



# SYDNEY SHELLER

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

## Next Meeting:

**23rd October 2004**

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

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

9.00am to 5.00pm  
(Public 11am to 4.30pm)

**Topic: Annual Shell Show**

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.



*Conus paupilliferus* on eggs, underside of rock, intertidal  
observed during club field trip for photography at Long Reef

## Some of the topics inside:

- Long Reef Photo Field Trip (Cover photo)
- Cabbage Tree Bay
- Cypraea Cribraria Fallax/Haddnighiae
- Talk by Phil Colman
- Our annual shell show is different



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

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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

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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  
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**02 6652 6104**



## Shell Club of Sydney Annual Shell Show Update.

If you don't normally make it to Sydney for our local shell show, this is the year to come.

### What makes this one 'Bigger than Ben Hur'?

-  Shell Dealers - One international and one WA dealer confirmed, two more interstate dealers discussing attending.
-  Morning sessions with three guest speakers for shell enthusiasts
-  The Coastal Environment Centre has put out invitations to schools and other youth groups and is providing an hour and a half children's program in the afternoon (targeted primarily at 11-14 year olds, younger children welcome)
-  As a practice for the 2006 show we have sent out invitations to a small number of other youth groups, but we only want a few attendees this year so this is low key. (More for next year, and lots for March 2006)
-  Double the number of exhibitors
-  There are already four youth exhibitors registered. If you have children or grand children encourage & help them to exhibit
-  Buy swap and sell segment, where you can gain or get rid of additional species.

## Annual Shell Show Program in detail:

23rd October 2004

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

- 9.00 - 11.00 Display and Dealer set up.
- 11.00 - 12.30 Dealer tables open for selling
- 11.00 - 11.30 Lecture 1      Mr Chris Illert      Shell modelling using computer algorithms
- 11.30 - 12.00 Lecture 2      Dr John Walker      Shells can poison you. Parasites, toxins and other nasties.
- 12.00 - 12.30 Lecture 3      Mr George Evatt      Renowned underwater filmmaker. Currently making a film about seashells.
- 12.30 - 2.00 Lunch break own arrangements. The club has a good low cost bistro with different sections, Asian, roasts, salads
- 12.30 - 2.00 Judging of exhibits. Exhibit area closed.
- 2.00 - 4.30 View spectacular shells in the competitive displays.
- 2.00 - 3.30 Children's' Program  
(Targeted primarily to 11 to 14 year olds and younger children, run by the Coastal Environment Centre)
- 2.00 - 3.30 Bring your shells along and have them identified. Also dealer tables selling shells
- 3.30 - 4.30 Buy Swap and sell, get a bargain.
- 4.00 Competitive Display winner presentations
- 4.30 - 5.00 Pack up exhibits. Close

If your young relatives have not been to visit the Coastal Environment Centre at Narrabeen with their school, it is coming to the west for our show.

**!!!!MEMBERS BRING A CAKE – and be prepared to help!!!!**

#### As a reminder of Costs:

Adult members free venue entry if entering competitive displays, \$5 penalty if not exhibiting. Child members free venue entry.  
Adult non-members \$4 venue entry. Child non-members \$2 venue entry. (Come all or part of the day)

Adult members \$4 per competitive display. Child members no cost for competitive displays.

Dealer table \$20

Buy swap and sell spot \$10





## Cabbage Tree Bay

By John Franklin

In the beginning Cabbage Tree Bay (just 15 kilometres north of the Sydney CBD on the New South Wales coast) must have been like paradise to the Guringal (or Ku-ring-gai) people.

Even today after all that time there are many unique habitat types such as seagrass meadows subtidal reefs and kelp forests. The Bay being horseshoe in shape has a main beach known as Shelly Beach and a much smaller beach called Fairy Bower.

Recognised both for its cultural and environmental value the Bay became part of the National Estate in 1991. Again on the 31st March 2002 the Bay was designated an Aquatic Reserve thus protecting the area of water from extractive uses.

This marine sanctuary or *no take zone* means that people are not permitted to fish by any method, destroy marine life, or collect dead or alive marine organisms, including empty shells.

Thus the activities that are permitted include snorkelling, swimming, diving and other passive uses.

Renowned for its diversity and abundance of fish the Bay boasts one of the largest resident populations of protected weedy sea dragons and a number of protected and threatened species including the black rock cod, elegant wrasse and grey nurse shark. The Bay provides habitat to the blue groper and a number of transient tropical fish species and is an important foraging ground for Manly's endangered populations of little penguins and long-nosed bandicoots.

Unfortunately shell-wise, there was not a great deal to be observed, although there were the usual shells for the Sydney region inhabiting the area. There was little on the sandy floor of the Bay at low tide and on the rocks we observed ***Cabestana spengleri*** (Perry, 1811), ***Morula marginalba*** (Blainville, 1832), ***Hydatina physis*** and several species of rock limpets. This is rather in contract to the general abundance of the marine life notably black rock cod, the blue devil fish seahorses and seadragons.



*Hydatina physis*

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## Long Reef Field Trip August Meeting



Three separate large specimens of *Charonia lampas rubicunda* were observed. A good sign for the health of Long Reef



## Mr Phillip Colman, Guest Speaker

Summarised by John Franklin

In introducing Mr Colman to the meeting the President remarked that Mr Colman, apart from his long history of over thirty-two years as a volunteer at the Australian Museum, was indeed, along with Isobel Bennett A.O., responsible for the establishment of Long Reef Aquatic Reserve in 1980. This Reserve was the first of its kind in Australia.

In his history as a naturalist, marine lover and conservation pioneer, Mr Colman was ten years of age when his scientific career came under the guidance of Elizabeth Pope and to some extent, the then current curator of molluscs at the Australian Museum, Joyce Allan.

Following the end of the Second World War the next decade brought to fruition several books on Australian marine life, which to some extent has not been emulated to date.

The forerunner in the series of publications was William Dakin's classic book on *Australian Seashores*, first published in 1952. Both Isobel Bennett and Elizabeth Pope assisted with this work. It was also about this time that Joyce Allan produced *Australian Shells*, followed by *Cowry Shells of World Seas* in 1956. In 1958 Elizabeth Pope published *Exploring Between Tidemarks*.

It was also in the mid-fifties that Mr Colman acquired the friendship of Mr Gilbert Whitley, F.R.Z.S., who was Curator of Fishes at the Australian Museum at the time.

Undoubtedly these influences were instrumental in leading Mr Colman into an outstanding marine conservation career as well as enhancing his interest as a naturalist.

Mr Colman was indeed very well qualified to discuss Long Reef as he has lived only a stone's throw from the reef all his life. Our meeting took place in the Old Coast Guard building located at the northern end of Long Reef Headland. The building has had many uses over the years, mainly as a surfboat shed, but now the building has been completely renovated making it weatherproof for the purpose of providing meeting facilities for various educational and other groups.

There are many groups involved in the administration of the building and these include NSW Fisheries, Fishers Watch, Warringah Council, Reefcare and Project Aware.

The reef was declared in 1980 a Marine Reserve but now there is some discussion concerning the possible establishment of making the reef an endangered ecological community (E.E.C.). The only existing E.E.C. is the Murray Darling River system. Whilst the reef provides a home for research and education, Mr Colman advised that very little research detail has been made available. Apparently Elizabeth Pope in 1943 published a paper in the Proceedings of the Royal Zoological Society, which was a major study and perhaps the only study to date on the reef. Clearly more work needs to be done in this area.

However it does appear that through Fisheries, a study has recently commenced on *Homisira*, the unmistakable species of seaweed that looks like a string of large yellow-olive beads. This study will extend over five years with visits to the reef for monitoring and observation every three months.

Mr Colman referred to the molluscan history of the reef and in particular, referred to *Turbo imperialis* Gmelin, 1791 synonym: *T. militaris* Reeve, 1848. Thirty years ago that shell could not be found on the reef but today it was very plentiful. No doubt ecological change occurs all the time but further research needs to be done in order to ascertain these reasons for change. At the conclusion of the meeting the President, on behalf of members, thanked Mr Colman for his very informative contribution.



Long Reef Rock Platform observation and photo session prior to the August meeting. Some of the resulting photos are shown in this Sheller.







# The Sydney Sheller



Large *Mitra carbonaria* (worn whorls)



*Dicathais orbita* on eggs. Several were observed on eggs. (Note - Early October after rough weather, large numbers of empty *Dicathais* egg cases washed up Sydney beaches, so this must be one of the times of year they breed.)



This *Scutus antipodes* has done a poor job of keeping its mantle over its shell and stopping other species getting a hold on it. The oyster on its shell is alive; probably a juvenile *Saccostrea glomerata*. As the oyster grows it will become harder for the *Scutus* to move about under rocks and in cracks.





# The Sydney Sheller



*Bullinula lineata*



In one small area there were around 200 freshly smashed *Turbo imperialis*. Someone obviously collected them then smashed them for their meat. This is a protected reef, so if you see anyone doing major damage of this type call the police, the local council rangers, or department of fisheries, as all will promptly turn up, identify the offender(s) and take legal action against them





## Cypraea Cribraria Fallax/Haddnighetae

John Franklin

Following a visit to the Adelaide National Shell Show in March this year arrangements had been made to visit the south west of Western Australia.

I have always been fascinated with the genus Cribrarula, Strand 1929 and my fascination had only been heightened by several beautiful species of the genus on sale at the show. In particular I was drawn to gem specimens of *Cypraea cribraria* (Linné 1758), *Cypraea cribraria exmouthensis* (Melvill 1888), a variation of that shell, *Cypraea cribraria rotnestensis* (Raybaudi 1978) and *Cypraea fallax* (Smith 1881) originally considered as a cribraria variant.

My real interest was triggered by the *Cypraea fallax* (Smith 1881) and its synonym know as *Cypraea haddnighetae* (Trenberth 1973). It was in 1973 that both Sisters Hadrill and Knight of the New Albany Hospital, Albany W.A. found several specimens of what Paul Trenberth later described as *Cypraea haddnighetae*.

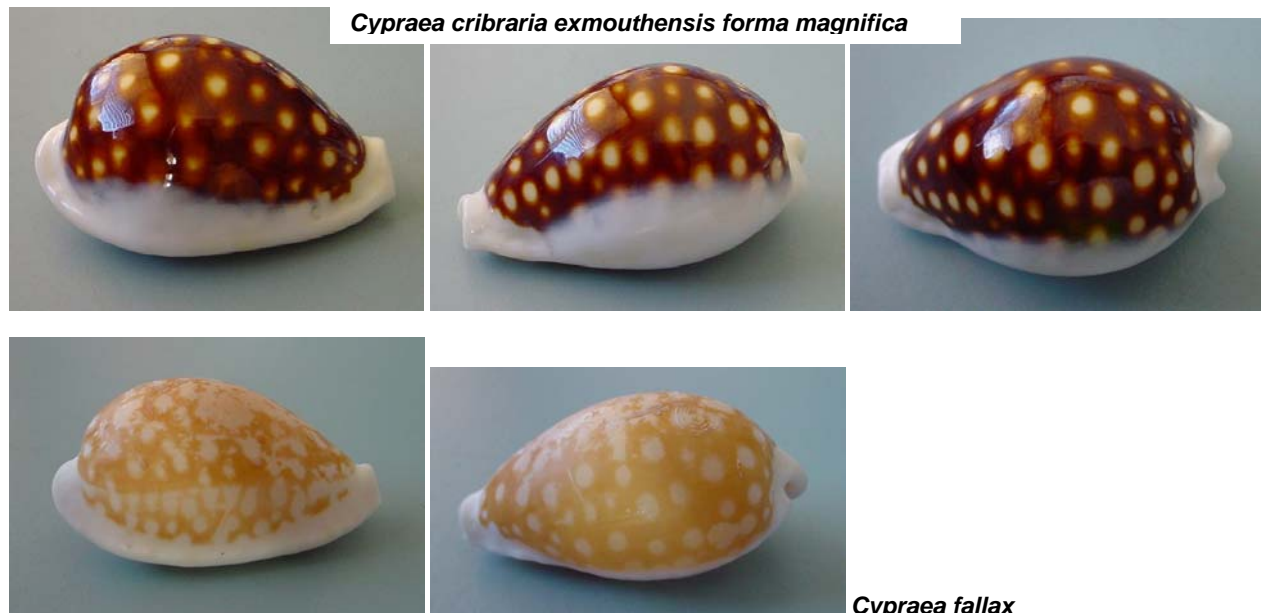
No doubt these specimens were located under rocks amongst sponges at low tide or indeed, some may have been collected beached. It has subsequently been shown that the distribution of these shells is indeed restricted to the Albany area.

Apart from the light orange-yellow colour, the pronounced teeth, wider aperture and pyriform shape, it is the dorsal spotting that really attracted my interest.

With respect to the dorsal spotting (lacunae) some comparison can be made between *Cypraea cribraria* and *Cypraea fallax* as follows:-

Features	<i>Cypraea fallax</i>	<i>Cypraea cribraria</i>
Dorsal spots hazy, indistinct	Yes	No
Spots small in relation to shell size	Yes	No
Spots more uniform in shape and distribution	Yes	No
Spots more widely separated	Yes	No
Spots sharply demarcated	No	Yes
Spots sharply circumscribed	No	Yes
Spots slightly depressed below dorsal surface	No	Yes

I was not as lucky as Sister Hadrill and Sister Knight whilst walking along the beach at Albany. However, on the way back to Perth, I stopped off at Peter Ignotti's Museum and obtained a gem specimen of *Cypraea cribraria exmouthensis forma magnifica*. The dorsal coating is very dark and the dorsal spots yellow in this deep-water specimen.



In the Lorenz and Herbert book there are six species described along with several forms and variations. Whilst the validity of some of these species is a matter for debate, perhaps the future will show an increased recognition of the various forms and variations.

### References

Cowry Shells of World Seas, J. Allan 1969  
 Australian Shells News No. 11, July 1975, C.M. (Pat) Burgess  
 A Guide to Worldwide Cowries, Felix Lorenz, Jr and Alex Hubert.



## Hilltop To Headland Environmental Lecture Series 20 October 2004 Molluscs: Friend, Foe or Both?

Dr John Walker, Westmead Hospital

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 recognise 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.



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## Minutes of the AGM of the NSW Branch of the Malacological Society of Australasia Limited ACN 067 894 848 Held in a Meeting Room at Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club 26/06/2004.

The meeting was opened by P Jansen at 2.10 pm.

All office bearers with the exception of president were unanimously re-elected.  
Following discussion John Franklin was elected president.

A program of guest speakers and field days was discussed, covering the upcoming six months.

Annual accounts were not available for this meeting (see August meeting)

Meeting closed at 2.35pm. C. Barnes, Secretary

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## Shell Club Minutes 26/06/04

The meeting was opened J. Franklin at 2.50 pm.

### General Business

J. Franklin reported on the venue progress for the National Shell Show Sydney 2006. John had discussions with management at RELC, and the Auditorium would now be available for the Sunday during the "Show".

Catherine Kindt has joined the Brisbane branch of the MSA.

The National Congress is being held in Perth from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2004.

P. Jansen reminded the meeting that categories for the upcoming National Shell Show need to be discussed.

### Presentation

D. Beechey: Seashells of New South Wales an update of the web site <http://seashellssofnsw.org.au>

Des discussed a number of families including volutes and marginellids using a data projector to illustrate specimens and talked about the inclusion of more families and further updates for the site.

Meeting closed at 3.40pm. C. Barnes, Secretary





## Shell Club Minutes 24/07/04

The meeting was opened J. Franklin at 2.04 pm.

### General Business

M. Anderson has now been appointed to the steering committee for the Sixth National Shell Show, Sydney 2006.

C. Barnes is the MSA, NSW Branch representative.

The next meeting is to be held at Long Reef. The field trip begins at 11am to be followed by the monthly meeting at 2pm.

Phil Colman has agreed to speak at this meeting.

Steve Dean has been appointed as Shell Show Manager for the annual show. Advertising and registration forms have been arranged.

Competition categories were discussed and finalised.

The NSS Sydney 2006. Discussed junior categories photographs, stamps etc.

Library: We are still attempting to procure some back copies of the MSA journal.

**Presentation:** Ron Moylan- Trip to the Conchologists of America 2004 Convention held at Tampa, Florida USA.

Ron also attended the Yeppoon Shell show and discussed the exhibits, visitors and commented that he had enjoyed the weekend at the Show and the Bowling Club dinner.

Next Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> August 2004, at 2.00pm Long Reef Education Centre

Meeting closed at 3.38pm. C. Barnes, Secretary

## Shell Club minutes 28/08/04



The meeting was opened by the president, J. Franklin who took the opportunity to welcome Phil Colman as the host and guest speaker. Meeting was held at the Old Coast Guard building located at the northern end of Long Reef Headland, now an education centre. (Ground floor of the yellow building in the above picture)

Apologies: S. Montague, M. Anderson, K. Emery, P. Pienaar and C. Barnes.



## General Business

The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed including the production of the financial accounts. In that regard the President reported that the Treasurer had made the accounts available and tabled those accounts for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 at this meeting.

Motion by Ron Moylan and seconded by Steve Dean that the accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004 be accepted and passed.

It was noted that the credit balance as at the end of the financial year was \$309.35.

It was noted that the Secretary will send a copy of the accounts to the secretary Chris Ann Urquart of the MSA.

Raffles: It was noted that the response to the request for prizes for raffles had been well responded to, to date.

Cake- John Dunkerley to bring cake at the next meeting.

The President then introduced Mr Phil Colman who gave a very interesting talk on the reef.

The meeting concluded at 4pm. C. Barnes, Secretary

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## Shell Club Minutes 25/09/04

The meeting was opened J. Franklin at 2.06 pm. John welcomed visitors to meeting.

### General Business

J. Franklin reported on the photographic walkabout at Long Reef last month, adding that two articles would be presented in the coming edition of the "Sheller". The meeting agreed after some discussion to have an annual visit to Long Reef so as a long-term study of the platform environment and its residents could be carried out.

Membership: It was noted that annual fees are due, and a number of members had already paid.

J. Franklin reported on the upcoming annual shell show; 23rd October 2004 at RELC 11.00am, as S. Dean was unavailable.

Refreshments, advertising and registration were all discussed and agreed upon. Registration will take place on the day to simplify things, as the categories have already been reduced as per group requests.

The 2006 National Shell Show Sydney: J. Franklin reported on some gamesmanship from Wayne Rumball S.A, stating that the South Australian collectors intended to bring home a "boot load of trophies", John suggested the challenge was "on" and asked "I wonder, do they still make two door cars with no boots?"

Public relations: Note that both the Australian and the Kids Museum of Merrylands are displaying our laminated poster in the respective search and discovery areas for children.

Raffles: Please bring along any donations as only a couple of members have done so.

### Field Trips

C. Barnes reported on a trip to Long Bay at Malabar where he found another northern visitor, a specimen of

***Cronia contracta*** (Reeve, 1846) live in a rock pool sitting in the morning sun, covered with algal growth.

M. Anderson and S. Montague reported on a visit to Kurnell, south of Sydney. Maureen noted a number of nice jingle shells

and Naticids. Sandra reported finding a weedy sea dragon washed up also.

Christmas dinner for the group is being organised for **4/12/2004** at the Hawks Nest restaurant (RELC).

A Christmas field trip to Norah Head north of Sydney is set for the **12/12/2004** at 12.00 pm for a 2.45pm low tide.

November meeting: The presentation is "Variation with in a species/ genus", all to participate, please bring six specimens along, of any shell you have an interest in.

### Presentations:

1. P. Jansen on "Illustrating your shells", Patty described how as editor of Australasian Shell news it is part of her job to work with images supplied by others. Difficulties can sometimes occur because of picture size, focus, lighting, background, perspective etc. Patty discussed methods to avoid flaws in photographs and how to present your shots as well as possible.

2. R. Moylan gave a short talk on the various aspects and standards that are generally applied to shell show categories. Ron discussed a number of points in preparation for the upcoming annual show, including:-

- Background colour
- Height of display
- Labelling
- Dorsum or base up/down
- Cleaning
- Maturity
- Quality
- Colour variations
- Inclusions (sand etc are acceptable)
- Even size or graduated layout
- Accuracy of locality and nomenclature
- Method of collection (dived, trawled, dredged etc)
- World wide distribution if applicable

Meeting closed at 3.51pm. C. Barnes, Secretary





## The HMS International Shell-Grading Standards

To help standardize shell-grading nomenclature and to simplify communication among collectors and dealers, the editors of Hawaiian Shell News put forward, some years ago, the following proposed set of standards. The “rules” were subjected to criticism and modification prior to eventual general adoption worldwide.

The editor of the Hawaiian Shell News urged readers when exchanging, buying or selling shells to use the following terms to represent the condition of specimens.

Certainly in the intervening years it appears there has been a general acceptance of the then proposed shell grading.

We therefore take this opportunity to reprint below the shell grades and ask, however, should you wish to make comment on the grading, kindly write to the editor.

### **Gem**

A perfect specimen with an unblemished spire, unbroken spines and lip without chips, fully adult and normally coloured – a shell without a visible flaw. Well cleaned inside and out, with original natural gloss and colour. Bivalves must have both valves, properly matched and unbroken. Cone lips may have minor natural roughness.

### **Fine**

An adult shell with only minor flaws and with not more than one shallow growth mark. Must have original colour and gloss. A cone lip may have one small chip; a *Murex* two minor front breaks. No repairs, such as filed lips, mended knobs or filled worm holes.

### **Good**

A reasonably acceptable shell with a few defects as growth marks, broken spines, worn spire or lip chips. Specimen may be subadult, but still must faithfully display all the characteristics of the species.

### **Fair**

May be obviously dead or beach collected, with chipped lips, faded colour, growth faults or imperfect spires.

Grades may be abbreviated as G, F, Gd, & Fr.

### **Supplementary symbols**

W/O = with operculum

F/D = full data (area of origin, habitat, date and original collector)

B/D = basic data (less than full data)

+ or – may be used with quality label (i.e. G– or F+) in borderline cases

JUV = juvenile, for Good and Fine only, in list, tags and letters.



## IMPORTANT DATES

Date and Location	Event	Contact
<b>2004</b>		
5-9 September Brisbane	Coastal Zone Asia Pacific Conference (CZAP 2004) Theme: Improving the Quality of Life in Coastal Areas.	Sally Brown Conference Connections Tel: (07) 3201 2808 <a href="mailto:sally.brown@ug.net.au">sally.brown@ug.net.au</a> <a href="http://www.coastal.crc.org.au/czap04/index.html">http://www.coastal.crc.org.au/czap04/index.html</a>
15-17 October Auckland N.Z.	5th National Shell Show 2004	Peter Poortman 23 Staincross Street Green Bay Auckland NZ
23 October Sydney	Annual Shell Show Shell displays, guest speakers	Steve Dean <a href="mailto:steve@dean.as">steve@dean.as</a> PO Box 316 Mona Vale NSW 1660
1-7 December	Coastcare Week	Landcare Australia Tel: (02) 9412 7680
<b>2005</b>		
5 June	World Environment Day 2005	United Nations Environment Programs <a href="http://www.unep.org/wed/2004">http://www.unep.org/wed/2004</a>
19-25 July Punta Rassa, Florida	34th C.O.A. Annual Convention	Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club <a href="http://coa.acnatsci.org/conchnet/">http://coa.acnatsci.org/conchnet/</a>
22 October Sydney	Annual Shell Show 2005 Shell displays and guest speakers	Steve Dean <a href="mailto:steve@dean.as">steve@dean.as</a> PO Box 316 Mona Vale NSW 1660
<b>2006</b>		
11-12 March Sydney	6th National Shell Show	Steve Dean (National Shell Show Manager) <a href="mailto:steve@dean.as">steve@dean.as</a> PO Box 316 Mona Vale NSW 1660  Patty Jansen (National Shell Show Secretary) <a href="mailto:patty@capricornica.com">patty@capricornica.com</a> PO Box 345 Lindfield NSW 2070
<b>2007</b>		
Northern Summer	World Congress of Malacology Belgium	To be advised.

## Notice

### Ashley Miskelly

I have about 150 or so shell slides, mainly of the same type of quality that was used for the "Common Shells of Sydney" poster, that I am going to be throwing out unless anyone wants them. Free to who ever does. Some other marine subjects in there as well. Any interested persons can email me on [seurchins@optusnet.com.au](mailto:seurchins@optusnet.com.au) to arrange pickup.