



SYDNEY SHELLER

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

Next Meeting:

28th January 2006

(normally 4th Saturday)

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

1.30pm for 2pm

Topic: National Shell Show Planning

View these newsletters with more pictures, plus references, and club information at
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

If you cannot get your text onto disk, then **Karen Barnes** may be prepared to type it for you - send material to:
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Club Executive:

Office bearers:

President: John Franklin
Vice Pres: Maureen Anderson
Treasurer: John Dunkerley
Secretary: Position Vacant
Raffles: Maureen Anderson
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.

Pleisotrochidae



Pleisotrochus monachus
(Crosse & Fischer, 1864)

Tonnidae



Tonna chinensis
(Dillwyn, 1817)

Umbraculidae



Umbraculum umbraculum
(Lightfoot, 1786)

Bursidae



Bursa granularis (Broken)
(Roding, 1798)

Costellariidae



Vexillum cadaverosum
(Reeve, 1844)

Trichotropidae



Zelliastes blainvillensis
(Petit, 1851)

More pictures of the species observed at Long Bay in beach wash, over a 12 month period. More inside

Some of the topics inside:

- Long Bay continued (cover photo)
- Shell Collection Purchase/Resale
- Annual Shell Show
- Minutes
-



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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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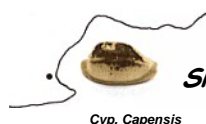
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Shells to Swap:

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





Long Bay Species, continued – Part 3

As typical pictures of each observed species are obtained, more of the list is then published. However most pictures are not of the actual specimens from Long Bay. (If actual specimens are use the name underneath will be in blue)
Families that are well known, such as Cypraeidae will simply be listed without pictures.

The article detailing the 12-month study, and the beginning of this list are in the April-May Issue 2005

Turbinidae



Austroliotia botanica
(Hedley, 1915)



Astralium squamiferum
Philippi, 1844



Astralium tentoriiformis
(Jonas, 1845)



Ninella torquate
(Gmelin, 1791)



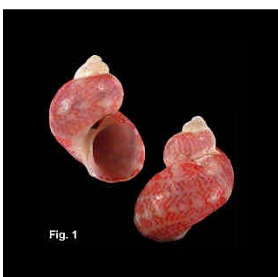
Turbo undulatus
Solander, 1786



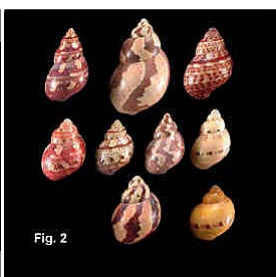
Turbo exquisitus
Angas, 1877



Turbo militaris
Reeve, 1848



Tricolia variabilis
Pease, 1861



Phasianella ventricosa
Swainson, 1822

Skeneidae



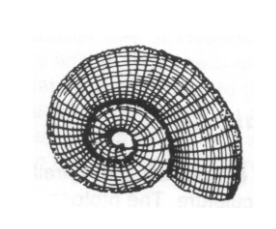
Crossea concinna
(Angas, 1868)



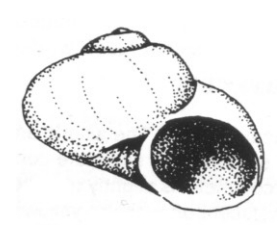
Lodderena minima
(Tenison Woods, 1878)



Teinostoma solida
(Laseron, 1954)



Liotella pulcherrima
(Henn & Brazier, 1894)



Cirsonella weldii
Tenison Woods, 1877

Strombidae



Strombus luhuanus
Linnaeus, 1758



Strombus mutabilis
Swainson, 1821



The Sydney Sheller



Muricidae



Chicoreus denudatus
(Perry, 1811)



Murexiella phantom
(Woolacott, 1957)



Prototyphis angasi
(Crosse, 1863)



Phyllocoma speciosa
Angas, 1871



Bedeva paivae
(Crosse, 1864)



Agnewia tritoniformis
Blainville, 1832



Thais orbita
(Gmelin, 1791)



Thais ambustulatus
Hedley, 1912



Cronia aurantiaca
(Hombron & Jacquinot,
1853)



Lepsiella reticulata
Blainville, 1832



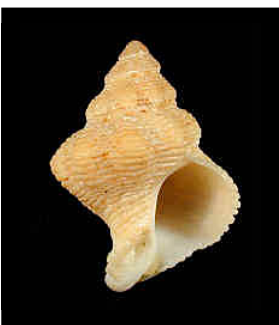
Morula marginalba
(Blainville, 1832)



Morula nodulifera
Menke, 1829



Coralliophila
squamosissima
Smith, 1876



Mipus arbutum
(Woolacott, 1954)



Maculotriton seriale
(Deshayes in Laborde &
Linant, 1854)



Litozamia petterdi
(Crosse, 1870)



Litozamia rudolphi
(Brazier 1894)



Pinaxia versicolor
(Gray, 1839)



Mipus nodosus
(Adams, 1854)



Murexiella brazieri
(Angas, 1877)



Shell Collection

Bob Reed

In late 1999 my wife, Kathy and I did the great sea change to Forster on the Mid North Coast. Moving the old bottle and shell collection took 3 professional moves, a lot of work and planning and we both swore to never move anything again!! In August 2001 I came down with a very nearly fatal dose of cancer, the end result being that I would have to spend months at home rehabilitating and building my body. Rather than just read, I would get something going to occupy my mind and keep me busy. I would buy an old shell collection, the cleaning, relabelling, etc should be just what I need! I would keep what was good and sell the excess. I placed an ad in two local area newspapers and the phone started ringing. That was 8 – 10 collections ago. They were not all good or very large, but some were very, very nice. Every one so far, including the last, was owned by a woman, the most interesting were the wives, sisters of pro-fishermen, back when fishing was trawling.

At this time I was contacted by the Taree Local Collectors Club and asked to join. They wanted me to put an exhibit in their yearly Expo. This Expo runs over two and a half days and is like our Annual Show with Collectors' exhibits and dealer tables and is held in the Taree High School Hall. I refused and kept refusing until by accident I found that two-thirds of the profits goes to cancer research at the Hospital that had just saved my life. I was hooked. I was then and still am the only shell collector. So I put in an exhibit and put out a dealers table to test the waters. Great surprise, had to keep restocking the table and every year it gets better. People come down from past Port Macquarie and south as well as inland. I have made some permanent customers, moving on the excess from the collections is not a problem. Even some of the Sydney Shell Club members have called in here to help me keep the stocks down.

The longest I had to drive to pick up a collection was Wingham, a 40-minute drive. Unfortunately, along with that excellent collection came a plague of silverfish whose tastiest dish is shell labels!

Every year at the Expo I display a sign on the dealers table "I buy old shell collections" and quite a few people take a card for future use since my first in 2001, but what happened lately is unreal.

At the beginning of August I got the following call.

"Mr Reed, I took one of your cards at the Taree Expo a couple of years ago and I wonder do you still sell shells?"

"Yes, I do."

"Well, do you still buy them?"

"Yes, I do, depending on number and quality."

"OK, this was my mother's collection, she passed away about 3 months ago."

"I'm sorry."

"No, not to worry, she had a very good innings, she was 96."

"Had she been collecting long?"

"Yes, since she was about 20, continuously."

At this point the hair on the back of my neck started to rise.

"How did she collect them, was there a pro fisherman in the family or a direct source?"

"Well, my father was an itinerant canecutter and handyman and my 3 brothers and sisters used to help her find shells."

"Ah yes, I see." Hairs start falling.

"There was also my uncle, her brother. He was on a Government ship throughout the late 50s – 60s. He used to maintain Government lighthouses throughout the Top End of Australia and right around PNG. He used to collect and buy a lot for her."

"Ah, hmm." The hairs are now at full attention, but be cool, very cool. "Well, yeah, sounds alright. Just where is this shell collection?"

"It's at my mother's house, it's in two 7 ft x 4 ft glass fronted cabinets. I have 4 x A4 size photos."

"Are the cabinets in direct sunlight?"

"No, but I only live in Tuncurry, I can be at your place with the photos in ten minutes. Could I come now, I have your address."

I hung up and totally ignored that little alarm bell at the rear of my brain. In ten he was here with four very out of focus photos showing 2 large cabinets jammed to the eyeballs with shells, 14 small drawers under one and 4 large ones under the other. Everything was grouped in lines. All the Volutes here, Cones there, Cowries etc, etc. Sometimes you could make out what an individual shell was by the pattern etc. The Pecten etc were along the back, big Abalones and Pauas, Olives in front, Florida Horse Conch and Tritons, Bailers on the bottom, a hell of a lot of land snails. Also, not an Indo-Pacific collection, but a worldwide one!

"What's in the drawers?" I asked.

"I don't know, some have shells, but I didn't check them all, there are also a few books," he added.

Possibly the drool on the side of my chin was giving me away, so I asked the big question, "When can I have a look at them?" My visitor was in his late 60s and had the look of having bad health. He smiled and dropped the big bomb.

"When will you be in Bangalow?"

"Bangalow, where the hell is Bangalow? Is it in NSW?"

"Yes, just, near Byron Bay, about 6 - 8 hours run from Forster. That is if there is no crash blockage, no roadwork, and no food stops or toilet stops."

I remembered the alarm in my brain. I looked at my visitor, he was still smiling.



"That's why you showed me the photos before you told me where it was!"

He nodded, "Would you have even thought of looking at it if you hadn't seen the photos?"

"Who said I was even thinking of going there to look at it?"

"The look on your face" he replied.

"Can you leave me the photos and come back tomorrow as well as telling me the whole story?"

The collection was left to he and his 3 siblings in the mother's Will and another collection of porcelain and ceramic shoes, 3 cabinets full (300-400 pairs). All this was at the mother's house at Bangalow and the house was to be auctioned on 10 September (and was) and the shells and the shoes had to be out of the house by at least 7 September.

"How much do you want for the shells?" I asked.

"I do not have the slightest idea" was the reply. "One brother and sister live in Far North Queensland and can't help at all. My sister lives in Lismore but she and her husband are ill and she is trying to move the shoe collection and the existing furniture. So it's up to me to move the shells, what do you think they are worth?"

I replied that until I could inspect them I would be a fool to quote an unlikely fair price. "Why don't you pack them up, bring them back here and I'll go through them and give you a fair price. In fact I'll even lend you all my cliplock bins, snaplock boxes plus all padding etc that I use to pick up a collection."

Again the smile, "All those spiky ones and the horny ones (Murex and Spondylus) scare the hell out of me to touch and those egg ones are really fragile (Nautilus). I had my 5th bi-pass 4 months ago and my Doctor would kill me if I lifted boxes of anything. Now, let me ask a question, if it was at my house at Tuncurry and you liked it what would you do?"

I answered, "Make you a fair offer and buy it."

"And then?"

"Well, I would pack it up very carefully, bring it home and go through it very slowly and sort it into families. It would then have to be cleaned, oiled, data tags redone and the lot made presentable and bagged. Some I may keep for my own collection but as I really now collect mainly Mitres, only a small section and the rest I would market it as it becomes ready. A lot of work over a long time. It may take 6 – 12 months or longer."

"OK, instead of Tuncurry insert Bangalow and instead of buy, you take it, sell it and give me half, I'll ring you tomorrow" and he walked out.

I sat there with my mouth open for about 15 minutes, I was still not 100% sure of this guy's second name, so it was a great offer. So let's weigh it up. Petrol had just hit \$1.25 and rising, half the nightly TV news was of crashes on the Pacific Highway. I do all the work, etc etc. So what to do, what would you do? What would any red blooded, very damn greedy shell collector do? The next day we were shaking hands on it and a deal was done. I offered to put something on paper, but he would not hear of it.

The whole thing was done on trust, it took 7 hours of solid hard work for 3 people to pack it all and it has taken 10 – 12 days to nearly unpack it. The house sold at auction last Saturday, the shoe collection is still there, the dealer who had agreed to buy them did not turn up.

There is some great material in this, must be when you look at some trawled and dredged material from here and the US and say what the hell is that? Will do an update as I work my way through it.

Yes, Steve, there is some Bursa and John a heap of Pecten, but all have yet to be cleaned and identified.

John, your method of rehydration works just as well with tank rainwater.

I have done Cowries dated 1947, 1955 and they come up as if they were taken last week.

Annual Shell Show Report

Steve Dean

This years show had an unusual format in that instead of 10 or 11 categories, we had all 78 categories that are to be used for the national show. This was to allow collectors to prepare and exhibit in all their favourite categories, as a practice for the National. It was understood that this meant most categories would have only one exhibit, and many would have none - meaning a lot of first place certificates.

We had two guest speakers one from NSW and one from QLD, and we had the childrens program. This year, as expected, there were no dealers since they are all coming next March for the National, but there were two collectors selling shells.

We were able to use the actual cabinet that will be used to house shell of the show (Category 1) and Favourite Spectacular Shell (Category 68)

There were 14 exhibitors with 53 exhibits in 34 categories. A number of our members were away and some did not want to tip their hand prior to the national, accounting for the reduced number of total exhibits, compared to our normal annual shows.

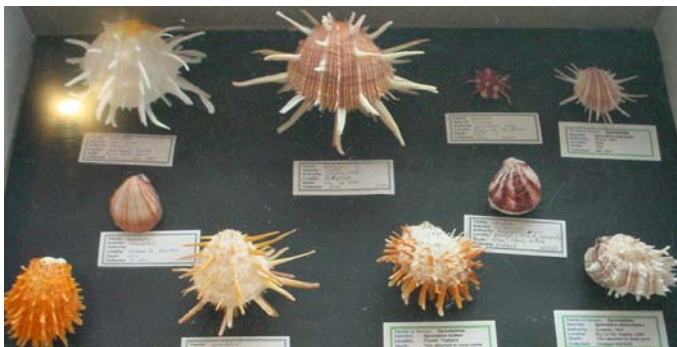


The Sydney Sheller



Door takings were \$255 excluding the raffle, so with rental of two halls, coffee charge, and certificate printing, we still made a profit.

Only some of the shell displays are shown below as the others will be seen again at the National next March.





Results: (Only first place listed)

No	Catagory Name	1 st Prize	No	Catagory Name	1 st Prize
1	Shell of the show	Ron Moylan	28	Marginellidae	Trevor Appleton
3	Conidae WW	John Franklin	33	Olividae	John Franklin
4	Cypraeidae WW	Ron Moylan	38	Terebridae	John Franklin
5	Muricidae WW	Ron Moylan	40	Triphoridae	Sandra Montague
6	Volutidae WW	Ron Moylan	46	Volutidae Au	Ron Moylan
7	Pectinidae WW	John Franklin	47	Cymbiolista hunteri	John Franklin
8	Spodylidae WW	Steve Dean	48	Ericusa sowerbyi	John Franklin
9	Conidae Au >50mm	John Franklin	49	Xenophoridae	Steve Dean
10	Conidae Au <50mm	John Franklin	55	Pectinidae	John Franklin
11	Cypraeidae Au >50mm	Chris Barnes	62	Beach Collected	Sandra Montague
12	Cypraeidae Au <50mm	John Franklin	66	One Locality	Sandra Montague
13	Micro Shells Au	Sandra Montague	67	Self Collected	Jack Hannan
14	Micro Shells WW	John Franklin	68	Favourite Spectacular "WOW" shell	Steve Dean
19	Columbellidae	Sandra Montague	69	Land Snails	John Franklin
20	Cypraea hesitata	John Franklin	75	Self collected, Junior <15year old	Ambrose
21	Zoila	Ron Moylan	76	Junior Misc <9 year old	Box no.328
26	Harpidae	Ron Moylan	77	Junior Misc <11 year old	Box no.327



Shell Club minutes 27th August 2005

Meeting was opened at 2pm by Maureen Anderson

Field trip report:

Long Reef Sydney 20/8/05 Attended by Chris Barnes, Steve Dean, John Franklin, John Dunkerley, Phil Colman, Peter Dean, Keith Dean, Barry Dean, Gabby Dean, Heath Dean. Highlights sighting *Conus Papilliferus* on eggs and *Mitra Carbonaria* also on eggs.

18/8/05 at the southern end of Collaroy Beach Sydney a perfect specimen of *Phalium areola* was found. (A tropical Species)

General Business:

The club welcomed a new member Warwick Cheong who lives most of the time in Papua New Guinea

National Shell Show update:

Ron has found a suitable glass case for Shell of the Show exhibitors. It was suggested that quality engraved pens would be good gifts for judges. The meeting was advised that the shell to be incorporated in the first prize glass cubes was to be *Kapala kengrahami*

Meeting closed 2.35pm followed by,

Guest speaker:

Steve Dean gave a detailed talk on Worldwide Busidae This was supported by an impressive display of all species of Bursidae from his large collection, with actual size pictures for the few species and variants he did not have.

Shell Club Minutes 24th September 2005

Meeting opened 2pm

1. It was noted that the 25th Annual Shell Show will be held on the 22nd October 2005 and the President requested more copies of the flyer. The program was printed in the July 2005 "Sydney Sheller" and members were reminded of the opportunity to submit as many displays as possible having regard to the forthcoming National Shell Show in March 2006.
2. The Treasurer reported on outstanding membership fees.
3. It was reported that several members had attended the field trip to Long Reef that was held on the 20th August 2005 and that a list of shells observed would be published in the near future.
4. There was considerable discussion as to whether or not a December meeting should be held this year and it was decided that there be a December meeting on the 10th December to commence at 4:00pm. The meeting will be followed by the Christmas Party that will commence at 7:00pm at the same premises.
5. Following the meeting in November there will be a talk on how to prepare labels and exhibits.
6. The President reported that he had recently visited Port Douglas Queensland and did some collecting along the coastline. Unfortunately at the time of the visit the tides were unsuitable and there was little to observe. During the stay a visit by ferry was made to Fitzroy Island for the day.

Chris Barnes reported on his trip to Angourie and to other areas along the northern coast of New South Wales.

Ron Moylan reported on his recent fishing trip to the reef on the Queensland coast. Apart from lots of fish, Ron observed several shells including *Murex queenslandicus*, the pulchra and olive families as well as many others.

7. The 6th National Shell Show.

The Vice President reported that she had received a sample of the trophy from China and presented the sample to members for approval. Members were delighted with the work and the order will now be completed.

There was considerable debate as to whether or not display entry fees should be charged and this matter was left with the Committee for further discussion. It was noted that there will be another flyer going out in December.

Further, it was decided to hold the Judging on the Friday evening.



Shell Club Minutes 26th November 2005

Meeting opened 2:00PM

1. The Treasurer tabled a current Membership list and the details are as follows:-

- (a) 35 Ordinary Members
- (b) 4 Junior Members
- (c) 3 Associate Members
- (d) 1 Life Member

This is a pleasing result coming into the 6th National Shell Show to be held in March 2006.

The Treasurer also reported on the current financial status of the Club and on the affairs of the 6th National Shell Show.

2. In relation to the 25th Annual Shell Show, the Shell Show Manager reported on the number of exhibits and on the Show generally.

3. 6th National Shell Show:

Various members of the Committee reported on the following matters:-

- (i) It was decided to expand the book auction to include other items, such as shells, shell craft etc.
- (ii) Ron Moylan reported that he had arranged for the table covering/cloth which was donated.
- (iii) The Mayor of Ryde City Council may open the Show at 4:00pm on the Saturday and there is a very good chance that the Council will be a sponsor for the two days. To date the Department of Environment and Heritage and the Children's Museum have indicated that they will be sponsors.
- (iv) It is anticipated that the trophies will be delivered within the next few weeks.
- (v) There was further general discussion on arrangements for the Show.

4. Future meetings:

The President tabled a letter from the R.E.L.C. dated 14th November 2005 confirming future meeting arrangements. A meeting will be held at 4:00-6:00pm on 10th December 2005 which will be followed by the Christmas Party at 7:00pm.

Further, it was resolved that the first meeting for next year will be held on 28th January 2006.

National Shell Show Update

For Shell Clubs:

With this Sheller are several copies of the December information update. Please give them to any of you members who are planning to come to the National Show and have not got a good copy by email or separate letter.

For Individual Members:

With this Sheller is a single copy of the December information update.

For everyone:

It could become confusing having the information spread between the March and December updates, plus the instructions to judges. We have therefore consolidated all the information for the show into one composite document, with repeated information removed, all the rules consolidated into one section, and the general and specific instructions to judges also included.

This single complete document is available for downloading from our web site www.sydneyshellclub.net if you want to have just a single document to refer to for show details.

Alternatively all four individual info documents and updates are available on the web site as well, if you already have the March document and just need the updates.