrocochlea concamerata* (Wood 1828)  
*Austrocochlea porcata* (A. Adams 1853)  
*Cantharidella picturata* (A. Adams & Angas 1864)  
*Gena impertusa* (Burrows 1815)

#### **Neritidae:**

*Nerita atramentosa*, Reeve 1855

#### **Planaxidae:**

*Hinea brasilana* (Lamarck 1822)

#### **Littorinidae:**

*Nodilittorina unifasciata*, Gray 1826  
*Nodilittorina acutispira*, Smith 1892

#### **Cypraeidae:**

*Cypraea caputserpentis*, Linneus 1758

#### **Cassidae:**

*Semicassis labiata* (Perry 1811)

#### **Ranellidae:**

*Charonia lampas rubicunda* (Perry 1811)

#### **Muricidae:**

*Bedevea hanleyi* (Angas, 1867)  
*Agnewia tritoniformis* (Blainville 1832)  
*Morula marginalba*, Blainville 1832  
*Dicathais orbita*, Gmelin 1791

#### **Columbellidae:**

*Mitrella tayloriana* (Reeve 1859)

#### **Siphonariidae:**

*Siphonaria diemenensis* (Quoy & Gaimard 1833)

### Class Bivalvia

#### **Veneridae:**

*Irus crenatus* (Lamarck 1818)

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## 2003 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. Presented by Warringah Council, the series involves environmental experts presenting free community based talks and workshops on a range of environmental topics.

The 2003 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 who has been coordinating the program for the past seven years.

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



Venue: Warringah Council Chambers  
Civic Drive, Dee Why

Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

Cost: Free. Donations are welcome

Enquiries: Environment Education Team  
(02) 9942 2542

Entry is free.

19th March 2003  
Can Ecology and Economics be Integrated?  
Jack Munday — Veteran Environmentalist

16th April 2003  
Attracting Birds to your Backyard  
Tony Saunders — Avi Faunal Consultants

21st May 2003  
Platypus Conservation  
Dr Tom Grant — Honorary visiting Fellow, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Science, University NSW

18th June 2003  
What's Happening to our Bushland?  
Conservation and Land Management Team — Warringah Council

16th July 2003  
Water Conservation in the Home  
Steve Baxter — Manager, Marketing and Customer Relations, Sydney Water

20th August 2003  
Sustainable use of the Australian Continent  
Dr Mary White — Local Author

17th September 2003  
Marine Ecology, Bio-physical Interactions in the Sea  
Dr Arthur Dye — Deputy Director, Centre for Research on Ecological Impacts of Coastal Cities, University of Sydney

15th October 2003  
What's Happening with our Creeks and Waterways?  
Catchment Management Team — Warringah Council

19th November 2003  
Flesh to Flashes. Fabulous Opal Fossils from Lightning Ridge.  
Mr Henk Godthelp — School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Science, University NSW

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## Questionnaire:-

### John Franklin

Set out below are questions, the answers to which should be published in the next issue of the Sheller. The purpose of the exercise is to stimulate interest and research. Having regard to the requirements of the Dept. of Fisheries and other institutions for the issue of a permit, perhaps one day your research could lead to the issue of a Certificate of Merit, even a degree. Should any member have questions (with answers) that they feel could make a contribution, please advise.

### A. Early Literature

- Q1** The first illustrated book on shells was published in Rome in 1681.  
(a) Who was the author?  
(b) What was the title of the work?
- Q2** In 1685 Martin Lister published an illustrated book to help readers identify shells.  
(a) What was the title of this publication?



- Q3** In 1742 a Frenchman published a very popular book on shells.  
 (a) Who was he?
- Q4** Carl von Linnaeus conceived a system of nomenclature.  
 (a) What was the system?  
 (b) When did he publish his book?  
 (c) Why was it important?
- Q5** Who was the author of "Delight of Eyes and Mind", in six volumes (1760-73)?

## B. Molluscs

- (a) *Phylum mollusca* is the largest in the animal kingdom. True or false?
- (b) *Phylum mollusca* is divided into several classes. Name six in the order of most primitive first.
- (c) The *visceral mass* of a mollusc's body contains the circulatory, digestive, reproductive and excretory organs. Name four other essential parts.
- (d) Located at the back of the mouth of a mollusc's body is the pharynx containing the radula.  
 (i) What is the structure of the radula?  
 (ii) Why is the structure so important?
- (e) The heart pumps haemolymph (blood); what two respiratory substances does it convey through the body?
- (f) If a shell coils from left to right, it can be said to be ..... ?
- (g) If a shell coils from right to left, it can be said to be ..... ?
- (h) The operculum can be thin or thick, what two substances/properties can it consist of?
- (i) Whilst shells are formed by the mantle secreting conchiolin consisting of calcium carbonate, the cells in the mantle secrete other substances. What are these substances and why are they so important?
- (j) (i) Name three kinds of layers of a shell.  
 (ii) Cowries and very smooth shells do not possess one of these layers. Which layer is missing in these shells?

## Field Trip Guide to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003

### John Franklin.

TIDE DETAILS: So that members may maximise their research, we note the following weekend tide table to 30 June 2003. The tides have been selected at 0.4m or less.

Saturday	1st March 2003	0.3	2:48pm
Sunday	2nd March 2003	0.3	3:24pm
Saturday	15th March 2003	0.4	1:24pm
Sunday	16th March 2003	0.3	2:05pm
Saturday	22nd March 2003	0.3	6:09am
Saturday	22nd March 2003	0.4	6:13pm
Sunday	23rd March 2003	0.4	7:12am
Saturday	29th March 2003	0.4	12:45pm
Sunday	30th March 2003	0.3	1:15pm
Saturday	12th April 2003	0.4	10:56am
Sunday	13th April 2003	0.3	11:43am
Saturday	19th April 2003	0.3	3:58pm
Sunday	20th April 2003	0.4	4:45pm
Saturday	26th April 2003	0.4	11:20am
Sunday	27th April 2003	0.4	11:58am
Saturday	17th May 2003	0.39	2:47pm
Saturday	14th June 2003	0.4	1:34pm

Please note that there can be discrepancies between compilations prepared by different organisations and further that meteorological and local conditions may cause tide heights and times to differ. The above figures therefore represent only a guide as to the best times to conduct observations and research.



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## Shell Club Minutes 23/11/2002.

The meeting was opened by P Jansen at 2.00 pm.

### Field Trips

M. Keats reported on a trip to Boat Harbour.

P. Jansen reported on a trip to Shell Harbour and Bass Point.

The meeting decided that the Christmas Field trip would be to Long Bay, Malabar on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December and the social function would be held at the Hawks Nest Restaurant of RELC on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

John Franklin to inform members not present at the meeting.

### Presentation

Ashley Miskelly on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.

Ashley talked about the indigenous red crabs and their life cycle, the robber crabs (or coconut crabs) and showed some fabulous slides. Ashley discussed one of his pet interests: the black plate urchins, which inhabit the island.

The meeting showed its enjoyment and appreciation of Ashley's presentation with a round of applause.

### General Business

Michael Keats will send off a letter of thanks to Sir Rupert Myers for allowing the club to auction the late Lady Io Myers' collection with proceeds going to the club.

Letter from Tom Caddey of Tathra wanting membership details.

### Meeting closed at 2.47pm

C. & K. Barnes  
Secretary

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## Shell Club Minutes 25/01/2003.

The meeting was opened by P Jansen at 2.10 pm.

### Field Trips

A field trip is planned for Little Bay on Sunday 16th February at 12 noon.

### Presentation

5 minute members talks:

S. Clarke discussed part of her PhD research project on the Population of Western Sydney Snails on the Cumberland Plains

J. Dunkerley talked about a form "glivella" (fewer black streaks, more inflated) of *Cypraea isabella* Linnaeus, 1758.

M. Keats initially talked about land snails from the Strickland forest extension walk and secondly, about finds from Long Bay including *Pinaxia versicolor* Gray, 1839 and *Recluzia hargravesi* Cox, 1870.

C. Barnes displayed and discussed shells from Long and Little Bays, including, *Cypraea poraria* Linnaeus, 1758, *Cypraea fimbriata* Gmelin, 1791 and a 43.3mm specimen *C. caputserpentis* Linnaeus 1758, also a specimen of *Hydatina royana*

R. Moylan talked about a recent visit to East Diamond Island and Lihou reef where he collected *Cymbiola perplicata* (Hedley, 1902), up to 96mm in the deeper water outside the lagoon, though the current world record still stands at 103.4mm.

P. Jansen talked about the family visit to Victoria, including Port Campbell, near the Twelve Apostles. A rock platform at low tide was found to have *Conus anemone* Lamarck, 1810, and various Nudibranchs in pools.

S Dean talked about a Museum dredging trip In the Ocean near Sydney and in Broken Bay.

### Meeting closed at 3.32pm

C. & K. Barnes  
Secretary

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